

## Community Coalition for Social Justice PO Box 160 Morgantown, WV 26507-0160 ccsjwv@gmail.com – Note New Email Address www.ccsjwv.org

## UPDATE: APRIL 1, 2022

**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.

**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@gmail.com. Please note our new email address. 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.

# April CCSJ Meeting is April 19th at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Here is the Zoom information:

Topic: Community Coalition for Social Justice April Meeting Time: April 19, 2022 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting us02web.zoom.us/j/82870942678?pwd=TjNXdjYxK0l0NjFCLzRnb2xjYSt0Zz09

Meeting ID: 828 7094 2678 Passcode: 503681 One tap mobile

+16468769923,82870942678#, \*503681# US (New York)

+13017158592, 82870942678#, \*503681# US (Washington DC) Dial by your location +1 646 876 9923 US (New York) +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose) +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) Meeting ID: 828 7094 2678 Passcode: 503681 Find your local number: us02web.zoom.us/u/kdqKAZw432



**PLANNING HAS STARTED FOR "READ ALOUD" PROJECT WITH THE SHACK NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE:** Our first planning meeting for this project was Friday, March 11th. We have not yet scheduled the next meeting, but, if you wish to volunteer, please contact Mike Attfield

at mdattfield@gmail.com.

We have revised out initial plans so that we will now be working with The Shack Neighborhood House during its summer program from June 13th to August 17th to read to students in grades K-6 from books and worksheets we will purchase with funds from the FirstEnergy Foundation. The sessions will be held for 45 minutes from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. There are 7 classes that meet once per week.

We also have the opportunity to receive another \$2,000 from the FirstEnergy Foundation and are considering ideas on how to use that.



**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY 2022 THEME WAS "RESPECT":** A YouTube version of all the program, minus the local school choirs and Boston Children's Choir, is available at https://www.ccsjwv.org/videos/ccsj-news/mlk2022.mp4.



**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, **April 21st** 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/DocumentCenter/View/396/Calendar-of-Annual-Human-Rights-Observances-PDF

## APRIL:

**National Child Abuse Prevention Month** – A time to emphasize the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families.

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month** - A month to promote awareness of sexual assault, harassment, or other abuse to increase prevention efforts to protect all people of all ages.

**April 1: Youth Homelessness Matters Day** – Part of a campaign to create brighter futures for young people who have faced homelessness and to show them they have the power and opportunity to become whatever they put their minds to.

**April 7: World Health Day** – Calls for an awareness that, without nurture and protection of health, persons are vulnerable to economic and social hardship and unable to fully utilize on engage in human rights.

**April 16: Holocaust Remembrance Day** – Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising – Seeks to commemorate the Holocaust by remembering and honoring the victims of the Holocaust, which include six million Jews, thousands of Russian gypsies, homosexuals, persons with disabilities, and others.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA COUNTY (LWV-MM):** The League has started its series of forums in preparation for the spring elections. To watch previous forums with candidates for the Monongalia County Board of Education on March 30th and county commission and conservation district supervisor candidates on March 31st, go to lwvmorgantown.org/YouTube.

The next forums will both be from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and will be livestreamed to Facebook with recordings posted later to YouTube:

April 6: State Senate Candidates for Districts 2 and 13. The candidates scheduled to participate are Eric Hayhurst (D 2); Carly Braun (R 13); Barbara Fleischauer (D 13); and Mike Oliverio (R 13).

**April 7: House of Delegates Candidates**: The candidates scheduled to participate are Geno Chiarelli (R 78); Scott Nale (R 78) Evan Hansen (D79) Matthew Kolb (D79-maybe) Katie Fallon (D82) Drew Talbot (R82).

Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LWVMM and contact them by email at lwvmorgantown@gmail.com. You can join the League of Women Voters at tinyurl.com/join-lwvmm.

**MAY PRIMARY INFORMATION:** For more information about the May election, please go to sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/WVRedistricting.aspx for the new district maps. Note that the 51st District, which covers most of Monongalia County, has now been divided into five separate districts. Instead of voting for up to five members of the House of Delegates, you will only vote for one member for each district. Monongalia County is comprised of House of Delegates Districts 77-82 on the map.

Here is the **list of offices** that will be on the ballot in May for Monongalia County voters: www.monongaliacountyclerk.com/myfiles/elections/2022Primary/Candidate\_Filing\_Information/Offices\_on\_the\_ballot \_for\_the\_May\_2022\_Primary\_Election.pdf. Note that the Board of Education election is the final election. The final election for the other positions will be in November.

