



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

UPDATE: AUGUST 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.

AUGUST CCSJ MEETING IS TUESDAY, AUGUST 15TH AT 7:30 P.M. ON ZOOM.

All are welcome.

Topic: August Community Coalition for Social Justice Meeting
Time: August 15, 2023 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82960060379?pwd=U3lvREpoNWJQU1dsUWJZK05OZUw4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 829 6006 0379

Passcode: 429711

One tap mobile

+13052241968,82960060379#, *429711# US

+13092053325,82960060379#, *429711# 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)
- +1 360 209 5623 US

- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 829 6006 0379
 Passcode: 429711

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kxuZ1JCOW>

CCSJ SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FAIR TO BE SEPTEMBER 17TH: We will be back at the Hazel Ruby McQuain Riverfront Park and amphitheater for our second Social and Environmental Justice Fair on Sunday, September 17th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. This will be the first day of WVU’s Diversity Week, and we are coordinating with the organizers of Diversity Week to publicize our event and encourage the WVU community to attend.

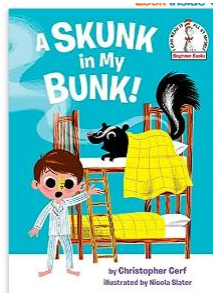
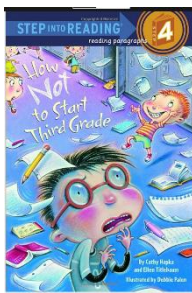
Steel Away of the CB Drum Studio, the Morgantown-based steel drum band, will be playing for us from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Donna Weems, Mike Attfield, and Jim and Sheila Rye will provide the music from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m., and Al Anderson will sing from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m.

We appreciate the financial support of the City of Morgantown and FirstEnergy Foundation for this event.

This event will serve as our annual meeting.

If you are interested in participating this year, please contact Mike Attfield at mdattfield@gmail.com.

LIBRARY BOOKS FOR BOPARC: CCSJ thanks Duane Nichols and Sue Miles for a donation of \$2000 to purchase social justice-related books for BOPARC’s summer program. We have purchased 75 books to be distributed to 1st and 2nd graders, 3rd and 4th graders, and 5th and 6th graders, with 25 books for each group.



The titles we purchased were *How Not to Start Third Grade* by Cathy Hapka and Ellen Titlebaum (Random House Children’s Books); *Same Sun Here* by Neela Vaswani and Silas House (Candlewick TP Press), and *A Skunk in my Bunk!* by Christopher Cerf (Random House Children’s Books).

Susan Brown and Lee Petsonk delivered the books to Louisa Mae at the Wiles Hill Community Center/BOPARC office on July 25. Lee took the photos below showing Louisa in the left photo below and Louisa and Susan in the right photo below. Susan said that BOPARC was very appreciative of our donation and gave the books to the campers in the “Arts in the Park” program at the Wiles Hill Community Center during the week of July 24. There were a few extra books, which we are donating to the Shack Neighborhood House.



CCSJ SUPPORTS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM FORUM IN OCTOBER: We have voted to support the program entitled “This Land Was Always Loved” that is described more below with \$400 from the funding we received from Duane Nichols and Sue Miles.

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, August 17th, 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

Here are the events for August:

August 6: National Night Out – Marks the importance of collaborative efforts in reducing crime and for strengthening neighborhood relationships which help prevent crime and protect persons from criminal activity.

August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples – Celebrates the richness of indigenous cultures and recognizes the challenges indigenous peoples face today, ranging from poverty and disease to dispossession, discrimination, and denial of basic human rights.

August 12: International Youth Day – Celebrates young people and the integral role they play to create a world fit for children.

August 23: International Day for the Remembrance of Slave Trade and Its Abolition – Memorializes the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade, coinciding with the anniversary of the uprising in Santa Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated its abolition. Tragically other forms of slavery still persist today.

August 30: International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance – A day to promote taking a stand against secret imprisonment, forced disappearance and abduction and placing persons in any situation without access to relatives and/or legal representation.



