



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: JANUARY 1, 2024 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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.

Our next CCSJ meeting will be on Zoom on Tuesday, January 16th, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Topic: Community Coalition for Social Justice January Meeting
Time: Jan 16, 2024 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89877668320?pwd=anRiTm95aFpJT09xc0Y1dW54QzloQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 7766 8320

Passcode: 908154

One tap mobile

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- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 719 359 4580 US
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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kAztZKrJa>

CCSJ APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM CITY OF MORGANTOWN: We have submitted an application to the City of Morgantown for funding for an exhibit celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The act was signed on July 2, 1964, so, if funded, we plan to open our exhibit at the Morgantown Public Library with a reception on July 2, 2024, with the exhibit available on the second floor of the library through the month of July. Among other things, this act ended segregation in places of public accommodation like Morgantown’s Metropolitan Theatre. We appreciate the cooperation of Eve Faulkes, who has volunteered to design the exhibit; Sarah Palfrey, director of the Morgantown Public Library; and the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP and Morgantown Human Rights Commission, both of whom have agreed to provide support with publicity if funded. We will not likely get an official notice on our funding until May.

CONTACT US: Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at mdattfieldo@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.



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 should be Thursday, January 18th, 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/.

Congratulations to Amanda Ray, Esq. and the West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness, the recipients of the Human Rights Commission’s annual awards that were presented at the Monongalia Arts Center on International Human Rights Day, December 10th.

Vacancies on Human Rights Commission. There are currently four vacancies on the commission. According to the City of Morgantown’s website, “Appointments of to the Commission are made by City Council, and all must be residents of the City. All seats are non-ward specific. Upon formation in October 2012, terms are to be staggered: 4 shall serve two-year terms, 3 shall serve one-year terms in the first year. Thereafter, all terms will be staggered two-year terms. All new appointments and reappointments will need to be interviewed at the end of their term.” Information on applying for the commission is available at morgantownwv.gov/FormCenter/Boards-and-Commissions-Application-7/Application-to-Serve-on-City-Boards-and--45.

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 January:

January 15: Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Established in 1983 and observed for the first time on January 20, 1986. Also known as King Service Day – Federal legislation signed in 1994 challenged Americans to transform the King holiday into a day of citizen action volunteer service.

January 18: World Religion Day – Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.

January 27: Holocaust Memorial Day - Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945. The United Nations urges all its member states to honor Nazi era victims and to develop education programs to help prevent future genocides.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA COUNTY (LWV-MM): The League of Women Voters is a constituent member of West Virginia Women Vote (WVWV).

The 2024 session of the Legislature convenes January 10th. The League of Women Voters of West Virginia (LWVWV) will be monitoring all votes and actions of the state Legislature in relation to our four top policy priorities:

- Strengthening democracy by making it easier to vote
- Safeguarding equal rights
- Protecting children & families
- Creating a sustainable future

The LWVWV Legislative Scorecard, first published in 2023 (available at lwvwwv.org) records how individual members of the Legislature voted on 25 bills in these four areas that became law in 2023. We will use the same framework as we monitor the upcoming 2024 Legislative session.

Please join us Thursday, January 4th at 7PM to learn more about our 2023 legislative scorecard and how the process will be applied to the upcoming legislative session.

Register here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdOquqzsvHNTIR3w8HWZfn_ow2BqmgIBU

The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate, but is engaged in local, state, and national issues of importance to our communities and works to influence public policy through advocacy and education.

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

The Morgantown/Monongalia County League is a member organization of CCSJ.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/ or email at morgantownnow@gmail.com.

NOW has also announced its 2024 Schedule:

Tuesday, January 9: Meeting at Friends Meeting House, 648 E. Brockway, Morgantown,

7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 13: Mixer: TBA, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 12: Meeting at Friends Meeting House, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9: Mixer: TBA, 7:00 p.m.; RDVIC Event TBA

Tuesday, May 14: Meeting at Friends Meeting House, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 11: Mixer: TBA, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 9: Meeting at Friends Meeting House, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 13: Mixer, TBA, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 10: Meeting at Friends Meeting House, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 8: Mixer: TBA, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 5: VOTE (Election Day)

Tuesday, November 12: Meeting at Friends Meeting House, Annual Meeting/Officer Elections, 7:00 p.m.

December: Mixer: TBA

*This schedule is an attempt to plan out consistency for the year! We will do our best to stick to this schedule but everything is subject to change for extenuating circumstances.

