



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: 1 JULY 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: We are not meeting in July, so our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, August 20th**, at **7:00 p.m.** at **Panera's on Patteson Drive**. We have reserved the back meeting room. If the weather is nice, we may meet outside.

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.

2019 ANNUAL MEETING/PICNIC IS SEPTEMBER 8TH: Please join us for our CCSJ annual meeting on Sunday, September 8th, at 3:00 p.m. at the Scotts Run Museum at 465 Scotts Run Road in Osage. We will have a very short business meeting followed by time to enjoy the museum and view the video about Al Anderson that the Morgantown History Museum produced.

This will be followed by a cookout/picnic in the lawn area beside the museum at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome. History Museum's video about Al Anderson. Stay tuned as we confirm the date and time.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2020: We are beginning to talk about our Fourteenth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration on January 20, 2020, and we are pleased to report that the City of Morgantown has again committed funding to support this event. Please let us know if you have suggestions.



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, July 18th 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/.

The commission has been very busy in making important recommendations to the Morgantown City Council and working on a “Strategic Plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for City Workforce, Volunteer Policy Advisors, and Community Members.”

On July 2nd, there will be a public hearing and second reading of AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING BULLYING IN CITY SERVICES, ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS, AND FACILITIES SERVING YOUTH. All are welcome to attend the meeting at 7:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers, 389 Spruce Street, and speak to the ordinance during that public hearing. The first reading was June 18th. **The draft plan, resolutions mentioned below, and ordinance can be found on the CCSJ website at www.ccsjwv.org/files/Download/SPDEI.pdf.**

At the June 18th meeting, City Council adopted two resolutions presented by the Human Rights Commission. One authorized the commission to conduct an “open for all” campaign with businesses and organizations in the City of Morgantown. The other established a minority liaisons coordinating council.

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 July:

July 4: Independence Day – Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776, which led to the creation of a new union and new rights for citizens.

July 11: World Population Day – Emphasizes awareness that the world’s #1 problem is too many people using too many resources and creating too much unsustainable waste. Excesses impact current climate, energy and support systems.

July 26: ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Day – Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: The League of Women Voters is working with a state and a local group to begin planning for the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, which gave all women in the country the right to vote. If you are interested in participating in the planning, please contact Vicki Conner at vicki_conner@msn.com.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION (GMIA): Information on the next meeting was not available at “press time.”

You can follow GMIA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/ or on the web at www.morgantowninterfaith.org. The email address is morgantowninterfaith@gmail.com.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER JULY EVENT:

Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/



NAACP MEETS JULY 16TH: The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 16th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Pines Country Club.



PFLAG GROUP MEETING JULY EVENTS:



Please join us for the Morgantown PFLAG July Events!

July Meeting

Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Morgantown Church of the Brethren
464 West Virginia Ave, Morgantown, WV

July Social Gathering

Saturday, July 20, 2019 @ 9:00 a.m.
Panera Bread - Downtown
207 Willey Street, Morgantown WV

PFLAG Hang Out at Chestnut Ridge Park Concert

Saturday, July 27, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.
Email Amy (kennedyamye@gmail.com) or see the PFLAG Facebook page
for details.

Our goal is to be a better support for our loved ones who identify as LGBTQ+. We are looking for parents, relatives, friends or allies to join us in being an extended family to the LGBTQ + community.

We are part of the national PFLAG organization and are committed to advancing equality through its mission of support, education, and advocacy.

www.pflagmorgantown.org

For more information please contact: secretary@pflagmorgantown.org



MORGANTOWN PRIDE: This group “provides social and educational resources for the LGBTQ+ Community, Friends and Allies in Mon. County.” Follow this group’s activities on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/.

Its upcoming events are:

Saturday, July 20: Monthly meeting at Quantum Bean Coffee, 258 Kingwood Street, Morgantown, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23: Tiki Bar Fundraiser @ Tin 202, 202 High Street, at 5:00 p.m. “We are lucky to have Tin 202 host a fun themed fundraiser! There will be live entertainment, yummy food and fun drinks. It’s tiki bar themed, come out for a fun time and support a great cause.”



