



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

**UPDATE: DECEMBER 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.

**Our next CCSJ meeting will be on Zoom on Tuesday, December 12th, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. Please note change of date to the second Tuesday for this month.**

Topic: CCSJ December Meeting

Time: Dec 12, 2023 07:30 P.M. Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86191069190?pwd=QmMwK0k1Uk5xQU9wT2Z0dUJEd2lrdz09>

Meeting ID: 861 9106 9190

Passcode: 679713

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One tap mobile

+16468769923,86191069190#, \*679713# US (New York)

+16469313860,86191069190#, \*679713# US

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Dial by your location

- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 689 278 1000 US

- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US

Meeting ID: 861 9106 9190  
 Passcode: 679713

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbj3vexAFE>

**POT-LUCK GATHERING FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GROUPS ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5TH WAS SUCCESS**

Thank you to everyone who attended our pot-luck gathering at the First Presbyterian Church. Over fifty people gathered to share an amazing amount of delicious food and wonderful fellowship. Judy Ball (Morgantown-Monongalia County League of Women Voters), John Bolt (West Virginia Coalition for Truth in History), Nicole Lauffer (Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP), Jim Kotcon (Sierra Club), and Rev. Zac Morton (Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association) shared information about their organizations. The Rev. Jenny Williams (ACLU-West Virginia) was unable to attend at the last minute. Barb Howe moderated the panel for CCSJ.

Thank you to Eve Faulkes and Reverend Morton for facilitating our use of the church rooms and to Sharon Brinkman-Windle, who provided desserts even though she could not attend. We had extra pizzas that we were able to donate to the Community Kitchen at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Here are a few of the photos from the event:



*Left to right at front table: Barb Howe, John Bolt, Nicole Lauffer, Rev. Zac Morton, Judy Ball, Jim Kotcon. Photo by Eve Faulkes.*



*Ron Wilkinson and Rabbi Joe Hample on the left across from Judith Wilkinson who is talking to Ron Allen. Photo by Barb Howe.*



*Left to right: John Bolt, Nicole Lauffer, Rev. Zac Morton, Judy Ball. Photo by Eve Faulkes.*



*There were many desserts! Photo by Barb Howe.*

**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 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:** The next regular meeting should be Thursday, December 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/).

**The Human Rights Commission will be honoring its 2023 award recipients at a program on Sunday, December 10th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Monongalia Arts Center (MAC), 107 High Street, Morgantown.** There will be light refreshments and beverages and an opportunity to view an exhibit entitled “Poster, Flag, and Artwork” that will be up from about Wednesday, December 6th, until Wednesday, December 20th. All are invited to the reception and to see the exhibit when the MAC is open. According to the MAC website, the building is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. and during classes and events, but please call the MAC at 304-292-3325 to confirm the hours it will be open when planning your visit.

**Vacancies on Human Rights Commission.** There are currently four vacancies on the commission. According to the City of Morgantown’s website, “Appointments of to the Commission are made by City Council, and all must be residents of the City. All seats are non-ward specific. Upon formation in October 2012, terms are to be staggered: 4 shall serve two-year terms, 3 shall serve one-year terms in the first year. Thereafter, all terms will be staggered two-year terms. All new appointments and reappointments will need to be interviewed at the end of their term.” Information on applying for the commission is available at [morgantownwv.gov/FormCenter/Boards-and-Commissions-Application-7/Application-to-Serve-on-City-Boards-and--45](http://morgantownwv.gov/FormCenter/Boards-and-Commissions-Application-7/Application-to-Serve-on-City-Boards-and--45).

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 December:**

**December 2: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery** – Slavery is not just history but affects over 30 million persons throughout the world today. Its roots are in discrimination, poverty and indebtedness, vulnerability, and the rule of law.

**December 3: International Day of Disabled Persons** – Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.

**December 10: International Human Rights Day** – On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**December 16: Bill of Rights Day** – Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791 – including the First Amendment Rights of religion, association, speech, petition, and press.

**December 18: International Migrants Day** – A day to affirm commitment to diverse and open societies which provide opportunities and lives of dignity for all migrants.



**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 League of Women Voters of WV (LWVWV) has a Legislative Scorecard which can be found via this link: [www.lwvww.org](http://www.lwvww.org). The scorecard is searchable and provides information for all legislators, not just Mon County.

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:** 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).



