



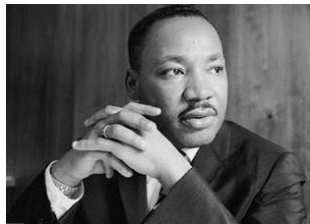
Community Coalition for Social Justice
PO Box 160
Morgantown, WV 26507-0160
ccsjwv@gmail.com
www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: JANUARY 1, 2023

We start the year with this note from Nora Sheets: “Much love and many blessings to CCSJ family!”

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.

NO CCSJ JANUARY MEETING: We will not have a regular meeting in January, since that would be the day after our Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Program. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 21st, at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom.



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY 2023 IS MONDAY, JANUARY 16TH AT 2:00 P.M.: We will again be on Zoom/Facebook Live this year with the support of the West Virginia University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Our theme is “Telling West Virginia’s Stories and Dreams.” We plan to include stories from former Morgantown Mayor Charlene Marshall and long-time Osage residents Al Anderson and Sarah Little. Jeremy Thomas will read a children’s story about West Virginia native and NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson. The WVU Community Choir, Al Anderson, and Chris Haddox will sing.

The Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP has invited Dr. Joseph Jones, visiting assistant professor at the WVU Reed College of Media to speak as their contribution for the event. His topic will be “Communities of Care: West Virginia and a Civic Identity for the 21st Century.” Dr. Jones asks what it means to be a good citizen in our current age. Drawing on the often overlooked later works of Martin Luther King Jr., as well as West Virginia history, Dr. Jones shows how being a citizen means much more than voting. It also means being attentive to one another and collectively caring about the unique needs each of us requires. Appropriate for ages 3-103, this brief presentation seeks to forward conversations on what it means to live a quality life nourished by community.

Bonnie Brown will represent the Morgantown Human Rights Commission to recognize the recipients of the commission’s annual awards. Morgantown Mayor Jenny Selin will welcome everyone on behalf of

the City of Morgantown, which provides funding for the event. We are also co-sponsoring again with Main Street Morgantown to benefit from their publicity efforts, and thank Amy Loomis for her assistance with this.

Because we will be virtual, we want to expand out publicity outreach statewide. If you have ideas of groups to contact, please send the contact information to Mike Attfield at ccsjwv@gmail.com.

The flyer is attached. Please feel free to share it on your Facebook pages or through other social media.

To watch the presentation on Facebook Live: On the day of the event go to www.facebook.com/olliatwvu.

To use Zoom, you must pre-register at olliatwvu.wufoo.com/forms/z17w9uy41k7ccrd/. Registration is free, and you open to everyone.

Zoom will start ten minutes prior to the event.

More information will be available at www.ccsjwv.org.

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 CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE: Morgantown City Council has not yet appointed the final two members of this board.



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting should be January 19th. 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 January:

January 16: Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Established in 1983 and Monday 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 West Virginia Women Vote Coalition is asking Morgantown City Council to pass a new ordinance to support voter registration. To help more voters stay registered and exercise their right to vote, the ordinance would require residential landlords and home selling agents to provide voter registration forms when renting or selling a home in Morgantown. This would support WVWV's recent volunteer coordinating efforts for early voting. The League supports this ordinance.

Follow the League 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, January 10th** at 7:00 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 648 E. Brockway, Morgantown and on Zoom.

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 TUESDAY, JANUARY 19TH: 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.

Congratulations to the officers elected in December for terms starting January 1: Anitra Hamilton, president; Rich Burks, first vice president; Dady Dadyburjor, second vice president; Chelsae Slade, third

vice president; Wes Bergen, assistant treasurer; Rebecca Rodd, secretary; Kathy Abate, assistant secretary.

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



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BROTHERN-MENNONITE: 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 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 FOCUSES ON UKRAINE AS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE (UUSC) SUPPORTS UKRAINE, ET AL. The Morgantown Fellowship will be focusing on this for the next six months.

“Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is supporting the Ukrainian people and others facing oppression.

“The Challenge We Face: On February 24, 2022, the Russian military invaded Ukraine in the largest military act of aggression against a European nation since WWII. Thousands are dead and more than 10 million people are displaced due to the violence and destruction.

