



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: MAY 1, 2024

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, May 21st, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

We will be discussing plans for the opening of our exhibit about the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The exhibit will open on July 2nd at the Morgantown Public Library and be available for the month of July. Eve Faulkes is working on designing a graphic novel to be part of the exhibit that will include stories of people from around the state. She has made arrangements for the exhibit to “tour” to MultiFest in Charleston in early August and to the Charleston YWCA and is planning local events around the exhibit here in Morgantown.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84137577808?pwd=bmNjemRkbUhncXZWS2RTRGdrSDc4UT09>

Meeting ID: 841 3757 7808; Passcode: 828271

One tap mobile

+13092053325, 84137577808#, *828271# US

+13126266799, 84137577808#, *828271# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
- +1 646 931 3860 US

- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
 - +1 305 224 1968 US
 - +1 669 444 9171 US
 - +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- Meeting ID: 841 3757 7808; Passcode: 828271

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84137577808>

CCSJ SUPPORTS MORGANTOWN PRIDE BLOCK PARTY: We will be a bronze-level sponsor of the Block Party although we will not be attending in person. Details about the Block Party are below.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GATHERING WAS APRIL 21ST: About 25 people gathered at the First Presbyterian Church in Morgantown for an evening of good food and conversation about book banning, the environment, and defining “woke.” We appreciate the support of the League of Women Voters of Morgantown and Monongalia County for this event and were pleased to welcome two graduate students from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism who were in West Virginia to look at why West Virginia has the lowest percentage young people who vote.

The photo below on the right is the group discussing “woke.”



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, May 16th, at 6:30 p.m. Contact information for the commission and information on filing complaint forms is 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/.

Vacancies on Human Rights Commission. There are currently two 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.” 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.

Here are the events for May:

Older Americans Month – Celebrates progress in protection of older in the United States and recognizes the importance of end-of-life independence and care for older adults.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month – Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

May 1: International Worker’s Day – Also known as May Day, it celebrates the social and economic achievements of workers worldwide. The day commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which police and protesters clashed following a worker’s strike for an eight hour day.

May 3: World Press Freedom Day – Serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.

May 15: International Day of Families – Celebration of two or more persons providing a continuity of support for each other usually in terms of affection, nurture, security and protection.

May 21: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – Recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange, and creativity, as well as the obligation to create a more peaceful and equitable society based on mutual respect.

There is a calendar of annual human rights observances at www.morgantownwv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/396/Calendar-of-Annual-Human-Rights-Observances-PDF.



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 League sponsored a **candidate forum on Wednesday, April 24th** with the three candidates for the Monongalia County Board of Education: Ron Lytle, Christina Morgan and Shawn Smith. Following the forum, Justin Hershberger of the Mon County Public Defender's Office discussed the role and responsibilities of the Magistrate. Some of the Magistrate candidates attended so people could meet informally with them after the program. Links to the programs are available below under the "Time to Vote" section.

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.

Tuesday, May 14: Meeting at Friends Meeting House, 7:00 p.m. Special Guest Amaya Williams will present on Bystander Intervention (pt. 2)

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.



MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, MAY 21ST: 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.

We appreciate the fact that the Branch shares this Update with its membership.



MORGANTOWN CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD NEEDS TWO MEMBERS: The City of Morgantown is currently accepting applications for the two vacancies on the board, 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 BRETHREN-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 is starting its summer Picnics in the Park. Everyone is welcome. The picnics start about noon.



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: The church is located at 429 Warrick Street, Morgantown, WV.

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 MONDAY, MAY 20, AT 7:00 P.M. BY ZOOM. A representative of the Monongalia County Health Department will speak on health disparities in general, the role of a public health department, and how providers tailor service delivery for different population needs. Please join by Zoom at

us02web.zoom.us/j/88553906610?pwd=anR5ZXISNHhcitZRGZb2JleS9BZz09

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

FAIRMONT PFLAG: Information is available at www.pflagfairmont.org or www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGFairmont.



“Get ready to celebrate love, acceptance, and equality at Fairmont Pride! Join us for a day of live music, vendors, and more! Pack the car for this family-friendly community event hosted by PFLAG Fairmont” at 12:00 p.m. at the Fairmont Greenspace, 308 Watson Avenue.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE EVENTS: Check their Facebook page as events are posted there for the month after our deadline.

The 2024 Block Party will be on Sunday, June 15th.



“Vendor sign ups have begun! We will close vendor sign ups and start registration for back up vendors as soon as we reach 50 sign ups or May 29th whichever comes first!

“Thanks everyone for your patience and we know we will have another great year!

Information on vendors, sponsorships, and parade participation is available at docs.google.com/.../1vfwaSqc1LIAJ61Ykcy.../edit...

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: Anyone interested in joining the meeting for the first time or to get more information can email raisingtranskids@gmail.com.

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.



MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (MCCAC). Follow this group at moncocac.org/news/ or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC. The Center has an extensive wish list on amazon.com at

www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/K0BNEKYNQGNR?ref_=wl_share&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR1Xj4B0busp6EYG5_VhKewPfrIh7gAp27fGikoN1B4jMlkhrcUdz9S4MY_aem_ATn-gsICCJIEoBgNwuaa7e_bkOro00OI4JAALSfzLtXUjrBOVgVe-VqLYMc7jMfGc6qn0jqKOTmk8spxB-Xw2oe or go to their Facebook page and look for the “Shop Our Wish List” option.



