



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: 1 FEBRUARY 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, February 19th**, 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 WAS A SUCCESS: It was a cold day, but about 425 people gathered at the Metropolitan Theatre to celebrate "Kids in Action." Each child received a sticker identifying that child as one of the "Kids in Action."

Mike Attfield, Doug Wiley, Cindy O'Brien, and Mary Linscheid provided music in the lobby before the event. Morgantown Mayor Bill Kawecki welcomed everyone. Performers included the Mylan Park Elementary School Choir led by Alexandra Jackson; Morgantown Children's Choir directed by Leticia Grützmann with pianist Anna Brusoe, Cheat Lake Elementary School Choir led by Jennifer Connoley, and Al Anderson and Friends, including Al Anderson, Nettie Carpenter, Donna Weems, Chari Armstrong, Sarah Little, John Garlow, Robin Jones, Eve Faulkes, and Butch Galusky. Jeremy Thomas read a story about Audrey Faye Hendricks, the youngest marcher in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963. All our performers are volunteers.

Nelva Cary of the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP introduced Abigail Mallow and Demarcus Bandy to read the essays they submitted to the NAACP Civil Rights Essay Competition. St. Francis School students Sawyer Rudy and Quinn Mudry read their essays and Nicole Lin read her poem about Dr. King and children in the Civil Rights Movement. We thank St. Francis teacher Barb Been for her assistance.

The Morgantown Human Rights Commission and the League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia had information tables in the lobby.

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

We co-sponsor this event with Main Street Morgantown. Thanks to the City of Morgantown and Rachel Wood of Virtus Wealth Solutions for their financial support.

Thanks also to Joe Kaehler and Bill and Tim Rumble for all their assistance at the theatre, and to Lindsay Fleming, Jim Bissett, and Ron Rittenhouse at the *Dominion Post* for their great publicity.

We also collected many items for the Scotts Run Backpack Snack Program.

We have submitted our application to the City of Morgantown for funds to support our 2020 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event.



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 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 February – Black History Month:

This 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 ROAD TRAVELED” OPENS FEBRUARY 8TH AT MONONGALIA ARTS CENTER:

This is the annual exhibit by PSALM: Proud Students Against Landmines and Cluster Bombs at St. Francis Catholic School. This year the students will present “paintings of landscapes the world over that are marred by the existence of landmines, cluster munitions and unexploded ordnance that pose a danger to all.”

There will be an opening reception on Friday, February 8th, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Monongalia Arts Center, 107 High Street, Morgantown.

PSALM students will act as gallery guides. The exhibit will be up through February 24th. The Monongalia Arts Center is open Monday to Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER MEETING IS FEBRUARY 12TH: The next meeting will be Tuesday February 12th 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, February 10th at 5:00 p.m.

Also, please let them know if you require childcare.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION (GMIA) MEETING IS FEBRUARY 3RD

The group will meet at First Presbyterian Church at 456 Spruce Street in Morgantown at 3:00 p.m. The focus will be discussing its participation in the Designing Across Divides conference on March 28-30, including the community dinner on March 28th.

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

DESIGNING ACROSS DIVIDES CONFERENCE IS MARCH 28TH TO 30TH AT WVU CREATIVE ARTS CENTER (CAC):



This is an exciting opportunity to try to “get past differences, find common ground and plant some great ideas.” For more information, please go to designingacrossdivides.org. Registration is now open.

Here’s the tentative schedule:

Thursday evening: Lecture by Antoinette Carroll at CAC Concert Theatre at 5:00 p.m. Carroll is founder and CEO of Creative Reaction Lab and a TED Fellow. Her Lab and Equity-Centered Community Design process was named a @FastCompany World Changing Idea Finalist in General Excellence and Urban Design. Antionette is also the founding chair of AIGA’s Diversity and Inclusion Initiative (AIGA is national graphic arts organization). **This talk is free and open to the public so anyone can attend just this event.**

Free community dinner at Spruce Street United Methodist Church from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. with food donated by local ethnic restaurants and churches; Sufi musicians from Washington, D.C. and a bluegrass band will perform.

