



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: 1 MARCH 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, March 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.



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, March 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 March, which is National Women’s History Month that honors women as significant agents of change.

March 8: International Women’s Day – Celebration of the economic, political, and social achievements of women worldwide. Recognition of need for empowering women to meet their health and family planning needs as central to realizing greater equality. With access to education, economic opportunity, and quality health care, healthier mothers can have healthier babies, economic gains, and help create less pressure on our planet's natural resources.

March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.

March 21: International Forest Day – Call for awareness of the importance of forests in protecting air quality, water retention, plants for pharmaceuticals, habitat for birds and other wildlife – all of which provide a balance for survival of all.

March 22: World Water Day – Calls for awareness of how essential potable water is to the rights of all people in West Virginia and worldwide.

March 31: Cesar Chavez Day – Honors Mexican American farm worker. Labor leader, and activist Cesar Chavez (1927- 1993) who was a nationally respected voice of social justice.



“WE ARE ALL CONNECTED” PSALM ART EXHIBIT OPEN THROUGH MARCH 4: 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 St. Francis 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.”

HOUSING FAIR AT MOUNTAINEER MALL MARCH 4: The City of Morgantown Housing Advisory Commission, Human Rights Commission, Morgantown Area Chamber of Commerce, Community Living Initiatives Corp., Community Housing Action Partnership, Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living, and West Virginia Fair Housing Action Network at co-sponsoring the March Madness Morgantown Housing Fair from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Mountaineer Mall at 5000 Greenbag Road. The fair is free and open to all, with activities for children to make it family friendly.

Rachel Fetty, one of the organizers, is encouraging everyone to come out and explore the options for housing provided by landlords, lenders, and others.

According to the *Dominion Post* on February 27, “The housing market was traditionally deficient in housing for students and young families, Fetty said. But, with the construction boom, there are now more vacancies, which means more availability.

“While anyone can attend, there are two groups organizers specifically hope to help. One group includes those who live outside of town, but work here or have children attending nearby schools, who might think the market is too expensive.

“The other group is made up of people who are new to the housing market, Fetty said. It can be difficult to obtain a home loan, but during the fair there will be lenders who have programs to help, Fetty said.”



NOW CHAPTER MEETING MARCH 12: The Morgantown Chapter of the National Organization for Women has reorganized. The next meeting will be Sunday, March 12th, at 4:00 p.m. in the Greenbrier Room on the second floor of the WVU Mountainlair. Parking is available in the Mountainlair parking garage. If you need childcare, please contact Rose at rose.casey@gmail.com by Wednesday, March 8.

GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION MEETING MARCH 5: The next meeting of this group will be at the Islamic Center of Morgantown, 434 Harding Ave. in Morgantown from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. (note time change). The focus of the GMIA is “ISLAMOPHOBIA IN MORGANTOWN AND WEST VIRGINIA: What can we do to reduce prejudice and profiling? The interfaith community is gathering to address the issue of Islamophobia. Together, we will explore and identify the predominant factors contributing to religious discrimination, and discuss how they may be addressed within our community.” The agenda will include a presentation on “Islam 101” by Imam Kip Curnutt from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. The group will next break out into working groups on Education, Action, and Contacts and then share information and make decisions for the spring and next fall. RSVP to Rev. Monica Styron at mstyron2015@gmail.com

WVU SOCIAL JUSTICE FILMS:

March 14, 7:00 p.m.: *Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA:* “This powerful documentary tells the stories of tragic shootings through the eyes of survivors and family members and how National Rifle Association (NRA) has lobbied for gun manufacturers who pay their bills and set their agenda.” This is part of the WVU Community Human Rights Film Festival sponsored by the WVU Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; the City of Morgantown Human Rights Commission; and the WVU Human Rights Film Festival Planning Committee.

March 15, 11:30 a.m.: *The Hunting Ground:* “A thought-provoking expose’ of sexual assault crimes on U.S. campuses, and the toll on victims and their families as told through first-person narratives.”

March 16, 11:30 a.m.: *The Mask You Live In:* “An exploration of the ideal of American masculinity, and the effect on young men struggling with their own identities.”

Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.: *Fed Up:* “See the film the food industry doesn’t want you to see. From Katie Couric, Laurie David (the Oscar-winning producer of ‘AN INCONVENIENCE TRUTH’), ‘Fed Up’ will change the way you eat forever.”

Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 p.m.: *White Helmets*: “Volunteer rescue workers put their lives on the line to save civilians amidst the turmoil and violence in Syria and Turkey.”

All films are free and open to the public and will be shown in the Gluck Theatre of the Mountainlair.



NAACP NEXT MEETING MARCH 21: The Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP meets every third Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Red Cross offices, 1299 Pineview Drive, Suite 300, Morgantown. CCSJ was pleased to welcome NAACP members Debbie Robinson and Charlene Marshall to our February meeting to discuss ways our two organizations can collaborate in the future, including on our Martin Luther King, Jr., Day event.

WVU CONVERSATIONS WITH COPS MARCH 21: This “no-nonsense, current events discussion between law enforcement agencies & the WVU community” will be from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Commons area of the Mountainlair.

WVU CENTER FOR WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES TALK MARCH 23: Karen Cardozo, assistant professor of interdisciplinary studies at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, will present “Behaving Badly, Balancing Gladly: Women, Work and Life in the Wild New World” at 7:00 p.m. in the Rhododendron Room of the WVU Mountainlair. This is the first in a series of Mohindar Singh Seehra Lectures. The lecture is free and open to the public.

WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM LEADER-IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM MARCH 28: 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 7**, 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



“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 MARCH 2017

FROM PETER CLARK

March and April mark the season of the Eagle Dances, when people of the Arizona Pueblo tribes dance to dramatize their communities' relationship with the Sky-World. This month is also known as Xsaak, the season when candlefish swarm and members of the Nisga'a tribes catch these fish, dry them, and render them into oil for lamps.

Wednesday, March 1

- Ash Wednesday – Christianity (Western churches)

The beginning of Lent, a forty-day period (excluding Sundays) in which Christians pray, repent, fast and reflect on Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem. It is a preparatory period for Holy Week and Easter; on this day, believers often receive an ashen cross on their foreheads to mark their repentance and mortality.

- 'Alá – Bahá'í

The beginning of the nineteenth and final month, meaning “loftiness,” and also of a 19-day fast in preparation for Naw Rúz [see March 20]. Adult believers in good health abstain from food and drink from dawn to dusk.

Sunday, March 5

- Orthodox Sunday – Christianity (Eastern churches)

A celebration of the restoration of icons, which had been banned from Byzantine churches in the seventh century. The Christian empress Theodora ordered them restored in 843 C.E.

Thursday, March 9

- Losar [Tibetan New Year] – Buddhism

Celebrating the beginning of a three-day festival for the year 2144 in the Tibetan calendar.

Saturday, March 11

- Eve of Purim – Judaism

A celebration of the Jews' rescue from an evil plot to destroy them while they were living in Persia, the events of which are recorded in the Hebrew biblical book of Esther. The holiday includes reading the Megillah (the scroll of Esther), exchanging gifts, and special pastries called hamantashen.

Sunday, March 12

- Magha Puja Day [Dharma Day] – Buddhism

In the Theravada Buddhist tradition, this full moon day of the third lunar month marks the historical Buddha's sermon at Veruvana Monastery in the city of Rajagaha, where he spoke to 1250 enlightened monks who were ordained by him.

Monday, March 13

- Holi – Hinduism

This festival is one of Hinduism's most popular celebrations. People throw colored powder or spray colored water to celebrate episodes in the life of the god Krishna.

- Hola Mohallah – Sikhism

A three-day festival instituted by the tenth Sikh gurū, Gobind Singh, as a time for military preparedness exercises, Hola Mohallah now is celebrated with mock battles, music competitions, and festivities.

Tuesday, March 14

- New Year's Day – Sikhism

In the Nanakshahi calendar, this day is the beginning of the year 549.

- Memorial of Shan-tao (Zendō) – Buddhism

Anniversary of the death of a Chinese Pure Land Buddhist priest who died in 681 C.E. He taught that enlightenment could occur simply through repetition of the name of Amitabha or Amida Buddha (nianfo or nembutsu), and is honored as the Fifth Patriarch of that Buddhist school.

Thursday, March 16

- Birthday of Avalokiteśvara or Kuan Yin [Kannon] – Buddhism

Usually celebrated on or near the full moon day in March, this day marks the occasion when the enlightened being known as Avalokiteśvara (in the Mahāyāna traditions of Tibet and China) or as Kuan Yin or Kannon (the feminine embodiment of this bodhisattva in Chinese, Japanese, and Vietnamese Buddhism) vowed to attain final, supreme enlightenment and thereby save all suffering sentient beings.

- Ghambar Hamaspathmaedem, Fravardegan, or Muktaḍ – Zoroastrianism

A celebration of the creation of human beings and a commemoration of souls who have died. Prayers are offered to the fravashis (the divine spark within each human, which lives forever), asking for their blessings and protection.

Friday, March 17

- Saint Patrick's Day – Western Christianity

A commemoration of the missionary bishop who evangelized Ireland in the fifth century C.E.

Monday, March 20 spring equinox

- Spring Ohigon – Buddhism

For Buddhists who practice in the Jōdo Shinshū [Japanese Pure Land] tradition, this is a special time to listen to the teaching of the Buddha and meditate on the perfection of enlightenment as lived in the Six Perfections or Paramitas (generosity, morality, wisdom, honesty, endeavor, and patience).

- Shunki-sorei-sai – Shintō

The time of the spring memorial service, when ancestors' spirits are revered at home altars and gravesites are cleaned and purified.

- Ostara – Wicca

A time to mark the divine goddess's blanketing of the Earth with fertility as the god stretches and grows to maturity, manifested in the reawakening of seeds within the Earth as they are touched by divine love.

- Spring Feast – Native American spirituality

A day to mark the coming and going of seasons and to honor planting through songs, stories, and prayer.

- Naw Rúz – Bahá'í

Marking the beginning of the year 174 of the Bahá'í era, and the beginning of the first month of the year, known as Bahá or "splendor."

Tuesday, March 21

- Navruz [Now Ruz or Norooz] – Zoroastrianism

The beginning of the Zoroastrian new year, 1387 AY or 3755 AZ in the Fasli seasonal calendar, which also celebrates the renewal of the world and the creation of fire (which symbolizes righteousness). Zarathustra, the founder of Zoroastrianism, received his revelation on this day.

Saturday, March 25

- Feast of the Annunciation – Christianity

This festival marks the visit of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary of Nazareth and Mary's faithful response to God's plan by consenting to be Jesus' mother.

Sunday, March 26

- Khordad Sal – Zoroastrianism

The birth anniversary of the prophet Zarathustra.

Tuesday, March 28

- Ugadi or Yugādi – Hinduism

The New Year's Day celebration for Hindus of the Deccan Plateau in central and southern India, which traditionally includes a ritual bath, prayers, and the eating of pachhadi: six flavors that represent six different life experiences. The flavors are bitter, tang, sour, spicy, salty, and sweet, which symbolize sadness, surprise, disgust, anger, fear, and happiness.

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.

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