NAACP

MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, JANUARY 16TH: 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 and does its work with a variety of committees, including Education, Political Action, Legal Redress, Criminal Justice, and Health.

Follow the NAACP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/naACP3241/?ref=page_internal.



MORGANTOWN CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD NEEDS TWO MEMBERS: There are two vacancies on the board at this time. The City of Morgantown is currently accepting applications, and you can get a link to the application and more information by going to morgantownwv.gov/640/Civilian-Police-Review-and-Advisory-Boar. “The Board shall consist of nine members appointed by City Council.

Each member shall be a resident of the city or an active member of an organization that works within the city to promote purposes consistent with the purpose of the Board.” For links to agendas and minutes of past meetings, go to www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/Civilian-Police-Review-Advisory-Board-47.



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN-MENNONITE: Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom with the link available at www.morgantowncob.org.

The church has a Blessings Box outside the church at 464 Virginia Avenue, Morgantown, where you can drop off extra food you may have or take some if you need it, or swap food. Feminine hygiene products are also welcome.

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

The church is a member organization of CCSJ.



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN (UUFMWV.ORG): The church is located at 429 Warrick Street, Morgantown, WV. No information about January services was available at “press time.”

This is a Welcoming Congregation and supports the Community Coalition for Social Justice. See also: UUFMWV.org. or email uufmwv@gmail.com.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION: If you are interested in this group, please contact Eve Faulkes at faulkeseve@gmail.com.



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER MEETS JANUARY 15TH: Dr. Austin McCoy, assistant professor of history at WVU, will be speaking about the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The meeting will be on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88082163845#success>.

To learn more about Dismantling Racism Together, go to www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dismantling%20racism%20together%20morgantown.



WEST VIRGINIA COALITION FOR TRUTH IN HISTORY: All are welcome to join the coalition as we get ready for the legislative session. Send your email address to ccsjwv@gmail.com, and we will pass on your information to the coalition’s leadership.

PFLAG: The closest chapter is in Fairmont, with information available at www.pflagfairmont.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGFairmont. The next monthly meeting is Tuesday, January 16th, at 7:00 p.m.



“Project Rainbow is opening WV's first lgbtq+ shelter and safe haven to protect queer folks while they navigate their housing journey!”

There is an Amazon wish list for the Rainbow House at www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/14LR0XKMODP9V?ref_=wl_share&fbclid=IwAR29o6Y_7RkcrkjD6vCgfpZ98m_AfwNTK8tc-icJnZUqGZ8o7HwwLlSeJ-E.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE MORGANTOWN HOMECOMING OUT IS FEBRUARY 17TH: According to the Morgantown PRIDE Facebook page, “We are hosting this winter dance to give a queer affirming space for kids to have fun and hang out.” Morgantown High School students have submitted ideas for themes for the event, and voting is underway to make the final decision from the Morgantown PRIDE Facebook page. Stay tuned for more details.

For information on Morgantown PRIDE, 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.



RAISING TRANS KIDS GROUP: This group usually meets the second Saturday afternoon of the month, but we did not receive information on a January meeting by “press time.” Anyone interested in joining the meeting for the first time or to get more information can email raisingtranskids@gmail.com. All meetings are held virtually via Zoom.

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. Follow Morgantown Pride on Facebook.



EMPTY BOWLS MONONGALIA SOUP & BREAD LUNCHEON: The luncheon will be held at the Hazel and J. W. Ruby Community Center at 111 Mylan Park Lane in Morgantown.

SAVE *the* DATE

Soup & Bread Luncheon

**FEBRUARY 24, 2024
11 AM - 2:30 PM**



Volunteer opportunities for the Soup & Bread Luncheon are now available at www.ebmon.org/volunteer-opportunities.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.ebmon.org/fundraiser>. Tickets for adults are \$20 each and include a bowl, while tickets for children under 12 are \$10 but do not include a bowl.

For more information, go to ebmon.org, phone 304-241-5510, or email EmptyBowlsMon@gmail.com.



MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (MCCAC). Follow this group at moncocac.org/news/ or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC.



This event will be held on Friday, May 17, 2024, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Tropics in Cheat Lake.

Sponsorship information is available at files.constantcontact.com/1b7ea99f701/f077091f-7fd1-4aab-8352-aecb16947f62.pdf.

You can purchase tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/girls-night-out-2024-travel-to-the-tropics-tickets-754035950827?aff=oddtcreator>.

