



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

UPDATE: 1 JANUARY 2019

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, January 15th**, at **7:00 p.m.** at **Panera's on Patteson Drive**. We will try to reserve the meeting room. **Please note the new time and that this is the third Tuesday of the month.** *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 2019 IS JANUARY 21ST: Our theme this year is “Kids in Action,” and each child attending will receive a sticker identifying that child as part of “Kids in Action.” Please join us at the Metropolitan Theatre, 369 High Street, Morgantown, at 2:00 p.m. for music in the lobby with Mike Attfield and friends and a program featuring the Cheat Lake Elementary School Choir and Morgantown Children’s Choir, music by Al Anderson and Friends, and a story read by Jeremy Thomas. We have also invited the winners of the NAACP essay contest and students from local schools to share essays with us, and Mayor Bill Kawecki will welcome everyone on behalf of the City of Morgantown. See more about the NAACP contest below.

We co-sponsor this event with Main Street Morgantown, so look for our banner across High Street next month, as well as a banner at Mike Sharley’s office at 5 Dunkard Avenue in Westover. Thanks to the City of Morgantown and Rachel Wood of Virtus Wealth Solutions for their financial support. The event is free and open to the public. We will have bumper stickers for sale and always appreciate donations.

We will also again be collecting donations for the Scotts Run Backpack Program to support students at area schools who need food assistance over the weekend. Please consider donating some of these items in individual servings or pop top containers (no glass, please):

- Graham Crackers • Animal Crackers • Whole Grain Cereal Bars • Granola Bars • Individual Cereal Boxes • Spaghetti & Meatballs • Ravioli • String Cheese (Reduced Fat preferred) • Canned Fruit (with pop-tops) • Fruit Cups • Applesauce Cups • Dried Fruit: Raisins, Plums, Cranberries Veggies • Individual snack packs • Canned Veggies (with pop-tops) • Pudding Cups (Fat-Free/Sugar-Free preferred) • Jell-O Cups • 100% Juice Boxes • Individual Packs of Snack Crackers



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, January 17th, 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 January:

January 18 World Religion Day – Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.

January 21 Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Established in 1983 and observed for the first time on January 20, 1986. Also known as King Service Day – Federal legislation signed in 1994 challenged Americans to transform the King holiday into a day of citizen action and volunteer service.

January 27 Holocaust Memorial Day - Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945. The United Nations urges all its member states to honor Nazi era victims and to develop education programs to help prevent future genocides.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION (GMIA) MEETING IS JANUARY 13TH:

The group will meet at First Presbyterian Church at 456 Spruce Street in Morgantown at 3:00 p.m. The focus will be helping plan for the Designing Across Divides conference on March 28-30.

You can follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/.

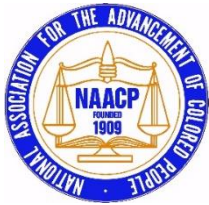


MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER MEETING IS JANUARY 8TH: The next meeting will be Tuesday January 8th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Monongalia Friends Meeting House, 648 E. Brockway Avenue, Morgantown. The group will be hearing from its Legislative and Speak Easy committees and working through additional initiatives for 2019.

If you have something you would like on the agenda, please email items to morgantownnow@gmail.com by Sunday, January 9th at 5:00 p.m.

Also, please let them know if you require childcare.

Learn about this group’s activities at www.facebook.com/groups/375050676186301/.



NAACP NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY 8TH: The Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP will meet on Tuesday, January 8th at 5:30 p.m. at the Pines Country Club on Point Marion Road, Morgantown.

The Morgantown/Kingwood NAACP proudly joins our partner Greater St. Paul AME Church in celebrating Martin Luther King and his legacy. As part of this recognition, we are providing students at elementary, middle, and high school levels the opportunity to learn more about civil rights in their community by participating in our Annual MLK Essay Competition. You may participate in two ways: First, invite area students to submit essays for our 2018-2019 contest. Second, be among those in the audience at the celebration at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, at Greater St. Paul AME Church, 61 Beechurst Ave., Morgantown, WV.

This year's theme is "The 1950s vs. Today: Before and After Martin Luther King." Essays must be a minimum of 300 words and can be supplemented by artwork, photography, and video. Entries should be submitted electronically morgantown.naacp3241@gmail.com by email or mailed to MLK Essay Contest, Debbie Robinson, 1223 Vista Del Rio Drive, Morgantown, WV 26508. **All entries must be submitted by January 7, 2019 11:59P.M. (postmarked by January 7, 2019).**

The first-place winners at the elementary, middle, and high school levels will each receive a certificate and a monetary award of \$100. Students who place first also will be expected to read their essays at the MLK program on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, and the MLK program given by the Community Coalition for Social Justice (CCSJ) on Monday, January 21, 2019 at the Met Theater. We are requesting your help to make sure we reach every interested child in the schools and community. The essay guidelines are attached to this letter. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Robinson at morgantown.naacp3241@gmail.com

