



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

**UPDATE: 5 OCTOBER 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, October 10th**, 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](mailto: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](mailto:ccsjwv@hotmail.com). Please send items to share with our membership to Barb Howe at [barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu](mailto: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:** Thirty-four people attended our annual meeting on September 17th, with plenty of good food and thoughtful conversation. Morgantown Mayor Bill Kawecki, Deputy Mayor Mark Brazaitis, and City Council members Ron Dulaney and Barry Wendell attended, along with representatives of the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living, Morgantown Human Rights commission, Morgantown Police Department, League of Women Voters, Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, and Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association. We discussed issues related to accessibility, affordable housing, and the upcoming changes to the Human Rights Commission ordinance, among other topics. Council members encouraged everyone to reach out “beyond the choir” to community groups, write letters to the editor for the *Dominion Post*, and call in to WAJR to discuss our issues.

**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](mailto: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:** We will have a table at the Native American Studies Program's events listed below on the evening of October 10th.



**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, October 19th, 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/).

Also, please join members of the commission at the Morgantown City Council meeting on Tuesday, October 19th, at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall, 389 Spruce Street.

This will be the public hearing and second reading of the ordinance to amend the current human rights commission ordinance, adding protection based on gender identity, sexual orientation, and veteran status. It also gives the commission more authority to act on complaints. The ordinance was presented at the September 16th Committee of the Whole meeting to a large audience of supporters and numerous eloquent speakers, all speaking in favor of the ordinance. Mike Attfield spoke on behalf of CCSJ to express our support. The first reading of the ordinance was on October 3rd. Again there was a large crowd of supporters and no visible opposition, in spite of concerns the busloads of opponents who had appeared elsewhere might be in town.

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 October:**

**LGBT History Month** – Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the United States.

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month** – A time for celebrating the strength of battered women and their children and for connecting those working to end violence against women and children.

**National Crime Prevention Month** - Special awareness for the practice of crime prevention as well as victimization, volunteerism, and the need to create safer more connected neighborhoods and communities.

October 1 International Day of Older Persons – Appreciates the contributions which older persons in diverse situations make to their communities and recognizes the need for opportunities for willing and capable persons of advanced age to participate in and be celebrated for their action in society.

October 12 Indigenous People Day (Native American Day) – Celebrates and honors Native American history and culture.

October 15 World Food Day – A day for awareness of the need for greater equity in access to food production and distribution locally, statewide, nationally and internationally.

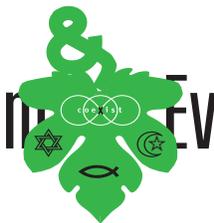
October 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.

October 24 United Nations Day – Commemorates the founding of the United Nations in 1945.

October 31 World Cities Day – “The human future is largely an urban future. We must get right the reduction of greenhouse emissions, strengthening resilience, ensuring basic services such as water and sanitation, and designing safe public streets and spaces for all to share.” (UN Sec. Gen.)



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



**Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association Community Event (Adam & Eve in Different 3 Faith Traditions & Science) is October 8th:** Join GMIA for the 3rd Coexist public lecture, finger food potluck, ethnic foods, and dialogue. People will be joining in interfaith discussion as we continue to explore ways that we are more alike than different, and to share values needed for building community. This event will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on Spruce Street as part of WVU’s Diversity Week.

The event is sponsored by the Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association, “where we believe that learning about one another’s traditions empowers understanding and social justice, and where all faith traditions, including atheism are welcome at the table.” For questions, please contact Yasmeen at 304-685-6111. The group has a Facebook page that you can find by searching for @MorgantownInterfaithAssociation.

The GMIA is also sponsoring an Interfaith **Candlelight Vigil in Solidarity with Las Vegas Victims on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Zackquill Morgan statue (corner of Spruce and Wall Street outside the Spruce Street garage).**

The GMIA sent this notice: “Join leaders of different faith traditions for a candle light vigil as we come together to provide prayers for the close to 60 individuals who lost their life, the over 500 injured, and the thousands more suffering trauma as a result of the mass shooting in Las Vegas. As we search for meaning in this tragedy, join faith leaders who will lead our community in prayers of mourning and prayers for action—mourning for those lost and action and courage on the part of our elected officials who can help prevent the next tragedy.”

This event is open to everyone. It “is designed to get beyond our political divides and all are welcome, including members of all or no political parties. In addition to mourning, we will pray for sensible solutions that have been proposed by leaders across our faiths.

GMIA will bring candles, “but you’re also encouraged to bring your own. If you choose to bring signs, please ensure that they are respectful.

It is up to you to decide to bring children. “We will be mourning deaths and, depending on the age of your child, you may not be comfortable with them hearing about that. None of our speakers will go into the gory details of the tragedy.”

You can help before the event by spreading the word.



