



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

UPDATE: 1 NOVEMBER 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, November 19th**, at **7:00 p.m.** at **Panera's on Patteson Drive**. We have reserved the back meeting room.

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.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2020: Our Fourteenth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration will be on January 20, 2020, and we are pleased to report that the City of Morgantown has again committed funding to support this event.



This year's program will feature **Ilene Evans portraying Harriet Tubman (1820-1913)**. "Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland but escaped through the Underground Railroad in 1849. She became the most famous leader of that network, aiding slaves in their escape to free states and Canada. When the Civil War erupted her underground experiences and knowledge of covert operations made her an invaluable resource to Federal officers. She served as a spy, nurse, scout, and guide for Union troops and was present at the ill-fated assault of Fort Wagner by the 54th Massachusetts in South Carolina."

This presentation is a History Alive! program of the West Virginia Humanities Council.



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, **November 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 November:

Native American Heritage Month – Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans in the United States.

November 2: International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists – A day to emphasize that information is essential for decision making, whether it be economic, social or political. Information is the cornerstone for democracy, good government and effective institutions. During the past decade, 700 journalists have been killed worldwide.

November 5: Election Day – A day set by United States law for citizens to exercise the right to vote in the election of public officials.

November 9: Day against Racism – A call for global action against intolerance and its attendant violence, as well as enhancement of communal and national tolerance, fairness, and mutual respect.

November 13: World Kindness Day – Calls for deliberate efforts to treat others with kindness and even to exceed the rights which people can expect or hope to be honored in their relationships with others.

November 16: International Day for Tolerance – Emphasizes the dangers of intolerance and is a call for action for the advancement of human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as a day to encourage tolerance, respectful dialogue and cooperation among different cultures and peoples.

November 20: Universal Children’s Day – The world-wide day for promoting mutual exchange and understanding among children and for initiating action to benefit and promote the welfare of the world’s children. **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** – A day for emphasizing awareness that violence against women is a preventable human rights violation based on discrimination against women and a perception of inequalities between men and women.

November 28: Thanksgiving Day – Following a 19th Century tradition, this day commemorates the Pilgrim’s harvest feast in the autumn of 1621 and their successful interdependence with Native Americans that made the feast possible.



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 in 2020. If you are interested in participating in the planning, please contact Vicki Conner at vicki_conner@msn.com.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION (GMIA) MEETING IS NOVEMBER 10TH: The meeting will be at 3:00 p.m., but no meeting place had been posted at “press time.”

The GMIA is also involved with the Ways of Caring Mural Project at Milan Puskar Health Right. The mural features Yasmeen Mustafa, John Garlow, and Charlene Marshall. It is being painted on the north side of the Milan Puskar Health Right building on Spruce Street. You can see it from the alley between Health Right and the Aull Center.

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 MEETS NOVEMBER 12TH: This meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 648 E. Brockway. Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/. If you have items for the agenda, please email them by November 10th.



“Join your friends at Morgantown NOW and Boss Babes as we run wild in Morgantown’s first ever Berlin-style ping pong tournament and party!

“What's Berlin-style ping pong? Only the fastest moving, no-prior-skill-needed, bring-all-your-friends, grab-a-paddle-and-a-beverage, version of ping pong around!

“Grab your tickets today to get your hustle on and to help us put the FUN in fundraiser!

“Tickets include tournament entry and your very own paddle!
\$15/person, \$7/student, (admission waivers available)

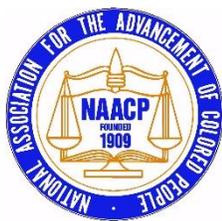
“For more information on Berlin-style ping pong, check out Deadspin's take:
[deadspin.com/berlin-style-ping-pong-the-game-you-can-play-with-30-o-472110222.](https://deadspin.com/berlin-style-ping-pong-the-game-you-can-play-with-30-o-472110222)”



WEST VIRGINIA NOW ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE IN MORGANTOWN NOVEMBER

23RD: The conference will be held at the Hampton Inn & Suits at the University Town Centre, 325 Granville Square, in Morgantown from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The agenda includes a keynote speaker on “Reproductive Justice and Appropriate Nomenclature,” Chapter Updates and Reports, Suffrage Activities Around West Virginia, Discussion of Bylaws, Resolutions, Planned Legislative Work and Strategies to Achieve Goals, and Election of Board Members and Officers.

