



**Community Coalition for Social Justice**  
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**UPDATE: 1 MARCH 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, March 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](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.

**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, March 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/](http://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](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/Annual-HR-Observances.pdf).

### Here are the events for March:

**National Women's History Month** – Honors women as significant agents of change.

**March 8:** International Women's Day – Celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women worldwide. Recognition of need for empowering women to meet their health and family planning needs as central to realizing greater equality. With access to education, economic opportunity and quality health care, healthier mothers can have healthier babies, economic gains, and help create less pressure on our planet's natural resources.

**March 21:** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.

**March 21:** International Forest Day – Call for awareness of the importance of forests in protecting air quality, water retention, plants for pharmaceuticals, and habitat for birds and other wildlife – all of which provide a balance for survival of all.

**March 22:** World Water Day – Calls for awareness of how essential potable water is to the rights of all people in West Virginia and worldwide

**March 31:** Cesar Chavez Day – Honors Mexican American farm worker, labor leader and activist Cesar Chavez (1927- 1993) who was a nationally respected voice of social justice.

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.

**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.



**GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION MEETING MARCH 4TH:** The next meeting will be Sunday, March 4th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 456 Spruce St., Morgantown. Follow this group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/](http://www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/).

The agenda includes a potential discussion of sanctuary cities, outreach to other local faith communities, including those outside the Abrahamic fold, and plans for an October event.

**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:

**March 8:** "Living on One Dollar" (Temple, Ingrasci, Leonard, 2012): From [livingonone.org/livingonone/about/](http://livingonone.org/livingonone/about/): "*Living on One Dollar* is a film and journey that follows our own experience living on \$1 a day for two months in rural Guatemala.

"We battle intense hunger, parasites and the realization that there are no easy answers, but find hope in the inspiring lives of our neighbors Rosa, a 20-year-old woman, and Chino, a 12-year-old boy.

"While in Guatemala, we released short YouTube videos about the experience to help our friends learn alongside us in real time. The videos quickly received over 700,000 views, inspiring us to complete a feature-length film, *Living on One Dollar*, to mobilize others to help end extreme poverty.

"To our amazement, the film has since won Best Documentary at the Sonoma International Film Festival, and received endorsements from Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah, and the Director of the Hunger Games, Gary Ross."

**March 22:** "Miss Representation" (Neusome Siebel, 2011): From [therepresentationproject.org/film/miss-representation/about-the-film/](http://therepresentationproject.org/film/miss-representation/about-the-film/): "Written and directed by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, Miss Representation exposes how mainstream media and culture contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America.

"The film draws back a curtain to reveal a glaring reality we live with every day but fail to see – how the media's limited and often disparaging portrayals of women and girls makes it difficult for women to feel powerful and achieve leadership positions.

"In a society where media is the most persuasive force shaping cultural norms, the collective message we receive is that a woman's value and power lie in her youth, beauty, and sexuality, and not in her capacity as a leader. While women have made great strides in leadership over the past few decades, the United States is still 33rd out of the 49 highest income countries when it comes to women in the national legislature. And it's not better outside of government. Women make up only 4.6% of S&P 500 CEOs and 17% of

directors, executive producers, writers, cinematographers, and editors working on the top 250 domestic grossing films.

“Stories from teenage girls and provocative interviews with politicians, journalists, entertainers, activists, and academics, like Katie Couric, Rosario Dawson, Gloria Steinem, Margaret Cho, Condoleezza Rice, Rachel Maddow, and Nancy Pelosi, build momentum as Miss Representation accumulates startling facts and statistics that will leave the audience shaken, but armed with a new perspective.”

**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 MARCH 13TH:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 13th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Monongalia Friends Meeting House, 648 E. Brockway Avenue, Morgantown. Ralph Baxter, Democrat candidate for the US Senate, is scheduled to attend. Learn about this group’s activities through its Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/375050676186301/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/375050676186301/).



**NAACP NEXT MEETING MARCH 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 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:** Every Friday there is a Steven Universe Breakfast from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and RuPaul's Drag Race Screening from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., both in the LGBTQ+ Center (Hodges G6).