Guidelines:

Civil Rights in Monongalia County Before and After Martin Luther King

2018-2019 NAACP MLK Essay Contest

For Elementary, Middle, and High School Students

\$100 each for the first-place elementary school essayist, middle school essayist, high school essayist

Essay Contest Sponsored by the Morgantown-Kingwood Chapter of the NAACP and

The Greater St. Paul AME Church

(National Association for the Advancement of Colored People: Morgantown.naacp3241@gmail.com)

1. Follow this year's theme, "The 1950s vs. Today: Civil Rights in Monongalia County Before and After Martin Luther King."

2. Select a civil rights category in Monongalia County: (Narrow your focus within the theme.)

a. Public education (from 1st grade through 12th grade in schools; from undergraduate programs through graduate programs at West Virginia University)

b. Public accommodations (theaters, restaurants, public transportation, hotels, swimming pools, bathrooms, parks, water fountains, camps, etc.)

c. Housing (rentals and sales related to homes, apartments, mobile home parks, etc.)

d. Employment (schools, stores, restaurants, gas stations, etc.,)

3. Learn about your chosen civil rights category in one or more ways:

a. Interview one or more persons who experienced or witnessed activities that occurred within your civil rights category in Monongalia County in both the 1950s and today.

b. Interview informed descendants of a person or persons who experienced or witnessed activities that occurred within your civil rights category in Monongalia County in the 1950s. Drawing from their relatives' stories, what is different or not different today?

c. Find and read details in books, magazines, and newspapers that describe activities that occurred within your civil rights category in Monongalia County in both the 1950s and today.

4. Write and submit an essay about what you heard and read:

a. Keep your details focused on your chosen civil rights category in Monongalia County. Expand upon the basics: who, what, when, where, why, and how.

b. Provide documentation of all your sources: books, magazines, newspapers, etc. Include the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all persons you interviewed.

c. Type your essay, which must be a minimum of 300 words. You may supplement your research with copies of artwork and photographs. Put your name on each page you submit.

d. Ask your parent or legal guardian to complete the entry-waiver form.

e. Submit your essay and entry-waiver form by email or via the U.S. Postal Service. Emails must be received by 11:59 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, 2019. U. S. mail must be postmarked by Jan. 7, 2019. Email address: morgantown.naacp3241@gmail.com. U.S. mail address: MLK Essay Contest, 1223 Vista Del Rio Drive, 26508.

All are invited to the **annual NAACP-Greater St. Paul AME Church Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Event** at the church at 61 Beechurst Avenue in Morgantown on **Sunday, January 20th, at 3:00 p.m.** The MLK Community Choir will sing, and WVU Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Meshea Poore will speak.



YOUR'RE INVITED TO THE MORGANTOWN
PFLAG
FORMATION GROUP

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019 - 6:00 PM
LGBTQ+ CENTER
HODGES HALL, G-06
127 HOUGH STREET, MORGANTOWN, WV
26506

WE'RE MADE UP OF PARENTS, FAMILY
MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND ALLIES. PFLAG IS THE
EXTENDED FAMILY OF THE LGBTQ
COMMUNITY. BECAUSE TOGETHER, WE'RE
STRONGER.

INFORMATION:
KENNEDYAMYE@GMAIL.COM



WVU LGBTQ+ CENTER EVENTS: The LGBTQ+ Center will be sponsoring the following events every Friday during the spring semester at the Center in G-06 Hodges Hall:

Friday Morning Cartoons, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Come chill out, watch some cartoons, and join Daniel and friends for cereal, Pop Tarts and breakfast snacks!

Cosplay/Makeup Tips & Tricks - 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.: Celebrate your favorite characters and join Julie and friends for some afternoon fun! Learn new makeup techniques and let your beauty shine!

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY UNITY BREAKFAST IS JANUARY 21st: The West Virginia University Center for Black Culture and Research is sponsoring the MLK Unity Breakfast. It will take place in the Mountainlair Ballrooms at 8:00 a.m. on Monday January 21, 2019.

“The Breakfast is an opportunity for the WVU and greater Morgantown communities to come together to celebrate the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and to recognize those in our community who have worked to uphold the principles of equity and social justice that he lived and gave his life for.

“Each year we invite a keynote speaker, and this year we have invited our VP of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Meshea Poore.



“Meshea is the Vice President for the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at West Virginia University. As the Vice President, VP Poore will lead the Division’s efforts to create, coordinate, administer and evaluate programming that is inclusive and supportive in order to achieve a sustainable environment that will attract and retain diverse and underserved faculty, staff and students.

