



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

**UPDATE: APRIL 1, 2023**

**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.

**APRIL CCSJ MEETING IS APRIL 18TH AT 7:30 P.M. ON ZOOM.** All are welcome.

Topic: CCSJ April Meeting Time: Apr 18, 2023 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89730444971?pwd=dDFPTFdxRWw0SlZmcnZDQlNlNlI3UT09>

Meeting ID: 897 3044 4971

Passcode: 782767

One tap mobile

+13052241968,89730444971#, \*782767# US

+13092053325,89730444971#, \*782767# US

Dial by your location

+1 305 224 1968 US

+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)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 897 3044 497, Passcode: 782767

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89730444971>

**CONTACT US:** Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at [mdattfieldo@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ccsjwv@gmail.com). Please send items to share with our membership to Barb Howe at [barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu](mailto: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:** The City of Morgantown has held orientation meetings for the members appointed to date.

**MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:** The next regular meeting should be Thursday, April 20th 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](http://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/](http://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](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/396/Calendar-of-Annual-Human-Rights-Observances-PDF)

### Here are the events for April:

**National Child Abuse Prevention Month** – A time to emphasize the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect and to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of children and families.

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month** - A month to promote awareness of sexual assault, harassment, or other abuse to increase prevention efforts to protect all people of all ages.

**April 1: Youth Homelessness Matters Day** – Part of a campaign to create brighter futures for young people who have faced homelessness and to show them they have the power and opportunity to become whatever they put their minds to.

**April 7: World Health Day** – Calls for an awareness that without nurture and protection of health, persons are vulnerable to economic and social hardship and inability to fully utilize or engage in human rights.

**April 16: Holocaust Remembrance Day** – Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising – Seeks to commemorate the Holocaust by remembering and honoring the victims of the Holocaust which include six million Jews, thousands of Russian gypsies, homosexuals, persons with disabilities, and others.

**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).

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



**MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER:**



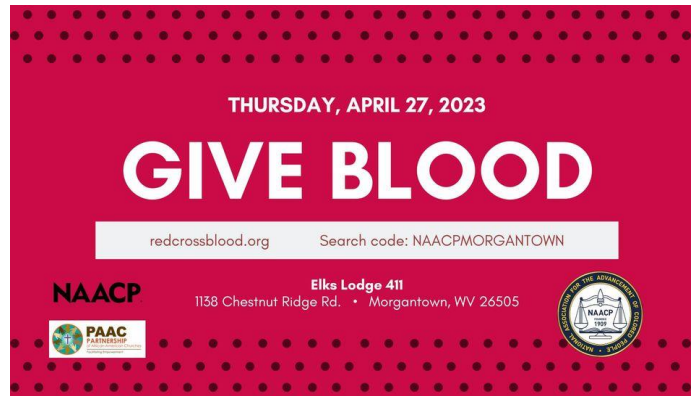
Follow this group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/](http://www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/) or email at [morgantownnow@gmail.com](mailto:morgantownnow@gmail.com).



**MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH:** This meeting of the membership will be at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact the NAACP at [3241naacp@gmail.com](mailto: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.



Follow the NAACP on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/naacp3241/?ref=page\\_internal](http://www.facebook.com/naacp3241/?ref=page_internal).



**WEST VIRGINIA COALITION FOR TRUTH IN HISTORY:** This group organized in 2022 in response to proposed legislation at the state level dealing with the way history is taught in our public schools. It is again meeting on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. To participate, you must register to receive the Zoom link, email [wvtruthinhistory@gmail.com](mailto:wvtruthinhistory@gmail.com).

The group began this session by tracking five bills before the legislature:

**SB 130: Anti-Racism Act of 2023.** This bill died when the House Judiciary Committee chair, Moore Capito, did not put it on the committee’s agenda.

The following bills did not move: **SB 33:** Prohibiting certain divisive acts or concepts from schools, state agencies and any groups receiving state funding. **HB 2347:** Establishing the Anti-Stereotyping Act. **HB 2423:** Prohibit “divisive concepts” from schools, state agencies and any groups receiving state funding.

**SB 216:** Requiring all schools to instruct students on Holocaust and other genocides. This bill passed the Senate and the House Education Committee but died in the House Finance Committee.

