



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 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.

ANNUAL MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 15TH WITH REV. RONALD ENGLISH: Our regular September meeting will be via zoom on Tuesday, September 15th at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to participate via Zoom.

Our speaker will be Rev. Ronald English of Charleston who will speak on the topic of "Moving from Hurt to Healing to Encounter Racism in West Virginia."



This biography of Rev. English is from the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation's website at racematterswv.tv/rev-ron-english/: "Rev. Ronald English was licensed and ordained under into the ministry by Drs. Martin Luther King Jr. and Sr. at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga. where and served as Assistant Minister and offered the prayer at the funeral of Dr. King.

"In June of 1972, Rev. Ronald English was called to the pastorate of First Baptist Church of Charleston, West Virginia where reserved for 21 years and initiated the Black Heritage Cultural Series as the first such project funded by the WV Arts and Humanities Council and the Division of Culture and History.

"He has taught courses in African- American history and leadership studies as adjunct instructor at West Virginia State University and Wheeling Jesuit University. In 1989, he participated in a delegation of African American ministers invited by Bishop Desmond Tutu to South Africa on the release of Nelson Mandela.

"Rev. English was awarded the Living the Dream for Peace in 2012 by Martin Luther King Holiday Commission and currently serves as a Restorative Justice Facilitator with the American Friends Service Committee."

He recently participated in a Zoom meeting with Senator Joe Manchin and local police chiefs on this topic.

You can join Zoom meeting from the link at our website at <http://ccsjwv.org/ccsj-news.html> or by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84469552627>

Meeting ID: 844 6955 2627

One tap mobile

+16468769923,84469552627# US (New York)

+13017158592,84469552627# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 844 6955 2627

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kegn16a3Tr>

We will also send the link directly a few days before the meeting and that morning.

CONTACT US: 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.

UPDATED LIBRARY BOOK LISTS ONLINE – For several years, the City of Morgantown provided funds for us to purchase library books focused on social justice issues for the Morgantown Public Library on Spruce Street. With funds from the Appalachian Community Foundation, we also purchased books for the Clinton District and Clay-Battelle Branch Libraries. Most of these are books for children. The library has added some of these at the Arnettsville branch.

The lists have been updated and are available now at ccsjwv.org/resources.html. There are two lists. One is exclusively books focused on African Americans. The other list includes our former environmental justice and economic justice lists. There is an index on page 3 of the “catalog” that includes links to the various topics so that you can easily find something that might interest you.

For more information on the library’s current procedures and hours, please go to www.mympls.org/.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2021 WILL BE JANUARY 18TH: The City of Morgantown has granted our request for \$1850 to support this event, but it is subject to potential reduction depending on the City’s financial situation because of the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, we have invited Ilene Evans to provide a virtual portrayal of West Virginian Memphis Tennessee Garrison as our featured event for the day. 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

City of MORGANTOWN TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY POLICING AT SEPTEMBER 1 MEETING:

The City of Morgantown set up a Special Committee on Community Policing. Tim Hairston represented us. The committee presented its resolution for a board to the Morgantown City Council Committee of the Whole meeting on August 25th.

A resolution considering approval is on the agenda for the September 1 City Council meeting. Meetings are by WebEx. If you wish to comment during the public portion, you can find the directions for doing so at morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_09012020-1466. This is the packet for the meeting so, to find the resolution, go to page 97 of the packet.



YOUR VOTE MATTERS: It is time to plan for the general election. Everyone can apply for an absentee ballot and check the first box- “Illness, injury or other medical reason which keeps me confined” as your rationale. The applications are preprinted to include COVID-19 as a reason to apply.

Ballots will be mailed out beginning on September 18th. *Editorial comment: Please return your ballot as soon as you know your choices to avoid any problems with delays anywhere in the process.*

The website to request an absentee ballot is now live at sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/GoVoteWV.aspx. You can apply electronically at this site or print the application and mail it yourself to the county clerk.

You may also contact the county clerk’s office to request an absentee ballot. The phone number for the Monongalia County County Clerk’s office is 304-291-7230.

Please note that, at “press time,” there are no plans to automatically mail an application for an absentee ballot to every registered voter. **If you want to vote absentee, you must apply for a ballot.**

Other important deadlines for the election are:

August 11 – October 28, 2020 - Eligible voters, including uniformed and overseas citizens, may apply for a General Election ballot by mail.

October 8 – 14, 2020 - Sample ballots published in local newspapers throughout the state (publication dates will vary by county).

October 13, 2020 - Voter Registration Deadline

October 21 – October 31, 2020 - Early Voting at the county courthouse, annex or designated community voting location during normal business hours and Saturdays 9AM to 5PM.

October 27 – November 2, 2020 - Official List of Candidates or Sample Ballot published in local newspapers throughout the state (publication dates will vary by county).

October 28, 2020 - Deadline for Absentee by Mail Application. *Absentee applications received after October 28, even if postmarked, cannot be accepted by law.*

November 2, 2020 - Deadline to hand-deliver Absentee Ballot to County Clerk's office.

November 3, 2020 - General Election Day

November 4, 2020 - Absentee Ballots mailed, but without a postmark accepted.

