



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: 28 OCTOBER 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, November 1,** at **6:30 p.m.** We will meet in the back room. All are welcome. We are meeting earlier than usual in November to avoid a conflict with election day.

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 FOLLOW-UP IS NOVEMBER 6TH: Kent Spellman, executive director of WV Community Development HUB from 2008 until his recent retirement, has agreed to facilitate a follow-up planning session on "What's Next" on Sunday, November 6th, at 2:00 p.m. We will again meet at the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship at 429 Warrick Ave., Morgantown. Please email us at ccsjwv@hotmail.com if you'd like to be involved.

DOMINION POST SERIES: WVU's Diversity Week theme was "There's a Place for You at WVU" so we worked with the *Dominion Post* on a series of articles that ran October 9th-14th (Diversity Week) on "There's a Place for You in Our Community." We appreciated the support of Pam Queen, managing editor of the *Dominion Post*, and Cassie Shaner, assistant managing editor, in making this possible. The articles were on community policing by Lt. Matt Solomon, the First Presbyterian Church's outreach to the LGBTQ community by Mavis Grant-Lilley, CCSJ by Rosa Becker and Susan Brown, volunteering by Justine McCoy,

voting by the League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County, and a perspective on social justice from Robb Livingood of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship. We hope to give these a “permanent home” on our website.



CCSJ HELPED SPONSOR FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE ON “CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR: A DIALOGUE LEADING TO ACTION:” Justine McCoy and Nora Sheets represented us at this event at St. Francis de Sales Church in Morgantown on Friday, October 7th. Nora commented that “Cry Of The Earth was an excellent presentation by local and state organizations working with people in need. It was an amazing experience to connect with such a diverse group. I really appreciated the opportunity to go and share the work of the CCSJ.”

MLK DAY 2017 PLANNING UNDERWAY: Our eleventh annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration will be 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 November 1st.

LOCAL NEWS

EARLY VOTING UNDERWAY: As a non-profit organization, we do not endorse candidates. We DO endorse voting!

Early voting will continue through November 5, 2016 from Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the following locations, and anyone can vote early at any location:

Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Greenbag Road, Morgantown, WV 26505 (on front side of Mall next to Mylan in the old Goodwill store)

Mason-Dixon Park, 79 Buckeye Road, Core, WV 26541 (in the red barn)

Pierpont Landing, 6008 Mid-Atlantic Drive, Morgantown, WV 26508

Westover Senior Center, 500 DuPont Road, Westover, WV 26501

WVU Alumni Center, Alumni Drive, Morgantown 26505 – October 31-November 4 only

Absentee Ballots

It is not too late to request an absentee ballot. The county clerk says “Residents who are registered to vote in Monongalia County and will be absent or confined to their home on election day and the entirety of the early voting period may apply for an absentee ballot by November 2nd. Military and Overseas voters may take advantage of the online ballot delivery system by applying for an online absentee ballot. The deadline is November 2nd. Ballots returned by mail must be post marked by November 8th.”

For absentee ballot applications or information on voting sites on November 8th, go to www.monongaliacountyclerk.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=73&Itemid=20



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting will be Thursday, November 17th 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/.

Here's the latest press release from the commission: The Morgantown Human Rights Commission will be spotlighting residents of the City of Morgantown and organizations that service city residents that exemplify the spirit of diversity and human rights in the community with the **Human Rights Day Awards**. The awards will recognize contributions toward helping to make Morgantown a more inclusive community and to protect the human rights of all. The awards will be presented on December 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Morgantown City Council chambers in conjunction with International Human Rights Day.

The Commission is asking for nominees for the awards. Anyone anywhere can nominate a resident or organization. Organizations that are nominated do not necessarily have to be located within city limits.

The nomination form can be found as part of the press release at www.morgantownwv.gov under the "News" tab or in the lobby of City Hall on Spruce Street. As of this writing, go to the bottom of the "News" tab and click on "2" to find the press release. **Nomination must be submitted in writing and received no later than November 16th** by email to hrc@morgantownwv.gov, dropped off in-person at the City Clerk's office, or mailed to Jan Derry, chairperson, Human Rights Commission, c/o NWVCIL, 601-3 East Brockway Avenue, Suite A&B, Morgantown, WV 26501.

