

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, October 13**, 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.

ANNUAL MEETING/PICNIC REPORT: A good time was had by all yesterday! Thanks to the High Street Jazz Band for providing the toe-tapping music. We appreciated hearing about current issues and ideas of how to work together from Justine McCoy for the Scotts Run Settlement House, Sam Petsonk for Mountain State Justice, Mike Attfeld for the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, Don Spencer for the Morgantown Human Rights Commission, Tim Hairston for the West Virginia Human Rights Commission, Lt. Matt Solomon for the Morgantown Police Department, Larry Schwab for the High Street Jazz Band, Stephanie Tyree for WV Hub, and Annie Petsonk for Starting Points of Mon County, a program of the Family Resources Center. Because we were listed on the WVU Diversity Week calendar, a reporter from Channel 12 came and gave us coverage on the news Sunday evening.

We elected the following individuals as members of our steering committee: Al Anderson, Mike Attfeld, Rosa Becker, Susan Brown, Judy Cohen, Laura Cohen, Barb Howe, Sandra Nelms, Janis-Rozena Peri, Sheila Rye, Mike Sharley, and Ruth Tunick. We then elected Susan Brown and Rosa Becker as co-chairs, Sheila Rye as secretary, and Barb Howe as treasurer.

All our meetings are open to everyone, and we encourage everyone's contributions to our discussions and assistance with our projects like Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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. We are excited to be working with The Shack Neighborhood House on the 2016 program.

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, October 22, 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/.

You can find a calendar of annual human rights observances at www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/Annual-HR-Observances.pdf. For

October those are as follow:

LGBT History Month – Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the United States.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month – A time for celebrating the strength of battered women and their children and for connecting those working to end violence against women and children.

National Crime Prevention Month - Special awareness for the practice of crime prevention as well as victimization, volunteerism, and the need to create safer more connected neighborhoods and communities.

October 1 Day International Day of Older Persons – Appreciates the contributions which older persons in diverse situations make to their communities and recognizes the need for opportunities for willing and capable persons of advanced age to participate in and be celebrated for their action in society.

October 12 Indigenous People Day (Native American Day) – Celebrates and honors Native American history and culture.

October 15 World Food Day – A day for awareness of the need for greater equity in access to food production and distribution locally, statewide, nationally and internationally.

October 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Day – Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.

October 24 United Nations Day – Commemorates the founding of the United Nations in 1945.

October 31 World Cities Day – “The human future is largely an urban future. We must get right reduction of greenhouse emissions, strengthening resilience, ensuring basic services such as water and sanitation, and designing safe public streets and spaces for all to share.”(UN Sec. Gen.)

WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAMS OCTOBER 1: The annual Peace Tree Ceremony will be held Thursday, **October 1**, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the WVU Peace Tree, across from the Mountainlair. If it rains, the program will be in the Mountainlair Ballroom. This event is free and open to the public.

At 6:30 p.m. that evening, there will be an honoring reception to precede the lecture by Dr. Daniel R. Wildcat, who will speak at 7:00 on “We Are All Related: Indigenous Perspectives on Resiliency.” This lecture is free and open to the public and will be held in G09 White Hall. Dr. Wildcat is a Yuchi member of the Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma. He is director of the Haskell Indian Nations University Environmental Research Studies Center and professor of Indigenous and American Indian Studies. For more information, please contact the Native American Studies Program at 304-293-4626 or go to www.nas.wvu.edu.

BATTERED BUT NOT BROKEN PLAY AT METROPOLITAN THEATRE: This play by Cynthia Wilson will be presented **October 2nd and 3rd** at the Metropolitan Theatre on High Street. The play highlights the impacts of domestic violence, and CCSJ sent a letter of support to be included in the program for the play. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday. You can order tickets at www.eventbrite.com/e/battered-but-not-broken-the-play-tickets-17772322495 for \$15.50 each plus a \$1.38 fee.