Friday:

Keynote speech by Andrew Shea: Designing for positive social, environmental, and economic impact wrote the book *Designing for Social Change* and has contributed articles to publications like AIGA, Core77, and Design Observer. He is an Assistant Professor of Integrated Design at Parsons School of Design and often speaks about design, including at TEDx Transmedia in Rome.

Peter Butler, WVU Davis College faculty member, will be conducting a *design charrette* in the CAC lobby all Friday to gather ideas about ways to connect downtown and Evansdale

Theater of Public Policy Performance – improv comedy (“using comedy to reframe hard thinky stuff” says its web site).

Workshops

Design Meets Community Development
Civility and Righteous Anger
Healthy Community Engagement
Respect & Rebellion
Place-Based Songwriting
Living on this planet in 50 years

Saturday:

*Keynote Speech by Mallika Bose; Architect/urban planner, faculty member at Pennsylvania State University. Planner with a specialization in Environment-Behavior Studies. Co-edited a book on community engaged teaching and scholarship entitled *Community Matters: Service-learning in Engaged Design and Planning*.*

Workshops

Compassionate Listening
Ryan Clifford: Moderating a workshop on a downtown maker space involving artists and all demographics

There will also be 5-minute “lightning talks” throughout Friday and Saturday:

Ben Jablonski: Building with Israelis and Palestinians Agricultural Cooperative in the West Bank, with partnership in Boston
Tim Gilman: Vote Common Good
Dana Coester, WVU Reed School of Media: 100 Days in Appalachia
Joel Beeson, WVU Reed School of Media: Black WWI Veterans Project
Kristen Hughes, Carnegie-Mellon University Design faculty: Presenting Meet Me Halfway project in underserved section of Pittsburgh
3 Rivers QUEST water monitoring with citizen teams

WVU Evansdale Crossing:

At the Reed College of Media, there will be something like NPR’s StoryCorps so people can record their thoughts/conversations about the conference.

Registration: The registration fee is \$75 and covers two breakfasts, two lunches, a mug by WVU ceramics students, and handouts. Paid registration is limited to 80, with 40 spaces reserved for students and scholarship recipients. Registration is open at designingacrossdivides.org/index.php/Home. Parking will be free at the CAC.

Partners: The City of Morgantown, WVU College of Creative Arts School of Art & Design, Alison and Patrick Deem, five other WVU colleges, Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association, WVU Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and AIGA Pittsburgh.

FEBRUARY PFLAG FORMATION GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE:



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FEBRUARY MORGANTOWN
PFLAG FORMATION GROUP MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.
MONONGAHELA ROOM (IN THE MOUNTAINLAIR AT WVU)
1550 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, MORGANTOWN, WV 26506

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
KENNEDYAMYE@GMAIL.COM

Future meetings will be as follows:

March 12th - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. - LGBTQ+ Center at 724 College Ave, Morgantown (This is just above Dadisman/Stalnaker Hall and is the old Stalnaker/Dadisman RFL House)

April 9th - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. - TBD



WVU LGBTQ+ CENTER EVENTS: The LGBTQ+ Center is moving to Maple House, 724 College Avenue (former Stalnaker/Dadisman RFL House) as of February 1st. The “grand re-opening” is tentatively scheduled for February 22nd from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.



WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH: Events for this month have not yet been posted. Check back at cbc.wvu.edu/events/black-history-month-events.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN PROGRAMS FOR FEBRUARY:

Sunday, February 3 at 10:45 a.m.: “Hiroya Tsukamoto will perform in Concert at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Morgantown at 429 Warrick St. This amazing Cinematic Guitarist will entertain and inspire us with his tonal sound poems. An exceptional event, please join us one and all. The Community Dinner group will join us with appetizers to follow. This is really a very special event and hope we see lots of friends, members, and one another.

