



Community Coalition for Social Justice
PO Box 160
Morgantown, WV 26507-0160
ccsjwv@hotmail.com
www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: 1 FEBRUARY 2017

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, February 14, 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.

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 REVIEW: Thanks to everyone who made our Eleventh Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration a success on January 16th. We especially thank our co-sponsor Main Street Morgantown, especially Barb Watkins; the City of Morgantown and Rachel Wood of Virtus Wealth Solutions for their financial support. The Morgantown Police Department donated copies of *How to Handle Bullying: An Educational Coloring and Activity Book*.

Bill Rumble, Kevin Kuhn, and Scye Piatek at the Metropolitan Theatre provided invaluable assistance, and we always appreciate the support of Theatre Manager Joe Kaehler. High school students Sterling Gibson, Josh Page, and Jasmine Tauns assisted guests in the theatre lobby who enjoyed music by Doug Wiley and Mike Attfield. Justine McCoy worked with the Scotts Run Settlement House so that we could collect donations to the Backpack Snack Program supporting students in area schools with food for the weekend.

About 350 people, including participants, attended to learn that “Nonviolence is Courageous.” Our performers included the Cheat Lake Elementary School Choir led by Jennifer Connoley, who gave up some of their recess time to rehearse; the Morgantown Community Orchestra directed and conducted by Juliana Cantarelli Vita; musicians Al Anderson, John Garlow, Donna Weems, Eve Faulkes, Nettie Carpenter, Jewelle Smith, and Butch Galusky; Jewel Smith, Jenica Smith, and Charlieshay Fortney-Heiskell, who assisted the performers; and the Morgantown Children’s Choir led by Leticia Grützmann. Jeremy Thomas gave an inspiring rendition of Dr. King’s speech entitled “Where Do We Go From Here?” All our performers are volunteers.

The League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia had a table in the lobby to explain the importance of voting and city council elections.

St. Francis School students made posters to display at downtown and Wharf District businesses. We thank them for their contributions and thank their teacher Nora Sheets.

And, finally, thanks, as always, to all the adults who helped the children to participate. We cannot include children in this program without adults willing to provide transportation and support!

WVU LGBTQ+ CENTER’S FIRST ANNUAL GENDER FAIR WAS JANUARY 12: CCSJ was represented at this event where the Center hosted “gender and intersectionality related organizations and academics for an informal information fair/mixer.” The room was crowded as we shared information about CCSJ, passed out copies of our brochure and lists of social justice-related library books, and signed up several people for our mailing list.

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



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting will be Thursday, February 16, 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 February:

Month: Black History Month – Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.

February 1-7: World Interfaith Harmony Week

February 14: Race Relations Day – A day designated by the National Council of Churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations and learning.

February 15: Susan B. Anthony Day - Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), a pioneer in the Women's Rights Movement.

February 20: World Day of Social Justice – Recognition of the imperative for tackling issues such as poverty, exclusion, and unemployment.

WVU STUDENT COLLECTING STORIES: “In collaboration with the Title IX Office and the School of Theatre and Dance, WVU Student Megan Owens will be collecting student, faculty and staff narratives on healthy relationships and consent in the LGBTQ Community at the LGBTQ+ Center located in Hodges Hall G-06 on Thursday February 2nd from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

"Come talk about the importance of communication and consent! WVU Student Megan Marie Owens is doing a video project to be presented at the Vagina Monologues collecting people's testimonies about their experiences with getting verbal consent during sex, how people make sure their partner is okay, and how they keep healthy lines of communication overall in any kind of relationship. Feel free to include any anecdotes you'd like, or any specific issues you feel you've experienced as a member of the LGBTQ+ community. All are welcome to participate.

“(Note: if you'd like to participate but have an issue with being on camera, still come - something can be worked out!)”

“Please email Megan at mmowens@mix.wvu.edu if you are interested in participating.”



All are welcome to come to The Hijabi Monologues” sponsored by the Muslim Student Association on Thursday, February 2nd, at 5:30 p.m. in B52 White Hall at WVU.



“WE ARE ALL CONNECTED” PSALM ART EXHIBIT OPENS
FEBRUARY 10: PSALM (PROUD STUDENTS AGAINST LANDMINES AND CLUSTER BOMBS) students of St. Francis de Sales School, Morgantown are working on an exhibition to open February 10th at the Monongalia Arts Center, 107 S. High Street, Morgantown. There will be an opening reception on February 10th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with PSALM students acting as hosts and guides. The exhibit is a look at the interconnectedness of life and the need to abolish landmines and cluster munitions.

The theme is inspired by Native American Chief Seattle's attributed saying, “Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things are connected.”