November 9, 2020 - (Canvass) - Absentee Ballot postmarked by Election Day accepted if received by start of Canvass.



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting should be Thursday, **September 17th** at 6:30 p.m. You can get contact information for the commission, including information on filing complaint forms at www.morgantownwv.gov/272/Human-Rights-Commission.

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 September:

September 7: Labor Day – Celebrates the historic struggles of workers in the United States to achieve safer working conditions, shorter hours, and humane restrictions on child labor while contributing to productive economies.

September 8: International Literacy Day – Supports awareness of the importance of persons being able to read and write in order to participate in today's economic, legal, health and social environments.

September 17: Constitution Day and Citizenship Day – Commemorates the ratification in 1787 of the United States Constitution, the organization of government, and rights of citizenship. Also honors all who have become United States citizens.

September 21: International Day of Peace – Calls for continual working for peace and reduction of use of violence in attempting to solve problems among individuals and all levels of human interaction.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS GETTING READY FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION: The League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County is working on various ways to encourage voting and to celebrate the 19th amendment SOMEHOW given that all our celebrations were cancelled. People are encouraged to travel down High Street to check out the banner, which was funded by donations from the community and from donors to WV Women Vote and its member organizations. We will announce events as we get them finalized.

The League is working with the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP, Mountaineers for Progress, and PFLAG to sponsor **local candidate Zoom forums**. Once candidates confirm their interest, the interviews will be recorded via Zoom and will be available to the public as soon as possible.

Offices invited to participate in the forums include:
Monongalia County Commissioner
Agriculture Commissioner
WV Senate, districts 2, 13, and 14
WV House of Delegates, districts 5, 49 and 51

The WV Women Vote speaker series included a presentation with Ellie Smeal, past president of NOW, on August 26, Women’s Equality Day. You can see it at youtu.be/39FIVV7BQ_c.

The next presentation, featuring Ilene Evans, will be Saturday, September 25, from noon to 1:00 p.m. Register at [wvu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYud-uvqzgpHtTcPir8e-SKdJBkjuMxcwRL](https://wvu.zoom.us/join/1234567890)



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/. The September meeting will be on Naloxone Training.



Morgantown NOW has also started "Timeline Tuesdays, a "20 part series, created by an all-volunteer team from the WV Women Vote Coalition of Morgantown. Our series will illustrate important events in the history of WV and the USA as they relate to voting." You can access these videos from the Facebook page.



Morgantown NOW is selling these stylish **VOTE masks for \$7.00** each with cash or check made payable to Morgantown NOW. To order one, please email Lynda Goldberg at withay@goldilox.us.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION: No updated information was available about future meetings at "press time." Follow GMIA on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/, on the web at www.morgantowninterfaith.org, or by email at morgantowninterfaith@gmail.com for updates.



NAACP MEETS SEPTEMBER 15TH: This meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact the NAACP at 3241naacp@gmail.com for more information and to learn how to participate.

The branch has established several committees, including Education; Communications, Press and Publicity; Criminal Justice; Political Action; Legal Redress; Health; Community Coordination; and Environmental and Climate Justice. Barb Howe represents CCSJ on the Community Coordination Committee, which is chaired by Denny Poluga.

Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/morgantown.naacp.



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN-MENNONITE: Morgantown Church of the Brethren continues to worship online on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

The church lawn at 464 Virginia Ave. is equipped with pavilions that can be used by students and anyone else wanting a place to work or study and use free Wi-Fi and fresh breezes.

Follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634>.



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN STAYS VIRTUAL WITH THESE PROGRAMS:

September 6: 11:00 a.m.- An open meeting of the UUFM Board

September 13: 11:00 a.m. - Sister Rosie Hefner "Restorative Justice and the Circle Process."

September 20: 10:30 a.m. with the UU's of Greater Pittsburgh for an Animal Blessing

September 27: 11:00 a.m.- Duane Nichols with a program about Madame Curry

Check the web site at www.uufmwv.org or the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/The-Unitarian-Universalist-Fellowship-of-Morgantown-WV-367256688732 for updates.



PFLAG MORGANTOWN SEPTEMBER EVENTS: The September General Meeting will be Tuesday, September 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Topic: PFLAG Votes & LGBTQ History as Advocacy Work

Join this Zoom meeting at zoom.us/j/91747151074?pwd=d24rMHFTVkJtL2FOMFFZWVA4ekRNZz09
Meeting ID: 917 4715 1074 Passcode: 798070

September Social Saturdays will be on Zoom on September 12th, 19th, and 26th at 9:00 a.m. Join the Zoom Meeting at zoom.us/j/624282185?pwd=ZHNzMEZpdG1SjFtUWRwcVdTbXdVdz09 Meeting ID: 624 282 185 Passcode: COFFEE

Follow this group on Facebook at facebook.com/pflagmorgantown/?ref=page_internal.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE EVENTS: This group “provides social and educational resources for the LGBTQ+ Community, Friends and Allies in Mon. County.”