“Poore received a bachelor of arts in political science from Howard University in Washington, D.C., and a law degree from Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In addition, she earned a certificate from Yale University’s Women’s Campaign School.

“In addition to practicing law, Poore has worked with the People for the American Way in Washington, the Charleston YWCA, as an adjunct professor at West Virginia State University, faculty in residence at Rutgers University and a director and debate coach for the West Virginia Democratic Party.

“Prior to operating her own practice, she was an attorney in the Office of the Kanawha County Public Defender in Charleston.

“This event is free and open to the public, and everyone is encouraged to come out to fellowship, enjoy a wonderful breakfast, and hear an inspiring presentation by VP Poore.

“For more information about this event call 304-293-7029 or CenterForBlackCultureAndResearch@mail.wvu.edu.”



BLACK HISTORY MONTH IS FEBRUARY: Check the Center for Black Culture and Research web site at cbc.wvu.edu/events/black-history-month-events for information on upcoming events.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECEIVES AWARD FROM HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: Congratulations to the League on receiving the Commission’s 2018 Human Rights Day Award for a local organization. The award was presented at the December 18th meeting of the Morgantown City Council, where Delegate Barbara Evans Fleischauer received the award for an individual. The League is a member organization of CCSJ.

Jonathan Rosenbaum, president of the League, said that the reception at the Aull Center after the presentation in Council chambers was “wonderful with excellent speakers.” Here are his comments from that event:

“We are sincerely honored to receive this outstanding award from the Morgantown Human Rights Commission. The League has a long-standing position that all levels of government have the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability.

“In 1974, at the National League Convention, the League opened up membership to men. According to the *New York Times*, President Lucy Wilson Benson of the National League said, ‘If we’re ready for the ERA, then we darn well ought to be ready for men.’ Because of this I had the opportunity to serve 4 years as President of the Morgantown-Monongalia League. Currently, I am the President of the West Virginia State League. When several of us attended the most recent National Convention, a motion passed with overwhelming support that the Equal Rights Amendment be ratified and that it becomes a U.S. Constitutional Amendment. Every hand went up in support!

“Obviously, I am very proud of our League for receiving this award, and all the volunteers of the League who have worked so hard over all these years to Defend Democracy and the rights of all humans.

“The League takes action on positions that we have reached a consensus on through intensive studies. Most recently we asked people to vote ‘No’ on Amendment 1. We have educated the public about the Affordable Care Act, had forums about county-wide planning, local and county government. We have worked successfully with City Planning on zoning code revisions relating to the extractive industry to protect the livability of our town, and educated the public on Green Jobs and Renewable Energy. We are a partner with Solar United. You can learn more about our history and what we do at morgantown.lwwwv.org.

“We do not build barriers to becoming a member. If you live in the United States, and are not a citizen, you can become a voting member. If you are a student, and 16 years or older you can join our local League at low cost!

“We were happy to learn that the Human Rights Commission is in the process of drafting a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan - DEI. You will be happy to learn that the League’s membership program is now focusing on DEI, which will involve creating an action plan. Maybe we will be comparing notes!

“Once again, we graciously thank-you for tonight's award to the League!”



POSITIVE SPIN NEEDS NEW SPACE: Positive Spin, Morgantown's non-profit bicycle collective, must vacate its space by the end of February. This means that Positive Spin will have to quickly find a place with at least 1,700 to 2,000 square feet at no more than \$6/square foot/year. Positive Spin helps a diverse group of people acquire affordable sustainable transportation, recreation, and exercise via bicycles and helps them learn how to maintain their bicycle. If you know about any properties, leads, or solutions, please contact info@positivespin.org. To learn more about this organization, please go to positivespin.org/.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN PROGRAMS FOR JANUARY TO BE ANNOUNCED: Information was not available at “press time,” so please go to uufmwv.org/ to check for updates. Except where noted, all events at the Fellowship building at 429 Warrick, Morgantown. All are welcomed. The Fellowship is a member organization of CCSJ.

STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS



Information about the **Kanawha Valley NOW** chapter is available at www.facebook.com/Kanawha-Valley-NOW-1976287046030339/?ref=br_rs or email kanawhavalleynow@gmail.com.

West Virginia NOW has a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN JANUARY 2019 FROM PETER CLARK

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. It is also the season of K’aliyee, the time of the north wind that blows off glaciers and icecaps that linger from the last ice age.

Tuesday, January 1 New Year’s Day

- Temple Day – Buddhism

North American Buddhists attend special services in temples on this day.

- Feast of Mary, Mother of God; and the Naming of Jesus Christ – Christianity

Some Christians celebrate this day in honor of Jesus’ mother; others celebrate this day (eight days after Jesus’ birth) as the day when Jesus was presented at the Temple and officially named by his parents.

