



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

**UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 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.

There will be no CCSJ meeting on September 19th because of our fair on the 17th. We will next Zoom on Tuesday, October 17th, at 7:30 p.m.

**CCSJ SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FAIR TO BE SEPTEMBER 17TH:** Everyone is welcome to join us 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 appreciate the assistance of Anne Kerns, special events coordinator for the WVU Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, in publicizing our event and encouraging the WVU community to attend. More information about Diversity Week is below.

At "press time," the following groups have committed to participate:

ACLU West Virginia  
First Presbyterian Church LGBTQ Committee (possible)  
Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association  
League of Women Voters of Morgantown/Monongalia County  
Morgantown Church of the Brethren-Mennonite  
Morgantown NOW  
Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP  
Quakers  
Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center  
West Virginians for Public Lands and West Virginia Rivers Coalition  
West Virginia Poor Peoples Campaign  
WVU Carruth Center  
WVU Center for Black Culture  
WVU Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
WVU Native American Studies Program

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, Cindy O'Brien, Scott Green, 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](mailto:mdattfield@gmail.com).**

**CCSJ PRESENTATION TO MORGANTOWN CITY COUNCIL:** At the suggestion of Mayor Jenny Selin, Mike Attfield made a presentation about CCSJ to City Council on Tuesday, August 29th. He used the opportunity to thank City Council for its continued financial support of CCSJ over the years and to publicize our fair on September 17th.

**CCSJ POWERPOINT REVIEW:** Mike Attfield prepared a short "history/review" of our work over the years for his presentation to City Council. You will be able to see it on our website soon, and we will be showing it at the fair.

**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 [mdattfield@gmail.com](mailto:mdattfield@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 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:** The next regular meeting should be Thursday, September 21st, 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 September:**

**September 4: Labor Day** – Celebrates the historic struggles of workers in the United States to achieve safer working conditions, shorter hours, and humane restrictions on child labor while contributing to productive economies.

**September 8: International Literacy Day** – Supports awareness of the importance of persons being able to read and write in order to participate in today’s economic, legal, health and social environments.

**September 17: Constitution Day and Citizenship Day** – Commemorates the ratification in 1787 of the United States Constitution, the organization of government, and rights of citizenship. Also honors all who have become United States citizens.

**September 21: International Day of Peace** – Calls for continual working for peace and reduction of use of violence in attempting to solve problems among individuals and all levels of human interaction.



**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).

LWVMM will be staffing a table at the Social Justice Fair on September 17th. We will have information about the League and will help people register to vote.

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

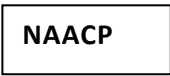


**MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER:**



Morgantown NOW will be participating in the CCSJ Social and Environmental Justice Fair on September 17th.

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, SEPTEMBER 19TH:** 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 will be participating in the CCSJ Social and Environmental Justice Fair on September 17th, and we appreciate their sharing information about CCSJ meetings with the branch membership.

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



**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.

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](http://www.morgantowncob.org).

The Church of the Brethren will be participating in the CCSJ Social and Environmental Justice Fair on September 17th.

Follow them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634\\_](http://www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634_)



**UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN (UUFMWV.ORG) SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE:**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 - LABOR DAY WEEKEND:** "Fading Towns In Rust Belt Appalachia - Along The Ohio River." YouTube Only. A visit to West Virginia towns of industries & jobs of past generations, namely Weirton, Follansbee, Wellsburg & Wheeling. (Duane Nichols and Sue Miles were married in the 3rd floor Court Room of West Virginia Independence Hall in Wheeling, prominently featured here.) [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sBk5YaVa0Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sBk5YaVa0Q)

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 - WELLNESS SUNDAY @ UUFM:** "Let's Meditate on This" ~ Come out in person and participate. [See also the Wellness Wednesday Podcasts of the *WVU Daily Athenaeum*, which are not daily nor from Athens.] Wellbeing Wednesdays Podcast | [thedaonline.com](http://thedaonline.com). [www.thedaonline.com/podcasts/wellbeingwednesdays/](http://www.thedaonline.com/podcasts/wellbeingwednesdays/)

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 - CELEBRATE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND REGRET THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM:** The Constitution is considered to have been adopted on this date in 1787. And, there were 3600 soldiers killed at Antietam in Maryland on this date in 1862. Antietam: Animated Battle Map on Vimeo at [vimeo.com/683900682](http://vimeo.com/683900682).