**WVU AFRICANA STUDIES ANNUAL SPRING LECTURE (CO-SPONSORED WITH WGST) MARCH 1ST:** Dr. Ameenah Shakir will talk on “Birthing Liberation. Dr. Helen Dickens, Race, Rights and Health Activism” at 7:30 p.m. in 209 Armstrong Hall on the WVU downtown campus. This lecture is free and open to the public.



**WVU AAUW PAINT & SIP SOCIAL ON MARCH 6TH:** This event will be held at 7:00 p.m. in 109 Oglebay Hall. WVU AAUW will provide painting materials, food, and non-alcoholic refreshments for \$3. Please RSVP by March 4th by email at [wvuaauw@gmail.com](mailto:wvuaauw@gmail.com) or from the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/events/1853548404719854/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1853548404719854/).

### STATE-WIDE EVENTS



This event will be held in the East Lower Rotunda of the State Capitol, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, at 3:00 p.m. Join others at the West Virginia State Capitol on the 105th anniversary of Washington, DC's Woman Suffrage Parade of 1913, "to let West Virginia legislators know that we will not stand for them playing politics with women's health. If they are successful in amending our constitution, it will not only enable

them to take away Medicaid coverage of abortion from poor women, it will pave the way to throw doctors in jail if Roe v Wade is lost at the federal level. West Virginians from around the state will travel to stand up and fight back.

This event is hosted by WV FREE, American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia, Planned Parenthood Votes. South Atlantic, Women's March West Virginia, West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Charleston, WV, National Association of Social Workers, West Virginia Chapter, Women's Health Center of West Virginia, and West Virginia NOW.



**HB 4319** to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the categories covered by the West Virginia Human Rights Act. According to lead sponsor Delegate Mike Pushkin, this bill was never put on the agenda of the House Industry and Labor Committee so it is dead for this session.



Information about the **Kanawha Valley NOW** chapter is available at [www.facebook.com/Kanawha-Valley-Chapter-National-Organization-For-Women-1976287046030339/](http://www.facebook.com/Kanawha-Valley-Chapter-National-Organization-For-Women-1976287046030339/).



**WEST VIRGINIA WOMEN'S COMMISSION'S LEGACY OF WOMEN AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE MARCH 7:** The Celebration will be Thursday, March 29, 2018 - location and time to be announced

"The West Virginia Women's Commission is ready to receive nominations for the 2018 Legacy of Women Awards Celebration. These prestigious awards are given to women who have participated in shaping the state or the nation and our role as women achievers for tomorrow's female leaders.

"Women can be nominated in any of the following eight categories -- named for outstanding women in their fields.

**“Educating Women – The ‘Lena Lowe Yost Award’** For outstanding efforts in her state teaching women about their personal abilities and strength, Ms. Yost was known as one West Virginia’s foremost suffragists. In 1920, she led the drive to ratify the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. She advocated for equal salaries and rank among women and men faculty, and served as a board member of the federal women’s prison in Alderson.

**“Mountaineer Spirit – The ‘Helaine Rotgin Award’** For outstanding efforts in community and state at the grass roots level as a volunteer, Ms. Rotgin was instrumental in the beginnings of many community organizations -- including the Charleston Interdenominational Council on Social Concerns, Manna Meal, and the Covenant House. She was chairwoman of the Citizens Recycling Council, starting Charleston's first recycling center.

**“Business or Professional Job Pioneer – The ‘Susan Dew Hoff Award’** For outstanding efforts in her state pioneering a non-traditional professional job, Ms. Hoff was the first female in WV to be licensed by examination as a physician. She could not go to medical school, but studied under her father and on her own.

**“Government and Public Service – The ‘Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Award’** For outstanding efforts in her state the first African-American woman to be named to a high-ranking office in West Virginia state government, becoming the director of the Department of Mental Health and served in that capacity for fifteen years. Dr. Michell-Bateman became the first black woman to serve as vice-president of the American Psychiatric Association and advocated placing mentally ill patients at facilities nearest their homes and developing community mental health centers.

**“Labor Activist – The Sarah “Mother” Blizzard Award’** For outstanding efforts in workers’ rights, Sarah Blizzard was actively involved in the United Mine Workers of America union from its beginnings. After eviction from her family’s home after a coal strike, they moved to Cabin Creek in Kanawha County. She joined forces with, and was often compared to, famed labor leader ‘Mother’ Jones.