Per the “press release” for the exhibit from art teacher Nora Sheets, “When we recognize that we are all connected, we begin to understand that our life touches more people than we can ever know. The question is not if we are making a difference, but rather what kind of difference are we making? We are not alone on the journey through life — we are all connected at some level — that the actions of one person can affect another person, which, in turn, affects another and yet another. With this awareness comes the realization that if what we do in life affects others, should not our actions be conducted mindfully and purposefully?

“SO...what does this have to do with landmines and cluster bombs?

“We can look at it two ways. When these weapons are used, they have consequences long after wars and conflicts are over. It is doubtful that the soldier that has planted a landmine in the ground 15, 20, 30, 40 years ago planned on targeting a child looking for food today. Yet it happens with all too much frequency.

“ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES . . . some we may not have intended. Contamination from landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war terrorizes civilians in more than half of the world's countries. These weapons instill fear in whole communities, deepening poverty and acting as a lethal barrier to development.

“We can also see a ‘connectedness’ in the work of the international community of people that comprise the campaigns to rid the world of these weapons. This vast global community that make up the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions, along with survivors, share strategies and work together to ensure that affected regions have the capacity to reach their goals. Our exhibit hopes to demonstrate that often ONE person CAN make a difference – often a bigger difference than anyone thinks possible. That in doing good for others, whether for one human being or many, you do yourself a world of good and transform your own life and gain what one campaigner calls ‘the contentment of giving’.

"Art does not solve problems, but makes us aware of their existence." Magdalena Abakanowicz, Sculptor

ABOUT THE ART: “Since the inception of PSALM, students have used their many gifts and talents to raise awareness about world issues that concern them. PSALM students made shadowboxes with artworks to connect to one another symbolically representing our connectedness in life. The colorful artworks were made to be attractive in a way that would entice viewing yet confront the observer with difficult issues, namely the remnants of war and conflicts that affect the most vulnerable of the world today.

“The painted paper ‘weaving’ on display will also serve as a reminder of ‘woven web of life’ and of the need to work together to resolve these pressing issues of our world today. We ask all gallery visitors to choose a strip of paper from the basket and weave it into our painting. The result being a ‘work in progress’ that the visitors attending the exhibit can participate in . . . one that won’t be completed until the show has ended.”

The exhibit will run until March 4th, 2017.

DOWNTOWN TASK FORCE: The next meeting of this group is Thursday, February 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Spruce Street United Methodist Church. Morgantown City Council approved the formation the task force in November 2016 “to develop ways in which we can enhance the quality of life downtown for everyone:

- for persons who are homeless, or of very low income, who need places to gather and positive, affirming activities in which to participate;
- for merchants who need to be able to attract customers;
- for the general public who want to feel comfortable taking advantage of everything that the downtown area has to offer.

“The Task Force has two working groups:

A Positive Activities work group to develop ways to involve people who are homeless or of very low income in positive and affirming activities. The convener is Eve Faulkes, Coordinator of Graphic Design at WVU.

Street Ambassadors to develop groups of trained volunteers to walk the streets of downtown promoting neighborliness and positive behavior. Convener is Randy Jones, AmeriCorps VISTA member with WVU’s Center for Service and Learning.

“Anyone wishing to join either work group can contact John Sonnenday, Executive Director of the Coordinating Council on Homelessness, at ccohwv@gmail.com or 412-419-6116.”

WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM LEADER-IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM: Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault II is the 2017 NAS Leader-in Residence. The Chairman will be on campus during the last week in March. His WVU talk and welcome reception take place Tuesday, March 28 in the Life Sciences Building, Room G15, Downtown Campus. The reception begins at 6:30 and the presentation follows at 7:00 pm; both are free and open to the public. Free parking is available in the upper level of the Mountainlair Parking Garage after 5:00 pm.

Chairman Archambault’s leadership was highlighted this past year as citizens of Standing Rock, fellow American Indians, and thousands of other supporters of Indigenous rights rose in unprecedented collective opposition to the oil pipeline construction that has already desecrated sacred sites and risks contaminating the nearby Missouri River. People from around the globe watched as the international spotlight illuminated the resistance of the Standing Rock Water Protectors, strengthening the call for respect of indigenous rights, tribal sovereignty, and the U.S. Government’s obligation for official consultation on matters affecting Native peoples. Chairman Archambault heightened worldwide attention in September as he testified before the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

Chairman Archambault’s visit is hosted by the WVU Native American Studies Program, part of the Eberly College of Arts & Sciences, and is co-sponsored by the Carolyn Reyer Endowment for Native American Studies and the WVU Leadership Studies Program.

For more information, please contact Bonnie M. Brown, Coordinator, WVU Native American Studies Program, 304-293-4626, or nas.wvu.edu.

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



OUR CHILDREN OUR FUTURE KIDS AND FAMILIES DAY AT THE CAPITOL: Join Our Children Our Future West Virginia on February 14th for the 4th Annual Kids and Families Day at the Capitol. Register now at actionnetwork.org/events/kids-and-families-day-2017.

