



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, December 13** at **6:30 p.m.** We will meet in the back room. 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 FOLLOW-UP ON NOVEMBER 6TH: Kent Spellman, executive director of WV Community Development HUB from 2008 until his recent retirement, facilitated a follow-up planning session on "What's Next" on Sunday, November 6th. We shared our concerns about issues in the community and discussed ways to proceed. We were pleased that three officers from the Morgantown Police Department joined us for the discussion. Please email us at ccsjwv@hotmail.com if you'd like to be involved.

DOMINION POST SERIES: Our series of articles from Diversity Week 2016 is now available on our web site at ccsjwv.org/News.html.

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, members of the community orchestra, Cheat Lake Choir, a performance by children from the Shack Neighborhood House, 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. The Morgantown Police Department is providing *How to Handle Bullying* coloring and activity books for children, and Rachel Wood of Virtus Wealth Solutions provided funding to purchase small boxes of crayons.

We also hope to have the assistance of students participating in the HSTA (Health Sciences & Technology Academy) program.

Our program is free and family friendly, but this year we will again be collecting donations for the Scotts Run Backpack Snack Program. The program currently provides weekend food for about 750 children at six area schools: Brookhaven, Cheat Lake, Mason-Dixon, Mountainview, Mylan Park, and North Elementary Schools. The following items are needed, but, when shopping, please consider purchasing items in individual cups or items with pull tops, avoid glass containers, and avoid products with nuts or peanut butter.

Grains

- Graham Crackers
- Animal Crackers
- Whole Grain Cereal Bars
- Granola Bars
- Individual Cereal Boxes
- Macaroni and cheese (box or individual packets)

Protein

- Spaghetti & Meatballs
- Ravioli
- Soup

Fruit

- Canned Fruit (in juice or light syrup)
- Fruit Cups (in juice or light syrup)
- Applesauce Cups
- Dried Fruit: Bananas, Raisins, Plums, Cranberries

Veggies

- Individual snack packs
- Single serving cups

Miscellaneous

- Ramen noodles
- Packages of fruit snacks
- Jell-O or pudding cups (sugar-free is best)
- Juice boxes or shelf-stable milk
- Individual packages of snacks

If you are interested in helping us plan this event, please email ccsjwv@hotmail.com. We appreciate the financial support of the City of Morgantown for this event.

LOCAL NEWS



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR ESSAY COMPETITION FROM MORGANTOWN BRANCH OF THE NAACP AND GREATER ST. PAUL AME CHURCH: The Morgantown NAACP and Greater St Paul are providing students at elementary, middle, and high school levels the opportunity to participate in a writing competition based on the theme of “Diversity and Commonality: Remembering our past as we look to the future.” The program consists of essay competitions for each of the above levels, and there will be first, and second place winners at each school level. All entries must be neat, double spaced typed pages – no more than 500 words.

The winners at the elementary, middle, and high school levels will each receive certificates as well as monetary awards: First Place - \$50.00; and Second Place - \$25.00. Students who place will also be invited to be recognized at the MLK program. The awards will be given at a Martin Luther King Program, Sunday, January 15, 2017 at Greater St. Paul AME Church on 61 Beechurst Ave., Morgantown, WV at 3pm.

Essays should be submitted by email or mailed to MLK Program, Debbie Robinson, 1223 Vista Del Rio Drive, 26508. **All entries must be submitted by December 15, 2016.**

You can link to the flyer, invitation, and application form for further information at our web site: ccsjwv.org/News.html.



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting will be Thursday, December 15th 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/.

The Morgantown Human Rights Commission will present its first Human Rights Day Awards on December 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Morgantown City Council chambers in conjunction with International Human Rights Day.

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 December:

December 2: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery – Slavery is not just history but affects over 30 million persons throughout the world today. Its roots are in discrimination, poverty and indebtedness, vulnerability, and the rule of law.

December 3 International Day of Disabled Persons – Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.

December 10 International Human Rights Day – On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

December 16 Bill of Rights Day – Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791 – including the First Amendment Rights of religion, association, speech, petition, and press.

December 18 International Migrants Day – A day to affirm commitment to diverse and open societies which provide opportunities and lives of dignity for all migrants.