According to the MCCAC, "From January 2023 to November 2023, MCCAC has served 599 clients and conducted 237 forensic interviews. We have also provided 1,179 therapy sessions and 5,516 family advocacy services. During this time, 11,232 hours have been spent directly helping clients."

Kroger Community Rewards support the CAC: If you already use Kroger rewards and have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the

organization you choose. Choose MCCAC from the organization list, and Kroger will donate a percentage of your spending to the CAC. MCCAC's NPO number: 90621.

SCOTTS RUN COMMUNITY SING: This event happens every last Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Scott's Run Settlement House, 41 Ladybug Drive in Osage. You do not have to be from Scotts Run to participate. It is for everyone, from anywhere, and for all ages!

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT: Jeneisha Harris, an activist in Nashville, Tennessee, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Unity Breakfast, on Monday, January 15, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. in the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms. Note the new time for the breakfast!

The Center for Black Culture is asking people to register for this free event. You can do this by scanning the QR code on the poster at the CCSJ website: <https://www.ccsjwv.org/wvu-news.html#WVUCFBC>.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Gamma Chi Omega Chapter will be awarding the Dr. Justine A. Lee-Burnett Scholarship. The Center For Black Culture will be awarding the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Award & The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship.



2024 WOMEN LINK CONFERENCE IS MARCH 20TH: The inaugural Women Leading, Innovating, Networking, Knowing Conference will feature a robust lineup of speakers, presenters and panelists from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 20 at the Morgantown Marriott Waterfront Place.

The PowerPoint-free event aims to create a support network across the state that empowers women to lead.

A panel of three women leaders working in higher education will discuss imposter syndrome while panelists from NASA and other industries examine male-dominated occupations and solutions to these issues.

Participants will also learn how to use the results of the CliftonStrengths® assessment as women leaders.

All women or anyone interested in exploring ways to bridge gender gaps are encouraged to attend.

Find the full schedule and register to attend at <https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/link>.

STATE-WIDE EVENTS



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



FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA: Follow Fairness West Virginia on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fairnesswv.



Andrew Schneider, executive director of Fairness West Virginia, emailed that “Our Legislature is only in session for 60 days, which means every single day is crucial to defending our community from legislative attacks. We don't know what those attacks will be just yet — we won't know until the session officially starts. But we do know that local politicians have begun targeting educators for making their classrooms inclusive and targeting drag queens.

“No matter what attacks they throw our way, Fairness West Virginia will be there to defend our community. And with your help, we'll be even stronger.

“If you're not on Facebook and can't RSVP that way, don't worry! Just reply to this email letting me know that you're coming. And if your organization or business is interested in tabling at our lobby day, please reach out to my colleague Jack Jarvis for more details. Send him an email at jack@fairnesswv.org.” You can also email Jack if you or your organization wants to have a table at the event.

You can RSVP for Lobby Day at

[https://www.facebook.com/events/1060027305019594/?acontext=%7B%22ref%22%3A%2252%22%2C%22action_history%22%3A%22\[%7B%5C%22surface%5C%22%3A%5C%22share_link%5C%22%2C%5C%22mechanism%5C%22%3A%5C%22share_link%5C%22%2C%5C%22extra_data%5C%22%3A%7B%5C%22invite_link_id%5C%22%3A1708222822986862%7D%7D\]%22%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/1060027305019594/?acontext=%7B%22ref%22%3A%2252%22%2C%22action_history%22%3A%22[%7B%5C%22surface%5C%22%3A%5C%22share_link%5C%22%2C%5C%22mechanism%5C%22%3A%5C%22share_link%5C%22%2C%5C%22extra_data%5C%22%3A%7B%5C%22invite_link_id%5C%22%3A1708222822986862%7D%7D]%22%7D).

You can donate to support Lobby Day at

https://secure.everyaction.com/_3DL1Ax7Xk6iT55AOUXTFQ2?emci=f43687ca-1299-ee11-8925-002248223cbb&emdi=3908a121-3c99-ee11-8925-002248223cbb&ceid=10924017



ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES: Follow this group at www.acluww.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ACLUWV.



“Far too often, talented, hardworking young people who are directly impacted by the issues we fight for are funneled away from following their passions because they must prioritize paid work over unpaid internships. They miss out on the experience, mentorship, and relationships that come with working with institutions like the ACLU. These are experiences that change young people's lives. And that, in turn, can change our society.

“With that in mind, the ACLU-WV is launching our Equity and Justice Fellowship.” The application is available at <https://action.aclu.org/webform/wv-fellowship>.

