



**Community Coalition for Social Justice**  
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**UPDATE: 1 MARCH 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, March 17th**, 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 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 who writes the newsletter, 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 I BELONG ON FEBRUARY 22ND:** CCSJ was pleased to be able to participate in this event before the WVU women's basketball game with the University of Kansas.

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!

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2021 WILL BE JANUARY 18TH:** 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 and let us know if you have ideas.



**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, March 19th 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/](http://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](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/Annual-HR-Observances.pdf).

**Here are the events for March which is National Women’s History Month – Honors Women as significant agents of change:**

**March 8: International Women’s Day** – Celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women worldwide. Recognition of need for empowering women to meet their health and family planning needs as central to realizing greater equality. With access to education, economic opportunity and quality health care, healthier mothers can have healthier babies, economic gains, and help create less pressure on our planet’s natural resources.

**March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** – Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.

**March 21: International Forest Day** – Call for awareness of the importance of forests in protecting air quality, water retention, plants for pharmaceuticals, and habitat for birds and other wildlife – all of which provide a balance for survival of all.

**March 22: World Water Day** – Calls for awareness of how essential potable water is to the rights of all people in West Virginia and worldwide.

**March 31: Cesar Chavez Day** – Honors Mexican American farm worker, labor leader and activist Cesar Chavez (1927- 1993) who was a nationally respected voice of social justice.



**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](mailto:vicki_conner@msn.com).



**Two events are planned for April for West Virginia Women Vote:**

**Equali-Tea is April 5th:** This will be at 2:00 p.m. at E. Moore Hall on the downtown WVU campus. Ilene Evans will portray African American suffragist and activist Coralie Franklin Cook. The tea will be catered by The Tea Shoppe with 2 types of tea, iced tea,

and tea sandwiches. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the Tea Shoppe or, supposedly, on their web site at [theteashoppewv.com](http://theteashoppewv.com). The money will help fund other centennial-related events. The West Virginia Humanities Council is helping to sponsor this event.

**The Century of Struggle over the Right to Vote Lecture is April 18th:** Dr. Atiba Ellis of the Marquette University School of Law will discuss voter suppression since the passage of the 19th amendment. This will be in the Milano Room of the WVU Downtown Library at 6:00 p.m.



**MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER:** Follow this group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/](http://www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/). NOW will be one of the co-sponsors of the Progressive Potluck, with details below.



This event will be **March 29th** at First Presbyterian Church, 456 Spruce Street, Morgantown, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. “Join Planned Parenthood Votes! South Atlantic, the First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown NOW, Morgantown Pride, and more for a progressive potluck and community bonding event! Our purpose is to all join together for an act of community care post-legislative session - to eat, drink, and take care of one another! Stop by at any point to share an open, welcoming, and loving space with local progressive community members!”



**GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION (GMIA) EVENTS:**

Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association and others

**All are Welcome!**

Come sit and eat together, listen, and share stories

Our 2nd Quarterly **COMMUNITY DINNER**  
**SUNDAY 8 MARCH 4-6PM**

Spruce St Methodist Church  
 Morgantown, WV  
 Bring a dish or not—  
 there is plenty



Come as you are : )

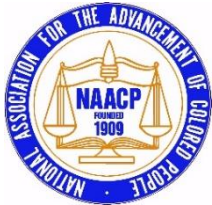
The same groups who came together to make the Ways of Caring mural on the side of Mylan Puskar Health Right invite you to come think about what we do next... after we have a good hot meal together.

**March 15: Monthly GMIA Meeting:** This will be from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 429 Warrick St., Morgantown.



**April 19: Monthly GMIA meeting** at 3:00 p.m. at the Islamic Center of Morgantown, 434 Harding Ave.

You can follow GMIA on Facebook at [ww.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/](http://ww.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/) or on the web at [www.morgantowninterfaith.org](http://www.morgantowninterfaith.org). The email address is [morgantowninterfaith@gmail.com](mailto:morgantowninterfaith@gmail.com).



**NAACP MEETS MARCH 17TH:** This meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. with the place to be determined. Contact the NAACP at [3241naacp@gmail.com](mailto:3241naacp@gmail.com) for more information.



**FATHER-DAUGHTER BALL IS JUNE 12TH FOR GIRLS FROM 2 TO 17 IS JUNE 12TH:** "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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 MARCH EVENTS:**

**Monthly Meeting is March 10:** The general meeting will be from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. From 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., Dr. Kristina Hash will present: “Supporting LGBTQ Elders in our Community.” The meeting will

be at First Presbyterian Church 456 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

**March Social Gathering is March 21:** This will be at 9:00 a.m. at the new location of Terra Café 425 Industrial Ave, Morgantown.

