

**Community Coalition for Social Justice**  
**PO Box 160**  
**Morgantown, WV 26507-0160**  
**ccsjwv@hotmail.com**  
**www.ccsjwv.org**

**UPDATE: 2 NOVEMBER 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, November 10, 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. We have revised our theme to focus on Dr. King's influence around the world as we learn more about his travels and that impact. 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 and to have Morgantown residents from Ghana and India, both countries Dr. King visited, participate.

**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, November 19, 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 [www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/Annual-HR-Observances.pdf](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/Annual-HR-Observances.pdf).

November is Native American Heritage Month, which celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans in the United States. Other important dates are:

**November 2** International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists – A day to emphasize that information is essential for decision making whether it be economic, social or political. Information is

the cornerstone for democracy, good government and effective institutions. During the past decade 700 journalists have been killed worldwide.

**November 3** Election Day – A day set by United States law for citizens to exercise the right to vote in the election of public officials.

**November 9** Day against Racism – A call for global action against intolerance and its attendant violence as well as enhancement of communal and national tolerance, fairness, and mutual respect.

**November 13** World Kindness Day – Calls for special deliberate efforts to treat others with kindness and even to exceed the rights which people can expect or hope to be honored in their relationships with others.

**November 16** International Day for Tolerance – Emphasizes the dangers of intolerance and is a call for action for the advancement of human welfare, freedom, and progress everywhere, as well as a day to encourage tolerance, respect dialogue, and cooperation among different cultures and peoples.

**November 20** Universal Children’s Day – The world-wide day for promoting mutual exchange and understanding among children and for initiating action to benefit and promote the welfare of the world’s children.

**November 25** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women – A day for emphasizing awareness that violence against women is a preventable human rights violation based on discrimination against women and a perception of inequalities between men and women.

**November 26** Thanksgiving Day – Following a 19th Century tradition, this day commemorates the Pilgrim’s harvest feast in the autumn of 1621 and their successful interdependence with Native Americans making the feast possible.

**CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY LOCAL CHAPTER FORMING** – All are welcome to attend this meeting on Wednesday **November 4** from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Friends Meetinghouse, 648 Brockway, Morgantown (across from Superior Photo, just before you enter Marilla Park). “Citizens' Climate Lobby is a non-profit, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change. We train and support volunteers to reclaim their democracy and engage elected officials and the media to generate the political will for solutions that will stabilize the Earth’s climate. For more information on the national effort, please go to [www.citizensclimatelobby.org](http://www.citizensclimatelobby.org). Contact Kitty Lozier at [clozier@gmail.com](mailto:clozier@gmail.com) for more information about the local effort.

**INTERFAITH COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON PREVENTION OF GUN VIOLENCE:** Everyone is welcome to participate in this discussion on **November 8** at from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Harless Center, behind the First Presbyterian Church on Spruce Street.

Rev. Monica Styron, interim pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, will lead the group for five to ten minutes in general information about gun laws in West Virginia and the U.S., the number of national groups working on changes to existing laws, etc. Attendees will then break out into "Conversation" groups of 5 people per group.

The following questions will act as a guide to the conversation:

1. What do you think is the problem?
2. How and what does your faith tradition contribute to solving the problem(s) identified? (actions, position letters, etc.)
3. What simple actions might be needed and taken by an individual or group.
4. What skills and knowledge do people in your group bring to the identifiable problem(s) identified?

**"IS RECYCLING WORKING IN MORGANTOWN AND WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?** This is the final community forum of the Morgantown Municipal Green Team in the series: Air, Water and Waste: Where is Morgantown heading? The session will be held on **November 10** from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. at the Morgantown Public Library, 373 Spruce Street. There will be speakers from the City of Morgantown, Monongalia County, Republic Services, and WVU. For more information, call 703-463-7643.

**WVU WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES FAIR:** See what's trending today in Women's and Gender Studies on **November 16** from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. "The Fair is an interactive way to stay current on all the latest issues, by viewing the creative work of fellow Mountaineers." The event will be in the ballrooms of the WVU Mountainlair.

**TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE:** All are invited to this event on **November 18** at 5:00 p.m. in the Mountaineer Room of the WVU Mountainlair sponsored by the Commission on LGBTQ Equity and the WVU Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) describes this as "a day to memorialize those whose lives were lost due to anti-transgender fear, bigotry and hatred. Around the world, communities have planned vigils to come together and remember those who have died in the past year."

## STATE NEWS



### **OUR CHILDREN, OUR FUTURE SPONSORS CANDIDATE TRAINING:**

Generation WV, WV Chamber of Commerce Executives, Our Children Our Future, WV AFL-CIO, Vision Shared, WV Community Development Hub, and many others are joining forces to hold four day-long, non-partisan candidate trainings across the state. The closest one for us will be in Wheeling on **December 8** from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

"This training is for folks who know they are running or working on a campaign in 2016 . . . and for folks who want to learn the skills they'll need to possibly run in the future. Thanks to support from our sponsors, registration is only \$50 (or only \$20 for students and campaign managers)."

