



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

UPDATE: MAY 1, 2022

MISSION STATEMENT: The Community Coalition for Social Justice is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting the principles of social, environmental, and economic justice and respect for all persons. We oppose discrimination and hate-motivated violence in Morgantown and surrounding communities.

CONTACT US: Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at attfield@comcast.net. Please contact any of the steering committee members to volunteer to help and to share your suggestions for our work or e-mail us at ccsjwv@gmail.com. Please note our new email address. Please send items to share with our membership to Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu.

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR DUES - \$10 for individuals and \$25 for organizations – to CCSJ, PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160. You can join or donate by credit card via PayPal on our web site.

May CCSJ Meeting is May 17th at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Here is the Zoom information:

Topic: Community Coalition for Social Justice May Meeting
Time: May 17, 2022 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81316655136?pwd=MGNjTlVXOWpCUlpRQWdra21FRnQydz09>

Meeting ID: 813 1665 5136

Passcode: 604051

One tap mobile

+13017158592,81316655136#, *604051# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,81316655136#, *604051# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location


+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

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Meeting ID: 813 1665 5136

Passcode: 604051

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81316655136>

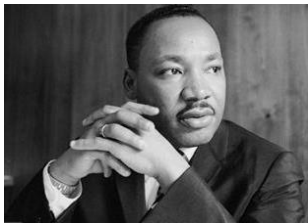
 **PLANNING IS UNDERWAY FOR “READ ALOUD” PROJECT WITH THE SHACK NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE:** Our second planning meeting for this project was Tuesday, April 26th. We have not yet scheduled the next meeting, but, if you wish to volunteer, please contact Mike Attfield at mdattfield@gmail.com.

We will be working with The Shack Neighborhood House during its summer program from June 13th to August 17th to read to students in grades K-6 from books and worksheets we will purchase with funds from the FirstEnergy Foundation. The sessions will be held for 45 minutes from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. There are 7 classes that meet once per week. We are finalizing the list of books to order, and the staff at The Shack is preparing a schedule of their activities to see when we can participate. Our budget will probably allow us to purchase two books for each child.

We also have the opportunity to receive another \$2,000 from the FirstEnergy Foundation and are considering ideas on how to use that, including a possible social justice “fair” at Morgantown’s Ruby Amphitheatre. If you are interested in that idea, please contact Mike Attfield at mdattfield@gmail.com.

CCSJ AT CONSIDERING MATTHEW SHEPARD: We were pleased to be able to have a table in the “community forum” of social justice-focused organizations and individuals at the WVU Creative Arts Center on April 23rd for the performance of *Considering Matthew Shepard*, by Craig Hella Johnson. This was a musical tribute to Shepard, a young gay man left to die on a fence in Wyoming.

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



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



FIND US ON FACEBOOK! Just look for “Community Coalition for Social Justice” under “Groups” and become our friend. Thanks to Mike Sharley for being our group “leader.”

LOCAL NEWS



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting will be Thursday, **May 19th** 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

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.



League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County (LWV-MM): The League’s series of forums of candidates running in the May 10th election is available on YouTube at lwmorgantown.org/YouTube.

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

MAY PRIMARY INFORMATION: Election Day is May 10th. Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. Anyone in line when the polls close may still vote, but, if you arrive at your polling place at 7:31 p.m., you will be too late.

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

Here is the **list of offices** that will be on the ballot in May for Monongalia County voters: www.monongaliacountyclerk.com/myfiles/elections/2022Primary/Candidate_Filing_Information/Offices_on_the_ballot_for_the_May_2022_Primary_Election.pdf. Note that the Board of Education election is the final election. The final election for the other positions will be in November.

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

Early voting in Monongalia County will continue from May 2nd through May 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Greenbag Road; VFW Post 9916, 340 Holland Ave., Westover; Mason-Dixon Park, 79 Buckeye Road, Core; and the former Urse Dodge Dealership at 2000 Mid-Atlantic Road. You may vote at any location, regardless of your precinct.

Absentee ballot information is available at sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/AbsenteeVotingInformation.aspx. You must request an absentee ballot. May 4th is the deadline to request an absentee ballot.

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

The ACLU of West Virginia has candidate surveys for the House of Delegates and State Senate available on its website at www.acluww.org and a series of issue blogs related to the election.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER: The next meeting should be May 10th at 7:00 p.m. Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/. Details and agenda are available through the weekly newsletter or email at morgantownnow@gmail.com.



MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS MAY 17TH: This meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact the NAACP at 3241naacp@gmail.com for more information and to learn how to participate.

The branch has a Readings on Race and Rights group that is publicized through the NAACP listserv.

The NAACP is pleased to announce that Dr. Jerry Carr, Jr., the branch former president, and Nicole Wilson-Carr are the recipients, as a team, of one of six Governor's Service Awards for their work focused on leading a branch that grew in membership, developing the City of Morgantown Civilian Police Review and Advisory Board ordinance and as chair of the branch Health Committee during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The award will be presented at the Cultural Center on June 16th.

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



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

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



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN MAY PROGRAMS:

May 8: MOTHERS' DAY, IRIS DAY, LILAC DAY PROGRAM @ 11 AM. Story of the Mother's Day Church in Grafton. Poem by Mary Oliver. Music: "Where Have All The Flowers Gone?" Discussion of dying, death, funerals and life after death. Here we find our most curious combinations of joys and sorrows. This program will be on Zoom.

