



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: OCTOBER 1, 2021

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@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.

October CCSJ Meeting is October 19th at 7:30 p.m.: All are welcome to join us via Zoom at this link:

Topic: Community Coalition for Social Justice October Meeting
Time: Oct 19, 2021, 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87897498919?pwd=Mjh4SW9lYXMyL1hUczZrczFINHIWQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 9749 8919

Passcode: 023167

One tap mobile

+16468769923,87897498919#, *023167# US (New York)

+13017158592,87897498919#, *023167# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

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Meeting ID: 878 9749 8919

Passcode: 023167

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87897498919>

CCSJ SUPPORTS BAN ON CONVERSION THERAPY: Mike Attfield is preparing our comments to Morgantown City Council members stating our support for the proposed ban on conversion therapy. See below under the Human Rights Commission for details and to show how you can support this effort.

CCSJ AT MORGANTOWN PRIDE BLOCK PARTY: We plan to be at this event on October 23rd. See Below under Morgantown Pride for details of the event.



CCSJ ANNUAL MEETING WAS SEPTEMBER 8TH, FEATURING EVE FAULKES: Thanks to all who attended. You can watch Eve's presentation from a link at www.ccsjwv.org/ccsj-news.html#CCSJ_Annual_Meeting.

Preserving the Stories of Scotts Run is available for a donation of \$25 at the Scotts Run Museum and Trail at 465 Scotts Run Road in Osage. The museum is open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and by appointment by calling Mary Jane Coulter at 304-599-9615. The Museum and Trail is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Or call Eve at 304-692-1116.

Following Eve's presentation, we had a short business meeting and election of steering committee members. Current members were re-elected for three-year terms: Al Anderson, Mike Attfield, Susan Brown, Judy Cohen, Laura Cohen, Tim Hairston, Barb Howe, Sandra Nelms, Sheila Rye, and Mike Sharley. We also elected the following officers: Mike Attfield (chair), Al Anderson (vice-chair), Sheila Rye (secretary), and Barb Howe (treasurer).

CCSJ REQUESTS TO BE INTERVENOR IN FOP LAWSUIT ON CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD: The Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP was looking for groups committed to social justice in Morgantown to be intervenors on behalf of the City of Morgantown in the lawsuit that the Fraternal Order of Police brought against the City as a result of city council passing the ordinance establishing this board. The CCSJ steering committee immediately approved our being involved. If Judge Susan Tucker accepts our motion to intervene, we will be kept apprised of the developments in this case. We appreciate the assistance of Bob Cohen and Bob Bastress in facilitating this process and are now waiting to see if this motion will be approved.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY 2022 THEME IS "RESPECT": We have decided to again hold this event via Zoom on January 17th in cooperation with the WVU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) because of concerns about COVID-19. We have received an allocation of \$1500 from the City of Morgantown to reimburse us for expenses. If you have ideas for the program, please send them to ccsjwv@hotmail.com.



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, **October 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/.

Andrew Schneider of Fairness West Virginia made a presentation to the Morgantown City Council Committee of the Whole meeting on September 28th about **amending the City's Human Rights Commission ordinance to include a ban on conversion therapy**. City Council then discussed amending article 153 governing the Human Rights Commission to prohibit Conversion Therapy. You can watch Mr. Schneider's presentation, the public comments that were all in support of the amendment, and the discussion at morgantownwv.viebit.com/player.php?hash=beImBqj1cVAe#. To get a copy of the proposed ordinance, go to that link and click on the Committee of the Whole Agenda Packet. The first reading of the proposed ordinance will be held on Tuesday, October 5th. The council meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. in council chambers in City Hall, 389 Spruce Street. To contact council members, go to www.morgantownwv.gov/154/City-Council.

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 October:

LGBT History Month – Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the United States.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month – A time for celebrating the strength of battered women and their children and for connecting those working to end violence against women and children.

National Crime Prevention Month - Special awareness for the practice of crime prevention as well as victimization, volunteerism, and the need to create safer more connected neighborhoods and communities.

October 1 - International Day of Older Persons – Appreciates the contributions which older persons in diverse situations make to their communities and recognizes the need for opportunities for willing and capable persons of advanced age to participate in and be celebrated for their action in society.

October 12 - Indigenous People Day (Native American Day) – Celebrates and honors Native American history and culture.

October 15 - World Food Day – A day for awareness of the need for greater equity in access to food production and distribution locally, statewide, nationally and internationally.

October 17 - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.

October 24 - United Nations Day – Commemorates the founding of the United Nations in 1945.

October 31 - World Cities Day – “The human future is largely an urban future. We must get right the reduction of greenhouse emissions, strengthening resilience, ensuring basic services such as water and sanitation, and designing safe public streets and spaces for all to share.” (UN Sec.Gen.)



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. The League is posting important information about the West Virginia Legislature’s proposed redistricting maps on its Facebook page. This is especially important for Monongalia County because the current 51st District, with five delegates will become some version of five separate districts as the legislature moves to 100 single-member districts.