This event will be held on Friday, May 17, 2024, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Tropics in Cheat Lake. MCCAC is still looking for sponsors for the event, along with items for the auctions and raffles. If you are interested in participating in this way, please reach out to Taylor at tshultz@moncocac.org.

Still need a ticket? Get the early bird rate until May 3rd!

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

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

MCCAC's Annual Golf Tournament will be held on July 27th at Mountaineer Golf Course. Stay tuned for more information!

MCCAC 2024 Year to Date Services: “From January-March 2024, MCCAC served 514 clients and conducted 50 forensic interviews. We also provided 310 therapy sessions and 1,526 family advocacy services.”

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!

AREA EVENTS



The Morgantown History exhibit will be open through May 2024 at 175 Kirk Street.

“The Morgantown History Museum is currently open Wednesday- Friday 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. and Saturday-Sunday 12:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

“For more information, or if you are interested in taking a group tour of the museum, please email morgantownwvhistory@morgantownwv.gov.”

WVU EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

WVU LIBRARIES TO UNVEIL REGINA CHARON PORTRAIT – Please go to exlibris.lib.wvu.edu/news/2024/04/17/wvu-libraries-to-unveil-regina-charon-portrait for more information. The public is invited to this event.



“West Virginia University Libraries will unveil a portrait of Regina Charon, a pioneering civil rights attorney and role model for women entering the legal profession, from 4-6 p.m. Friday, May 3, in the Downtown Library’s Robinson Reading Room. . . .

“During the unveiling ceremony, several people who were impacted by Charon will share their memories of her.

“Charon (1946-2004) specialized in unemployment law, sex discrimination law and LGBT adoption law. Charon dedicated her legal career to serving her clients with passion, particularly focusing on cases involving discrimination and social justice. . . .

“Her commitment to justice extended to her role in establishing the Department of Women’s Studies at WVU, helping establish the free clinic Morgantown Health Right, and serving as an advocate for individual civil rights and the administration of justice.

“Charon served as a board member for the WVU Council for Women’s Concerns, a board member for Legal Aid of West Virginia and president of the Monongalia County Bar Association. . .

“Charon passed away in 2004 after a battle with myelogenous leukemia, but her legacy still lives on through the Regina Charon Fellowship for Law and Public Interest within the WVU College of Law. Also,

the Regina Charon Zealous Advocate Award was established in her honor for attorneys that advocate for civil rights and justice throughout administration.

“Charon’s portrait will join Blakemore and Monroe’s in the Robinson Reading Room on a semi-permanent basis and then be added to the WVRHC’s collection. The WVRHC holds a collection of papers that document Charon’s life and career.

STATE-WIDE EVENTS



WEST VIRGINIA NOW: For more information, go to www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow or email Amanda Ray, the state NOW president, at amandajray@yahoo.com.



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

Fairness West Virginia announced that, in early April, the Town of Bethany became the nineteenth town in the state to adopt a fairness law to protect LGBTQ + residents from discrimination in housing and employment and in public spaces. This is the first town to pass such an ordinance in 2024.



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



THE ACLU-WV ANNOUNCES APPALACHIAN QUEER YOUTH SUMMIT FOR THE SUMMER OF 2024!

“This camp will bring together teens ages 15-19 who either identify as LGBTQ+ or come from LGBTQ+ families from across West Virginia 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, how to run 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 around people who understand them.

“This year's camp will be held Aug. 7-11 in Morgantown. As always, participation is totally free and travel stipends are available for those who need them.

“Ready to come to camp? Apply at action.aclu.org/webform/wv-appalachian-queer-youth-summit-2024-camper-application/

“Are you a former camper age 20-21 who would like to serve as a Junior Counselor? Apply at action.aclu.org/webform/wv-aqys2024juniorcounselorapplicationhere today!

“Interested in volunteering? Apply at action.aclu.org/volunteer/wv-aqys-2024-volunteer-applicationhere today!

“Please contact Mollie Kennedy at mkennedy@acluwv.org with any additional questions.”



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/.

IT IS TIME TO VOTE!

CCSJ is a 501 (c) (3) organization, so we do not promote or endorse candidates. We do promote voting!

Monongalia County Clerk Carye Blaney is publicizing the need for everyone to be informed voters when they go to the polling place. You may use your phone while waiting to check in, but, once you check in, you cannot use your phone. You may take the sample ballot from the county website (cited below) or the sample ballot printed on May 5th and 12th in the *Dominion Post*. This is a long ballot because of the requirement to post the language of the levies and bond issue. The machines where you mark your ballots will time out after five minutes of no activity, and you will have to start over, so please read about those items in advance to make your decisions.

