



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, January 10 at 6:30 p.m.** We will meet in the back room. All are welcome.

Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Atfield at atfield@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.

CCSJ ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOW-UP: We are still working out details following up our planning session on "What's Next" on Sunday, November 6th. Please email us at ccsjwv@hotmail.com if you'd like to be involved.

MLK DAY 2017 PLANNING FINALIZED: CCSJ and Main Street Morgantown are co-sponsoring our Eleventh Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration on Monday, January 16, at 2:00 p.m. at the Metropolitan Theatre, 373 High Street, Morgantown. The theme of this year's family-friendly event is "Nonviolence is Courageous." The City of Morgantown provides financial support for this free event.

The program will feature music in the lobby before the event, a welcome by Morgantown Mayor Marti Shamberger; music by the Flying Colors, Morgantown Children's Choir, the Morgantown Community Orchestra, and the Cheat Lake Elementary School Choir; and a performance by children from the Shack Neighborhood House. Jeremy Thomas will recite sections of Dr. King's speech "Where Do We Go From Here?," and Lt. Matt Solomon of the Morgantown Police Department will talk about how "Police Officers are Peace Officers." Art students from St. Francis Central Catholic School provide posters to publicize the event. The Morgantown Police Department is providing coloring and activity books on

“How to Handle Bullying” for the children attending, and Rachel Wood of Virtus Wealth Solutions purchased crayons for them. High school students in the Health Sciences & Technology Academy program will assist at the event.

All are welcome to attend. 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

For more information on the Community Coalition for Social Justice, the Backpack Snack Program, and this program, please go to www.ccsjwv.org or email ccsjwv@hotmail.com.

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.”

LOCAL NEWS



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., PROGRAM OF MORGANTOWN BRANCH OF THE NAACP AND GREATER ST. PAUL AME CHURCH: Join the Morgantown NAACP and Greater St Paul AME Church to recognize the student winners of their writing competition based on the theme of “Diversity and Commonality: Remembering our past as we look to the future.” The awards will be given at a Martin Luther King Program, Sunday, January 15, at Greater St. Paul AME Church at 61 Beechurst Ave., Morgantown, WV at 3:00 p.m.



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting will be Thursday, January 19 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 presented its first Human Rights Day Awards on December 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Morgantown City Council chambers, followed by a reception at the Aull Center, in conjunction with International Human Rights Day. The commission asked three people from the community to choose the recipients: Evan Hansen, whom CCSJ nominated, and PSALM, with Nora Sheets as advisor. We argued that Evan's work as a scientist working to protect our environment qualified him for this award because a clean and safe environment is one of the most basic human rights. Without that, we cannot enjoy other rights like access to the ballot or fair housing. Over nearly two decades, Evan Hansen has been applying scientific analysis to issues related to water, energy, and economic development as a respected scientist committed to creating a better economy in West Virginia by focusing on long-term solutions that build upon our state's strengths. Through Downstream Strategies, he explores resource and environmental problems and solutions in three areas: water, energy, and land. He has studied opportunities for creating jobs by investing in new energy sectors, restoring abandoned coal mines, cleaning up rivers, and growing local food.

The Human Rights Commission recognized PSALM – Proud Students Against Land Mines – of St. Francis School because, while the students advocate against land mines around the world, the organization is successfully teaching students how to be leaders in advocating for human rights. Jan Derry, chair of the commission, noted that she hoped the students would be the future leaders for social justice in Morgantown.

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 January:

January 15 - World Religion Day – Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.

January 16 - Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Established in 1983 and Monday observed for the first time on January 20, 1986. Also known as King Service Day – Federal legislation signed in 1994 challenged Americans to transform the King holiday into a day of citizen action volunteer service.

January 27 - Holocaust Memorial Day - Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945. The United Nations urges all its member states to honor Nazi era victims and to develop education programs to help prevent future genocides.

LGBTQ+ CENTER'S "NEW QUEER RESOLUTIONS" PARTY JANUARY 11: This event will be held from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the WVU LGBTQ+ Center in Hodges Hall "to toast for a successful upcoming semester and welcome new students, faculty and staff to WVU! All are welcome. Please RSVP at www.facebook.com/events/839219262887059/

LGBTQ+ CENTER'S FIRST ANNUAL GENDER FAIR JANUARY 12: CCSJ will be represented at this event from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Hodges Hall where the Center "will be hosting gender and intersectionality related organizations and academics for an informal information fair/mixer. This will be a great opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to become familiar with gender and social justice related resources on campus and within the Morgantown community and also a good way for the various organizations to network for future collaborations."