**Names of candidates** for U.S. House of Representatives, House of Delegates, West Virginia Senate, are available at apps.sos.wv.gov/elections/candidate-search/.

**Voter registration information** is available at www.monongaliacountyclerk.com/index.php/voter-registration. The deadline to register is April 19th. Early voting in Monongalia County will be available every day except Sunday from April

27th through May 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Greenbag Road; VFW Post 9916, 340 Holland Ave., Westover; Mason-Dixon Park, 79 Buckeye Road, Core; and the former Urse Dodge Dealership at 2000 Mid-Atlantic Road. You may vote at any location, regardless of your precinct.

**Absentee ballot information** is available at sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/AbsenteeVotingInformation.aspx. You must request an absentee ballot.

The calendar for the May primary is at sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/GoVoteWV.aspx.



**MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER:** The next meeting will be April 12th at 7:00 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 648 E. Brockway, with a link available for those who wish to attend virtually.

Here are the April events:

**Sunday, April 3**: Morgantown NOW Legislative Update and Yoga session at 3:00 pm outside by the WVU Rec Center Evansdale Commons with Colleen Harshbarger, ERYT-500 (Sign up at

www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054AAFA62EA7FF2-legislative).

**RDVIC:** "Walk a Mile in Their Shoes," sponsored by RDVIC, will be held on April 9th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. In addition to the walk, there is also just a family friendly event planned at the Spruce Street Farmer's Market. **Morgantown NOW** plans to have a table at the event with some flyers and info.

Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/. Details and agenda are available through the weekly newsletter or email at morgantownnow@gmail.com.



**MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS APRIL 19TH:** 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 a Readings on Race and Rights group that is publicized through the NAACP listserv.

The NAACP will be hosting a voter registration drive on April 9th during the Morgantown Arts Walk downtown on High Street from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The next NAACP blood drive will be Thursday, April 28th from noon to 5:00 p.m. at the Sabra United Methodist Church, 1234 Richwood Avenue. To register, please go to redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive and enter the code NAACPMORGANTOWN.

Follow the NAACP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/naacp3241/?ref=page\_internal.



**MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN-MENNONITE:** Follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634\_or at www.morgantowncob.org. Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom, with the link available at www.morgantowncob.org. "We ask that everyone wear a mask inside the building."

The Mon County Health Department is holding a **Covid Vaccination Clinic** at Morgantown Church of the Brethren on Tuesday, April 5th, starting at 9:30 a.m. Everyone in need of a first, second or

booster shot is welcome.

"This year our Lent/Easter theme is **Creation and Re-creation**. We have been using the scripture from *The Women's Lectionary, Year W* by Wilda Gafney. We are continuing that theme in our Palm Sunday service by using local bamboo rather than hothouse palm branches. The children are also working on special music for that service.

"Our Love Feast service (footwashing and communion) will be outdoors this year (weather permitting), which will require us to interact more directly with God's creation.

"We are also tentatively planning a Sunrise Service for early Easter morning at Wiles Hill Park, followed by breakfast and an Easter worship service at the church. Here's the schedule:

"Palm Sunday - April 10 Love Feast - April 14 (outdoors?) Sunrise service? - April 17, 6:30 am, Wiles Hill Park Easter service - April 17, 10:30 am, at the church"

Groups are again starting to use the various spaces at Morgantown Church of the Brethren. If you have a community event or meeting that needs a space to gather, contact Wes at 681-209-2029.



**UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN APRIL PROGRAMS:** These programs will be held via ZOOM at 11:00 a.m. For more information, please go to www.uufmwv.org/. The Zoom door opens at 10:45 a.m.

**April 3:** National Rainbow Day Program: What is unique about prisms and color, the attributes of diversity. And God said, "Let There Be Light." Music: "Color My World" ~ Chicago.

**April 10**: BOARD MEETING @ 10:00 a.m. (April 10: BOARD MEETING @ 10:00 a.m.) National Pet Day Program: Animal consciousness & identity. Reading: "A wise old owl sat in an oak .... Music: "Weeheeheehee dee heeheeheehee weeoh aweem away, In the jungle, the mighty jungle, the lion sleeps tonight ..." (The Tokens)

**April 17:** 🕲 Easter Time in West Virginia: Spring time is amazing with new life and a path to recovery from the brutalities previously suffered. A couple lessons from the life of the historical Jesus. Music to match.

**April 24:** # 5. Fifth UU Principle: "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Michael Siciliano presents this Principle and leads our discussion.

