



Community Coalition for Social Justice
PO Box 160
Morgantown, WV 26507-0160
ccsjwv@hotmail.com
www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: 1 DECEMBER 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, December 12**, at **6:30 p.m.** in the meeting room at **Panera's on Patteson Drive**. We have now moved our meetings back to this location.

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 TO BE HONORED BY MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The Morgantown Human Rights Commission has chosen CCSJ to be the recipient of its 2017 organizational Human Rights Day Award. The award will be presented at the meeting of the Morgantown City Council in City Hall (389 Spruce Street) on Tuesday, December 19th, at 7:00 p.m. There will then be a reception at the Aull Center next door. Please join us, and thank you to the Human Rights Commission for this recognition!

MLK DAY 2018 IS JANUARY 15TH: We have finalized 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, and the assistance of Barb Watkins of Main Street Morgantown in publicizing the 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.

There will be music in the lobby before the event. Mayor Bill Kawecki will welcome us. The Flying Colors, Community Orchestra, Mylan Park Elementary School Choir, and Morgantown Children's Choir will perform, and we will welcome the winners of the NAACP-Greater St. Paul AME Church Multimedia Essay Contest as participants. 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. Look for posters by art students from St. Francis Central Catholic School in downtown businesses to promote the event.

CCSJ will also have social justice-themed bumper stickers and buttons for sale. The League of Women Voters and Morgantown Human Rights Commission will have information tables in the lobby, and the League will have information available about the new West Virginia voter i.d. law that will then be in effect.



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.



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, December 21st, 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/.

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 December:

December 2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery – Slavery is not just history, as it affects over 30 million persons throughout the world today. Its roots are in discrimination, poverty and indebtedness, vulnerability, and the rule of law.

December 3 International Day of Disabled Persons – Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.

December 10 International Human Rights Day – On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

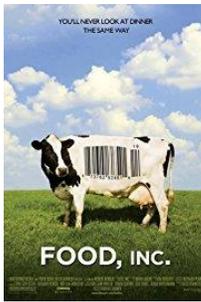
December 16 Bill of Rights Day – Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791 – including the First Amendment Rights of religion, association, speech, petition, and press.

December 18 International Migrants Day – A day to affirm commitment to diverse and open societies which provide opportunities and lives of dignity for all migrants.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION MEETING NOVEMBER 5TH: The next meeting will be Sunday, December 3rd at 4:00 p.m. at the Islamic Center of Morgantown, 434 Harding Ave. Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/.

UU FELLOWSHIP CIVICS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM SERIES: All films will be on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 429 Warrick Street, Morgantown. Here is the schedule with details about the December films:



December 14: "Food Inc.," (Kenner, 2009) – “An unflattering look inside America's corporate controlled food industry.” This is documentary rated PG. It is 1 hour 34 minutes long.

December 28: "The Bad Kids," (Fulton and Pepe, 2016) – “At a remote Mojave Desert high school, extraordinary educators believe that, more than academics, it is love, empathy and life skills that give at-risk students command of their own futures. This coming-of-age story watches education combat the crippling effects of poverty on the

lives of these so-called ‘bad kids’.”

“The Bad Kids is an observational documentary that chronicles one extraordinary principal’s mission to realize the potential of these students whom the system has deemed lost causes. Employing a verité approach during a year at the school, our film follows Principal Vonda Viland as she coaches three at-risk teens—a new father who can’t support his family, a young woman grappling with sexual abuse, and an angry young man from an unstable home—through the traumas and obstacles that rob them of their spirit and threaten their goal of a high school diploma.”

January 11: "Happy," (Belic, 2011)

January 25: "The Look of Silence," (Oppenheimer, 2015)

February 8: "Fed Up," (Soechtig, 2014)

February 22: "Minimalism: A Documentary About Important Things," (D'Avella, 2016)

March 8: "Living on One Dollar," (Temple, Ingrasci, Leonard, 2012)

March 22: "Miss Representation," (Neusome Siebel, 2011)

April 12: "Awake: A Dream From Standing Rock," (Fox, Spione, Dewey, 2017)

April 26: "Life Itself," (James, 2014)

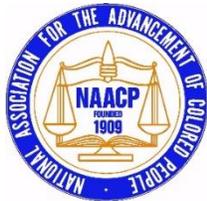
May 10: "The Square," (Noujaim, 2017)

May 24: "Sustainable," (Weschler, 2016)

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/.



NAACP NEXT MEETING DECEMBER 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.



