

Community Coalition for Social Justice
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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, August 9, 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."

CCSJ ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 11TH: We will meet at the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship (429 Warrick Avenue, Morgantown) at 2:00 p.m. Our theme will focus on ways to make our community a more livable community, and we have invited Kent Spellman, executive director of the West Virginia Hub to speak to be followed by a panel of local people. The West Virginia Hub is a multifaceted community development organization. Panelists will include Matt Solomon of the Morgantown Police Department and Rev. Monica Styron of the Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association. The Interfaith Association will join us as their regular meeting would be that day too. All our welcome.

OUR VOTE OUR FUTURE CAME TO MORGANTOWN JULY 28TH: Our Children Our Future (OCOF) sponsored an Our Vote Our Future (OVOF) workshop at the Mon General Conference Center in Morgantown on July 28. Local co-sponsors included CCSJ, the League of Women Voters, the Mon-Preston Labor Council, Monongalia Friends Meeting, and the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship. Thanks to the League of Women Voters for making all the arrangements for the meeting. Representatives from a variety of area agencies like Catholic Charities and the Harrison County Family Resource Network attended, as did candidates for political offices, although the workshop was non-partisan.

The day began with a session on Election Law 101: What is my organization allowed to do? What can I do as an individual? Participants then reviewed the OCOF agenda for the West Virginia legislature. After

lunch we had break-out sessions on ways to Get Out the Vote, organizing a candidate forum to feature OCOF issues, and issue advocacy to get ready for the upcoming legislative session.

OCOF is working to get all legislators to commit to their eighteen policy issues that focus on three main topics: Great Education & Jobs, Healthy Communities, and Strengthening Democracy. You can get more information on these at www.ocofwv.org/explore-the-issues/.

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 themes related to non-violence, Unity; Bridging the Gap; and Building Bridges, not Walls. We expect to have the Morgantown Children's Choir, community orchestra, and Cheat Lake Choir participate, along with perennial favorite the Flying Colors. If you are interested in helping us plan this event, please email ccsjwv@hotmail.com or come to our next meeting on August 9th.

LOCAL NEWS



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting will be Thursday, August 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Public Safety Building Conference Room on Spruce Street. David Saville, Matthew Miller, and Judith Wilkinson are the new members of the commission. 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 August:

August 6 - National Night Out – Marks the importance of collaborative efforts in reducing crime and for strengthening neighborhood relationships which help prevent crime and protect persons from criminal activity.

August 9 - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples – Celebrates the richness of indigenous cultures and recognizes the challenges indigenous peoples face today, ranging from poverty and disease to dispossession, discrimination, and denial of basic human rights.

August 12 - International Youth Day – Celebrates young people and the integral role they play to create a world fit for children.

August 23 - International Day for the Remembrance of Slave Trade and Its Abolition – Memorializes the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade, coinciding with the anniversary of the uprising in Santa Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated its abolition. Tragically other forms of slavery still persist today.

August 30 - International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance – A day to promote taking a stand against secret imprisonment, forced disappearance and abduction and placing persons in any situation without access to relatives and/or legal representation.

GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION MEETING: 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 is planned in conjunction with the CCSJ annual meeting at the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship.

The GMIA is considering an interfaith meeting to be held in October or November.

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>.

PLAN AHEAD FOR WVU'S DIVERSITY WEEK: Diversity Week this year will be October 9-14. This year's theme is "A Place for You at WVU."

STATE-WIDE EVENTS

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 open until filled.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN AUGUST 2016

FROM PETER CLARK

For Native Americans, August marks the season of Wilhoon, the season marking the salmon runs of late summer; the Hopi Snake Dances, marking a sixteen-day ritual of purification; the Stomp Dance, performed by Seminole and other Oklahoma tribes as a time of renewal and purification; the Sun Dance, observed by Plains peoples (Arapaho, Cheyenne, Shoshone, Arikara, Crow, Sioux, and others) as a time of penitence and sacrifice; and the Iroquois Green Corn Ceremony, a time of renewal involving dances, fasting, offerings, and readings from the code of Handsome Lake.

Monday, August 1

* Lughnassadh [Lammas] – Wicca

The harvest of first fruits, celebrating the harvest of corn and wheat. Wiccan practitioners see this time as a signal of the god Lugh's decline of strength as the sun rises farther south each day, while the Goddess witnesses this season with sorrow and joy. It is both a somber and celebratory feast day.

Saturday, August 6

* Feast of the Transfiguration – Christianity (Western and Eastern churches)

Celebrates the manifestation of Jesus' divinity as God's Son to his disciples Peter, James, and John on Mount Tabor.

Monday, August 8

* Fravardeghan Days [Muktad] begin – Zoroastrianism

A time of memorializing one's ancestors in preparation for Nowruz [see August 18], according to Zoroastrians who follow the Shenshai calendar.

Saturday, August 13

* Tisha B'Av – Judaism

A solemn day of mourning and fasting for the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, as well as other tragedies in Jewish history coinciding with this date, beginning at sundown.

Monday, August 15

* Assumption of the Virgin Mary – Christianity [Catholic churches]

According to the Catholic Church, this day commemorates how, at the end of her life, Jesus' mother Mary was assumed—body and soul—into heaven, where she intercedes for all believers.

* Dormition of the Theotokos or Most Holy Mother of God – Christianity [Orthodox churches]

According to the Orthodox Church, this day marks Mary's death and resurrection by God, as a sign to all believers of their ultimate destiny.

Wednesday, August 17

* Zhōngyuán Jié [Ghost Festival] – Taoism

According to Chinese Taoist belief, this day is when deceased ancestors visit the homes of the living. Families prepare feasts and set tables with empty chairs so that the living and the dead can share the meal together.

* 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.

Thursday, August 18

* Narali Purnima or Rakhi or Raksha Bandhan – Hinduism

Celebrating the end of monsoon season, marked by throwing coconuts to Varuna, the sea god. During this festival, girls and women tie amulets on their brothers' wrists for protection against evil.

* Nowruz – Zoroastrianism

The start of the New Year for Zoroastrians who follow the Shenshai calendar, beginning the year 1386 AY [After Yazdegird III, the last of the Persian Zoroastrian monarchs].

Friday, August 19

* Asmā' – Bahá'í

The beginning of the ninth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning “names.”

Monday, August 22

* Khordad Sal – Zoroastrianism

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

Thursday, August 25

* Sri Krishna Jayanti or Krishna Janmashtami – Hinduism

A festival celebrating the birth of Krishna, the eighth incarnation of the god Vishnu, whose purpose was to destroy the demon Kansa who was responsible for evil's increase in the world.

Friday, August 26

* Festival of Ksitigarbha (Jizō) Bodhisattva – Buddhism

Celebrating Ksitigarbha (Jizō) Bodhisattva, the savior of beings who suffer in the hellish realms, as well as the guardian of expectant mothers, travelers, and deceased children in Japanese culture.

Monday, August 29

* Paryushana-parva begins [until Monday, September 5] – Jainism

The holiest period of the year for the ascetic Shvetambara sect, this festival celebrates Jain ideals through fasting, worship, and reading the life-story of Lord Mahavira from the Kalpasutra.

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

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