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 and contact them by email at lwmorgantown@gmail.com. You can join the League of Women Voters at tinyurl.com/join-lwvmm.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER FUTURE EVENTS:

August: event TBD

September 12: 7:00 p.m. meeting at the Friends Meeting House, 648 E. Brockway, Morgantown

September 17: CCSJ Social and Environmental Justice Fair

October 22: Ping Pong fundraiser

November 14: Annual Meeting / Voting for 2024, 7:00 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House and online

Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/ or email at morgantownnow@gmail.com.

NAACP

MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, AUGUST 15TH: 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 NAACP is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Thursday, August 10th, at the Elks Lodge at 1138 Chestnut Ridge Road from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. You can register to donate at www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time.

The state NAACP conference will be held in Greenbrier County on August 25th and 26th. Delegate Anitra Hamilton, president of the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP, will be the speaker at the Freedom Fund Banquet on Friday, August 25th, at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$40.

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.

Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom except for the dates noted below, with the link available at www.morgantowncob.org.

“Church services will not be held in the building for several Sundays this summer. There will be our usual potluck picnic after each service. Come join us in the sunshine!

“(Even if the sun doesn't show up, we will. Dress appropriately and join us!)”

August 6: We will be gathering in person and online at the Allegheny Mennonite Conference at the Laurelville Retreat Center.

Wiles Hill picnics in the park will resume after the 10:30 a.m. services on August 13. The intervening Sundays will be "away" meetings. The neighborhood and friends are invited.

August 27: "Back to School" at Cara's farm in Core.

***** *Zoom may not be available for the outdoor services.* *****

Follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN WEEKLY FOCUS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST: *The Common Good* by Robert Reich.

“Why it’s so damned important.”

From the website of Robert Reich, professor, author, former U.S. government administrator:

“The theme of **THE COMMON GOOD** is more relevant today than ever. Read the book, along with these weekly essays based on its chapters (and here’s a link). I apply the framework of the book and its key themes to the events of the last few years, to illuminate the larger story that’s been unfolding and the reckoning that is coming.

“We have come to an inflection point in the history of our lives together — both as Americans and as inhabitants of the world. How we vote in the upcoming election of 2024 may determine whether American democracy survives. How we respond to the excesses of this second Gilded Age — featuring levels of inequality and corruption not seen since the first one, a century ago — will help determine whether our economy and society survive.

“How we deal with the accelerating climate crisis will determine whether human life on Earth survives. All these turn on our understanding of the “common good.”

SOURCE: <https://robertreich.substack.com/p/the-common-good-introduction/>

We are a Welcoming Congregation and support the Community Coalition for Social Justice. See also: UUFMWV.org. or email uufmwv@gmail.com.

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: Dismantling Racism Together (DRT) will meet on August 21st at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom. Learn about past experiences of Asian-American discrimination from John Suzukida of Shorview, MN. He will share his parents' experience of being incarcerated in America's Concentration Camps during WWII as U.S. born citizens of Japanese descent. He's spoken to almost 2,000 people in the last 7 years at their request. Join by zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85962493623>.

The DRT is also working with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) for a program on **Tuesday, August 29th** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at OLLI at the Mountaineer Mall on Greenbag Road. The program will start by viewing the video “**Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America.**” The video is described as “Interweaving lecture, personal anecdotes, interviews, and shocking revelations in the documentary, WHO WE ARE: A Chronicle of Racism in America, criminal defense/civil rights lawyer Jeffery Robinson draws a stark timeline of anti-black racism in the United States from slavery to the modern myth of post-racial America.”

The two-hour documentary presentation will be followed by a lunch break, then an opportunity to interact with a panel of distinguished guests, featuring Bob Bastress (WVU Professor of Law), Rachel Fetty (Vice Chair of Morgantown Civilian Police Review and Advisory Board); Dr. Joseph Jones (WVU Visiting Assistant Professor in Reed College of Media); and Meshea Poore (WVU Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion). Mavis Grant and George Lilley will be facilitating this program as co-facilitators of Dismantling Racism Together.

