

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, September 8**, 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. 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.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING/PICNIC: Please plan to join us on Sunday afternoon, September 27, at the Westover City Park Pavilion for a picnic and brief business meeting from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. To reach the park, turn onto Dupont Road off Route 19 (by the MountainLine bus depot and United Bank), then go down Dupont Road .4 miles to the Westover City Hall/recycling station on your right. Turn right down the road immediately past the parking lot for City Hall, and the pavilion is at the bottom of the hill. We will provide the food, and the High Street Jazz Band will provide music. All are welcome! We will have our bumper stickers for sale, too.

As part of our business meeting, we will be conducting elections for members of our steering committee and officers. Members may nominate people from the floor at the meeting, with the approval of the nominee. Only dues-paying members may vote. This will be in accordance with our proposed bylaws changes.

We appreciate WVU including this event in its schedule of Diversity Week events.

BYLAWS CHANGES: As a separate file with this Update and on our web site, you'll find our proposed bylaws changes. The steering committee is proposing changes to simplify the way we operate. We are assuming that the changes will be effective October 2 unless a majority of dues-paying members object no later than 10 days before that date. Since the picnic falls after that 10-day window, we will follow the new procedures for this election. If you wish to object, email us at ccsjwv@hotmail.com or write to us at PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160 so it is received by September 23.

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 and Dr. King's influence around the world. 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, September 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the Public Safety Building Conference Room on Spruce Street. There are some new members of the commission, so the current membership includes Jan Derry (chair), Anna Marlene Robinson-Savino (vice chair), Don Spencer (secretary), Fran Whiteman, Billie Murray, Kristen Cooper, and Matthew Blair. Dave Bott is the administration representative, Tim Hairston the liaison with the State of West Virginia Human Rights Commission, and Anne Marie Lofaso the liaison with the WVU Law

School.

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/.

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

September 7 Labor Day – Celebrates the historic struggles of workers in the United States to achieve safer working conditions, shorter hours, and humane restrictions on child labor while contributing to productive economies.

September 8 International Literacy Day – Supports awareness of the importance of persons being able to read and write in order to participate in today's economic, legal, health and social environments.

September 17 Constitution Day and Citizenship Day – Commemorates the ratification in 1787 of the United States Constitution, the organization of government, and rights of citizenship. Also honors all who have become United States citizens.

September 21 International Day of Peace – Calls for continual working for peace and reduction of use of violence in attempting to solve problems among individuals and all levels of human interaction.

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.lwvww.org/category/league-of-women-votes-of-wv/morgantown/.

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.

STATE NEWS

Fairness West Virginia Institute's 2015 "Rise to Fairness" Conference & Reception: This year's event will be October at the WVU-Erickson Alumni Center and the evening Reception will be at The Vintage Room in downtown Morgantown, WV.

Registration is now open for this "full day of advocacy, education, community building, and fun!" Please also indicate during your registration any lunch preferences you may have and if you have additional dietary restrictions contact Breonna Patterson, Special Projects Assistant, at breonna@fairnesswv.org.

The "Rise to Fairness" Conference will start at 9:00am at the WVU - Erickson Alumni Center and will include the "State of Equality address, four sessions of panels focusing on critical issues impacting fairness and equality in the Mountain State, and more! The Conference will also provide opportunities for advocates and allies to network and plan to participate in the upcoming fight for fairness during the 2016 Legislative Session."

The reception from 7:00-9:00 p.m. will feature "Appalachian-based queer singer/songwriter, Sam Gleaves, who tells the stories of Appalachia through traditional music and original songs."

Admission to both the Conference & Reception is \$105.00 (*special price for both events!*). Admission for the Conference only is \$75.00. Admission to Reception only is \$35.00. You can register online at https://equalityfederation.salsalabs.com/o/35039/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=3519

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN SEPTEMBER 2015

FROM PETER CLARK

For Native Americans, September marks the season of Genuuqwiikw, the season of mountain trails and the beginning of the fall hunt for game; the Iroquois Green Corn Ceremony, a time of renewal involving dances, fasting, offerings, and readings from the code of Handsome Lake; and the Jicarilla Apache Ghost Dance in New Mexico.

Tuesday, September 1

- First Parkash – Sikhism

The commemoration of the installation of the Adi Granth, the first edition of the Sikh scriptures, in the Golden Temple by Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh guru, in 1604 C.E.

Saturday, September 5

- Sri Krishna Jayanti or Krishna Janmashtami – Hinduism

A festival celebrating the birth of Krishna, the eighth incarnation of the god Vishnu, whose purpose was to destroy the demon Kansa who was responsible for evil's increase in the world.

Tuesday, September 8

- 'Izzat – Bahá'í

The beginning of the tenth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning "might."

- Nativity of the Mother of God [Theotokos] or Birth of the Blessed Virgin – Christianity

This festival celebrates the birth of Mary, the mother of Jesus of Nazareth. In Eastern Orthodox churches she is known by the honorific of Theotokos.

