



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: 3 NOVEMBER 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, November 14th**, at **6:30 p.m.** in the **Conference 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. Beginning in December, we will be moving back to the meeting room at Panera's on Patteson Drive.

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.

MLK DAY 2018 IS JANUARY 15TH: We are finalizing plans for our twelfth annual MLK Day event! We again very much appreciate the financial support from the City of Morgantown and Rachel Wood of Virtus Wealth Solutions 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. Mayor Bill Kawecki will provide a welcome. 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.



We will again be collecting donations for the Scott’s Run Settlement House Backpack Feeding Program that provides food for area school children over the weekend. According to the Scott’s Run settlement House web site, this program started in 2011 at Mylan Park Elementary with 212 children and now serves 839 children at nine schools: Brookhaven, Cheat Lake, Mason-Dixon, Mountainview, Mylan Park, North, and Suncrest Elementary Schools, South Middle School, and University High School. Sample foods needed are individual servings of graham crackers, animal crackers, cereal boxes, fruit snacks, Jell-O, ravioli soup, and applesauce. You can find a link to a complete list and more information at srsh-org.doodlekit.com/home/backpack_snack_program.

CCSJ AT AREA EVENTS: We had a table at the Native American Studies Program’s event on the evening of October 10th. We spoke in favor of the revised Morgantown Human Rights Commission ordinance at the October 17th city council meeting and encouraged city council to take a lead in revising the state legislation to include protection for the LGBTQ community.



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, November 16th, 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/.

There was another wonderful city council meeting on October 17th to support the revised Human Rights Commission ordinance with a large crowd of supporters. For the first time, several people spoke in opposition, but the ordinance easily passed 7-0.

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 November:

Month Native American Heritage Month – Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans in the United States.

November 2 International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists – A day to emphasize that information is essential for decision making whether it be economic, social or political. Information is the cornerstone for democracy, good government and effective institutions. During the past decade 700 journalists have been killed worldwide. 6

November 6 Election Day – A day set by United States law for citizens to exercise the right to vote in the election of public officials.

November 9 Day against Racism – A call for global action against intolerance and its attendant violence as well as enhancement of communal and national tolerance, fairness, and mutual respect.

November 13 World Kindness Day – Calls for special deliberate efforts to treat others with kindness and even to exceed the rights which people can expect or hope to be honored in their relationships with others.

November 16 International Day for Tolerance – Emphasizes the dangers of intolerance and is a call for action for the advancement of human welfare, freedom, and progress everywhere, as well as a day to encourage tolerance, respect dialogue, and cooperation among different cultures and peoples.

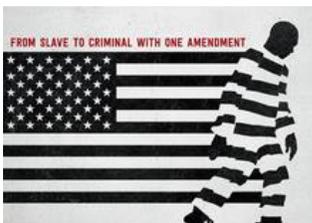
November 20 Universal Children’s Day – The world-wide day for promoting mutual exchange and understanding among children and for initiating action to benefit and promote the welfare of the world’s children.

November 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women – A day for emphasizing awareness that violence against women is a preventable human rights violation based on discrimination against women and a perception of inequalities between men and women.

November 23 Thanksgiving Day – Following a 19th Century tradition, this day commemorates the Pilgrim’s harvest feast in the autumn of 1621 and their successful interdependence with Native Americans making the feast possible.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION MEETING NOVEMBER 5TH: The next meeting will be Sunday, November 5th at 4:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 429 Warrick Street, Morgantown. Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/.



FILM SCREENING OF 13TH NOVEMBER 9TH AT UU FELLOWSHIP: This film will be shown at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Morgantown from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Fellowship is located at 429 Warrick Street in Morgantown. The 2016 film is by Ava DuVernay, director of *Selma*. According to Wikipedia, “The film explores the ‘intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States;’ it is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United

States Constitution, which freed the slaves and prohibited slavery (unless as punishment for a crime).

“The documentary opens with an audio clip of former President Barack Obama stating that the US has five percent of the world's population but twenty-five percent of the world's prisoners. DuVernay contends that slavery has been perpetuated in practices since the end of the American Civil War through such actions as criminalizing behavior and enabling police to arrest poor freedmen and force them to work for the state under convict leasing; suppression of

African Americans by disenfranchisement, lynchings and Jim Crow; politicians declaring a war on drugs that weigh more heavily on minority communities and, by the late 20th century, mass incarceration of people of color in the United States. She examines the prison-industrial complex and the emerging detention-industrial complex, demonstrating how much money is being made by corporations from such incarcerations.

"13th has garnered acclaim from film critics. It was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature at the 89th Academy Awards, and won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Special at the 69th Primetime Emmy Awards."

For more information, call 304-292-8842.



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



HANDMAID'S PROTEST FOR INTERSECTIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS IS NOVEMBER 15TH: This event will be held at the WVU Mountainlair from 3:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. According to the Facebook page:

"Inspired by our sisters from Diverse and United and Women's March WV, Jefferson and Berkeley County Huddles, Mountaineers for Progress, Morgantown National Organization for Women, Planned Parenthood,

and other community partners are holding a rally to support intersectional women's rights.

"We believe that Women's Rights are Human Rights and Human Rights are Women's Rights. We must create a society in which women - including Black women, Native women, poor women, immigrant women, disabled women, Muslim women, lesbian queer and trans women - are free and able to care for and nurture their families, however they are formed, in safe and healthy environments free from structural impediments.

"Let's join together and loudly call out the sexism and anti-women policies of our current administration - or risk starring in a real-life version of "The Handmaid's Tale." This is a key moment for women to resist - rising up and boldly demonstrating that a society where women are treated as anything but equals will not be tolerated.