**“Artist or Art Supporter – The Ann Kathryn Flagg Award’** For outstanding efforts in the arts as a playwright, teacher, and actress, Ann Kathryn Flagg was born in West Virginia and went to West Virginia State College. Through her plays and her other work she transcended the barriers of racism and campaigned for black voter registration.

**“Sports Champion – The Rose Gacioch Award’** For outstanding efforts in pioneering a position of women in sports, Rose Gacioch was born in Wheeling and was a right fielder and pitcher from 1944 -54 in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League – achieving four league championships and making the All-Star Team three times. Her baseball legacy is featured in the movie, ‘A League of Their Own.’

**“Women Making History – The Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson Award’** – For lifetime achievement as a mathematician with contributions over decades to the US aeronautics and space programs. She was the first African-American woman to attend graduate school at West Virginia University and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. Ms. Johnson was featured in the movie, ‘Hidden Figures’, and in ‘100 Women’, a BBC series of 100 influential women worldwide.

The nomination form is available at [www.wvdhhr.org/wvwc/pdf/Legacy%20of%20Women%20Awards%20Nomination%20Form%202018%20FINAL.PDF](http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvwc/pdf/Legacy%20of%20Women%20Awards%20Nomination%20Form%202018%20FINAL.PDF).

### RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN MARCH 2018 FROM PETER CLARK

March and April mark the season of the Eagle Dances, when people of the Arizona Pueblo tribes dance to dramatize their communities' relationship with the Sky-World. This month is also known as Xsaak, the season when candlefish swarm and members of the Nisga'a tribes catch these fish, dry them, and render them into oil for lamps.

Friday, March 2

· Lantern Festival – Taoism

This festival marks the end of the new year's celebration in China, with the entrance of the first full moon. Children venture out to temples with paper lanterns, solving riddles written on the lanterns.

· Holi – Hinduism

This festival is one of Hinduism's most popular celebrations. People throw colored powder or spray colored water to celebrate episodes in the life of the god Krishna.

· Hola Mohallah – Sikhism

A three-day festival instituted by the tenth Sikh gurū, Gobind Singh, as a time for military preparedness exercises, Hola Mohallah now is celebrated with mock battles, music competitions, and festivities.

· 'Alá – Bahá'í

The beginning of the nineteenth and final month, meaning "loftiness," and also of a 19-day fast in preparation for Naw Rúz [see March 21]. Adult believers in good health abstain from food and drink from dawn to dusk.

Wednesday, March 14

· Memorial of Shan-tao (Zendō) – Buddhism

Anniversary of the death of a Chinese Pure Land Buddhist priest who died in 681 C.E. He taught that enlightenment could occur simply through repetition of the name of Amitabha or Amida Buddha (nianfo or nembutsu), and is honored as the Fifth Patriarch of that Buddhist school.

Friday, March 16

· Ghambar Hamaspathmaedem, Fravardegan, or Muktaad – Zoroastrianism

(continues until March 20)

A celebration of the creation of human beings and a commemoration of souls who have died. Prayers are offered to the fravashis (the divine spark within each human, which lives forever), asking for their blessings and protection.

Saturday, March 17

· Saint Patrick's Day – Western Christianity

A commemoration of the missionary bishop who evangelized Ireland in the fifth century C.E.

Sunday, March 18

· Ugadi or Yugādi – Hinduism

The New Year's Day celebration for Hindus of the Deccan Plateau in central and southern India, which traditionally includes a ritual bath, prayers, and the eating of pachhadi: six flavors that represent six different life experiences. The flavors are bitter, tang, sour, spicy, salty, and sweet, which symbolize sadness, surprise, disgust, anger, fear, and happiness.

Tuesday, March 20 spring equinox

· Spring Ohigon – Buddhism

For Buddhists who practice in the Jōdo Shinshū [Japanese Pure Land] tradition, this is a special time to listen to the teaching of the Buddha and meditate on the perfection of enlightenment as lived in the Six Perfections or Paramitas (generosity, morality, wisdom, honesty, endeavor, and patience).

