



**Community Coalition for Social Justice**  
**PO Box 160**  
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**ccsjwv@hotmail.com**  
**www.ccsjwv.org**

**UPDATE: 2 JULY 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 on **Tuesday, July 12th**, at **6:30 p.m.** in the **Training Room in the Public Safety Building** at the corner of Spruce Street and Walnut Street. If that room is otherwise occupied, look for us in the Conference Room to the right of the entrance from Spruce 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 2017 ANNUAL MEETING:** Please join us on Sunday, September 17th, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Marilla Center in Marilla Park for our annual meeting/picnic. More details will soon follow.

**CCSJ 2016 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 IS JANUARY 15TH:** We have started planning for our twelfth annual MLK Day 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. The Community Orchestra and Morgantown Children's Choir will be among those

groups participating, and we plan to cooperate with the NAACP in some way. We 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, July 20, 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/](http://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](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/Annual-HR-Observances.pdf).

### Here are the events for July:

July 4 Independence Day – Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776 which led to the creation of a new union and new rights for citizens.

July 11 World Population Day – Emphasizes awareness that the world’s #1 problem is too many people using too many resources and creating too much unsustainable waste. Excesses impact current climate, energy, and support systems.

July 26 ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Day – Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

**SCOTTS RUN PROGRAM WAS JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>:** If you missed this program at the Metropolitan Theatre, you can see photos and “teasers” at the Facebook page for the Scotts Run Museum and Trail at [www.facebook.com/ScottsRunMuseum/](http://www.facebook.com/ScottsRunMuseum/).



**NOW CHAPTER MEETING:** Learn about this group’s activities through its Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/375050676186301/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/375050676186301/).



**GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION (GMIA):** The next meeting will be July 9th.

**PARIS CLIMATE TREATY AND MORGANTOWN CITY COUNCIL:** The Morgantown Green Team has asked that the Morgantown City Council consider a resolution to adopt the Paris Climate Treaty. The resolution will be on the agenda for the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Tuesday, July 25th at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall. No vote is taken at this time so this will just be a time to discuss the resolution.

According to Jim Kotcon, a member of the Green Team and Sierra Club chapter chair, “the Resolution calls on the City to adopt the goals of the Paris Climate Treaty, in conjunction with the National Mayors Climate Action Agenda. ([www.climate-mayors.org/](http://www.climate-mayors.org/)) If adopted, the City would agree to join with over 300 Mayors from around the US who have already adopted this resolution, conduct a greenhouse gas inventory, and develop a Plan to achieve those greenhouse gas reduction goals. The good news is that the City has already completed a greenhouse gas inventory.”

CCSJ will consider supporting this resolution when we meet on Tuesday, July 11th.



**NAACP NEXT MEETING JULY 18TH:** 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 Morgantown Fight for Freedom Banquet will be held on **Friday, August 11th**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn University Area, 1188 Pineview Drive, Morgantown. According to the invitation from Debbie Robinson, “The Keynote speaker is Mr. Raymond A. Winbush, Ph.D. He is currently Research Professor and Director of the Institute for Urban Research at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. He is an American-African scholar and activist known for his systems-thinking approaches to understanding the impact of racism/white supremacy on the global African community. His writings, consultations, and research have been instrumental in understanding developmental stages in Black males, public policy and its connection to compensatory justice, relationships between Black males and females, infusion of African studies into school curricula, and the impact of hip-hop culture on the contemporary American landscape. This year’s distinguished honoree is none other than Professor Gregory W. Bowman. 'Professor' Bowman is a native of West Virginia and a graduate of WVU, and serves as director of the College of Law’s Geneva Study Abroad Program.

“The cost for this event is \$40.00 per person/ \$75.00 per couple, and \$ 30.00 for students.”

For more information, please contact Debbie Robinson at [Morgantown.naacp3241@gmail.com](mailto:Morgantown.naacp3241@gmail.com)

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.



**CHRISTIAN HELP NEEDS VOLUNTEERS:** Christian Help is getting ready for its annual Back-to-School Giveaway on Saturday, August 5th, at 219 Walnut Street. Volunteers are needed to prepare for the event and help that day. For more information and to sign up to volunteer, go to [www.motownchristianhelp.com/projects](http://www.motownchristianhelp.com/projects). Christian Help also notes that “Donations of school supplies i.e. Backpacks, spiral notebooks, highlighters, ear buds, glue sticks, small crayon boxes, folders, etc. are needed!”

## STATE-WIDE EVENTS



**“THE DEVIL WE KNOW” FOCUSES ON DUPONT IN PARKERSBURG:** Amy Slotnick, campaign manager, for this film, reports that “The filmmakers behind the documentaries FED UP, GMO OMG, Super Size Me and Under the Gun set their sights on the chemical industry.

“**LOGLINE:** Unraveling one of the biggest environmental scandals of our time, a group of citizens in West Virginia take on a powerful corporation after they discover it has knowingly been dumping a toxic chemical - now found in the blood of 99.7% of Americans - into the drinking water supply.

“**SHORT SYNOPSIS:**

“Tucked in the rolling hills of West Virginia, the idyllic town of Parkersburg is home to a sprawling DuPont chemical plant that manufactures Teflon. . . .

