



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

SOCIAL JUSTICE/ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FAIR SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 18TH: We are hosting a social justice/environmental justice “fair” at Morgantown’s Ruby Amphitheatre on September 18th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. to be funded with support from the FirstEnergy Foundation. This will be our annual meeting so there will not be a September Zoom meeting. All are welcome so please help us spread the word.

At “press time,” the following groups are scheduled to participate: ACLU West Virginia, Church of the Brethren, League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County, Morgantown NOW, Morgantown-Kingwood Branch of the NAACP, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), PFLAG Fairmont, West Virginia University LGBTQ+ Center, West Virginia University Native American Studies Program, Morgantown Human Rights Commission, and Sierra Club. Al Anderson will sing, and groups will have a few minutes to speak about their activities.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Mike Attfield at mdattfieldo@gmail.com. Groups must provide their own tables. Set up time for participants will be from 1:00 to 2:00, and take-down must be finished by 5:00 p.m.


By the terms of our contract with the City of Morgantown, groups that sell anything must pay the City 10 percent of their gross sales. “Vendors are defined as merchandise or other tangible goods sales.” There will not be sales of food. We will provide packaged snacks and drinks.

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.

Also: Please note that CCSJ is a 501 (c) (3) organization and therefore is non-partisan. While we encourage everyone to vote and participate in the political process, we do not endorse candidates, provide a forum for candidates to campaign, or publicize partisan political statements.

CONTACT US: Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at mdattfield@gmail.com. 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 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.

 **“READ ALOUD” PROJECT WITH THE SHACK NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE FINAL PROJECT:** We had almost \$500 remaining after purchasing the books for this project so have offered that to the staff of the Shack to purchase seating for the children.

CCSJ TO BE AT PEACE TREE CEREMONY ON SEPTEMBER 21ST: See details of this annual event below under the Native American Studies Program.



CCSJ WAS AT MORGANTOWN PRIDE BLOCK PARTY: Thanks to Mike Sharley and Mike Attfield, who staffed a table for us at the block party on Sunday, August 28th.

CCSJ JOINED CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 704 RULES: The West Virginia legislature passed last year Senate Bill 704, allowing parents, grandparents, and guardians to inspect instructional materials in the classroom. This bill was designed to intimidate school administrators and especially teachers. The intended effect is to micromanage teachers and chill thoughts and speech in the classroom.

The Campaign for Our Shared Future asked the West Virginia Department of Education to host a public meeting on proposed rules and solicited groups to sign on to the request. We were happy to join this effort. At “press time,” there was no further information about a hearing.



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY 2023: We are beginning to think about Martin Luther King, Jr., Day 2023 and have signed our contract to be back at the Metropolitan Theatre on January 16th. Our tentative theme is “Telling West Virginia’s Stories and Dreams,” and we plan to include stories from former Morgantown Mayor Charlene Marshall and long-time Osage resident Al Anderson. Chris Haddox is also scheduled to perform.

BOOK LISTS UPDATED: We have updated our lists of books at the Morgantown Public Library system that focus on social justice topics. These are available under the “Resources” tab of our website at www.ccsjwv.org/resources.html.



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 CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE: We are still waiting for news of appointments to this board.



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting will be Thursday, **September 15th** 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

Here are the events for September:

September 5: 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 OF MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA COUNTY (LWV-MM): 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.

GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER: The next meeting should be Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m. No further information was available at “press time.”

Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/, which includes information about efforts in the West Virginia legislature to restrict access to abortion. Details and agenda are available through the weekly newsletter or email at morgantownnow@gmail.com.



MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH: This meeting of the membership 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.

Follow the NAACP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/naacp3241/?ref=page_internal.



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN-MENNONITE: "THERE'S ENOUGH FOR ALL: JUST FOODS" IS SEPTEMBER 17TH EVENT: This is the theme of a climate inspiration get together at the Morgantown Church of the Brethren the evening of Saturday, September 17th. The co-sponsor is the Morgantown Friends Meeting.

Set up will be from 3:30-4:00. From 4:00 to 5:30, there will be games, displays, workshops, and snacks. Make or decorate a shopping bag from a cotton T-shirt!

From 5:30 to 7:00, move to the Fellowship Hall for Just Foods. Bring a potluck dish if you wish, or just come. Interpret "just foods" any way you wish: avoiding food waste, foraged foods, vegan, vegetarian, wild game, heritage food, food for sharing. There will be prizes! Bring the recipe for our latest recipe collection, "Recipes for the Climate Aware II."

At 7:00, Movie night will start with more snacks. We expect to be showing "Youth vs. Gov."

