

**Community Coalition for Social Justice**  
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**UPDATE: 3 MAY 2015**

**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, May 12**, at **6:30** p.m. We will meet in the back room although, if the weather is nice, we may be on the patio. All are welcome.

Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfeld at [attfield@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:ccsjwv@hotmail.com). Please send items to share with our membership to Barb Howe at [barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu](mailto: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:** Our tenth annual event will be at the Metropolitan Theatre on January 18. Dr. King once said that "We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now." We will use this quote as a theme 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."

### LOCAL NEWS



**MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:** The next regular meeting will be Thursday, May 21, 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/](http://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](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/HRC-2014-Annual-Report-12.18.14-with-Logo.pdf)

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ANNUAL MEETING:** The League's annual meeting will be May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. the Aull Center on Spruce Street. Barb Howe will provide an overview of the expansion (and contraction) of the right to vote leading up to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

CCSJ is honored to be the recipient of one of the League's first social justice awards for our Martin Luther King, Jr., Day celebrations. Al Anderson, one of the founding members of CCSJ, will accept the award on our behalf at the meeting.

For more information, please contact Jonathan Rosenbaum at [jr@wvcompletestreets.org](mailto:jr@wvcompletestreets.org).

**NORTHERN WEST VIRGINIA FIRST ANNUAL PATH TO INDEPENDENCE DAY MAY 31 (RAIN DATE IS JUNE 14):** Come join the fun as the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living (NWVCIL) celebrates twenty years of service with people with disabilities on May 31<sup>st</sup> at NWVCIL 601 East Brockway Ave. Morgantown (304-296-6091). The community yard sale will start at 6:00 a.m., followed by a western themed festival for children at 10:00 a.m. Carnival games, a Faux Riding Horse provided by On Eagles Wings Therapeutic Horsemanship Center, disability device simulations, food (pulled pork sandwiches, snow cones, cotton candy, and hot dogs), and music will keep the family entertained for hours. WVU athletes will be available for photos and autographs.

Also, learn about services available for individuals with disabilities that will assist them to be valued contributors to their community.

The NWVCIL is a grant-funded non-profit agency looking to raise unrestricted funds to be able to help more people than current funding allows. Contact Annetta at 304-296-6091 if you are interested in participating in the yard sale. The cost is \$10 set up/\$5 table. Also, please contact the NWVCIL if you would like to be a vendor so persons with disabilities and the general public can learn more about your goods and services.

**The Fair Housing Action Network is recruiting volunteer testers** to help fight housing discrimination. NWVCIL recently was awarded another FHIP grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Through this grant award, the NWVCIL is establishing a testing program. Testing is a legal means used to determine if unequal or discriminatory treatment is taking place. Volunteer testers pose as potential renters or buyers of apartments or homes, and document their experiences. The Fair Housing Action Network's testing coordinator will then compare the experiences of people searching for housing to determine if discrimination is occurring.

The NWVCIL needs volunteer testers of all genders, races, colors, religions, national origins, and abilities. If you are interested in combating housing discrimination, please volunteer. Testers will be compensated \$50 per completed test.

To make a difference, call: The Fair Housing Action Network (headquartered at the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living) at 304-296-6091 or e-mail: [cchantler@nwvcil.org](mailto:cchantler@nwvcil.org). Follow Claire and the Fair Housing Initiative on twitter: [twitter.com/#!/wvfairhousing](https://twitter.com/#!/wvfairhousing).

**PRISONER VISITATION AND SUPPORT INFORMATION SESSION ON JUNE 14:** Because there is a great need for people to visit prisoners in the federal prisons in West Virginia, the Monongalia Friends (Quakers) Meeting is hosting an information session on Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS) at the Monongalia Friends Meetinghouse at 648 E Brockway Ave., Morgantown, WV 26505 on Sunday June 14, 2015 at 1:00 pm. Meeting for Worship is at 11:00 a.m., potluck lunch is at the rise of meeting, and the information session is at 1:00 p.m. The greater West Virginia community is welcome.