Holiday party / Welcome the 2024 officers (Courtney Boland as president, Devon Brand as vice president, Sarah Hutson as treasurer) / Trivia / Period product donation / Invite your local representatives. What period products would be most helpful? They are going to middle and high school-aged menstruators. Organic products are great, but not necessary. There is an Amazon wish list of period products at [www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/XZDKYUZC8AJN](http://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/XZDKYUZC8AJN).

**NOW has also announced its 2024 Schedule:**

Tuesday, January 9: Meeting at Friends Meeting House, 648 E. Brockway, Morgantown, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, February 13: Mixer: TBA, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 12: Meeting at Friends Meeting House, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 9: Mixer: TBA, 7:00 p.m.; RDVIC Event TBA  
Tuesday, May 14: Meeting at Friends Meeting House, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 11: Mixer: TBA, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, July 9: Meeting at Friends Meeting House, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, August 13: Mixer, TBA, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, September 10: Meeting at Friends Meeting House, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, October 8: Mixer: TBA, 7:00 pm; Annual Ping Pong Fundraiser, Tentatively on Sunday, October 17.  
Tuesday, November 5: VOTE (Election Day)  
Tuesday, November 12: Meeting at Friends Meeting House, Annual Meeting / Officer Elections, 7:00 p.m.  
December: Mixer: TBA



**MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 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 and does its work with a variety of committees, including Education, Political Action, Legal Redress, Criminal Justice, and Health.



You can find the recording of this program at [www.facebook.com/naacp3241/videos/6795527633901862](https://www.facebook.com/naacp3241/videos/6795527633901862).

The branch will be partnering with the Red Cross to sponsor a **blood drive at the Morgantown Elks Lodge, 1138 Chestnut Ridge Road, on Wednesday, December 13th**, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. You can register to donate at [www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time).

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



**MORGANTOWN CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD NEEDS TWO MEMBERS:** There are two vacancies on the board at this time. The City of Morgantown is currently accepting applications, and you can get a link to the application and more information by going to [morgantownwv.gov/640/Civilian-Police-Review-and-Advisory-Boar](http://morgantownwv.gov/640/Civilian-Police-Review-and-Advisory-Boar). “The Board shall consist of nine members appointed by City Council.

Each member shall be a resident of the city or an active member of an organization that works within the city to promote purposes consistent with the purpose of the Board.” For links to agendas and minutes of past meetings, go to [www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/Civilian-Police-Review-Advisory-Board-47](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/Civilian-Police-Review-Advisory-Board-47).



**MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN-MENNONITE:** Morgantown Church of the Brethren, a peace church, announces plans for Advent and Christmastime. Each Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. service, children will be included in a brief impromptu play.

On the second Sunday, December 10, after the morning service there will be a Cookie Exchange. Bring cookies, eat cookies, take cookies home.

Neighborhood caroling will be Sunday, December 17, starting at 7:00 p.m.

If you want to join, just show up at Morgantown Church of the Brethren-Mennonite, and the group will walk from there. If you would like the group to come sing for you, email Pastor Wes Bergen at [morgantowncob@gmail.com](mailto:morgantowncob@gmail.com). Of course, there will be hot chocolate and cookies afterward.

December 21, 7:00 p.m., will bring the "Longest Night Service," where we confront the dark places and rejoice in the returning of the light. Afterwards, cross the street and make s'mores by the bonfire in the parsonage garden.

December 24, 7:00 p.m., will celebrate Christmas Eve with song and story. There will be no December 24 morning service, so congregants consider visiting other churches.

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).

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](http://www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634).



**UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN (UUFMWV.ORG) DECEMBER SCHEDULE:** The church is located at 429 Warrick Street, Morgantown, WV.

**Sunday, December 3, 2023:** “Final Proposed Revision to UUA Article II” | UUA.org. See link below. Doors open @ 10:45 a.m. Group Discussion 11:00 a.m. to Noon.

[www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/final-proposed-revision-article-ii](http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/final-proposed-revision-article-ii)

**Sunday, December 10, 2023:** “Essential Micronutrients” from Stanford Medicine Program  
~ <https://youtu.be/xxheL7PiYj4>

*Aging Well & Optimal Health: The Role of Micronutrients*, December 12th at 11:00 a.m. (Pacific) & 2:00 p.m. (Eastern), Linus Pauling Institute

Registration is free. Anyone who registers will be sent a link to the recording after the event. Emily Ho, PhD, Director, Linus Pauling Institute, Oregon State University. Link below:  
[oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Gyjtp4JJRI-ac\\_ly05FEUg/](https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Gyjtp4JJRI-ac_ly05FEUg/)

**Sunday, December 17, 2023:** Christmas Gift Ideas: Contribute to WV Rivers to Preserve Hellbenders & Mudpuppies (WVRivers.org). Adopt an Axolotl from Mexico (See also FrackCheckWV.net).

