

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

UPDATE: 30 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, December 8, at 6:30 p.m.** We will meet in the back room. All are welcome.

Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield 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.

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: Did you know that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., travelled to many countries, including Ghana, Nigeria, and India, and is remembered around the world on stamps, in a comic book, and through statues? The Community Coalition for Social Justice will explore Dr. King's global influence during its Tenth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration on Monday, January 18, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. at the Metropolitan Theatre, 373 High Street, Morgantown. Main Street Morgantown co-sponsors this family-friendly event, while the City of Morgantown provides financial support.

The program will feature music by the Flying Colors, Morgantown Children's Choir, the Shack Neighborhood House After-School Program, and the Cheat Lake Elementary School Choir. There will be presentations on Dr. King's influence around the world, and Jeremy Thomas will give part of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Art students from St. Francis Central Catholic School and Cheat Lake Elementary School provide posters to publicize the event.

This program is free and open to the public, but those attending are asked to bring baby products, hygiene items, and cleaning supplies to support the work of The Shack Neighborhood House. We will have a more specific list of needed items on our web site soon.

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, December 17, 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.

Here are the events for December:

December 2 - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery – Slavery is not just history but affects over 30 million persons throughout the world today. Its roots are in discrimination, poverty and indebtedness, vulnerability, and the rule of law.

December 3 - International Day of Disabled Persons – Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.

December 10 - International Human Rights Day – On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

December 16 - Bill of Rights Day – Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791 – including the First Amendment Rights of religion, association, speech, petition, and press.

December 18 - International Migrants Day – A day to affirm commitment to diverse and open societies which provide opportunities and lives of dignity for all migrants.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: Everyone is welcome to participate in this discussion on **December 6** at from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Harless Center, behind the First Presbyterian Church on Spruce Street to continue its discussion of gun violence and how to address it. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Rev. Monica Styron at mstyron2015@gmail.com. Eve Faulkes will share information about the WV Friends of Syrian Refugees (FSR) and requesting involvement from religious communities in Morgantown. Eve is the liaison from First Presbyterian Church to the interfaith sub-committee of FSR. The coordinator of the interfaith committee of WV Friends of Syrian Refugees is Mavis Grant-Lilley.

WEST VIRGINIA FRIENDS OF SYRIAN REFUGEES: You can learn about this group, which has been meeting in Morgantown, on Facebook at WV Friends of Syrian Refugees

WORLD AIDS DAY AT DECEMBER 1: WVU Student Health Services is offering free rapid HIV testing Tuesday, December 1, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Results are confidential and will be available in 20 minutes. For more information, contact Sue Brown, Phone: 304-293-1716 or email: sbbrown@hsc.wvu.edu.

WORLD AIDS DAY **CANDLELIGHT WALK & VIGIL**

December 1 | Main Entrance
7 p.m. | WVU Mountainlair

Walk Begins at
Main Entrance of
WVU Mountainlair

Vigil Will Take Place at
Jameson's Pub
on High Street

For More Information Contact Caritas House, Inc. at 304.985.0021
caritashouse.com

United Way
Preferred Partner

Jameson's
WVU MOUNTAINLAIR



MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER SHOPPING OPPORTUNITY: Through December 6, 2015 the Old Stone House will donate 10 percent of its sales to the MCCAC as part of its Charity Partner Program. The Old Stone House is located at 313 Chestnut Street and is open Monday - Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and Sunday from noon – 4:00 p.m.

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/. 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 a training in 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 DECEMBER 2015

FROM PETER CLARK

For Native Americans of the Zuni tribe in New Mexico, December marks the time of the Shalako Kochina Ceremony. For other aboriginal tribes, this is the season when the river freezes and the land sleeps, known as Luut’aa.

Sunday, December 6

- Second Sunday of Advent (peace) – Christianity (Western churches)
- Chanukah [Hanukkah] begins (through December 14) – Judaism

The Jewish Festival of Lights commemorates the Maccabean victory over Syrian-Greek oppressors and the recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165 B.C.E. Special readings and praise songs focus on liberty and freedom. The eight-candle Menorah is lit at sundown, and gifts are given.

Tuesday, December 8

- Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) – Buddhism

Celebration of the time when Prince Gautama (also later known as Shakyamuni Buddha) took his place under the Bodhi tree, vowing to remain there until he attained supreme enlightenment.

- Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Catholic Christianity

A Roman Catholic holiday celebrating the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin for her entire life.

Saturday, December 12

- Feast Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe – Catholic Christianity

Commemorating the appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531 C.E.

- Masá'il – Bahá'í

The beginning of the fifteenth month of the Bahá'í year; its name means “questions.”

