



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

UPDATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2024

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, February 20th, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

We are pleased to announce that Don Spencer will share his experiences in the Civil Rights Movement at this meeting. Don has been a social justice activist for decades.

Time: Feb 20, 2024 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82100802075?pwd=ZG50MTBBdHZVbGQ2RzINUndzOWN3QT09>

Meeting ID: 821 0080 2075 Passcode: 302959

One tap mobile

+13126266799, 82100802075#, *302959# US (Chicago)

+16468769923, 82100802075#, *302959# US (New York)

Dial by your location

- +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)
- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US

Meeting ID: 821 0080 2075 Passcode: 302959

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kefLPTJhv2>

Duane Nichols shared his experiences in the Civil Rights Movement during our January meeting. We recorded the presentation, and you can watch it with the subsequent discussion on our website at www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZoWJzE_-P4.

CCSJ LETTER TO THE EDITOR ABOUT MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY: Susan Brown wrote a letter for us about Martin Luther King, Jr., Day that you can find on our website at www.ccsjwv.org/special1.html.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964: We submitted an application to the City of Morgantown for funding for an exhibit celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The act was signed on July 2, 1964, so, if funded, we plan to open our exhibit at the Morgantown Public Library with a reception on July 2, 2024, with the exhibit available on the second floor of the library through the month of July. We will not likely get an official notice on our funding until May.

Eve Faulkes has received funding from First Presbyterian Church to produce posters and hold events related to the exhibit. She will also have a table at Black Policy Day in Charleston on February 7th (see below for more information) and plans to make contacts for stories related to the exhibit and posters.

CONTACT US: Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at 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. 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, February 15th, at 6:30 p.m. Contact information for the commission and information on filing complaint forms is 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/.

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.

Here are the events for February:

Black History Month – Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.

February 1-7: World Interfaith Harmony Week

February 14: Race Relations Day – A day designated by the National Council of Churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations and learning.

February 15: Susan B. Anthony Day - Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), a pioneer in the Women’s Rights Movement.

February 20: World Day of Social Justice – Recognition of the imperative for tackling issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment.

There is a calendar of annual human rights observances at www.morgantownwv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/396/Calendar-of-Annual-Human-Rights-Observances-PDF.



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 West Virginia (LWVWV) will be monitoring all votes and actions of the state Legislature in relation to its four top policy priorities:

- Strengthening democracy by making it easier to vote
- Safeguarding equal rights
- Protecting children & families
- Creating a sustainable future

The LWVWV Legislative Scorecard, first published in 2023 (available at lwvwwv.org) records how individual members of the Legislature voted on 25 bills in these four areas that became law in 2023 and plans to use the same framework for the 2024 session.

The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate, but is engaged in local, state, and national issues of importance to our communities and works to influence public policy through advocacy and education.

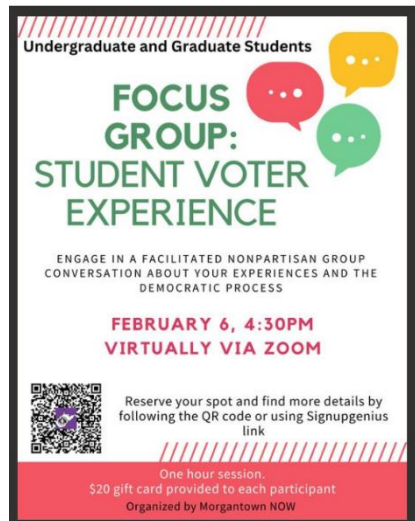
Follow the League on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LWVMM and contact them by email at lwmorgantown@gmail.com. You can join the League of Women Voters at tinyurl.com/join-lwvmm.

The Morgantown/Monongalia County League is a member organization of CCSJ.

Follow the League of Women Voters of West Virginia at www.facebook.com/lwvww. This is a very active Facebook page tracking bills now with calls to



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



Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054AAFA62EA7FF2-47180933-young?fbclid=IwAR0R4LGvip3QrxuRctSDpGCeRHjy-Zc7EjcTkrlaLbF-bR2sWOx44XGjjFRg#/>

NOW has also announced its 2024 Schedule:

- 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 p.m.

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

*This schedule is an attempt to plan out consistency for the year! We will do our best to stick to this schedule but everything is subject to change for extenuating circumstances.

NAACP

MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH: 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.

Follow the NAACP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/naacp3241/?ref=page_internal. The Facebook page also includes information on bills in the legislature that are of concern to the branch members.

