



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: 1 FEBRUARY 2020

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 18th**, at **7:00 p.m.** at **Panera's on Patteson Drive**. We have reserved the back meeting room. *If public schools are closed for the day or dismiss early for inclement weather, our meeting is cancelled.*

Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfeld 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.

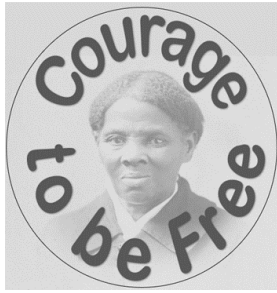
PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR DUES - \$10 for individuals and \$25 for organizations – to CCSJ, PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160. You can join or donate by credit card via PayPal on our web site.



CCSJ AT IBELONG ON FEBRUARY 22ND: CCSJ is pleased to be able to participate in this event before the WVU women's basketball game with the University of Kansas. Doors will open at 3:30 p.m.

Terri Howes of Mountaineer Athletics, "it was our opinion that intercollegiate athletics can be a great platform to cross cultural, religious, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, political and economic boundaries and celebrate what makes our university, community and state so special – our people. We came up with the slogan 'I Belong' – a play on John Denver's Country Roads lyrics – 'Take me home to the place... I belong'. As Mountaineers, we all belong!

"We are inviting all organizations, student groups, state-wide coalitions, and community groups to be a part of this celebration. If interested, we are asking groups to set up a booth/table in the concourse area of the Coliseum to celebrate their diversity and unique culture. We are encouraging the booths to include activities such as, arts and crafts/coloring, games, giveaways such as pins, story time, etc. The plan is for this to be a fun, interactive event."



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2020 WAS JANUARY 20TH: Thanks to everyone who made our annual event another success. Approximately 300 people attended on a cold day. Morgantown Mayor Bill Kawecki welcomed the group as Sheila Rye provided highlights of our 20-year history. We enjoyed a lively performance by Al Anderson and Friends and thoughtful/informative presentations by Jeremy Thomas reading *Words Set Me Free*, a story about Frederick Douglass; and Ilene Evans’s portrayal of Harriet Tubman. The West Virginia Humanities Council’s History Alive! Program sponsored Ms. Evans’s performance. We also always enjoy having the Cheat Lake Elementary School Choir as part of our program.

We were pleased to be able to partner with the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP to feature the winners of their essay contest, Olivia Tuel and Demarcus Bandy, who shared their work with us.

Stephenie Woodall provided ASL interpretation; this is the first time we have been able to provide this opportunity to expand our outreach. The Morgantown Human Rights Commission and League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County had information tables in the lobby.

We again thank Barb Watkins of Main Street Morgantown for her assistance as our co-sponsor and Joe Kaehler and the staff of the Metropolitan Theatre for their support. Financial support for this event came from the City of Morgantown and Rachel Wood of Virtus Wealth Solutions.

We have applied to the City of Morgantown for support for our event in 2021. We are tentatively considering a theme that highlights historic West Virginia civil rights activists. Meanwhile mark your calendars for Monday, January 18th at 2:00 p.m. for our fifteenth annual celebration.



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 20th 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, which is Black History Month, celebration 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.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: The League of Women Voters is working with the state-wide West Virginia Women Vote project and the local group, West Virginia Women Vote-Morgantown, 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.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER MEETS FEBRUARY 11TH: The next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on February 11th at 648 E. Brockway, Morgantown. "Join us for our monthly business meeting to discuss legislative updates, community initiatives and upcoming events!"

"We are working in conjunction with the Menstrual Equity Coalition and ask that you bring menstrual products to donate in an effort to provide better access for those in need on campus. All donations will be distributed out in gender neutral bathrooms on campus and will be free to anyone in need."

Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/. You also can follow Morgantown NOW's 2020 legislative initiatives as they are developed at morgantownnow.org/legislative-initiatives/.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION (GMIA) MEETS FEBRUARY 9TH: The meeting will be at 3:00 p.m. at the Church of the Brethren, 464 Virginia Avenue, Morgantown.

Other GMIA events include:

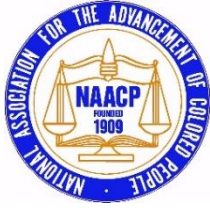
February 5: Scotts Run Backpack Packing from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Scotts Run Settlement House, 41 Lady Bug Lane. This program provides weekend food for children at area schools.

