

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

UPDATE: 2 JANUARY 2016 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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, January 12, 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: "Martin Luther King, Jr., Around the World" is the theme for the Tenth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day celebration to be held on Monday, January 18, at 2:00 p.m. at the Metropolitan Theatre, 373 High Street, Morgantown. The Community Coalition for Social Justice (CCSJ) and Main Street Morgantown are co-sponsoring this event to recognize Dr. King's impact throughout the world. The event is designed for families and is free and open to the public. Financial support for this event is provided by the City of Morgantown and Rachel M. Wood of Virtus Wealth Solutions, an Office of MetLife and part of the MetLife Premier Client Group.

This year's program will feature a welcome by Morgantown Mayor Marti Shamberger and music by the Morgantown Children's Choir, the Shack Neighborhood House After School Program, Cheat Lake Elementary School Choir, and the Flying Colors. West Virginia University graduate student Rita Daniels will comment on Dr. King's influence on Ghana, while WVU graduate student Folosade Adedipe and Eastwood Elementary School student Praise Moses will focus on his impact on Nigeria, St. Francis Central Catholic School student Dake LaSala looks at his visit to the Vatican, and Suncrest Middle School student Anushka Pathak remembers his importance to India. Janis-Rozena Peri illustrates his impact in other African countries. CCSJ will have social justice-themed bumper stickers for sale. Art students from Cheat Lake Elementary School and St. Francis have prepared posters related to the theme to display in local businesses.

Those attending are invited to bring sunscreen, Band-Aids, baby wipes, diapers (any sizes), Kleenex/tissues, or children's books for distribution to infants and families at the Shack Neighborhood House and the Starting Points Family Resource Center.

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, January 21, 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 January:

January 17 - World Religion Day: Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.

January 18 - Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Established in 1983 and observed for the first time on January 20, 1986. Also known as King Service Day. Federal legislation signed in 1994 challenged Americans to transform the King holiday into a day of citizen action volunteer service.

January 27 - Holocaust Memorial Day: Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945. The United Nations urges all its member states to honor Nazi era victims and to develop education programs to help prevent future genocides.

WEST VIRGINIA FRIENDS OF SYRIAN REFUGEES MEETING JANUARY 14: You can learn about this group, which has been meeting in Morgantown, on Facebook at WV Friends of Syrian Refugees. Catholic Charities anticipates that West Virginia will receive 150 Syrian refugees who have completed the vetting process to enter the United States so numerous committees are meeting to prepare their welcome.

The event on January 14th is open to all, not just members of faith groups. It will be at 6:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 456 Spruce Street, Morgantown.

Here is the latest Facebook post: "For anyone interested in learning more about refugees from the Middle East, how faith groups can prepare to respond to the needs of refugees expected to come to our area, and how to talk to others about this situation.

"Representatives from the Islamic Center of Morgantown will be presenting about Syria and Syrians. There will also be refreshments and time to get to know other people in our community who are also interested in this issue. Everyone is welcome!

"This event is being put on by the WV Friends of Syrian Refugees. They are working closely with Catholic Charities, which is the designated receiving organization of the US Office of Refugee Resettlement. The WV Friends of Syrian Refugees is comprised of five committees: University Outreach, Interfaith, Media/Education, Resources, and Government Relations.

"For more information, contact Mavis Grant-Lilley, the coordinator for the Interfaith Committee of Morgantown.

Email: mgranlil@frontier.com

Phone: 304-290-1163

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BREAKFAST: The 2016 breakfast will be held on January 18th at 8:00 a.m. in the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms. The breakfast is free and open to the public. Please RSVP by January 11th to 304-293-7029.

Donations are also appreciated to the MLK, Jr., Scholarship Fund. Please make checks payable to that fund and send them to the WVU Foundation, Inc., PO Box 1650, Morgantown, WV 26505.

WVU CENTER FOR WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES FIRESIDE CHAT JANUARY 28: The third of the 2015-16 Fireside Chats, a series of informal lecture/discussions on a variety of topics, will be held at 4:00 p.m. in WVU's Elizabeth Moore Hall. Renee K. Nicholson will talk on "In Good Practice: Narrative Medicine and Expressive Writing." She is the author of *Roundabout Directions to Lincoln Center*, a recipient of a WVU ADVANCE grant for her work in Narrative Medicine, and an assistant professor in the Programs for Multi- and Interdisciplinary Studies in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences. She was the 2011 Emerging Writer-in-Residence at Penn State-Altoona.

MAC EXHIBIT ON DIVERSITY: The Monongalia Arts Center (MAC) at 107 High Street in Morgantown is hosting “Tracing Faces,” “a multicultural exhibition focusing on diversity” in the Benedum Gallery through January 30. According to the press release in the *Dominion Post*, eight artists have used portraiture “as the main platform of expression. . . . The range of concepts coupled with the mediums and techniques used by the artists, provides a diverse aesthetic experience for the observer, with the narrative of one of the most direct appeals in art: The portraiture.” There will be a reception on Friday, January 15, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the MAC to meet the artists. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. The MAC is open from Monday to Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday by appointment only, starting on January 5th.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN JANUARY 2016

FROM PETER CLARK

The Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony, in which old fires are extinguished and new fires are lit, and the Hopi Holy Cycle, in which the changing of the seasons and the nature of the Hopi sacred universe are celebrated, begin in January and February, but the dates of observance vary by tribe. It is also the season of K’aliyee, the time of the north wind that blows off glaciers and icecaps that linger from the last ice age.