We appreciate the fact that the Branch shares this Update with its membership.



MORGANTOWN CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD NEEDS TWO MEMBERS: The City of Morgantown is currently accepting applications for the two vacancies on the board, and you can get a link to the application and more information by going to 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.



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN-MENNONITE: Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom with the link available at www.morgantowncob.org.

Saturday, February 3, 5:00-6:00 p.m.: Buckwheat supper in the Fellowship Hall at Morgantown Church of the Brethren. This is NOT a fundraiser. It is an opportunity to gather with friends from the community and chase away the February blahs.

Sunday, February 11, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. “Morgantown Church of the Brethren, along with Planned Parenthood, is hosting an event we are calling **Let’s Talk About Abortion: A Tropical Party** to lift the spirits and be honest about our bodies.”

Tuesday, February 13, 6:00-8:00 p.m.: Fastnacht making (and eating)! One more party before Lent! In the Morgantown Church of the Brethren Fellowship Hall.

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.

The church is a member organization of CCSJ.



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN FEBRUARY SCHEDULE: The church is located at 429 Warrick Street, Morgantown, WV.

Sunday, February 4th: Program of the UU Congregation @ Sunnyhill.org (Click on the orange banner at top right of home page of Sunnyhill.org): "Will the Equal Rights Amendment Finally Be Added to the U.S. Constitution 50 Years After It Passed?" - YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouszPm7gD2A

Sunday, February 11th: "The Gettysburg Address of Abraham Lincoln" at www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC4kQ2-kHZE and music video about Joan Baez ... a life of song and dedication in a new documentary: "Joan Baez - I Am a Noise" at www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ITEwKjllrs.

Sunday, February 18th: "The Farewell Address of George Washington" at youtu.be/09xrBsVSMbK.

Sunday, February 25th: On this day in 1910, the 13th Dalai Lama (Thupten Gyatso) fled Tibet for British India to escape Chinese troops. The Dalai Lama's public message is at youtu.be/_B85u5JLwV0.

This is a Welcoming Congregation and supports the Community Coalition for Social Justice. See also: UUFMWV.org or email uufmwv@gmail.com.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION: If you are interested in this group, please contact Eve Faulkes at faulkeseve@gmail.com.



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER MEETS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19 AT 7:00 P.M. ON ZOOM: Dismantling Racism Together will feature Dr. R. Charles Byers. Join the session to learn more about the unusual--and misunderstood--history of West Virginia State University.

"Do you know about the unprecedented connection between West Virginia's two land-grant institutions--West Virginia University and West Virginia State University? Since being created by federal laws in 1862 and 1890, all of the nation's land-grant colleges and universities have been funded to help people use research to improve their lives, businesses, and communities. But a few decades ago, West Virginia State lost its land-grant status, becoming the only 1890 (i.e., predominantly Black) land-grant institution to relinquish its status and programs to an 1862 institution (i.e., West Virginia University). After years of political struggle, West Virginia State regained its full 1890 status in 2001. Many confusing questions still linger. What happened and why? Dr. Byers, a former WVSU provost and interim president, will begin to clear up the misinformation."

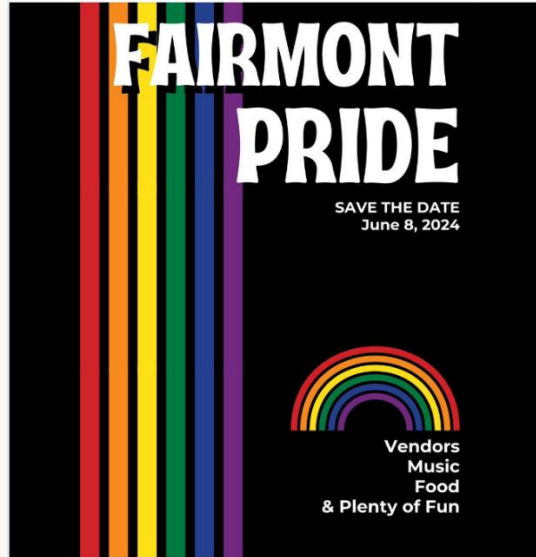
Zoom Link: <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/85962493623>

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



WEST VIRGINIA COALITION FOR TRUTH IN HISTORY MEETS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH AT 7:00 P.M. ON ZOOM: All are welcome to join the coalition as we monitor the legislative session. See information below on current issues of concern. Send your email address to ccsjwv@gmail.com, and we will pass on your information to the coalition's leadership.