Invite somebody and come. Set up a table if you've got something to show. Volunteers are wanted for everything. Contact Linda Yoder at lindakyoder@gmail.com or Catherine Tall or cvtall@gmail.com.

The church has a Sharing Box outside the church at 464 Virginia Avenue, where you can drop off extra food you may have or take some if you need it, or swap food.

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."



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN: Sunday services are currently suspended. Check the website at UUFMWV.org for updated information or contact UUFMWV@gmail.com.

PFLAG: The closest chapter now is in Fairmont, with information available at www.pflagfairmont.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGFairmont.



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER SEPTEMBER 19TH MEETING IS AT 7:00 P.M. BY ZOOM: Michael Ryan, chair of the Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the Board of Education, will share the work being done in Monongalia County Schools to build an inclusive and equitable school system for all students. Come hear about current efforts and challenges in the schools, ask questions, find out how to get involved, and push for positive

change. Join by zoom at bit.ly/DRTMonthlyProgram.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE: For information on this group, 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.

Morgantown Pride monthly events are now scheduled for Tuesday, **September 13th**, Tuesday, October 11th, Tuesday, November 8th, and Tuesday, December 13th, all at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

There is also supposed to be a Pride Hike and Picnic on Saturday, September 17th, at White Park at 11:00 a.m.



LISTENING FOR RACIAL UNDERSTANDING

An Exhibit Opening at the Morgantown Public Library
Friday, September 9, 2022
6-8 PM

An interpretation of *Listening for Racial Understanding*, a recording project conceived by Morgantown residents Eve Faulkes and Susan Eason, will be brought to the public Friday September 9, 6-8 pm during an exhibit reception at the Morgantown Public Library. Participants and artists will share their experience with this project. A short video of the project will also be presented.

- 46 individuals of differing racial and/or cultural backgrounds recorded 23 interviews following a guided approach using 5 questions and active listening techniques.
- 19 artists were then invited to listen to one of the conversations and asked to render a piece of art, paying particular attention to moments that stood out to the pair.
- 23 pieces of art range in form from poetry to digitally generated art, to quilted fabric, oil on canvas, video, and more. QR codes for some of the art will connect to portions of the recordings.

The public is invited to this exhibit reception. The exhibit continues through September and features a Closing on the 30th.

Morgantown Public Library, 373 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV
304-291-7425

ART INTERPRETATIONS OF LISTENING FOR RACIAL UNDERSTANDING OPENS AT PUBLIC LIBRARY SEPTEMBER 9TH: “Art Interpretations of Listening for Racial Understanding, a recording project conceived by Morgantown residents Eve Faulkes and Susan Eason, will be brought to the public Friday September 9, 6-8 pm for an art opening at the Morgantown Public Library. Some of the participants will share what the experience has been like.

“Since January when the project began, coordinators Faulkes and Eason recruited 46 individuals of differing racial and/or cultural backgrounds and recorded 23 interviews following a guided, approach using 5 questions and active listening techniques. Artists were then invited to listen to one of the conversations, working to render a piece of art, paying particular attention to moments that stood out to the pair. The 23 pieces of art range in form from poetry to digitally generated art, to quilted fabric, oil on canvas, video, and more. QR codes for some of the art will connect to portions of the recordings.

“People have some mighty powerful, moving, heartbreaking, terrifying, loving, compassionate stories to share about their lives and experiences in this world. And when we take time to listen to and connect with one other, we can really see the beauty and humanity of each person’,” Eason said. “The artwork transforms the oftentimes hour-long conversations and brings them into yet another realm to be experienced.”

“Faulkes explained that the overall project—interviewees, artists, and themselves—represent voices from 8 states (the majority from West Virginia) and 3 countries, with approximately 35 white individuals and 30 People of Color, including several who are refugees. All have connections to West Virginia.

“Eason and Faulkes’ idea sprang from a meeting of the group, Dismantling Racism Together when Sarah Little, a 98-year-old Black woman, who had told them she wished she could just sit down with a white person and talk with them. They all wanted that to happen to help generate greater understanding, empathy, and compassion, realizing that personal experiences have the best chance of overcoming stereotypes. It was funded in part by a grant from First Presbyterian Church of Morgantown.

“The exhibit eventually will travel to Lewisburg and Beckley with a goal of more counties hosting the project. In Morgantown, the exhibit will stay up during public library hours through Friday, September 30, when a 6-8 pm closing that day will include more participants and poet, Susan Truxell Sauter, reading her work that renders one of the conversations.”