First responders from around the world have mobilized to provide aid to the people of Ukraine by way of food, supplies, and medical care. As with any major crisis, we are witnessing compounding forms of oppression inflicted upon communities that are already confronting injustice. We can expect to see even more discrimination and oppression as more people are victimized by violence and displacement.

How We Respond: UUSC is firmly committed to supporting communities already facing oppression as they flee from Ukraine. The institution has committed to: Partnership—Building trusting relationships with grassroots organizations supporting communities facing injustice; Welcoming Communities—Preparing and mobilizing congregations in the United States to sponsor asylum-seekers and refugees fleeing the violence in Ukraine; Collaboration—Working with fellow funders to pool resources for grassroots groups organizing for positive change in Ukraine in the medium and long terms; Changing the Narrative—Challenging and dismantling disinformation and misinformation about asylum-seekers and refugees and reframing the narrative around displacement and its impacts; Providing Resources—Connecting asylum-seekers and refugees with legal representation to navigate the immigration process, whether in the nations surrounding the Ukraine or in the United States.

Get Active: You can have an impact on this work. There are so many ways to get involved and every contribution has an equal impact. Here are some ways you can get involved: **Donate**—Donate to UUSC’s Emergency Response Fund. Donations will be directed to current and future partners in the region and strengthen their ongoing work of supporting and advocating for communities. UUSC goes “beyond the grant dollar,” meaning that our relationships are about more than just providing financial support; Provide Sanctuary—Learn more about the Congregational Accompaniment Project for Asylum Seekers (CAPAS). This project is a great opportunity for your congregation to provide a safe, welcoming,

and healthy environment for people exercising their right to migrate, whether from Ukraine or any other nation. Watch a video on how your congregation can become a sanctuary congregation.”

SOURCE: <https://www.uusc.org/ukraine/>

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 JANUARY MEETING IS MONDAY, JANUARY 16TH AT 7:00 P.M. How do several papal edicts in the 15th Century continue to contribute to systemic racism in the United States? It’s called the Doctrine of Discovery and Bonnie Brown, coordinator of the Native American Studies Program at West Virginia University, will answer that question. Join the zoom presentation at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85962493623>.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE MEETS TUESDAY, JANUARY 10TH: This will be on Zoom from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Join the Zoom meeting at

us02web.zoom.us/j/89813084387?pwd=WXVvbE13WnU2NFpBaGNQQWYvQmdjQT09.

The meeting ID is 898 1308 4387, and the passcode is 306846.

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.



RAISING TRANS KIDS Email raisingtranskids@gmail.com for information on the next meeting. Follow Morgantown Pride on Facebook.

MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER: According to the December newsletter, “From January 2022 to November 2022, MCCAC has served 433 clients and conducted 112 forensic interviews. We have also provided 1,140 therapy sessions and over 4,869 family advocacy services.”

You can also support the Center through Amazon Smile and Kroger Community Rewards. “If you shop through smile.amazon.com, 0.5% of your (eligible) purchase can be donated to MCCAC. 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.”

The next MCCAC “Girls’ Night Out” will be May 19, 2023.



AN EXHIBITION BY WVU ART IN THE LIBRARIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES IS OPEN. This 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 be at the Appalachian State University Library from January through July 2024 and at the Marshall University Library from August through December 2024.

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.

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH FILM FESTIVAL PLANS FOR SPRING:



WVU MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY BREAKFAST: This event will be held in the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms on Monday, January 16th, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

LGBTQ+ CENTER HOSTS LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SESSION THURSDAY, JANUARY 19TH: "Learn about proposed legislation affecting LGBTQ+ rights in West Virginia and what you can do to make your voice heard."