PFLAG: The closest chapter is in Fairmont, with information available at www.pflagfairmont.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGFairmont.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE EVENTS:





For information on Morgantown PRIDE, go to www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page_internal or www.morgantownwvpride.org. Morgantown Pride has an Instagram page at www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en.



RAISING TRANS KIDS GROUP: This group usually meets the second Saturday afternoon of the month, but we did not receive information on a February meeting by “press time.” Anyone interested in joining the meeting for the first time or to get more information can email 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.



EMPTY BOWLS MONONGALIA SOUP & BREAD LUNCHEON: The luncheon will be held at the Hazel and J. W. Ruby Community Center at 111 Mylan Park Lane in Morgantown.



Volunteer opportunities for the Soup & Bread Luncheon are now available at www.ebmon.org/volunteer-opportunities.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.ebmon.org/fundraiser>. Tickets for adults are \$20 each and include a bowl, while tickets for children under 12 are \$10 but do not include a bowl. For more information, go to ebmon.org, phone 304-241-5510, or email EmptyBowlsMon@gmail.com.



MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (MCCAC). Follow this group at moncocac.org/news/ or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC.

The Facebook page includes information on legislation of concern to the MCCAC through the West Virginia Child Advocacy Center.



This event will be held on Friday, May 17, 2024, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Tropics in Cheat Lake.

Sponsorship information is available at files.constantcontact.com/1b7ea99f701/f077091f-7fd1-4aab-8352-aecb16947f62.pdf.

You can purchase tickets at www.eventbrite.com/e/girls-night-out-2024-travel-to-the-tropics-tickets-754035950827?aff=oddtcreator.

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!

SCOTTS RUN
RESONANCE-
PASSING IT FORWARD **says**

check out the movement at www.repaircafe.org

Don't throw THAT away!

Do you love something that needs repair and you don't want to toss it? We are lining up people who know how to fix stuff like we did before we lived in a plastic world. We want to exchange knowledge between generations.

We can FIX it...at the

REPAIR CAFE

Feb 10, 10-12 at the SHACK

537 Blue Horizon Drive, Parsglow, WV 26543

Knife sharpening/Ryan Sommerkorn; **Photo Repair**/photoshop/Eve Faulkes; **Lamp repair**/Larry Goodwin, **Cast Iron skillet** repair/DJ Cassell; **iPhone** confusion/ Danni Fortney; **Hand repair** (manicure) Pam Furman and more... We can't do things with gasoline since we are indoors). Still looking for jewelry and a few other requests. **[Final repair lineup still being updated!]**

Plus food, coffee, friendship, and live music!

all are welcome it's free

bring old photos to scan

objects have stories

● Call us if you have **something else** you need repaired not covered by our folks and we'll find another fixer! 304 918 8662 or DJGCassell@gmail.com

● Also CALL to sign up at a table to get your item fixed. You can just show up and enjoy the conversation and café, but signups will be taken first for fixes and it's just going on for two hours! This is our first REPAIR CAFE, but it's a worldwide movement, and Scotts Run knows how to Make Do or Do Without...by repairing it. JOIN US Saturday Feb 10.

This project is made possible by the Mid Atlantic Arts Central Appalachia Living Traditions grant awarded to the Scotts Run Resonance project with the partners of the Scotts Run Settlement House, The Scotts Run Museum and Trail, and THE SHACK

Mid Atlantic Arts Central Appalachia Living Traditions

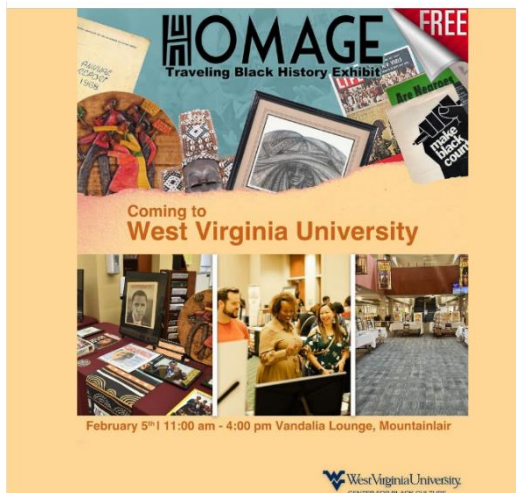
THE SHACK

SETTLEMENT HOUSE

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE EVENTS: Congratulations to Delegate Anitra Hamilton, president of the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP, on receiving the 2024 Martin Luther King, Jr. Achievement Award.