The League of Women Voters of Morgantown and Monongalia County has posted two videos from its forum for the Monongalia County Board of Education candidates on April 24th. Here is a link for the video of the discussion with the candidates: www.youtube.com/watch?v=7g77jDXS-ls. In addition, Justin Hershberger presented valuable information about the responsibilities of magistrates to prepare us to vote for candidates for those positions. You can see Mr. Hershberger’s presentation at www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ux1MzqN1FY.

Here are the important dates for the primary election:

May 1 – May 11- Early Voting 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily (except Sunday). There are three early voting sites in Monongalia County: Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Greenbag Road, Morgantown, WV 26505, (Front side of Mall next to Mylan); Mason Dixon Park, 79 Buckeye Road, Core, WV 26541 (In the red barn); Suncrest Towne Centre, 525 Suncrest Towne Centre Dr., Ste. 101, Morgantown, WV 26505

May 8 - Last Day to request an Absentee Ballot for Primary

May 14 - PRIMARY ELECTION DAY. Polls are open from 6: 30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If you are in line at 7:30 p.m., you may still vote. If you appear at the polls at 7:31 p.m., you will not be permitted to vote.

Monongalia County voters will be voting on the renewal of four levies that must be approved by 60 percent of the voters to pass and a school bond issue that must be approved by 50 percent of the voters to pass. All of the levies have social justice implications as they would continue support for the Morgantown Public Library System, Mountain Line bus system, volunteer fire departments and Morgantown Fire Department, and parks, trails, and recreation (county parks, West Virginia Botanic Garden, rail trails, etc. The bond issue is for the proposed Renaissance Academy focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) for the county high school students.

Monongalia County voters will also be electing members of the Board of Education, judges, and magistrates. These are the final elections for these positions, while voters will be choosing candidates for the November election for members of the state legislature, members of Congress, governor, etc. Residents of Star City and Westover will be voting for local officials and, for Westover, a proposed charter amendment.

Voters who are registered as Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians, or Mountain Party members MUST vote the ballot of that party. Voters who are registered with no party affiliation, may choose any of the above four ballots but must tell the poll workers their choice. If not, they will be given a ballot that only includes races and issues with no party affiliation: levies, bond issue, Board of Education, and judicial officers in Monongalia County. Everyone will have the same ballot in November.

Mountain Line offers rides to the polling places on Election Day that are serviced by its bus routes. Go to [www.busride.org/electiondayrides?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2laMcZkVuzQy4u9NBA-moP_UXnA2_Ospzo1KHHUCVUi4ybyq\\$dag-Ahx5Q_aem_AT2n89pXOqa8RV6xZgvmBDUaKeY9ZbFuzXgk-WGVZXXi8st39X3jWB7k-EfGNh8vmdHP4Ue2QcfvRHEJufPIVd5](http://www.busride.org/electiondayrides?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2laMcZkVuzQy4u9NBA-moP_UXnA2_Ospzo1KHHUCVUi4ybyq$dag-Ahx5Q_aem_AT2n89pXOqa8RV6xZgvmBDUaKeY9ZbFuzXgk-WGVZXXi8st39X3jWB7k-EfGNh8vmdHP4Ue2QcfvRHEJufPIVd5) for information.

DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR MAY

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

May- National Foster Care Month: This month is a time to acknowledge the children and youth in foster care and their families and the foster parents and mentors who help them find a forever home. It's a great way to reflect on how you can help your community to better support those helping to improve their lives.

May 2- National Day of Prayer: This annual observance reminds the nation to come together to pray for its leaders and citizens for guidance through prayer. This was first established as a way for all Americans to express their faith, regardless of their religion. It's been celebrated since 1952.

May 4-Armed Forces Day: Today, we honor all five branches of the U.S. military. This annual holiday has united Americans to celebrate those who have served or are serving our country since 1949.

May 5-National Day for Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls: Commemorated in both the United States and Canada, this day serves as a reminder of an ongoing crisis

of kidnapping and violence faced by Indigenous women and girls. Also known as Red Dress Day, it hopes to raise awareness among the general public about an alarming issue that is underreported in mass media.

May 6: om HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day): This day is dedicated to remembering the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust as a result of the Nazi regime.

May 17-International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia: Established to raise awareness of LGBTQ+ rights violations and stimulate interest in LGBTQ+ rights work worldwide. This day emphasizes the need for acceptance and equality for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

May 21-World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development: Recognized by the United Nations, this day celebrates the richness of the world's cultures and the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development.

May 23-Vesak: Also known as Buddha Day, Vesak commemorates the birth, enlightenment (Nirvana), and death (Parinirvana) of Gautama Buddha in the Theravada or southern tradition. It is the most significant day for Buddhists worldwide, observed with prayers, meditation, and acts of charity.

May 24-Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness Day: Honor those in your life who identify as panromantic and pansexual. Pan people are attracted to who a person is not how they identify. This day celebrates the community's ability to express their sexuality openly in a world that is accepting of all humans.

May 28-Trail of Tears: The Trail of Tears represents ethnic cleansing and forced relocations for many Native American nations after the Indian Removal Act was enacted in 1830. During this time, nearly 60,000 people were displaced until 1850. Members of Five Tribes, including Cherokee, Seminole, Muscogee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw, were removed from their homes and moved to a new Indian territory after the discovery of gold near their ancestral land.