March 8: Community Meal with Friendship House. This will be at Spruce Street United Methodist Church from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

March 15: Monthly GMIA meeting at 3:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 429 Warrick Street, Morgantown.

April 2: Celebrating Jewish Composers. GMIA and Tree of Life Congregation of Morgantown are sponsoring this concert by Frostburg State University and Mount St. Mary's University.

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



NAACP MEETS FEBRUARY 18TH: This meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. at the Pines Country Club.



FATHER-DAUGHTER BALL IS JUNE 12TH FOR GIRLS FROM 2 TO 17: “We want to provide the stage for dads, grandfathers, or that special man in her life to show her that she is a princess by hosting a Father Daughter Ball.

“The Ball will be held at the Erickson Alumni Center, 1 Alumni Drive, Morgantown, WV 26504, on Friday, June 12, 2020 from 6:30 – 9:30PM. Dinner, dancing, dessert, souvenir booklet, memorable photo opportunities, and raffles are all part of this magical evening.

“Of course we could not put this event on without the help from moms or that special woman. Ladies are invited to attend so they can witness their princesses’ take their walk down the red carpet on the arms of daddy. Tickets are \$30 per adult, \$10 for child, and \$5 per extra child. Proceeds will help send kids to the NAACP WV State ACT-SO Competitions, and to purchase items for Hope in a Suitcase to help Foster Kids in the WV Children’s Home Society.

“ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) is a yearlong achievement program designed to recruit, stimulate, and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students.

“Hope in a Suitcase (Comfort Cases) is a foster care nonprofit, whose mission is to inspire communities to bring dignity and hope to youth in foster care. They do this by providing each of the thousands of youth entering the foster care system in West Virginia with Comfort Cases.

“Comfort Cases are backpacks with essential and comfort items for the first few days youth enter foster care. The cases are age- and gender-specific bags.

“For further information, feel free to contact Debbie Robinson at penda8888@gmail.com /681-214-5543, or Maria Gaddis at maria@gaddisplanning.com/ 302-322-0149.”

The deadline to purchase ads for the souvenir program booklet is May 15th. Prices are \$100 for a full page, \$50 for a half page, \$25 for a quarter page, \$20 for a business page, and \$15 for a patron.

Contributions are not deductible as charitable contributions.



PFLAG MORGANTOWN FEBRUARY EVENTS:

Monthly Meeting: The February meeting is Tuesday, February 11th, at 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 456 Spruce Street, Morgantown.

February Social: This event will be Saturday, February 15th, at 9:00 a.m. at Terra Café.

You can reach PFLAG at info@pflagmorgantown.org or by calling 304-296-8236.

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:

February 2nd - Pride Meeting: This will be from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Terra Café.

February 2nd - Speed Friending: This will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Terra Café. “We are so excited to share this event! It’s speed dating for your next bestie or people in the community that are amazing and we’d like you to have the opportunity to meet one another! This is during our monthly Common Grounds meeting following our regular public Morgantown Pride meeting! Please join us!”

February 8th – Starport Arcade Fundraiser: This will be at Starport, 471 Chestnut Street, Morgantown from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. It costs \$5.00 at the door. All ages are welcome, and “the machines will be on free play. Hope to see you there.”

February 18th - LGBTQ+ Town Hall for 2020 Gubernatorial Candidates. Admission is free to this event at South Middle School, 500 E. Parkway Drive, Morgantown, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Morgantown Pride is hosting this event to “focus on issues the queer community faces in West Virginia, as well as how the next Governor will address and handle said issues. The Town Hall will be moderated by Morgantown Pride President, Ash Cutright (they/them). Questions can be submitted via the Google Form link below. There will also be time allotted for the audience to ask questions to the candidates.

Democratic Party primary candidates invited are Jody Murphy, Ben Salango, Cecil Silva, Stephen Smith, Ron Stollings, and Edwin Ray Vanover.

Republican Party primary candidates invited are Jim Justice (Incumbent), Shelby Fitzhugh, Michael Folk, Rebecca Henderson, Charles Sheedy, and H. Woody Thrasher.

February 28 - Trivia Night Fundraiser: This will be from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Morgantown Art Party, 268 High Street, Morgantown. Admission is \$10.00 to participate. “We’re excited to host a trivia night at Morgantown Art Party! Grab your trivia loving friends and come down and support Morgantown Pride for our incoming block party. There will prizes! Hope to see you there!!” The top three winners will get prizes.

March 1 – Pride Meeting: This will be from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Terra Café.

