

Community Coalition for Social Justice
PO Box 160
Morgantown, WV 26507-0160
ccsjwv@hotmail.com
www.ccsjwv.org

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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 April 14**, at **6:30** 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.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY 2016: We are starting to think about themes for our tenth annual event, which again will be held at the Metropolitan Theatre. Our early thinking is that the theme will be something like "Where Are You From?" to highlight the diversity of this community. Please let us know if you want to help us plan this event.

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."

CCSJ is a non-partisan organization, but we hope that, if you are a resident of the City of Morgantown, you will remember to exercise your right to vote for the City Council members of your choice on April 28. Election information is available at www.morgantownwv.gov/quick-links/2015-election-materials/.

LOCAL NEWS



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting will be Thursday, April 16, 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 www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/.

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

WVU HOSTS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE LECTURE APRIL 15: The WVU Helen Coast Hayes Peace Lecture Series will address restorative justice and higher education programs in prisons. Lori Pompa, founder of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program at Temple, and Jacqueline Roebuck Sakho, a restorative justice practitioner and victim outreach specialist, will give a free public lecture on college education inside

prisons and the school-to-prison pipeline. The event will be on Wednesday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m., in the Rhododendron Room of the Mountainlair. For more information contact Katy Ryan at kohearnr@mail.wvu.edu.

WVU CENTER FOR WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES EVENTS:

Wednesday, April 8: Scholar in Residence Hadley Renkin from Central European University will present "Only Not Here . . . Only Not Now: Heteronational Panic in Postsocialist Eastern Europe" at 7:00 p.m. in G09 White Hall. Reception to follow.

Thursday, April 9: The semi-annual Women's and Gender Studies Fair will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. Over 300 students will be presenting their group research projects.

The Fireside Chat at E. Moore Hall at 4:00 p.m. with members of the Council for Women's Concerns facilitating a discussion on "What does it mean to be a woman at WVU?"

Friday, April 10: The Stand Against Sexual Violence Walk (previously the "Slut Walk") will take place from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., beginning in front of the courthouse and ending at the Mountainlair.

Saturday, April 11: The Women's and Gender Studies Honors and Awards Ceremony will be on from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon in WVU's E. Moore Hall.

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH AND WVU NAACP EVENTS:

Monday, April 6: Join the WVU NAACP for a general body meeting and open community forum! All are welcome to attend! WVU Oglebay Hall in Room 106 at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, April 6: The Center for Black Culture & Research address on "Human Trafficking" as part of the Freedom Project. Heartline Advisory Board member Jen Wolfe will speak on their mission and objectives in Haiti. The WVU Sisterhood Coalition will also be conducting a food drive, so feel free to bring can goods and contribute to the cause! This event will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Mountainlair Blackwater Room.

Tuesday, April 7: Join the WVU NAACP to enjoy #OurHealthMatters. The WVU Monongalia County Extension office will be doing a cooking demonstration on how to cook favorite foods in a more healthy way! This event is free and open the public and will be held at WVU's Ming Hsieh Hall (behind Oglebay Hall) in Room 126 at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 8: #GettingImageReady for the 4th Annual WVU NAACP Image Awards will be in the Mountainlair Commons Area advertising for the 4th Annual WVU NAACP Image Awards! There will be a Photo Booth and a raffle for a \$100 gift card (donated by West Run Apartment). There will also be a Jelly Bean Count guessing game raffle, and the winner of the guessing game will get the chance to present an award at the WVU NAACP Image Awards! Stop by the booth/table from 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 9: #AreYouImageReady. The national branch of the NAACP has held an Image Awards show since 1967. An NAACP Image Award is an accolade presented by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to honor outstanding people of color in film, television, music, and literature. Since 2011, mimicking the national branch, this award show at WVU is to recognize people and organizations from diverse backgrounds on campus and in the community who have achieved much, as well as, worked to help uplift the WVU community. A dinner reception will conclude the evening! While this event is free and open to the public, financial contributions to support NAACP programming can be made at the donation station throughout the evening!

Thursday, April 23: The CBCR Paul Robeson Mahalia Jackson Gospel Choir will perform its spring concert in the Mountainlair Ballroom at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 24: Carter G. Woodson Black Graduates Gala starting at noon in the WVU Mountainlair. Please go to the CBC&R web site at cbc.wvu.edu/ for information about reservations.