“The community is invited to gather, reflect upon and celebrate the Black presence in West Virginia on February 1. Shaniqua Williams, assistant professor of political science, will be the speaker.”



“The exhibit, which opens the door to the African American experience in the United States from the time of slavery to the election of Barack Obama, will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Mountainair Vandalia Lounge. This unique curator-led experience gives a behind-the-scenes glimpse of how Homage was designed and created.

“Each artifact represents an icon, cultural phenomenon or pivotal historical moment, and accompanies works created by artists and creatives. Highlights of the collection draw attention to key figures such as Booker T. Washington, Shirley Chisholm, Frederick Douglas and various artifacts from moments in the civil rights movement.”

February 6: Women’s Basketball Black History Month Celebration - Coliseum - 6:00 p.m.: “Join the Mountaineers as they celebrate National Girls and Women in Sports Day with a pregame clinic at 6 p.m. at the Coliseum in collaboration with other women’s sports team members. At halftime, the Mountaineers will recognize all NPHC fraternities and sororities for their work on campus. Tipoff against Texas Tech is 7 p.m.”

The Center for Black Culture has a full calendar of events in February at cbc.wvu.edu/events. We have just included a sample here.



2024 WOMEN LINK CONFERENCE IS MARCH 20TH: The inaugural Women Leading, Innovating, Networking, Knowing Conference will feature a robust lineup of speakers, presenters and panelists from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 20 at the Morgantown Marriott Waterfront Place.

The PowerPoint-free event aims to create a support network across the state that empowers women to lead.

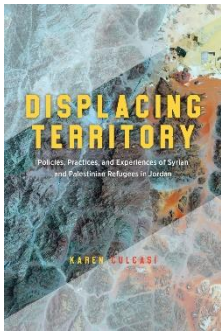
A panel of three women leaders working in higher education will discuss imposter syndrome while panelists from NASA and other industries examine male-dominated occupations and solutions to these issues.

Participants will also learn how to use the results of the CliftonStrengths® assessment as women leaders.

All women or anyone interested in exploring ways to bridge gender gaps are encouraged to attend.

Find the full schedule and register to attend at <https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/link>.

WVU EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



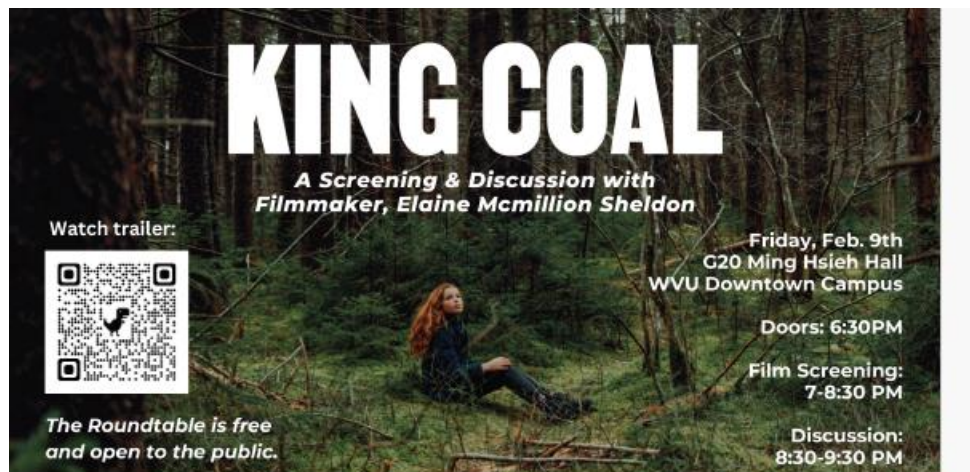
“Displacing Territory” Talk is Thursday, February 1 at 4:30 p.m.: The WVU Humanities Center is thrilled to welcome Dr. Karen Culcasi, a past Humanities Center Fellow, for a thought-provoking discussion based on her new book, *Displacing Territory: Syrian and Palestinian Refugees in Jordan*. This event will be in the Milano Room of the Downtown Library and promises to shed light on the complex realities of refugee life.

“In *Displacing Territory*, she delves into the deeply personal experiences of Palestinian and Syrian refugees in Jordan, explores how their individual understanding of territory shapes their sense of belonging, and navigates the often-mismatched borders imposed by the Western perspective. Through powerful storytelling and meticulous research, Culcasi reveals alternative conceptions of territory that exist outside the traditional state-based divisions.


