

Community Coalition for Social Justice
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MISSION STATEMENT: The Community Coalition for Social Justice is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting the principles of social, environmental, and economic justice and respect for all persons. We oppose discrimination and hate-motivated violence in Morgantown and surrounding communities.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP: Our next meeting will be at Panera's on Patteson Drive on **Tuesday March 10**, at 7:00 p.m. We will meet in the back room. All are welcome.

Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at attfield@comcast.net. Please contact any of the steering committee members to volunteer to help and to share your suggestions for our work or e-mail us at ccsjwv@hotmail.com. Please send items to share with our membership to Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu.

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR DUES - \$10 for individuals and \$25 for organizations – to CCSJ, PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160. You can join or donate by credit card via PayPal on our web site.

NEGATIVE COMMENTS ABOUT SCOTTS RUN: At our February 10 meeting, we learned that some of the people working at WCLG were making negative comments about Osage on the air. Maybe they thought it was a "joke." We do not agree and plan to respond. If you have heard similar comments, please email us at ccsjwv@hotmail.com with the date, time, language used, and if possible, names of the people making these comments. We trust you agree such a disparaging attitude is not appropriate.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY 2016: We are starting to think about themes for our 2016 event, which again will be held at the Metropolitan Theatre. Please let us know if you want to help us plan this event.

CCSJ PROMOTING TEACHING TOLERANCE MATERIALS: We want to reach out to community groups to see if they are interested in using the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance materials. These are available free of charge to educators, which can include leaders of youth groups, not just school teachers. Those using the materials could order them online at www.tolerance.org, and we would pay for the postage. If you are interested in this project, please email us at ccsjwv@hotmail.com.

BUMPER STICKERS FOR SALE: CCSJ has diversity-related bumper stickers for sale. The large ones (Celebrate Diversity and Coexist) are \$3.50 each, the "Olympic circles" one is \$2.00, and the "Teach Peace" one is \$1.50, which includes postage. If you'd like one, please send a check made payable to CCSJ to PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160, and indicate which one you'd like.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK! Just look for "Community Coalition for Social Justice" under "Groups" and become our friend. Thanks to Mike Sharley for being our group "leader."

LOCAL NEWS



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING MARCH 25: The Human Rights Commission is having a public meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Marilla Center to discuss human rights priorities in Morgantown. This is a chance to "meet with neighbors & local organization leaders to identify policies & specific solutions to help Morgantown become a more livable community for EVERYONE!"

Special topics for discussion will include housing, transportation, livable wages and jobs, human services, and drug or alcohol misuse.

If you have a disability and require accommodation in order to fully participate in this activity, please contact Annetta Johnson at 304-296-6091 or ajohnson@nwwcil.org.

The next regular meeting of the commission will be Thursday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the Public Safety Building Conference Room on Spruce Street. You can get copies of the agendas and minutes for the commission meetings at <http://www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/>.

The commission's 2014 annual report is available at <http://www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/HRC-2014-Annual-Report-12.18.14-with-Logo.pdf>

The commission's **Human Rights Needs Survey** is available in summary format at <http://www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/Final-2014-HR-Needs-Survey-Report.pdf>. The commission plans to use the information as one foundation for an Inclusive City Plan.

WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM APRIL 1: Mr. Charlie Soap, a lifelong tribal community leader and presently a candidate for Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, is WVU's 2015 Native American Studies Program Elder-in-Residence. There will be a welcome reception at 5:30 pm. In Room G20 of WVU's Ming Hsieh Hall (behind Oglebay Hall) on the WVU campus and, at 6:00 p.m., a presentation with Mr. Soap and film screening of "The Cherokee Word for Water," which he produced and directed.

More film details appear at this link: <http://wilmamankiller.com/film.html>

"The Cherokee Word or Water" focuses on the important community projects Mr. Soap directed with his wife, Wilma Mankiller (1945-2010), especially the Bell Waterline Project, which brought clean, running water to poor, rural Oklahoma communities in the 1908s. This touching story illustrates the importance of building relationships, cross-cultural cooperation, and both personal and community self-empowerment.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact BonnieM.Brown@mail.wvu.edu, 304-293-4626 or see <http://nas.wvu.edu/>

WVU CENTER FOR WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES EVENTS:

March 4-4:00 p.m.: "Yarns and Truths: Women, Textile Production, and Art in Nineteenth-Century Russia" by Kristen Harkness, lecturer in art history in the School of Art and Design, WVU College of Creative Arts. "This presentation will provide an overview of the visual culture of spinning yarn in nineteenth-century Russia and what it can tell us about the "truths" of the gendering of the arts and crafts." The program will be at WVU's E. Moore Hall. It is free and open to the public.

