

**Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: 2 JULY 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, July 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."

OUR VOTE OUR FUTURE COMING TO MORGANTOWN JULY 28TH: Our Children Our Future (OCOF) is sponsoring Our Vote Our Future (OVOF) campaigns in three West Virginia locations in July. Local co-sponsors to date include CCSJ, the League of Women Voters, and the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship. Additional sponsors are welcomed. Sponsors who can afford to do so are welcome to contribute to the costs of the lunch for participants. If interested, please contact Jonathan Rosenbaum at jr@lwvww.org.

The free workshop will be at the Hazel Ruby McQuain Conference Center at Mon General from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The goals are to mobilize teams to do candidate forums and voter turnout, educate non-profits on what they can and cannot do in elections, and encourage candidates to participate in the OCOF voter guide.

The day will begin with a session on Election Law 101: What is my organization allowed to do? What can I do as an individual? The next session will be on "18 issues to fight for in 2016: introduction to the OCOF voter guide and commitment . . . why you care about the issues and message to legislators. After lunch, participants can choose two of five workshops on candidate forum training (organizing and hosting a forum); organizing students, campus, and schools to get out the vote; starting a get-out-the-vote program in your area by focusing on phone banking, canvassing, and door knocking; voter registration; and issue advocacy to get ready for the upcoming legislative session.

To register go to <https://actionnetwork.org/events/ocof-2016-election-workshop-monongalia-county>

MLK DAY 2017 PLANNING BEGINS: We are beginning to plan for our eleventh annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration to be held January 16th at the Metropolitan Theatre. We are considering a theme related to non-violence. If you are interested in helping us plan this event, please email ccsjwv@hotmail.com or come to our next meeting on July 12th.

LOCAL NEWS



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting will be Thursday, July 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 July:

July 4 Independence Day – Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776 which led to the creation of a new union and new rights for citizens.

July 11 World Population Day – Emphasizes awareness that the world's #1 problem is too many people using too many resources and creating too much unsustainable waste. Excesses impact current climate, energy, and support systems.

July 26 ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Day – Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION MEETING JULY 10TH: The interfaith community is gathering to address the issue of Islamophobia in Morgantown and West Virginia and what can be done to reduce prejudice and profiling. Together, members explore and identify the predominant factors contributing to religious discrimination and discuss how they may be addressed within our community.

The next meeting will be Sunday July 10th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Room 3 in Westminster Hall. The group usually meets the first Sunday of each month but changed for July because of the holiday weekend. Refreshments are provided. To quote Rev. Styron, "There's so much to discuss since the massacre in Orlando (guns, Muslims, other marginalized groups)." Please RSVP to Rev. Monica Styron at mstyron2015@gmail.com.

MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER REGISTRATION OPEN: The 2nd Annual Care for Kids 5K! will be held August 20th at the Tug Boat Depot (Star City Rail Trail). Register now at <https://www.raceentry.com/race-reviews/2nd-annual-monongalia-county-child-advocacy-center-care-4-kids-5k>.

Also, from the June newsletter:

“1. Join us on July 19 or July 21 from 6-8pm to help clean up around the MCCAC. We need your help pulling weeds, pressure washing, and laying a small square of concrete under our picnic table. If you aren't available either of those days, but would like to help, please contact mccac_dc@comcast.net to schedule a different time!

“2. Donate outdoor games and activities for children to play with. We are specifically in need of basketballs, footballs, jump ropes, chalk, hula hoops, and interactive games like corn hole and skip it.

“Please contact mccac_dc@comcast.net with questions or for more information!”

SUPPORT EMPTY BOWLS AND WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC THEATRE ON JULY 7TH: “Pay What You Can Or Pay With A Can.” Come to the Metropolitan Theatre on High Street to see the preview performance (really the dress rehearsal) of *Romeo and Juliet* as a benefit for Empty Bowls. The ticket office opens at 6:00 p.m. so you can drop off your can(s) or monetary donation and pick up your free ticket for the performance that starts at 7:30 p.m. Based on the preview performance for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, the only thing missing from a regular performance will be the printed program.