According to the publicity for the show, "It's the show that will give you chills and some of it takes place right in the audience." Also "Wilson's play is partially drawn from her own experience while in an abusive relationship which, for years, she kept to herself out of shame and fear. Eventually, she divorced her husband and then made peace with him when he became ill. After her niece was murdered by her boyfriend, Wilson knew she couldn't remain silent anymore. 'I believe my play will enlighten the audience about domestic violence while also giving the audience hope by exploring the choices women can make and what can be done to break free from violence', Wilson said."

WVU DIVERSITY WEEK SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 3: There is too much going on for us to include it all, so please go to diversity.wvu.edu/di/diversity-week/diversity-week-2015. Many events are free and open to the public.

CONVERSATIONS WITH A COP: The Morgantown Police Department will be holding its next "Conversation with A Cop" from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in WVU's Elizabeth Moore Hall on **October 8**. All are welcome to attend as the Morgantown Police Department expands its outreach to the community. October is GLBT Pride Month.

WVU CENTER FOR WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES CELEBRATION: Celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Center for Women's (and Gender) Studies from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. on October 8. Remarks will begin at 4:15 p.m. To RSVP, please email Shelby McClure at smclur4@mail.wvu.edu.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: The League of Women Voters is holding its annual membership meeting on **October 14** at 7:00 p.m. at the Aull Center, next to the Morgantown Public Library on Spruce Street. The League is working with the Secretary of State's office to get someone to discuss the importance of the May 2016 primary election, where, for the first time, candidates running for non-partisan offices will be elected. The meeting is open to the public, and League of Women Voters membership information will be available.

STATE NEWS

APPALACHIAN QUEER FILM FESTIVAL: This film festival is being held October 1-4 at the Lewis Theatre in Lewisburg. The festival's mission is "to bring queer films and filmmakers to the beautiful state of West Virginia, break down stereotypes and broaden minds throughout Appalachia." Details are available at aqff.org/.

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA INSTITUTE'S 2015 "RISE TO FAIRNESS" CONFERENCE & RECEPTION: This year's event will be October 24th 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 9:00 a.m. 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 equalityfederation.salsalabs.com/o/35039/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=3519

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN OCTOBER 2015

FROM PETER CLARK

For Native Americans, October marks the season of the Cherokee Green Corn Ceremony and the season of Xlaaw, the season to put up food for the coming winter.

Friday, October 2

- Jashan-e Mehregan – Zoroastrianism

A celebratory festival of friendship, righteousness and justice.

Saturday, October 3

- Worldwide General Conference begins – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

This is the largest worship service for Latter-day Saints (also known as Mormons) and lasts for two days. Conference proceedings are broadcast live over the Internet and through other electronic media.

Sunday, October 4

- World Communion Sunday – Christianity
- Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi – Christianity

A celebration of the patron saint of animals and ecology and the founder of the Franciscan Roman Catholic religious order, known for its ethic of simplicity and service. Many Christians mark this festival by bringing their animal companions to churches for a blessing.

- Shemini Atzeret [Eighth Day of Assembly] – Judaism

This eighth day of Sukkot [Festival of Tabernacles] features prayers for rain and a good harvest in the coming year. It begins at sundown.

Monday, October 5

- Simchat Torah – Judaism

This festival, also known as “Rejoicing with the Law,” marks the end of Sukkot and the completion of the Torah reading cycle with the beginning of reading the first book again. Jews celebrate this day by singing, dancing, and marching around the synagogue or temple with Torah scrolls. This festival begins at sundown.

- Bodhidharma Memorial – Buddhism

This day celebrates the monk (5th – 6th centuries C.E.) who emigrated from India and is credited with transmitting Ch’an [Zen] Buddhism to China.

Friday, October 9

- Birth of Gurū Ram Das – Sikhism

This date in the Nanakshahi tradition celebrates the birth of the 4th Sikh gurū (1534 – 1581 C.E.), who is remembered for organizing the structure of Sikh society and for composing a four-stanza hymn that is the basis of many Sikh wedding ceremonies.