“Internal documents and secret in-house studies reveal a disturbing truth: DuPont had knowingly been pumping a poisonous chemical into the air and public water supply of more than 70,000 people for decades. We have exclusive access to a cache of internal documents, video depositions, and home videos provided to us by the attorneys working on this case and obtained through FOIA requests.”

The film features Erin Brockovich, and West Virginia native Morgan Spurlock is the executive producer.

For more information and to contribute toward the costs of the composer & original soundtrack, music licensing, film graphics & animations, archival footage licensing, color correction, and audio mix, please go to Amy Slotnick, campaign manager, through [igg.me/at/thedevilweknow.com](http://igg.me/at/thedevilweknow.com), [info@thedevilweknow.com](mailto:info@thedevilweknow.com), or [Facebook.com/thedevilweknow](https://www.facebook.com/thedevilweknow).

**WOMEN OF APPALACHIA SPOKEN WORD EVENT SEPTEMBER 30TH:** WVU has announced that it will “collaborate to host Women of Appalachia Spoken Word Event.”

The call for submissions says that “If you live in one of the 420 Appalachian counties, Women of Appalachia Project invites you to submit writing to be featured in their annual series of regional events, one of which will be held at WVU Saturday, September 30, 2017. The **deadline to submit fiction or nonfiction poetry, song, short story, or essays is Thursday, August 10**. Details can be found at [womenofappalachia.com](http://womenofappalachia.com).

“WVU Libraries is partnering with the LGBTQ+ Center, the Women’s Resource Center, the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, and WVU Campus Read, to bring the Women of Appalachia Project ‘Women Speak’ juried spoken word event to campus in the fall, in conjunction with the Libraries’ Looking at Appalachia exhibit.

“Since 2010, Albany-Ohio based poet and photographer Kari Gunter-Seymour has curated art exhibitions and spoken word events via the Women of Appalachia Project, an arts organization she created ‘to address discrimination directed at women from the Appalachian region by encouraging

participation from women artists (fine art and spoken word) of diverse backgrounds, ages and experiences to come together, embrace the stereotype, show the whole woman; beyond the superficial factors people use to judge her — providing opportunities to share art with our communities, receive recognition and encouragement, and build strong networks’ (womenofappalachia.com).

“The five WVU organizations are thrilled to work together to bring this regional event to campus September 30, 2017, in the Milano Room of the WVU Downtown Campus Library. The event will also spark new conversations and perspectives around the Libraries’ Looking at Appalachia exhibit of 73 crowd-sourced photographs from contemporary Appalachian amateur and professional photographers from everyday life.

“*Hidden Figures* is the WVU 2017-18 Campus read; chair Susan Lantz is thrilled to partner with this event and hopes the characters from the book *Hidden Figures* will inspire local writers. The LGBTQ+ Center and the Women’s Resource Center encourages individuals to consider the diversity of gender and sexual minorities, and hopes they explore an intersectional perspective that includes racial, ethnic, class, ability, religious, region, and other identity markers. Other participating regional sites include Ohio University Southern; Parkersburg Art Center; The Bowen House in Logan, Ohio; Ohio University Multicultural Arts Gallery in Athens; and the Pump House Center for the Arts in Chillicothe, Ohio.”

The WVU contact is Sally Deskins, Exhibits & Programs Coordinator, WVU Libraries 304.293.0369; sbdeskins@mail.wvu.edu.



**OUR CHILDREN OUR FUTURE CANDIDATE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:** “The WV Candidate Training Academy is a non-partisan coalition that is dedicated to recruiting and training new candidates for office. We believe that democracy works better when more of us are involved in the political process, and when government is more representative. The WV Candidate Training Academy was started in 2015 by a coalition of organizations and partners of every stripe – including the WV Healthy Kids and Families Coalition, Generation WV, the WV Chamber of Commerce Executives, the AFL-CIO, the Sierra Club, WV Citizen Action Group, the WV Center on Budget and Policy, the WV School Board Association, the WV Community Development Hub, and the Secretary of State’s Office. Our lead partners are the Our Children, Our Future Campaign and the WV Women’s Commission.

There are two workshops remaining: Southern WV on July 15th (All are Welcome), and Martinsburg on August 5th (All are Welcome)

For more information about the trainings, go to [www.ocofofw.org/candidatetraining/](http://www.ocofofw.org/candidatetraining/). “Graduates from these trainings have won campaigns for City Council, Magistrate, County Commission, School Board, Delegate, and State Senator in WV.”

**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/](http://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 JULY 2017**

### **FROM PETER CLARK**

#### Religious Holy Days in July 2017

For Native Americans, July marks the season of the Mountain Spirit Dances for the Mescalero Apache people of New Mexico; the Hopi Snake Dances, marking a sixteen-day ritual of purification; the Green Corn Ceremony or Stomp Dance, performed by Seminole and other Oklahoma tribes as a time of renewal and purification; and the Sun Dance, observed by Plains peoples (Arapaho, Cheyenne, Shoshone, Arikara, Crow, Sioux, and others) as a time of penitence and sacrifice. It is also known as Xmaay, the season of big berries when summer fruit is ripe for harvesting.

