



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 on **Tuesday, May 9th, at 6:30 p.m.** We have changed our meeting place to the **Training Room in the Public Safety Building** at the corner of Spruce Street and Walnut Street. Parking is available in the garage attached to the building.

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 2018: We have started planning for MLK Day 2018 – our twelfth annual event! We again very much appreciate the financial support from the City of Morgantown for this event. 2018 marks the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. King's death. Because we anticipate that many anniversary events will focus on his career and adult life, we decided on a tentative theme of "Growing Up Martin" to focus on his boyhood. For instance, he had a best friend who was white, but they were separated when they attended school. We have some children's choirs interested in participating but always welcome your ideas.



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, May 18th, 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 commission has asked the Morgantown City Council to adopt **resolutions on a welcome statement and one supporting the rights of immigrants, refugees and asylees**. These were presented at the March 28th Committee of the Whole meeting.

A revised welcome statement was presented at the April 26th Committee of the Whole meeting. Mike Attfield spoke on behalf of CCSJ on March 28th, and Barb Howe spoke on April 26th.

The resolutions are now scheduled to be back on the council agenda on **Tuesday, May 2nd, at 7:00 p.m.** It will be important for people to come on the 2nd and speak in the public portion.

The new "Welcome Statement" is as follows:

"Welcome to Morgantown!

"The City of Morgantown welcomes all people regardless of race, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, color, ancestry, age, abilities, blindness, economic or family status, or life situation. We strive to be an inclusive community for our residents and visitors. We ask everyone to act with a helpful intent, to respond to each other with civility, and to treat our environment with respect."

"Be it further resolved, that the City of Morgantown Human Rights Commission supports the prominent placement of said statement on the City Website and on any and all relevant signs, documents or public locations.

"Be it further resolved, that the City of Morgantown Human Rights Commission petitions the Morgantown City Council to concur and to adopt this resolution and to instruct the City Manager to take such steps as may be necessary and prudent to implement the use of the above Welcome Statement."

You can contact council members at www.morgantownwv.gov/government/city-council/meet-your-council-members/.

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 May:

May 1 International Worker's Day – Also known as May Day, it celebrates the social and economic achievements of workers worldwide. The day commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which police and protesters clashed following a worker's strike for an eight-hour day.

May 3 World Press Freedom Day – Serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.

May 15 International Day of Families – Celebration of two or more persons providing a continuity of support for each other usually in terms of affection, nurture, security and protection.

May 21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – Recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange, and creativity, as well as the obligation to create a more peaceful and equitable society based on mutual respect.



NOW CHAPTER MEETING: The next meeting of the Morgantown Chapter of the National Organization for Women has not yet been set. Check the Morgantown-NOW Facebook page for an announcement.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION (GMIA): The next meeting will be May 7th at 4:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church on Spruce Street in Morgantown if you would like to join the group. For more information, please contact Rev. Monica Styron at mstyron2015@gmail.com

NAACP NEXT MEETING MAY 16TH: 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.



The NAACP Education Summit has been rescheduled for the fall of 2017 due to the uncertainty of the budget for the State of West Virginia.



MAIN STREET MORGANTOWN PROMOTES “ALL KINDS ARE WELCOME HERE”: CCSJ was pleased to learn from Travis Henline, executive director of Main Street Morgantown, that this organization is promoting the “All Kinds Are Welcome Here” stickers that are available from River Fair Trade at 316 High Street in Morgantown. According to the website, allkindsarewelcomehere.org, “The All Kinds Are Welcome Here campaign began in West Virginia in spring of 2016 in response to the introduction of a bill (the ‘Religious Freedom Restoration Act,’ or ‘RFRA’) that many felt would legalize discrimination. The campaign began as a way for businesses and individuals to visibly oppose the bill while offering a message of love and inclusion instead.

“Since then, the movement has evolved to become a demonstration of love, kindness, and inclusiveness — values that are integral to the spirit of West Virginia. In spring 2017, the campaign launched its next phase, which allows businesses to sell ‘All Kinds’ merchandise with proceeds going to nonprofit 501c3 organizations operating in the state.” River Fair Trade supports West Virginia Public Broadcasting.

PRISONER VISITATION AND SUPPORT (PVS) NEEDS VOLUNTEERS: Thanks to Ed Horvat, chaplain at the Mon Health Medical Center for this information on the Nationwide Alternative Ministry to Federal and Military Prisoners PVS that needs volunteers to visit with prisoners at the Hazelton, West Virginia, Federal Correctional Complex. “Visitors make monthly one-on-one visits in the common visiting area to the same three or four prisoners, providing friendship, encouragement, and a listening ear to people who may go for years without seeing anyone besides those within the prison.” There will be an informational session on May 15th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Pierpont Church of the Nazarene Joy

Classroom at 52 Harner Run Rd. For questions, please contact Lois Harder, PVS Local Coordinator for Hazelton USP and FCI, at 304-288-8789 or email lharder@gmail.com. The PVS national website is www.prisonervisitation.org.