The purpose of the awards is to acknowledge outstanding works taking place in Morgantown. More specifically, the awards will give recognition to those who put forth the effort to make a difference and working toward the global purpose of Human Rights.

The 2015 annual report is available at www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/HRC-2015-Annual-Report-12.10.15.pdf.

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 November:

Native American Heritage Month – Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans in the United States.

November 2 - International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists – A day to emphasize that information is essential for decision making whether it be economic, social or political. Information is the cornerstone for democracy, good government and effective institutions. During the past decade 700 journalists have been killed worldwide.

November 8 - Election Day – A day set by United States law for citizens to exercise the right to vote in the election of public officials.

November 9 – Day against Racism – A call for global action against intolerance and its attendant violence as well as enhancement of communal and national tolerance, fairness, and mutual respect.

November 13 - World Kindness Day – Calls for special deliberate efforts to treat others with kindness and even to exceed the rights which people can expect or hope to be honored in their relationships with others.

November 16 - International Day for Tolerance – Emphasizes the dangers of intolerance and is a call for action for the advancement of human welfare, freedom, and progress everywhere, as well as a day to encourage tolerance, respect dialogue, and cooperation among different cultures and peoples.

November 20 - Universal Children’s Day – The world-wide day for promoting mutual exchange and understanding among children and for initiating action to benefit and promote the welfare of the world’s children.

November 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women – A day for emphasizing awareness that violence against women is a preventable human rights violation based on discrimination against women and a perception of inequalities between men and women.

November 24 - Thanksgiving Day – Following a 19th Century tradition, this day commemorates the Pilgrim’s harvest feast in the autumn of 1621 and their successful interdependence with Native Americans making the feast possible.

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 November 6 at 4:00 p.m. Contact Rev. Monica Styron at mstyron2015@gmail.com for more information. All reports on the GMIA’s October 23rd interfaith dinner and program have been very positive.

WVU FESTIVAL OF IDEAS FOCUSES ON SOCIAL JUSTICE: NOVEMBER 7:30 P.M. MOUNTAINLAIR GOLD AND BLUE BALLROOMS – BRYAN STEVENSON’S TED TALK ON “AMERICAN INJUSTICE: MERCY, HUMANITY AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE.”

“In an engaging and personal talk -- with cameo appearances from his grandmother and Rosa Parks -- human rights lawyer Bryan Stevenson shares some hard truths about America's justice system, starting with a massive imbalance along racial lines: a third of the country's black male population has been incarcerated at some point in their lives. These issues, which are wrapped up in America's unexamined history, are rarely talked about with this level of candor, insight and persuasiveness.”

“Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative and one of the most acclaimed and respected lawyers in the nation. His memoir, *Just Mercy*, is the story of a young lawyer fighting on the frontlines of a country in thrall to extreme punishments and careless justice. It is an inspiring story of unbreakable humanity in the most desperate circumstances, and a powerful indictment of our broken justice system and the twisted values that allow it to continue.”

This lecture is free and open to the public. Due to expected demand, **tickets can be picked up** at the box office in the Mountainlair and at the Creative Arts Center from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 4th and 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 7th or by calling 304-293-7469 on those days. Tickets are limited to one per person. The event will be streamed.

For Festival of Ideas, parking is free after 5:00 p.m. Monday through Sunday in non-restricted lots at West Virginia University. Please take note when parking for an event that it is in a non-restricted parking area to ensure you will not be ticketed.

WVU MOUNTAINEER WEEK AND SOCIAL JUSTICE:

October 28-November 6: Exhibit on West Virginia University Women: Celebrating 125 Years, 1891-2016

Presented by WVU Libraries

Time: Open during Evansdale Library hours.

Location: 2nd Floor Evansdale Library

October 28-30: Empty Bowls: Information on this independently organized worldwide project that pulls together community resources to provide support for organizations that combat hunger, while also promoting awareness about local hunger issues. Buy tickets for the 2017 Empty Bowls luncheon to be held February 25th. For more information, please go to emptybowlsmon.org/.