JANUARY 14, 2018 MLK, JR. MULTIMEDIA ESSAY CONTEST

2018 Theme: Rivers of Pride - Personal Stories About the Impact of the Civil Rights Movement and African Americans in West Virginia

The Morgantown/Kingwood NAACP, and Greater St Paul AME Church, are providing students at elementary, middle, and high school levels, the opportunity to participate in a multimedia essay competition based on the theme for 2018. There will be a cash prize for the winning essay from each of the three grade levels, and all notable entries will receive honorable mention. Entries must be based on the student's research and a personal or phone interview with a senior citizen either known to the student or selected from a list of notable local citizens that will be provided. Entries must include a minimum 300 words and can be supplemented by artwork, photography, and video. Entries should be submitted electronically to morgantown.naacp3241@gmail.com by email or mailed to MLK Essay Contest, Debbie Robinson, 1223 Vista Del Rio Drive, 26508. **All entries must be submitted by December 15, 2017 11:59 PM (postmarked by December 13, 2017).**

The entry form will be available on our website at www.ccsjwv.org or email Debbie Robinson at naacp.morgantown3241@gmail.com



WVU HARRIET E. LYON PROFESSORSHIP IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH: "Applications are invited for the Harriet E. Lyon Professorship in Women's and Gender Studies. The professorship is named in honor of the first woman to graduate from WVU, and it was endowed in honor of Judith Gold Stitzel, founding director of the WVU Center for Women's and Gender Studies. The professorship is designed to support the dissemination of knowledge sensitive to gender and which places women's concerns, ideas, perspectives and interests at the center of the scholarly and teaching enterprise. More information is available at

[eberly.wvu.edu/faculty-and-staff/open-professorships.](http://eberly.wvu.edu/faculty-and-staff/open-professorships)"



THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN WV, 2017 PRESENTATION THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 6:00 TO 7:30 P.M.

The ACLU of West Virginia is sponsoring this event in the Shenandoah Room of the WVU Mountainlair. The email announcing the event says: "Immigrant communities are feeling under attack nationally and right here in West Virginia. Policies being implemented in DC – the Muslim travel bans, revoking Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), turning away refugees and increasing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity – have all had a major impact on our immigrant neighbors across the Mountain State.

"Join us . . . for a panel discussion on the immigrant experience in West Virginia in the year 2017. Hear the stories of those who have been personally impacted by the rapidly changing and punitive immigration policies in our country. And learn what you can do to make a difference." RSVP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ACLUWV/.

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 nwvcil.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 runs through December 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](http://www.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



Our Children, Our Future ----- **Try This** ----- **Young WV** -----
- **Healthy Bodies, Healthy Spirits** ----- **Safety Net Campaign** -----
- **Families Leading Change**

Working together for a common vision: To make WV the best place in the world to live, work, and raise a family - no matter who you are.

"YOU are a part of this movement! We hope you'll join us all for our biggest gathering of the year:

Thursday, December 7th, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Christ Church United Methodist, Charleston. Lunch is provided.

“There's something for everyone, whether you want to dig deeper into the work you do or get involved in something new! Here's what we have planned:

Workshops

* Learn how to build people-power through projects, house parties, canvassing, engaging faith communities and more!

* Talk about justice & privilege; how all of our issues are woven together; and developing a message that resonates with different groups.

Your Voice Counts!

* VOTE for the issues that OCOF will work on in 2018! Every year teams submit proposals and everyday West Virginians decide the top issues.

* Opportunities to register for Kids and Families' Day at the Capitol and/or a workshop near you!

State Policy

* Community teams from across the state will present their platform proposals!

* Hear Legislators' predictions about the big topics in the 2018 session & what the state budget will look like.

To register or for more information, email Carey Jo Grace at careyjo@ourfuturewv.org.

KANAWHA VALLEY NOW MEETING DECEMBER 13TH: Those who may be in Charleston that day are invited to the reconvened Kanawha Valley NOW potluck 5:30 p.m. in the WVFREE offices on the third floor of the YWCA; free parking is adjacent to the building. The group will be focusing on the upcoming legislative session.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN DECEMBER 2017

FROM PETER CLARK

For Native Americans of the Zuni tribe in New Mexico, December marks the time of the Shalako Kochina Ceremony. For other aboriginal tribes, this is the season when the river freezes and the land sleeps, known as Luut'aa.

Friday, December 1

· 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 6th.

Sunday, December 3

· First Sunday of Advent (hope) – Christianity (Western churches)

· Sanghamittā Day – Buddhism

Celebrating the anniversary of the arrival of King Asoka's daughter Sanghamittā, who founded an order of nuns in Sri Lanka and carried with her a branch of the original tree under which the historical Buddha

found enlightenment (it still survives in the ancient capital of Anuradhapura). This festival occurs on the full moon day in December.

Friday, December 8

- Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) – Buddhism

Celebration of the time when Prince Gautama (also later known as Shakyamuni Buddha) took his place under the Bodhi tree, vowing to remain there until he attained supreme enlightenment.

- Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Catholic Christianity

A Roman Catholic holiday celebrating the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin for her entire life.