“Presciently, Culcasi brings us into refugees’ diverse realities through their own words. In a time of global upheaval, her scholarship promises to be impactful in shaping the discourse on displacement. Her focus on Jordan, a Global South state that hosts the world’s second-largest number of refugees per capita, serves to reframe the potential strategies in global humanitarian efforts. Her presentation promises to challenge the stereotypical portrayal of refugees often prevalent in the Global North, fostering empathy and understanding for their experiences.

“Culcasi is an associate professor in the Department of Geology and Geography in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences.

“Following the talk, a reception and book signing will provide an opportunity to meet Culcasi and purchase a signed copy of *Displacing Territory*. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Joseph Deal, program assistant, at joseph.deal@mail.wvu.edu.”



KING COAL
*A Screening & Discussion with
 Filmmaker, Elaine McMillion Sheldon*


Watch trailer:


Friday, Feb. 9th
 G20 Ming Hsieh Hall
 WVU Downtown Campus

Doors: 6:30PM
 Film Screening:
 7-8:30 PM
 Discussion:
 8:30-9:30 PM

*The Roundtable is free
 and open to the public.*







Eberly Roundtable 2024



ELAINE MCMILLION SHELDON

WVU alum and an Academy Award-nominated and Emmy and Peabody-winning filmmaker. Director of two Netflix Original Documentaries - HEROIN(E) and RECOVERY BOYS- that explore America's opioid crisis.

She has been named a Creative Capital Awardee, Guggenheim Fellow, a USA fellow by United States Artists, and one of the "25 New Faces of Independent Film," by Filmmaker Magazine.

<p>FEATURED PANELISTS:</p> <p>BRADLEY WILSON Associate Professor of Geography Director, Center for Resilient Communities</p> <p>JOHN TEMPLE Professor, Reed College of Media</p> <p>BETH NARDELLA Associate Professor, WVU School of Medicine</p> <p>BROOKE DURHAM Assistant Professor of History</p> <p>RILEY COULTER Undergraduate Student, Biomedical Engineering</p>	<p>CO-SPONSORS:</p> <p> West Virginia University EBERLY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES</p> <p> West Virginia University RESEARCH OFFICE</p> <p> West Virginia University REED COLLEGE OF MEDIA</p> <p> West Virginia University COLLEGE OF CREATIVE ARTS</p> <p> West Virginia University CENTER FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES</p> <p> HUMANITIES CENTER</p>
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LEGISLATURE UPDATES/ALERTS

Everything changes so rapidly at the legislature that we can only alert you to bills that have been introduced that you might want to monitor. To do so, go to wvlegislature.gov, where you can find tabs for members of the House of Delegates and Senate and their contact information, committee members

and agendas, and a “bill status” tab. Under the “bill status” tab, you can track an individual bill or set up a “bill tracking” account for all the bills you are tracking. Committee chairs set the agendas for their committees, so it is important to contact them to try to get a bill on – or kept off – the agenda.

The legislative calendar is as follows:

Thirty-fifth Day - **February 13, 2024: Last day to introduce bills in the House.** House Rule 91a does not apply to originating or supplementary appropriation bills, and does not apply to Senate or House resolutions or concurrent resolutions.

Forty-first Day - **February 19, 2024: Last day to introduce bills in the Senate.** Senate Rule 14 does not apply to originating or supplementary appropriation bills, and does not apply to Senate or House resolutions or concurrent resolutions.

Forty-seventh Day - February 25, 2024: Bills due out of committees in house of origin to ensure three full days for readings.

Fiftieth Day - **February 28, 2024: Last day to consider bill on third reading in house of origin.** Does not include budget or supplementary appropriation bills.

Sixtieth Day - **March 9, 2024: Adjournment at Midnight.**

There are several bills that were presented for discussion at the West Virginia Coalition for Truth in History meeting on January 28th:

HB 4016: Prohibiting the delivery of unsolicited absentee ballot applications to any person who has not specifically requested one from the county clerk. This was referred to the House Judiciary Committee on the first day of the legislature, January 10th, and has not moved from that committee.

HB 4299: Permit teachers in K-12 schools be authorized to carry concealed firearms as a designated school protection officer. This bill has passed the House Education Committee and is in the House Judiciary Committee.

HB 4349: Establishing the Anti-Stereotyping Act. This was introduced to the House Education Committee on January 10th and has not moved there.