April 17-18 - Pride Weekend 2020:



The parade will be from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on April 17th. “This year's theme is Morgantown Monster March, paying tribute to West Virginia Cryptids. All are welcome to join and can register to participate” from the link on the Morgantown Pride Facebook page.

The block party will be from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 18th. “If you are looking to vend or table at the event, please register at the link below! We have a few waivers available for smaller non-profits, but they are on a first come, first serve basis!” You can register for these from the Morgantown Pride Facebook page.

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!”



PSALM STUDENTS ANNUAL ART AND PHOTO EXHIBIT ON “BE THE CHANGE” OPENS FEBRUARY 7TH:

All are welcome to join the St. Francis Central Catholic School members of Proud Students Against Landmines for their display of “Be the Change.” “will display thought provoking artworks about how ordinary people can become extraordinary by making a difference to those around them. This exhibit also acknowledges and honors individuals and organizations that have made a substantial change in people's lives around the globe through their humanitarian efforts to rid the world of landmines, cluster munitions and other remnants of wars and conflicts.” There will also be a bake

sale to benefit the Marshall Legacy Institute that trains mine detection dogs.

The opening reception will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Monongalia Arts Center’s Benedum Gallery, 107 High Street, Morgantown. PSALM students will act as gallery guides during the reception. The Monongalia Arts Center is open Monday-Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH: No events have yet been posted for Black History Month as of “press time.” Check back at <https://cbc.wvu.edu/events/black-history-month-events>.



WVU LGBTQ CENTER EVENTS: Here are some of the Center’s upcoming events, with more information, links to RSVP, etc., available at

February 5 - The LGBTQ+ Center Potluck: This will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Center, Maple House, 724 College Avenue, Morgantown. The Center “hosts a potluck dinner for queer and transgender people of color (QTPOC). Allies welcome! Bring food if you can! Please RSVP at <http://bit.ly/wvlgbtfood>.

February 6: LGBTQ+ Center's collaboration with WELLWVU for Fresh Check, and anti-suicide themed event, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the WVU Student Recreation Center.

February 11: LGBTQ+ Center's participation in WELLWVU's Sexual Health Fair, 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the WVU Mountainlair & Gluck Theater.

February 24: Panel on Morgantown Queer History. Details will be forthcoming.

February 24-26: Tunnel of Awareness, with LGBTQ+ exhibit "LGBTQ Oppression & Resilience," WVU Evansdale campus.



MORGANTOWN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP FEBRUARY EVENTS: All meetings at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday at the UU Fellowship building on Warrick Street unless otherwise stated.

February 2: WVU Professor. Jim Kotcon will present: "A Climate Update: International, National, State and Local Activities." As well as updating us on climate change, Professor Kotcon will share his knowledge of opportunities to get involved. Please join us and learn more together. We are a Welcoming Congregation.

February 9: Frank Spina, social justice advocate with boots on the ground, with "Freedom Indeed, in the *Midst of Tyranny*".

February 16 at the Village at Heritage Point at 10:30 a.m.: "The biology of gender, from DNA to the brain" by Karissa Sanbonmatsu. This is a TED talk.

February 23: Birthday of W. E. B. Dubois - exact program to be announced.



Empty Bowls™
— MONONGALIA —

EMPTY BOWLS IS FEBRUARY 29TH: This annual event will be Saturday, February 29th, at Mylan Park from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. "Sample soups from local restaurants and take

home a hand painted bowl as a reminder of those among us whose bowl may not be full. 16,000 individuals in Monongalia County are food insecure, and the funds raised at this event help support agencies and organizations providing direct services to help combat food insecurity."

Tickets are available for a minimum donation of \$20 per Adult (13 and up). Tickets for children are \$10 if they wish to select a bowl. Children 12 and under may eat free if they do not receive a ceramic bowl. Information on ordering tickets online or purchasing them from local outlets is available at <https://ebmon.org/luncheon/>.

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.

2020 CELEBRATIONS IN WEST VIRGINIA: There will be activities around the state during 2020. See <https://sos.wv.gov/about/Documents/Calendar%20for%2019th%20Amendment%20Celebration%20Events%20Updated%201-2-2019.pdf> for details.

Events in the immediate future are:

February 17 - All Day 2020 Celebration of WV Ratification of the 19th Amendment at the State Capitol Complex. More than 30 organizations will be setup in the rotunda to provide educational information related to Women's Suffrage. Contact (for event and reserving tables): Julie C. Palas, J.D., Executive Director, West Virginia Women's Commission, 304-558-9027 (office) or 558-6073 (direct line); Mobile: 304-356-0625; julie.c.palas@wv.gov.