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 -CELEBRATION OF AUTUMN & LEAVES:** “The Autumn Leaves Drift By My Window”. Let’s learn more about trees and leaves, it’s incredible and a tall story! “Autumn Leaves” via Piano\_YouTube/Vc3gkaS64jc.

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



**DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER MEETS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH AT 7:00 P.M. BY ZOOM.** Dr. Sheila Castells will speak on "what next after you get the data" concerning disparity in school suspensions. Dr. Castells has been a teacher in public schools in Washington, DC, and Alexandria, Virginia. An Adjunct Faculty at the College of Human Resources at WVU, she has degrees in curriculum and instruction, and educational research and statistics. The zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85962493623>.

Follow this group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dismantling%20racism%20together%20morgantown](http://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dismantling%20racism%20together%20morgantown).

**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](http://www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGFairmont).



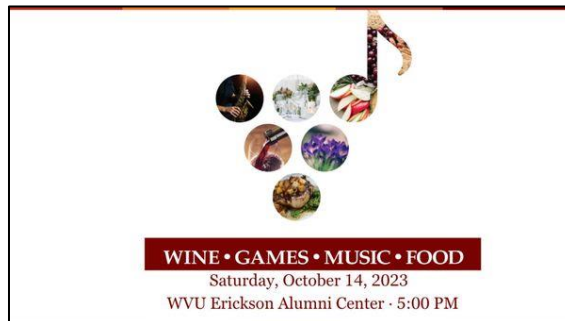
**MORGANTOWN PRIDE:** For information on this group, go to [www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page\\_internal](http://www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page_internal) or [www.morgantownwvpride.org](http://www.morgantownwvpride.org). Morgantown Pride has an Instagram page at [www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en](http://www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en).



The next meeting of the **RAISING TRANS KIDS** group will be on Saturday, September 9th, 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](mailto:raisingtranskids@gmail.com).



**EMPTY BOWLS MONONGALIA FUNDRAISING EVENTS:** The major fall event is October 14th.



Tickets are \$150, \$300 for a couple, and \$1,500 for a table of 10 and can be purchased at [www.ebmon.org/fundraiser](http://www.ebmon.org/fundraiser).



**Volunteers are needed for Game Day Parking:** Sign up at [www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FAAAC2FA7FFC43-football?fbclid=IwAR0SgGcx7UgsxoBGSBo0sB\\_UDBga9sLFUxZZ54ty-IWgPCbdhUUU5Q2nAxw#](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FAAAC2FA7FFC43-football?fbclid=IwAR0SgGcx7UgsxoBGSBo0sB_UDBga9sLFUxZZ54ty-IWgPCbdhUUU5Q2nAxw#/)/. Please review the spots available to manage the parking lot at the Morgantown Church of the Brethren located at 464 Virginia Ave, Morgantown, WV 26505. Volunteers should be at the parking lot 2 hours before WVU kickoff and will take parking donations of \$15 per spot until lot is filled. For more detailed information, please email [EBMon.office@gmail.com](mailto:EBMon.office@gmail.com). We thank you for your support in fighting against food insecurity in Monongalia County.

The **Soup & Bread Luncheon** will be Saturday, February 24, 2024. Volunteer opportunities are now available at [www.ebmon.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://www.ebmon.org/volunteer-opportunities).



**MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (MCCAC).** Follow this group at [moncocac.org/news/](http://moncocac.org/news/) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC](http://www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC). According to the August newsletter, “From January 2023 to July 2023, MCCAC has served 415 clients and conducted 155 forensic interviews. We have also provided 575 therapy sessions and 3,794 family advocacy services.”

The Monongalia County Child Advocacy Center participated in The Pantry Plus More's Back to School Bash on August 12th at Mylan Park. “The event helped over 1,600 students prepare for school with backpacks, school supplies, hygiene products and more.”