Registration information is available at www.wvnow.org/posts-from-our-leaders-and-friends/now-2019-state-conference. Registration has been extended. Anyone can pay at the door now but must show proof of membership to vote if they registered after the deadline.



NAACP MEETS NOVEMBER 19TH: The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 19th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Pines Country Club.

Here is the information about the NAACP-Greater St. Paul AME Church essay contest for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day 2020. CCSJ is pleased to partner in this contest by inviting the winners to share their essays at our event on January 20th.

“To All Parents, Teachers, and Interested Community Members:

“The Morgantown/Kingwood NAACP again proudly joins the 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 the history of civil rights by participating in our annual essay competition. You may participate in two ways: First, invite area students to submit essays for our 2019-2020 contest. Second, be among those in the audience at the celebration at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, at Greater St. Paul AME Church, 61 Beechurst Ave., Morgantown, WV.

“This year's general theme is ‘What’s Different Today? Civil Rights Before and After Martin Luther King.’ Essays must be a minimum of 300 words and must focus on a civil rights topic (not on Martin Luther King’s biography). Essays can be supplemented by artwork, photography, and video. Entries must either be emailed by 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, December 18, 2019, or postmarked by December 18, 2019, by the U.S. Postal Service.

“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. 19, 2020, and the MLK program given by the Community Coalition for Social Justice (CCSJ) on Monday, January 20, 2020, 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. Please note that students must provide the information requested on the entry form. The form includes a release and certification statement that must be signed by a parent or guardian. See the accompanying guidelines for other instructions. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

“Sincerely,
Dr. Jerry Carr Jr., NAACP President”

Here are the guidelines:

“What’s Different Today? Civil Rights Before and After Martin Luther King”
2019-2020 NAACP MLK Essay Contest Guidelines
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, ***“What’s Different Today? Civil Rights Before and After Martin Luther King.”*** Focus on Monongalia County or any community in the United States of America.
2. Select a **civil rights category**: (*But do not write a biography about Martin Luther King.*)
 - a. Public education (Example: From 1st grade through 12th grade in schools; from undergraduate programs through graduate programs at universities.)
 - 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 *“before and after Martin Luther King.”*
 - b. Interview informed descendants of a person or persons who experienced or

- witnessed activities that occurred within your civil rights category. Drawing from their relatives’ stories, what is different or not different today? What’s better for people of color?
- c. Find and read details in books, magazines, and newspapers that describe activities that occurred within your civil rights category. What’s better? What needs to change?
4. Write and submit an essay about what you heard and read:
 - a. Give details about your civil rights category. What examples that reflect life “before and after” MLK? 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, photography, and video. Put your name on each page you submit. Your work will be judged for its age-appropriate content, clarity, theme development, and grammar.
 - d. **Ask your parent or legal guardian to complete and sign the entry/waiver forms.**
 5. Submit your essay along with your entry/waiver forms by email or via the U.S. Postal Service. All entries must either be emailed by 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, December 18, 2019, or postmarked by December 18, 2019.
If emailing, use: morgantown.naacp3241@gmail.com or
If mailing, use: NAACP Essay, NAACP Morgantown/Kingwood Branch, P.O. Box 4091, Morgantown WV 26504-4091.