HB 4387: Relating to nondiscrimination at institutions of higher education. This was introduced to the House Education Committee on January 10th and has not moved there.

HB 4468: Establishing the Anti-Stereotyping Act. This was introduced to the House Education Committee on January 10th and has not moved there.

HB 4654: Removing bona fide schools, public libraries, and museums from the list of exemptions from criminal liability relating to distribution and display to minor of obscene matter. This was referred to the House Judiciary Committee on January 12th. There was a

public hearing on the bill, but it has not been on the committee's agenda. There is some consensus that it is on the back burner, but nothing is dead until the session ends.

HB 5036: Creating the Parents' Bill of Rights. This was introduced and referred to the Committee on Senior, Children, and Family Issues on January 23rd with a subsequent referral to the Judiciary Committee. The companion Parents' Bill of Rights (**SB 505**) was introduced on January 22nd and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee but has not been on that committee's agenda yet. There is another similar bill (**HB 4313**) called the Parents' Bill of Rights that has also been passed by the House Committee on Senior, Children, and Family Issues but then was recommitted to that committee on January 26th with a subsequent referral to the Judiciary Committee.

HB 5227: Requiring age-appropriate instruction on the Holocaust. This was referred to the House Education Committee on January 26th with no further action to date. Delegate Evan Hansen is the lead sponsor on this bill. He worked with Senator Mike Oliverio, who introduced a companion bill – **SB 448:** Requiring age-appropriate instruction on Holocaust in public schools – in the Senate. That passed the first reading in the Senate Education Committee but was laid over and referred to the Senate Rules Committee on the second reading on January 25th.

SB 198: Prohibiting teaching of divisive acts and critical race theory in public schools. This was referred to the Senate Education Committee on January 10th and has not moved since then.

SB 273: Prohibiting certain divisive acts or concepts from schools, state agencies and any groups receiving state funding. This was referred to the senate Judiciary Committee on January 11th and has not moved since then.

SB 367: Anti-Racism Act of 2024. This was referred to the senate Judiciary Committee on January 12th and has not moved since then.

The **2024 Anti-WV LGBTQ+ Bill Finder and Rep Finder** is tracking the 36 bills introduced through January 30 and gives bill numbers, lead sponsors, summaries, and status of bills at docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1X9InH_ATTK1QpVmuc-lasLN3DGrv7uF8mzYv48amUHg/edit?fbclid=IwAR0LeOPryHYaY6qCB3e_AYaCrv14ucZs88uCc_VZxReSDNjLANO6kcptWX4#gid=0

West Virginia NOW's Women's Bill of Rights:



The West Virginia NOW Facebook page, on January 30, noted that “Governor Justice and House Republicans are too busy fighting the culture war to care about the issues that really impact West Virginia's women and girls. To **call House Bill 5243** a ‘Women's Bill of Rights’ is a joke. Here's what we need in a REAL Women's Bill of Rights, and the bills we support to get us there:

- ✦✦ Protection from discrimination on the basis of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religion, age, ability, and income (SB495, SB496, HB4194, HB4485)
- ✦✦ Bodily autonomy (HB4183)
- ✦✦ Ending gender-based violence (SB576, HB4219)
- ✦✦ High-quality and accessible child care (SB576, HB4219)
- ✦✦ Equal pay for equal work (HB4272)
- ✦✦ Paid family and medical leave (SB417, HB4489, HB4513, HB4613, HB4489, and HB5001)
- ✦✦ Affordable Healthcare and safe childbirth (SB313, HB4874)”

HB 5243 was introduced on January 26th and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. The text says the bill may be cited as the "**West Virginia Women's Bill of Rights**" or "**The West Virginia Act to Define Sex-Based Terms Used in State Law, Help Protect Single Sex Spaces, and Ensure the Accuracy of Public Data Collection.**" “The purpose of the West Virginia Women’s Bill of Rights is to bring clarity, certainty, and uniformity to the laws of West Virginia regarding sex discrimination, equality of the sexes, and benefits or services specifically provided to males/men and to females/women. . . . The West Virginia Women’s Bill of Rights applies wherever West Virginia, or an instrumentality of the state, classifies people on the basis of sex or otherwise defines people as being female or male, women or men, girls or boys in State Statutes and Administrative Rules.” It then defines the words “woman,” “man,” “girl,” “boy,” “mother,” “father,” “female,” “male,” and “equal.” It says that there are only two biological sexes. “Individuals with "differences in sex development" (also known as ‘DSD’ or ‘intersex conditions’) are not a third sex. Individuals with a congenital and medically verifiable DSD diagnosis must be accommodated consistent with state and federal law.”