The program requires advance registration and a fee of \$12 at the time of registration. OLLI members can register now at OLLlatwvu.org. Registration is limited. At “press time,” there were only about 6 spaces open, and it looks like the best option for non-OLLI members to be registered as guests of an OLLI member.

Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dismantling%20racism%20together%20morgantown.



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 LGBTQ CENTER: “Composed of faculty, staff, students **and at least one individual from the broader community** who meet once per month, commission members meet with University leadership to provide recommendations germane to issues of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and gender diverse people at WVU.

“Commissioners are charged with the identification of barriers that inhibit the full inclusion and advancement of persons from underrepresented and/or underserved populations, namely LGBTQ+ and gender diverse people, in order to forward innovative, evidence-informed recommendations that support the creation of an inclusive and welcoming campus and community.

“More specifically, the objectives are to:

- “• create a welcoming environment that supports both inclusion and diversity,
- “• collect information and/or conduct research regarding climate and issues, which affect the LGBTQ campus community,
- “• make recommendations regarding the policies, procedures and practices that affect the LGBTQ campus community with the goal of improving access and opportunities,
- “• ensure the University appropriately addresses issues of equity, safety and welfare of LGBTQ faculty, staff, students and guests, and
- “• establish and maintain strong collaborative partnerships with organizations and entities which support the purpose, mission and vision of WVU.

“The commission works collaboratively with the LGBTQ+ Center and is an action-oriented group engaging in projects, policy changes, legal advocacy and other issues that have a positive effect on our community.

“Faculty and staff serve one-year terms and may be reappointed. Undergraduate and graduate students serve a one-year term without reappointment.

“To join, contact Daniel Brewster, commission chair, at Daniel.Brewster@mail.wvu.edu by Aug. 11.”



WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM FORUM: “THIS LAND WAS ALREADY LOVED: Native Leaders discuss their Nations’ Connection to Place” on October 9 & 10, 2023.

The public activities start on Indigenous People’s Day, Monday, October 9th, with the annual Peace Tree Ceremony and the keynote address by Chief Oren Lyons entitled “Truth to Power: History from Indigenous Perspectives.” Chief Oren Lyon is the Traditional Faithkeeper, Turtle Clan, Onondaga Nation, Council of Chiefs of the Six Nations Iroquois.

The Tuesday, October 10th event is a day-long forum entitled “This Land Was Already Loved” and involves a series of sessions (ex., focused on Shawnee, Haudenosaunee (Iroquois), Lenape (Delaware), Cherokee) and a culminating session on leaders’ shared concerns/priorities for the future. The forum will be on WVU’s Main Campus in Morgantown at Mountainlair Student Union ballroom and will be

offered virtually to provide access to those throughout the State (and elsewhere) who may not have time or resources to travel and attend in person, such as teachers and their students, government officials, etc. The sessions will be archived through WVU's library for future educational use.

The forum presentations will enlighten attendees and, in particular, assist personnel responsible for being informed, up-to-date, and making recommendations/decisions regarding public programming and cultural/historical interpretation (i.e., State and National Park Service staff, museum administrators, West Virginia Extension & 4-H, faculty and students in public history programs, k-12 education planners, *et al.*).

There are numerous enthusiastic partners joining Native American Studies for this major endeavor, including the WVU Honors College, WVU Humanities Center, WVU Extension, the West Virginia Humanities Council, and WVU's Center for the Future of Land Grant Education, the only such center in the U.S.



“WVU will celebrate Diversity Week Sept. 17-23 and the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion invites all members of the Mountaineer family to help create this year’s programming.

“Diversity Week annually promotes celebration, education and understanding of different identities and experiences present on campus.

“The goal is to create an atmosphere that provides the WVU community with opportunities to explore different cultures, engage in discussions that bring

new perspectives, and celebrate the presence of, and contributions made, by people of all identities and experiences. . . .

“For questions, contact Anne Kerns, special events coordinator, at anne.winters@mail.wvu.edu.”

Stay tuned as the schedule develops as many events are open to the public. More information should be coming at diversity.wvu.edu/diversity-initiatives/diversity-week#:~:text=WVU%20will%20celebrate%20Diversity%20Week,help%20create%20this%20year's%20programming.



