



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, September 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 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** at the Marilla Center in Marilla Park for our annual meeting/picnic. This is a potluck dinner. We have invited our city council members, members of the Morgantown Human Rights Commission, and representatives of Morgantown's neighborhood associations as we would like to have a discussion of local social justice issues and ways we can work together to address them. All are welcome.

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, Mylan Park Elementary School Choir, and Morgantown Children's Choir will be among those groups participating, and we plan to cooperate with the NAACP in some way. Janis-Rozena Peri will sing one of Dr. King's favorite songs, "If I Can Help Someone," and Jeremy Thomas will be reading a story about Dr. King as a boy. We always welcome your ideas.

CCSJ AT AREA EVENTS: Janis Peri, Mike Sharley, and Barb Howe represented CCSJ with an information table at the WVU LGBTQ+ Center and Women's Resource Center 2nd Biannual Know Your Resources: Gender Fair on August 24th at the Mountainlair Ballrooms. Susan Brown represented us at the Coordinating Council on Homelessness's Meet Your Neighbor event at the Morgantown Farmers Market Pavilion on August 27th. We appreciate the fact that Eve Faulkes of the Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association allowed us to share their table space.



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, September 21, 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/.

Also, please join members of the commission at the Morgantown City Council Committee of the Whole meeting on Tuesday, September 26, at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall, 389 Spruce Street. Commission members will be making a presentation to revise the city's human rights ordinance to reinstate recognition and protection for the LGBTQ community that was once part of the ordinance and, for some reason, got dropped.

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 September:

September 4 Labor Day – Celebrates the historic struggles of workers in the United States to achieve safer working conditions, shorter hours, and humane restrictions on child labor while contributing to productive economies.

September 8 International Literacy Day – Supports awareness of the importance of persons being able to read and write in order to participate in today's economic, legal, health and social environments.

September 17 Constitution Day and Citizenship Day – Commemorates the ratification in 1787 of the United States Constitution, the organization of government, and rights of citizenship. Also honors all who have become United States citizens.

September 21 International Day of Peace – Calls for continual working for peace and reduction of use of violence in attempting to solve problems among individuals and all levels of human

interaction.



MOUNTAINEERS FOR PROGRESS TOWN HALL ON TRUMP'S BUDGET CUTS IS SEPTEMBER 2ND: Join Mountaineers for Progress at the Morgantown Church of the Brethren, 464 Virginia Ave., from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. “to discuss the proposed Trump budget, which gives massive tax cuts to the wealthy by cutting the basics, like Medicare, Medicaid, and education. We’ll hear from policy experts and local organizations about how the budget would affect our community. Senator Shelley Moore Capito and Congressman David McKinley and the media have been invited. It’s critical that we show up to send a strong message to protect essential services for West Virginians. Limited seats are available – first come, first seated.”



NOW CHAPTER MEETING: Learn about this group’s activities through its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/375050676186301/.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION (GMIA): The next meeting will be Sunday, September 10th, at 4:00 p.m. at Tree of Life Synagogue, 242 South High Street, Morgantown. The GMIA is also planning an Annual Community Event (Adam & Eve in Different 3 Faith Traditions & Science) on October 8th at the First Presbyterian Church as part of WVU’s Diversity Week. The group has a Facebook page that you can find by searching for @MorgantownInterfaithAssociation.



NAACP NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 19TH: 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.



WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES 25TH ANNIVERSARY PEACE TREE CEREMONY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH: This event will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the WVU Peace Tree, across from the Mountainlair. The guest of honor will be Chief Oren Lyons, Traditional Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan and member of the Onondaga Indian Nation Council of Chiefs of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy, Haudenosaunee - People of the Long House. Chief Lyons came to WVU in 1994 for the Peace Tree Ceremony and stated then that, “when you come back here with your grandchildren some day, you will say, ‘This is where I went to a university. We had leaders who came here and planted this tree. You will see how it will grow.’”

At 6:00 p.m. that evening, Chief Lyons will give a **public lecture** in the Blue Ballroom of the Mountainlair. There will be a Welcome Reception, Book & Research Display starting at 5:30 p.m. **All events are free and open to the public.**

The Peace Tree events are made possible by the Carolyn Reyer Visiting Lectureship for Native American Studies, WVU Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, and WVU Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

For more information, please contact the Native American Studies Program at 304-293-4626, go to NAS.WVU.EDU, or email BonnieM.Brown@mail.wvu.edu.

WVU DIVERSITY WEEK 2017: This week of activities will be held October 7-14. The 2017 theme is "One Mountaineer Family." No schedule of activities was yet available at "press time."

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH HOMECOMING TAILGATE OCTOBER 14TH: Join the CBCR annual Homecoming Tailgate for the WVU-Texas Tech game, starting two hours before game time at Mountaineer Field at Milan Puskar Stadium. Enjoy food, drinks, games, and live music from DJ Strizy. More details will be announced later.