WVU LGBTQ CENTER RESPONDS TO MILO YIANNPOULOS SPEECH ON DECEMBER 1: The WVU Young Republicans invited Milo Yiannopoulos to speak on “What Trump Means” as part of his “Dangerous Fa**ot” tour on Thursday night. Mr. Yiannopoulos works for Breitbart News.

According to the WVU DAonline, accessed on December 2, “During his speech, Yiannopoulos targeted WVU sociology professor Daniel Brewster, criticizing his appearance, calling him a ‘c*nt’ and a ‘f*cking idiot.

“‘I hear he’s fond of bullying conservative students,’ Yiannopoulos said.

“Yiannopoulos’ slideshow featured a picture of Brewster with the words ‘fat fa**ot’ in large print.

“He then criticized Brewster for hosting an event for students to attend (a movie screening in honor of World AIDS Day) instead of Yiannopoulos’ lecture.”

A letter from the WVU LGBTQ+ Center in response to Milo Yiannopoulos was available on the Center’s web site today:

“Dear WVU campus community,

“We write to express our anger and disappointment at a campus-group sponsored event that supported the unacceptable insult to one of our valued colleagues, calling him “Fat Faggot” and nationally publicizing an image of his face with those words. Much as we believe, as President Gee so quickly tweeted, that is not an accurate representation of our community, we are also concerned that climate on campus is deteriorating. Many here have worked for decades, including the person who was called out at this event, to ensure that diversities of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexuality, religion, disability, veteran status, and political affiliation are respected. In the months before the election we’ve had signs repeatedly ripped down, hate mail, and minor acts of immaturity to contend with at the

LGBTQ+ Center. Members of the LGBTQ+ Commission report street harassment every time we meet. We know from people of color and Muslim students on this campus that they too are experiencing heightened levels of harassment and incivility.

“It is time for those who sponsor unacceptable behavior in our community to be called to account and time for us to find ways to work together to stop this slide into bias. We support free speech and embrace the need to take risks in forwarding ideas to improve communities and challenge established paradigms. But we also remind those who support unacceptable speech that what they get in return is speech challenging them to rethink. Free speech, then, also involves confrontation and contestation. So let's be blunt: the puerile display on Dec. 1 did not deserve our support and does not deserve to pass unnoticed. Civility is a hard earned state of affairs. We are not there yet and it will take struggle to get there.

“We ask everyone and anyone who considers themselves allies to use this opportunity to join together with us and other groups on campus who are experiencing harassment. Inclusion is not easy, it requires struggle and commitment. We ask that you challenge bias where you see it, go to events sponsored by groups experiencing hate, learn more about one another, and help us call one another to account for maintaining a supportive and truly inclusive campus.

LGBTQ+ Center staff: Cris Mayo, Director; Jorge Castillo, Coordinator; Christine Jacobs, Administrative Assistant”

WVU President E. Gordon Gee also responded with a widely-distributed email on December 2:

“Dear Mountaineer Family,

“Last night, West Virginia University became the latest stop on Milo Yiannopoulos’ college tour after being invited by a student organization. Many voiced their opposition to his being on our campus and were appalled at the message he delivered. I completely understand and appreciate that perspective. However, I also understand and appreciate the other perspective — from those who genuinely wanted to hear him speak.

“As President of West Virginia University, I will always support the decision to bring a speaker to campus and our community — no matter how controversial. We never want to censor a person’s right to free speech. It is through listening to people who think differently from others that we learn about the world and discover who we really are. And I believe that is one of the most valuable experiences one can have on a college campus.

“However, that does not mean I, as President, lose my First Amendment right to speak up and condemn what is presented. I will never support the tactics of any speaker who brings unsubstantiated and false attacks against a member of our Mountaineer family. It is one thing to share differing opinions that others may find offensive. It is another to be defamatory and target individuals. I personally condemn the tactic this speaker chose to vindictively attack one of our faculty members, Daniel Brewster.

“While the University will always be committed to creating an open forum that supports free speech, we are also strongly committed to keeping our campus and local communities inclusive and safe. I am reminded of a quote by author and essayist George Steiner: ‘Central to everything I am and believe and have written is my astonishment, naïve as it seems to people, that you can use human speech to bless, to love, to build, to forgive and also to torture, to hate, to destroy and to annihilate.’