The next meeting of the Raising Trans Kids group will be on Saturday, August 26th, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Anyone interested in joining the meeting for the first time or to get more information can email raisingtranskids@gmail.com.



MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER. Follow this group at moncocac.org/news/ or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC. According to the July newsletter, “From January 2023 to June 2023, MCCAC has served 365 clients and conducted 133 forensic interviews. We have also provided 495 therapy sessions and 3,289 family advocacy services.”

The next fundraising event will be the Battle of the Bartenders - Holiday Edition! This event will be held on Thursday, November 30th at Kegler's. Stay tuned for additional details, including the bartending teams! Interested in getting involved with the Battle of the Bartenders event? Contact Taylor at 304-598-0344 or tshultz@moncocac.org.

Kroger Community Rewards support the CAC: 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 Center has an Amazon wish list that you can access most easily by going to their Facebook page and clicking on the link just above this image.

STATE-WIDE EVENTS



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



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

Here is the latest email from Andrew Schneider, executive director of Fairness West Virginia, that came on July 24:



"Our annual gala is quickly approaching. In just 47 days, we hope to see you in Charleston to celebrate the Roaring 20s as we recommit ourselves to fighting for a fairer future. I want to take a minute to tell you a little more about the theme of this year's event.

BUY TICKETS NOW at secure.everyaction.com/a_2MVeemEk-Gwl-2yfwN-Q2?emci=cdf26301-412a-ee11-a9bb-00224832e1ba&emdi=78d24793-682a-ee11-a9bb-00224832e1ba&ceid=2071999

"LGBTQ nightlife in the 1920s emerged as a vibrant and clandestine subculture, finding refuge in the shadows of prohibition-era speakeasies and underground clubs. Amidst a backdrop of social repression and conservative norms, members of the LGBTQ community sought spaces where they could express themselves freely and authentically.

“As we reflect on this history, it becomes crucial to acknowledge and honor the resilience of the trailblazers who paved the way. Countless LGBTQ people who came before us faced immense challenges and often risked their safety and livelihoods to create these spaces where acceptance and freedom flourished. Trailblazers like William Dorsey Swann, a man who defined what it means to fight for queer rights decades before the Stonewall riots.

“Swann was a black man born into slavery, and he’s the first recorded person in history to adopt the title of ‘queen of drag.’ He and other former slaves would dress up in satin ball gowns and dance the night away at massive drag balls organized in the nation’s capitol – just blocks away from the White House.

“They were fearless.

“As you might imagine, the establishment didn’t like that. A committee of prohibition activists decried Swann’s drag balls as a scene filled with “male perverts” in expensive frocks and wigs.

“Sound familiar?

“The hatred we’re facing now stems from the same homophobia, transphobia and racism that Swann fought against at the turn of the 20th century. This hatred ebbs and flows, and right now we find ourselves in a time of unprecedented legislative attacks on our community. More than 500 anti-LGBTQ bills were introduced in state legislatures across the country.

“In the decades following the Roaring 20s, LGBTQ nightlife faced a devastating setback as social conservatism gained momentum, driven by discriminatory laws and societal norms. We saw increased policing of queer spaces, crackdowns on LGBTQ gatherings, and the stifling of LGBTQ expression, forcing much of our community’s vibrant nightlife back into the closet, hidden from public view.

“This is why our organization is so important. We’re experiencing the same thing that our ancestors faced, and we must fight harder. We will not be erased, and we will not go back into the closet.

“Like our ancestors, we will be fearless in the face of hatred.

“So thank you to all of our amazing sponsors who’ve lined up to make this Roaring 20s gala a huge success. [The list of sponsors is available at fairnesswv.org/2023/06/08/mark-your-calendars-for-the-fwv-gala/]. Now, more than ever, we must stand united against hate. We must continue to organize, educate and uplift the most marginalized members of our community.

“With your help, I know we’ll win.

P.S. — These sponsors share in our vision for a better West Virginia, and we're proud to have their support. If you're interested in becoming a sponsor, email me at andrew@fairnesswv.org.