RAPE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INFORMATION CENTER:

**WALK
A MILE
IN
HER
SHOES**

On April 19, RDVIC will sponsor its annual "Walk A Mile In Her Shoes" fundraiser. It starts at 2:00 p.m. at the Mountainlair Plaza and ends at the Hazel Ruby McQuain Park. The registration fee is \$15.00, and more information is available at www.rdvic.org/.

SIERRA CLUB AND RELATED EVENTS:

Monday April 6: "Fracking is a Feminist Issue: Women Confronting Fossil Fuels and Petrochemicals in an Age of Climate Emergency." Dr. Sandra Steingraber is scheduled to speak at the William Pitt Union (Assembly Room) at the University of Pittsburgh at 7:00 p.m. This is free and open to the public. As both a biologist and a leading figure in the national fight against fracking, Steingraber will explore the role of women in the construction of knowledge about the risks of extreme fossil fuel extraction, gender disparities in the distribution of economic costs and benefits, the disproportionate burden of harm that women experience when their communities become targeted for oil and gas extraction, and the rise of women leaders in the anti-fracking movement.

Friday, April 10. Sierra Swing. Join the WVU Sierra Student Coalition for the annual fundraiser/benefit. Great music, door prizes, and loads of good environmental info from like-minded students. Come show your support at the Morgantown Brewing Company from 8:00 p.m. to close.

Saturday, April 11: Cooper's Rock Spring Adopt-a-Trail Service Outing- WV Sierra Club. Join the fun with the spring trail clean-up along an easy 1.25 loop. Besides general trail clearing, there will be much cleaning out and restoring drainage ditches and culverts clogged from the winter's mischief. Volunteers should wear sturdy boots, and carry work gloves, water, and snacks. Useful tools to bring are long handled pruners, rakes, and pointed shovels. Adults and adolescents are invited to help and those under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian. Volunteers will be required to sign a standard Sierra Club Liability Waiver and a DNR Volunteer Work Program Agreement. Please pre-register with Ann Devine-King at 304-594-2636 or atdking@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 11: Friends of Deckers Creek will be participating in the Statewide Make It Shine Cleanup program with a focus on in-stream clean up in and around the Friends of Deckers Creek Outdoor Learning Park behind the Kroger in Sabraton. This area is too-often the victim of unwanted tires, shopping carts, and other litter. Further information will become available closer to clean up day from Suzanne@deckerscreek.org or www.deckerscreek.org.

Saturday April 18: Join your neighbors at the Second Annual Green Households Fair at the last Winter Farmer's Market at Wesley United Methodist Church (side door at 503 North High Street) from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ask local experts your questions on a wide range of ways to live green in your own home. On hand will be resource people on topics such as recycling, energy efficiency, solar panels, composting, organic gardening, beekeeping, native plant gardens, and much more! Staff of the public library will also present its extensive green resources in print and online, and our Farmers Market will offer a range of late winter products for sale! For more information, contact: Pam Cubberly at pamela@cubberly.net.



The Monongalia County Child Advocacy Center is sponsoring its annual Girls Night Out at the Waterfront Place Hotel on Friday, April 24th, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The evening includes hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, shopping, pampering, mingling, music and raffle items, plus live and silent auctions and the presentation of the "One With Courage Award." MCCAC provides free services to children who are victims of abuse and neglect in Monongalia County. For information on ordering tickets, please go to www.moncocac.org.

THE NORTHERN WEST VIRGINIA CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING WELCOMES THE ROAD TO FREEDOM BUS TOUR TO MORGANTOWN: On Saturday, May 2, come join the NWVCIL to welcome the Americans with Disability Legacy Tour Bus Celebrating 25 Years of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The event will be from 9:00 a.m. to noon, with exhibits, entertainment, games, and food! To participate as a sponsor, an exhibitor, vendor, or volunteer, contact Jan Derry, executive director of NWVCIL, at 601-3 East Brockway Avenue, Suite A&B, Morgantown, WV 26501, (304) 296-6091 or jderry@nwvcil.org.