Thursday, September 10

- Paryushana-parva begins [until Thursday, September 17] – Jainism

The holiest period of the year for the ascetic Shvetambara sect, this festival celebrates Jain ideals through fasting, worship, and reading the life-story of Lord Mahavira from the Kalpasutra.

Saturday, September 12

- Ethiopian New Year – Rastafari

A sacred day for Rastafarians because they consider Ethiopia to be their spiritual homeland, to which they aspire to return.

- Ghambar Paitishahem – Zoroastrianism [through Wednesday, September 16]

This festival celebrates the creation of the earth and the summer harvest.

Sunday, September 13

- Rosh Hashanah begins – Judaism

Beginning at sundown is New Year's Day for the year 5776 and the anniversary of the creation of the world. Jews celebrate Rosh Hashanah with the blowing of the shofar (ram's horn) and apples and honey, marking it as the first of the Ten Days of Awe [or Repentance].

Monday, September 14

- Elevation or Exultation of the Holy Cross – Christianity

This day recognizes the Cross as a symbol of Christ's love for humankind and God's victory over death. It also marks the finding of the Holy Cross by St. Helen after it had been stolen in the 7th century C.E.

Orthodox churches begin their commemoration at sundown on the preceding day. In the Ethiopian Orthodox tradition, this day is known as Meskel and is marked on September 28th.

Wednesday, September 16

- Fast of Gedaliah – Judaism

A fast in memory of Gedaliah Ben Ahikam, the governor of Israel during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylonia, who was assassinated in 581 B.C.E. Following his death, the Jews who had returned to Judah fled to Egypt, thus vacating the land of a Jewish presence and completing the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem.

Thursday, September 17

- Ganesh Chaturthi – Hinduism

A festival celebrating the birth of Ganesh, the god who removes obstacles and brings luck.

Friday, September 18

- Das Laxanā Parva [Daslakshan Parva] begins – Jainism

The Festival of the Ten Virtues, celebrated over ten days by the Digambara Jains, helps believers to recall and practice forgiveness, tenderness or humility, honesty, contentment or purity, truth, self-restraint, austerities, charity, celibacy, and non-attachment. The festival culminates with Ananta-chaturdasi, the holiest day, on September 27th.

Tuesday, September 22

- Yaum-al-Arafah – Islam

This day is the most important for Muslim pilgrims undertaking the Hajj journey; believers implore Allah for boundless forgiveness and mercy on the plain of 'Arafāt, adjacent to the holy city of Mecca.

- Yom Kippur [Day of Atonement] – Judaism

The holiest day of the Jewish year. To reestablish their relationship with God, Jews ask for forgiveness and forgive others [Kol Nidre], and then they can confess their sins and ask for divine forgiveness. Prayer and fasting begin at sundown on this day and continue through the following day.

Wednesday, September 23 autumn equinox

- Eid al-Adhá – Islam

This three-day festival of sacrifice begins at sundown and is the concluding act of pilgrimage for Muslims; adherents offer sheep, goats, and camels, whose meat is then distributed to the poor.

- Shuki-sorei-sai – Shinto

A memorial service similar to the March equinox service (Shunki-sorei-sai), this day is marked by the cleaning and purification of gravesites and the reverence of ancestors as kami, or divine spirits.

- Ohigon – Buddhism

A celebration of the equinox that is of particular importance to Japanese, Korean, and Tibetan Buddhists. During this festival, the six Paramitas [virtues] are emphasized: generosity, morality, wisdom, honesty, endeavor, and patience.

- Autumn Feast – Native American spirituality

A day to honor the harvest end and the coming and going of the seasons, including prayers, songs, and the telling of tribal stories.

- Mabon [Harvest Home] – Wicca

Marking the second or continuing harvest, this festival celebrates life's encapsulation as a seed to survive the cold winter, as well as the Harvest of the Vine, which symbolizes the divine power to transform the nectar of youth into the wine of elders' wisdom and spiritual maturity.

Sunday, September 27

- Sukkot [Festival of Tabernacles] begins – Judaism

Also known as the Festival of Booths and the Harvest Festival, Jews celebrate this time as a pilgrimage feast and time of thanksgiving. The booths or huts remind Jews of the tents used by the Israelites during their years wandering in the wilderness, as well as the dwellings used by Jewish farmers at harvest time.

- Ksamavani – Jainism

A day of universal forgiveness, in which Jains ask forgiveness of others for wrongs committed during the previous year, and they also forgive those who have caused them suffering.

- Mashí'yyat – Bahá'í

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

Monday, September 28

- Birth of Confucius – Confucianism

The birthday of the philosopher Confucius [K'ung-tzu] in 551 B.C.E. in the Chinese state of Lu, known today as Shandong Province.

- Pitr-paksha or Mahalay Paksha – Hinduism

The beginning of a two-week period during which Hindu adherents perform shraddha rites to gratify the spirits of their deceased ancestors, including giving food or other donations as a form of charitable service.

Tuesday, September 29

- St. Michael and All Angels – Christianity

A celebration of the archangel Michael and all angels (from the Greek angelos, “divine messenger”) mentioned in the Bible.

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

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