March 4-7:30-9:30 p.m.: "Where Are all the Women? Wikipedia's Gender Gap" panel discussion. Moderated by WVU Libraries Dean Jon Cawthorne, the panel will address the lack of female editors at Wikipedia and why we should care, barriers to entry for women, and how executives associated with Wikipedia are working to close the gender gap. The event is free and open to the public. For those who cannot attend, the panel also will be webcast live. The event will be held in Room G20 of Ming Hsieh Hall behind Oglebay Hall. For more information, contact Kimberly Walker at (304) 293-5726.

SIERRA CLUB EVENTS:

Saturday, March 7: West Virginia Land Trust Blue Jean Ball to benefit a green space project in Morgantown. The West Virginia Land Trust has partnered with the Mon River Trails Conservancy to raise awareness and funds to support the land protection of public recreational green space in the Mon Valley. In addition to benefitting our current local residents, green space bolsters our economy by boosting the housing market, increasing tourism, and attracting new businesses. Guests are invited to dress up in their favorite blue jeans for a fun evening enjoying a southern meal, an open bar, dancing to a live band, and bidding on silent auction items. Proceeds from this event will benefit a green space project in Morgantown. The event will be held at the Benton Grove Bed and Banquet, just off the Goshen Road exit of I-79. Tickets for \$50 per person. For more information and to register, go to www.wvlandtrust.org or call 304-413-0945.

Wednesday March 18: 3rd Annual Coopers Rock Foundation Fundraiser from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Black Bear downtown. Silent auction, raffle, and live music. For more information, contact Gwen Jones at gwen.jones1@gmail.com.

Thursday March 26: Green Night at the Library on "Compost 101: Put Your Food Waste to Work!", 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Morgantown Public Library, 373 Spruce Street. Make it a family event! This is sponsored by the Morgantown Municipal Green Team.

WVU INTERNATIONAL DINNER MARCH 8, 6:00 P.M.: "Tasteful Flavors from the Mediterranean", the International Student Organization's annual dinner, will feature dishes from Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey. Tickets are \$15 for non-students, \$10 for students, and \$5 for children 5 to 12 years old. Tickets are available at the ISO booth in the Mountainlair or the Office of International Students and Scholars in Room 111 of E. Moore Hall. For more information, email iso4wvu@gmail.com or go to <http://iso.studentorgs.wvu.edu/>.

STATE-WIDE NEWS

LOBBY DAY FOR WOMEN'S LIVES IS MARCH 5 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.: A coalition of advocacy organizations, including Fairness WV, the American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia, the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, American Friends Service Committee, Planned Parenthood, and WV FREE, is rallying at the State Capitol to lobby legislators and demonstrate support for their collective missions promoting freedom, equality, and the fair treatment of all West Virginians.

Andrew Schneider, executive director of Fairness WV, notes that, "As we have seen over the course of the 2015 Legislative Session, many of our shared values and ideals have come under attack. Our most powerful means of fighting legislation that seeks to undermine freedom, equality and fairness, is to show up at the Capitol together and raise our voices in opposition.

For more information or to register, go to <http://www.wvfree.org/advocacy-2/action-alerts/> and look for the information on this event. Transportation is supposed to be available from Morgantown.

Find more info and up-to-the-minute news on WV FREE's Facebook & Twitter!

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN MARCH 2015 FROM REV. PETER CLARK

March and April mark the season of the Eagle Dances, when people of the Arizona Pueblo tribes dance to dramatize their communities' relationship with the Sky-World. This month is also known as Xsaak, the season when candlefish swarm and members of the Nisga'a tribes catch these fish, dry them, and render them into oil for lamps.

Sunday, March 1

- Ayyám-i-Há ends – Bahá'í

Ending of the intercalary days for festivities, gift giving, and charitable actions.

- Orthodox Sunday – Christianity (Eastern churches)

A celebration of the restoration of icons, which had been banned from Byzantine churches in the seventh century. The Christian empress Theodora ordered them restored in 843 C.E.

Monday, March 2

- 'Alá – Bahá'í

The beginning of the nineteenth and final month, meaning "loftiness," and also of a 19-day fast in preparation for Naw Rúz [see March 21]. Adult believers in good health abstain from food and drink from dawn to dusk.