This group is now deciding how to move forward. Follow this group on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WV.Truth.in.History>.



**MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN-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](https://www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634) or at [www.morgantowncob.org](http://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](http://www.morgantowncob.org). “We ask that everyone wear a mask

inside the building.”



**UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN APRIL SCHEDULE:** All services start at 10:45 a.m. at the Fellowship Building, 429 Warrick Street, Morgantown.

**APRIL 2nd: DISCUSSION SERVICE ON HOMELESS @ FELLOWSHIP BLDG.**

Morgantown RAMP group works to help the unsheltered all year round. The Morgantown RAMP is a grassroots organization made up of community members working to primarily assist the homeless population of this area.

[www.wdtv.com/2022/12/30/morgantown-ramp-works-help-unsheltered-all-year-round/](http://www.wdtv.com/2022/12/30/morgantown-ramp-works-help-unsheltered-all-year-round/)

**APRIL 9th: HISTORICAL CIVIL WAR OBSERVANCE @ FELLOWSHIP BLDG.**

Gen. Robert E. Lee Surrenders to Gen. Ulysses S Grant at Appomattox in Virginia on April 9, 1865 which ended the Civil War.

VIDEO ~ Civil War “Surrender at Appomattox” - Re-enacting Retro - YouTube ~ Re-enactment video first released after the April 1990 125th Anniversary Re-enactment. Great staged recreations, filmed on the actual battlefield.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAIFCvsB26U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAIFCvsB26U)

**APRIL 16th: GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS @ FELLOWSHIP BUILDING.**

“Virginia Tech Shooting of 33 Students on April 16, 2007.”

Focus on the Virginia Tech and Columbine High School mass murders. At Columbine on April 20, 1999 some 12 students and one teacher were murdered and 24 students were injured.

VIDEO ~ Virginia Tech Victim Returns to Campus 12 Years After Being Shot | TODAY Originals 2019 - YouTube ~ Some 16 years ago, Kristina Anderson nearly died in Norris Hall room 211 when a fellow Virginia Tech student carrying two handguns stormed in an opened fire, killing several of her classmates. For TODAY's Survivor series, she returns to campus to reflect on what she saw that day and how it influences her life's work.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=8P66jdiL13Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8P66jdiL13Q)

**APRIL 23rd: CELEBRATION OF EARTH @ FELLOWSHIP BLDG.**

Outdoor activities as our Earth Day program involving nature poetry and physical exercises including trimming, cutting, spading and planting.

VIDEO ~ History of Earth Day in the US with Robin Okunowo on Vimeo ~ Join our Team Planet member for a conversation about the history of Earth Day and the need to include environmental justice and all voices in the conversation. [vimeo.com/696152709](https://vimeo.com/696152709)

**APRIL 30th: FOCUS ON THE SELF @ FELLOWSHIP BLDG.**

Bill Reger-Nash will lead a program on mindfulness & wellness. These valuable lessons may be priceless at little or no cost. ~ See also The People’s Pharmacy, Episode # 1331

# WALKING WITH SURVIVORS



RAPE & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
INFORMATION CENTER  
EMPOWER • SURVIVE • THRIVE

1 APRIL 2023  
REGISTRATION @ 2:30 PM  
WALK @ 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM  
400 SPRUCE ST  
MORGANTOWN, WV 26505



AUDIO MESSAGE ~ Show # 1331: Staying Healthy During and After COVID ~ In this episode, Dr. Roger Seheult offers evidence-based tips on staying healthy even when viral infections abound.  
[www.peoplespharmacy.com/articles/show-1331-staying-healthy-during-and-after-covid](http://www.peoplespharmacy.com/articles/show-1331-staying-healthy-during-and-after-covid)

Contact the Fellowship at [UUFMWV.org](http://UUFMWV.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/The-Unitarian-Universalist-Fellowship-of-Morgantown-WV-367256688732](https://www.facebook.com/The-Unitarian-Universalist-Fellowship-of-Morgantown-WV-367256688732) or email [uufmwv@gmail.com](mailto:uufmwv@gmail.com).

**PFLAG:** The closest chapter now is in Fairmont, with information available at [www.pflagfairmont.org](http://www.pflagfairmont.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGFairmont](https://www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGFairmont).

**DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER MEETING APRIL MEETING:** No information was available at “press time.”



**MORGANTOWN PRIDE:** No information about an April meeting was available at “press time.” For information on this group, go to [www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page_internal) or [www.morgantownwvpride.org](http://www.morgantownwvpride.org). Morgantown Pride has an Instagram page at [www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en).

Sign-ups will begin April 15th.





# WALKING WITH SURVIVORS



1 APRIL 2023  
 REGISTRATION @ 2:30 PM  
 WALK @ 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM  
 400 SPRUCE ST  
 MORGANTOWN, WV 26505



# 7th annual Champagne for SANEs

SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINERS

April 27, 2023  
 4:00–9:00 pm  
 Table 9 on the Wharf



Fundraiser to benefit the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner's Fund (WVFRIS SANE Fund). These funds are used to train and provide practicum skills workshops for SANEs who conduct sexual assault evidentiary exams for victims of sexual assault in WV.

For more information or to help support the event, email [egc@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:egc@mail.wvu.edu)

Sponsored by WVFRIS  
 COUNCIL FOR GENDER EQUITY



## MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:

Monongalia County Child Advocacy Center + R.D.V.I.C

Calling all teens!

MAKE TIME TO  
**UNPLUG**

Free teen event!

Join us to explore activities and hobbies that can help you unplug from electronics!

Saturday, April 22, 2023 • 11 AM - 2PM

Woodland United Methodist Church  
 1846 Mileground Road, Morgantown, WV 26505

Live DJ

Prizes

12pm  
 Internet Safety Presentation  
 (Register at the event by 12pm and receive free pizza)

11am-12pm, 1pm-2pm

- discover new activities/hobbies
- learn about youth serving organizations
- connect with peers

Parent session available during the teen internet safety presentation.

Basketball





The next MCCAC “Girls’ Night Out” will be May 19, 2023 “Take a Vacation to the Tropics with MCCAC at Tropics in Cheat Lake. Join us for another fun night of dinner, dancing, auctions, and more!”  
Tickets are available now: Early Bird ends May 5<sup>th</sup>: \$75.00 +\$6.88 Fee / +\$5.73 Sales Tax  
Sales end on May 5, 2023  
General Admission sales start on May 5<sup>th</sup>: \$100.00 +\$8.55 Fee / +\$7.60 Sales

Tax

Tickets include dinner, entertainment, pampering providers, and access to the cash bar, live auction, and raffle items. There is a link to purchase tickets at [www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=541670181398072&set=a.510768277821596](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=541670181398072&set=a.510768277821596). “Sponsorships are also available. If you have any questions, please reach out to Taylor: 304-598-0344 or [tshultz@moncocac.org](mailto:tshultz@moncocac.org).”



**WVU HONORING DIVERSITY SERIES:** As part of its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, the WVU Honors College is launching a new seminar series this spring. “The Honoring Diversity Series will feature engaging diversity and inclusion topics presented by WVU faculty and staff experts. Seminars will be held on Tuesday evenings via Zoom. To register for the Zoom link, you will have to go to [www.honors.wvu.edu/news/2023/01/10/honoring-diversity-series-spring-2023](http://www.honors.wvu.edu/news/2023/01/10/honoring-diversity-series-spring-2023)

“Histories of Pride & LGBTQ+ Publics in West Virginia”

Jacob Kopcienski, WVU alum and doctoral student at Ohio State University  
6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 4

Kopcienski will discuss the history of LGBTQ and feminist movements, provide a timeline of key events in West Virginia, discuss LGBTQ music and performance and share research resources for LGBTQ history.

“LBGTQ+ Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention”

Bridget Bailey, assistant professor of social work, 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 11

Bailey will discuss suicide risk in LBGTQ+ youth, prevention and intervention of suicide in LBGTQ+ youth and treatment using dialectical behavior therapy with LBGTQ+ youth.