**Sunday, December 24, 2023:** Volunteer with the Community Kitchen (Jen Powell, Manager), Salvation Army or other local service organization.

**Sunday, December 31, 2023:** Join the WV Botanic Garden and volunteer to participate in its growth. Happy New Year!

**GO BIG IN 2024:** “Nations of Towns” ~ A Collaborative Approach to Work on the Ground! [vimeo.com/558575450](https://vimeo.com/558575450)

We are a Welcoming Congregation and support the Community Coalition for Social Justice. See also: [UUFMWV.org](http://UUFMWV.org). or email [uufmwv@gmail.com](mailto:uufmwv@gmail.com).



**DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER:** This group will not meet in December. However, on Monday, November 30th, Dismantling Racism Together and the West Virginia Coalition for Truth in History hosted a Zoom with Delegate Evan Hansen and Senator Mike Oliverio to discuss **issues that night come up in the 2024 session of the West Virginia Legislature**. The recording of the meeting is available at

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/0msoyKRMwqDdQv3RUqkzI5zWC\\_EVFTfJ8TJN3XrdRxn3KuZYYqBM5gW6leecG\\_6q.AosJ5rrzIG0mkG60](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/0msoyKRMwqDdQv3RUqkzI5zWC_EVFTfJ8TJN3XrdRxn3KuZYYqBM5gW6leecG_6q.AosJ5rrzIG0mkG60)

Passcode: AV9A=j^i.

To learn more about Dismantling Racism Together, go to [www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dismantling%20racism%20together%20morgantown](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dismantling%20racism%20together%20morgantown).



**WEST VIRGINIA COALITION FOR TRUTH IN HISTORY:** All are welcome to join the coalition as we get ready for the legislative session. Send your email address to [ccsjwv@gmail.com](mailto:ccsjwv@gmail.com), and we will pass on your information to the coalition’s leadership.

**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).



**MORGANTOWN PRIDE MORGANTOWN HOMECOMING OUT RESCHEDULED.** This event will now be held on February 17, 2024. Stay tuned for more details.

For information on Morgantown PRIDE, 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).



**RAISING TRANS KIDS GROUP MEETS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 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). All meetings are held virtually via Zoom.

The Raising Trans Kids community group is for West Virginia parents, guardians, and families who are raising transgender or gender diverse kids (of any age), or have kids who might be transgender or gender diverse. Follow Morgantown Pride on Facebook.



**EMPTY BOWLS MONONGALIA SOUP & BREAD LUNCHEON:**

**SAVE**  
*the*  
**DATE**

*Soup & Bread Luncheon*

**FEBRUARY 24, 2024**  
**11 AM - 2:30 PM**



Volunteer opportunities for the Soup & Bread Luncheon are now available at [www.ebmon.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://www.ebmon.org/volunteer-opportunities).

**COMMUNITY KITCHEN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS:** The Community Kitchen at Trinity Episcopal Church, 247 Willey Street, Morgantown, needs volunteers. The Community Kitchen is an independent, non-profit, non-denominational organization that serves anyone needing a free, nutritious meal. Lunches are served in the church's fellowship hall from Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Volunteers arrive at 9:00 a.m. to prepare the meals. On Thursday afternoons, volunteers work from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. to pack weekend meal supplement bags that are distributed on Fridays and include a breakfast and



lunch. For more information, email [morgantownCommunityKitchen@gmail.com](mailto:morgantownCommunityKitchen@gmail.com) or go to [morgantownCommunityKitchen.com](http://morgantownCommunityKitchen.com).



**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).

**“Join the 75 Club today!** The 75 Club consists of dedicated individuals and/or businesses that would like to help MCCAC continue to provide vital mental health services to child abuse victims in Monongalia County.

“The goal is for 75 individuals and/or businesses to commit to donating \$1,000 a year for 10 years. We understand that not everyone can commit to this level of giving. Every contribution, no matter the size, is valued and appreciated.

“Please consider joining us in this important funding initiative. If interested, contact Taylor at MCCAC: [tshultz@moncocac.org](mailto:tshultz@moncocac.org) or (304) 598-0344.”



Sponsorship information is available at [files.constantcontact.com/1b7ea99f701/f077091f-7fd1-4aab-8352-aecb16947f62.pdf](https://files.constantcontact.com/1b7ea99f701/f077091f-7fd1-4aab-8352-aecb16947f62.pdf)

“From January 2023 to October 2023, MCCAC has served 559 clients and conducted 207 forensic interviews. We have also provided 1,064 therapy sessions and 5,460 family advocacy services.”