If you are interested in representing a group, please email Christine Jacobs at Christine.Jacobs@mail.wvu.edu

If you plan to attend, please RSVP at www.facebook.com/events/1625236504445462/

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY BREAKFAST: All are welcome to this annual free breakfast on Monday, January 16, at 8:00 a.m. in the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms. Please RSVP by January 10th to 304-293-7029. Recipients of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarship and Achievement Award are announced at the breakfast. This year's speaker is Ernest Green, who was one of the "Little Rock Nine" who integrated that city's Central High School in 1957. For more information on the breakfast and Mr. Green's distinguished career, please go to cbc.wvu.edu/events/2016/12/19/martin-luther-king-jr-unity-breakfast-january-16--2017-mountainlair-ballrooms.

PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY AT WVU JANUARY 31: WV FREE (www.wvfree.org/) is joining the WVU Women and Gender Studies Program, the LGBTQ+ Center, and the Women's Resource Center to host a Progressive Leadership Academy from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the WVU Women's center on the first floor of Hodges Hall. This training will equip leaders with resume-building experience and will cover topics including reproductive justice, social justice, advocacy training, lobbying, organizing and more. STAY from 6-8pm for dinner and a Citizen Lobby Training to learn how to have your voice heard about issues you care about in West Virginia! RSVP is required to Julie@WVFREE.org.

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH CO-SPONSORING MARGOT SHETTERLY PRESENTATION: The Center, with co-sponsorship from the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources and Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are bringing Margot Shetterly to campus for Black History Month. She will be speaking on February 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballroom. Margot Lee Shetterly's *Hidden Figures* was an instant *New York Times* bestseller as "the true story of the black women mathematicians at NASA who helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space. It's an epic history set during WWII and the Civil Rights Era, and soon to be a major motion picture [to be released January 6]. In talks, Shetterly celebrates these unsung heroes, teasing out issues of race, gender, science, and innovation."

MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER GIRLS NIGHT OUT SET: The theme for the 2017 Girls Night Out event is "Denim & Diamonds." This will be a "night of dancing, dining, and donating" on April 7th, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Waterfront Place Hotel. General admission tickets are \$50, and VIP tickets are \$100. More information is available at the event's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/morgantowngno. The MCCAC would appreciate donations of basketballs, footballs, an air pump for balls, Frisbees, subscriptions to child-friendly magazines, and copy paper.

STATE-WIDE EVENTS



meetings, and a happy hour.

“ALL KINDS ARE WELCOME HERE” LOBBY DAY MARCH 2: The West Virginia Civil Liberties Lobby Day will be held on Thursday, March 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the downstairs rotunda at the State Capitol. Organizations dedicated to civil rights from all over the state will participate, including ACLU-WV, Fairness West Virginia, WV Citizen Action Group, WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Planned Parenthood, and more! All are welcome. There will be advocacy training, introductions from the House and Senate floors, constituent

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN JANUARY 2017

FROM PETER CLARK

The Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony, in which old fires are extinguished and new fires are lit, and the Hopi Holy Cycle, in which the changing of the seasons and the nature of the Hopi sacred universe are celebrated, begin in January and February, but the dates of observance vary by tribe. It is also the season of K’aliyee, the time of the north wind that blows off glaciers and icecaps that linger from the last ice age.

Sunday, January 1 New Year’s Day

- Temple Day – Buddhism

North American Buddhists attend special services in temples on this day.

- Birthday of Meitreyā Bodhisattva – Buddhism [Pure Land schools]

Marking the birth of Meitreyā, who will come at the end of time to renew the pristine Buddhist teachings.

- Feast of Mary, Mother of God; and the Naming of Jesus Christ – Christianity

Some Christians celebrate this day in honor of Jesus’ mother; others celebrate this day (eight days after Jesus’ birth) as the day when Jesus was presented at the Temple and officially named by his parents.

- Gantan-sai (O-shōgatsu) – Shintō

This Japanese celebration of the New Year includes prayers for the renewal of hearts, good health and prosperity. The festival lasts for a week, during which time people visit one another’s homes and offer gifts of good wishes for the coming year.