GOODWILL CITY AMBASSADORS RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 2019 WVU FOOTBALL SEASON: Sara Bishop, coordinator for the Goodwill City Ambassadors, has provided the following letter:

Do you like to meet new people and share your love for West Virginia University (WVU), the Greater Morgantown area, and “wild and wonderful” West Virginia? Consider joining the Goodwill City Ambassadors!

The Goodwill City Ambassadors are a group of volunteers from the local community and various organizations. In the fall of 2012, the Ambassadors began greeting and providing information to visiting fans at WVU Football games. The program has evolved over the years, as we now work closely with WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, WVU Alumni Association, WVU Police Department, Greater Morgantown Convention and Visitors Bureau (GMCVB), and other organizations in the Greater Morgantown area to continue improving visiting teams’ fan experiences on game day. During the last seven WVU Football seasons, the WVU fan base has evolved into “tourism ambassadors” for the community as they too welcome guests to Mountaineer Country.

In addition to greeting fans outside of Milan Puskar Stadium and within tailgating lots before home games, WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics asked Ambassadors to assist with their golf cart shuttle service again this season, which was introduced prior to the 2018 WVU Football season. Ambassadors drive the accessible golf carts to and from pickup locations surrounding the stadium every home game. This service is provided so that guests with a disability and elderly or injured patrons, along with one companion, have a positive experience during a WVU Football home game. The golf cart shuttles run two hours prior to kick off until half-way through the first quarter. Then, Ambassadors will begin shuttling guests from the stadium to their original pickup location at the beginning of the fourth quarter until one hour after the game. This new service received positive feedback from many visitors last fall and the Ambassador team is excited to assist with once again.

Individuals interested in driving the carts would do so either before or after the game. WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics provides golf cart driver safety training as well as ADA training prior to the first home game.

We are currently seeking additional volunteers for the 2019 WVU Football season who can assist with Ambassador responsibilities- greeting and assisting visiting fans and driving the golf cart shuttles. To find out more program information, plan to attend one of the **upcoming meetings, which will be on Monday, July 1 at 6 p.m. and Wednesday, July 17 at 6 p.m.** Both meetings will take place at GMCVB’s main office, located at 341 Chaplin Road in Morgantown, which is off I-79 exit 155. By becoming an

Ambassador, you will have the opportunity to connect with the community and feel rewarded in giving back to locals and visitors alike. We hope you will join us!

Please note that, while Ambassadors get bright orange attire, parking passes, and boxed lunches, they do not get tickets to the games.

If you have any questions, please email Sara Bishop at goodwillcity@gmail.com.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN PROGRAMS FOR JULY: The July schedule was not available at “press time.” Please go to uufmwv.org/ to check for updates. Except where noted, all events are at the Fellowship building at 429 Warrick Street. All are welcome. The Fellowship is a member organization of CCSJ.



WVU CENTER FOR WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES TO HAVE NEW LEADERSHIP: The WVU Eberly College of Arts and Sciences has announced two new appointments that will expand “research and teaching initiatives surrounding gender diversity and social justice.

“Sharon Bird, professor and head of sociology at Oklahoma State University, has been named the Center’s director and a professor of women’s and gender studies.

“Maria del Guadalupe ‘Lupe’ Davidson, associate professor and chair of women’s and gender studies and co-director for the Center for Social Justice at the University of Oklahoma, will join WVU as the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences’ director and academic coordinator for social justice affairs and Woodburn Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies.

“Bird and Davidson begin their roles in fall 2019.”

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.



**A FAIRER
FUTURE**

10th Anniversary Gala!

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA GALA IS SEPTEMBER 28TH: This annual event will be in Charleston. More information will be available at www.facebook.com/fairnesswv/ and <http://fairnesswv.org>.



ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA ANNOUNCES 3 CAMPAIGNS: On June 11th, the ACLU issued the following press release:

Attacks on civil liberties are coming from all directions. With new, outrageous developments occurring daily, it's hard to keep up with the deluge. As a civil liberties organization, we feel this too. We often feel like we are jumping from one crisis to the next, putting out fires as quickly as they arise. As the ACLU, our mission is not only to protect civil liberties, but to advance them. And to do this effectively, we need to focus our work and have a plan.

Today, the American Civil Liberties Union of WV is unveiling three campaigns to guide our work for the next decade. With these campaigns we aim to fundamentally change West Virginia. We seek to invest in our children—all of them. We seek to end the scourge of mass incarceration. We seek to give people real power over their government. Ultimately, we seek to make WV a more just and compassionate home for all.