“We are at a pivotal point — as a nation and as a University. As a nation, we must determine how to come together to move our country forward. As a University, we must do the same. For far too long, we have been yelling at each other instead of listening to each other. We use the First Amendment to speak language that hurts rather than heals. We use social media and anonymous e-mails to tear each other down instead of lifting each other up. We look for someone to “fix things” instead of taking ownership and being accountable.

"I believe it is up to us — as the faculty, staff, students and alumni of West Virginia University — to demonstrate the leadership required to create a community that respects each other, listens to each other and works with one another to create the free and inclusive environment where all can pursue their dreams and aspirations.

"In fact, our own students led such an effort last evening when they began to post positive and supportive messages on social media in response to the speaker's tactics. In less than 12 hours, there were 500 uses of #BecauseofBrewster, and it has been seen by more than 185,000 people — with that number continuing to rise.

"I believe it is up to us — as the faculty, staff, students and alumni of West Virginia University — to demonstrate the leadership required to create a community that respects each other, listens to each other and works with one another to create the free and inclusive environment where all can pursue their dreams and aspirations.

"Let us use this moment in our University's history to serve as the impetus for us to change how we act — to change how we react. And let us commit to bringing people together — no matter how far apart they might be. It is only through intentional conversations and meaningful actions that we can truly change our University, our state and our world.

"Sincerely,



E. Gordon Gee

President, West Virginia University"

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

Terri Giles, executive director of **West Virginians for Affordable Health Care**, announced that the organization's annual fundraiser will be held on Friday, December 9th starting at 6:30 pm in the Erma Byrd Art Gallery at the University of Charleston. The keynote speaker will be Marlene Davis, CEO of Capital Caring the nation's largest hospice and palliative care organization. You can contribute to the group's effort to preserve and protect the Affordable Care Act through its website, www.wvahc.org, at the door, or by sending a check to PO Box 948, Charleston 25323. The suggested contribution is \$100, but any and all contributions are welcomed. Please register online by December 5 at www.wvahc.org, calling 681-265-9008, or by email at info@wvahc.org.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN DECEMBER 2016

FROM PETER CLARK

For Native Americans of the Zuni tribe in New Mexico, December marks the time of the Shalako Kochina Ceremony. For other aboriginal tribes, this is the season when the river freezes and the land sleeps, known as Luut'aa.

Sunday, December 4 Second Sunday of Advent (peace) — Christianity (Western churches)

Thursday, December 8 Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) – Buddhism. Celebration of the time when Prince Gautama (also later known as Shakyamuni Buddha) took his place under the Bodhi tree, vowing to remain there until he attained supreme enlightenment.

* Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Catholic Christianity. A Roman Catholic holiday celebrating the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin for her entire life.

Saturday, December 10 Mawlid al-Nabi – Islam. The anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad in Mecca in ca. 570 C.E., observed by Sunni Muslims beginning at sundown. Shi’a Muslims celebrate five days later, on December 15th.

* Maunajiyaras – Jainism. A day of fasting, silence, and meditation on the five holy beings: monks, teachers, religious leaders, Arihants or Jinas (enlightened masters), and Siddhas (liberated souls). This day is also marked as the birth anniversary of many Tirthankaras or Pathfinders.

* Human Rights Day. While not a religious festival, this day marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, including Article 18 which states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.”

Sunday, December 11 Third Sunday of Advent (joy) – Christianity (Western churches)

* Masá’il – Bahá’í. The beginning of the fifteenth month of the Bahá’í year; its name means “questions.”

Monday, December 12. Feast Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe – Catholic Christianity

Commemorating the appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531 C.E. Juan Diego, a native American living during the Spanish conquest of Mexico, saw a vision of the Virgin Mary. He was told to build a church in her honor exactly where he stood, and in that spot the Basilica of Guadalupe was erected. Thousands of pilgrims from all over the world travel to that church every year and venerate the icon of the Virgin that is there, imprinted on Diego’s cloak; it is believed that Our Lady of Guadalupe can intercede with God so that faithful believers’ prayers can be answered, and miracles can occur. She is also the patron saint of Mexico.

Wednesday, December 14. Sanghamitta Day – Buddhism. Celebrating the anniversary of the arrival of King Asoka’s daughter Sanghamitta, who founded an order of nuns in Sri Lanka and carried with her a branch of the original tree under which the historical Buddha found enlightenment (it still survives in the ancient capital of Anuradhapura). This festival occurs on the full moon day in December.