**NAACP NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 17TH:** 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](http://NAS.WVU.EDU), or email [BonnieM.Brown@mail.wvu.edu](mailto: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." A schedule of selected activities is available at [wvutoday.wvu.edu/stories/2017/10/02/-one-mountaineer-family-to-be-theme-of-2017-diversity-week](http://wvutoday.wvu.edu/stories/2017/10/02/-one-mountaineer-family-to-be-theme-of-2017-diversity-week).

**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 information is available at [cbc.wvu.edu/events/the-cbcr-homecoming-tailgate-2017](http://cbc.wvu.edu/events/the-cbcr-homecoming-tailgate-2017).

**WVU CENTER FOR WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES UPCOMING EVENTS:** Contact the Center at [wgst@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:wgst@mail.wvu.edu) for more information about the **October 6th Fireside Chat, Undergraduate Research Colloquium** at 6:00 p.m. in Room 130, Colson Hall; **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, at 4:00 p.m. in Wise Library, room 104; and **October 25th showing of "12th and Delaware,"** about the abortion debate in America, at 6:00 p.m. in the WVU Mountainlair Gluck Theatre.



**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](http://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](mailto:Daniel.Brewster@mail.wvu.edu).



The **League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County** is sponsoring a public meeting on **Election Protocols on Wednesday, October 18th** at 7:00 p.m. at the Aull Center, 351 Spruce St., Morgantown. Donald "Deak" Kersey, director and deputy legal counsel from the West Virginia Secretary of State's office, will speak and address questions related to voting issues in the state. Topics to be covered include voter roll clean-up, Motor Vehicle registration, and security of our voter

machines.



**Mon County Child Advocacy Center (MCCAC) "Be Bold. Strike a Pose!"** MCCAC is offering a free Community Yoga Class for Children! According to the email, "We all have ways to relieve the stress of everyday life. We hope to show children in our community that yoga can be a powerful technique they can utilize to center themselves in stressful moments.

"Our Community Yoga Class for Children will promote positive body awareness and self-esteem, equip children with relaxation techniques, and provide an opportunity for children to take part in a healthy, noncompetitive group activity.

“Children of all ages are welcome! Our first Community Yoga Class for Children will take place on Thursday, October 12 at 6 pm at our child-friendly Center located at 909 Greenbag Road.” To register, call (304) 598-0344 or email [mccac\\_dc@comcast.net](mailto:mccac_dc@comcast.net).

### STATE-WIDE EVENTS



#### **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](http://fairnesswv.org).

### RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN OCTOBER 2017

#### FROM PETER CLARK

#### OBSERVING LGBT HISTORY MONTH

For Native Americans, October marks the season of the Cherokee Green Corn Ceremony and the season of Xlaaw, the season to put up food for the coming winter.

Sunday, October 1

- World Communion Sunday – Christianity
- ‘Āshūrā’ – Islam

Sunni Muslims celebrate this day as the anniversary of Noah’s departure from the Ark on Mount Ararat and the freedom of the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. Shi’a Muslims mark this date as the anniversary of the martyrdom of Husayn, the Prophet Muhammad’s grandson, in 680 C.E.

Monday, October 2

- Jashan-e Mehregan – Zoroastrianism

A celebratory festival of friendship, righteousness and justice.

Wednesday, October 4

· Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi – Christianity

A celebration of the patron saint of animals and ecology and the founder of the Franciscan Roman Catholic religious order, known for its ethic of simplicity and service. Many Christians mark this festival by bringing their animal companions to churches for a blessing.

· Sukkot [Festival of Tabernacles] begins – Judaism

Also known as the Festival of Booths and the Harvest Festival, Jews celebrate this time as a pilgrimage feast and time of thanksgiving. The booths or huts remind Jews of the tents used by the Israelites during their years wandering in the wilderness, as well as the dwellings used by Jewish farmers at harvest time.

Thursday, October 5

· Bodhidharma Memorial – Buddhism

This day celebrates the monk (5th – 6th centuries C.E.) who emigrated from India and is credited with transmitting Ch’an [Zen] Buddhism to China.

Friday, October 6

· Pavarana – Buddhism

This day is the end of the three-month Vassa or rains retreat observed by Theravadin Buddhist monks.

Sunday, October 8

· Karwa Chauth – Hinduism

A day of fasting for married women, in which they dress like new brides and offer prayers for the long lives and safety of their husbands. Husbands offer sweets to their spouses at the end of the fast, once the moon is sighted.

· Atmasiddhi Rachna Divas (Creation Day) – Jainism

On this day Jains celebrate that, in 1896, the poet Shrimad Rajchandra-ji (who was a spiritual guide for Mohandas Gandhi) wrote the legendary treatise Shri Atmasiddhi Shastra, which explains the quintessence of Jainism.