Saturday, July 1

· Jashn-e Tirgan – Zoroastrianism

The festival of water.

Monday, July 3

· Ghambar Maidyoshem ends – Zoroastrianism

Ending the celebration of the creation of water, the sowing of summer crops, and the harvesting of grain.

Tuesday, July 4

· Chaturmas – Hinduism and Jainism

This day marks the beginning of a four-month period (ending in November) during which time devotees observe some form of vow. Penance, fasting, and other religious observances mark this period. It is considered an inauspicious time for weddings or thread ceremonies.

Wednesday, July 5

- Birthday of Gurū Hargobind Sahib Ji – Sikhism

Celebrating a renowned martial artist who was named the 6th of the 11 Sikh Gurūs (1595 – 1644 C.E.).

Thursday, July 6

- Birthday of the XIVth Dalai Lama – Tibetan Buddhism

Celebrating the 82nd birthday of His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, born in 1935 C.E. in northeastern Tibet. The Nobel Peace Prize laureate is the spiritual leader of the Tibetan government in exile and is revered as the fourteenth in a succession of manifestations of Avalokiteśvara, the enlightened being (bodhisattva) who embodies compassion in Buddhist practice.

Saturday, July 8

- Dharma Day (Asalha Puja Day) – Buddhism

This day commemorates the historical Buddha’s first sermon, called “Turning of the wheel of Dharma (Dhamma),” following his own enlightenment. The following day marks the beginning of the three-month Vassa or “Rains Retreat” for Theravadin Buddhist monks and nuns. This period is a time for training in Dharma studies, meditation practice, and giving religious services to the people.

Sunday, July 9

- Martyrdom of the Báb – Bahá’í

Anniversary of the martyrdom of the Báb, the forerunner of Bahá’u’lláh, in Persia in 1850 C.E. The Báb and 20,000 of his followers were killed because of their religious convictions throughout the mid-1800’s. Work is suspended on this day.

- Gurū Purnima – Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism

This day celebrates the ancient Hindu sage Krishna Dvaipayana, also known as Veda Vyāsa, who is credited as the compiler of the sacred Vedas, the author of the Eighteen Puranas (supplementary texts), and credited with writing the Sanskrit epic Mahābhārata. The term “gurū” refers to a teacher or remover of darkness. Jains and Buddhists also mark this day as an opportunity to thank their teachers.

Wednesday, July 12

- Kalimát – Bahá’í

The beginning of the seventh month of the Bahá’í year, meaning “words.”

Thursday, July 13

- Ullambana – Buddhism

A day when Buddhists make offerings to the Triple Gem—the Buddha, the Dharma [teachings], and the Sangha [monastic community]—on behalf of their ancestors.

· Obon – Buddhism

A Japanese festival to honor deceased ancestors, usually involving the lighting of bonfires, traditional meals, paper lanterns, and folk dancing. Locally this festival is celebrated at various times in July and August.

Friday, July 14

· Feast Day of St. Kateri Tekakwitha – Catholic Christianity and Native American spirituality Celebrating the life and ministry of Kateri Tekakwitha (1656 – April 17, 1680), a Mohawk-Algonquin woman who is the first Native American to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. She was so recognized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012, over three hundred years after her death.

Saturday, July 22

· Feast of St. Mary Magdalene – Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran Christian churches

Also known as the Penitent, Mary Magdalene is celebrated as one of Jesus' earliest and most faithful disciples, after being healed by him. She is also recognized as a witness to Jesus' death and the first recorded witness of his resurrection on Easter.

Sunday, July 23

· Birthday of Emperor Haile Salassi I – Rastafari

Celebrating the birth of Ras [prince or chief] Tafari Makonnen (1892 – 1975 C.E.), who ruled as Emperor of Ethiopia from 1916 to 1974 (officially from 1930 to 1974), and who is professed by faithful Rasta believers as God incarnate.

· Birthday of Gurū Har Krishan Sahib Ji – Sikhism

Marking the birth of the 8th and youngest of the 11 Sikh Gurūs (1656 – 1664 C.E.) in the Nanakshahi calendar.

· Khordad Sal – Zoroastrianism

The birth anniversary of the prophet Zarathustra (Zoroaster), according to the Qadimi calendar.

Monday, July 24

· Pioneer Day – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Celebrated annually as the anniversary of the entry of LDS pioneers into the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, in Utah in 1847 C.E., after a historic trek across 1,300 miles of wilderness.

Sunday, July 30

· Oharai-taisai – Shinto

A purification ceremony to cleanse believers from offenses committed during the first half of the year. A large ring of woven grasses and reeds is placed at the entrance to Shinto shrines, and people walk through the ring as a symbol of inner purification.

Monday, July 31

· Kamál – Bahá'í

The beginning of the eighth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning “perfection.”

· Tisha B'Av – Judaism

A solemn day of mourning and fasting for the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, as well as other tragedies in Jewish history coinciding with this date, beginning at sundown.

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](http://www.interfaith-calendar.org)

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