Time: 2:00– 8:00 p.m. on the 28th, 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. on the 29th, and noon-5:00 p.m. on the 30th

Location: Second floor, Mountainlair

November 1: WV Native American Heritage Presentation: **Fort Ancient Culture**, Presented by Darla Spencer. Darla Spencer is a registered professional archeologist who has researched the archeology and early history of West Virginia for over 20 years. She developed and teaches a class on early Native Americans in West Virginia through WVU's Native American Studies Program. The West Virginia Archeology Society (WVAS) awarded her the Sigfus Olafson Award of Merit for her contributions to West Virginia archeology. Ms. Spencer is secretary-treasurer of the WVAS and a member of the board of directors of the Council of West Virginia Archeology. She has published several articles and authored numerous entries in the *West Virginia Encyclopedia*. **This event is free and open to the public.** Book signing to follow event. Light reception will be served.

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Location: Rhododendron Room, Mountainlair

Conversations with Cops - Presented by the WVU Multicultural Programs in collaboration with the Center for Black Culture and Research and WVU Peer Advocate/Title IX. "Conversations with Cops" is an ongoing multicultural program series that seeks to foster positive communication between Morgantown law enforcement and the cultural communities that create WVU. The theme of the upcoming program will be "Women in Law Enforcement & Women and the Law." The discussion will lead with the introduction of law enforcement agencies and a discussion of women's roles in law enforcement and women's legal issues (sexual assault, domestic issues, legal rights, etc.), and then open the floor for a question-and-answer session.

"This is an open forum for the WVU community to communicate freely and openly with local law enforcement agencies about any subject. Representatives will be present from the Morgantown Police Department, the WVU University Police, the WV State Police, the Monongalia County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and WVU's Equity Assurance Title IX Office. The event will be moderated by Kenah Lyons of the WVU NAACP.

"This event is free and open to the public.

"FREE PIZZA will be served on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Sponsored by the WVU Office of Multicultural Programs, in collaboration with the WVU Center for Black Culture & Research, WVU's Equity Assurance/Title IX Office, and the Morgantown Police Department, the WVU University Police, the WV State Police, the Monongalia County Sheriff's Office, and the U.S. Attorney's Office."

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Commons Area, Mountainlair

November 2: Time Capsule Burial: Presented by the Center for Women's and Gender Studies. "The women's centenary time capsule, commemorating the anniversary of the first woman to graduate from WVU, Harriet E. Lyon, will be reburied at Woodburn Circle. The capsule holds items which were buried 25 years ago, as well as, new items added in 2016. The selected items are significant to the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, WVU, the state of West Virginia and the nation as a whole. Please join us with the Keepers of the time capsule as we close the capsule until 2041."

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: In front of Woodburn Hall

Rebels & Reactionaries: WVU During the Vietnam Era. Presented by the Office of Multicultural Programs. "The WVU Office of Multicultural Programs will present a program based around events during the Vietnam era, and the influence that those events had on the growth of West Virginia University. The program will be presented by Rosemary Hathaway of the WVU Department of English.

"This presentation looks at the complicated history of West Virginia University during the Vietnam era. Per capita, more West Virginians lost their lives in Vietnam than did soldiers from any other state, and though there are no statistics about the percentage of WVU students who had a family member in the military, given the state's high rate of participation in the war, it seems likely that many students had a more direct connection to Vietnam than students at some other universities.

"This may explain why anti-war activity at WVU was subdued, at least relative to the activity at other campuses around the United States. But there was anti-war activity on campus, and it reached its apex in Morgantown after the US invasion of Cambodia and the Kent State shootings in late April and early May of 1970.

"The university also had a branch of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), whose membership—though never very large, and certainly never very influential—were, nevertheless, monitored by the FBI. And women and African Americans on campus organized and lobbied for their rights, reflecting the larger civil rights and women's movements in the nation.

"This program is free and is open to the public. Free pizza will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis."