STATE-WIDE NEWS

ELKINS PASSES NON-DISCRIMINATION MEASURE: On March 19th, the Elkins City Council passed a non-discrimination measure. According to Chris Lee of the *Inter-Mountain* the next day, "The measure carries three separate and significant effects.

"First, the resolution implements changes to the Equal Opportunity Policy in the city's Personnel Manual to include language that prohibits discrimination against any city employee and/or applicants on the basis of sexual orientation.

"Second, the resolution urges the West Virginia Legislature to amend the West Virginia Human Rights Act, the West Virginia Fair Housing Act and any other state statutes to end discrimination against persons based on sexual orientation.

"Third, with the passage of the resolution, council urges Elkins and Randolph County residents to undertake affirmative steps and promote the adoption of policies to end all discriminatory practices based upon a person's sexual orientation."

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA WORKS TO DEFEAT ANTI-LGBT LEGISLATION: According to a press release on the Fairness West Virginia web site (fairnesswv.org/anti-lgbt-bills-defeated-in-west-virginia-fairness-and-equality-prevail), the legislative session ended by "in effect killing extreme anti-LGBT bills which had failed to move forward – including a bill to abolish local liberty (HB 2881) and two so-called 'religious freedom' bills (HB 2508 and SB 487).

"The deceptively named 'West Virginia Intrastate Commerce Improvement Act' (HB 2881) claimed to create uniformity among non-discrimination laws but actually would have invalidated existing LGBT non-discrimination ordinances in the state's cities and towns, undoing decades of work and abolishing local liberty. . . . H.B. 2881 not only would have prohibited the rights of communities to govern themselves but it also would have interfered with democracy in its purest form: city and town councils. When a nondiscrimination ordinance or resolution is considered or passed, each community has the opportunity to speak out against it, vote the city or town leadership out of office, or repeal the ordinance. There was no need for interference by the state legislature.

"The so-called 'religious freedom' bills, HB 2508 and SB 487 were part of a wave of anti-LGBT legislation emerging across the country that threatens to undermine all existing state civil rights laws, unleash a wave of litigation, and damage the economic climate and reputation of the states in which they are being considered. If these overly-vague bills became law, public businesses in West Virginia from pharmacists to funeral homes to restaurants, and everything in between, could have legally singled out LGBT customers and refused them service, simply because of a professed religious objection to their sexual orientation or gender identity. The bills would also have put all state non-discrimination laws at

risk of being undermined and threatened not just the LGBT community, but women, members of minority faiths and other minority classes.”

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN APRIL 2015 FROM REV. PETER CLARK

April marks the season of Mmaal, which is when the rivers open, and of the Eagle Dances, when people of the Arizona Pueblo tribes dance to dramatize their communities’ relationship with the Sky-World.

Thursday, April 2

- Maundy Thursday [Holy Thursday] – Christianity (Western churches)
The remembrance of Jesus’ last supper with his disciples and his institution of the “love commandment” (the term “Maundy” comes from the Latin word for “commandment”) while he washed their feet as a servant.

Friday, April 3

- Good Friday – Christianity (Western churches)
A commemoration of the passion of Jesus of Nazareth, i.e., his death by crucifixion. At sundown some churches begin the Easter vigil either this evening or on Holy Saturday (April 4).
- Eve of Pesach [Passover] – Judaism (ends on April 11)
The beginning of an eight-day festival celebrating God’s deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The story is told during a Seder meal at sundown, including readings from a book known as the Haggadah. Some Jews refrain from work on the first two and the last two days of this holiday.
- Mahavira-jayanti – Jainism
Celebrating the birthday of Lord Mahavir (Great Hero), the 24th Tirthankara (and last of this time cycle). Jains remember their most important prophet with prayer and fasting.

Saturday, April 4

- Lazarus Saturday – Christianity (Eastern churches)
A commemoration of Jesus’ miracle of raising his friend Lazarus from the dead, celebrated on the eve before Palm Sunday.
- Theravadin New Year – Buddhism
The New Year festival for Theravadin Buddhists, celebrated for three days beginning on the first full moon day in April.
- Hanuman Jayanti – Hinduism
A celebration of the birth of Hanuman, the faithful servant of the god Rama who can assume any form in order to conquer evil. Believers visit temples and apply sindoor (red powder) to their foreheads, since Hanuman is often portrayed as a red half-monkey, half-human.