NOW also has a Weekly Legislative Breakdown that you can find on its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow:

FEMINIST BILL-BUSTERS

WV NOW's 2024
Weekly Legislative Breakdown



*FOLLOW ALONG ON OUR SOCIAL FOR TIMELY ACTION ALERTS

Bad Idea of the Week



FORCING PROPAGANDA INTO SCHOOLS
SB 468



This bill would require public schools to repeatedly show an inaccurate video about "human development" to students. This video is marketed by a blatantly political organization and pretends to be education, but is actually indoctrination.

West Virginia NOW opposes the codification of propaganda into our school curriculum.

www.westvirginiainow.org



Good Idea of the Week

LACTATION ROOMS IN STATE BUILDINGS
SB 410

This simple bill improves quality of life and work for people who have recently given birth. The title says it all, "Requiring all state buildings provide private room for nursing or breastfeeding purposes"

We support this practical bill and hope to see it passed!

www.westvirginiainow.org



BLACK POLICY DAY: UNITING FOR CHANGE

[REGISTER HERE](#)



The 3rd Annual Black Policy Day is coming back to the Capitol on February 7, 2024.

Black Policy Day was established in 2022 by Crystal Good (Black By God), Katonya Hart (Partnerships for the Arts & Education), and Dr. Shanequa Smith (WV Black Voter Impact Initiative) who shared a vision of creating space for historically oppressed and ignored groups to amplify their stories and participate in the policymaking process.

On Black Policy Day, we welcome all to visit the Capitol to engage with our state leaders, discuss the issues that are most impacting Black and minority communities, and learn how to take action to make impacts in our communities.

Join us for breakfast at the State Capitol starting at 8:30am to engage with our lawmakers, followed by information about current opportunities and resources. The afternoon will include a youth-centered lunch event with accompanying activities. Childcare is available all day.

Throughout the day, there will be opportunities to engage in meetings with lawmakers, space for vendors and tabling opportunities, youth activities, and much more. Some of the events that day will include an option for virtual participation via a live stream.

Go to <https://blackpolicydaywv.org/> for more information and to register and for more information.

STATE-WIDE EVENTS



WEST VIRGINIA NOW: The 2023 (postponed from late 2023) state NOW annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 25th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. by Zoom. NOW is still working on confirming speakers and additional details. NOW is focusing on encouraging people to register and vote this year and also supporting the equal rights amendment and abortion. For more information, go to

www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow or email Amanda Ray, the state NOW president, at amandajray@yahoo.com.

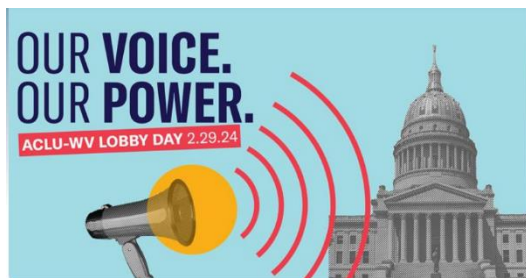


FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA: Follow Fairness West Virginia on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fairnesswv. There are many calls for action and legislative updates on the Facebook page and on the website at fairnesswv.org. One bill of concern is HB 4806: Require bathroom use in schools based upon biological sex that passed the House Education Committee and is now in the House Judiciary Committee.



ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES: Follow this group at www.acluww.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ACLUWV.

Go to <https://www.acluww.org/> to get links to the legislative toolkit, which includes information on the ACLU's legislative priorities, which are protecting First Amendment values, defending democracy, dismantling West Virginia's deadly and overcrowded jails, defending LGBTQ+ rights, and fighting for immigrants' rights. The capitol tracker icon will take you to the track bills link at fastdemocracy.com/shared-bills/?sharing-bill-list-id=7oN16xsYwowH. There are also calls to action for specific issues on this site.



The ACLU's lobby day is Thursday, February 29, starting at 8:30 a.m. "From abortion rights to affirming health care for trans youth, to freedom of speech and the defense of our democracy itself, our civil liberties will be under assault like never before in 2024.

"Join ACLU-WV for our 2024 Lobby Day and learn how you can make a difference. Hear from civil rights experts, learn more about citizen lobbying, meet with your elected officials and listen to a floor session with us."