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: Gluck Theatre, Mountainlair

November 3: An American Ascent: Presented by Adventure WV and the Center for Black Culture and Research. In only a few decades the United States will become a majority-minority nation, as people of color will outnumber the white majority for the first time ever. Yet, a staggering number of these people do not consider the outdoors as a place for them. In June 2013, nine African Americans set out to build a legacy and become role models for inner city kids and people of color all over America to encourage them to get outside. They did so by taking on the grueling, 20,237-foot peak of the continent's biggest mountain. Climber Tyrhee Moore will be in attendance for Q&A.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Gluck Theatre, Mountainlair

November 4: Women of the Mountain South: Identity, Work and Activism. Presented by WVU Multicultural Programs. "This program will be based on the history, influence, and accomplishments of women in Appalachian culture. The program will be presented by Connie Rice of the WVU Department of History.

"This presentation looks at the roles of women in the history and culture of the Appalachian region. The presentation will include an exploration of significant accomplishments and contributions that women have made to past and present Appalachia, as well as their role in the future of the region.

“This program is free and is open to the public. Free pizza will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.”

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Gluck Theatre, Mountainlair

OTHER WVU OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL PROGRAMS: All of this information is copied from the website of the Office of Multicultural Programs at multiculturalprograms.wvu.edu/programs

November 11: *A Time For Drunken Horses*. 6:00 pm - Gluck Theatre, Mountainlair. The WVU Office of Multicultural Programs will present a program of cultural discussion based around the film, *A Time for Drunken Horses*, a film by Iranian filmmaker Bahman Ghobadi. The program will be presented by Mohammad Nasr Azadani.

In the film, the youngest of a destitute Kurdish family has a terminal illness, and his young siblings struggle to pay for a life-saving operation. In desperation, the eldest sister agrees to marry an Iraqi willing to care for the boy. At the border exchange, however, the family of the man rejects the sick boy, putting the siblings in a harrowing race against time.

This program is free and is open to the public. Free pizza will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. This program is being presented as part of the WVU Office of Multicultural Programs Iranian Film & Discussion Series.

November 15: *West of Memphis*. 6:00 p.m. - Gluck Theatre, Mountainlair. The WVU Office of Multicultural Programs is proud to present a program in conjunction with the WVU Common Read program based around the film, *West of Memphis*, a film by Amy J. Berg. The program will be presented by Susan Lantz, WVU Common Read program.

Using the film as a starting point, the program will discuss law enforcement, wrongful imprisonment, and social reaction to it.

Filmmaker Amy Berg tells the story of the fight to stop the state of Arkansas from executing an innocent man. Beginning with an examination into the police investigation into the 1993 murders of three boys in West Memphis, Arkansas, Berg brings to light new evidence surrounding the arrest and conviction of Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley. All three were teens at the time and lost 18 years of their lives after being wrongly convicted and imprisoned.

This program is being presented as part of the WVU Office of Multicultural Programs Cecilia Rollins Film & Discussion Series in collaboration with WVU Common Read Program.

November 16: *The Thin Blue Line*. 6:00 p.m. - Gluck Theatre, Mountainlair. The WVU Office of Multicultural Programs is proud to present a program based around the film, *The Thin Blue Line*, by film maker Errol Morris. The program will be presented by Susan Lantz, WVU Common Read program.

Using the film as a starting point, the program will discuss law enforcement, wrongful imprisonment, and social reaction to it.

In the film, on a night in November 1976, after his car breaks down on a road outside Dallas, Randall Dale Adams accepts a ride from teenager David Harris. Harris is driving a stolen vehicle and, later that night, when Dallas police officer Robert Wood pulls the car over to check its headlights, he is shot and killed. A jury believes Adams is the killer, but Errol Morris' classic documentary explores the role of Harris' perjured testimony, misleading witness accounts and police misconduct in the verdict.

This program is being presented as part of the WVU Office of Multicultural Programs Cecilia Rollins Film & Discussion Series in collaboration with WVU Common Read Program.

November 17: *To Kill A Mockingbird*. 6:00 p.m. - Gluck Theatre, Mountainlair. The WVU Office of Multicultural Programs is proud to present a program based around the film, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, by film maker Robert Mulligan. The program will be presented by Susan Lantz, WVU Common Read program.

Using the film as a starting point, the program will discuss law enforcement, wrongful imprisonment, racial profiling, and social reaction to it.