Read more about these trainings, and register now at the OCOF website, [www.ocofwv.org/](http://www.ocofwv.org/). Go to "What's Happening," and then "Candidate Training Academy." Speakers will include local chamber, union, and community representatives, as well as elected officials. There will also be trainings in Lewisburg (11/12), Martinsburg (11/21), and Charleston (12/5).

Space is limited. Food and materials are provided. For more information, please call Stephen Smith at 304-610-6512.

## RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN NOVEMBER 2015

### FROM PETER CLARK

For Native Americans, November marks Gwilatkw, the blanket season of the first snow, in which the Earth covers herself for her winter sleep.

Sunday, November 1

- All Saints Day – Christianity [Western churches] - A commemoration of the lives of people, known and unknown, whose holiness and compassion toward others represent the best Christian virtues. In some Christian traditions, the following day is reserved for intercessions for the dead and is known as All Souls’ Day. Latino/a people in North and Central America mark these days in connection with celebrations of Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead.

Monday, November 2

- Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I – Rastafari - Because Rastafarians recognize Haile Selassie (born Ras Tafari Makonnen in 1892; died in 1975) as an incarnation of God and a messiah who will lead the peoples of Africa and the African Diaspora to freedom, peace, and prosperity, his coronation day as Emperor of Ethiopia in 1930 is remembered as a major festival.

Wednesday, November 4

- Qudrat – Bahá’í - The beginning of the thirteenth month of the Bahá’í year, meaning “power.”

Wednesday, November 11

- Diwali (Deepavali) – Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism - The festival of lights and Hinduism’s most popular festival. It is dedicated to the Goddess Kali in Bengal and to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, in the rest of India. Diwali is also associated with stories of the destruction of evil by the god Vishnu in one of his many forms, as well as with the coronation of Sri Rama. Sweets and gifts are exchanged, and it is a time for cleaning and preparing for the future. This festival is also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains, with this day bearing additional names and significance as shown immediately below.
- Bandi Chhor Divas – Sikhism - Called “the day of the prisoner’s release,” this festival marks the return of the sixth gurū, Sri Hargobind Ji, and 52 other princes with him to the holy city of Amritsar after being released from detention in 1619 C.E.
- Mahavira Nirvana – Jainism - On this day Jains celebrate that the soul of Lord Mahavir (6th century B.C.E.), the 24th Tirthankara, attained nirvana and release from the cycle of rebirth [moksha].

Thursday, November 12

- Birth of the Bahá’u’lláh — Bahá’í - Anniversary of the birth of the Bahá’u’lláh (“Glory of God”), the founder of the Bahá’í faith, in Tehran, Persia [modern-day Iran], in 1817 C.E. Devout followers suspend work on this day; some begin their observance of the day on the previous day’s sundown.

Saturday, November 14

- The Advent (or Nativity) Fast – Christianity (Eastern churches) - The beginning of a forty-day vegetarian fast in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) commences at sundown. For Orthodox Christians who follow the old calendar, this fast begins two weeks later.

Monday, November 16

- Jnana Panchami – Jainism - On this fifth day of the Jain new year, some believers begin a 36-hour fast and offer prayers and rituals in order to seek right knowledge and transcendent wisdom.

Saturday, November 21

- Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Christianity (Catholic churches)
- Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple – Christianity (Eastern churches) - This day commemorates the entrance of the three-year-old Virgin Mary into the temple at Jerusalem to receive an education and begin her life of absolute dedication to God. According to some apocryphal writings, Mary also entered the Temple’s Holy of Holies on this occasion, thus becoming the first and only woman ever to enter that sacred space.

Sunday, November 22

- Christ the King Sunday – Christianity (Western churches) - This feast day commemorates Jesus’ teaching that he will return at the end of time to judge humanity. In the Western Christian liturgical year, this is the last Sunday; the following Sunday (i.e., the first Sunday of Advent) marks the beginning of a new year.

Monday, November 23

- Qawl – Bahá’í - The beginning of the fourteenth month of the Bahá’í year, meaning “speech.”

Wednesday, November 25

- Gurū Nanak’s Birthday – Sikhism - Sikhs commonly celebrate the birthday of their founder, Gurū Nanak Dev Ji, on the full moon day of Kartik, even though the guru’s biographers record his birth on April 15, 1469 C.E. A poet and mystic, Guru Nanak wrote 974 hymns that are included in the Sikh scriptures, known as the Gurū Granth Sahib.
- 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.

Thursday, November 26

- Thanksgiving Day - This national holiday was first officially observed after a proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, in 1863 C.E. Establishing the fourth Thursday of November for the observance, Lincoln wrote that “[The blessings enjoyed in this country] are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People.”
- Day of the Covenant – Bahá’í - A celebration of the appointment of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, the son of Bahá’u’lláh, as the Center of the Covenant in New York City in 1912 C.E. Devout followers begin their remembrance the preceding evening and do not suspend work on this day.

Saturday, November 28

- Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá – Bahá'í - The commemoration of the death of the Center of the Covenant in Haifa, Palestine, in 1921 C.E. Devout followers begin their remembrance the preceding evening and are allowed to work on this day.

Sunday, November 29

- First Sunday of Advent (hope) – Christianity (Western churches) - The first of four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day (the name Advent derives from the Latin word for “coming,” since Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth comes as God’s anointed). Each Sunday in Advent is associated with a particular virtue: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

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.