PVS is the only nationwide, interfaith visitation program with access to all federal and military prisons and prisoners in the United States. Sponsored by 35 national religious bodies and socially-concerned agencies (consisting of Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and secular organizations), PVS seeks to meet the needs of prisoners through an alternative ministry that is separate from official prison structures.

PVS was founded in 1968 by Bob Horton, a retired Methodist minister, and Fay Honey Knopp, a Quaker activist, to visit imprisoned conscientious objectors. In its first five years of service, PVS volunteers visited over 2,000 conscientious objectors. PVS was encouraged by the war resisters to visit other prisoners and, today, PVS visits any federal or military prisoner wanting a visit. PVS has 350 volunteers who visit at more than 90 federal and military prisons across the country. The visitors make monthly visits to see prisoners who rarely, if ever, receive outside visits. PVS visitors also focus on seeing those prisoners with an acute need for human contact: those serving long sentences, those frequently transferred from prison to prison, and those in solitary confinement and on death row.

#### **SIERRA CLUB EVENTS (FROM THE SIERRA CLUB E-MAIL LIST):**

“Morgantown Area Solar Co-op Launched. Residents Go Solar Together and Save Money”

“Neighbors in Morgantown and Monongalia County, West Virginia, have formed the Morgantown Solar Co-op. The co-op will leverage the group's buying power to save money on the purchase and installation of solar panels on co-op members' homes. The group is seeking more members and, in May, will host three informational meetings:

“\* Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 7:00 pm, at Black Bear Evansdale (3119 University Ave)

“\* Thursday, May 7, 12 noon, at Downstream Strategies (downtown at 295 High St. #3)

“\* Thursday, May 7, 2015, 5:30 pm, at the Shenandoah Room of the Mountainlair Student Union

“The May 7 noon brown bag lunch meeting at Downstream Strategies is designed specifically for small businesses and farms that can qualify for U.S. Department of Agriculture grants for up to 25% of the cost of their solar power systems through the USDA's Renewable Energy for America (REAP) program. The USDA also has loan guarantees available to bring down the cost of financing investment in solar power.

“There will be plenty of general information at all three meetings, so anyone can attend any meeting, regardless of your specific interest.

“These meetings are sponsored by the Morgantown Municipal Green Team and Downstream Strategies. ‘The Green Team has decided to sponsor a solar cooperative as a way to promote the growth of alternative and renewable energy sources within the city,’ said Jim Kotcon, Energy Chair for the Green Team, ‘The solar cooperative addresses community goals identified in the drafting of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, the solar cooperative will reduce Morgantown's greenhouse gas emissions, which, according to a recent report from Downstream Strategies, amount to nearly 1.5 million metric tons of CO2 per year.’”

“The effort is also being supported by WV SUN, a nonprofit that helps make solar more affordable and accessible. WV SUN is part of the Community Power Network, which has helped hundreds of citizens organize solar co-ops in their communities. WV SUN recently helped homeowners in Monroe and Fayette Counties go solar. Contact: Joey James 304-292-2450 or JJAMES@DOWNSTREAMSTRATEGIES.COM.”

### **RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN MAY 2015 FROM REV. PETER CLARK**

#### **Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**

May and June mark the season of the Hopi Kachina Dances, in which Arizona Hopi celebrants represent various spirit-powers and perform ritual dances in open pueblo areas. It is also the time of Yansa’alitt, the season of berry blossoms—anticipating the berry harvest in summer, which is essential for survival in winter.

Friday, May 1

- Beltane [also called Beltain or May Day] – Wicca

Celebration of the sacred marriage of the divine forces—and the conception of the sun-child—that are the basis of all creation.

Saturday, May 2

- Twelfth Day of Ridván – Bahá’í

The conclusion of the Bahá'í festival that commemorates Bahá'u'lláh's exile in Baghdad leading up to his declaration as the one announced by the Báb in 1863 C.E.