Info contact: UUFMWV@gmail.com, Beth Houseknecht or Duane Nichols

**PFLAG:** The closest chapter now is in Fairmont, with information available at www.pflagfairmont.org. According to its website, "PFLAG Fairmont meets each month, usually on the first Thursday of the month at 7p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Ruth Ann Musick Library on the campus of Fairmont State University."



**DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER:** "Dismantling Racism Together is a WV group that meets monthly. We seek to educate and motivate citizens and organizations so they can collaborate to advocate for change.

Becky Rodd invites everyone to "Please Please join us as for the April 18th meeting at7:00 p.m. Ash Orr will be talking to us about the important work of the Morgantown Human Rights Commission and how we can best support that work."

Here is the link. <u>Monday, April 18, 2022</u> <u>https://bit.ly/DRTMonthlyProgram</u>

For reference, here is the full Zoom info: John Bolt (he, him, his) is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Dismantling Racism Together Monthly Program Meeting Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86108590369

Meeting ID: 861 0859 0369

One tap mobile +19294362866, 86108590369# US (New York) +13017158592, 86108590369# US (<u>Washington DC</u>)

Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York) +1 301 715 8592 US (<u>Washington DC</u>) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) Meeting ID: 861 0859 0369 Find your local number: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kn2Inf3PO</u> fb.me/e/1z15IEPZU



**MORGANTOWN PRIDE RAISING TRANS KIDS IS APRIL 9TH FROM 2:00 -3:30 P.M.**: The Raising Trans Kids Community Group is for West Virginia parents, guardians, and families who are raising transgender or gender diverse kids (of any age), or have kids who might be transgender or gender diverse.

#### For more information, go to

www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page\_internal or www.morgantownwvpride.org. Morgantown Pride has an Instagram page at www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en.

**WVU Council for Gender Equity** is sponsoring "Champagne for SANE Panel Discussion" to be held virtually on April 7, 2022 at 7:00 pm.



WVU Council for Gender Equity has their Champagne for SANE Silent Auction and Fundraiser event on Thursday, April 28, 2022 from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Table 9. The auction will be online again this year at 32auctions.com.



**MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER EVENTS:** The Girls' Night Out benefit will be May 20th from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Tropics, 2500 Cranberry Square. The theme is "A Night Out at the Tropics" and will include "a fun, fabulous evening of delicious dinner, dessert, and drinks, along with music, dancing, raffles, pampering, and a live auction." To be a sponsor or if you have questions, please contact Taylor

Shultz at 304-598-0344 or tshultz@moncoac.org. For ticket information, please go to www.eventbrite.com/e/girls-nightout-2022-night-out-at-the-tropics-tickets-264203799677.

A golf tournament to benefit the Monongalia County Child Advocacy Center is being planned for July 23, 2022.



**WVU LIBRARIES' FOOD JUSTICE IN APPALACHIA EXHIBIT:** This exhibit is available in the WVU Downtown Campus Library through June 2022. To see an online exhibit and the presentations at the exhibit opening in October, go to exhibits.lib.wvu.edu/exhibits/food-justice-in-appalachia.



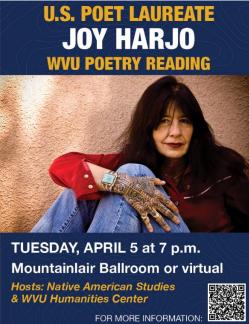
**EMPTY BOWLS MONONGALIA BOWL SALE IS APRIL 2ND:** The sale will be from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Center Court of Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Greenbag Road. Bowls will cost \$10.00 for one bowl or three for \$25.00.

**CONSIDERING MATTHEW SHEPARD CONCERT IS APRIL 23RD AT 7:30 P.M.:** In October of 1998, Matthew Shepard, a young, gay student at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, was kidnapped, severely beaten, tied to a fence and left to die in a lonely field under a blanket of stars. Five days later, when Matt passed away, the world was watching. Leading up to the eve of the 20th anniversary, Craig Hella Johnson responded with his first concert-length work, "Considering Matthew Shepard." The WVU Chamber Singers will join together with a small instrumental ensemble and soloists to present this poignant and important work, ensuring that Matthew Shepard's story will never be forgotten. This is a ticketed event at the WVU Canady Creative Arts Center. Tickets purchased at the Creative Arts Center or WVU Mountainlair Box Offices are \$14 each. Tickets purchased through Ticketmaster are \$35 each.



