

**Community Coalition for Social Justice**  
**PO Box 160**  
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**www.ccsjwv.org**

**UPDATE: 1 MAY 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, May 10, 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 remember to vote first!!

Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield 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.

**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, May 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).

Here are the events for May, which is **Older Americans Month**, celebrating progress in protection of older in the United States and recognizing the importance of end-of-life independence and care for older adults and **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**, recognizing the contributions and celebrating the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

**May 1 -- International Worker's Day** – Also known as May Day, it celebrates the social and economic achievements of workers worldwide. The day commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which police and protesters clashed following a worker's strike for an eight-hour day.

**May 3 -- World Press Freedom Day** – Serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.

**May 15 -- International Day of Families** – Celebration of two or more persons providing a continuity of support for each other usually in terms of affection, nurture, security and protection.

**May 21 -- World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** – Recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange, and creativity, as well as the obligation to create a more peaceful and equitable society based on mutual respect.

**GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION:** This group has been focusing on Islamophobia, Syrian refugees, and gun violence. For more information, contact Rev. Monica Styron at [mstyron2015@gmail.com](mailto:mstyron2015@gmail.com). It is meeting the first Sunday of each month.

**REFUGEE SUNDAY/WEEKEND JUNE 4/5:** Contact Mavis Grant-Lilley at [mgranlil@frontier.com](mailto:mgranlil@frontier.com) if you would like to join the Interfaith Committee on planning this event.

**GOODWILL CITY AMBASSADORS SEEKING NEW VOLUNTEERS:** Goodwill City Ambassadors are community volunteers who welcome visiting team fans to WVU home football games. Plans are now underway for the 2016 season. If you are interested in volunteering at one or more games, please contact Sara Bishop at [luckyallstar@msn.com](mailto:luckyallstar@msn.com). Volunteering does not come with tickets to the games.

**HINDU CENTER OPENS IN MORGANTOWN:** The Hindu Religious & Cultural Center opened this weekend at 137 Bakers Ridge Road. The Center invites you, your family, and loved ones to visit the temple. It is open Sundays at 10:00 a.m. for Ganesh Puja followed by Balavihar at 11:30 and Tuesdays at 6:30 for Hanuman Chalisa. For more information, please go to [www.hrccmorgantown.org/](http://www.hrccmorgantown.org/).

## STATE-WIDE EVENTS

**West Virginia Hub HUPapalooza:** This gathering was held in Summersville on April 28. Susan Brown, Lee Petsonk, and Rosa Becker represented CCSJ there. The West Virginia Community Development Hub is interested in grassroots community development projects around the state. For more information, go to [wvhub.org](http://wvhub.org).

**Try This West Virginia Annual Conference is June 3-4:** The conference this year will be at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon. If you are working for a healthier West Virginia, this conference is for you. Register at [trythiswv.com/conference/](http://trythiswv.com/conference/).

The mission statement of Try This West Virginia says “Try This aims ‘to help knock West Virginia off the top of the worst health lists, community by community’.” The motto is “It’s up to us!”

The web site at [trythiswv.com](http://trythiswv.com) has “hundreds of ideas, ‘how-to’ resources, and great West Virginia models. A wonderful online way for West Virginians to trade ideas and help each other! Combine that with our Facebook page and other social media, and you get a powerful online community.”

## NATIONAL NEWS

**U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (USEITI) Webinar May 3:** Everyone is welcome to participate in this webinar from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the **first annual report** of the U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (USEITI) [useiti.doi.gov/](http://useiti.doi.gov/), a multistakeholder initiative, coordinated out

of the U.S. Department of the Interior by a steering committee with representatives from Civil Society, Government, and Industry. To access the webinar, you can dial in at 1-210-839-8953 or toll free at 1-888-455-2910. Use Participant Passcode 7741096. The Live Conference Meeting Number is PW7731332. That Participant Passcode is also 7741096. The Live Meeting Net Conference Access is at [www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW7731332&p=7741096&t=c](http://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW7731332&p=7741096&t=c). Dr. Betsy Taylor, an anthropologist who has lived in West Virginia, is a civil society representative on this commission and is the cousin of CCSJ treasurer Barb Howe.