"To register/sign up for a handmaid's uniform please contact: megansmith.mls@gmail.com."



NAACP NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 21ST: 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 CENTER FOR WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES FAIR NOVEMBER 28TH: Contact the Center at wgst@mail.wvu.edu for more information about this event in the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

NORTHERN WEST VIRGINIA CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING PROMOTES ACA OPEN ENROLLMENT: The NWCIL has posted this information from the Bureau of Behavioral Health and Health Facilities, with more information at nwcil.org/: "West Virginians who need to enroll, re-enroll or switch health insurance plans through the Health Insurance Marketplace at www.healthcare.gov should note that the annual open enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace opens today and will be open a total of six weeks. It will run from Nov. 1, 2017 through Dec. 15, 2017.

"Consumers not covered by an employer-sponsored or a public plan can compare and enroll in individual health insurance plans via online exchanges operated via the federal government.

An abbreviated list of "THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

"• Procrastinators, beware. The 2018 healthcare.gov open enrollment period is Nov. 1 – Dec. 15, 2017, with coverage beginning Jan. 1, 2018.

"• Need help? Call the West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner Consumer Services at 1-888-879-9842, TTY 1-800-435-7381."

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.



OUR CHILDREN, OUR FUTURE LOOKING FOR INPUT ON POLICY/ISSUE PLATFORM:

Our Children, Our Future (OCOF) is soliciting input into its platform for the 2018 West Virginia legislative session. Recent victories including "the second chance for employment act" and "pushing for comprehensive substance abuse curriculum/training for all K-12 students." The deadline to submit ideas is November 10th at 5:00 p.m. The link embedded in email soliciting ideas is not easy to access otherwise, so send your ideas to Chris Kimes at ckimeshkfc@gmail.com. OCOF will hold its annual meeting in Charleston on December 7th, and you are welcome to attend and speak for your issue.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN NOVEMBER 2017

FROM PETER CLARK

Observing Native American Heritage Month

For Native Americans, November marks Gwilatkw, the blanket season of the first snow, in which the Earth covers herself for her winter sleep.

Wednesday, November 1

· All Saints Day – Christianity [Western churches]

A commemoration of the lives of people, known and unknown, whose holiness and compassion toward others represent the best Christian virtues. In some Christian traditions, the following day is reserved for intercessions for the dead and is known as All Souls' Day. Latino/a people in North and Central America mark these days in connection with celebrations of Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead.

Thursday, November 2

· Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I – Rastafari

Because Rastafarians recognize Haile Selassie (born Ras Tafari Makonnen in 1892; died in 1975) as an incarnation of God and a messiah who will lead the peoples of Africa and the African Diaspora to freedom, peace, and prosperity, his coronation day as Emperor of Ethiopia in 1930 is remembered as a major festival.

Friday, November 3

· Qudrat – Bahá'í

The beginning of the thirteenth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning "power."

Saturday, November 4

· Gurū Nanak's Birthday – Sikhism

Sikhs commonly celebrate the birthday of their founder, Gurū Nanak Dev Ji, on the full moon day of Kartik, even though the guru's biographers record his birth on April 15, 1469 C.E. A poet and mystic, Guru Nanak wrote 974 hymns that are included in the Sikh scriptures, known as the Gurū Granth Sahib.

· Lokasha Jayanti – Jainism

Celebrating the births of revered and scholarly persons, such as the 15th century reformer Lonka Saha, whose opposition to temple worship and the use of images led to the founding of the Sthanakavasi sect.

Religious Holy Days in November 2017

(continued)

Tuesday, November 14

- The Advent (or Nativity) Fast – Christianity (Eastern churches)

The beginning of a forty-day vegetarian fast in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) commences at sundown. For Orthodox Christians who follow the old calendar, this fast begins two weeks later.

Tuesday, November 21

- Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Christianity (Catholic churches)
- Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple – Christianity (Eastern churches)

This day commemorates the entrance of the three-year-old Virgin Mary into the temple at Jerusalem to receive an education and begin her life of absolute dedication to God. According to some apocryphal writings, Mary also entered the Temple's Holy of Holies on this occasion, thus becoming the first and only woman ever to enter that sacred space.

Wednesday, November 22

- Qawl – Bahá'í

The beginning of the fourteenth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning "speech."

Thursday, November 23

- Thanksgiving Day

This national holiday was first officially observed after a proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, in 1863 C.E. Establishing the fourth Thursday of November for the observance, Lincoln wrote that "[The blessings enjoyed in this country] are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People."

Saturday, November 25

- Day of the Covenant – Bahá'í

A celebration of the appointment of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the son of Bahá'u'lláh, as the Center of the Covenant in New York City in 1912 C.E. Devout followers begin their remembrance the preceding evening and do not suspend work on this day.

Sunday, November 26

· Christ the King Sunday – Christianity (Western churches)

This feast day commemorates Jesus' teaching that he will return at the end of time to judge humanity. In the Western Christian liturgical year, this is the last Sunday; the following Sunday (i.e., the first Sunday of Advent) marks the beginning of a new year.

Monday, November 27

· Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá – Bahá'í

The commemoration of the death of the Center of the Covenant in Haifa, Palestine, in 1921 C.E. Devout followers begin their remembrance the preceding evening and are allowed to work on this day.

Wednesday, November 29

· Mawlid al-Nabi – Islam

The anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad in Mecca in ca. 570 C.E., observed by Sunni Muslims beginning at sundown. Shi'a Muslims celebrate five days later, on December 4th.

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.