Follow PFLAG on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pflagmorgantown/](http://www.facebook.com/pflagmorgantown/) or [www.pflagmorgantown.org](http://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/](http://www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/).

#### **Here are the future events:**

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



**Roaring Twenties Soiree is March 14<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Monongalia Arts Center, 107 High Street, Morgantown:**

“This is an 18+ event ---

“We’re turning the MAC into a Speakeasy for the night! Come out in your spiffy roaring 20’s attire and come to be fully entertained with Dancing Elephant’s Trunk Show and a special Morgantown Pride Board Who Dunit? performance.

The evening will include drinks, a photo booth, some mystery coming together for one ritzy night affair. ‘A little party never killed

anybody... or did it?’

“This event benefits organizations supporting the community and local arts. We are hoping to raise money for a PR system so we can truly be ROARING at our events.

“There will be a lot of opportunities to spend dough, so bring some cash and support Morgantown Pride!

“Tickets for this event are available at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/roaring-twenties-soiree-featuring-dancing-elephants-trunk-show-tickets-94170599799>.”

Interested in volunteering - please fill out the form at the link here (we will be emailing volunteers closer to the event):

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScaaDSm39FdX3FMJIAs4WFULgo3OonIYCRg0iTOyh mKZymDTw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScaaDSm39FdX3FMJIAs4WFULgo3OonIYCRg0iTOyh mKZymDTw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### April 18 - Pride Weekend 2020:



“Morgantown Pride will be hosting the **First Morgantown Pride Parade down High Street on Saturday, April 18th from 10am - 11:30am**. This year's theme pays homage to West Virginia Cryptids, so dress up and come on out as we celebrate Cryptid Pride! This is a family-friendly event, and all are welcome to participate!



“Join us after the Parade for the Morgantown Pride Block Party in Greenmont! If interested in participating in the parade, please register at [docs.google.com/.../1r1FgdhIUy7t4TsQ0DKIVUG1r5I.../edit...](https://docs.google.com/.../1r1FgdhIUy7t4TsQ0DKIVUG1r5I.../edit...)

We'd also like to thank Liz Pavlovic Design for our incredible Pride design! Prints will be sold at the block party, so be sure to snag one!



“If you're having a blast at the Block Party and you don't want the fun to end then join us for a fun evening of local music and a Calico Art Club Fashion Show! The fashion show starts at 8.” The party will be at 123 Pleasant Street, Morgantown.

**MORGANTOWN PRIDE BRUCH IS APRIL 19TH:** This will be at the Iron Horse Tavern on High Street, Morgantown, starting at 10:00 a.m. No other details were available at press time.

**WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH SPONSORS ALLYSHIP PROGRAM ON MARCH 24TH:** This program entitled “Intercommunal Allyship in Practice: Showing up for the Black LGBTQ+ Community” will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Monongahela Room at the WVU Mountainlair. It is a “panel discussion to discuss the challenges of the Black LGBTQ+ community and the support available on campus” and is co-sponsored by the Center for Black Culture and Research and the WVU LGBTQ Center.



**WVU LGBTQ CENTER EVENTS:** Here are some of the Center’s upcoming events:

Every Monday: ACE Tea! @ 2:00 - 3:00 PM. “Join Brandi for this weekly group for Asexual camaraderie and tea.”

Every Tuesday: Snacks & Cartoons @ 3:30 - 4:30 PM. “Join Daniel for an afternoon snack, cartoons and fun.”

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.”



**MORGANTOWN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP MARCH EVENTS:** All meetings at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday at the UU Fellowship building on Warrick Street unless otherwise stated. No March programs were posted on the website at press time so please check [uufmwv.org/index.html](http://uufmwv.org/index.html) for details.



**LILLY LEDBETTER SPEAKING AT WVU MARCH 10TH:** This event will be 7:30 p.m. in the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms. “Hear the inspiring story of the woman at the center of the historic discrimination case that inspired the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act: her fight for equal rights in the workplace and how her determination became a victory for the nation. This Hardesty Festival of Ideas lecture is sponsored by the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, Harriet E. Lyon Professorship in Women’s and Gender Studies and WVU Leadership Studies Program.”

This event is free and open to the public, but reservations are highly recommended through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/hardesty-festival-of-ideas-presents-lilly-ledbetter-tickets-92790146827>.



**MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER GALA IS MAY 29:** “It’s 80’s Night. Ladies grab your leg warmers and all things neon, it’s 80’s night! On May 29, 2020 the Monongalia County Child Advocacy Center will be hosting our annual Girls’ Night Out fundraiser. The event will be held at the Erickson Alumni Center from 6:30-10 p.m. The evening will include pampering, entertainment, food, cash bar, dancing, a live auction, and more! Come join us for a night of fun and

dancing to help support children and families in our community. Who doesn’t love a blast from the past? We hope to see you there!

Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite.com or by check or cash mailed to the MCCAC at 909 Greenbag Rd. Morgantown, WV 26505.

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/Kanawha-Valley-NOW-1976287046030339/?ref=br_rs) or email [kanawhavalleynow@gmail.com](mailto:kanawhavalleynow@gmail.com).

West Virginia NOW has a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow](https://www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow) and a web page at [wvnow.org](http://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, in addition to the Equali-tea noted above are:

**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 Folsom. The exhibit will end March 28th. Contact: Sally Brown Deskins, Exhibits & Programs Coordinator, West Virginia University Libraries, [sbdeskins@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:sbdeskins@mail.wvu.edu).

**March 6 - 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM 2020 Schmidlapp Distinguished Lectureship in Women's Studies** -- Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall at Marshall University. Joan Quigley, author of *Just Another Southern Town: Mary Church Terrell and the Struggle for Racial Justice in the Nation's Capital*. Free and open to the public. Contact: Dr. Laura Michele Diener, [diener@marshall.edu](mailto:diener@marshall.edu)

**March 21- All Day WV Women's Suffrage Symposium** -- WV Culture Center

**April 4 - All Day - Special Presentation at the WV Libertarian Party State Nominating Convention**

Presentation about Tonie Nathan, the first woman to receive an electoral vote in the 1972 Presidential Election. She passed away a few years ago. This event is meant to honor her legacy and the legacy of expanding voter rights. Contact: David Valente, Libertarian Party of West Virginia Chair, [davidtvalente@gmail.com](mailto:davidtvalente@gmail.com).



**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>.

The ACLU was tracking HB 4508 that would have banned discrimination based on hair style. This bill is dead as it has not moved out of the Government Organization Committee.





**FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA UPDATE:** Fairness West Virginia has released an interactive health guide for transgender West Virginians.

“After completing the first year of the West Virginia Transgender Health Initiative, Fairness West Virginia unveiled Friday the first phase of its comprehensive guide for transgender people who need to access medical care in the Mountain State.

“Staff from Fairness West Virginia have spent more than a year training health care and mental health providers across the region in how to provide competent and compassionate care for transgender people. Those providers are now listed in an online guide.”

You can access the guide at [fairnesswv.org/transhealthguide/](http://fairnesswv.org/transhealthguide/).

**PRO-LGBTQ BILLS DIE IN LEGISLATURE:** Neither the West Virginia House of Delegates nor Senate allowed a vote on the Fairness Act this year. Youth Mental Health Protection Act, a bill to protect minors from the dangerous and discredited practice of conversion therapy, also died on Wednesday, February 26th, the day bills have to pass one house of the legislature, as did Angel’s Law, which “would add sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes under the existing hate crimes law .Angel’s Law would also stress restorative justice, which allows a judge to sentence a perpetrator to work within the community they have wronged in lieu of additional jail time.”

**SOME GOOD NEWS:** Athens, West Virginia, became the 13th city in the state to adopt a local LGBTQ fairness ordinance.

**RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN MARCH 2020**  
**FROM [www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2020/](http://www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2020/)**

03/09 – Jewish: Purim (Feast of Lots) – begins at sundown, celebrates the rescue of ancient Persian Jews from a plot to destroy them

03/10 – Hindu: Holi – festival of colors, marking the coming of spring in India and new harvest of winter crop

03/10 – Sikh: Hola Mohalla – three-day Sikh festival celebrated in Punjab

03/19 – Pagan and Wiccan: Ostara – begins at sundown, sabbat observed on the vernal equinox

03/19 – Roman Catholic: Feast of St Joseph – honors St Joseph, the husband of Mary

03/20 – Baha’i: Naw Ruz (New Year) begins at sundown – marks the end of the Baha’i Fast and beginning of new year

03/22 – Islamic: Lailat al Miraj begins at sundown – the Night of the Ascension commemorates the journey of Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Jerusalem, where he ascended to heaven

03/20 – Zoroastrian: Naw Ruz (New Year) – celebrated at the vernal equinox

03/25 – Christian: The Annunciation – honors the Angel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary of Galilee that she would become the mother of Jesus