Thursday, December 15 Birthday of Amitābha Buddha – Buddhism. Marking the birth of the bodhisattva Dharmakāra who resolved to attain enlightenment as a buddha and vowed to create a Pure Land. He became the buddha Amitābha (“infinite light”), and any sentient being who desires to be born into that land is guaranteed rebirth there through his vow, and from there she/he/it will unfailingly reach Nirvana. This belief forms the foundation of Pure Land Buddhism, which is practiced by many Buddhists in Japan, China, and other East Asian countries.

* Bill of Rights Day. While not a religious festival, this day marks the signing into law of the ten original amendments to the United States Constitution in 1791, including the First Amendment that protects citizens’ freedoms of speech and of religious expression.

Friday, December 16. Posadas Navideñas begins (through December 25) – Christianity (Western churches). A Latino/Latina Christian feast of the Lodgings, commemorating the journey of Mary and Joseph toward Bethlehem in preparation for the birth of Jesus.

Sunday, December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent (love) – Christianity (Western churches)

Wednesday, December 21 winter solstice Winter Feast – Native American spirituality

A time when Native Americans of the Woodland tribes share food with the spirits of winter.

* Yaldā – Zoroastrianism. The “night of birth” which marks the longest night of the year, after which days begin getting longer— thus symbolizing the victory of light and goodness over dark and evil. This festival is celebrated with storytelling, poetic readings, family reunions, and feasting.

* Yule – Wicca. A celebration symbolizing the rebirth of the sun by the Goddess. A present-day Wicca event that ritually marks the shedding of the dross of the past year and contemplating one’s future spiritual development.

* Tohji-Taisai [Grand Ceremony of the Winter Solstice] – Shintō. This day marks the end of the sun’s decline (the yin period) and the beginning of its growth (the yang period). In Japanese spirituality, the sun is expressive of Amaterasu Omikami, the sun goddess and guiding spirit of the Japanese people.

Friday, December 23 Birthday of the Prophet Joseph Smith – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Commemorating the birth of Joseph Smith, Jr., in 1805 C.E. in Vermont. He translated what became known as the Book of Mormon and became the first president of the LDS Church when it was founded in 1830 in Fayette, New York.

Saturday, December 24 Chanukah [Hanukkah] begins (through January 1) – Judaism. The Jewish Festival of Lights commemorates the Maccabean victory over Syrian-Greek oppressors and the recapture and re-dedication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165 B.C.E. Special readings and praise songs focus on liberty and freedom. The eight-candle Menorah is lit at sundown, and gifts are given.

* Christmas Eve – Christianity (Western and Eastern churches). Celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. It is observed with worship, carols, candle lighting, manger scenes and festive meals.

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day/Feast of the Nativity – Christianity (Western and Eastern churches). Celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts, and family parties.

Monday, December 26

* St. Stephen’s Day – Christianity. Remembrance of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

* Kwanzaa begins (through January 1) – African American heritage. A seven-day festival that celebrates values highly regarded by people of African American ancestry. The values include umoja (unity), kujichagulia (self-determination), ujima (collective work and responsibility), ujamaa (cooperative economics), nia (purpose), kuumba (creativity), and imani (faith). Each of these principles, collectively known as the Nguzo Saba, is represented by a red or green candle, each of which is lit on successive days using a central black candle.

* Zaratosht Diso [Anniversary of the death of the prophet Zarathustra (Zoroaster)] – Zoroastrianism. Estimates of when he lived vary from the sixth to the second millennium B.C.E., but this date memorializes the death of the prophet Zoroaster, whose hymns (gathas) are preserved in the Zoroastrian scriptures.

Wednesday, December 28 Holy Innocents’ Day – Christianity. A day of solemn memory for the male children of Bethlehem killed by King Herod in an attempt to destroy Jesus.

Friday, December 30 Sharaf – Bahá’í. The beginning of the sixteenth month of the Bahá’í year; its name means “honor.”

Saturday, December 31 New Year’s Eve Ghambar Maidyarem (through January 4) – Zoroastrianism. A celebration for the creation of animals, and a time for the equitable sharing of food with others.

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.