“The Equity and Justice Fellowship is open to undergraduate students, graduate students, law students, and nontraditional students or citizen activists who identify as being in a historically marginalized community that is underrepresented in West Virginia advocacy and policy-making spaces.

“Depending on fellows' areas of study and career goals, fellows can work with ACLU-WV staff on legal advocacy, policy advocacy, research, communications, community education, organizing, development, or nonprofit management matters.

“Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. There is no deadline to apply. Please contact Mollie Kennedy at mkennedy@acluwv.org with questions.”



“TRANS* IN THE MOUNTAIN STATE” SURVEY AVAILABLE ON ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA WEBSITE: “If you currently reside in West Virginia, are at least 13 years of age, and identify as transgender, non-binary, or any gender that falls under the transgender umbrella, we welcome you to take part in the survey, “Trans* in the Mountain State,” on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of WV.

“The survey was designed by a non-binary, trans-identifying West Virginia native. The purpose of this survey is to better understand the experiences of transgender and non-binary individuals living in West Virginia, across a range of topics. The survey focuses primarily on experiences with social institutions and in public spaces. Some questions ask about sensitive topics, like discrimination. By participating, some negative experiences may be recalled. Links to resources that may be helpful are provided at the end of the survey.

“The information you share will inform efforts to improve the climate for transgender and non-binary West Virginians. It is important that you answer each question honestly, should you choose to participate. Participation involves completing a survey which should take approximately 10 minutes. In order to take the survey, you must be signed into a google account, although your identity will remain anonymous and your email address will not be collected. You will not be asked to provide identifying information. Your participation is also voluntary. Should you consent to take this survey, you may discontinue it at any time. We value the opinions of all transgender and non-binary West Virginians and thank you in advance for your participation.

To begin this survey, go to docs.google.com/forms/d/1impe5s0YO5KA6xCzEa_RIBNNrPSbwcNGGmQjq_AUzMA/viewform?edit_requested=true.



WEST VIRGINIA TRANS COALITION: “The West Virginia Transgender Coalition is a grassroots organization that works to ensure the wellbeing, safety and lived equity of all trans, nonbinary, and gender expansive community members within the state of West Virginia.” For more information, please go to www.facebook.com/wvtranscoalition/.



WEST VIRGINIA POOR PEOPLE’S CAMPAIGN: A NATIONAL CALL FOR MORAL REVIVAL:

For more information, go to www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/committee/west-virginia/?fbclid=IwAR006_xVd-1WLwfRMN0t0Em3gBq36-tY3JEDrDgx5L29pNdSRc3Hs1GX_7k, or email westvirginia@poorpeoplescampaign.org to get involved.

DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

www.diversityresources.com/january-diversity-calendar-2024/

Emancipation Proclamation Day – January 1: This day honors the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln that all enslaved people in Confederate-held territory were to be set free in 1863. The proclamation declared freedom for slaves in the Confederacy but didn’t apply to those in Union slave-holding border states. It played an important role in changing American history and jumpstarting the fight toward freedom and equality.

Christian: Epiphany – January 6: Three Kings’ Day is a Christian tradition that remembers the visit of the Three Wise Men or Magi to the newborn Jesus in Bethlehem. In the Gospel of Matthew, they followed a star to find the infant and presented him with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. For many, this marks the end of the Christmas season while in other regions, it may be a day that children receive gifts too. Eastern and Coptic Orthodox Christians celebrate Epiphany on January 19.

National Human Trafficking Day – January 11: This day raises awareness and promotes the prevention of these atrocious tragedies. First observed in 2007, National Human Trafficking Day features many government-organized events aimed at educating the general public about the injustices of human trafficking, which can affect people of any race, ethnicity or age. Joining local events or supporting organizations fighting against human trafficking are ways individuals can contribute to this global cause.

Korean American Day – January 13: Honor those of Korean descent today. Learn about the contributions they have made to American history and society in various fields such as business, the military, religion, medicine, the arts and politics. First established in 2005 by President Bush, this day commemorates the arrival of the first group of about 100 Koreans in the United States in 1903. Their contributions have significantly shaped the United States.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 15: Celebrated on the third Monday of January, this day honors the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., an important figure in the American civil rights movement. It commemorates his tireless efforts to promote equality, fight against racial discrimination and advocate for peaceful change. This day is not only a time for reflection on the progress made in civil rights but also a call to action for continued commitment to Dr. King’s vision of a just and inclusive society.