“Microaggressions are not so Micro”

Marla Gladstone, doctoral student in coaching and teaching studies  
Rachael Purtell, doctoral candidate in communications studies, 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 18



**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.

For further information, please contact Sally Brown Deskins, WVU Libraries' Exhibits Coordinator, at [sally.brown1@mail.wvu.edu](mailto: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 HOSTS PROGRAM ON NORMAN JORDAN ON APRIL 4TH:**

**REFLECTIONS ON  
WEST VIRGINIA  
POET  
NORMAN JORDAN  
FEATURING  
BRUCELLA JORDAN**

**APRIL 4, 2023, 7:00PM  
MILANO ROOM, DOWNTOWN LIBRARY**

Brucella Jordan will talk about her late husband, Norman Jordan, one of West Virginia's foremost Black poets. A native of Ansted, West Virginia, Jordan earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from West Virginia University and a Master of Fine Arts from The Ohio State University. Jordan was a leading voice in the Black Arts Movement and active in the Cleveland Poetry Movement. In Cleveland, he collaborated with the Karamu House, the oldest Black theater in the United States. Jordan published several books of poetry and his poems have appeared in over 40 anthologies. He was inducted into the exclusive Afrilachian Poets group in 2008. Jordan was a co-founder of the African American Arts and Heritage Academy and the African American Heritage Family Tree Museum in Ansted. He also taught literature at both WVU and Glenville State University.

**SPONSORED BY THE WEST VIRGINIA & REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER  
AND THE WVU HUMANITIES CENTER**

SEE ERIC JORDAN, SON OF NORMAN JORDAN, READING TWO OF HIS FATHER'S POEMS: "ONE-EYED CRITICS" AND "APPALACHIAN GHOSTS"

**MORGANTOWN CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS:** Residents who live within the City of Morgantown city limits are eligible to vote in the city council election on April 25th if they are registered.

The last day to register at the Monongalia County Clerk's Office, 243 High Street, is Tuesday, April 4th. You can also register online at [ovr.sos.wv.gov/Register/Landing](https://ovr.sos.wv.gov/Register/Landing) or check your registration status at [apps.sos.wv.gov/Elections/voter/amiregisteredtovote](https://apps.sos.wv.gov/Elections/voter/amiregisteredtovote).

This year, there will be elections for candidates in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th wards for four-year terms. The candidates who will be on the ballot are Joe Abu-Ghannam and James Guiliani (1<sup>st</sup> ward), Louise "Weez" Michael (3rd ward), Danielle Trumble and Marly Ynigues (5th ward), and Brian Butcher and Ben Mayle (7th ward). Write-in candidates must file by April 11th to have votes counted that are cast for them. While candidates run from a ward, voters can vote for someone from each ward.

Information on registering to vote, absentee voting, and polling places is available at [www.morgantownwv.gov/157/Election-Information](https://www.morgantownwv.gov/157/Election-Information). The polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Any registered voter within Morgantown city limits is eligible for early voting. Early voting will take place from April 12th, 2023, to April 22, 2023, at the Historic Train Depot at Hazel Ruby McQuain Park - 185 Garrett St., Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

As of March 29th, **the City Clerk still needed people who can be alternates to work at the election.** To apply please go to [www.morgantownwv.gov/FormCenter/Poll-Workers-16/Poll-Worker-Registration-182](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/FormCenter/Poll-Workers-16/Poll-Worker-Registration-182). You do not need to live within the City limits to be a poll worker.

**CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM IS APRIL 6TH:** This event will be held on Thursday, April 6th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Hotel Morgan, 127 High Street, Morgantown. Todd Stainbrook is the host. Vicki Conner is assisting with organizing this. All are welcome. Food and drink will be available for purchase from the hotel bar. Questions for candidates will come from audience members.

## STATE-WIDE EVENTS

The **West Virginia Legislature** Update: The legislative session is over! Here is an update on some of the bills social justice groups were tracking:



**WEST VIRGINIA NOW:** West Virginia NOW is online at [www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow](http://www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow) and [wvnow.org](http://wvnow.org). NOW also has a legislative agenda:

### Support:

**SB 158:** Prohibiting person under age of 18 from entering into marriage. Assigned to Judiciary Committee. No action taken.

