



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: 1 FEBRUARY 2018

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, February 13th**, 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. *Note that we will not meet if Monongalia County schools are closed for the day or close early due to inclement weather.*

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 WAS A SUCCESS: Thank you to all who attended to learn about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s boyhood and to encourage the children in attendance to follow his example of courageous leadership. The *Dominion Post* has not yet printed the following letter so here is our thanks to our participants:

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Community Coalition for Social Justice, I want to thank everyone who made our Twelfth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration a success on January 15th. We thank our co-sponsor Main Street Morgantown, especially Barb Watkins, and the City of Morgantown and Rachel Wood of Virtus Wealth Solutions for their financial support.

Joe Kaehler and Chris Kuskey at the Metropolitan Theatre provided invaluable assistance. Doug Wiley, Cindy O'Brien, and Mike Attfield provided music in the lobby as guests arrived.

About 350 people, including participants, attended to learn about Dr. King's boyhood, using our theme of "Growing Up Martin." Our performers included the Mylan Park Elementary School Choir led by Alexandra Elmes; the Morgantown Community Orchestra directed and conducted by Andre Januario; The Flying Colors and Friends, including Al Anderson, Donna Weems, Sarah Little, Jeremy Thomas, Patti Thomas, John Garlow, Netti Carpenter, Debby Springer, Kathy Reseter, and Eve Faulkes; and the Morgantown Children's Choir led by Leticia Grützmann. Janis-Rozena Peri sang one of Dr. King's favorite songs. Jeremy Thomas read a story about Dr. King's boyhood to inspire the children in the audience to follow his example of leadership. All our performers are volunteers. For the first time, we cooperated with the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP as official partners in the program with Branch President Debbie Robinson welcoming Kaylee Riffle to read the essay she submitted to the NAACP Multimedia Essay Contest. Charity Costilow, Kaylee's teacher at Westwood, accompanied her.

The Morgantown Human Rights Commission and the League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia had information tables in the lobby, and the League distributed information about the new state voter i.d. law. Eve Faulkes provided information about the Scotts Run Museum and the Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association.

St. Francis School students made posters to display at downtown and Wharf District businesses. We thank them for their contributions and thank their teacher Nora Sheets.

And, finally, thanks, as always, to all the adults who helped the children to participate. We cannot include children in this program without adults willing to provide transportation and support!

MLK DAY 2019 PLANS STARTING: We have reserved the Metropolitan Theatre for a MLK Day 2019 event on January 21 and submitted our application to the City of Morgantown for funding to support this event. Please let us know if you have ideas for a theme or participants.



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, February 15th, 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 February:

Black History Month – Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.

February 1-7: World Interfaith Harmony Week

February 14: Race Relations Day – A day designated by the National Council of Churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations and learning.

February 15: Susan B. Anthony Day - Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), a pioneer in the Women’s Rights Movement.

February 20: World Day of Social Justice – Recognition of the imperative for tackling issues such as poverty, exclusion, and unemployment.

The Human Rights Commission partners with the WVU Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to sponsor a series of human rights films at WVU. The films for the spring semester are shown at the Shenandoah Room of the WVU Mountainlair from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. All are free and open to the public.

February 13: “The Homestretch.” Three homeless teenagers brave the Chicago winters, the pressures of high school, and life on the streets to build a brighter future.

March 20: “Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock.” The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe peacefully resists the government's plan to construct an oil pipeline through their land.

April 10: “The 13th.” Filmmaker Ava DuVernay explores the history of racial inequality in the United States, focusing on the fact that the nation's prisons are disproportionately filled with African-Americans.



THE ROAD TO OTTAWA EXHIBIT OPENS FEBRUARY 2ND: According to the website for the Monongalia Arts Center (www.monartscenter.com/archives/category/benedum-gallery), “St. Francis de Sales School’s PSALM (Proud Students Against Landmines and Cluster Bombs) chapter returns to Monongalia Arts Center (MAC) for another February exhibition in the Benedum Gallery. This collaboration happens each February, with St. Francis students turning Morgantown’s attention to human rights tragedies around the world. Led by Nora Sheets, the organization’s history includes 19 years of generating public awareness and moving towards the subsequent elimination of landmines and cluster bombs.