“Our supporters are welcome to enjoy a discounted night's stay (\$134) at Embassy Suites, the location of our event. To enjoy this discount, book your room by Sept. 2.

“Book Online: Visit Embassy Suite's website. and book your room like normal. Set the date of your stay, select ‘special rates,’ and enter the code ‘90U, that's nine zero ‘u.’

“Book by Phone — Call 304-347-8700 and select ‘reservations’ from the menu. Give the reservationist the code ‘90U,’ that's nine zero ‘u.’

Fairness West Virginia “seeks a Fundraising & Administrative Specialist to join our growing team. Our mission is to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender West Virginians can be open, honest, and safe at home, at work, and in the community.

“This full-time position, which reports to the Executive Director, is responsible for fundraising and outreach assistance, office operations, facilities management, and executive support.” For details on this position, please go to fairnesswv.org/2023/06/21/were-hiring/.

MEMBERS OF THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Who: Adults 18 and older

What: 1-time online meeting to give feedback for a project studying how the state collects and uses information to help protect the health risks to this special population.

When: Early to mid-August

Follow the QR code for next steps.

Questions or more information, email stella@thinkkids.org or call 304.410.0499.

All participants will receive a \$50 gift card for their time

Thinkkids.org is a program of Massachusetts General Hospital.



ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES: Follow this group at www.acluww.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ACLUWV. The 2023 *ACLU WV Magazine* is online at www.acluww.org/en/2023-magazine.

The Appalachian Queer Youth Summit will be held August 9 to 13.



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/.



WEST VIRGINIA MINE WARS MUSEUM new exhibit on “The Children of Mother Jones: WV Educators’ Strike as Care Workers” opens on August 9th at 5 p.m. at 2 Ferrell Street in Matewan.

The exhibit is “a tribute to the resolve and solidarity of West Virginia educators and service personnel who stood to protect the future of public education.”

For more information, please refer to the WV Mine Wars Museum at info@wvminewars.org or go to facebook.com/events/s/the-children-of-mother-jones-w/1674165339756292/ for a Facebook invitation.

DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

www.diversityresources.com/august-diversity-calendar-2023

National Black Business Month: Celebrate Black-owned businesses that make up nearly 10% of all American businesses. Seize the opportunity to support an underrepresented community, focusing on issues related to capital and generational wealth.

Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month: This awareness month is dedicated to learning about the neurodegenerative disorder that leads to involuntary muscle movements. Early detection is key for improved long-term health. Recent advancements have led to the first FDA-approved therapy for the disorder.

August 1: Lughnasadh: This official Irish holiday and Gaelic festival marks the beginning of the important harvest season. During this time, grains are gathered to bake bread and fruits are preserved to be canned and used for the rest of the year.

August 4: Barack Obama’s Birthday: Born in 1961, the 44th president was the first African American elected to the office of president in the United States in 2008. Some of his accomplishments include ending the Iraq War, signing the Affordable Care Act, and implementing consumer protection acts.

August 9: International Day of the World’s Indigenous People: This day celebrates all indigenous people across the world and promotes understanding, respect, and preservation of their traditions and cultures. It was first celebrated in 1995.

August 15: Feast of the Assumption: The Assumption is celebrated by Christians as the day when the Virgin Mary's body ascended to heaven after her death. There is a tradition of blessing the summer harvest on this monumental holy day of obligation.

August 18: Lord Krishna's Birthday: Lord Krishna is one of the most powerful incarnations of the Hindu god Vishnu. He is known as the god of tenderness, love, compassion, and protection. His birthday is celebrated annually with a festival.

August 26: Women's Equality Day: This important day marks the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment, which prohibits states and the federal government from preventing women from voting. In 1972, President Nixon issued the Proclamation for the first official Women's Equality Day.

August 31: International Day of People of African Descent: A day designated by the United Nations to celebrate the contributions, achievements, and cultural heritage of people of African descent worldwide. It aims to combat racial discrimination and raise awareness of the challenges they face in society.