- Birthday of Gurū Arjan Dev – Sikhism

Gurū Arjan Dev (1563 – 1606 C.E.) was the fifth of the Sikh Gurūs.

Monday, May 4

- Ghambar Maidyozarem ends – Zoroastrianism

The end of the celebration of the creation of the sky and the harvesting of the winter crops.

- Visakha Puja [Buddha Day] – Buddhism

Celebrated on the full moon of the sixth lunar month, this is a triple commemoration of the historical Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death and entrance into nirvana.

Thursday, May 7

- Lag B'Omer – Judaism

The 33rd day in the counting of the period between Pesach [Passover] and Shavuot [the giving of the Law]; the festival begins at sundown.

- National Day of Prayer – Multi-faith, USA

Thursday, May 14

- Ascension Day – Christianity (Western churches)

The anniversary of Jesus' ascension into heaven, celebrated forty days after Easter. In the Roman Catholic Church, this day is celebrated on Sunday, May 17th.

- Laylat al-Isra' wa al-Mi'rāj – Islam

The commemoration of the Prophet Muhammad's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem, his ascent into heaven and return on the same night, and his receipt of Allah's commandment of the five compulsory daily prayers. This celebration begins at dusk.

Friday, May 15

- Restoration of the Aaronic priesthood – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Marking the restoration of this order by John the Baptist and conferred upon the Prophet Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery on this date in 1829 C.E.

Sunday, May 17

- 'Azamat – Bahá'í

The beginning of the fourth month of the Bahá'í year, 'Azamat means "grandeur."

- Yom Yerushalayim – Judaism

A celebration of the city of Jerusalem.

Wednesday, May 20

- Ascension Day – Christianity (Eastern churches)

The anniversary of Jesus' ascension into heaven, celebrated forty days after Easter.

Saturday, May 23

- Shavuot [Feast of Weeks] – Judaism

A two-day festival, beginning at sundown, that celebrates the harvest of first fruits and the giving of the Law (or Torah) to Moses at Mt. Sinai. The name Shavuot derives from the Hebrew words for “seven” and “week,” because it marks seven weeks following Pesach or Passover.

- Declaration of the Báb – Bahá'í

The celebration of the day in 1844 C.E. when he announced his identity as the Gate or herald of the new age in Shiraz, Persia (modern-day Iran).

- Birthday of Gurū Amar Das – Sikhism

Gurū Amar Das (1479 – 1574 C.E.) was the third of the Sikh Gurūs.

Sunday, May 24

- Pentecost Sunday – Christianity (Western churches)

A celebration of the Holy Spirit's descent upon the Apostles following Jesus' ascension into heaven, Pentecost [which derives from the Latin for “fifty,” because it occurred fifty days after Easter] is often known as “the birthday of the Christian Church.”

Monday, May 25 Memorial Day

Friday, May 29

- Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh – Bahá'í

The anniversary of the death of the founder of the Bahá'í faith in Palestine in 1892 C.E. Adherents suspend work on this day.

Sunday, May 31

- Pentecost Sunday – Christianity (Eastern churches)

A celebration of the Holy Spirit's descent upon the Apostles following Jesus' ascension into heaven, Pentecost [which derives from the Latin for “fifty,” because it occurred fifty days after Easter] is often known as “the birthday of the Christian Church.”

- Trinity Sunday – Christianity (Western churches)

Marking the celebration of God manifested in three Persons: as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- Laylat al-Bara'at or Nisf Sha'bān – Islam

According to Muslim tradition, Allah approaches the earth on this night (the middle day of the eighth month in the Islamic calendar) to call humanity to repentance and grant forgiveness of sins.

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).

Our thanks to the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago, the Multifaith Action Society of British Columbia (Canada), BBC's Religion Website, Peel Schools District Board (Mississauga, Ontario, Canada), the Arizona State University Provost's Office, the NCCJ of the Piedmont Triad, the Anti-Defamation League, Project Interfaith (Omaha, NE), and [www.interfaithcalendar.org](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org).