Wednesday, January 4

- Ghambar Maidyarem ends – Zoroastrianism

A celebration for the creation of animals, and a time for the equitable sharing of food with all.

Thursday, January 5

- Birthday of Gurū Gobind Singh Ji – Sikhism

A celebration in honor of the tenth and final Sikh master [1666 – 1708 C.E.], who created the Brotherhood of the Pure (Khalsa) and who declared the scriptures (Adi Granth) to be the gurū for all Sikhs from that time onward. This date is used by adherents of the Nanakshahi tradition.

Friday, January 6

- Epiphany – Christianity (Western and some Eastern churches)

Marking the traditional date of the visitation of the Magi to meet the infant Jesus and the end of the twelve days of Christmas, also known as Día de los Reyes (Day of the Kings). In Armenian Christian churches, this date is celebrated as the Feast of the Nativity. Most Western churches celebrate this feast as Epiphany, which comes from the Latin word meaning “manifestation”; in Ethiopian Orthodox churches it is known as Timkat and is celebrated on January 19th.

- Feast of the Theophany – Christianity (some Eastern churches)

In some Eastern churches, this feast is associated with the baptism of Jesus by John and Jesus’ first recorded miracle in the Gospels, where he changed water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. This celebration begins at sundown on the previous day. In Eastern churches using the Julian calendar, this feast occurs on January 19th.

Saturday, January 7

- Christmas – Christianity (some Eastern churches)

The celebration of Jesus’ birth begins at sundown on this day, according to the Julian calendar used in some Orthodox churches.

Monday, January 9

- Seijin-no-hi – Shintō

Coming-of-Age Day, a Japanese national holiday in which families travel to shrines and announce to the gods that their children have reached adulthood. Prayers are offered for the children’s wellbeing and lifelong health.

Tuesday, January 10

- Memorial of Línjì Yìxué – Buddhism

Anniversary of the death in 866 C.E. of the Chinese Buddhist teacher who founded what is often known as the Rinzai sect of Zen Buddhism.

Thursday, January 12

- Mahāyāna New Year – Buddhism

This celebration falls on the first full moon day in January for Buddhists who practice in the Mahāyāna (Great Vehicle) stream. By contrast, in Theravadin countries (Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and Laos) the new year is celebrated in April, while Tibetan Buddhists generally celebrate it in March.

Friday, January 13

- Maghi – Sikhism

Commemorating a battle in which forty Sikhs (the Forty Liberated Ones or Immortal Ones), led by a woman named Maathaa Bhaag Kaur, sacrificed themselves for their gurū.

Sunday, January 15

- Makar Sankranti – Hinduism

A festival marking the change from decrease to increase of the sun.

- World Religion Day – Bahá’í

A celebration of the teachings of unity found in all religious traditions. The observance begins at sundown.

Monday, January 16

- Memorial of Shinran Shonin – Buddhism

Anniversary of the death in 1263 C.E. of the founder of the Jōdo Shinshū (True Pure Land) school of Mahāyāna Buddhism in Japan.

- Martin Luther King, Jr., Day – USA national holiday

A day remembering the life and legacy of the American civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

Wednesday, January 18

- Sultán – Bahá'í

The first day of Sultán (Sovereignty), the seventeenth month of the Bahá'í year.

- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins – Christianity

Thursday, January 19

- Swami Vivekananda Jayanti – Hinduism

A celebration of the birth of Swami Vivekananda, who introduced Hinduism to North America at the World's Parliament of Religions, held in 1893 in Chicago during the World's Fair.

Wednesday, January 25

- Memorial of Hōnen Shonin – Buddhism

Anniversary of the death in 1212 C.E. of the founder of the Jōdo Shū (Pure Land) school of Mahāyāna Buddhism in Japan.

Friday, January 27

- Chinese / Vietnamese / Korean New Year – Buddhism / Confucianism / Taoism

The first day after the new moon is a religious and cultural festival for Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese persons, marking the first day of the year 4715, the Year of the Rooster.

Monday, January 30

- Jashne Sadeh – Zoroastrianism

A celebration of the discovery of fire by King Hashang of the Peshdadian dynasty.

Tuesday, January 31

- Birth of Gurū Har Rai – Sikhism

A celebration of the birth of the seventh of the Sikh gurūs [1630 – 1661 C.E.], according to the Nanakshahi calendar.

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), 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.