- Gantan-sai (O-shōgatsu) – Shintō

This Japanese celebration of the New Year includes prayers for the renewal of hearts, good health and prosperity. The festival lasts for a week, during which time people visit one another’s homes and offer gifts of good wishes for the coming year.

Friday, January 4

- Ghambar Maidyarem ends – Zoroastrianism

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

Saturday, January 5

- Birthday of Gurū Gobind Singh Ji – Sikhism

A celebration in honor of the tenth and final Sikh master [1666 – 1708 C.E.], who created the Brotherhood of the Pure (Khalsa) and who declared the scriptures (Adi Granth) to be the gurū for all Sikhs from that time onward. This date is used by adherents of the Nanakshahi tradition.

Sunday, January 6

- Epiphany – Christianity (Western churches)

Marking the traditional date of the visitation of the Magi to meet the infant Jesus and the end of the twelve days of Christmas, also known as Día de los Reyes (Day of the Kings). In Armenian Christian churches, this date is celebrated as the Feast of the Nativity. Most Western churches celebrate this feast as Epiphany, which comes from the Latin word meaning “manifestation”; in Ethiopian Orthodox churches it is known as Timkat and is celebrated on January 19th.

- Feast of the Theophany – Christianity (some Eastern churches)

In some Eastern churches, this feast is associated with the baptism of Jesus by John and Jesus’ first recorded miracle in the Gospels, where he changed water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. This celebration begins at sundown on the previous day. In Eastern churches using the Julian calendar, this feast occurs on January 19th.

Monday, January 7

- Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) – Christianity (some Eastern churches)

The celebration of Jesus’ birth begins at sundown on this day, according to the Julian calendar used in some Orthodox churches.

Tuesday, January 8

- Seijin-no-hi – Shintō

Coming-of-Age Day, a Japanese national holiday in which families travel to shrines and announce to the gods that their children have reached adulthood. Prayers are offered for the children’s wellbeing and lifelong health.

Thursday, January 10

- Memorial of Línjì Yìxuán – Buddhism

Anniversary of the death in 866 C.E. of the Chinese Buddhist teacher who founded what is often known as the Rinzai sect of Zen Buddhism.

Saturday, January 12

- Swami Vivekananda Jayanti – Hinduism

A celebration of the birth of Swami Vivekananda, who introduced Hinduism to North America at the World's Parliament of Religions, held in 1893 in Chicago during the World's Fair.

Sunday, January 13

- Maghi – Sikhism

Commemorating a battle in which forty Sikhs (the Forty Liberated Ones or Immortal Ones), led by a woman named Maathaa Bhaag Kaur, sacrificed themselves for their gurū.

Monday, January 14

- Makar Sankranti – Hinduism

A festival marking the change from decrease to increase of the sun.

Wednesday, January 16

- Memorial of Shinran Shonin – Buddhism

Anniversary of the death in 1263 C.E. of the founder of the Jōdo Shinshū (True Pure Land) school of Mahāyāna Buddhism in Japan.

Friday, January 18

- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins – Christianity

Saturday, January 19

- Sultán – Bahá'í

The first day of Sultán (Sovereignty), the seventeenth month of the Bahá'í year.

Sunday, January 20

- Tu B'Shevat – Judaism

A joyous celebration of the coming spring, including the planting of trees and the conservation of fruits native to Israel, as well as special meals where Jews eat the seven fruits of the land (wheat and barley; grapes; figs; pomegranates; olives; and honey). The festival begins at sundown.

- World Religion Day – Bahá'í

A celebration of the teachings of unity found in all religious traditions. The observance begins at sundown.

Monday, January 21

- Martin Luther King, Jr., Day – USA national holiday

A day remembering the life and legacy of the American civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

- Mahāyāna New Year – Buddhism

This celebration falls on the first full moon day in January for Buddhists who practice in the Mahāyāna (Great Vehicle) stream. By contrast, in Theravadin countries (Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and Laos) the new year is celebrated in April, while Tibetan Buddhists generally celebrate it in March.

Friday, January 25

- Memorial of Hōnen Shonin – Buddhism

Anniversary of the death in 1212 C.E. of the founder of the Jōdo Shū (Pure Land) school of Mahāyāna Buddhism in Japan.

Wednesday, January 30

- Jashne Sadeh – Zoroastrianism

A celebration of the discovery of fire by King Hashang of the Peshdadian dynasty; it is a festival in which a large bonfire is built as an act of defiance to drive back the winter.

Thursday, January 31

- Birth of Gurū Har Rai – Sikhism

A celebration of the birth of the seventh of the Sikh gurūs [1630 – 1661 C.E.], according to the Nanakshahi calendar.

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 British Columbia's Equity and Inclusion Office, 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 ucsfspiritcare.org and select the "Resources" menu.