MCCAC's Birthday Club: “For a minimum donation of \$25 you can honor a friend or family member on their birthday and a client at MCCAC on theirs! Your friend or family member will receive a card informing them that a donation was made in their honor and a client at MCCAC will receive a card and present for their birthday!

“If you are interested in participating you can contact Taylor at MCCAC! Reach out at [tshultz@moncocac.org](mailto:tshultz@moncocac.org), 304-598-0344, or stop by our office.”

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](mailto: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.

**SCOTTS RUN ACTIVITIES:**

There is a Community Sing every last Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Scott's Run Settlement House, 41 Ladybug Drive in Osage/ You do not have to be from Scotts Run to participate. It is for everyone, from anywhere, and for all ages! The choir will sing at the Scotts Run Street Fair on September 16th.



**WVU EVENTS AND RESOURCES**



**WVU LGBTQ CENTER:** Follow this group at [lgbtq.wvu.edu](http://lgbtq.wvu.edu) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/WVULGBTQCenter](http://www.facebook.com/WVULGBTQCenter).



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



# THIS LAND WAS ALREADY LOVED: Native Leaders Discuss their Nations' Connection to Place

A forum hosted by the West Virginia University  
Native American Studies Program

## SAVE THE DATE

### OCTOBER 9: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY WVU PEACE TREE CEREMONY

Tadodaho Sidney Hill, Onondaga Nation, Haudenosaunee Confederacy will preside

Faithkeeper Oren Lyons, Onondaga Nation ,Haudenosaunee Confederacy, will give the keynote address:  
*"Truth to Power: History from Indigenous Perspectives"*

### OCTOBER 10: ALL-DAY PUBLIC FORUM

Leaders of several Native Nations with historical, ancestral and current connections to the land now known as West Virginia will share insights, along with outlooks for the future:

Tadodaho Sidney Hill and Faithkeeper Oren Lyons, both of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy, Shawnee Tribe Chief Ben Barnes, Eastern Shawnee Tribe Chief Glenna Wallace, Delaware Nation President Deborah Dotson, Delaware Tribe of Indians Chief Brad KillsCrow and Cherokee Nation representative Catherine Foreman Gray



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Registration required to attend  
In-person or virtual via livestream

DETAILS AND REGISTRATION AT [NAS.WVU.EDU](https://nas.wvu.edu)

Call 304-293-4626 for more information



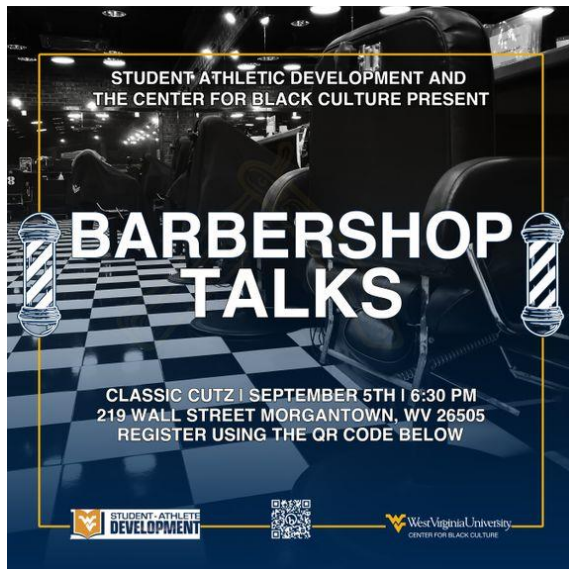
WEST VIRGINIA  
HUMANITIES COUNCIL

This project is 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.

Front photo by Danny Hoover of Morgantown, WV. View from Spruce Knob, elevation 4,863 ft., the highest point in West Virginia.

The registration link for the WVU Native American Studies October events is now live at [nas.wvu.edu/fall-2023-forum](https://nas.wvu.edu/fall-2023-forum). The QR code on the poster will scan directly to the webpage registration.





**WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE SPONSORS BARBERSHOP TALKS:** “Join us for our Barbershop Talks event used to create a safe space for men and community members to meet and hear from a guest speaker on ways to increase equity in students’ desire to further their service to the community and the University.” Learn more about the Center for Black Culture at [cbc.wvu.edu](http://cbc.wvu.edu) and follow them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/WVUCenterforBlackCulture](https://www.facebook.com/WVUCenterforBlackCulture).