## **RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN MAY 2016**

### **FROM PETER CLARK**

#### **Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**

May and June mark the season of the Hopi Kachina Dances, in which Arizona Hopi celebrants represent various spirit-powers and perform ritual dances in open pueblo areas. It is also the time of Yansa'altt, the season of berry blossoms—anticipating the berry harvest in summer, which is essential for survival in winter.

Sunday, May 1

\* Holy Pascha – Christianity (Eastern churches)

Celebrating God's raising of Jesus of Nazareth from the dead, this day is the oldest and most central festival in the Christian year and initiates the fifty-day period culminating in Pentecost.

\* Beltane [also called Beltain or May Day] – Wicca

Celebration of the sacred marriage of the divine forces—and the conception of the sun-child—that are the basis of all creation.

\* Twelfth Day of Ridván – Bahá'í

The conclusion of the Bahá'í festival that commemorates Bahá'u'lláh's exile in Baghdad leading up to his declaration as the one announced by the Báb in 1863 C.E.

Monday, May 2

\* Laylat al-Isra' wa al-Mi'rāj – Islam

The commemoration of the Prophet Muhammad's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem, his ascent into heaven and return on the same night, and his receipt of Allah's commandment of the five compulsory daily prayers. This celebration begins at dusk.

\* Birthday of Gurū Arjan Dev – Sikhism

Gurū Arjan Dev (1563 – 1606 C.E.) was the fifth of the Sikh Gurūs.

Wednesday, May 4

\* Ghambar Maidyozarem ends – Zoroastrianism

The end of the celebration of the creation of the sky and the harvesting of the winter crops.

Thursday, May 5

\* National Day of Prayer – Multi-faith, USA

\* Ascension Day – Christianity (Western churches)

The anniversary of Jesus' ascension into heaven, celebrated forty days after Easter. In the Roman Catholic Church, this day is celebrated on Sunday, May 8th.

Monday, May 9

\* Akshaya-tritiya [Immortal Third] – Jainism

A day celebrating when Lord Adinatha or Rishabhadeva, the traditional founder of the Jain faith and the first tirthankar (a being who helps others to cross the great ocean of worldly life and achieve liberation), broke his first year-long fast by drinking juice from a sugar cane.

Sunday, May 15

\* Pentecost Sunday – Christianity (Western churches)

A celebration of the Holy Spirit's descent upon the Apostles following Jesus' ascension into heaven, Pentecost [which derives from the Latin for "fifty," because it occurred fifty days after Easter] is often known as "the birthday of the Christian Church."

\* Visakha Puja [Buddha Day] – Buddhism

Celebrated by Theravadin Buddhists on the full moon of the sixth lunar month, this is a triple commemoration of the historical Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death and entrance into nirvana.

\* Restoration of the Aaronic priesthood – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Marking the restoration of this order by John the Baptist and conferred upon the Prophet Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery on this date in 1829 C.E.

Monday, May 16

\* 'Azamat – Bahá'í

The beginning of the fourth month of the Bahá'í year, 'Azamat means "grandeur."

Friday, May 20

\* Laylat al-Bara'at or Nisf Sha'bān – Islam

According to Muslim tradition, Allah approaches the earth on this night (the middle day of the eighth month in the Islamic calendar) to call humanity to repentance and grant forgiveness of sins.

Sunday, May 22

\* Trinity Sunday – Christianity (Western churches)

Marking the celebration of God manifested in three Persons: as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Monday, May 23

\* Declaration of the Báb – Bahá'í

The celebration of the day in 1844 C.E. when he announced his identity as the Gate or herald of the new age in Shiraz, Persia (modern-day Iran).

\* Birthday of Gurū Amar Das – Sikhism

Gurū Amar Das (1479 – 1574 C.E.) was the third of the Sikh Gurūs.

Thursday, May 26

\* Corpus Christi – Christianity [Roman Catholic]

Named for the Latin phrase “Body of Christ,” this festival is a time when Catholic Christians express their faith in Christ’s real presence in the elements of Holy Communion.

\* Lag B’Omer – Judaism

The 33rd day in the counting of the period between Pesach [Passover] and Shavuot [the giving of the Law]; the festival begins at sundown.

Saturday, May 28

\* Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh – Bahá'í

The anniversary of the death of the founder of the Bahá'í faith in Palestine in 1892 C.E. Adherents suspend work on this day.

Monday, May 30 Memorial Day

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](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