NAACP Essay Contest 2019-2020

NAACP Morgantown/Kingwood Branch, P.O. Box 4091, Morgantown, WV
26504-4091

**Required Entry Form and Parent/Legal Guardian Waiver Form for
Grades 4-5, 6-8, 9-12**

| | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|--|
| Student’s Name: | | Grade: | |
| Title of Essay: | | Word Count: | |
| Home Mailing Address: | | Student’s Age: | |
| City: | State: | Zip Code: | |
| Home Phone Number: <i>(including area code)</i> | | | |
| Parent/Legal Guardian’s Name: | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|------------------|----------------|
| Parent/Legal Guardian's Cell Phone Number: <i>(including area code)</i> | Parent/Legal Guardian's Email Address: | | |
| School's Name: | | | County: |
| School's Mailing Address: | | | |
| City: | State: | Zip Code: | |
| School's Phone Number: <i>(including area code)</i> | | | |

Parent/Legal Guardian's Release Statement

As parent (or legal guardian), I acknowledge that my child has written the attached essay. Should he or she win the essay contest, I agree to allow the essay and a picture of my child to be distributed publicly. I agree that my child will be available at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, to read an excerpt from his or her essay for the Martin Luther King Program at St. Paul AME Church, 61 Beechurst Avenue, Morgantown, WV, and also at the Community Coalition for Social Justice MLK Program at the Metropolitan Theater on Monday, Jan. 20, 2020. I also understand that the essay will be subject to disqualification if it is discovered that my child plagiarized or that the thoughts expressed are not his or her own.

I, _____,
(Print Name of Parent/Legal Guardian)

hereby certify that I am the parent/legal guardian of

(Print Name of Participating Student)

(Sign Your Name as Parent/ Legal Guardian) *(Date)*

Brief Reminders (See the guidelines for more details)

- 1 The student's essay must cover this year's theme: "What's Different Today? Civil Rights Before and After Martin Luther King." *See the accompanying guidelines for other instructions.*
- 2 This entry form must be properly signed and completed, and it must accompany each student's essay.
- 3 A student may submit only one entry. All entries must either be

emailed by 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, December 18, 2019, or postmarked by December 18, 2019.

- 4 Essays and entry forms should be submitted by email or mail. *See guidelines.*
By Email: morgantown.naacp3241@gmail.com
By Mail: NAACP Essay, NAACP Morgantown/Kingwood Branch,
P.O. Box 4091, Morgantown, WV 26504-4091.
- 5 All students **must** provide the information requested on the entry form. The form includes a release and certification statement that **must be signed by a parent or guardian**. See the guidelines for other instructions.



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN PEACE SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 10TH: Peace Sunday will be celebrated Sunday, November 10, at Morgantown Church of the Brethren at 10:00 am. It will be celebrated in a participatory way. Led by Deb Bergen, all are invited to share something: a poem, a work of art, a reading, a personal experience, a prayer, a work of art, a story, a song.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN PROGRAMS FOR NOVEMBER:

November 3: Food and Climate Action - on a local level - Linda Yoder leading a guided discussion. Community Dinner - potluck - at 3:00 p.m.

November 10: Heirloom seeds and environmental impact with WVU Professor Dr. Mehmet Oztan

November 16: "The Pittsburgh Cluster of UU Churches is holding its Annual Assembly. We get one delegate, but we can have as many folks as we want to come and enjoy other UU's and soak in social justice information. We are approaching 2020 and have a huge social and ethical responsibility ahead of us."

November 17: Rick Landenberger, Director of the Land Trust at Heritage Village at 10:30 a.m.

November 20: (Wednesday): Transgender Day of Remembrance. Cricket Hall will be part of a team. Please be a part of planning this important event. We will need a place to meet.

November 24: Circle of Caring - We can enjoy helping and supporting each other as caregivers as we celebrate helping raise or care for one another.

December 1: Open House. Christmas Decorating. Bring whatever you would like to share - a big dish or a little treat. All food can be rolled over to the 3:00 potluck hosted by Community Dinner.

Except where noted, all events are at the Fellowship building at 429 Warrick Street at 10:45 a.m. unless otherwise noted. All are welcome. The Fellowship is a member organization of CCSJ.



PFLAG MORGANTOWN NOVEMBER EVENTS:

November 9: PFLAG is sponsoring “**Raising Transgender Kids Meeting**” from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. “This meeting is for anyone (parents, grandparents, guardians, etc.) raising transgender kids.

“We will get together to chat, discuss struggles and successes, and share resources. Location will be kid-friendly so please feel free to bring your trans and non-trans kids!