“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](mailto:anne.winters@mail.wvu.edu).”

**The schedule of events, including many open to the public, is available at [diversity.wvu.edu/diversity-initiatives/diversity-week](http://diversity.wvu.edu/diversity-initiatives/diversity-week).**

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO HONOR CHARLENE MARSHALL ON SEPTEMBER 17TH AT WVU:** Charlene will receive the first annual Community Heroes Award at 6:00 p.m. at the Mountainlair Ballroom. “The Community Heroes Award was created by West Virginia University Division of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in 2023 to recognize and celebrate those who have done remarkable things in their lives while embracing diversity and creating community partnerships throughout West Virginia. This award is not only a lifelong keepsake but also an opportunity for those who wish to continue to make an impact in West Virginia diversity work.

“This year, Former Delegate Charlene Marshall is campaigning for donations to WVU Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion’s Diversity Initiatives fund. Donations to this fund allows the division to support student programs, sponsor multicultural experiences, host diverse speakers, and create unique events on campus that allow everyone at WVU to feel welcome and included.

“Your donation makes a difference in the lives of our students, faculty, staff and the WVU community at large. Give at [give.wvu.edu/dei](https://give.wvu.edu/dei).”



**WVU EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE FOCUS:** The following events were publicized in the August WVU Humanities Center newsletter and are open to everyone. The Gluck Theatre is on the main floor of the WVU Mountainlair.

**September 5, 2023**, at 6:00 PM: Indigenous Ecostudies with Cari Carpenter

Attendee Registration Link: [https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_R7CxgkQjTb-49yCI12LpFw](https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_R7CxgkQjTb-49yCI12LpFw)

**September 12, 2023**, at 6:00 PM: Artistry in the Accent with Brianne Taylor

Attendee Registration Link:

[https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_mB\\_\\_ZdCWSySPrj20a4EKg](https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mB__ZdCWSySPrj20a4EKg)

**September 19, 2023**, at 6:00 PM: Youth and Societal Change with Jonathon Beckmeyer

Attendee Registration Link:

[https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_\\_BqAK0rLS\\_SYgWCex3rJFg](https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__BqAK0rLS_SYgWCex3rJFg)

**September 20, 2023**, at 6:00 PM: Honoring Diversity Series Showcase - Digging Through the Biblical World, Part 1: Archaeology and the Old Testament Story of Israel. Presenter – Dr. Aaron Gale.

Attendee Register Link: [https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fuYfQuaVQ-q5opS\\_bIPHNw](https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fuYfQuaVQ-q5opS_bIPHNw)

**September 26, 2023**, at 6:00 PM: Collective Violence with Jason Manning

**September 27, 2023**, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, Gluck Theater: Mental Illness and Trauma within the Family, presented by the Carruth Counseling Center.

**October 3, 2023**, at 6:00 PM: Honoring Diversity Series #1 - LGBTQ+ Rights: Past, Present and Future. Presenter – Brad Grimes

Attendee Register Link: [https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rGfcrshLTLi0oI5Gct15fA](https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rGfcrshLTLi0oI5Gct15fA)

**October 10, 2023, at 6:00 PM: Honoring Diversity Series #2 - Deconstructing Narratives of Criminalization Through Art and Art-Making.** Presenter – Dr. Gloria Negrete-Lopez  
Attendee Register Link: [https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_8DAikuirR-GZa6HLWZXLbA](https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8DAikuirR-GZa6HLWZXLbA)

### STATE-WIDE EVENTS

**REMEMBERING THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON 60 YEARS LATER:** The West Virginia Citizen Action Group and other groups sponsored a webinar on Monday, August 28th, the sixtieth anniversary of the March on Washington. **Al Anderson of Osage was one of the four panelists** who attended the march and shared their memories and the impact it made on their lives. Al even got to sing “This Little Light of Mine,” one of his signature songs, at the end. You can watch the webinar at [www.facebook.com/100064601421694/posts/674630021367039/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v](http://www.facebook.com/100064601421694/posts/674630021367039/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v).