Wednesday, October 11

· Shemini Atzeret [Eighth Day of Assembly] – Judaism

This eighth day of Sukkot [Festival of Tabernacles] features prayers for rain and a good harvest in the coming year. It begins at sundown.

Thursday, October 12

- Ghambar Ayathrem – Zoroastrianism [through Monday, October 16]

This festival celebrates the creation of plants, the sowing of winter crops, and herds' return from pasture.

- Simchat Torah – Judaism

This festival, also known as “Rejoicing with the Law,” marks the end of Sukkot and the completion of the Torah reading cycle with the beginning of reading the first book again. Jews celebrate this day by singing, dancing, and marching around the synagogue or temple with Torah scrolls. This festival begins at sundown.

Friday, October 13

- Nichiren Shonin Memorial – Buddhism

This day celebrates the monk (1222 – 1282 C.E.) who encouraged his followers to devote themselves to the Lotus Sūtra as the exclusive means to enlightenment.

Sunday, October 15

- ‘Ilm – Bahá’í

The beginning of the twelfth month of the Bahá’í year, meaning “knowledge.”

Tuesday, October 17

- Birth of Gurū Ram Das – Sikhism

This date in the Nanakshahi tradition celebrates the birth of the 4th Sikh gurū (1534 – 1581 C.E.), who is remembered for organizing the structure of Sikh society and for composing a four-stanza hymn that is the basis of many Sikh wedding ceremonies.

Thursday, October 19

- Diwali (Deepavali) – Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism

The festival of lights and Hinduism’s most popular festival. It is dedicated to the Goddess Kali in Bengal and to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, in the rest of India. Diwali is also associated with stories of the destruction of evil by the god Vishnu in one of his many forms, as well as with the coronation of Sri Rama. Sweets and gifts are exchanged, and it is a time for cleaning and preparing for the future. This festival is also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains, with this day bearing additional names and significance as shown immediately below.

- Bandi Chhor Divas – Sikhism

Called “the day of the prisoner’s release,” this festival marks the return of the sixth gurū, Sri Hargobind Ji, and 52 other princes with him to the holy city of Amritsar after being released from detention in 1619 C.E.

· Mahavira Nirvana – Jainism

On this day Jains celebrate that the soul of Lord Mahavir (6th century B.C.E.), the 24th Tirthankara, attained nirvana and release from the cycle of rebirth [moksha].

Friday, October 20

· Installation of the Gurū Granth Sahib – Sikhism

This date in the Nanakshahi tradition celebrates the transmission of the gurūship to the Holy Scriptures (the Gurū Granth Sahib Ji) by the tenth gurū, Gobind Singh Ji.

Saturday, October 21

· Birth of the Báb — Bahá’í

Anniversary of the birth of the Báb, one of the twin Prophet founders of the Bahá’í faith, in 1819 C.E. His nineteen disciples, known as Letters of the Living, taught his religion throughout 19th century Persia. His shrine is located in Haifa, Israel. Bahá’ís suspend work on this day.

Sunday, October 22

· Birth of the Bahá’u’lláh — Bahá’í

Anniversary of the birth of the Bahá’u’lláh (“Glory of God”), the founder of the Bahá’í faith, in Tehran, Persia [modern-day Iran], in 1817 C.E. Devout followers suspend work on this day; some begin their observance of the day on the previous day’s sundown.

Tuesday, October 24

· United Nations Day

· Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Gurū Tegh Bahadur Ji – Sikhism

This day commemorates the martyrdom of the ninth of the Ten Sikh Gurūs (1621-1675 C.E.). He is remembered for defending the Sikh faith, as well as the rights of Hindus and the cause of religious liberty.

Wednesday, October 25

· Jnana Panchami – Jainism

On this fifth day of the Jain new year, some believers begin a 36-hour fast and offer prayers and rituals in order to seek right knowledge and transcendent wisdom.

Monday, October 30

· Maunajiyaras – Jainism

A day of fasting, silence, and meditation on the five holy beings: monks, teachers, religious leaders, Arihants or Jinas (enlightened masters), and Siddhas (liberated souls). This day is also marked as the birth anniversary of many Tirthankaras or Pathfinders.

Tuesday, October 31 Halloween

· Reformation Day – Christianity [Protestant churches]

This day commemorates October 31, 1517 C.E., when Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany, eventually leading to the Protestant Reformation in Europe. Most Protestant Christian churches will mark this on Sunday, October 29th.

· Samhain – Wicca

Celebration of the Celtic New Year. The dying God returns to the womb of the Goddess in preparation for rebirth at Yule. The souls of ancestors and those who have died during the turning of the past year's wheel are remembered. Vegan Wiccans harvest nuts, the kernels of which symbolize wisdom.

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](http://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.