The ACLU's bill tracking system is at https://fastdemocracy.com/shared-bills/?sharing-bill-list-id=7oN16xsYwowH&fbclid=IwAR2p27UJGJM8bXxisRJG4C6GcLxvC3qpO6NkmBnRF138m25o-WQF4TfqK_k. There is a link to get email updates.



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/.

REMINDER

Volunteer Training

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH FROM
12:00PM UNTIL 4:00PM
277 DON KNOTTS BLVD
PIZZA AND DRINKS PROVIDED
SIGN UP ON OUR WEBSITE!



WEST VIRGINIA POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN: A NATIONAL CALL FOR MORAL REVIVAL:

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024 AT NOON

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN POOR AND IMPACTED PEOPLE, CLERGY, AND ADVOCATES IN YOUR STATE!

MASS POOR PEOPLE'S & LOW-WAGE WORKERS' STATE HOUSE ASSEMBLIES & TO THE POLLS

A DAY OF NATIONALLY-COORDINATED, SIMULTANEOUS DIRECT ACTION ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

CALLING ALL PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN & DEMAND
LIVING WAGES, HEALTHCARE, VOTING RIGHTS & STOPPING VOTER SUPPRESSION, EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL, WORKER/LABOR RIGHTS, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, ACCESS TO HOUSING, FULLY-FUNDED PUBLIC EDUCATION, ABOLISHING POVERTY, AND THE UNITY OF LOVE, NOT THE DIVISION OF HATE.

BRING THE DEMANDS OF 140 MILLION POOR & LOW-WEALTH PEOPLE DIRECTLY TO LAWMAKERS AT STATE CAPITOLS. EVERYBODY IN. NOBODY OUT!
WE MUST CHALLENGE POVERTY BEING THE 4TH LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN THIS COUNTRY!
WE MUST ACTIVATE 85 MILLION POOR & LOW-WEALTH ELIGIBLE VOTERS!
WE WON'T BE SILENT ANYMORE!

For more information, go to www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/committee/west-virginia/?fbclid=IwAR006_xVd-1WLwfRMN0t0Em3gBq36-tY3JEDrDgx5L29pNdSRc3Hs1GX_7k, or email westvirginia@poorpeoplescampaign.org to get involved.

DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

www.diversityresources.com/february-diversity-calendar-2024/

Black History Month: February is recognized as Black History Month, a time to celebrate and acknowledge the significant contributions and history of Black individuals and communities. This month-long observance is dedicated to remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It's a period for reflection, education, and celebration, highlighting the achievements and struggles of Black people throughout history and in contemporary society.

World Hijab Day – February 1: This annual event encourages the world to experience wearing a hijab, a headscarf worn typically by Muslim women. This event hopes to create a culture of understanding that promotes religious tolerance and eradicates stereotypes associated with wearing one. Those who participate are encouraged to wear one for a day and share their experience to help raise awareness about the challenges these women may face on a daily basis.

National Wear Red Day – February 2: Occurring on the first Friday in February every year, the red dress is a national symbol to raise awareness about heart disease in women. The American Heart Association's National Wear Red Day movement hopes to save lives while helping women to beat heart disease, which is their number one killer. Show support by wearing red on this day.

World Cancer Day – February 4: On this international day, we raise awareness of cancer in order to spread the word about how to detect it, prevent it, and most importantly, treat it. This United Nations observed day focuses on how to reduce illness and deaths caused by cancer.

Lunar New Year – February 10: This is a significant traditional festival celebrated by many Asian cultures. It marks the beginning of the lunar new year, falling on different dates each year based on the lunar calendar. The festival is a time of family reunions, special meals, and cultural activities. Each year is represented by a zodiac animal, with 2024 being the Year of the Dragon, symbolizing luck, power and strength.

Pink Triangle Day – February 14: This day is dedicated to remembering the history of the LGBTQ+ community, especially those that were persecuted during the Nazi regime during World War II. The pink triangle was frequently used to identify and discriminate against the community.

Parinirvana – February 15: This day, also known as Nirvana Day, is a Mahayana Buddhist holiday celebrated in various countries in East Asia, Vietnam, and the Philippines. While some observe it on February 8, most celebrate it on February 15. The day commemorates the death of the Buddha, when he attained complete nirvana or Parinirvana. It's a time for reflection on the teachings of the Buddha, focusing on the achievement of enlightenment and the realization of the Four Noble Truths.