WVU CENTER FOR WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES UPCOMING EVENTS: Contact the Center at wgst@mail.wvu.edu for more information about the **September 14th Welcome Potluck for New Faculty** hosted by Delegate Barbara Evans Fleischauer and her husband Bob Bastress, starting at 5:30 p.m.; **October 6th Fireside Chat** at 5:00 p.m.; and **October 11th screening of "Girls Rising,"** a film presented by the US Peace Corps to mark the International Day of the Girl and to highlight the importance of girls' education.



WVU COUNCIL FOR WOMEN'S CONCERNS 30TH ANNUAL WOMEN OF COLOR LUNCHEON OCTOBER 11TH: The luncheon will feature keynote speaker the Honorable Meshea Poore. She is the president of the West Virginia Bar Association, and is the first African American woman to do so.

The event will feature musical entertainment by Janelle Sewell from WVU Human Resources.

This year marks the 40th year of the Council for Women's Concerns.

Doors open at 11 a.m., with the luncheon beginning at 11:30. Tickets are \$18 each may be purchased online at epay.wvsto.com/WVU/WVUCouncilWomenConcerns/default.aspx; tables of 8 or 10 may be reserved for \$144 or \$180, respectively.

For more information, please contact Daniel Brewster at Daniel.Brewster@mail.wvu.edu.

STATE-WIDE EVENTS



FAMILIES LEADING CHANGE FAMILY FEST AND STATEWIDE SUMMIT AT FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY SEPTEMBER 22ND-23RD:

"We hope you and your family will join the fun at our first Families Leading Change Family Fest and Statewide Summit! . . . This will be an interactive, family-friendly 2-day event in the fall where we will hold workshops, have activities for kids, invite lawmakers, and launch our mini-grant program for families that are ready to lead a new effort in their schools.

"Join our over 50 Partners for the Family Fest & State-Wide Summit that include AFT-WV, After School Network, Alliance for Sustainable Families, American Friends Service Committee, Charleston Family Resource Center, Circle of Parents, Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education, Harrison County FRN, HOPE CDC, Kanawha County School Board, KEYS 4 Healthy Kids, Legal Aid of WV, Marion County FRN, Mission West Virginia, Nicholas County Starting Points, Our Children Our Future, Parent Wellness

Network, Step by Step, TEAM for WV Children, The Education Alliance, Try This WV, WV Department of Education, WVU Extension Service, WV Healthy Kids and Families Coalition, WV PTA and more...

Register at actionnetwork.org/groups/ourfuturewv.org and go to the Families Leading Change icon.

"If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Norris at charlotte@ourfuturewv.org.

WOMEN OF APPALACHIA SPOKEN WORD EVENT SEPTEMBER 30TH: WVU will "collaborate to host Women of Appalachia Spoken Word Event."

"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 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)



FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA INSTITUTE'S 2017 "FUEL THE FIGHT" GALA IS NOVEMBER 11TH.

This annual event in Charleston will feature "music and dancing, a selection of wine and beer, and buffet-style gourmet dining" at the University of Charleston's Riggelman Building Rotunda, 2300 MacCorkle Ave. SE. Pastor Donté Jackson of the First Baptist Church in Huntington will be the keynote speaker.

The "Fairness WV Institute is dedicated to education and advocacy on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) West Virginians and their allies. It presents its annual gala each year in the fall to celebrate our progress towards full equality in the Mountain State."

Fairness West Virginia Institute is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions for the gala are tax-deductible minus actual costs.

Registration information is available at fairnesswv.org.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN SEPTEMBER 2017

FROM PETER CLARK

For Native Americans, September marks the season of Genuuqwiikw, the season of mountain trails and the beginning of the fall hunt for game; the Iroquois Green Corn Ceremony, a time of renewal involving dances, fasting, offerings, and readings from the code of Handsome Lake; and the Jicarilla Apache Ghost Dance in New Mexico.

Friday, September 1

· Eid al-Adhá – Islam

This three-day festival of sacrifice begins at sundown and is the concluding act of pilgrimage for Muslims; adherents offer sheep, goats, and camels, whose meat is then distributed to the poor.

· First Parkash – Sikhism

The commemoration of the installation of the Adi Granth, the first edition of the Sikh scriptures, in the Golden Temple by Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh guru, in 1604 C.E.

Monday, September 4

· Ksamavani – Jainism

A day of universal forgiveness, in which Jains ask forgiveness of others for wrongs committed during the previous year, and they also forgive those who have caused them suffering.

Tuesday, September 5

· Anant Chaturdashi – Jainism and Hinduism

For Hindus this day celebrates Anant, one form of Lord Vishnu. If a devout Hindu vows to honor Vishnu and keeps that vow for 14 years, it is believed that she or he will see wealth. This is also the last day of Ganesh Utsav, a 10-day Hindu celebration. Statues of Lord Ganesha are carried to bodies of water to be submerged, accompanied by devotional songs and dancing. Jains celebrate this day with special worship services and processions to the community's main temple.