Interested in joining the League of Women Voters? Join online at tinyurl.com/join-lwvmm.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER: 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. For more information, go to

[www.facebook.com/events/871020016842224?context=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A\[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%7D\]%7D](http://www.facebook.com/events/871020016842224?context=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%7D]%7D)



MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS OCTOBER 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.



**Morgantown/Kingwood
Branch of the NAACP**

**Sabra United
Methodist Church**

1234 Richwood Ave
Morgantown

**Tuesday, October 12
1:00PM—6:00PM**

All blood donations from African-American donors will be screened for the sickle cell trait to help provide lifesaving blood to the over 100,000 patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Please make an appointment by calling 1-800-REDCROSS or by visiting redcrossblood.org and using the sponsor code:

NAACPMORGANTOWN



All donors receive a free health screening prior to donating.
1-800-REDCROSS | RedCrossBlood.org/OurBlood | #BlackBloodDonorsNeeded

*Free health screening of blood temperature, blood pressure, pulse rate and hemoglobin level. © 2021 The American Red Cross | 2021-05-01 11:00:00



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN-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. There are now potlucks at the park across from the community center around noon. “Non-vaccinated people need to wear masks in the church and we ask that everyone bring a mask to wear during singing.”



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN: The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Morgantown website says that “All Sunday Services and Meetings at the Fellowship are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please keep in touch to receive news of when we will resume activities. In the meantime Sunday Services and Meetings will be undertaken using Zoom.” For more information, go to www.uufmwv.org/sunday-services.html.

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 7pm on the 2nd floor of the Ruth Ann Musick Library on the campus of Fairmont State University.”

MORGANTOWN HUMANISTS: The Humanists have a small book reading group focused on reading Carnegie Mellon’s Professor Andy Norman’s *Mental Immunity*. The discussion date is not yet set, but if interested, please contact Tim at 304-685-9673. The Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/groups/855227111328432.



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER: Becky Rodd has provided the following information: “Dismantling Racism Together is a community group started about a year ago. We seek to EDUCATE and MOTIVATE citizens and organizations so they can collaborate to ADVOCATE for change. Over the past year, we have held monthly conversations on a variety of topics. Most recently we have focused on the issues surrounding “critical race theory” and the current controversy about how we teach our children.

“We are concerned that the WV state legislature is considering dangerous legislation based on the fear of ‘critical race theory.’ The proposed bill is made up of nine specific tenets that would be prohibited from being taught. They are:

- 1) one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex;
- 2) the United States is fundamentally racist or sexist;
- 3) an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;
- 4) an individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of his or her race or sex;
- 5) members of one race or sex cannot and should not attempt to treat others without respect to race or sex;
- 6) an individual’s moral character is necessarily determined by his or her race or sex;
- 7) an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex;

- 8) any individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of his or her race or sex;
- 9) or meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist, or were created by a particular race to oppress another race.

“We believe any such legislation is based on an underlying attempt to limit the open discussion about racism and social justice. Critical race theory is not being taught in our schools - this is a fake controversy designed to play to people’s fears. Please join us as we learn more!

“Join the Conversation

- Join our planning and strategy group to develop strategy and plan activities. We meet on 4th Weds at 7pm. Contact Becky Rodd at 216-5132497 or rebeccarodd@yahoo.com if you’d like to join us.
- Attend our monthly educational events on the 3rd Monday at 7 pm.
- **Next meeting, Monday October 18 @7pm.**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86502188456?pwd=Vi9jZGFRck1HTVAxVnFSUkorSk1GUT09>
 Continue our conversation on teaching about racism in public schools. Professor Nancy Spillane, who teaches STEM students how to teach in an unbiased way, without discrimination will talk about her work with STEM teaching students. Much of the curriculum they use with these students is how to teach in an unbiased way, without discrimination, including the challenges with state legislation that is watering down qualifications for teaching in the public schools
- Sign up for our mailing list by sending email to dismantlingracismtogether@gmail.com.”



MORGANTOWN PRIDE OCTOBER EVENTS:





Information about volunteering or sponsoring the block party is available at www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride.

Morgantown Pride has new merchandise available, including clothing and mugs.

For more information, go to www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page_internal or www.morgantownwvpride.org.

MORGANTOWN CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP: At “press time,” appointments to this board are on the agenda for a city council executive session on October 5th.

WVU DIVERSITY WEEK IS OCTOBER 10-16TH: “Cultural Conversations: Celebrating the Social Significance of Ethnicity’ is the theme of West Virginia University’s Diversity Week 2021.

“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.

“The 2021 theme is designed to provide the WVU community with an opportunity to explore the ways ethnic and pan-ethnic identities lead to shared social, cultural and historical experiences that can be a source of pride and belonging, while also being a source of conflict and prejudice.”

The extensive schedule of events is available at <https://diversity.wvu.edu/diversity-initiatives/diversity-week>.