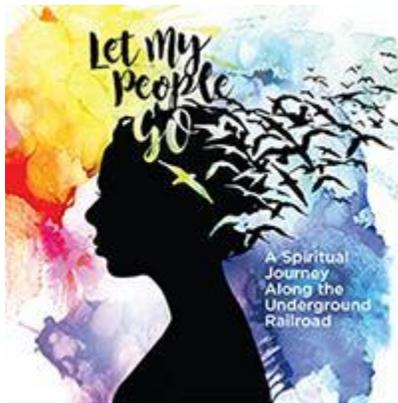
We have been very fortunate to partner with the Community Dinner group, who is joining us for the concert and providing appetizers for the post concert reception time. Hope to see everyone there.”

February 10: John Bird from the Sierra Club

February 17: Rishira Dille will speak at Heritage Village on WVU Access

February 24: Jim Kotcon will speak about Opportunities for Renewable Energy in West Virginia

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.



FEBRUARY 17TH CONCERT AT WVU CREATIVE ARTS CENTER:

“Commemorate Black History Month with The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh's performance of ‘Let My People Go: A Spiritual Journey Along the Underground Railroad.’

“Celebrating two of America's most venerable cultural treasures -- the African-American spiritual and the Underground Railroad -- "Let My People Go! A Spiritual Journey Along the Underground Railroad" explores the ingenuity of America's slaves, who created code songs that contained hidden messages within much of their music, messages that not only inspired fellow slaves to escape but also instructed them in when, where and how to use the Underground

Railroad in their freedom flight.

“The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, under the direction of Matthew Mehaffey, is known for its mastery of the great choral classics as well as masterfully tackling more contemporary works. Renowned for its excellence, the MCP combines the clarity of words with the mystical power of music so the deepest and most universal of human expressions are magnified through a community of voices.”

Tickets start at \$24 and are available at the Mountainlair and Creative Arts Center box offices or from Ticketmaster. For more information, call 304-293-SHOW.

STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS



WEST VIRGINIA ACLU ANNOUNCES LOBBY DAY FOR FEBRUARY 7 FROM 8:20 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.: “We will 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, a large press conference featuring 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!

"If you are interested in setting up a meeting with your legislators, please contact Policy Director Eli Baumwell at ebaumwell@acluwv.org.

RSVP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/events/279987352686755/.

Other groups involved are WV FREE, Fairness West Virginia, Planned Parenthood, West Virginia Citizen Action Group, Rainbow Pride of West Virginia Inc., and Call to Action for Racial Equality: CARE Coalition.

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA NEWS: Beckley's Common Council became the latest West Virginia local government to approve nondiscrimination protections for the LGBTQ community.

And this may be the year to finally get language to end discrimination against housing and employment into state law. Fairness West Virginia announces that "we are seeing record support among lawmakers to do just that.

"In the Senate, we have the vocal support of Senate President Mitch Carmichael, and Majority Leader Tom Takubo is the LEAD SPONSOR of our bill, The West Virginia Employment and Housing Nondiscrimination Act (EHNDA). Joining Senator Takubo are Republican state Senators George Clements, Bill Hamilton, Ryan Weld and Sue Cline, and Democrats Stephen Baldwin, **Bob Beach**, Richard Lindsay and Corey Palumbo. **Bob Beach represents part of Monongalia and Marion counties and can be reached at bob.beach@wvsenate.gov.**

"And support in the House is overwhelming!

"Last year, we had to introduce three identical bills because we had 33 delegates who wished to be listed as EHNDA sponsors (House rules only allow 11 sponsors per bill). This year, we have introduced FOUR identical bills to accommodate our 36 sponsors!

"That's not just the House members who will support the bill with their votes. These 36 lawmakers wanted their names in bold letters at the top of the bill as sponsors!

"In the past, our main stumbling block was the House Speaker Tim Armstead. But the new House Speaker, Roger Hanshaw, has pledged not to be the same impediment as his predecessor.