May 15: WHITNEY CROSS MEMORIAL LECTURE @ 11 AM. "Ralph Waldo Emerson & The Manse" ~ Religion evolves in dramatic ways and our UU denomination exemplifies this.

In-person services resume this day at 429 Warrick Street in Morgantown. A dish-to-share dinner will follow the Program that day.

May 22: ANNUAL MEETING @ 10:30 AM. Introduction, Report of Officers and Committees, Election of Officers, Plans for the Future. Group discussion.

May 29: MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM @ 11 AM. Visit to Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery, 7050 Morgantown Road, Pt. Marion, PA (one mile south of Pt. Marion on US 119) and the Rev. John Corbly (1733 - 1803) Cemetery at Garard's Fort, PA (about 10 miles northwest from Pt. Marion, in Greene County).

For more information, please contact: UUFMWV@gmail.com or UUFMWV.org.



PFLAG: The closest chapter now is in Fairmont, with information available at www.pflagfairmont.org. According to its website, "PFLAG Fairmont meets each month, usually on the first Thursday of the month at 7p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Ruth Ann Musick Library on the campus of Fairmont State University." **DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER:** The regular meeting of Dismantling Racism Together will be held on Monday, May 16th, at 7:00 p.m. by zoom. A legislator(s) will bring us up-to-date on legislative happenings with Q and A.

The June meeting will be held on June 13th and will focus on Juneteenth, the following week.

The zoom link is <https://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.

WVU SPONSORS “A LONG TALK ABOUT THE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH,” an anti-racism workshop that will be happening in person for the WVU community on May 10th. There will be two sessions that all participants will need to attend to complete the course. The first session will be from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and the second session will be from 4:00 to 6:00pm. It is important that, if you sign up for this experience, you come to both sessions. The cost per person is \$200, and there is a limited number of scholarships available through a combination of research office, units, and on-campus groups. There will be pre-work to complete prior to gaining entry to the course. The pre-work helps to ensure everyone in the class is starting with a similar knowledge base coming into the class.

“We hope to be able to accommodate everyone who is interested and we will let you know of acceptance into the course by the beginning of May. Once selected you will be given login information to access the course materials and be able to introduce yourself.”

The form to sign up is at forms.gle/wgVDjZYETHp5qRLY8.

There will also be “A Long Walk - in Memory of Helen Hartnett” on May 9th at 2:00 p.m. The plan is to meet on the parking lot side of the CPASS building and walk a route that Helen loved to walk on the Evansdale campus. If you want to join us for that, please email Marla Gladstone at mdg0021@mix.wvu.edu.



MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER EVENTS: The Girls’ Night Out benefit will be May 20th from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Tropics, 2500 Cranberry Square. The theme is “A Night Out at the Tropics” and will include “a fun, fabulous evening of delicious dinner, dessert, and drinks, along with music, dancing, raffles, pampering, and a live auction.”

To be a sponsor or if you have questions, please contact Taylor Shultz at 304-598-0344 or tshultz@moncoac.org. For ticket information, please go to www.eventbrite.com/e/girls-night-out-2022-night-out-at-the-tropics-tickets-264203799677.

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



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

STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS



WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE MEETS IN MORGANTOWN MAY 22ND-24TH. These will be interim meetings. At “press time,” it was not yet clear where the meetings will be held or if/when/how the public can participate.



WEST VIRGINIA NOW: West Virginia NOW is online at www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow and wvnow.org. The May meeting will be online on May 16th at 7:00 p.m. Please send a message to the Facebook page for the meeting link.



FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA ANNOUNCES PRIDE MONTH EVENTS: Please go to fairnesswv.org/pride/ for the calendar of events for June and the form to order your Pride Month swag. At “press time,” there were no events scheduled in Morgantown. The closest event on the calendar is a Pride Picnic in the Park sponsored by Fairmont PGLAG on June 18th from noon to 5:00 p.m. at the East Marion Park.



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

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

around people who understand them.

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

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

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



The **ACLU of West Virginia 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.

The application is available at action.aclu.org/webform/wv-fellowship. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. There is no deadline to apply.

Please contact Mollie Kennedy at mkennedy@acluwv.org with questions.

MULTICULTURAL CALENDAR FOR MAY 2022

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

Heritage Months 2022:

Mental Health Awareness Month: recognizes the impact of mental illness on families and communities, and raises awareness for those living with mental and behavioral issues

Older Americans Month: celebrates the contributions of older Americans in the country

Jewish American Heritage Month: honors the history of American Jews and their accomplishments

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month: pays tribute to these people and their contributions to society

5/5 – Cinco de Mayo (Mexican American): commemorates Mexico's defeat of the French army. While it's primarily observed by Mexican Americans, others often join the celebration as well

5/8 – Birthday of the Buddha (Buddhist): celebrates the spiritual leader who launched one of the world's most popular religions

5/17 – International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (LGBTQ+): raises awareness for LGBTQ+ rights

5/19 – Birthday of Malcolm X (Black American/Muslim): Malcolm X was an Black Muslim minister, well known for his activism during the civil rights movement. He was assassinated in 1965.