“Please email info@pflagmorgantown.org or call 304-296-8236 for details on the specific meeting location for this event.

“PFLAG Morgantown provides support and education to all parents, family, friends, and allies of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people in the Morgantown, West Virginia area.”

November 12: Friendsgiving Potluck. “Please join PFLAG Morgantown, PFLAG Fairmont, and Morgantown Pride for a Friendsgiving Potluck. We’ll meet and eat in the gym at First Presbyterian Church (456 Spruce St., Morgantown, WV 26505)

“This event is open to all. If you are able to contribute a dish or drinks to the event, please sign-up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0444a5ac2da2fa7-pflag>.

“You are welcome to join regardless if you can contribute food or drink. Please RSVP to the event, so we have a rough headcount.”

November 16: The Social Saturday will be at the downtown Panera at 207 Willey Street on from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Follow PFLAG on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pflagmorgantown/ or www.pflagmorgantown.org.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE EVENTS: 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/.

Here are the future events:

November 3: Public Meeting. This will be at Terra Café, 425 Industrial Avenue, Star City, at 10:00 a.m. “On the agenda: *Homecoming-out Event, *Trans Day of Remembrance Vigil, *LGBTQ+ Winter Formal, *Winter Cabin Fever Events, *Pride Parade, *Pride Block Party. All meetings are family friendly, all are welcome!” You are welcome to stay after the meeting for “Common Grounds.”

November 16: Homecoming Out. This will be at the Morgantown Learning Academy at 123 Discovery Place at 6:00 p.m. Details will follow at the Facebook page noted above.

November 19: Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil. This will be at 6:30 p.m. “Please join us and PFLAG Morgantown at the WVU Free Speech Zone [to] honor all transgender people whose lives were lost to anti-transgender violence this year and years prior.

“Planned Parenthood and ACLU of WV will be joining us to help provide information on healthcare and how to register to vote.

“Speakers to come. If interested in speaking, please email Morgantownwvpride@gmail.com.”

December 2: Winter Formal Gay-La. This will be at the Monongalia Arts Center from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$40 for single admission and \$75 for a couple. “Morgantown Pride invites adults to an evening of dancing, silent auction, live entertainment and a art showcase.”

April 17-19: Pride Weekend 2020. There will be a Pride Parade downtown on the 17th “and all are welcome to participate! Sign up sheets will be posted by mid-November.” The second annual Pride block party will be on Saturday, April 18th! Sponsorship forms will be posted by early November.

Morgantown Pride is also “thrilled to announce that we have been asked to be in a documentary! Over the next few months, we will team up with filmmaker and director Sara Werner - a wonderful woman who wants to highlight our organization and the local queer community! We are beyond thankful for this opportunity to collaborate!”



WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH ANNOUNCES MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY BREAKFAST: THE MLK Unity Breakfast will take place in the Mountainlair Ballrooms at 8:00 a.m. on Monday January 20, 2020.

“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.”



WVU LGBTQ CENTER EVENTS: Here are the upcoming events:

November 5: LGBTQ+ Life in the USDA Forest Service. “Lilith Hope Milam is USDA Forest Service LGBTQ+ Special Emphasis Program Manager to the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests.

“Sharing personal stories and experiences, their lecture highlights most significant aspects of Life for rural LGBTQ+ in the US and LGBTQ+ life in Federal Employment.”

This event will be held in Oglebay Hall 107 on the WVU Downtown Campus. Nearby paid parking is available behind the Mountainlair. It is free and open to the public. Please phone 304-293-9593 if you need any type of accommodation.

“Every Monday: ACE Tea! @ 2:00 - 3:00 PM. Join Brandi for this weekly group for Asexual camaraderie and tea. All are welcome! Come to the LGBTQ+ Center Monday’s at 2 for Asexuality themed activities. Different activity each week, ranging from movies to book discussions to crafts to a (hopeful) mini cake baking session. Ask questions, mingle, and of course drink tea! (If tea is your jam, that is!) First week is fandom meet & greet! Discuss your fictional favs and get introduced to everyone. For more info contact Brandi at bah0031@mix.wvu.edu.” This will be held every Monday through December 9th except for November 25th.