For more information, please contact Susan Eason at 304-685-7186 or susanceason@gmail.com or Eve Faulkes at 304-692-1116 or efaulkes@mail.wvu.edu.



All are invited to **THE SCOTTS RUN STREET FAIR SEPTEMBER 17TH**. Eve Faulkes posts that “We have a great lineup of vendors (you can still be one) and great food and music. This year a t-shirt celebrates 100 years of people getting along across color, countries of origin (23) and faiths... much better than the country at large. You can pre-order yours to ensure your size isn't sold out. \$20 for a 3-color silkscreen on a super soft ice blue shirt.” For more information on how to be a vendor or performer, call 304-599-9615, 304-685-0223, or AI at 304-692-8921. To order a t-shirt, please call Mary Jane Coulter at the Scotts Run Museum at 304-599-9615. They should be delivered this Friday. They are payable by a check for \$20 to the Scotts run Museum and Trail. Sizes are Small to XL with just a few 2xs.



WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PEACE TREE CEREMONY IS SEPTEMBER 21ST AT NOON:

Everyone is welcome to attend this program at the Peace Tree outside E. Moore Hall on the WVU Downtown Campus. The rain location will be the Gluck Theatre in the WVU Mountainlair. Bob Pirner, Morgantown Human Rights Award winner will give a brief welcome and Danny Trejo, an Indigenous member of the Human Rights Commission will briefly speak as well.

The program’s distinguished guest is the highly regarded artist Marie Watt, an American artist and citizen of the Seneca Nation with German-Scot ancestry. You can learn more about her at mariewattstudio.com/about/biography.



Ms. Watt will give a talk entitled “A Shared Horizon (Western Door)” at the WVU Canady Creative Arts Center’s Bloch Hall on the Evansdale Campus++ at 5:00 p.m. on September 21st. Her talk will be livestreamed at youtu.be/Q2siBVL8g8k

The Native American Studies Program is collaborating with the Art Museum of WVU—an exciting opportunity—so that Ms. Watt’s work will be on display at the Museum with an exhibit entitled “Storywork: The Prints of Marie Watt” this fall. The link to the exhibit is at artmuseum.wvu.edu/art/exhibitions/catalog/2022/05/13/storywork-the-prints-of-marie-watt. The Art Museum is free and open to the public Thursday through Sunday from 12:30 to 6:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact Bonnie M. Brown, Coordinator of the Native American Studies Program, West Virginia University, PO Box 6284, Morgantown, WV, 26506-6284, NAS.WVU.EDU, @WVU_NASprogram, or call 304-293-4626.



AN EXHIBITION BY WVU ART IN THE LIBRARIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES OPENS IN SEPTEMBER. This exhibit will be intentionally curated with the expertise and

contribution of Indigenous Appalachians alongside scholars of Native American Studies. The exhibit will be available through May 2023 (print and online) at the WVU Downtown Library and from June through December 2023 at the WVU Beckley Campus Library. It will then be at the Appalachian State University Library from January through July 2024 and at the Marshall University Library from August through December 2024.

The **launch event** with Joe Stahlman, director of the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum and assistant research professor of the Department of Anthropology at the University at Buffalo and Maryam Marne Zafar, visual strategist and graphic designer, will be **November 14, 2022**, at the WVU Downtown Library.

The content of the exhibit includes exploration of the following themes:

- Discussion of the complexities involved in public discussions and portrayals of Indigenous cultures and histories, especially in consideration of European colonial history, U.S. policies, and social forces; these include centuries of genocidal acts
- Acknowledgement of WVU Libraries' Indigenous related holdings
- Indigenous People in Appalachia Today and their ancestry
- Indigenous Place Names in West Virginia
- Contemporary Indigenous Appalachian perspectives through creative work. Confirmed artists: Nadema Agard (painting, Cherokee), Connor Alexander (game design, Cherokee), Erin Lee Antonak (sculpture/drawing, Oneida), Kayln Barnoski (fabric/mixed media, Cherokee), April Branham (painting/photography, Monacan), Ethan Brown (gourd design/painting, Pamunkey), Annette Clapsaddle (writing, Cherokee), Robert D'Alimonte (woodworking/carving, Tuscarora), Brent Michael Davids (composing/music, Mohican/Munsee-Lenape), John Gritts (drawing/painting, Cherokee), Benjamin Harjo, Jr. (drawing/painting, Absentee Shawnee), Yonavea Hawkins (bead/fashion, Delaware), Antoinette (Toni) Scott (cornhusk dolls, Seneca), Rosy Simas (transdisciplinary art/dance, Seneca), Amelia Winger-Bearskin (NFT/digital, Seneca-Cayuga).

