

**Community Coalition for Social Justice**  
**PO Box 160**  
**Morgantown, WV 26507-0160**  
**ccsjwv@hotmail.com**  
[www.ccsjwv.org](http://www.ccsjwv.org)

**UPDATE: 1 JULY 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, July 14**, 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 is once said to have commented 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, July 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/](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/).

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS:** To learn more about the work of the League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County, please go to [www.lwvww.org/category/league-of-women-votes-of-wv/morgantown/](http://www.lwvww.org/category/league-of-women-votes-of-wv/morgantown/).

**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).

**NORTHERN WEST VIRGINIA CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING:** The Center has several group meetings every week! There's a Support for Wellness Group, Self-Advocacy Support System, and more! Contact Paulette for more info at [plivengood@nwvcil.org](mailto:plivengood@nwvcil.org) or at 304-296-6091.

**SUPPORT THE MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:** The MCCAC is sponsoring its First Annual Care of Kids 5K (walk or run) on August 29<sup>th</sup> at the Star City Tug Boat Depot. Register by August 1 to get a free t-shirt. Registration before August 1 is \$25 for adults, \$20 for teens, \$10 for children, and \$15 for a 1 mile fun run. From August 2-29, the rates are \$35 for adults, \$30 for teens, \$10 for children, and \$20 for the 1 mile fun run. All proceeds benefit the MCCAC. As of July 1, it is not clear where to register, as nothing more is posted on the MCCAC web site or on [www.active.com](http://www.active.com), which is referenced in the MCCAC notice of the race.

**WVU DIVERSITY WEEK 2015:** Stay tuned as plans develop for WVU's annual Diversity Week. This year, it will be held from September 28-October 2 with a theme of "A Place for You at WVU." For more information, please go to [diversity.wvu.edu/di/diversity-week](http://diversity.wvu.edu/di/diversity-week).

## RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN JULY 2015

### FROM PETER CLARK

For Native Americans, July marks the season of the Mountain Spirit Dances for the Mescalero Apache people of New Mexico; the Hopi Snake Dances, marking a sixteen-day ritual of purification; the Green Corn Ceremony or Stomp Dance, performed by Seminole and other Oklahoma tribes as a time of renewal and purification; and the Sun Dance, observed by Plains peoples (Arapaho, Cheyenne, Shoshone, Arikara, Crow, Sioux, and others) as a time of penitence and sacrifice. It is also known as Xmaay, the season of big berries when summer fruit is ripe for harvesting.

Wednesday, July 1

- Jashn-e Tirgan – Zoroastrianism

The festival of water.

Thursday, July 2

- Dharma Day (Asalha Puja Day) – Buddhism

This day commemorates the historical Buddha's first sermon, called "Turning of the wheel of Dharma (Dhamma)," following his own enlightenment. The following day marks the beginning of the three-month Vassa or "Rains Retreat" for Theravadin Buddhist monks and nuns. This period is a time for training in Dharma studies, meditation practice, and giving religious services to the people.

Friday, July 3

- Ghambar Maidyoshem ends – Zoroastrianism

Ending the celebration of the creation of water, the sowing of summer crops, and the harvesting of grain.

Sunday, July 5

- Birthday of Gurū Hargobind Sahib Ji – Sikhism

Celebrating a renowned martial artist who was named the 6th of the 11 Sikh Gurūs (1595 – 1644 C.E.).

Monday, July 6

- Birthday of the XIVth Dalai Lama – Tibetan Buddhism

Celebrating the 80th birthday of His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, born in 1935 C.E. in northeastern Tibet. The Nobel Peace Prize laureate is the spiritual leader of the Tibetan government in exile and is revered as the fourteenth in a succession of manifestations of Avalokiteśvara, the enlightened being (bodhisattva) who embodies compassion in Buddhist practice.

Thursday, July 9

- Martyrdom of the Báb – Bahá'í

Anniversary of the martyrdom of the Báb, the forerunner of Bahá'u'lláh, in Persia in 1850 C.E. The Báb and 20,000 of his followers were killed because of their religious convictions throughout the mid-1800s. Work is suspended on this day.