STATE-WIDE EVENTS

NAACP STATE CONFERENCE AUGUST 11TH AND 12TH: This will be at the Holiday Inn on Pineview Dr. in Morgantown.



OUR CHILDREN OUR FUTURE YOUNG WV: POWER BUILDING CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 8TH TO 10TH: Are you aged 15-25? Want WV to be the coolest place to live, go to school and work? Then this conference at Marshall University in Huntington is for you! Join a statewide movement of young people committed to making waves of change in WV!

At the Young WV conference, you'll find:

Youth-led breakouts on voter engagement, racial justice, mental health, LGBT advocacy and more!

Young WV Policy Challenge

A chance to meet other young people from across the state

\$Mini-grant\$ opportunities for student chapters

Info on how to create a Young WV chapter in your school or organization

Scholarships are available!

Go to www.ocofwv.org/youngwv/ for information on registration, scholarships, information on volunteering, becoming a sponsor to support low-income students to attend, information on lodging, submitting policy ideas, etc.

Like Young WV on Facebook to stay in the loop and follow on Twitter at [@_YoungWV](https://twitter.com/_YoungWV)

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN MAY 2017

FROM PETER CLARK

Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

May and June mark the season of the Hopi Kachina Dances, in which Arizona Hopi celebrants represent various spirit-powers and perform ritual dances in open pueblo areas. It is also the time of Yansa'altt, the season of berry blossoms—anticipating the berry harvest in summer, which is essential for survival in winter.

Monday, May 1

* Beltane [also called Beltain or May Day] – Wicca

Celebration of the sacred marriage of the divine forces—and the conception of the sun-child—that are the basis of all creation.

* Twelfth Day of Ridván – Bahá'í

The conclusion of the Bahá'í festival that commemorates Bahá'u'lláh's exile in Baghdad leading up to his declaration as the one announced by the Báb in 1863 C.E.

Tuesday, May 2

* Birthday of Gurū Arjan Dev – Sikhism

Gurū Arjan Dev (1563 – 1606 C.E.) was the fifth of the Sikh Gurūs.

Thursday, May 4

* Ghambar Maidyozarem ends – Zoroastrianism

The end of the celebration of the creation of the sky and the harvesting of the winter crops.

* National Day of Prayer – Multi-faith, USA

Tuesday, May 9

* Laylat al-Bara'at or Nisf Sha'bān – Islam

According to Muslim tradition, Allah approaches the earth on this night (the middle day of the eighth month in the Islamic calendar) to call humanity to repentance and grant forgiveness of sins.

Wednesday, May 10

* Visakha Puja [Buddha Day] – Buddhism

Celebrated by Theravadin Buddhists on the full moon of the sixth lunar month, this is a triple commemoration of the historical Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death and entrance into nirvana.

Sunday, May 14

* Lag B'Omer – Judaism

The 33rd day in the counting of the period between Pesach [Passover] and Shavuot [the giving of the Law]; the festival begins at sundown.

Monday, May 15

* Restoration of the Aaronic priesthood – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Marking the restoration of this order by John the Baptist and conferred upon the Prophet Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery on this date in 1829 C.E.

Tuesday, May 16

'Azamat – Bahá'í

The beginning of the fourth month of the Bahá'í year, 'Azamat means "grandeur."

Tuesday, May 23

* Declaration of the Báb – Bahá'í

The celebration of the day in 1844 C.E. when he announced his identity as the Gate or herald of the new age in Shiraz, Persia (modern-day Iran).

* Birthday of Gurū Amar Das – Sikhism

Gurū Amar Das (1479 – 1574 C.E.) was the third of the Sikh Gurūs.

Thursday, May 25

* Ascension Day – Christianity (Western and Eastern churches)

The anniversary of Jesus' ascension into heaven, celebrated forty days after Easter. In the Roman Catholic Church, this day is celebrated on Sunday, May 28th.

Friday, May 26

* Ramadān begins – Islam

A holy month of fasting and prayer, in which all adult and physically competent Muslims abstain from food, water, and sexual relations from dawn to sunset. Ramadān ends on June 24th.

Sunday, May 28

* Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh – Bahá'í

The anniversary of the death of the founder of the Bahá'í faith in Palestine in 1892 C.E. Adherents suspend work on this day.

Monday, May 29 Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 30

* Shavuot [Feast of Weeks] – Judaism

A two-day festival, beginning at sundown, that celebrates the harvest of first fruits and the giving of the Law (or Torah) to Moses at Mt. Sinai. The name Shavuot derives from the Hebrew words for "seven" and "week," because it marks seven weeks following Pesach or Passover.

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.interfaith-calendar.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.