Wednesday, March 4

- Eve of Purim – Judaism

A celebration of the Jews' rescue from an evil plot to destroy them while they were living in Persia, the events of which are recorded in the Hebrew biblical book of Esther. The holiday includes reading the Megillah (the scroll of Esther), exchanging gifts, and special pastries called hamantashen.

Thursday, March 5

- Magha Puja Day [Dharma Day] – Buddhism

In the Theravada Buddhist tradition, this full moon day of the third lunar month marks the historical Buddha's sermon at Veruvana Monastery in the city of Rajagaha, where he spoke to 1250 enlightened monks who were ordained by him.

Friday, March 6

- Holi – Hinduism

This festival is one of Hinduism's most popular celebrations. People throw colored powder or spray colored water to celebrate episodes in the life of the god Krishna.

- Hola Mohallah – Sikhism

A three-day festival instituted by the tenth Sikh gurū, Gobind Singh, as a time for military preparedness exercises, Hola Mohallah now is celebrated with mock battles, music competitions, and festivities.

Saturday, March 14

- New Year's Day – Sikhism

In the Nanakshahi calendar, this day is the beginning of the year 547.

- Memorial of Shan-tao (Zendō) – Buddhism

Anniversary of the death of a Chinese Pure Land Buddhist priest who died in 681 C.E. He taught that enlightenment could occur simply through repetition of the name of Amitabha or Amida Buddha (nianfo or nembutsu), and is honored as the Fifth Patriarch of that Buddhist school.

Monday, March 16

- Ghambar Hamaspathmaedem, Fravardegan, or Muktad – Zoroastrianism

(continues until March 20)

A celebration of the creation of human beings and a commemoration of souls who have died. Prayers are offered to the fravashis (the divine spark within each human, which lives forever), asking for their blessings and protection.

Tuesday, March 17

- Saint Patrick's Day – Western Christianity

A commemoration of the missionary bishop who evangelized Ireland in the fifth century C.E.

Friday, March 20 - spring equinox

- Spring Ohigon – Buddhism

For Buddhists who practice in the Jōdo Shinshū [Japanese Pure Land] tradition, this is a special time to listen to the teaching of the Buddha and meditate on the perfection of enlightenment as lived in the Six Perfections or Paramitas (generosity, morality, wisdom, honesty, endeavor, and patience).

- Shunki-sorei-sai – Shintō

The time of the spring memorial service, when ancestors' spirits are revered at home altars and gravesites are cleaned and purified.

- Ostara – Wicca

A time to mark the divine goddess's blanketing of the Earth with fertility as the god stretches and grows to maturity, manifested in the reawakening of seeds within the Earth as they are touched by divine love.

- Spring Feast – Native American spirituality

A day to mark the coming and going of seasons and to honor planting through songs, stories, and prayer.

Saturday, March 21

- Naw Rúz – Bahá'í

Marking the beginning of the year 172 of the Bahá'í era, and the beginning of the first month of the year, known as Bahá or "splendor."

- Navruz [Now Ruz or Norooz] – Zoroastrianism

The beginning of the Zoroastrian new year, 1385 AY or 3753 AZ in the Fasli seasonal calendar, which also celebrates the renewal of the world and the creation of fire (which symbolizes righteousness). Zarathustra, the founder of Zoroastrianism, received his revelation on this day.

- Yugādi – Hinduism

The New Year's Day celebration for Hindus of the Deccan Plateau in central and southern India, which traditionally includes eating food that has six distinct tastes, to symbolize that life is a mixture of different experiences such as sadness, anger, fear, disgust, surprise, and happiness.

Wednesday, March 25

- Feast of the Annunciation – Christianity

This festival marks the visit of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary of Nazareth and Mary's faithful response to God's plan by consenting to be Jesus' mother.

Thursday, March 26

- Khordad Sal – Zoroastrianism

The birth anniversary of the prophet Zarathustra.

Saturday, March 28

- Ramanavami – Hinduism

A celebration in honor of the birth of Rama, the seventh incarnation of the god Vishnu. Hindus read the Ramayana, a Hindu epic, and religious dances called Ramalila are performed to depict scenes from his life.

Sunday, March 29

- Palm Sunday – Christianity (Western churches)

The remembrance of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, when crowds spread palm fronds on the ground as Jesus rode into the city. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

For more information, please contact UCSF Medical Center Spiritual Care Services at 415-353-1941 (Rev. Dr. Peter Yuichi Clark).