We have serious problems in West Virginia. The time for half measures is over. We need big, bold ideas if we want to live up to the ideals embodied in our state's motto--- *montani semper liberi*. These campaigns are an effort to fulfill a long-term vision in which mountaineers truly are always free.

We have chosen to focus our work on three areas for the next decade: juvenile justice reform, criminal justice reform, and defending democracy. Each campaign will integrate our legal, outreach, and policy work. They will be driven by clear, ambitious, but achievable goals. We will use data-driven, evidence-based practices to reach these goals.

Juvenile Justice Reform

Juvenile Justice has been a focus area of the ACLU-WV for many years already. It's driven by the belief that children don't belong in cages; that families should not be separated; and that we are failing to address the mental and emotional health needs of at-risk youth. Our Juvenile Justice Reform campaign will measure success by the following goals:

- Reducing juveniles in detention by 75%
- Reducing juveniles in out-of-home placement by 65%
- Reducing out-of-home placement for status offenses by 90%
- Reducing referrals to the juvenile justice system from schools by 50%
- Eliminating disparate minority contact in schools and the community

Criminal Justice Reform

Protecting the rights of those accused and convicted of crimes has been another long-standing mission of the ACLU. Recently, the ACLU unveiled a Smart Justice campaign

aimed at reducing incarceration in the US by 50%. Blueprints for achieving this goal are being crafted for every state, and the WV blueprint is here. The ACLU-WV's Criminal Justice Reform campaign incorporates and expands on this goal. We recognize that our broken criminal justice system needs reforms at every point, from initial contact with law enforcement, to reentry. With this in mind, the campaign's goals are:

- Reducing the number of people incarcerated by 50%
- Reducing the number of people in pretrial detention by 90%
- Reducing complaints of excessive force by 50%
- Eliminating disparate rates of arrest and incarceration for people of color.

Defending Democracy

Since 2010, 25 states, including West Virginia, have passed over 35 laws restricting voting rights. To fight back against this trend, the final campaign is Defending Democracy. The goals of this campaign are to increase participation, promote informed voters, and foster civic engagement. Unlike the other campaigns, many of these things are difficult to measure and control. Instead, this is our goal:

To create a political landscape in which there are no serious threats to limiting participation, and there are serious efforts to expand participation.

Over the next few months, we will be traveling around the state to give a more in-depth explanation of these campaigns, the goals and the plans to move the campaigns forward. Stay tuned for information about when an event will be in a city near you. You can find more information about the campaigns and sign up to volunteer with them here. Let's make history.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN JULY 2019 FROM PETER CLARK

For Native Americans, July marks the season of the Mountain Spirit Dances for the Mescalero Apache people of New Mexico; the Hopi Snake Dances, marking a sixteen-day ritual of purification; the Green Corn Ceremony or Stomp Dance, performed by Seminole and other Oklahoma tribes as a time of renewal and purification; and the Sun Dance, observed by Plains peoples (Arapaho, Cheyenne, Shoshone, Arikara, Crow, Sioux, and others) as a time of penitence and sacrifice. It is also known as Xmaay, the season of big berries when summer fruit is ripe for harvesting.

Monday, July 1

· Jashn-e Tirgan – Zoroastrianism

The festival of water.

Wednesday, July 3

· Ghambar Maidyoshem ends – Zoroastrianism

Ending the celebration of the creation of water, the sowing of summer crops, and the harvesting of grain.

Friday, July 5

· Birthday of Gurū Hargobind Sahib Ji – Sikhism

Celebrating a renowned martial artist who was named the 6th of the 11 Sikh Gurūs (1595 – 1644 C.E.).

Saturday, July 6

· Birthday of the XIVth Dalai Lama – Tibetan Buddhism

Celebrating the 84th birthday of His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, born in 1935 C.E. in northeastern Tibet. The Nobel Peace Prize laureate is the spiritual leader of the Tibetan government in exile and is revered as the fourteenth in a succession of manifestations of Avalokiteśvara, the enlightened being (bodhisattva) who embodies compassion in Buddhist practice.