“The Road To Ottawa is inspired by the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, signed by 122 nations in Ottawa, Canada. Student artworks are dedicated to the countries, campaigns and members of civil society that created the legislation and the continued efforts to rid the world of atrocities associated with landmines. MAC invites all to witness this powerful and eye-opening exhibition.

“The **exhibition will be available for viewing by the public from February 2 to February 24, 2018** in MAC’s downstairs gallery. There will be a **public opening reception on February 2 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm**, which will include the students who made the exhibition possible, along with Nora Sheets. MAC is located at 107 High Street, Morgantown, WV. Inquiries should be directed to info@monartscenter.com or 304-292-3325.”



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION MEETING FEBRUARY 4TH: The next meeting will be Sunday, February 4th at 3:00 p.m. at the Tree of Life Synagogue, 242 S. High Street, Morgantown. 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 February films:

February 8: "Fed Up." This 2014 film is "an examination of America's obesity epidemic and the food industry's role in aggravating it." It is directed by Stephanie Soechtig and stars Michele Simon, Katie Couric, and Bill Clinton.

February 22: "Minimalism: A Documentary About Important Things," (D'Avella, 2016). The website for this film (minimalismfilm.com/news/) provides this synopsis: "How might your life be better with less? Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things examines the many flavors of minimalism by taking the audience inside the lives of minimalists from all walks of life—families, entrepreneurs, architects, artists, journalists, scientists, and even a former Wall Street broker—all of whom are striving to live a meaningful life with less."

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.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER MEETING IS FEBRUARY 13TH: The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 9th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Monongalia Friends Meeting House, 648 E. Brockway Avenue, Morgantown. Learn about this group's activities through its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/375050676186301/.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT AT GREATER ST. PAUL AME CHURCH FEBRUARY 18TH: This event will be held at 3:00 p.m. at the church at 61 Beechurst Avenue, Morgantown.



NAACP NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 20TH: The Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP meets every third Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Pines Country Club on Point Marion Road, Morgantown.

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS:

FEBRUARY 2018

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Wednesday, February 7

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Wednesday, February 21

Thursday, February 1

The Paul Robeson Gospel Choir BHM Concert

7 PM, Mountainlair Ballrooms

The Paul Robeson Mahalia Jackson Gospel Choir is gearing up for their Black History Month Concert.

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Hoop Fest

4 PM, Student Rec Center

Hoop Fest with CrossOver Pickup Basketball on court #1 in the upstairs basketball gym.

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Thursday, February 15

3P's: Profiling, Police, and Prison. Panel Discussion

7 PM, Mountaineer Room, Mountainlair

Dealing with the effects on families who have a family member in prison.



Thursday, February 22



Tuesday, February 6

Conversations With Cops

6 PM, Mountainlair Commons Area (Food Court)

"Conversations with Cops" is an ongoing multicultural program series that seeks to foster positive communication between Morgantown law enforcement and the cultural communities that create WVU.

Dramatic Reading of The Meeting

7 PM, Mountainlair Ballrooms

The Meeting is a 1987 American play by Jeff Stetson about an imaginary meeting between Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X in 1965 in a hotel in Harlem during the height of the Civil Rights Movement.

Annual Music Showcase

7 PM, Gluck Theater

Music event showcasing WVU students of all genres.

23 24 25 26 27 28

CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH

WVU WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES FIRESIDE CHAT IS MARCH 1ST: Join Cris Mayo (LGBTQ+ Center), Cari Carpenter (Women's and Gender Studies), and Nancy Caronia (English department) for a panel discussion on "Intersectional Pedagogy in the Red Zone" at 4:00 p.m. in the LGBTQ+ Conference Room in WVU's Hodges Hall.

WVU LGBTQ+ CENTER EVENTS:

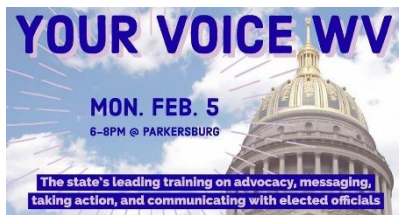
February 7th: Black History Month Film, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., LGBTQ+ Center (Hodges Hall G6)

February 7th: Safe Zone Training, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., LGBTQ+ Center Classroom

February 9th: Steven Universe Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., LGBTQ+ Center (Hodges G6)

WVU AAUW PROGRAM FEBRUARY 25TH: This program is entitled "A Talk of Change" and will be a "discussion dedicated to topics including inclusivity and intersectionality." It will be from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the WVU Mountainlair.