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



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



**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](https://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/](https://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](mailto: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.’

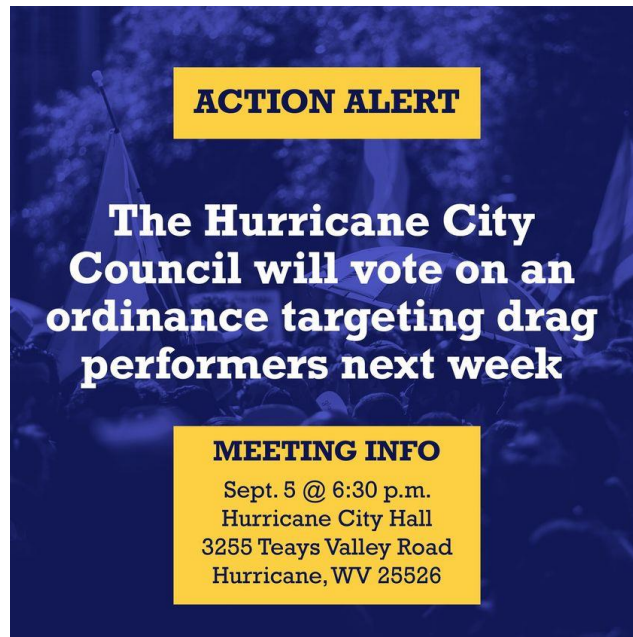
You can also bid online for silent auction items at [go.rallyup.com/fairnesswv/Campaign/Details](https://go.rallyup.com/fairnesswv/Campaign/Details). Bidding is open now and ends at 9:30 p.m. PST on September 9th.



**ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES:** Follow this group at [www.acluww.org](http://www.acluww.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ACLUWV](http://www.facebook.com/ACLUWV). The ACLU will be at the CCSJ Social and Environmental Justice Fair on September 17th.



**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/](http://www.facebook.com/wvtranscoalition/).



**DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER**

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

**Hispanic Heritage Month:** Celebrated from September 15 – October 15, Hispanic Heritage Month honors the rich culture, history, and contributions of Americans with roots in the Caribbean, Spain, Mexico, Central, and South America. It was first established in 1968 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. September 15 is significant as it is the anniversary of the independence of many Central American countries.

**National Recovery Month:** Starting in 1989, this national observance is intended to promote and support treatment and recovery practices. In 2022, the theme “Every Person. Every Family. Every Community” was adopted as a permanent tagline, reflecting the ongoing commitment to helping anyone struggling with addiction and fostering recovery nationwide.

**September 6: Arbæen:** Also meaning 40th day, Arabæen marks the 40th day after the Day of Ashura when Hussain ibn Ali, a revolutionary leader fighting for social justice, was killed during the Battle of



Karbala. It is believed on this day that Hussain's family returned home to honor and mourn those lost during the battle. Large marches are conducted to symbolize the impact of his revolution on the future of his people.

**September 15 – 17: Rosh Hashanah:** The Jewish New Year is celebrated with reflection, worship, and meals among family and friends. It is observed on the first and second days of the month Tishrei, the first month in the Jewish calendar.

**September 20: HeForShe:** Initiated by the United Nations, this movement advocates for gender equality. Its mission is to unite people of all genders in the pursuit of equality for all.

**September 24 – 25: Yom Kippur:** It is one of the two main Jewish High Holy Days. Occurring on the 10th of the month of Tishrei, it focuses on repentance and atonement. Fasting and intense prayer are common during this religious observance.

**September 26 – 27: Mawlid al-Nabi:** The birthday of the Prophet Muhammad is celebrated on the 12th day of Rabi' al-Awwal.

**September 29 – October 6: Sukkot:** This week is dedicated to the Israelites that spent time in the wild in huts, or sukkahs, after they were freed from slavery in Egypt.

**September 29 – October 14: Pitru Paksha:** These 16 Hinduism holy days are dedicated to offering prayers and food for the souls of Hindu ancestors. It is seen as a way to honor and repay the debt (dharma) owed to ancestors for their happiness and well-being.