· Shunki-sorei-sai – Shintō

The time of the spring memorial service, when ancestors' spirits are revered at home altars and gravesites are cleaned and purified.

· Ostara – Wicca

A time to mark the divine goddess's blanketing of the Earth with fertility as the god stretches and grows to maturity, manifested in the reawakening of seeds within the Earth as they are touched by divine love.

· Spring Feast – Native American spirituality

A day to mark the coming and going of seasons and to honor planting through songs, stories, and prayer.

Wednesday, March 21

· Naw Rúz – Bahá'í

Marking the beginning of the year 175 of the Bahá'í era, and the beginning of the first month of the year, known as Bahá or "splendor."



· Navruz [Now Ruz or Norooz] – Zoroastrianism

The beginning of the Zoroastrian new year, 1388 AY or 3756 AZ in the Fasli seasonal calendar, which also celebrates the renewal of the world and the creation of fire (which symbolizes righteousness). Zarathustra, the founder of Zoroastrianism, received his revelation on this day.

Saturday, March 24

· Feast of the Annunciation – Christianity (Eastern churches)

This festival marks the visit of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary of Nazareth and Mary's faithful response to God's plan by consenting to be Jesus' mother.

Sunday, March 25

· Palm Sunday – Christianity (Western churches)

The remembrance of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, when crowds spread palm fronds on the ground as Jesus rode into the city. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Eastern churches will begin their commemoration of Palm Sunday at sundown on Saturday, March 31.

· Ramanavami – Hinduism

A celebration in honor of the birth of Rama, the seventh incarnation of the god Vishnu. Hindus read the Ramayana, a Hindu epic, and religious dances called Ramalila are performed to depict scenes from his life. This is the culmination of a week-long observance.

Monday, March 26

· Khordad Sal – Zoroastrianism

The birth anniversary of the prophet Zarathustra.

Thursday, March 29

· Maundy Thursday [Holy Thursday] – Christianity (Western churches)

The remembrance of Jesus' last supper with his disciples and his institution of the "love commandment" (the term "Maundy" comes from the Latin word for "commandment") while he washed their feet as a servant.

· Mahavira-jayanti – Jainism

Celebrating the birthday of Lord Mahavir (Great Hero), the 24th Tirthankara (and last of this time cycle). Jains remember their most important prophet by decorating their temples with flags, with prayers and fasting, and by making offerings of rice, fruit, milk, and other items.

Friday, March 30

- Good Friday – Christianity (Western churches)

A commemoration of the passion of Jesus of Nazareth, i.e., his death by crucifixion. At sundown some churches begin the Easter vigil either this evening or on Holy Saturday (March 31).

- Eve of Pesach [Passover] – Judaism (ends on April 7)

The beginning of an eight-day festival celebrating God's deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The story is told during a Seder meal at sundown, including readings from a book known as the Haggadah. Some Jews refrain from work on the first two and the last two days of this holiday.

Saturday, March 31

- Magha Puja Day [Dharma Day] – Buddhism

In the Theravada Buddhist tradition, this full moon day of the third lunar month marks the historical Buddha's sermon at Veruvana Monastery in the city of Rajagaha, where he spoke to 1250 enlightened monks who were ordained by him.

- Birthday of Avalokiteśvara or Kuan Yin [Kannon] – Buddhism

Usually celebrated on or near the full moon day in March, this day marks the occasion when the enlightened being known as Avalokiteśvara (in the Mahāyāna traditions of Tibet and China) or as Kuan Yin or Kannon (the feminine embodiment of this bodhisattva in Chinese, Japanese, and Vietnamese Buddhism) vowed to attain final, supreme enlightenment and thereby save all suffering sentient beings.

- Hanuman Jayanti – Hinduism

A celebration of the birth of Hanuman, the faithful servant of the god Rama who can assume any form in order to conquer evil. Believers visit temples and apply sindoor (red powder) to their foreheads, since Hanuman is often portrayed as a red half-monkey, half-human.

- Lazarus Saturday – Christianity (Eastern churches)

A commemoration of Jesus' miracle of raising his friend Lazarus from the dead, celebrated on the eve before Palm Sunday.

- 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](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 "Resource."