Morgantown Pride will be hosting the **Second Annual Morgantown Pride Block Party virtually on September 5th from noon to 7:00 p.m.**



“This will include pre-recorded events featuring artists, local musicians, and community leaders! There will also be a socially distanced, pre-recorded parade premiering on the block party weekend!

“We are also hosting socially distanced speed friending and dating events, an outdoor hike at Coopers Rock, and other fun activities!

“Folx will have the opportunity to sign up for sponsorship levels and to participate soon!”

You can also support Morgantown Pride by buying Mothman pins at Hoot and Howl, 245 Walnut Street, for \$8.00. Shipping is available. “Morgantown Pride would like to thank Liz Pavlovic Design for creating our adorable Pride Mothman!”



Mothman pin.

Information on designing and ordering your Pride shirt is available at www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride.

Follow this group’s activities on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/, where you can see a photo of the

WVU ART IN THE LIBRARIES SERIES: All are welcome to register for these free events.

October 9, 12-1 p.m.: **Becky Cain Ceperley**, former national League of Women Voters President on the impact of voter registration and turnout

October 30, 6:00 p.m.: **Atiba Ellis**, Prof. of Law, Marquette University Law School, on democracy, voting and race

Registration for the Ceperley and Ellis presentations should be available online later, but to get an invitation to these zoom webinars, email Exhibits Coordinator Sally Brown Deskins, sbdeskins@mail.wvu.edu.

WVU AND NGLCC (NATIONAL LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE) VIRTUAL SMALL AND DIVERSE BUSINESS VENDOR FAIR:

This event will be held on Tuesday, September 22nd, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. via zoom. WVU is always “seeking out diverse suppliers so we can expand the number of companies participating in the public procurement process.” The goals are to learn about valuable programs and resources, how to register with the WVU bid website, and further the state’s “commitment to growing the economic development of small and diverse businesses.” For more information, please contact Eva Hajian at 304-293-51152 or eva.hajian@mail.wvu.edu.



WVU DIVERSITY WEEK 2020: This annual event is scheduled for October 11-17.

STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS



WEST VIRGINIA NOW has a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow and a web page at wnow.org. “West Virginia NOW is the state chapter of the National Organization for Women, the country’s largest feminist political organization. As a grassroots nonprofit volunteer organization, WVNOW has a

dual focus of supporting local chapters, as well as maintaining a strong legislative presence.

“WVNOW members are committed to fostering a unified intersectional, multigenerational feminist future for West Virginia.”



FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES: Fairness West Virginia is hiring a development associate. The position is open until filled, and the description is available at fairnesswv.org/2020/07/22/fairness-wv-is-hiring-a-new-development-associate/.

Fairness West Virginia has also posted information about the West Virginia State Supreme Court of Appeals decision on transgender name changes on

birth certificates. To read more about this and sign a petition asking the legislature to deal with this, please go to fairnesswv.org/2020/07/23/wvs-top-court-stops-transgender-people-from-correcting-ids/.

Follow Fairness West Virginia on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fairnesswv or at fairnesswv.org.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN SEPTEMBER 2020

From: www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2020/

9/15-10/15: National Hispanic Heritage Month

Our September diversity month is highlighted by the start of National Hispanic Heritage Month. September 15 was chosen as the start date, because it's the anniversary of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. All five of these countries declared independence in 1821. Try making recipes from these diverse cultures throughout the month to celebrate! And foster racial equity and inclusion in your workplace with our Online Diversity Training at www.diversityresources.com/diversity-online-training/.

9/5: Anniversary of Tashunka Witko's Death - In September 1877, Tashunka Witko, also known as Crazy Horse, was fatally wounded by a military guard while allegedly resisting imprisonment at Camp Robinson in present-day Nebraska. An Oglala Sioux, he's among the most famous Native American warriors and thus a part of our September diversity events.

9/19-9/20: Rosh Hashanah - Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset on previous day, September 18. That's because the ancient Jewish calendar is based on the phases of the moon. On this day, we'll launch into the Jewish New Year 5780. Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the Days of Awe, which culminates 10 days later with Yom Kippur. It calls for a reflection about the past year and of the year to come. Discover more holy days with our 2020 Interfaith Calendar.

9/22: Autumnal Equinox - Our September multicultural holidays include Autumnal Equinox. Today the sun will pass directly over the Earth's equator, and the day and night will be exactly equal in length. Both the autumnal and vernal equinox – as well as the winter and summer solstice – play a key role in many major religions.

9/25: Birthday of Christopher Reeve - Our September diversity topics include people with disabilities. Happy Birthday, Christopher Reeve! In May of 1995, Reeve was thrown from a horse and paralyzed. After his accident, he advocated for research into spinal cord injuries, and lobbied on behalf of others suffering from similar injuries. He founded the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, which is dedicated to finding treatments and cures for paralysis.

9/28: Yom Kippur - Our September multicultural calendar includes Yom Kippur, the "Day of Atonement" in the Jewish religion. It ends the Days of Awe (or Repentance), which are 10 days during which Jews reflect on their sins and seek forgiveness from God. It's considered the holiest day of the year as Jews atone for their sins. The best greeting to give on this day is "Have an easy fast" or "Have a good holy day."