Sunday, December 10

- Human Rights Day

While not a religious festival, this day marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, including Article 18 which states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.”

Sunday, December 10

- Second Sunday of Advent (peace) – Christianity (Western churches)

Monday, December 11

- Masá'il – Bahá'í

The beginning of the fifteenth month of the Bahá'í year; its name means “questions.”

Tuesday, December 12

- Chanukah [Hanukkah] begins (through December 20) – Judaism

The Jewish Festival of Lights commemorates the Maccabean victory over Syrian-Greek oppressors and the recapture and re-dedication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165 B.C.E. Special readings and praise songs focus on liberty and freedom. The eight-candle Menorah is lit at sundown, and gifts are given.

- Feast Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe – Catholic Christianity

Commemorating the appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531 C.E. Juan Diego, a native American living during the Spanish conquest of Mexico, saw a vision of the Virgin Mary. He was told to build a church in her honor exactly where he stood, and in that spot the Basilica of Guadalupe was erected. Thousands of pilgrims from all over the world travel to that church every year and venerate

the icon of the Virgin that is there, imprinted on Diego's cloak; it is believed that Our Lady of Guadalupe can intercede with God so that faithful believers' prayers can be answered, and miracles can occur. She is also the patron saint of Mexico.

Friday, December 15

- Bill of Rights Day

While not a religious festival, this day marks the signing into law of the ten original amendments to the United States Constitution in 1791, including the First Amendment that protects citizens' freedoms of speech and of religious expression.

Saturday, December 16

- Posadas Navideñas begins (through December 25) – Christianity (Western churches)

A Latino/Latina Christian feast of the Lodgings, commemorating the journey of Mary and Joseph toward Bethlehem in preparation for the birth of Jesus.

Sunday, December 17

- Third Sunday of Advent (joy) – Christianity (Western churches)

Thursday, December 21 winter solstice

- Winter Feast – Native American spirituality

A time when Native Americans of the Woodland tribes share food with the spirits of winter.

- Yaldā – Zoroastrianism

The “night of birth” which marks the longest night of the year, after which days begin getting longer—thus symbolizing the victory of light and goodness over dark and evil. This festival is celebrated with storytelling, poetic readings, family reunions, and feasting.

- Yule – Wicca

A celebration symbolizing the rebirth of the sun by the Goddess. A present-day Wicca event that ritually marks the shedding of the dross of the past year and contemplating one's future spiritual development.

- Tohji-Taisai [Grand Ceremony of the Winter Solstice] – Shintō

This day marks the end of the sun's decline (the yin period) and the beginning of its growth (the yang period). In Japanese spirituality, the sun is expressive of Amaterasu Omikami, the sun goddess and guiding spirit of the Japanese people.

Saturday, December 23

- Birthday of the Prophet Joseph Smith – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Commemorating the birth of Joseph Smith, Jr., in 1805 C.E. in Vermont. He translated what became known as the Book of Mormon and became the first president of the LDS Church when it was founded in 1830 in Fayette, New York.

Sunday, December 24

- Fourth Sunday of Advent (love) – Christianity (Western churches)
- Christmas Eve – Christianity (Western and Eastern churches)

Celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. It is observed with worship, carols, candle lighting, manger scenes and festive meals.

Monday, December 25

- Christmas Day/Feast of the Nativity – Christianity (Western and Eastern churches)

Celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts, and family parties.

Tuesday, December 26

- St. Stephen's Day – Christianity

Remembrance of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

- Kwanzaa begins (through January 1) – African American heritage

A seven-day festival that celebrates values highly regarded by people of African American ancestry. The values include umoja (unity), kujichagulia (self-determination), ujima (collective work and responsibility), ujamaa (cooperative economics), nia (purpose), kuumba (creativity), and imani (faith). Each of these principles, collectively known as the Nguzo Saba, is represented by a red or green candle, each of which is lit on successive days using a central black candle.

- Zaratosht Diso [Anniversary of the death of the prophet Zarathustra (Zoroaster)] – Zoroastrianism

Estimates of when he lived vary from the sixth to the second millennium B.C.E., but this date memorializes the death of the prophet Zoroaster, whose hymns (gathas) are preserved in the Zoroastrian scriptures.

Thursday, December 28

- Holy Innocents' Day – Christianity

A day of solemn memory for the male children of Bethlehem killed by King Herod in an attempt to destroy Jesus.

Saturday, December 30

· Sharaf – Bahá'í

The beginning of the sixteenth month of the Bahá'í year; its name means “honor.”

Sunday, December 31 New Year's Eve

· Ghambar Maidyarem (through January 4) – Zoroastrianism

A celebration for the creation of animals, and a time for the equitable sharing of food with others.

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.interfaithcalendar.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.