Sunday, December 13

- Third Sunday of Advent (joy) – Christianity (Western churches)

Wednesday, December 16

- Posadas Navideñas begins (through December 25) – Christianity (Western churches)

A Latino/Latina Christian feast of the Lodgings, commemorating the journey of Mary and Joseph toward Bethlehem in preparation for the birth of Jesus.

Sunday, December 20

- Fourth Sunday of Advent (love) – Christianity (Western churches)

- Yule – Wicca

A celebration symbolizing the rebirth of the sun by the Goddess. A present-day Wicca event that ritually marks the shedding of the dross of the past year and contemplating one's future spiritual development.

Monday, December 21

- Winter Feast – Native American spirituality

A time when Native Americans of the Woodland tribes share food with the spirits of winter.

- Yaldā – Zoroastrianism

The “night of birth” which marks the longest night of the year, after which days begin getting longer—thus symbolizing the victory of light and goodness over dark and evil. This festival is celebrated with storytelling, poetic readings, family reunions, and feasting.

- Maunajiyaras – Jainism

A day of fasting, silence, and meditation on the five holy beings: monks, teachers, religious leaders, Arihants or Jinas (enlightened masters), and Siddhas (liberated souls). This day is also marked as the birth anniversary of many Tirthankaras or Pathfinders.

Tuesday, December 22 winter solstice

- Mawlid al-Nabi – Islam

The anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad in Mecca in ca. 570 C.E., observed by Sunni Muslims beginning at sundown. Shi'a Muslims celebrate five days later, on December 27th.

- Tohji-Taisai [Grand Ceremony of the Winter Solstice] – Shintō

This day marks the end of the sun's decline (the yin period) and the beginning of its growth (the yang period). In Japanese spirituality, the sun is expressive of Amaterasu Omikami, the sun goddess and guiding spirit of the Japanese people.

Wednesday, December 23

- Birthday of the Prophet Joseph Smith – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Commemorating the birth of Joseph Smith, Jr., in 1805 C.E. in Vermont. He translated what became known as the Book of Mormon and became the first president of the LDS Church when it was founded in 1830 in Fayette, New York.

Thursday, December 24

- Christmas Eve – Christianity (Western and Eastern churches)

Celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. It is observed with worship, carols, candle lighting, manger scenes and festive meals.

Friday, December 25

- Christmas Day/Feast of the Nativity – Christianity (Western and Eastern churches)

Celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts, and family parties.

- Sanghamitta Day – Buddhism

Celebrating the anniversary of the arrival of King Asoka’s daughter Sanghamitta, who founded an order of nuns in Sri Lanka and carried with her a branch of the original tree under which the historical Buddha found enlightenment (it still survives in the ancient capital of Anuradhapura). This festival occurs on the full moon day in December.

Saturday, December 26

- St. Stephen’s Day – Christianity

Remembrance of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

- Kwanzaa begins (through January 1) – African American heritage

A seven-day festival that celebrates values highly regarded by people of African American ancestry. The values include umoja (unity), kujichagulia (self-determination), ujima (collective work and responsibility), ujamaa (cooperative economics), nia (purpose), kuumba (creativity), and imani (faith). Each of these principles, collectively known as the Nguzo Saba, is represented by a red or green candle, each of which is lit on successive days using a central black candle.

- Zartosht Diso [Anniversary of the death of the prophet Zarathustra (Zoroaster)] – Zoroastrianism

Estimates of when he lived vary from the sixth to the second millennium B.C.E., but this date memorializes the death of the prophet Zoroaster, whose hymns (gathas) are preserved in the Zoroastrian scriptures.

Sunday, December 27

- Birthday of Amitābha Buddha – Buddhism

Marking the birth of the bodhisattva Dharmakāra who resolved to attain enlightenment as a buddha and vowed to create a Pure Land. He became the buddha Amitābha (“infinite light”), and any sentient being who desires to be born into that land is guaranteed rebirth there through his vow, and from

there she/he/it will unfailingly reach Nirvana. This belief forms the foundation of Pure Land Buddhism, which is practiced by many Buddhists in Japan, China, and other East Asian countries.

Tuesday, December 29

- Holy Innocents' Day – Christianity

A day of solemn memory for the male children of Bethlehem killed by King Herod in an attempt to destroy Jesus.

Thursday, December 31 New Year's Eve

- Ghambar Maidyarem (through January 4) – Zoroastrianism

A celebration for the creation of animals, and a time for the equitable sharing of food with others.

- Sharaf – Bahá'í

The beginning of the sixteenth month of the Bahá'í year; its name means "honor."

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