Scout Finch (Mary Badham), 6, and her older brother, Jem (Phillip Alford), live in sleepy Maycomb, Ala., spending much of their time with their friend Dill (John Megna) and spying on their reclusive and mysterious neighbor, Boo Radley (Robert Duvall).

When Atticus (Gregory Peck), their widowed father and a respected lawyer, defends a black man named Tom Robinson (Brock Peters) against fabricated rape charges, the trial and tangent events expose the children to evils of racism and stereotyping.

This program is being presented as part of the WVU Office of Multicultural Programs Cecilia Rollins Film & Discussion Series in collaboration with WVU Common Read Program.

November 29: *We Still Live Here*. 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. - Gluck Theatre, Mountainlair (back-to-back programs).

How powerful are your dreams?

The WVU Office of Multicultural Programs is proud to present a program based around the film, *We Still Live Here*, a film by Anne Makepeace. The program will be presented by Bonnie Brown, WVU Native American Studies Program.

Using the film as a starting point, the program will discuss the value of language – both in and out of the native culture – and what we all can do to assist the process of reclaiming lost languages.

We Still Live Here - *Âs Nutayune* is the story of the revitalization of the Wampanoag language, the first time a language with no native speakers has been revived in this country. The Wampanoag's ancestors ensured the survival of the Pilgrims in New England, and lived to regret it. Nevertheless, through resilience and courage they kept their identity alive and remained on their ancestral lands. Now a cultural revival is taking place.

The story begins in 1994 when Jessie Little Doe, an intrepid, 30-something Wampanoag social worker, began having recurring dreams: familiar-looking people from another time addressing her in an incomprehensible language. Jessie was perplexed and a little annoyed — why couldn't they speak English? Later, she realized they were speaking Wampanoag, a language no one had used for more than a century.

These events sent her and members of the Aquinnah and Mashpee Wampanoag communities on an odyssey that would uncover hundreds of documents written in their ancestral language, lead Jessie to earn herself a master's degree in linguistics at MIT, and result in something that had never been done before – bringing a language alive again in an American Indian community after many generations with no native speakers. With commitment, study groups, classes, and community-wide effort, many are approaching fluency. Jessie's young daughter Mae is the first native speaker in more than a hundred years.

Free pizza will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. This program is being presented as part of the WVU Office of Multicultural Programs Cecilia Rollins Brownbag Lunch Film & Discussion Series.

GENDER INCLUSIVE BATHROOMS ON WVU'S CAMPUS: This list is from the website of the WVU LGBTQ+ Center at lgbtq.wvu.edu/:

Downtown: Hodges Hall – Ground floor across from G41, Mountainlair – Second floor near Ballrooms, Martin Hall – Third floor, 110, G6, Armstrong Hall – 102, 202, 302, 402, E. Moore Hall – 305, 112A, Knapp Hall – B12A, Stansbury – 148,

Evansdale: Agricultural Sciences – 2nd floor across from 2112, Law School – New Wing/2nd floor, Evansdale Library – Across from 205, CAC – 1st floor

STATE-WIDE EVENTS

WV RIVERS FILM FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN MORGANTOWN NOVEMBER 4: The West Virginia Rivers Coalition is sponsoring this festival at the Metropolitan Theatre on November 4. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with music by the Halftime String Band. Films start at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale now online at \$12 each or \$15 at the door. Students with a valid student ID can purchase tickets for \$10 at the door. This year's festival will include new People's Choice Awards for a film and for a still photograph from the Birthplace of Rivers Photo Contest. For more information, go to www.wvrivers.org or call 304-637-7201.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN NOVEMBER 2016

FROM PETER CLARK

For Native Americans, November marks Gwilatkw, the blanket season of the first snow, in which the Earth covers herself for her winter sleep.

Tuesday, November 1

* All Saints Day – Christianity [Western churches]

A commemoration of the lives of people, known and unknown, whose holiness and compassion toward others represent the best Christian virtues. In some Christian traditions, the following day is reserved for intercessions for the dead and is known as All Souls' Day. Latino/a people in North and Central America mark these days in connection with celebrations of Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead.