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH FALL EVENT:





WVU Program For NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PLANS PEACE TREE CEREMONY: Event details will be shared as they are finalized, according to the program’s website at nas.wvu.edu/news-and-events/upcoming-events. WVU programming involving guest of honor MERV TANO, J.D. was postponed from 2020 due to the covid-19 pandemic. Merv Tano is the president of the International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management and adjunct faculty, Haskell Indian Nations University/. The Peace Tree is located between Martin Hall & E. Moore Hall on the downtown WVU campus. The annual Peace Tree events are free and open to the public.



WVU LGBTQ+ CENTER: The Center has an active program of events planned that are open to the public. 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/

“WVU offers many opportunities for students, faculty, staff and the community to learn about LGBTQ+ histories, politic, arts, and more through our many different kinds of programming.

“We collaborate with several partners on and off campus and cosponsor talks, presentations, panels, video showings and several other programs throughout the year.

“Please sign up to our mailing list or follow our social media to receive information about our events.

“LGBTQ+ History Month Educational Modules Series

The LGBTQ+ Center invites you to our LGBTQ+ History Month Education Modules Series, occurring weekly throughout October. Each week, the LGBTQ+ Center's Student Ambassadors will give a brief presentation on the topics listed below:

- October 6, 1:00PM - LGBTQ Protests and Leaders
- October 12, 12:00PM - Queer Representation in Media
- October 20, 12:30PM - LGBTQ Milestones/ Eras
- October 26, 1:00PM- International Perspectives on Gender Identity

“LGBTQ+ Latine Heritage Month

Join the LGBTQ+ Center in celebrating Latine and Hispanic identities during Latine Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15). During the month, we are hosting a Latine Film & Discussion Series about the intersection of Latine, Hispanic and LGBTQ+ Identities. (Dates and times to be announced very soon)”

MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER AT WEST VIRGINIA BOTANIC GARDEN: “MCCAC is participating in the West Virginia Botanic Garden's 2021 Morgantown Area Nonprofit Scarecrow Spectacular! You can see our scareghost, Casper, displayed at the beautiful Botanic Garden at Tibbs Run Preserve in Morgantown. The public will vote on their favorite nonprofit scarecrow through October 31st. The link

will be posted on MCCAC's Facebook at www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC." The Botanic Garden is located at 1061 Tyrone Road and is open daily from dawn to dusk. There is no admission charge.

STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS



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

The **WV NOW state Conference** is scheduled for November 13, 2021, from noon to 4:00 p.m. This will be a virtual event. Details will be forthcoming.



FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA GALA IS OCTOBER 23RD:



"Our gala is scheduled on October 23rd and will be hosted at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Charleston. 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. Buy your tickets now!

"This year, we're excited to announce that Sydnee and Justin McElroy, hosts of the critically acclaimed *Sawbones* podcast, will deliver the keynote address and record an episode of their podcast live! The dynamic duo are a part of the well-known McElroy family of podcasters, a family whose podcasts have been downloaded millions of times.

"*Sawbones* offers listeners a deep look at the strange history of medicine to uncover all the odd, weird, wrong, dumb and just gross ways we've tried to fix people over the years. Sydnee, a practicing doctor from Huntington, used her expertise to help Fairness advocate against discriminatory anti-transgender bills proposed at the state Legislature."

To order tickets and get more information, please go to fairnesswv.org/2021gala/.

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



ACLU BILL OF RIGHTS BASH 2021 IS NOVEMBER 13TH (ALL DAY): "Join the ACLU-WV staff, board and friends for an evening of civil rights and celebration!

"We hope you can be a part of our Bill of Rights Bash fundraiser this year as we celebrate the work of the ACLU of West Virginia, honor giants in the civil liberties community, and look forward to the challenges ahead.

“Three outstanding West Virginians will also be honored at this event: Rabbi Victor Urecki and Ibtesam Barazi will receive the Sid Bell Memorial Award for their service to the ACLU of West Virginia, and West Virginia Delegate Danielle Walker will receive the Roger Baldwin Award for her service to our state.

“Interested in being a sponsor? [View sponsorship options and descriptions here](#), and contact Rose Winland at rwinland@acluwv.org with questions.

“We are looking forward to seeing you at the Bill of Rights Bash!” The event will be held at the Beni Kedem Temple, 100 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25301.

DIVERSITY HOLIDAYS FOR OCTOBER 2021

From www.diversityresources.com/2021-diversity-calendar/

Global Diversity Awareness Month – promotes knowledge of and respect for different cultures

National Disability Employment Awareness Month – advocates for people with disabilities, and their full inclusion in the workforce

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

National Polish-American Heritage Month

10/10 – People with Disabilities: World Mental Health Day – promotes mental health education and awareness, and advocacy against social stigma

10/11 – United States: Indigenous Peoples’ Day – celebrates the indigenous peoples of North America

10/21 – LGBTQ+: Spirit Day – observers wear purple to support LGBTQ youth and prevent bullying