WVU PROGRAM FOR NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES FEATURES U.S. POET LAUREATE JOY HARJO (Muscogee (Creek) Nation), who will be the Program's honored guest April 4-6, 2022.

All are welcome to attend Ms. Harjo's poetry presentation on Tuesday, April 5th, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Blue Ballroom of the WVU Mountainlair or attend VIRTUALLY. There will be music by award-winning flute player Cody Blackbird, starting at 6:30 p.m.; book sales and a display start at 6:00 p.m. in the Gold Ballroom. Ms. Harjo was recently appointed to a third term as Poet Laureate.





**WVU LGBTQ+ CENTER:** Go to the Center's website at lgbtq.wvu.edu/events to join the Center's website and/or register for events. You can follow the Center on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WVULGBTQCenter/



For more information and to register for this event, please go to lgbtq.wvu.edu. Mask use will be in accordance with WVU policies at the time of the event.



## WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH SELECTED SPRING SEMESTER EVENTS:

**April 4:** Zoom @ 7:00 p.m.: Brotherhood Coalition: Black Men In Leadership: A conversation with Jihad Dixon, Associate for Strategy and Operations for My Brother's Keeper Alliance, and president of the Black Alumni Association. Join Zoom meeting at wvu.zoom.us/j/94053992957

**April 6 & 7**: Gluck Theater / Mountainlair Ballrooms: Center for Black Culture and Research Black Film Festival featuring several guest filmmakers.



**April 19:** Mountaineer Rhododendron Room @ 7:00 p.m.: A Space to Process: A group conversation with Felicia Hooper, MA, LPC, NCC with the WVU Carruth Center

**April 21:** Zoom @ 7:00 p.m.: Brotherhood Coalition: Our Safety: A panel Discussion on the perceptions of safety and belonging of Black men on college campuses. Join Zoom meeting at wvu.zoom.us/j/97468465954

**April 27:** Rhododendron Room Mountainlair @ 7:00 p.m.: Brotherhood Coalition Mentorship Mixer: Welcoming WVU Alumni, faculty, staff, and community members to meet current students.

## STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS



**WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE REVIEW:** Senate Bill 704, allowing parents and other custodians to inspect instructional materials, passed. The good news is that Senate Bill 498, the so-called "anti-racism" bill, did not go through the normal committee process in the Senate so appeared dead until it was introduced directly into the Senate. It then did not pass because the vote was completed six seconds after the legislative session officially adjourned at midnight on March 12th.



**WEST VIRGINIA NOW**: West Virginia NOW is online at www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow and wvnow.org.



**FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA GOOD NEWS:** Fairness tracked nearly two dozen anti-LGBTQ bills in the legislative session and none passed! SB 71 was a "pro-conversion therapy bill. It would have overturned the local bans on conversion therapy" in Charleston and Morgantown. Other legislation was designed to dismantle the state's Human Rights

Commission. It was also defeated. For more information, please go to fairnesswv.org.



**ACLU QUEER YOUTH SUMMIT REGISTRATION IS OPEN:** "This free camp will bring together young West Virginians either identify as LGBTQ+ or come from LGBTQ+ families from across the state, and give them the tools they need to organize and advocate for the issues they care about.

"Campers will learn how to talk to legislators, run effective meetings, tell powerful stories, and more, and will participate in a collective action to better the lives of LGBTQ+ people after the camp concludes. Perhaps most importantly, AQYS campers will get to be themselves for a weekend around people who understand them.

"The 2022 Summit will take place at Jackson's Mill in Lewis County from late morning on August 1st to the afternoon on August 5th."

For more information and the registration link, please go to action.aclu.org/webform/wv-aqys-2022.

The summit received national publicity in the Spring 2022 issue of the *ACLU Magazine* with a short story entitled "S'mores, Songs, and Activism."

## EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2022

From www.diversityresources.com/2022-diversity-calendar/

## Celebrate Diversity Month

4/2 – World Autism Awareness Day (People with Disabilities): A day that seeks to improve the lives of those who suffer from autism

4/2 – Ramadan (Islamic): The first day of Islam's sacred month in which Muslims abstain from eating and drinking from dusk until dawn

4/15 – Passover (Jewish): start of Jewish holiday honoring the freeing of Israeli slaves

4/17 – Easter (Christian): most important holy day in the Christian faith, celebrates the resurrection of Jesus following his death

4/22 – Earth Day (International): celebrates the planet we live on, observed internationally in more than 192 countries

4/21-23 – Gathering of Nations (Native American): more than 500 Native tribes meet and celebrate various traditions and cultures