Monday, July 8

· Anniversary of Jamyang Khyentse Chökyi Lodrö – Buddhism [Tibetan tradition]

A celebration of the Tibetan lama (ca. 1893 – 1959) whose mastery of several lineages and insights have had a profound effect on numerous currently teaching lamas.

Wednesday, July 10

· Martyrdom of the Báb – Bahá'í

Anniversary of the martyrdom of the Báb, the forerunner of Bahá'u'lláh, in Persia in 1850 C.E. The Báb and 20,000 of his followers were killed because of their religious convictions throughout the mid-1800's. Work is suspended on this day.

Thursday, July 11

· Feast Day of St. Benedict – Catholic Christianity

Celebrating the life of St. Benedict of Nursia (480 – 547 C.E.), the founder of Western Christian monasticism whose Rule is still widely read and practiced even now.

Saturday, July 13

· Kalimát – Bahá'í

The beginning of the seventh month of the Bahá'í year, meaning “words.”

· Ullambana – Buddhism

A day when Buddhists make offerings to the Triple Gem—the Buddha, the Dharma [teachings], and the Sangha [monastic community]—on behalf of their ancestors.

· Obon – Buddhism

A Japanese festival to honor deceased ancestors, usually involving the lighting of bonfires, traditional meals, paper lanterns, and folk dancing. Locally this festival is celebrated at various times in July and August.

Sunday, July 14

· Feast Day of St. Kateri Tekakwitha – Catholic Christianity and Native American spirituality Celebrating the life and ministry of Kateri Tekakwitha (1656 – April 17, 1680), a Mohawk-Algonquin woman who is the first Native American to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. She was so recognized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012, over three hundred years after her death.

Monday, July 15

· Chaturmas – Hinduism and Jainism

This day marks the beginning of a four-month period (ending in November) during which time devotees observe some form of vow. Penance, fasting, and other religious observances mark this period. It is considered an inauspicious time for weddings or thread ceremonies.

Tuesday, July 16

· Gurū Purnima – Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism

This day celebrates the ancient Hindu sage Krishna Dvaipayana, also known as Veda Vyāsa, who is credited as the compiler of the sacred Vedas, the author of the Eighteen Puranas (supplementary texts), and credited with writing the Sanskrit epic Mahābhārata. The term “gurū”

refers to a teacher or remover of darkness. Jains and Buddhists also mark this day as an opportunity to thank their teachers.

Wednesday, July 17

· Dharma Day (Asalha Puja Day) – Buddhism

This day commemorates the historical Buddha’s first sermon, called “Turning of the wheel of Dharma (Dhamma),” following his own enlightenment. The following day marks the beginning of the three-month Vassa or “Rains Retreat” for Theravadin Buddhist monks and nuns. This period is a time for training in Dharma studies, meditation practice, and giving religious services to the people.

Sunday, July 22

· Feast of St. Mary Magdalene – Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran Christian churches

Also known as the Penitent, Mary Magdalene is celebrated as one of Jesus' earliest and most faithful disciples, after being healed by him. She is also recognized as a witness to Jesus' death and the first recorded witness of his resurrection on Easter.

Monday, July 23

· Birthday of Emperor Haile Salassi I – Rastafari

Celebrating the birth of Ras [prince or chief] Tafari Makonnen (1892 – 1975 C.E.), who ruled as Emperor of Ethiopia from 1916 to 1974 (officially from 1930 to 1974), and who is professed by faithful Rasta believers as God incarnate.

· Birthday of Gurū Har Krishan Sahib Ji – Sikhism

Marking the birth of the 8th and youngest of the 11 Sikh Gurūs (1656 – 1664 C.E.) in the Nanakshahi calendar.

· Khordad Sal – Zoroastrianism

The birth anniversary of the prophet Zarathustra (Zoroaster), according to the Qadimi calendar.

Wednesday, July 24

· Pioneer Day – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Celebrated annually as the anniversary of the entry of LDS pioneers into the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, in Utah in 1847 C.E., after a historic trek across 1,300 miles of wilderness.

Sunday, July 30

· Oharai-taisai – Shinto

A purification ceremony to cleanse believers from offenses committed during the first half of the year. A large ring of woven grasses and reeds is placed at the entrance to Shinto shrines, and people walk through the ring as a symbol of inner purification.

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

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