



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: 1 SEPTEMBER 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, September 13**, 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 ON "HOW TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY A MORE LIVABLE PLACE"

The public is invited to our annual meeting to discuss "How To Make Our Community A More Livable Place." The free program will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, 429 Warrick Avenue, Morgantown.

The program will open with music by Al Anderson. Kent Spellman, executive director of WV Community Development HUB from 2008 until his recent retirement, will be the guest speaker. According to Spellman, "The HUB strengthens communities across the state by building local community capacity, developing and supporting economic and community development sectors, addressing community-based policy issues, and building a communication infrastructure that is changing the narrative about

West Virginia.” He has also served as chair of the WV Statewide Trail Plan Committee and now serves on the board of the WV Center for Civic Life.

Veteran Tony Johnson, Lt. Matt Solomon of the Morgantown Police Department, and Rev. Monica Styron of the Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association will then provide local perspectives on the theme, followed by time for discussion. Refreshments will be provided.

DOMINION POST SERIES PLANNED: WVU’s Diversity Week theme is “There’s a Place for You at WVU” so we plan to work with the *Dominion Post* on a series of articles to run October 9-14 (Diversity Week) on “There’s a Place for You in Our Community.” We appreciate the support of Pam Queen, managing editor of the *Dominion Post*, and Cassie Shaner, assistant managing editor, in making this possible and will have a list of all the articles next month.

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. Our theme will be “Non-violence is Courageous.” We expect to have the Morgantown Children’s Choir, community orchestra, Cheat Lake Choir, and Morgantown police officer Lt. Matt Solomon participate, along with Jeremy Thomas, who gave such a stirring rendition of the “I Have a Dream” speech last year, plus 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 September 13th.

LOCAL NEWS



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting will be Thursday, September 15, 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 September:

September 7 Labor Day – Celebrates the historic struggles of workers in the United States to achieve safer working conditions, shorter hours, and humane restrictions on child labor while contributing to productive economies.

September 8 International Literacy Day – Supports awareness of the importance of persons being able to read and write in order to participate in today’s economic, legal, health and social environments.

September 17 Constitution Day and Citizenship Day – Commemorates the ratification in 1787 of the United States Constitution, the organization of government, and rights of citizenship. Also honors all who have become United States citizens.

September 21 International Day of Peace – Calls for continual working for peace and reduction of use of violence in attempting to solve problems among individuals and all levels of human interaction.

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 September 4 at 4:00 p.m. at the Islamic Center of Morgantown, 434 Harding Avenue.

The GMIA is planning a program entitled “Co-existence and Common Challenges” on October 23rd from 4:00-6:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church 456 Spruce St./Forest Ave., Morgantown. Rabbi Joe Hample and Imam Kip Curnutt will be among the presenters.

WVU TO HOST AWARD-WINNING SUICIDE PREVENTION EXHIBIT SEPTEMBER 6:

Here’s the news release from WVU about this exhibit:

“West Virginia University has been selected to host the nationally recognized traveling exhibit entitled ‘Send Silence Packing.’ The exhibit of 1,100 empty backpacks, representing the number of college students lost to suicide each year, will be held on Tuesday (September 6) in front of Woodburn Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

“This extremely impactful one-day event will put a “face” to the college students lost to suicide each year, raise awareness of mental health services on campus, and provide members of the WVU community who have been impacted by suicide a place to reflect,” said T. Anne Hawkins, clinical director of the Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services. “We also hope the event will promote help-seeking behavior and decrease the stigma sometimes associated with discussing mental health concerns.”

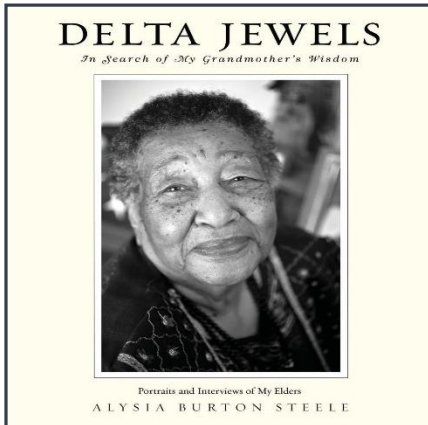
“In addition to the backpacks, educational resources on mental health, suicide, and campus resources will be available. Staff from the Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services will be on hand to provide support during the event.

“Send Silence Packing was first unveiled in 2008 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Since that time, more than 320,000 people in 100 cities throughout the country have visited the display. This is Send Silence Packing’s first visit to West Virginia University and will be the first stop on the Fall 2016 national tour.

“This event was funded and brought to WVU by a SAMHSA suicide prevention and awareness grant, housed in the Carruth Center, and widely supported with 35+ campus co-sponsors.”