Sunday, April 5

- Easter Sunday – Christianity (Western churches)
Celebrating God’s raising of Jesus of Nazareth from the dead, this day is the oldest and most central festival in the Christian year and initiates the fifty-day period culminating in Pentecost.
- Palm Sunday – Christianity (Eastern 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.
- Qingming – Chinese traditional
Often called Tomb Sweeping Day, it is a day to honor one’s ancestors and visit their grave sites, as well as to welcome the coming of the spring season.

Monday, April 6

- Anniversary of the Church’s Founding – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Tuesday, April 7

- Birthday of Avalokiteśvara or Kuan Yin [Kannon] – Buddhism
Usually celebrated on or near the full moon day in March, this day marks the occasion when the enlightened being known as Avalokiteśvara (in the Mahāyāna traditions of Tibet and China) or as Kuan Yin or Kannon (the feminine embodiment of this bodhisattva in Chinese, Japanese, and Vietnamese Buddhism) vowed to attain final, supreme enlightenment and thereby save all suffering sentient beings.

Thursday, April 9

- Jalál – Bahá'í

The beginning of the second month in the Bahá'í calendar, “Jalál” means “glory.”

- Eve of Great and Holy Friday – Christianity (Eastern churches)

At sundown Eastern churches commemorate Jesus' death by crucifixion, followed by an observance of the Great Sabbath, in which believers remember Christ's burial and await his resurrection on Holy Pascha, or Easter morning.

- Shrimad Rajchandra Dehvilay – Jainism

This festival marks the day of the emancipation (death) of Shrimad Rajchandra, a prominent Jain philosopher, in 1901 C.E. He was an influential spiritual guide for Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi.

Sunday, April 12

- Holy Pascha – Christianity (Eastern churches)

Celebrating God's raising of Jesus of Nazareth from the dead, this day is the oldest and most central festival in the Christian year and initiates the fifty-day period culminating in Pentecost.

Monday, April 13

- Vaisakhi – Hinduism

The first day of the solar year and an important harvest festival in northern India.

- Vaisakhi [or Baisakhi] – Sikhism

On this date in 1699 C.E., Gurū Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru, created the Khalsa Panth, the Brotherhood of the Pure. Khalsa brothers are given the name Singh (lion), and sisters are named Kaur (princess).

Thursday, April 16

- Yaqui Deer Dance – Native American spirituality

A ceremony that integrates ancient rites of the Yaqui people of Arizona with the Christian Easter rituals.

- Yom Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Day) – Judaism

A day of remembrance for the six million Jews who died because of Nazi atrocities during World War II. The date chosen is the closest date on the Jewish calendar to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943.

Saturday, April 18

- Birthdays of Gurū Angad Dev and of Gurū Tegh Bahadur – Sikhism

Gurū Angad Dev (1504 – 1552 C.E.) was the second and Gurū Tegh Bahadur (1621 – 1675 C.E.) was the ninth of the Sikh Gurūs.

Monday, April 20

- Eve of Ridván – Bahá'í (continues through Saturday, May 2)

Commemorating the twelve days that Bahá'u'lláh spent in the garden of Ridván during his exile in Baghdad and when he proclaimed himself as the one announced by the Báb, which occurred in 1863 C.E. On the first (4/21), ninth (4/29), and twelfth days (5/2) of this festival, work is suspended. The festival begins at sundown.

Tuesday, April 21

- Akshaya-tritiya [Immortal Third] – Jainism

A day celebrating when Lord Adinatha or Rishabhadeva, the traditional founder of the Jain faith and the first tīrthankar (a being who helps others to cross the great ocean of worldly life and achieve liberation), broke his first year-long fast by drinking juice from a sugar cane.

Tuesday, April 28

- Jamál – Bahá'í

The beginning of the third month in the Bahá'í calendar, “Jamál” means “beauty.”

Thursday, April 30

- Ghambar Maidyozarem begins – Zoroastrianism (continues through Monday, May 4)

Celebrating the creation of sky and the harvesting of the winter crops.

If you want more information about any of these holy days, please contact

UCSF Medical Center Spiritual Care Services at 415-353-1941 (Rev. Dr. Peter Yuichi Clark)