**HB 3018:** Establishing that 18 is the age of consent and removing the ability of an underage person to obtaining a consent to marry through their parents, legal guardians, or by petition to the circuit court. This passed the House and Senate with amendments with a minimum age of marriage of 16 (down from the original 18) and a maximum age gap for underage marriage of four years. **The governor signed this bill into law on March 29th.**

### Oppose:

**HB 2007:** Prohibiting certain medical practices (deals with gender affirming care). Has passed through Health and Human Resources Committee and Judiciary Committee. The Judiciary Committee amended it to include prohibiting all gender affirming care, including hormone therapy for trans, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming youth. **The governor signed this into law on March 29th** – the last day he could do sign or veto the bill before it would become law without his signature. Fairness West Virginia has posted this update on what the bill means at [fairnesswv.org/2023/03/29/hb-2007-a-resource-guide-for-the-trans-community/](http://fairnesswv.org/2023/03/29/hb-2007-a-resource-guide-for-the-trans-community/)

**The following bills did not move: HB 2244:** Providing a process by which a city may hold an election to recall an ordinance (could be used to overturn ordinances establishing Human Rights Commissions or CROWN acts, etc.).

**HB 2972:** Prohibits public universities or university associated healthcare facilities from performing gender reassignment surgeries or gender affirming care upon minors. **HB 2998:** Non-binary not permitted on birth certificates.

**HB 3001:** To prohibit punishment for teachers who refuse to use pronouns inconsistent with a child's sex. **SB 252:** Prohibiting obscene materials in or within 2,500 feet of WV schools.



**FAIRNESS IS TRACKING LEGISLATION:** Fairness West Virginia tracked these bills, which it said “threaten to erase LGBTQ people from public life.” Fortunately, none of them moved out of their initial committee assignment:

**SB 252:** Prohibiting obscene materials in or within 2,500 feet of WV schools.

- SB 278: Protecting minors from exposure to indecent displays of sexually explicit nature.
- SB 253: Criminalizing engaging in adult cabaret performance where it may be viewed by minor.
- SB 103: Prohibiting certain funding and attendance of minors to drag shows.

Follow Fairness West Virginia on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fairnesswv](http://www.facebook.com/fairnesswv).

And, in an example of what can happen at the legislature, Fairness posted this notice on its website:

**WV Senators approve HB 3042, the License to Discriminate Bill**

CHARLESTON, West Virginia — Members of the state Senate voted 30-3 in favor of the License to Discriminate Bill on Tuesday night [a day after it passed the House of Delegates]. Moments before the bill passed, Senate Republicans suspended the state’s constitutional rules that require bills to be read and considered on three separate days. . . .

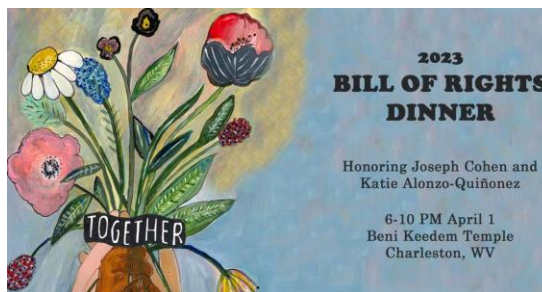
Senators also refused to allow any committee to consider the proposal and instead brought the bill directly to the floor for a vote. The bill, dubbed the “Religious Freedom Restoration Act” by its supporters, will now head to the Governor’s desk for his approval or veto. - - — **[Governor Justice signed this bill on March 9th.]**

HB 3042 could allow anyone to be exempt from following a law or a governmental policy if they believe that law or policy burdens their religious beliefs. That means that any individual religious belief has the potential to determine which state and local laws a person or corporation must follow.



Fairness is starting to publicize events for this summer. To schedule an event and see what is already planned, please go to [fairnesswv.org/pride/](http://fairnesswv.org/pride/).

**ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES:**



“Join the ACLU-WV staff, board and friends for an evening of civil rights and celebration!”

Sponsorship and ticket information is available at [action.aclu.org/event/wv-bor-bash-sponsors-23](http://action.aclu.org/event/wv-bor-bash-sponsors-23).

“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.

“If you would prefer to mail your payment, you can view sponsorship options and descriptions and mail your reply form and payment to: ACLU WV Foundation, P.O. Box 3952, Charleston, WV 25339-3952

“Contact Rose Winland at [rwinland@acluwv.org](mailto:rwinland@acluwv.org) or (304) 881-6950 with questions.