For more information, contact Allison (Cutlip) Hayes, WELLWVU, at 304-293-4431 or allison.cutlip@mail.wvu.edu.

DELTA JEWELS TALK SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 22ND: THIS PROGRAM WILL EITHER BE AT 6:30 OR 7:30 P.M. CHECK THE WVU WEB SITE FOR UPDATES. This program is co-sponsored by the WVU Reed College of Media and Eberly College of Arts and Sciences Departments of English and History.



In her latest book, “*Delta Jewels: In Search of My Grandmother’s Wisdom*,” Alysia Burton Steele seeks a connection with her late grandmother by recording the oral histories of her contemporaries — the Mississippi Delta “church mothers.” The women featured in “Delta Jewels” share poignant highlights about life during the Jim Crow era in Mississippi, including stories about the Civil Rights Movement, voting, fighting to receive an education and working on plantations.



NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAMS TO BE HELD OCTOBER 6TH: The Annual WVU Peace Tree Ceremony will be held from 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. at the Peace Tree between E. Moore and Martin Halls on the downtown campus. The guest of honor is poet and Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) language expert Margaret Noodin, Ph.D. According to Bonnie Brown, coordinator of the Native American Studies Program, “She’s a very engaging person and quite accomplished with regard to Native language preservation and revitalization. She serves on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.”

That evening the Native American Studies Program will host her literary presentation and book signing, “An Evening of Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) Poetry with Margaret Noodin” from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in Room G9 White Hall with a welcome reception in the foyer from 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Both events free and open to the public.

You can find an interview with her at michiganradio.org/post/through-poetry-margaret-noodin-keeps-her-native-american-language-alive#stream/0

CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE ON “CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR: A DIALOGUE LEADING TO ACTION:” This event will be held at St. Francis de Sales Church, 1 Guthrie Lane, Morgantown on Friday, October 7 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, October 8, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. “See the impact of Climate Change, Judge what your Faith says about it, Act within your sphere of influence.”



“We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” -Pope Francis, *Laudato Si* #49

Register at www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org/events/Dialogue. The cost is \$10 for Friday, \$20 for Saturday, and \$10 for activities for kids.

For more information, please contact Kate Kosydar, CCWVa at kkosydar@ccwva.org

Track One:

MINISTRY

Justice in Community

Pastors, Staff, Faith Formation,
Leadership, Outreach, Worship

Track Two:

DAILY LIFE

Live Justice at Home

Lead the Way in Your
House, Office, Community

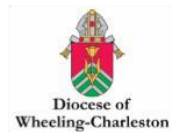
Track Three:

YOUNG ADULTS

The Future Begins Now

High School & College Age
Bring a Friend: 2-for-1 Registration

Sponsors are:



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.

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA INSTITUTE'S 2016 "RISE TO FAIRNESS" CONFERENCE & RECEPTION TO BE HELD OCTOBER 8TH:

Fairness WV Institute is dedicated to education and advocacy on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) West Virginians and their allies. It presents its annual Conference and Reception each year in the fall to celebrate our progress towards full equality in the Mountain State.

Fairness West Virginia Institute is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions for the Conference and Reception are tax-deductible minus actual costs.

The daytime Conference will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 300 Court Street, beginning at 9:00 a.m. with programming running throughout the day until 5:00 p.m. The evening Reception will be held at The Culture Center in Charleston starting at 7pm. The Reception features a special musical performance by the Charleston Gay Men's Chorale.

Registration and ticket information is available at act.myngp.com/Forms/-6646767023342680064.

<p>FEATURED SPEAKERS</p>	<p>ROBERT DUNLAP, Esq. <i>Dunlap & Associates</i> ALEXANDRA KADNER PhD <i>Scientist and Medical writer</i> LESLIE BAKKER <i>Co-Leader, Charleston & Huntington PFLAG</i> SEN MITCH CARMICHAEL <i>WV Senate Majority Leader</i> CHARLES PATTON <i>CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, Appalachian Power</i></p>		
<p>SESSION ONE</p> <p>LGBTQ : DEFINITIONS, MYTHS, AND FACTS -- LET'S GET 'EM RIGHT</p>	<p>SESSION TWO</p> <p>GOOD BUSINESS : HOW LGBTQ NON-DISCRIMINATION MAKES GOOD BUSINESS SENSE IN WEST VIRGINIA</p>	<p>SESSION THREE</p> <p>TRANSGENDER & LESBIAN HEALTH: THE UNIQUE MEDICAL NEEDS AND BARRIERS TO CARE THEY FACE</p>	<p>SESSION FOUR</p> <p>FAMILY CREATION: ADOPTION, SURROGACY, AND YOUR RIGHT TO BECOME A PARENT</p>
	<p>KEYNOTE SPEAKER JANSON WU <i>GLAD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</i></p>	 <p>CHARLESTON GAY MEN'S CHORALE</p>	
<p>RECEPTION MUSIC <i>CHARLESTON GAY MEN'S CHORALE</i></p>			

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN SEPTEMBER 2016

FROM PETER CLARK

For Native Americans, September marks the season of Genuuqwiikw, the season of mountain trails and the beginning of the fall hunt for game; the Iroquois Green Corn Ceremony, a time of renewal involving dances, fasting, offerings, and readings from the code of Handsome Lake; and the Jicarilla Apache Ghost Dance in New Mexico.

