

Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: 1 APRIL 2016

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, April 12, at 6:30 p.m.** We will meet in the back room, but if the weather is really nice, we may be out on the patio. 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.

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, April 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 April, which is **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**- A time to emphasize the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect and to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of children and families. It is also **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** - A month to promote awareness of sexual assault, harassment, or other abuse to increase prevention efforts to protect all people of all ages.

April 1 - Youth Homelessness Matters Day – Part of a campaign to create brighter futures for young people who have faced homelessness and to show them they have the power and opportunity to become whatever they put their minds to.

April 7 - World Health Day – Calls for an awareness that without nurture and protection of health, persons are vulnerable to economic and social hardship and inability to fully utilize or engage in human rights.

April 16 - Holocaust Remembrance Day – Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising – Seeks to commemorate the Holocaust by remembering and honoring the victims of the Holocaust which include six million Jews, thousands of Russian gypsies, homosexuals, persons with disabilities, and others.

WVU CENTER FOR WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES: The Center has several events this month:

April 5: Raising the Time Capsule: Continue the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the first woman graduate from WVU from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., beginning in front of Woodburn Hall and continuing with a program at E. Moore Hall. RSVP to Shelby McClure at Shelby.McClure@mail.wvu.edu.

April 7: Fireside Chat entitled “For whom should feminists vote?” This program will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the Blackwater Room of the WVU Mountainlair. It is free and open to the public. Refreshments are provided. This discussion will be facilitated by Women’s & Gender Studies Graduate Teaching Assistants. Please come and participate. The Center wants to hear your opinions! For more information, call 304-293-2339.

April 14: Honors and Awards Ceremony and Capstone Colloquium in E. Moore Hall from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The event will feature Capstone Research from 13 students.

April 19: Women’s and Gender Studies Fair from 3:00 -6:00 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. This will feature Group Research Projects from over 350 students.

WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM ELDER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM:

April 6th, 7:00 p.m. (welcome reception at 6:30 p.m.) “From Reservation Cabin to the Corridors of Power: Changing Our World from Within.” A public lecture by 2016 Native American Studies Elder-in-Residence Ada Deer (Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin), former tribal chair and head of the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Ms. Deer was the first American Indian woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the first American Indian to receive a Master’s in Social Work from Columbia University. The daughter of a white Quaker mother and Menominee father, she emerged from her reservation youth to become a respected, powerful leader in the struggle for indigenous rights. This event is free and open to the public.

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH: The Carter G. Woodson Black Graduates Awards Ceremony and Celebration will be Thursday, April 21st, at 5:00 p.m. at the WVU Erickson Alumni Center.

“SILENCING DEMOCRACY: THE FAILURE OF TRANSITION IN AZERBAIJAN” PRESENTATION APRIL 13TH: This presentation will be by global journalist and human rights activist Arzu Geybullayeva. Ms. Geybullayeva has written for Al Jazeera, Open Democracy, and Global Voices, and maintains an active social media presence on Twitter and her blog, "Flying Carpets and Broken Pipelines." Her honors include the Vaclav

Havel Fellowship and the 2014 "BBC 100 Women." She is currently a visiting fellow at George Washington University. This program will be from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in 209 Armstrong Hall at WVU. It is sponsored by the John D. Rockefeller IV School of Policy & Politics, the Department of Political Science, and the Slavic & East European Studies Program.

AFRICANA STUDIES SPRING LECTURE APRIL 12TH: Dr. Crystal R. Sanders will speak on "Cookies, Crayons and Black Power: Head Start in the Magnolia State" on Tuesday, April 12th, at 7:30 p.m. in G21 Ming Hsieh Hall at WVU. This program celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the Head Start Program. Dr. Sanders is the author of *A Chance for Change: Head Start and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle*. This event is also sponsored by the Office of Graduate Education and Life, the Center for Black Culture and Research, and the Division for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at WVU.

MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH GROUP: This group has been focusing on gun violence. For more information, contact Rev. Monica Styron at mstryon2015@gmail.com.

MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER: The annual "Girls Night Out" will be held on Friday, April 29th, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Waterfront Place Hotel. To buy tickets, go to www.moncocac.org/events/.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN APRIL 2016

FROM PETER CLARK

April marks the season of Mmaal, which is when the rivers open, and of the Eagle Dances, when people of the Arizona Pueblo tribes dance to dramatize their communities' relationship with the Sky-World.