“Every Tuesday: Snacks & Cartoons @ 3:30 - 4:30 PM. Join Daniel for an afternoon snack, cartoons and fun. Come chill out, watch some cartoons, and join Daniel and friends for a fun discussion about how Steven Universe teaches us about gender identities and expressions.” This will be held every Tuesday through December 10th except November 26th.

“Every Wednesday: Genderwhat?! @ 2:00 - 3:00 PM. Join this weekly discussion group with Erica and friends to learn more about the gender non-binary spectrum, play games, make crafts and be yourself. Genderwhat?! is a community for people who are trans, gender-nonconforming, genderqueer, or any sort of nonnormative gender. The goal of this community is to create a safe space not only for discussion, but also a place to have fun and build friendships with other people on campus who are not cisgender. Each month is focused on a theme, meaning the events in a certain month would all pertain to a certain subject. Some example themes include: gender expression and fashion, the LGBTQ+ community in various countries, relationships, family "out"ings, or queer history.” This will be held every Wednesday through December 11th except November 27th.

“

Quilt Project

No Hate in
My Holler



Every Monday
12:00 - 1:30 pm
LGBTQ+ Center (Maple House: 724 College Ave)

Help design and create the “No Hate in My Holler” Quilt! This will be a collaborative quilt made with everyone’s vision of what it means to have “No Hate in My Holler.”

Feel free to come with your own designs or we can help you create one.

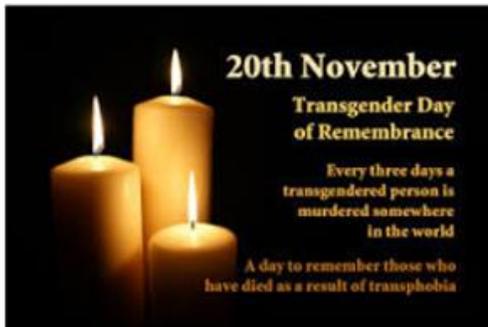
lgbtq.wvu.edu | 304-293-9593 | lgbtq@mail.wvu.edu | Maple House: 724 College Ave

How does your holler look like? Feel free to come with your own designs or we can help you create one. No experience necessary. This event is free and open to ALL.” It will be held every Monday through December 9th except November 25th.

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, November 20th, 5:00 - 8:00 PM

The LGBTQ+ Center cordially invites you to join us for our annual
FRIENDSGIVING DINNER
and
TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE VIGIL
with special appearance by keynote speaker
ASHLEY BRUNDAGE



is proud to host...

Makeup & Skincare for Confidence

A Workshop for Femmes/Trans Girls • Open to the Public!

When: Friday, December 6th
Time: Noon-3pm
Where: WVU LGBTQ+ Center
RSVP to ellen.rodriques@mail.wvu.edu

Sponsored by Alicia West Fancher, Mary Kay Cosmetics
marykay.com/afancher

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 and a web page at wvnow.org.



BILL OF RIGHTS BASH IS NOVEMBER 16TH: This event will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the University of Charleston Ballroom, 2300 MacCorkle Avenue in Charleston.

“The ACLU-WV is excited to bring back our Bill of Rights event with our 2019 Bill of Rights Bash on November 16.

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY at the link from www.acluww.org/en/events/bill-rights-bash!

“At this year's Bill of Rights Bash, we are honored to host Nihad Awad, CEO and Founder of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) as the keynote speaker. The evening will also include a salute to two extraordinary West Virginians. This year's Roger Baldwin Award for service to the state will be awarded to Sharon Lewis, Executive Director of the Women's Health Center of West Virginia, and the Sid Bell Memorial Award for service to the ACLU-WV will honor Tony Majestro of Powell & Majestro P.L.L.C. You can also browse our silent auction and enjoy a unique musical group.