Friday, July 10

- Jum'at al-Wadā [Farewell Friday] – Islam

As the last Friday in the month of Ramadān and the Friday immediately preceding Eid al-Fitr, this day is not a festival day, but it is still considered special by many Muslims.

Sunday, July 12

- Laylat al-Qadr [Night of Power or Destiny] – Islam

A festival commemorating the first revelation of the Qur'ān to the Prophet Muhammad in 610 C.E., at the age of forty. The festival begins at sundown.

Monday, July 13

- Kalimát – Bahá'í

The beginning of the seventh month of the Bahá'í year, meaning “words.”

- Obon (Ulambana) – Buddhism

A Japanese festival to honor deceased ancestors, usually involving the lighting of bonfires, traditional meals, paper lanterns, and folk dancing. Locally this festival is celebrated at various times in July and August.

Tuesday, July 14

- Feast Day of St. Kateri Tekakwitha – Catholic Christianity and Native American spirituality

Celebrating the life and ministry of Kateri Tekakwitha (1656 – April 17, 1680), a Mohawk-Algonquin woman who is the first Native American to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. She was so recognized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012, over three hundred years after her death.

Wednesday, July 15

- Ullambana – Buddhism

A day when Buddhists make offerings to the Triple Gem—the Buddha, the Dharma [teachings], and the Sangha [monastic community]—on behalf of their ancestors.

Thursday, July 16

- Eid al-Fitr – Islam

This is the Breaking of the Fast that celebrates the end of the month of Ramadān. Usually lasting three days, this festival begins with communal prayer and may also include charitable acts, visiting family and friends, preparing special foods, dressing in new clothes, and giving gifts.

Wednesday, July 22

- Feast of St. Mary Magdalene – Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran Christian churches

Also known as the Penitent, Mary Magdalene is celebrated as one of Jesus' earliest and most faithful disciples, after being healed by him. She is also recognized as a witness to Jesus's death and the first recorded witness of his resurrection on Easter.

Thursday, July 23

- Birthday of Emperor Haile Salassi I – Rastafari

Celebrating the birth of Ras [prince or chief] Tafari Makonnen (1892 – 1975 C.E.), who ruled as Emperor of Ethiopia from 1916 to 1974 (officially from 1930 to 1974), and who is professed by faithful Rasta believers as God incarnate.

- Birthday of Gurū Har Krishan Sahib Ji – Sikhism

Marking the birth of the 8th and youngest of the 11 Sikh Gurūs (1656 – 1664 C.E.) in the Nanakshahi calendar.

Friday, July 24

- Pioneer Day – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Celebrated annually as the anniversary of the entry of LDS pioneers into the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, in Utah in 1847 C.E., after a historic trek across 1,300 miles of wilderness.

- Khordad Sal – Zoroastrianism

The birth anniversary of the prophet Zarathustra (Zoroaster), according to the Qadimi calendar.

Saturday, July 25

- Tisha B'Av – Judaism

A solemn day of mourning and fasting for the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, as well as other tragedies in Jewish history coinciding with this date, beginning at sundown.

Monday, July 27

- Chaturmas – Hinduism and Jainism

This day marks the beginning of a four-month period (ending in November) during which time devotees observe some form of vow. Penance, fasting, and other religious observances mark this period. It is considered an inauspicious time for weddings or thread ceremonies.

Thursday, July 30

- Oharai-taisai – Shinto

A purification ceremony to cleanse believers from offenses committed during the first half of the year. A large ring of woven grasses and reeds is placed at the entrance to Shinto shrines, and people walk through the ring as a symbol of inner purification.

Friday, July 31

- Gurū Purnima – Hinduism

This day celebrates the ancient Hindu sage Krishna Dvaipayana, also known as Veda Vyāsa, who is credited as the compiler of the sacred Vedas, the author of the Eighteen Puranas (supplementary texts), and credited with writing the Sanskrit epic Mahābhārata. The term “gurū” refers to a teacher or remover of darkness. Buddhists also mark this day as an opportunity to thank their teachers.

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)

To subscribe to this calendar and sync it with your Google, Outlook, or iCal calendars, visit <http://ucsfspiritcare.org> and select the “Resources” menu.