STATE-WIDE EVENTS



Many groups are co-sponsoring this citizen lobbying activity. According to the Facebook posting at www.facebook.com/events/206310856594100/ "Join a coalition of state and local organizations and groups to learn how to effectively talk with your elected officials about progressive issues that matter to you!"

"This training will provide information and resources on how to speak with your elected officials, focusing on your state representatives (but transferable to local and federal level officials, as well). We'll also dive into some messaging tips on a variety of issues and how to connect these issues in a strategic and effective manner. Networking time will be included in the training to learn more from policy/issue experts and get involved in organizations or groups you're most interested in.

"This event is FREE, and all are welcome. We'll be in the Judge Black Annex at 317 Market Street."



This event, similar to the one above, will be in the Greek Alumni Room in the Performing Arts Center. More information is available at www.facebook.com/events/147968749155300/?active_tab=about



CIVIL LIBERTIES LOBBY DAY IS FEBRUARY 8TH: Join the West Virginia Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union for this annual lobby day at the State Capitol, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The email invitation says:

"Dear ACLU of West Virginia Family,

Tired of feeling like your hands are tied behind your back in the current political climate? Searching for ways to make your voice heard? Then join ACLU-WV and our partners on Thursday, February 8 for the 2018 All Kinds Are Welcome Here Civil Liberties Lobby Day at the Capitol Building in Charleston.

“We've got an incredible lineup of events throughout the day. Everything from a crash-course in citizen lobbying to a joint rally with hundreds of our closest friends to meeting with legislators. THIS is the event to learn how to make the most noise efficiently and effectively. If we're to hold back the impending attacks on our rights, we must stand together and let our policy-makers know that our civil liberties are not up for debate!”

“We'll be partnering with incredible folks from all over the state again this year during what is sure to be a tough legislative session. We'll have an advocacy training to make sure you are comfortable talking with your elected officials about issues that matter to you, we'll have a large press conference featuring our lawmakers and other members of the community and we'll view a floor session from the House and Senate Galleries. Come stand with us in solidarity to show the West Virginia Legislature that West Virginia should be a place that welcomes and respects ALL people!”

Partner hosting organizations this year include the American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia, Fairness West Virginia, WV FREE, Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, Rainbow Pride of West Virginia, Inc., and West Virginia Citizen Action Group.

There is no cost to attend. You can register at secure.everyaction.com/cyog7F19D0KVB_yGOHe1Fw2?ms=web_180130_aff_WV_LobbyDay.



TIME TO LOBBY FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT: Monongalia County’s Delegate John Williams is a co-sponsor of HB 4319 to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the categories covered by the West Virginia Human Rights Act. CCSJ and other groups have lobbied for this in many different sessions of the legislature, and more than a dozen cities across the state have added these protections to local ordinances, but it is still legal elsewhere in the state to discriminate based on these categories.

The brief summary of the bill is “A BILL to amend and reenact §5-11-2, §5-11-3, §5-11-4, §5-11-8, §5-11-9 and §5-11-13 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact §5-11A-3, §5-11A-5, §5-11A-6, and §5-11A-7 of said code, all relating to unlawful discriminatory practices in categories covered by the Human Rights Act and the Fair Housing Act; prohibiting discrimination based upon age and sexual orientation; or gender identity and defining sexual orientation and gender identity.” You can find the full text at www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_text.cfm?billdoc=hb4319%20intr.htm&yr=2018&sesstype=RS&i=4319.

The bill has been referred to the House Industry and Labor Committee with a subsequent reference to the House Judiciary Committee. You can track its status at www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=4319&year=2018&sessiontype=RS

The Democrat co-sponsors, in addition to Delegate Williams, are Delegates Mike Pushkin (lead sponsor and a member of the Industry and Labor Committee), Tim Miley, Dana Lynch, Chad Lovejoy, William Hartman, Riley Moore, and Philip Isner (minority vice- chair of the Industry and Labor committee). The Republican co-sponsors are Delegates Ron Walters, Steve Westfall, and Joshua Higginbotham. You can find contact information for all delegates at wvlegislature.gov/House/roster.cfm.