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. Volunteering does not come with tickets to the games.

COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS SEEKING HOSTS: The West Virginia Council of International Programs (WVCIP) is seeking volunteers to host visiting professionals who will be in Morgantown from August 12 through November 17/18. Each professional stays in a home for 3-4 weeks, so WVCIP needs four hosts for each person. This year we expect women from China, Cuba, Germany, and Nigeria and men from Germany, Indonesia, and Nigeria, although this is dependent on their getting their visas. The professionals have placements in local agencies and may audit classes at WVU. WVCIP asks that hosts provide a private room, some meals, and possibly some assistance with transportation for their guests. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Christine Titus at ChristineTitus@hotmail.com.

STATE-WIDE EVENTS

The most important state-wide event now is flood recovery. We encourage you to give what you can!

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA SEEKS SPECIAL PROJECTS ASSISTANT: This position was posted June 10th and is open until filled. For more information, please go to fairnesswv.org/were-hiring-join-team-fairness/:

“The Special Projects Assistant reports to the Executive Director of Fairness West Virginia, a statewide, non-profit education and advocacy organization dedicated to fair treatment and civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender West Virginians. Our mission is to ensure that LGBT people in the Mountain State can be open, honest, and safe at home, at work, and in the community.

“This full-time position is responsible for office operations, facilities management, executive support, support of finance, some outreach and development programs, and social media/website work. The Special Projects Assistant, in support of the Executive Director, develops and administers processes to optimize results produced by the Executive Director and by education, development, communications and outreach activities designed to fulfill Fairness West Virginia’s mission.”

ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA IS HIRING: The ACLU is hiring an executive director. For more information, please go to acluwv.org/were-hiring-2/. This position is also open until filled.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN JULY 2016

FROM PETER CLARK

For Native Americans, July marks the season of the Mountain Spirit Dances for the Mescalero Apache people of New Mexico; the Hopi Snake Dances, marking a sixteen-day ritual of purification; the Green Corn Ceremony or Stomp Dance, performed by Seminole and other Oklahoma tribes as a time of renewal and purification; and the Sun Dance, observed by Plains peoples (Arapaho, Cheyenne, Shoshone, Arikara, Crow, Sioux, and others) as a time of penitence and sacrifice. It is also known as Xmaay, the season of big berries when summer fruit is ripe for harvesting.

Friday, July 1

* Laylat al-Qadr [Night of Power or Destiny] – Islam

A festival commemorating the first revelation of the Qur'ān to the Prophet Muhammad in 610 C.E., at the age of forty. The festival begins at sundown.

* Jum'at al-Wadā [Farewell Friday] – Islam

As the last Friday in the month of Ramadān and the Friday immediately preceding Eid al-Fitr, this day is not a festival day, but it is still considered special by many Muslims.

* Jashn-e Tirgan – Zoroastrianism

The festival of water.

Sunday, July 3

* Ghambar Maidyoshem ends – Zoroastrianism

Ending the celebration of the creation of water, the sowing of summer crops, and the harvesting of grain.

Tuesday, July 5

* Eid al-Fitr – Islam

This is the Breaking of the Fast that celebrates the end of the month of Ramadān. Usually lasting three days, this festival begins with communal prayer and may also include charitable acts, visiting family and friends, preparing special foods, dressing in new clothes, and giving gifts.

* Birthday of Gurū Hargobind Sahib Ji – Sikhism

Celebrating a renowned martial artist who was named the 6th of the 11 Sikh Gurūs (1595 – 1644 C.E.).

Wednesday, July 6

* Birthday of the XIVth Dalai Lama – Tibetan Buddhism

Celebrating the 81st birthday of His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, born in 1935 C.E. in northeastern Tibet. The Nobel Peace Prize laureate is the spiritual leader of the Tibetan government in exile and is revered as the fourteenth in a succession of manifestations of Avalokiteśvara, the enlightened being (bodhisattva) who embodies compassion in Buddhist practice.