Monday, April 4

- Qingming – Chinese traditional

Often called Tomb Sweeping Day, it is a day to honor one's ancestors and visit their grave sites, as well as to welcome the coming of the spring season.

Wednesday, April 6

- Anniversary of the Church's Founding – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Friday, April 8

- Yugādi – Hinduism

The New Year's Day celebration for Hindus of the Deccan Plateau in central and southern India, which traditionally includes eating food that has six distinct tastes, to symbolize that life is a mixture of different experiences such as sadness, anger, fear, disgust, surprise, and happiness.

Saturday, April 9

- Jalál – Bahá'í

The beginning of the second month in the Bahá'í calendar, “Jalál” means “glory.”

- Shrimad Rajchandra Dehvilay – Jainism

This festival marks the day of the emancipation (death) of Shrimad Rajchandra, a prominent Jain philosopher, in 1901 C.E. He was an influential spiritual guide for Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi.

Wednesday, April 13

- Theravadin New Year – Buddhism

The New Year festival for Theravadin Buddhists, celebrated for three days beginning on the first full moon day in April.

Thursday, April 14

- Vaisakhi – Hinduism

The first day of the solar year and an important harvest festival in northern India.

- Vaisakhi [or Baisakhi] – Sikhism

On this date in 1699 C.E., Gurū Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru, created the Khalsa Panth, the Brotherhood of the Pure. Khalsa brothers are given the name Singh (lion), and sisters are named Kaur (princess).

Friday, April 15

- Ramanavami – Hinduism

A celebration in honor of the birth of Rama, the seventh incarnation of the god Vishnu. Hindus read the Ramayana, a Hindu epic, and religious dances called Ramalila are performed to depict scenes from his life.

Saturday, April 16

- Yaqui Deer Dance – Native American spirituality

A ceremony that integrates ancient rites of the Yaqui people of Arizona with the Christian Easter rituals.

Monday, April 18

- Birthdays of Gurū Angad Dev and of Gurū Tegh Bahadur – Sikhism

Gurū Angad Dev (1504 – 1552 C.E.) was the second and Gurū Tegh Bahadur (1621 – 1675 C.E.) was the ninth of the Sikh Gurūs.

Tuesday, April 19

- Eve of Ridván – Bahá'í (continues through Monday, May 2)

Commemorating the twelve days that Bahá'u'lláh spent in the garden of Ridván during his exile in Baghdad and when he proclaimed himself as the one announced by the Báb, which occurred in 1863 C.E. On the first (4/20), ninth (4/29), and twelfth days (5/2) of this festival, work is suspended. The festival begins at sundown.

- Mahavira-jayanti – Jainism

Celebrating the birthday of Lord Mahavir (Great Hero), the 24th Tirthankara (and last of this time cycle). Jains remember their most important prophet with prayer and fasting.

Friday, April 22

- Eve of Pesach [Passover] – Judaism (ends on April 30)

The beginning of an eight-day festival celebrating God's deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The story is told during a Seder meal at sundown, including readings from a book known as the Haggadah. Some Jews refrain from work on the first two and the last two days of this holiday.

- Hanuman Jayanti – Hinduism

A celebration of the birth of Hanuman, the faithful servant of the god Rama who can assume any form in order to conquer evil. Believers visit temples and apply sindoor (red powder) to their foreheads, since Hanuman is often portrayed as a red half-monkey, half-human.

Saturday, April 23

- Lazarus Saturday – Christianity (Eastern churches)

A commemoration of Jesus' miracle of raising his friend Lazarus from the dead, celebrated on the eve before Palm Sunday.

Sunday, April 24

- Palm Sunday – Christianity (Eastern churches)

The remembrance of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, when crowds spread palm fronds on the ground as Jesus rode into the city. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

Wednesday, April 27

- Jamál – Bahá'í

The beginning of the third month in the Bahá'í calendar, “Jamál” means “beauty.”

Thursday, April 28

- Eve of Great and Holy Friday – Christianity (Eastern churches)

At sundown Eastern churches commemorate Jesus' death by crucifixion, followed by an observance of the Great Sabbath, in which believers remember Christ's burial and await his resurrection on Holy Pascha, or Easter morning.

Saturday, April 30

- Ghambar Maidyozarem begins – Zoroastrianism (continues through Wednesday, May 4)

Celebrating the creation of sky and the harvesting of the winter crops.

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

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