“As we approach our 100th year, the ACLU continues to be the nation's defender of liberty, demanding that the promise of the Bill of Rights be extended to everyone. We hope you can join us for this thought-provoking and entertaining evening.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN NOVEMBER 2019 FROM PETER CLARK

Observing Native American Heritage Month

For Native Americans, November marks Gwilatkw, the blanket season of the first snow, in which the Earth covers herself for her winter sleep.

Friday, November 1

- All Saints Day – Christianity [Western churches]

A commemoration of the lives of people, known and unknown, whose holiness and compassion toward others represent the best Christian virtues. In some Christian traditions, the following day is reserved for intercessions for the dead and is known as All Souls' Day. Latino/a/x people in North and Central America mark these days in connection with celebrations of Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead.

Saturday, November 2

- Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I – Rastafari

Because Rastafarians recognize Haile Selassie (born Ras Tafari Makonnen in 1892; died in 1975) as an incarnation of God and a messiah who will lead the peoples of Africa and the African Diaspora to freedom, peace, and prosperity, his coronation day as Emperor of Ethiopia in 1930 is remembered as a major festival.

Monday, November 4

- Qudrat – Bahá'í

The beginning of the thirteenth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning “power.”

Friday, November 8

- Mawlid al-Nabi – Islam

The anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad in Mecca in ca. 570 C.E., observed by Sunni Muslims beginning at sundown. Shi'a Muslims celebrate five days later, on November 13th.

Tuesday, November 12

- Gurū Nanak's Birthday – Sikhism

Sikhs commonly celebrate the birthday of their founder, Gurū Nanak Dev Ji, on the full moon day of Kartik, even though the guru's biographers record his birth on April 15, 1469 C.E. A poet and mystic, Guru Nanak wrote 974 hymns that are included in the Sikh scriptures, known as the Gurū Granth Sahib.

Thursday, November 14

- The Advent (or Nativity) Fast – Christianity (Eastern churches)

The beginning of a forty-day vegetarian fast in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) commences at sundown. For Orthodox Christians who follow the old calendar, this fast begins two weeks later.

Sunday, November 17 *date has not been finalized at press time*

- Lokasha Jayanti – Jainism

Celebrating the births of revered and scholarly persons, such as the 15th century reformer Lonka Saha, whose opposition to temple worship and the use of images led to the founding of the Sthanakavasi sect.

Thursday, November 21

- Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Christianity (Catholic churches)
- Entry of the Mother of God (Theotokos) into the Temple – Christianity (Eastern churches)

This day commemorates the entrance of the three-year-old Virgin Mary into the temple at Jerusalem to receive an education and begin her life of absolute dedication to God. According to some apocryphal writings, Mary also entered the Temple's Holy of Holies on this occasion, thus becoming the first and only woman ever to enter that sacred space.

Saturday, November 23

- Qawl – Bahá'í

The beginning of the fourteenth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning "speech."

Sunday, November 24

- Christ the King Sunday – Christianity

This feast day commemorates Jesus' teaching that he will return at the end of time to judge humanity. In the Western Christian liturgical year, this is the last Sunday; the following Sunday (i.e., the first Sunday of Advent) marks the beginning of a new year.

- Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji – Sikhism

This day commemorates the martyrdom of the ninth of the Ten Sikh Gurus (1621-1675 C.E.). He is remembered for defending the Sikh faith, as well as the rights of Hindus and the cause of religious liberty.

Tuesday, November 26

- Day of the Covenant – Bahá'í

A celebration of the appointment of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the son of Bahá'u'lláh, as the Center of the Covenant in New York City in 1912 C.E. Devout followers begin their remembrance the preceding evening and do not suspend work on this day.

Thursday, November 28

· Thanksgiving Day

This national holiday was first officially observed after a proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, in 1863 C.E. Establishing the fourth Thursday of November for the observance, Lincoln wrote that “[The blessings enjoyed in this country] are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People.”

· Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá – Bahá'í

The commemoration of the death of the Center of the Covenant in Haifa, Palestine, in 1921 C.E. Devout followers begin their remembrance the preceding evening and are allowed to work on this day.

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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