“Be part of one of the largest legislative events as we educate and advocate for issues concerning working families and children in West Virginia. Kids and Families Day 2017 will showcase Our Children, Our Future Campaign partners and friends in exhibits, actions/advocacy events with local legislators, and educational opportunities for everyone!

“We are asking all partner organizations to please pay a \$30 table registration for the day.

“Anyone, wanting a bus scholarship or assistance should email Jennifer Wells at jennifer@ourfuturewv.org.

“Anyone wanting to sponsor Kids and Families Day please contact Chris Kimes for more details.

“If you have any questions/concerns about Kids and Families Day please contact Chris Kimes at chris@ourfuturewv.org or call (304) 561-7728.

“Our Children, Our Future is building its 2017 Platform, which will consist of 12 issues that echo the concerns of real West Virginians.”



“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 meetings, and a happy hour.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN FEBRUARY 2017

FROM PETER CLARK

Celebrating Black History Month

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. This month is also known as Buxwlaaks or the season of blowing needles in aboriginal spirituality, in which the wind knocks loose the foliage of frozen evergreens. It marks the approach of the new year.

Wednesday, February 1

* Vasanta Panchami – Hinduism

A North Indian celebration associated with Saraswati, the goddess of learning, and with Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth.

Thursday, February 2

* Presentation of Jesus in the Temple – Christianity

Commemorates Mary and Joseph's presentation of the child Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem, as required by Mosaic law.

* Imbolc [also known as the Feast of Torches or Lughnassad] – Wicca

A celebration of beginning growth and the divine generative powers (i.e., the Goddess nurturing her young Son) from which physical and spiritual harvests will come, Imbolc is often an initiatory period.

Friday, February 3

* Setsunbun-sai – Shintō

A family celebration of the end of winter; beans are thrown into rooms of a house for good luck, with the shout, "Devils out, Fortune in!"

Sunday, February 5

* Triodion begins – Christianity (Eastern churches)

This day marks the beginning of the ten weeks preceding Holy Pascha (Easter). The term Triodion refers to the book containing the liturgies for the worship services during this time period.

* Four Chaplains Sunday – Interfaith

A commemoration of four U.S. Army chaplains—Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Rev. George L. Fox, Fr. John P. Washington, and Rev. Clark V. Poling—who died while saving soldiers from drowning when their troop transport ship, the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester*, was torpedoed by a Nazi U-boat in 1943. The four chaplains are remembered for their courage and their spirit of interfaith collaboration in service to humanity.

Monday, February 6

* Mulk – Bahá'í

Beginning of the eighteenth month of the Bahá'í year, the name "Mulk" means "dominion."

Friday, February 10

* Tu B'Shevat – Judaism

A joyous celebration of the coming spring, including the planting of trees and the conservation of fruits native to Israel, as well as special meals where Jews eat the seven fruits of the land (wheat and barley; grapes; figs; pomegranates; olives; and honey). The festival begins at sundown.

Tuesday, February 14

* Valentine's Day – Western Christianity

A celebration of love originally connected to the Roman Christian martyr who died in 269 C.E.

Wednesday, February 15

* Nirvana Day – Buddhism

In northern Buddhist traditions, this day marks the anniversary of the historical Buddha's death in ca. 486 B.C.E. and his subsequent entrance into enlightenment or Nirvana. In southern Buddhist traditions, the Buddha's death is commemorated during Visakha.

Sunday, February 19

* Birthday of Kwan Yin Bodhisattva – Buddhism [Mahayana Pure Land tradition]

A celebration of the birth of the bodhisattva of compassion—an enlightened being who vows to attain final, supreme enlightenment in order to save all sentient beings from suffering. In the Pure Land tradition, this bodhisattva frequently accompanies Amida Buddha in icons and other depictions.

Friday, February 24

* Ayyám-i-Há – Bahá'í [through February 28]

Starting at sundown, this festival marks the beginning of the intercalary days for festivities, gift giving, and charitable actions.

* Maha Shivaratri – Hinduism

A night devoted to the worship of the god Shiva, whose dance creates and destroys and recreates the world; it is marked by vigils and fasting.

Sunday, February 26

* Cheesefare Sunday [Forgiveness Sunday] – Christianity (Eastern churches)

This feast marks the last day of eating dairy products prior to Holy Pascha (also known as Easter). The Great Fast or Great Lent begins at sundown and is marked by forty days of vegetarian fasting, intense prayer, and almsgiving in preparation for Holy Week. The following day is known as Clean Monday.

Monday, February 27

* Losar [Tibetan New Year] – Buddhism

Celebrating the beginning of the year 2144 in the Tibetan calendar.

Tuesday, February 28

* Sri Ramakrishna Jayanti – Hinduism

A celebration of the birth of the teacher of Swami Vivekananda, who introduced Hinduism to the United States at the first Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893.

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.