Andrew Schneider, Executive Director of Fairness West Virginia, will present an update on proposed legislation impacting LGBTQ+ rights that is being introduced during January’s West Virginia Legislative Session in Charleston.” This program will be from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Please register in advance to attend: [www.zoom.us/.../tJMvfu6grTiiG9Kr7f0b58SWHnDsSTgNxEHa](https://www.zoom.us/j/9876543210)

STATE-WIDE EVENTS

The **West Virginia Legislature** will convene its 60-day session on Wednesday, January 11th. Many of the groups listed here, including the ACLU and Fairness West Virginia, will be tracking bills and probably organizing lobbying efforts. You can follow their efforts and get legislative updates from their websites and Facebook pages or track bills at the “bill status” tab at www.wvlegislature.gov/. You can also find information on how to contact your legislators at www.wvlegislature.gov. CCSJ is a 501 (c) (3) organization so we do not endorse candidates, but we do track legislation related to social justice.

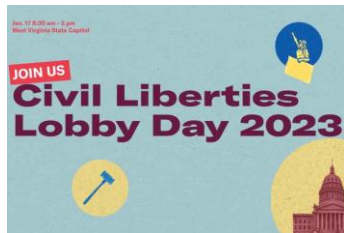


WEST VIRGINIA NOW: West Virginia NOW is online at www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow and wwnow.org.



FAIRMONT ADOPTS LOCAL FAIRNESS LAW: Fairness West Virginia announces that Fairmont is the 18th community in the state to adopt a local fairness law. The ordinance passed by a vote of 7-2 on December 13th. According to the Fairness West Virginia website, “Fairmont city leaders first adopted a nondiscrimination resolution back in 2017, but it lacked any enforcement mechanism. The ordinance adopted this week adds a new section to city code to establish a private right of action for discrimination.”

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



ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA HOSTS LOBBY DAY ON TUESDAY JANUARY 17TH: “From abortion rights to affirming health care for trans youth, to freedom of speech and the defense of our democracy itself, our civil liberties will be under assault like never before in 2023.

“Join ACLU-WV for our 2023 Lobby Day and learn how you can make a difference. Hear from civil rights experts, learn more about citizen lobbying, meet with your elected officials and listen to a floor session with us. Then join us for an afterparty where we can support each other for the struggles ahead.” The Lobby Day will be from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Stay tuned for more details and follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ACLUWV.

DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2023

From www.diversityresources.com/january-diversity-calendar-2023/

January 1: Emancipation Proclamation - On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln declared all individuals held in slavery to be free. This was the start of slaves being freed in the U.S.; however, it wasn’t until June 19, 1865 (now celebrated as Juneteenth) that slavery was ended across the Confederacy.

January 4 - Louis Braille's Birthday: Louis Braille created the popular tactile reading and writing system known as "braille." The system has stood the test of time, and it has increased accessibility to the visually impaired.

January 6: Feast of the Epiphany: On the 12th day of Christmas, Christians celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. They believe this is when the three wise men arrived to baby Jesus after following the star. Around the world, countries celebrate this by dressing up like the three wise men and decorating floats.

January 15: Makar Sankranti: Our January diversity calendar includes the Hindu festival dedicated to Surya, the god of the sun. Hindus celebrate this day by having morning prayer and then engaging in kite competitions. Consider flying a kite of your own this day!

January 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Of all the days on this list, you've likely heard of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. In the United States, it's a federal holiday to celebrate one of the best-known American civil rights leaders. You can remember him by supporting Black-owned businesses or educating yourself on racial injustice.

January 22: Lunar New Year - The Lunar New Year is the beginning of a calendar year whose months are moon cycles. In East Asia and Southeast Asia, the Lunar New Year is a festival that marks this time. You may also hear it called the Chinese New Year in China. This multicultural celebration is celebrated by offering gifts to others in red envelopes, lighting fireworks and firecrackers, and putting up decorations.

January 27: International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust - The United Nations established this global holiday to remember the approximately 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust. Head to the library on this day and check out a book or two about World War II. If you have kids, helping them to develop knowledge about this history and enhancing their awareness of genocide and war can help raise compassionate leaders for the next generation.

January 29: Oprah Winfrey's Birthday - Happy Birthday to the Queen of Media! Oprah became North America's first Black billionaire after being a talk show host and philanthropist for decades. Consider selecting a book from Oprah's Book Club that pertains to diversity matters.