“We are looking forward to seeing you at the Bill of Rights Bash!”

On March 20th, the ACLU posted this notice:

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of West Virginia, and Lambda Legal urged the United States Supreme Court to reject an effort by West Virginia’s Attorney General to block a 12-year-old transgender girl from continuing to participate in school sports with her peers.

In a March 9 filing, Attorney General Patrick Morrissey asked the Supreme Court for an emergency motion allowing the state to enforce a ban on transgender student athletes and kick 12-year-old Becky Pepper-Jackson off her middle school’s track and field team. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit blocked the state’s effort to kick Becky off the team as the legal advocates appealed a lower court ruling upholding the 2021 ban in a lawsuit brought on Becky’s behalf.

The ACLU, the ACLU of West Virginia, and Lambda Legal issued the following joint statement:

“This emergency filing by Attorney General Morrissey is a petty and baseless move. Requests of this kind are typically reserved for high-stakes, time-sensitive matters — including pending death sentences and matters of national security. A 12-year-old girl playing with her peers is hardly an emergency, and we urge the court to deny the state’s request.”

West Virginia is one of 19 states that have banned transgender student athletes in just the last three years as part of an escalating wave of state-level restrictions on the rights of transgender people. Similar federal lawsuits are pending in Idaho and Tennessee.



“The ACLU-WV is thrilled to announce that we will be continuing our **Appalachian Queer Youth Summit in 2023!**

“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 week around people who understand them.

“The 2023 Summit will take place in Morgantown (campers will be provided with additional details upon acceptance) **from late morning on August 9th to the afternoon on August 13th.**

“Follow AQYS on Facebook for updates, and stay tuned for our applications which will be opening soon.

“Please contact Mollie Kennedy at [mkennedy@acluwv.org](mailto:mkennedy@acluwv.org) with any additional questions.

“\*Note: We know that COVID is still a reality and may require us to adjust our planning. At this time, we are hopeful that we can safely hold an in-person summit this summer. We will be following guidelines from the state as well as the CDC and other public health experts, and will provide updates throughout the process.”

Follow this group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ACLUWV](http://www.facebook.com/ACLUWV).



**WEST VIRGINIA TRANSGENDER 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.” This group tracked several anti-trans bills before the legislature: HB 2007, HB 2972, HB 2998, and HB 3001. Information on all of them is under West Virginia NOW above.

For more information, please go to [www.facebook.com/wvtranscoalition/](http://www.facebook.com/wvtranscoalition/).

### DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR APRIL

[www.diversityresources.com/april-diversity-calendar-2023/](http://www.diversityresources.com/april-diversity-calendar-2023/)

**March 22 to April 21: Ramadan:** Ramadan — an annual observance for Muslims worldwide — falls in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. During this time, Muslims abstain from eating or drinking from dawn until dusk. If you’re not Muslim, but you want to see what Ramadan is like, you can try abstaining from eating from dawn until dusk and break the fast with an evening meal called iftar.

**April 2: World Autism Awareness Day:** World Autism Awareness Day is an opportunity to understand how those with autism can improve their lives. If you don’t have a loved one with an autism diagnosis, you may not have a strong understanding of how the world may be challenging for these individuals. Fortunately, this day seeks to raise awareness and improve their acceptance in society. We recommend celebrating by spreading kindness and uplifting those with autism by reading, watching, or listening to content created by them.

**April 5 to April 13: Passover:** Passover is a major Jewish festival that celebrates the freeing of the Israeli slaves. If you don’t know the history of Passover, head to your local library to check out a book. Once you’ve read it, consider commemorating the occasion by attending a special family meal called the seder.

**April 9: Easter:** Easter is the most important Christian holiday of the year. Non-Christians often don’t realize this because there’s a lot more fanfare around Christmas, but this day celebrates Jesus’ resurrection. To learn more, watch films such as *Ben Hur*, *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, *Passion of the Christ*, and *Rise*.

**April 22: Earth Day:** Have you ever stopped to think about all that is possible because of the planet that we live on? If not, April 22nd is the day to do it. Earth Day is a day observed by more than 192 nations. It honors the environmental movement that protects the Earth for future generations. On this day, bring seed packets to work for all of your employees to take home and plant in their own gardens.