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 COMMUNITY SING:** This event happens 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!

**CONCERT AT THE ENCORE WITH “THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE” IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3:** Osage resident Al Anderson and his band, including Bobby Maxon and Will Wharton, will sing at two concerts on Sunday, December 3rd, at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. following screenings of the third installment of “Those Who Came Before,” described as “a documentary series showcasing Black achievement in the arts in West Virginia.” The series is written and produced by Doris Fields, known as “Lady D.” Tickets are available at [theencorewv.com](http://theencorewv.com) for \$20 plus a \$2.50 fee. The Encore is located at 720 Powell Avenue in Morgantown.

**WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT:** The recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Achievement Award and will be announced at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day breakfast, on Monday, January 15, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Note the new time for the breakfast!

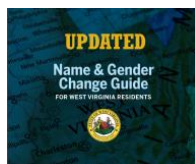
### STATE-WIDE EVENTS



**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).



Fairness West Virginia recently “published an updated version of the WV Name & Gender Change Guide in light of recent changes to the process for updating birth certificates.

“The updated guide, published in collaboration with Legal Aid of West Virginia and the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, explains how a person can update their driver’s license, birth certificate and other crucial ID documents.” You can access the guide at [fairnesswv.org/2023/11/02/fairness-west-virginia-releases-updated-name-gender-change-guide/](http://fairnesswv.org/2023/11/02/fairness-west-virginia-releases-updated-name-gender-change-guide/).

Fairness West Virginia is also hiring a “Development & 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.” Details of the position are available at [fairnesswv.org/2023/11/02/were-hiring-development-administrative-specialist/](http://fairnesswv.org/2023/11/02/were-hiring-development-administrative-specialist/), and the position is open until filled. The notice was posted on November 2nd.



**ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES:** Follow this group at [www.acluwv.org](http://www.acluwv.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ACLUWV](http://www.facebook.com/ACLUWV).



“Far too often, talented, hardworking young people who are directly impacted by the issues we fight for are funneled away from following their passions because they must prioritize paid work over unpaid internships. They miss out on the experience, mentorship, and relationships that come with working with institutions like the ACLU. These are experiences that change young people's lives. And

that, in turn, can change our society.

“With that in mind, the ACLU-WV is launching our Equity and Justice Fellowship.” The application is available at <https://action.aclu.org/webform/wv-fellowship>.

“The Equity and Justice Fellowship is open to undergraduate students, graduate students, law students, and nontraditional students or citizen activists who identify as being in a historically marginalized community that is underrepresented in West Virginia advocacy and policy-making spaces.

“Depending on fellows' areas of study and career goals, fellows can work with ACLU-WV staff on legal advocacy, policy advocacy, research, communications, community education, organizing, development, or nonprofit management matters.

“Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. There is no deadline to apply. Please contact Mollie Kennedy at [mkenedy@acluwv.org](mailto:mkenedy@acluwv.org) with questions.”



**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 DECEMBER**

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

**December 1 – World AIDS Day:** World AIDS Day is observed globally on December 1st each year to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, honor those who have lost their lives to the disease, and support those living with HIV.

**December 3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities:** Help all your employees feel included, including those with disabilities. On International Day of Persons with Disabilities, host a training session to avoid unconscious bias and help employees understand why having an accessible workplace is essential. By creating an inclusive work culture, your staff can have a better understanding of those they work with, and those with a disability will feel a sense of belonging.

**December 16 – Las Posadas:** Typically celebrated in Mexico and other Latin American countries, this time of prayer refers to the Spanish word posada for lodging or home. This comes from the Nativity story where Mary gives birth to Jesus in an inn. For many Catholics and Protestants alike, this is an extremely religious time of reflection approaching Christmas, so refraining from scheduling meetings on this day is advisable.

**December 22 – Winter Solstice or Yule:** Celebrated in both Pagan and Wiccan faiths, Yule or Yuletide originated as a festival in Germany, which celebrated the newborn solstice sun.

**December 25 – Christmas:** Observed every December 25, nearly 160 countries globally celebrate this holiday. While a religious holiday for Christians, it's also widely recognized as a cultural holiday in many countries. While the date of celebration may vary among different churches, they all honor it for

the same reason, the birth of Jesus who died for their sins. It's holy day of obligation for Roman Catholics.