Monday, October 12

- Ghambar Ayathrem – Zoroastrianism [through Friday, October 16]

This festival celebrates the creation of plants, the sowing of winter crops, and herds’ return from pasture.

Tuesday, October 13

- Navaratra or Navaratri Dusserha – Hinduism

The beginning of a nine-day festival of the divine mother, honoring Shiva’s wife Durga and seeking her blessings. It is also observed as a celebration recalling the days of Lord Krishna. Fasting and prayer are practiced.

- Ra’s al-Sanat al-Hijriyah: Islamic New Year [First of Muharram] – Islam

Commemorating the migration of the prophet Muhammad and his small band of followers from Mecca to Medina in 622 C.E., in order to escape persecution and to establish the first Muslim community. The Islamic year 1437 begins at sundown.

- Nichiren Shonin Memorial – Buddhism

This day celebrates the monk (1222 – 1282 C.E.) who encouraged his followers to devote themselves to the Lotus Sūtra as the exclusive means to enlightenment.

Friday, October 16

- ‘Ilm – Bahá’í

The beginning of the twelfth month of the Bahá’í year, meaning “knowledge.”

Tuesday, October 20

- Birth of the Báb — Bahá’í

Anniversary of the birth of the Báb, one of the twin Prophet founders of the Bahá’í faith, in 1819 C.E. His nineteen disciples, known as Letters of the Living, taught his religion throughout 19th century Persia. His shrine is located in Haifa, Israel. Bahá’ís suspend work on this day.

- Installation of the Gurū Granth Sahib – Sikhism

This date in the Nanakshahi tradition celebrates the transmission of the gurūship to the Holy Scriptures (the Gurū Granth Sahib Ji) by the tenth gurū, Gobind Singh Ji.

Thursday, October 22

- Dashara, Vijaya Dashami, or Dussehra – Hinduism

Celebrates the triumph of Durga, the Divine Mother who manifests fierce compassion, over the forces of evil, as well as commemorating Rama’s victory over the demon Ravana.

Friday, October 23

- ‘Āshūrā’ – Islam

Sunni Muslims celebrate this day as the anniversary of Noah’s departure from the Ark on Mount Ararat and the freedom of the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. Shi’i Muslims mark this date as the anniversary of the martyrdom of Husayn, the Prophet Muhammad’s grandson, in 680 C.E.

Saturday, October 24

- United Nations Day
- Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Gurū Tegh Bahadur Ji – Sikhism

This day commemorates the martyrdom of the ninth of the Ten Sikh Gurūs (1621-1675 C.E.). He is remembered for defending the Sikh faith, as well as the rights of Hindus and the cause of religious liberty.

Wednesday, October 28

- Pavarana – Buddhism

This day is the end of the three-month Vassa or rains retreat observed by Theravadin Buddhist monks.

- Atmasiddhi Rachna Divas (Creation Day) – Jainism

On this day in 1896, the poet Shrimad Rajchandra-ji (who was a spiritual guide for Mohandas Gandhi) wrote the legendary treatise Shri Atmasiddhi Shastra, which explains the quintessence of Jainism.

Friday, October 30

- Karwa Chauth – Hinduism

A day of fasting for married women, in which they dress like new brides and offer prayers for the long lives and safety of their husbands. Husbands offer sweets to their spouses at the end of the fast, once the moon is sighted.

Saturday, October 31 Halloween

- Reformation Day – Christianity [Protestant churches]

This day commemorates October 31, 1517 C.E., when Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany, eventually leading to the Protestant Reformation in Europe. Most Protestant Christian churches will mark this on Sunday, October 25th.

- Samhain – Wicca

Celebration of the Celtic New Year. The dying God returns to the womb of the Goddess in preparation for rebirth at Yule. The souls of ancestors and those who have died during the turning of the past year's wheel are remembered. Vegan Wiccans harvest nuts, the kernels of which symbolize wisdom.

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 ucsfspiritcare.org and select the "Resources" menu