Saturday, July 9

* Martyrdom of the Báb – Bahá'í

Anniversary of the martyrdom of the Báb, the forerunner of Bahá'u'lláh, in Persia in 1850 C.E. The Báb and 20,000 of his followers were killed because of their religious convictions throughout the mid-1800's. Work is suspended on this day.

Tuesday, July 12

* Kalimát – Bahá'í

The beginning of the seventh month of the Bahá'í year, meaning “words.”

Thursday, July 14

* Feast Day of St. Kateri Tekakwitha – Catholic Christianity and Native American spirituality

Celebrating the life and ministry of Kateri Tekakwitha (1656 – April 17, 1680), a Mohawk-Algonquin woman who is the first Native American to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. She was so recognized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012, over three hundred years after her death.

Friday, July 15

* Chaturmas – Hinduism and Jainism

This day marks the beginning of a four-month period (ending in November) during which time devotees observe some form of vow. Penance, fasting, and other religious observances mark this period. It is considered an inauspicious time for weddings or thread ceremonies.

Tuesday, July 19

* Dharma Day (Asalha Puja Day) – Buddhism

This day commemorates the historical Buddha's first sermon, called “Turning of the wheel of Dharma (Dhamma),” following his own enlightenment. The following day marks the beginning of the three-

month Vassa or “Rains Retreat” for Theravadin Buddhist monks and nuns. This period is a time for training in Dharma studies, meditation practice, and giving religious services to the people.

* Ullambana – Buddhism

A day when Buddhists make offerings to the Triple Gem—the Buddha, the Dharma [teachings], and the Sangha [monastic community]—on behalf of their ancestors.

* Obon – Buddhism

A Japanese festival to honor deceased ancestors, usually involving the lighting of bonfires, traditional meals, paper lanterns, and folk dancing. Locally this festival is celebrated at various times in July and August.

* Gurū Purnima – Hinduism

This day celebrates the ancient Hindu sage Krishna Dvaipayana, also known as Veda Vyāsa, who is credited as the compiler of the sacred Vedas, the author of the Eighteen Puranas (supplementary texts), and credited with writing the Sanskrit epic Mahābhārata. The term “gurū” refers to a teacher or remover of darkness. Buddhists also mark this day as an opportunity to thank their teachers.

Friday, July 22

* Feast of St. Mary Magdalene – Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran Christian churches

Also known as the Penitent, Mary Magdalene is celebrated as one of Jesus’ earliest and most faithful disciples, after being healed by him. She is also recognized as a witness to Jesus’ death and the first recorded witness of his resurrection on Easter.

Saturday, July 23

* Birthday of Emperor Haile Salassi I – Rastafari

Celebrating the birth of Ras [prince or chief] Tafari Makonnen (1892 – 1975 C.E.), who ruled as Emperor of Ethiopia from 1916 to 1974 (officially from 1930 to 1974), and who is professed by faithful Rasta believers as God incarnate.

* Birthday of Gurū Har Krishan Sahib Ji – Sikhism

Marking the birth of the 8th and youngest of the 11 Sikh Gurūs (1656 – 1664 C.E.) in the Nanakshahi calendar.

* Khordad Sal – Zoroastrianism

The birth anniversary of the prophet Zarathustra (Zoroaster), according to the Qadimi calendar.

Sunday, July 24

* Pioneer Day – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Celebrated annually as the anniversary of the entry of LDS pioneers into the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, in Utah in 1847 C.E., after a historic trek across 1,300 miles of wilderness.

Saturday, July 30

* Oharai-taisai – Shinto

A purification ceremony to cleanse believers from offenses committed during the first half of the year. A large ring of woven grasses and reeds is placed at the entrance to Shinto shrines, and people walk through the ring as a symbol of inner purification.

Friday, July 31

* Kamál – Bahá'í

The beginning of the eighth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning “perfection.”

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), the Center for Spiritual and Ethical Education, 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