February 17 - March 10: Proclamations from all County Commissions for "March as 19th Amendment Centennial Celebration Month". Contact: Jonathon Adler (jonathan@wvaco.org) and Kathy Yates (kathy@wvaco.org). Presentations to be made to county commissions by bipartisan group. "This will be led by local leaders for the democratic and republican parties."

March 6 - Opening night: Women of Appalachia: Invitational Exhibition at the WVU Downtown Campus Library from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The Women of Appalachia Project is curated by Poet Laureate Kari Gunter-Seymour (Ohio University). This exhibit includes work selected by Gunter-Seymour from the 10th anniversary exhibit including Andi Stern, Barbara Fisher, Cheryl Harshman, Emalea Rupe, Kari Gunter-Seymour, Kathy Guest, Lacy Davis, Robin McClintock, Teresa Sager, Wendy Minor and Whitney Folson. The exhibit will end March 28th. Contact: Sally Brown Deskins, Exhibits & Programs Coordinator, West Virginia University Libraries, sbdeskins@mail.wvu.edu.



ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA TRACKS BILLS: The ACLU is tracking many bills through the legislative session. Follow their efforts at <https://www.acluww.org/en/legislation/see-what-were-tracking-2020-legislative-session>.

One featured bill is the "Crown Act." According to the ACLU of West Virginia web site, the Crown Act protects against discrimination by adding to the West Virginia Human Rights Act traits commonly associated with race like hair texture and protective styles including braids and twists.

"This particular type of discrimination is all too common for many Black people -- particularly women -- who often find their hair policed by dress codes in schools, in athletics, and in the workplace.

"Black women are 30 percent more likely to be made aware of workplace appearance policies.

"Black women are 80 percent more likely to change their hair style to "fit in" at the office.

"In most states it's legal for schools and workplaces to discriminate against natural hairstyles.

“Black hair is professional. Black hair is neat. Stop the policing of black hair by passing the Crown Act.

“In support of our partners at Our Children Our Future/WVHKFC and Call to Action for Racial Equality: CARE Coalition we ask that you call or email House Government Organization Chair Gary Howell gary.howell@wvhouse.gov (304) 340-3192 and ask that HB 4508 be placed on the Government Organization Committee agenda.

“This kind of discrimination should have no place in West Virginia.”



FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA UPDATE: Fairness is tracking the Youth Mental Health Protection Act that would ban conversion therapy in West Virginia. You can read more about that at <http://fairnesswv.org/2020/01/29/wv-doctors-agree-its-time-to-ban-conversion-therapy/>. Three related bills are waiting for hearings in the House of Delegates and Senate Health and Human Resources committees. HB 4160 is co-sponsored by Monongalia County Delegates Barbara Evans Fleischauer, Evan Hansen, and Rodney Pyles.

Fairness West Virginia has also posted rebuttals to seven myths about the Fairness Act at <http://fairnesswv.org/2020/01/21/fairness-act-myth-buster/>. Senate Bill 271 was introduced on January 10th and referred to the Judiciary Committee. Since it has not been scheduled for a hearing there, and Senate President Mitch Carmichael has said he doesn't think “at this point in time, it's the right path to pursue for West Virginia',” this bill may again be dead for this session.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN FEBRUARY 2020
FROM www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2020/

Note: This is a new source as Peter Clark, who supplied our previous calendars, is no longer able to do this.

02/01 – Pagan and Wiccan: Imbolc begins at sundown, celebration of fire and light and the return of life

02/02 – Christian: Candlemas – the blessing of the church's supply of candles for the year

02/10 – Jewish: Tu Bishvat begins at sundown – a minor holiday, New Year of the Trees is widely celebrated to renew the land and plant trees

02/15 – Buddhist: Parinirvana or Nirvana Day – in Mahāyāna Buddhism, marks Buddha's death in 483 BCE and attainment of final nirvana

02/21 – Hindu: Maha Shivaratri (Shiva's Night) – honors Shiva, one of the most important Hindu deities

02/25 – Baha'i: Festival of Ayyam-i-Ha (2/25-2/29) – gifts, charity and preparation for fasting preceding the New Year

02/26 – Christian: Ash Wednesday – marks the beginning of Lent, 40 days of prayer and fasting before Easter Sunday