

**Community Coalition for Social Justice**  
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**UPDATE: 2 AUGUST 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, August 11**, 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 Attfield 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).

**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING/PICNIC:** Please plan to join us on Sunday afternoon, September 27, at the Westover City Park Pavilion off Dupont Road for a picnic and brief business meeting. Details will follow in next month's Update. All are welcome!

**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, August 20, 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/).

You can find a calendar of annual human rights observances at <http://www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/Annual-HR-Observances.pdf>. For August those are as follows:

**August 6 - National Night Out** – Marks the importance of collaborative efforts in reducing crime and for strengthening neighborhood relationships which help prevent crime and protect persons from

criminal activity.

**August 9 - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples** – Celebrates the richness of indigenous cultures and recognizes the challenges indigenous peoples face today, ranging from poverty and disease to dispossession, discrimination, and denial of basic human rights.

**August 12 - International Youth Day** – Celebrates young people and the integral role they play to create a world fit for children.

**August 23 - International Day for the Remembrance of Slave Trade and Its Abolition** – Memorializes the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade, coinciding with the anniversary of the uprising in Santa Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated its abolition. Tragically other forms of slavery still persist today.

**August 30 - International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance** – A day to promote taking a stand against secret imprisonment, forced disappearance and abduction and placing persons in any situation without access to relatives and/or legal representation.

**COORDINATING COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS FUNFAIR AUGUST 30:** The Council's Meet Your Neighbor: A Community Funfair will be held August 30<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Farmers' Market Pavilion on Spruce Street in Morgantown. Come to meet people, enjoy free picnic food, listen to music, and enjoy activities for all ages at this free event designed to "take advantage of being in the downtown area." The Children's Discovery Museum and MedExpress will be participating. The Council has a Downtown Task Force "to develop ways in which the quality of life downtown can be enhanced for everyone," according to a recent article in the *Dominion Post*.

**MORGANTOWN SOLAR CO-OP INVITATION:** Members of the Co-op receive a 25 percent discount on the purchase of solar for their home. Sixty families in the Morgantown area are already part of the Co-op, and Mountainview Solar will be the installer. The deadline for new people to sign up is September 30. Information can be found at the Morgantown Solar Coop website at <http://www.wvsun.org/solar-coops/morgantown-solar-co-op/>. For more information, please contact Karan Ireland, WV SUN program director, at 304-356-8774.

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

**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. You can register now at <http://www.active.com/star-city-wv/running/distance-running-races/first-annual-mccac-care-for-kids-5k-2015?int>. Until August 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, and you can get more information about the race at the above web site.

**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).

**State News**

**OUR CHILDREN, OUR FUTURE NORTHERN REGIONAL POLICY WORKSHOP TO BE HELD AUGUST 17:** This meeting will be at the Weirton Public Library from 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. CCSJ can be a free sponsor if we have three people attending. **If you wish to join the group, please contact Rosa Becker at [rebrosalin@gmail.com](mailto:rebrosalin@gmail.com) immediately.**

The agenda is as follows:

Registration: 8:30 – 9:30; Opening Speakers: 9:30 – 9:50; Policy Pitches: 9:50 – 10:30; Participants move into policy group they want to be part of 10:30 – 10:45; Trainings (Checklist Advocacy/Media & Messaging): 10:45 – 12:00; Lunch/Networking: 12:00 – 12:30; Legislator Panel: 12:30 – 1:15; Trainings (Checklist Advocacy/Media & Messaging): 1:30 – 2:45; and Visioning/Candidate Training Session: 3:00 – 3:45.

Receive top-notch leadership, advocacy, and communications training from folks like Stephen Smith of WV Healthy Kids and Families Coalition and Jim McKay of Team for WV Children. Get access to state legislators like Senate Health Chair Ryan Ferns. Learn more about issues including: Foster Youth, Food Banks, APRN Health Policy, Oral Health, Tobacco Tax, and State Earned Income Tax Credit.

For more information, please contact Angie Iafrate at [a.t.iafrate@gmail.com](mailto:a.t.iafrate@gmail.com).

**MARTINSBURG CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTS NON-DISCRIMINATION:** After a lengthy public meeting on July 29, Martinsburg's City Council voted to draft an ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in both housing and employment because state law does not provide that protection. Fairness West Virginia has been asking cities to enact these ordinances because efforts to get a comprehensive state law banning such discrimination have repeatedly failed to pass the state legislature. The draft ordinance will be available in 30 to 60 days. Stay tuned.

### **Religious Holy Days in August 2015**

**From Peter Clark**

For Native Americans, August marks the season of Wilhoon, the season marking the salmon runs of late summer; the Hopi Snake Dances, marking a sixteen-day ritual of purification; the Stomp Dance, performed by Seminole and other Oklahoma tribes as a time of renewal and purification; the Sun Dance, observed by Plains peoples (Arapaho, Cheyenne, Shoshone, Arikara, Crow, Sioux, and others) as a time of penitence and sacrifice; and the Iroquois Green Corn Ceremony, a time of renewal involving dances, fasting, offerings, and readings from the code of Handsome Lake.

Saturday, August 1

- Kamál – Bahá'í

The beginning of the eighth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning "perfection."

- Lughnassadh [Lammas] – Wicca

The harvest of first fruits, celebrating the harvest of corn and wheat. Wiccan practitioners see this time as a signal of the god Lugh's decline of strength as the sun rises farther south each day, while the Goddess witnesses this season with sorrow and joy. It is both a somber and celebratory feast day.

Thursday, August 6

- Feast of the Transfiguration – Christianity (Western and Eastern churches)

Celebrates the manifestation of Jesus' divinity as God's Son to his disciples Peter, James, and John on Mount

Tabor.

Saturday, August 8

- Fravardeghan Days [Muktad] begin – Zoroastrianism

A time of memorializing one's ancestors in preparation for Nowruz [see August 18], according to Zoroastrians who follow the Shenshai calendar.

Saturday, August 15

- Assumption of the Virgin Mary – Christianity [Catholic churches]

According to the Catholic Church, this day commemorates how, at the end of her life, Jesus' mother Mary was assumed—body and soul—into heaven, where she intercedes for all believers.

- Dormition of the Theotokos or Most Holy Mother of God – Christianity [Orthodox churches]

According to the Orthodox Church, this day marks Mary's death and resurrection by God, as a sign to all believers of their ultimate destiny.

Tuesday, August 18

- Nowruz – Zoroastrianism

The start of the New Year for Zoroastrians who follow the Shenshai calendar, beginning the year 1385 AY [After Yazdegird III, the last of the Persian Zoroastrian monarchs].

Thursday, August 20

- Asmā' – Bahá'í

The beginning of the ninth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning "names."

Sunday, August 23

- Khordad Sal – Zoroastrianism

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

Wednesday, August 26

- Festival of Ksitigarbha (Jizō) Bodhisattva – Buddhism

Celebrating Ksitigarbha (Jizō) Bodhisattva, the savior of beings who suffer in the hellish realms, as well as the guardian of expectant mothers, travelers, and deceased children in Japanese culture.

Friday, August 28

- Zhōngyuán Jié [Ghost Festival] – Taoism

According to Chinese Taoist belief, this day is when deceased ancestors visit the homes of the living. Families prepare feasts and set tables with empty chairs so that the living and the dead can share the meal together.

- 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.

Saturday, August 29

- Narali Purnima or Rakhi or Raksha Bandhan – Hinduism

Celebrating the end of monsoon season, marked by throwing coconuts to Varuna, the sea god. During this festival, girls and women tie amulets on their brothers' wrists for protection against evil.

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.