The next meeting of the **Kanawha Valley NOW** chapter is a potluck dinner on Wednesday, February 21st, at 5:30 p.m. at the WFREE offices. Bettijane Burger is leading this effort.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN FEBRUARY 2018 FROM PETER CLARK

Celebrating Black History Month

The Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony, in which old fires are extinguished and new fires are lit, and the Hopi Holy Cycle, in which the changing of the seasons and the nature of the Hopi sacred universe are celebrated, begin in January and February, but the dates of observance vary by tribe. This month is also known as Buxwaks or the season of blowing needles in aboriginal spirituality, in which the wind knocks loose the foliage of frozen evergreens. It marks the approach of the new year.

Friday, February 2

· Presentation of Jesus in the Temple – Christianity

Commemorates Mary and Joseph’s presentation of the child Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem, as required by Mosaic law. In the Eastern churches, this day is known as the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord.

· Imbolc [also known as the Feast of Torches or Lughnassad] – Wicca

A celebration of beginning growth and the divine generative powers (i.e., the Goddess nurturing her young Son) from which physical and spiritual harvests will come, Imbolc is often an initiatory period.

Saturday, February 3

· Setsunbun-sai – Shintō

A family celebration of the end of winter; beans are thrown into rooms of a house for good luck, with the shout, “Devils out, Fortune in!”

Sunday, February 4

· Four Chaplains Sunday – Interfaith

A commemoration of four U.S. Army chaplains—Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Rev. George L. Fox, Fr. John P. Washington, and Rev. Clark V. Poling—who died while saving soldiers from drowning when their

troop transport ship, the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, was torpedoed by a Nazi U-boat in 1943. The four chaplains are remembered for their courage and their spirit of interfaith collaboration in service to humanity.

Wednesday, February 7

· Mulk – Bahá'í

Beginning of the eighteenth month of the Bahá'í year, the name “Mulk” means “dominion.”

Tuesday, February 13

· Maha Shivaratri – Hinduism

A night devoted to the worship of the god Shiva, whose dance creates and destroys and recreates the world; it is marked by vigils and fasting.

Wednesday, February 14

· Ash Wednesday – Christianity (Western churches)

The beginning of Lent, a forty-day period (excluding Sundays) in which Christians pray, repent, fast and reflect on Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem. It is a preparatory period for Holy Week and Easter; on this day, believers often receive an ashen cross on their foreheads to mark their repentance and mortality.

· Valentine's Day – Western Christianity

A celebration of love originally connected to the Roman Christian martyr who died in 269 C.E.

Thursday, February 15

· Nirvana Day – Buddhism

In northern Buddhist traditions, this day marks the anniversary of the historical Buddha's death in ca. 486 B.C.E. and his subsequent entrance into enlightenment or Nirvana. In southern Buddhist traditions, the Buddha's death is commemorated during Visakha.

Friday, February 16

· Chinese / Vietnamese / Korean New Year – Buddhism / Confucianism / Taoism

The first day after the new moon is a religious and cultural festival for Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese persons, marking the first day of the year 4716, the Year of the Earth Dog.

· Birthday of Maitreya Bodhisattva – Buddhism [Pure Land schools]

Marking the birth of Maitreya, who will come at the end of time to renew the pristine Buddhist teachings.

· Losar [Tibetan New Year] – Buddhism

Celebrating the beginning of the year 2145 in the Tibetan calendar.

Saturday, February 17

· Sri Ramakrishna Jayanti – Hinduism

A celebration of the birth of the teacher of Swami Vivekananda, who introduced Hinduism to the United States at the first Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893.

Sunday, February 18

· Cheesefare Sunday [Forgiveness Sunday] – Christianity (Eastern churches)

This feast marks the last day of eating dairy products prior to Holy Pascha (also known as Easter). The Great Fast or Great Lent begins at sundown and is marked by forty days of vegetarian fasting, intense prayer, and almsgiving in preparation for Holy Week. The following day is known as Clean Monday.

Sunday, February 25

· Ayyám-i-Há – Bahá'í [through March 1]

Starting at sundown, this festival marks the beginning of the intercalary days for festivities, gift giving, and charitable actions.

Wednesday, February 28

· Eve of Purim – Judaism

A celebration of the Jews' rescue from an evil plot to destroy them while they were living in Persia, the events of which are recorded in the Hebrew biblical book of Esther. The holiday includes reading the Megillah (the scroll of Esther), exchanging gifts, and special pastries called hamantashen.

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.