Friday, January 1 New Year’s Day

- Temple Day – Buddhism

North American Buddhists attend special services in temples on this day.

- Birthday of Meitreyā Bodhisattva – Buddhism [Pure Land schools]

Marking the birth of Meitreyā, who will come at the end of time to renew the pristine Buddhist teachings.

- Feast of Mary, Mother of God; and the Naming of Jesus Christ – Christianity

Some Christians celebrate this day in honor of Jesus’ mother; others celebrate this day (eight days after Jesus’ birth) as the day when Jesus was presented at the Temple and officially named by his parents.

- Gantan-sai (O-shōgatsu) – Shintō

This Japanese celebration of the New Year includes prayers for the renewal of hearts, good health and prosperity. The festival lasts for a week, during which time people visit one another’s homes and offer gifts of good wishes for the coming year.

Monday, January 4

- Ghambar Maidyarem ends – Zoroastrianism

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

Tuesday, January 5

- Birthday of Gurū Gobind Singh Ji – Sikhism

A celebration in honor of the tenth and final Sikh master [1666 – 1708 C.E.], who created the Brotherhood of the Pure (Khalsa) and who declared the scriptures (Adi Granth) to be the gurū for all Sikhs from that time onward. This date is used by adherents of the Nanakshahi tradition.

Wednesday, January 6

- Epiphany – Christianity (Western and some Eastern churches)

Marking the traditional date of the visitation of the Magi to meet the infant Jesus and the end of the twelve days of Christmas, also known as Día de los Reyes (Day of the Kings). In Armenian Christian churches, this date is celebrated as the Feast of the Nativity. Most Western churches celebrate this feast as Epiphany, which comes from the Latin word meaning “manifestation”; in Ethiopian Orthodox churches it is known as Timkat and is celebrated on January 20th.

- Feast of the Theophany – Christianity (some Eastern churches)

In some Eastern churches, this feast is associated with the baptism of Jesus by John and Jesus’ first recorded miracle in the Gospels, where he changed water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. This celebration begins at sundown on the previous day. In Eastern churches using the Julian calendar, this feast occurs on January 19th.

Thursday, January 7

- Christmas – Christianity (some Eastern churches)

The celebration of Jesus’ birth begins at sundown on this day, according to the Julian calendar used in some Orthodox churches.

Saturday, January 10

- Memorial of Línjì Yìxuán – Buddhism

Anniversary of the death in 866 C.E. of the Chinese Buddhist teacher who founded what is often known as the Rinzai sect of Zen Buddhism.

Sunday, January 11

- Seijin-no-hi – Shintō

Coming-of-Age Day, a Japanese national holiday in which families travel to shrines and announce to the gods that their children have reached adulthood. Prayers are offered for the children’s wellbeing and lifelong health.

Wednesday, January 13

- Maghi – Sikhism

Commemorating a battle in which forty Sikhs (the Forty Liberated Ones or Immortal Ones), led by a woman named Maathaa Bhaag Kaur, sacrificed themselves for their gurū.

Thursday, January 14

- Makar Sankranti – Hinduism

A festival marking the change from decrease to increase of the sun.

Saturday, January 16

- Memorial of Shinran Shonin – Buddhism

Anniversary of the death in 1263 C.E. of the founder of the Jōdo Shinshū (True Pure Land) school of Mahāyāna Buddhism in Japan.

Sunday, January 17

- World Religion Day – Bahá'í

A celebration of the teachings of unity found in all religious traditions. The observance begins at sundown.

Monday, January 18

- Martin Luther King, Jr., Day – USA national holiday

A day remembering the life and legacy of the American civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

- Sultán – Bahá'í

The first day of Sultán (Sovereignty), the seventeenth month of the Bahá'í year.

- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins – Christianity

Sunday, January 24

- Mahāyāna New Year – Buddhism

This celebration falls on the first full moon day in January for Buddhists who practice in the Mahāyāna (Great Vehicle) stream. By contrast, in Theravadin countries (Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and Laos) the new year is celebrated in April, while Tibetan Buddhists generally celebrate it in March.

- Tu B'Shevat – Judaism

A joyous celebration of the coming spring, including the planting of trees and the conservation of fruits native to Israel, as well as special meals where Jews eat the seven fruits of the land (wheat and barley; grapes; figs; pomegranates; olives; and honey). The festival begins at sundown.

Monday, January 25

- Memorial of Hōnen Shonin – Buddhism

Anniversary of the death in 1212 C.E. of the founder of the Jōdo Shū (Pure Land) school of Mahāyāna Buddhism in Japan.

Saturday, January 30

- Jashne Sadeh – Zoroastrianism

A celebration of the discovery of fire by King Hashang of the Peshdadian dynasty.

Saturday, January 31

- Birth of Gurū Har Rai – Sikhism

A celebration of the birth of the seventh of the Sikh gurūs [1630 – 1661 C.E.], according to the Nanakshahi calendar.

- Swami Vivekananda Jayanti – Hinduism

A celebration of the birth of Swami Vivekananda, who introduced Hinduism to North America at the World's Parliament of Religions, held in 1893 in Chicago during the World's Fair.

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), the University of Victoria Faculty of Law (British Columbia, Canada), 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