"With Beckley joining the other 11 cities that protect the LGBTQ community from discrimination, there are now 199,369 citizens living under a nondiscrimination ordinance, but that's still just 11 percent of our state's population."

And from an email from Andrew Schneider of Fairness West Virginia on January 31:

"We need the **Senate version, SB 391**, to be taken up first. That means that we need all of you to contact your senators today and tell them to place it on the Senate Judiciary Committee's agenda.

"Tell them that discrimination doesn't pay. Ninety-six percent of the Fortune 500 have LGBT-inclusive policies. Companies recognize that in order to attract the best and brightest, they must be welcoming to all and be located in places that are also welcoming to all.

“Tell them discrimination is wrong. The Golden Rule, God’s highest commandment, instructs us all to treat others as we would wish to be treated. No one wants to be evicted, fired, or refused service simply because of who they are.

“Tell them to make history. Let’s re-write the narrative about West Virginia as a backward and narrow-minded place. Just 22 states have enacted these protections. We still have time to do this before half of the country.

“This is a pivotal moment for us. Let’s keep our eyes on the prize!”

“**Call or write your representatives today.** If they are a sponsor, tell them how much that means to you and thank them for their support. If they aren’t yet on board, urge them to support fairness for all!”

Please note that all five delegates of the 51st district are listed as co-sponsors of these bills: Barbara Evans Fleischauer, Evan Hansen, Rodney Pyles, Danielle Walker, and John Williams. You can get their contact information at wvlegislature.gov/House/roster.cfm.

“The **Youth Mental Health Protection Act**, which would ban licensed medical providers from engaging in the dangerous and discredited practice of conversion therapy, also known as reparative therapy or ex-gay therapy, on minors has been introduced with strong bipartisan support in the West Virginia Senate.

Senate Bill 359 has 17 sponsors, including 13th District senators Bob Beach and Roman Prezioso for portions of Monongalia and Marion counties. You can contact them at bob.beach@wvsenate.gov and roman.prezioso@wvsenate.gov. This bill “has been referred to the Senate Health and Human Resources Committee, where it appears to have enough votes to pass out of committee. Seven of the committee’s 13 members are sponsoring the bill, including Committee Chairman Sen. Michael Maroney, the lead sponsor.

“Every mainstream health association in the United States condemns conversion therapy.

“The West Virginia Psychiatric Association, West Virginia Psychological Association, West Virginia State Medical Association, West Virginia School Psychologists Association, West Virginia Chapter of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the West Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics have all voiced support for the Youth Mental Health Protection Act.”



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.

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Building Blocks for
Healthy Communities

TRY THIS WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE IS JUNE 7-8: Registration is now open for this conference to be held at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon. If you are working for a “healthier West Virginia,” then “this conference is for you.”

“Enjoy two (or three) idea-packed, inspiring days with like-minded West Virginians! Trade ideas with people from all over the state who are doing great things in their own communities. Get inspired again and again. Meet new friends! Help build a statewide movement!”

For more information, please go to trythiswv.com/conference/.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN FEBRUARY 2019 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 Buxwlaaks 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.

Saturday, 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.

Sunday, February 3

* 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.

* 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!”

Tuesday, February 5

* 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 4717, the Year of the Earth Pig or Boar.

* 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.

Thursday, February 7

* Mulk – Bahá’í

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

Sunday, February 10

* Vasanta Panchami – Hinduism

A North Indian celebration associated with Saraswati, the goddess of learning, and with Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth.

Thursday, February 14

* Valentine’s Day – Western Christianity

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

Friday, 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.

Saturday, February 16

* Losar [Tibetan New Year] – Buddhism

Celebrating the beginning of the year 2146 in the Tibetan calendar.

Sunday, February 17

* Triodion begins – Christianity (Eastern churches)

This day marks the beginning of the ten weeks preceding Holy Pascha (Easter). The term Triodion refers to the book containing the liturgies for the worship services during this time period.

Tuesday, February 19

* 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.

Monday, 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.

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.