* Birth of the Báb — Bahá'í

Anniversary of the birth of the Báb, one of the twin Prophet founders of the Bahá'í faith, in 1819 C.E. His nineteen disciples, known as Letters of the Living, taught his religion throughout 19th century Persia. His shrine is located in Haifa, Israel. Bahá'ís suspend work on this day.

Wednesday, November 2

* Birth of the Bahá'u'lláh — Bahá'í

Anniversary of the birth of the Bahá'u'lláh ("Glory of God"), the founder of the Bahá'í faith, in Tehran, Persia [modern-day Iran], in 1817 C.E. Devout followers suspend work on this day; some begin their observance of the day on the previous day's sundown.

* Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I – Rastafari

Because Rastafarians recognize Haile Selassie (born Ras Tafari Makonnen in 1892; died in 1975) as an incarnation of God and a messiah who will lead the peoples of Africa and the African Diaspora to freedom, peace, and prosperity, his coronation day as Emperor of Ethiopia in 1930 is remembered as a major festival.

Thursday, November 3

* Qudrat – Bahá'í

The beginning of the thirteenth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning “power.”

Saturday, November 5

* Jnana Panchami – Jainism

On this fifth day of the Jain new year, some believers begin a 36-hour fast and offer prayers and rituals in order to seek right knowledge and transcendent wisdom.

Monday, November 14

* The Advent (or Nativity) Fast – Christianity (Eastern churches)

The beginning of a forty-day vegetarian fast in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) commences at sundown. For Orthodox Christians who follow the old calendar, this fast begins two weeks later.

* Gurū Nanak's Birthday – Sikhism

Sikhs commonly celebrate the birthday of their founder, Gurū Nanak Dev Ji, on the full moon day of Kartik, even though the guru's biographers record his birth on April 15, 1469 C.E. A poet and mystic, Guru Nanak wrote 974 hymns that are included in the Sikh scriptures, known as the Gurū Granth Sahib.

* Lokasha Jayanti – Jainism

Celebrating the births of revered and scholarly persons, such as the 15th century reformer Lonka Saha, whose opposition to temple worship and the use of images led to the founding of the Sthanakavasi sect.

Sunday, November 20

* Christ the King Sunday – Christianity (Western churches)

This feast day commemorates Jesus' teaching that he will return at the end of time to judge humanity. In the Western Christian liturgical year, this is the last Sunday; the following Sunday (i.e., the first Sunday of Advent) marks the beginning of a new year.

Monday, November 21

* Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Christianity (Catholic churches)

* Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple – Christianity (Eastern churches)

This day commemorates the entrance of the three-year-old Virgin Mary into the temple at Jerusalem to receive an education and begin her life of absolute dedication to God. According to some apocryphal writings, Mary also entered the Temple's Holy of Holies on this occasion, thus becoming the first and only woman ever to enter that sacred space.

Tuesday, November 22

* Qawl – Bahá'í

The beginning of the fourteenth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning “speech.”

Thursday, November 24

* Thanksgiving Day

This national holiday was first officially observed after a proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, in 1863 C.E. Establishing the fourth Thursday of November for the observance, Lincoln wrote that “[The blessings enjoyed in this country] are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People.”

* Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Gurū Tegh Bahadur Ji – Sikhism

This day commemorates the martyrdom of the ninth of the Ten Sikh Gurūs (1621-1675 C.E.). He is remembered for defending the Sikh faith, as well as the rights of Hindus and the cause of religious liberty.

Friday, November 25

* Day of the Covenant – Bahá'í

A celebration of the appointment of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the son of Bahá'u'lláh, as the Center of the Covenant in New York City in 1912 C.E. Devout followers begin their remembrance the preceding evening and do not suspend work on this day.

Sunday, November 27

* First Sunday of Advent (hope) – Christianity (Western churches)

The first of four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day (the name Advent derives from the Latin word for “coming,” since Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth comes as God's anointed). Each Sunday in Advent is associated with a particular virtue: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

* Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá – Bahá'í

The commemoration of the death of the Center of the Covenant in Haifa, Palestine, in 1921 C.E. Devout followers begin their remembrance the preceding evening and are allowed to work on this 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), 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 ucsfspiritcare.org and select the "Resources" menu