For more resources check out the Indigenous Appalachia Library Guide at libguides.wvu.edu/c.php?g=1172031&p=8561998.

The exhibit will also become a digital exhibit living on the WVU Libraries' website and archived on the Research Repository at WVU at researchrepository.wvu.edu.

For further information, please contact Sally Brown Deskins, WVU Libraries' Exhibits Coordinator, at sally.brown1@mail.wvu.edu or 304.293.0369.

This project is being presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations do not necessarily represent those of the West Virginia Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Other sponsors are the WVU Office of the Provost and Humanities Center, The Antero Foundation, The Oakland Foundation, MPB Print & Sign Superstore, Marshall University Libraries and Online Learning, Appalachian State University University Libraries, and West Virginia Library Commission.



SAVE THE DATE: WVU’S DIVERSITY WEEK WILL BE OCTOBER 9-14: “WVU’s annual Diversity Week endeavors to promote celebration, education, and understanding of different identities and experiences present on our campuses. Its aim is to create an atmosphere that provides the WVU community, including students, faculty and staff, the opportunity to explore different cultures, engage in discussions that bring new perspectives, and celebrate the presence of, and contributions made by, people of all identities and experiences.” Details should be forthcoming at cal.wvu.edu/event/wvu_diversity_week_2022.

STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS



WEST VIRGINIA NOW: West Virginia NOW is online at www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow and wvnow.org. The Facebook page is another way to track action in the West Virginia legislature about restricting access to abortion.

FAIRNESS PROM IS SEPTEMBER 17TH: “The Fairness Prom is for everyone. Whether you loved your prom and want one more night on the dance floor, or if you want a complete do-over without any of the high school drama, we hope to see you there. We’ll have food, music, dancing, and a silent auction.



“Join us on Sept. 17 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Charleston for a night you’ll never forget. This black tie-optional party will help us celebrate our efforts to make the Mountain State a better place for LGBTQ people to live, work and raise a family.”

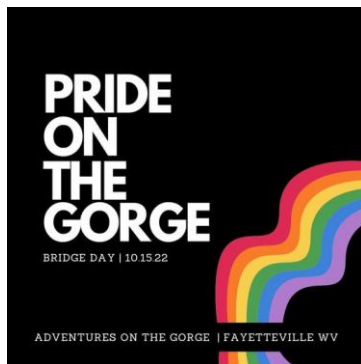
Tickets are \$135 and can be purchased at secure.everyaction.com/7hP_0mAaKUqSXpH1rFHCRw2.

You can also buy a special prom t-shirt at secure.everyaction.com/X0Co_APHiEu3aHEUxtjzQw2 for \$30 each. Sizes Small through 4XL are available.

Follow Fairness West Virginia on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fairnesswv for information on the federal efforts to protect same-sex marriages and on how access to abortion affects the LGBTQ community.



ACLU of West Virginia: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ACLUWV, especially for information on the West Virginia legislature and access to abortion laws.



SAVE THE DATE! DETAILS TO COME.

WEST VIRGINIA BLACK PRIDE FOUNDATION: This group organized in December 2021 in Charleston “to illuminate the experiences of LGBTQ+ people of color in West Virginia and provide them with a safe space of fellowship,” according to a story in the Juneteenth edition of *Black By God: The West Virginian*. For more information, email WVBPfoundation@outlook.com or Kasha@wvpfoundation.com.

SUPPORT *BLACK BY GOD: THE WEST VIRGINIAN*: According to its website, blackbygod.org, “We are an emerging news and storytelling organization centering Black voices from the Mountain State. We

provide a more nuanced portrayal of the Black experience in the Appalachian region.” Crystal Good is the editor/publisher/founder of *Black By God*.

There is a weekly online edition and a quarterly print edition. The Juneteenth edition was more like a magazine – 64 pages of news from around the state.

To contact BBG, email Info@Blackbygod.org or call 304-207-0352. The mailing address is 2156 University Ave. Suite 400, Morgantown, WV, 26505. To make a tax-deductible donation, go to blackbygod.org/donate.

DIVERSITY EVENTS CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

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

9/15-10/15 – National Hispanic Heritage Month: This month honors the culture and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans

National Recovery Month: This month helps to educate all Americans on treatment and mental health services for those with substance use disorder

9/20 – HeForShe (Women): initiated by the UN to promote gender equality

9/22 – Autumnal Equinox: As summer moves into fall, the autumnal equinox is a time for various religious observances worldwide

9/25 – 9/27 – Rosh Hashanah (Jewish): the Jewish New Year, a time for reflection in the faith