Thursday, September 1

* First Parkash – Sikhism

The commemoration of the installation of the Adi Granth, the first edition of the Sikh scriptures, in the Golden Temple by Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh guru, in 1604 C.E.

Monday, September 5

* Ganesh Chaturthi – Hinduism

A festival celebrating the birth of Ganesh, the god who removes obstacles and brings luck.

Tuesday, September 6

* Das Laxanā Parva [Daslakshan Parva] begins – Jainism

The Festival of the Ten Virtues, celebrated over ten days by the Digambara Jains, helps believers to recall and practice forgiveness, tenderness or humility, honesty, contentment or purity, truth, self-restraint, austerities, charity, celibacy, and non-attachment. The festival culminates with Ananta-chaturdasi, the holiest day, on September 15th.

Wednesday, September 7

* 'Izzat – Bahá'í

The beginning of the tenth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning “might.”

Thursday, September 8

* Nativity of the Mother of God [Theotokos] or Birth of the Blessed Virgin – Christianity

This festival celebrates the birth of Mary, the mother of Jesus of Nazareth. In Eastern Orthodox churches she is known by the honorific of Theotokos.

Saturday, September 10

* Yaum-al-Arafah – Islam

This day is the most important for Muslim pilgrims undertaking the Hajj journey; believers implore Allah for boundless forgiveness and mercy on the plain of 'Arafāt, adjacent to the holy city of Mecca.

Sunday, September 11

* Eid al-Adhá – Islam

This three-day festival of sacrifice begins at sundown and is the concluding act of pilgrimage for Muslims; adherents offer sheep, goats, and camels, whose meat is then distributed to the poor.

* Ethiopian New Year – Rastafari

A sacred day for Rastafarians because they consider Ethiopia to be their spiritual homeland, to which they aspire to return.

Monday, September 12

* Ghambar Paitishahem – Zoroastrianism [through Friday, September 16]

This festival celebrates the creation of the earth and the summer harvest.

Wednesday, September 14

* Elevation or Exultation of the Holy Cross – Christianity

This day recognizes the Cross as a symbol of Christ's love for humankind and God's victory over death. It also marks the finding of the Holy Cross by St. Helen after it had been stolen in the 7th century C.E. Orthodox churches begin their commemoration at sundown on the preceding day. In the Ethiopian Orthodox tradition, this day is known as Meskel and is marked on September 29th.

Thursday, September 15

* Ksamavani – Jainism

A day of universal forgiveness, in which Jains ask forgiveness of others for wrongs committed during the previous year, and they also forgive those who have caused them suffering.

Saturday, September 17

* Pitr-paksha or Mahalay Paksha – Hinduism

The beginning of a two-week period during which Hindu adherents perform shraddha rites to gratify the spirits of their deceased ancestors, including giving food or other donations as a form of charitable service.

Thursday, September 22 autumn equinox

* Shuki-sorei-sai – Shinto

A memorial service similar to the March equinox service (Shunki-sorei-sai), this day is marked by the cleaning and purification of gravesites and the reverence of ancestors as kami, or divine spirits.

* Ohigon – Buddhism

A celebration of the equinox that is of particular importance to Japanese, Korean, and Tibetan Buddhists. During this festival, the six Paramitas [virtues] are emphasized: generosity, morality, wisdom, honesty, endeavor, and patience.

* Autumn Feast – Native American spirituality

A day to honor the harvest end and the coming and going of the seasons, including prayers, songs, and the telling of tribal stories.

* Mabon [Harvest Home] – Wicca

Marking the second or continuing harvest, this festival celebrates life's encapsulation as a seed to survive the cold winter, as well as the Harvest of the Vine, which symbolizes the divine power to transform the nectar of youth into the wine of elders' wisdom and spiritual maturity.

Monday, September 26

* Mashí'yyat – Bahá'í

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

Wednesday, September 28

* Birth of Confucius – Confucianism

The birthday of the philosopher Confucius [K'ung-tzu] in 551 B.C.E. in the Chinese state of Lu, known today as Shandong Province.

Thursday, September 29

* St. Michael and All Angels – Christianity

A celebration of the archangel Michael and all angels (from the Greek angelos, “divine messenger”) mentioned in the Bible.

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.