· Zhōngyuán Jié [Ghost Festival] – Taoism

According to Chinese Taoist belief, this day is when deceased ancestors visit the homes of the living. Families prepare feasts and set tables with empty chairs so that the living and the dead can share the meal together.

Thursday, September 7

· 'Izzat – Bahá'í

The beginning of the tenth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning "might."

· Pitṛ-paksha or Mahalay Paksha – Hinduism

The beginning of a two-week period during which Hindu adherents perform shraddha rites to gratify the spirits of their deceased ancestors, including giving food or other donations as a form of charitable service.

Friday, September 8

· Nativity of the Mother of God [Theotokos] or Birth of the Blessed Virgin – Christianity

This festival celebrates the birth of Mary, the mother of Jesus of Nazareth. In Eastern Orthodox churches she is known by the honorific of Theotokos.

Monday, September 11

· Ethiopian New Year – Rastafari

A sacred day for Rastafarians because they consider Ethiopia to be their spiritual homeland, to which they aspire to return.

Tuesday, September 12

· Ghambar Paitishahem – Zoroastrianism [through Saturday, September 16]

This festival celebrates the creation of the earth and the summer harvest.

Thursday, September 14

· Elevation or Exultation of the Holy Cross – Christianity

This day recognizes the Cross as a symbol of Christ's love for humankind and God's victory over death. It also marks the finding of the Holy Cross by St. Helen after it had been stolen in the 7th century C.E. Orthodox churches begin their commemoration at sundown on the preceding day. In the Ethiopian Orthodox tradition, this day is known as Meskel and is marked on September 27th.

Wednesday, September 20

· Ra's al-Sanat al-Hijriyah: Islamic New Year [First of Muharram] – Islam

Commemorating the migration of the prophet Muhammad and his small band of followers from Mecca to Medina in 622 C.E., in order to escape persecution and to establish the first Muslim community. The Islamic year 1439 begins at sundown.

· Rosh Hashanah begins – Judaism

Beginning at sundown is New Year's Day for the year 5778 and the anniversary of the creation of the world. Jews celebrate Rosh Hashanah with the blowing of the shofar (ram's horn) and apples and honey, marking it as the first of the Ten Days of Awe [or Repentance].

Thursday, September 21

· Navaratra or Navaratri Dusserha – Hinduism

The beginning of a nine-day festival of the divine mother, honoring Shiva's wife Durga and seeking her blessings. It is also observed as a celebration recalling the days of Lord Krishna. Fasting and prayer are practiced.

Friday, September 22 autumn equinox

· Shuki-sorei-sai – Shinto

A memorial service similar to the March equinox service (Shunki-sorei-sai), this day is marked by the cleaning and purification of gravesites and the reverence of ancestors as kami, or divine spirits.

· Ohigon – Buddhism

A celebration of the equinox that is of particular importance to Japanese, Korean, and Tibetan Buddhists. During this festival, the six Paramitas [virtues] are emphasized: generosity, morality, wisdom, honesty, endeavor, and patience.

· Autumn Feast – Native American spirituality

A day to honor the harvest end and the coming and going of the seasons, including prayers, songs, and the telling of tribal stories.

· Mabon [Harvest Home] – Wicca

Marking the second or continuing harvest, this festival celebrates life's encapsulation as a seed to survive the cold winter, as well as the Harvest of the Vine, which symbolizes the divine power to transform the nectar of youth into the wine of elders' wisdom and spiritual maturity.

Sunday, September 24

· Fast of Gedaliah – Judaism

A fast in memory of Gedaliah Ben Ahikam, the governor of Israel during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylonia, who was assassinated in 581 B.C.E. Following his death, the Jews who had returned to Judah fled to Egypt, thus vacating the land of a Jewish presence and completing the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem.

Tuesday, September 26

· Mashí'yyat – Bahá'í

The beginning of the eleventh month of the Bahá'í year, meaning "perfection."

Thursday, September 28

· Birth of Confucius – Confucianism

The birthday of the philosopher Confucius [K'ung-tzu] in 551 B.C.E. in the Chinese state of Lu, known today as Shandong Province.

Friday, September 29

· Yom Kippur [Day of Atonement] – Judaism

The holiest day of the Jewish year. To reestablish their relationship with God, Jews ask for forgiveness and forgive others [Kol Nidre], and then they can confess their sins and ask for divine forgiveness. Prayer and fasting begin at sundown on this day and continue through the following day.

· St. Michael and All Angels – Christianity

A celebration of the archangel Michael and all angels (from the Greek angelos, “divine messenger”) mentioned in the Bible.

Saturday, September 30

· Dashara, Vijaya Dashami, or Dussehra – Hinduism

Celebrates the triumph of Durga, the Divine Mother who manifests fierce compassion, over the forces of evil, as well as commemorating Rama’s victory over the demon Ravana.

· Worldwide General Conference begins – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

This is the largest worship service for Latter-day Saints (also known as Mormons) and lasts for two days. Conference proceedings are broadcast live over the Internet and through other electronic media.

If you want more information about any of these holy days, please contact UCSF Health 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.