



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

UPDATE: MARCH 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, March 19th, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Barb Howe will share information on some of West Virginia's pioneering women politicians.

Topic: Community Coalition for Social Justice March Meeting
Time: Mar 19, 2024 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82566496842?pwd=WUptQ29QMzUraFJ2c1dWbnFzRjZPZz09>

Meeting ID: 825 6649 6842

Passcode: 253693

One tap mobile

+13017158592, 82566496842#, *253693# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968, 82566496842#, *253693# US

Dial by your location

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

- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US

Meeting ID: 825 6649 6842
Passcode: 253693

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kBD0RjRiK>

Don Spencer shared his experiences as a civic activist in Morgantown over more than fifty years. Unfortunately his camera was not working so we only have the audio of his presentation, which you can here on our website at www.ccsjwv.org/audios/DonSpencer.m4a.

CCSJ AT BLACK POLICY DAY: Eve Faulkes represented us and the West Virginia Coalition for Truth in History at Black Policy Day on February 7th at the West Virginia Capitol. Here she is with Jean Evansmore. There is information about our proposed exhibit on the table.



CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964: We are still awaiting word on funding from the City for our exhibit, but Eve is working on designing a graphic novel to be part of the exhibit that will include stories of people from around the state, including Monongalia County residents like Charlene and Rogers Marshall, who were denied a membership at The Flame restaurant downtown; Osage “Mayor” Al Anderson; and younger activists like WVU NAACP Student Chapter officers Dayna Pratt, Sierra Velez, and Suraya Boggs.

CONTACT US: Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at mdattfieldo@gmail.com. Please contact any of the steering committee members to volunteer to help and to share your suggestions for our work or e-mail us at ccsjwv@gmail.com. Please send items to share with our membership to Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu.

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR DUES - \$10 for individuals and \$25 for organizations – to CCSJ, PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160. You can join or donate by credit card via PayPal on our web site.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK! Just look for “Community Coalition for Social Justice” under “Groups” and become our friend. Thanks to Mike Sharley for being our group “leader.”

LOCAL NEWS



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting should be Thursday, March 21st, 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/.

City Council appointed Bronson Hurr to the Commission on January 2nd meeting and appointed Ashley Swanson to the Commission on February 6th.

Vacancies on Human Rights Commission. There are currently two 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 March:

National Women’s History Month – Honors women as significant agents of change.

March 8: International Women’s Day – Celebration of the economic, political, and social achievements of women worldwide. Recognition of need for empowering women to meet their health and family planning needs as central to realizing greater equality. With access to education, economic opportunity, and quality health care, healthier mothers can have healthier babies, economic gains, and help create less pressure on our planet's natural resources.

March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination –Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.

International Forest Day – Call for awareness of the importance of forests in protecting air quality, water retention, plants for pharmaceuticals, habitat for birds and other wildlife – all of which provide a balance for survival of all.

March 22: World Water Day – Calls for awareness of how essential potable water is to the rights of all people in West Virginia and worldwide.

March 31: Cesar Chavez Day – Honors Mexican American farm worker, labor leader, and activist Cesar Chavez (1927- 1993) who was a nationally respected voice of social justice.

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).

Follow the League on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LWVMM and contact them by email at lwvmorgantown@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/lwvwwv. 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.

The March meeting will be on March 12th at 7:00 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 348 E. Brockway Avenue in Morgantown. Special Guest Amaya Williams will provide Bystander Training (pt. 1).

NOW has also announced the rest of its 2024 Schedule:

- Tuesday, April 9:** Mixer: TBA, 7:00 p.m.; RDVIC Walking with Survivors Event will be April 20th at the Spruce Street Farmers Market
- Tuesday, May 14:** Meeting at Friends Meeting House, 7:00 p.m. Special Guest Amaya Williams will present on Bystander Intervention (pt. 2)
- 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.



MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, MARCH 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.

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, April 2, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge 411, 1138 Chestnut Ridge Road. You can sign up to donate at www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time.

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 BRETHREN-MENNONITE: Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom with the link available at 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.

The church is a member organization of CCSJ.



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

Sunday, March 3: "Peace Like a River on Vimeo." This hymn is provided to challenge us to work for peace in the world, so needed at this time. Mark David Buckles leads and accompanies "I've Got Peace Like a River." This wish is worthy of our effort. vimeo.com/415943314.

Sunday, March 10: "Try a Little Kindness." Brad Paisley performs at Glen Campbell's memorial service, August 24th 2017. www.youtube.com/watch?v=FesV1HizK8o.

Sunday, March 17: "Teach The Children Kindness & Peace." Suzy Bogguss & Kathy Mattea - Teach Your Children [Live] – YouTube. Live at the Ryman Auditorium - ancestral home to the Grand Ole Opry. 1994. www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3p823jCoGY

Sunday, March 24: "The Family Philosophy of Johnny Cash and daughter Rosanne Cash." Rosanne Cash's Tribute to Her Father - YouTube (with John Leventhal and Randy Scruggs) performing Tennessee Flat Top Box. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXConbU3MdQ>

Sunday, March 31: "Finding the Oldest DNA on EARTH." Prof. Eske Willerslev | Department of Zoology, Cambridge University, UK. Heading team sequencing the oldest genome to date from a c. 700-thousand-year old horse (Nature, 2013). See also Nova PBS, February, 2024. www.zoo.cam.ac.uk/directory/professor-eske-willerslev

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, MARCH 18, AT 7:00 P.M. ON ZOOM: The presenter will be Dr. Judy Ball, President of Morgantown-Monongalia League of Women Voters and Board Member of WV League of Women Voters. She will provide timely information on voter education and voter registration. Please join by zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85962493623>.

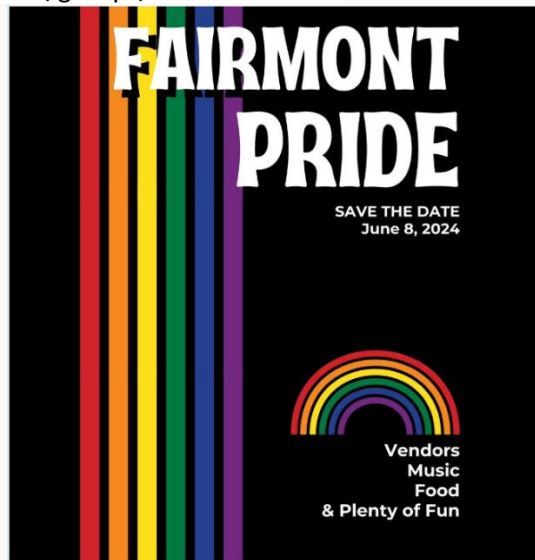
Dr. R. Charles Byers spoke at the February meeting on the unusual--and misunderstood--history of West Virginia State University. The Zoom link for Dr. Byers presentation at the February meeting is available at https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/sww3PLK7-0WhtZaCD0UdlzXc8KjJOcp79C2Ln4cm1CW3UUWlC560tji5lc3pJZnPtfBNJ-AYsXaKij3d.QGK2CF4kMPnL1Cq9?canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&continueMode=true&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2Fbb6iGP2ZsSe8OlvtjhjDDFuxFJge3RC5GUKExaVcn3LPAn82S5c5LyL4E2igYA5w.J39ClgyX0vWez0y0. The passcode is JtmG?5C6.

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: The Coalition has been meeting on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. The legislative session is almost over, but there is likely to be a meeting on March 3rd. All are welcome to join the coalition as we monitor the end of 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 Community Group



RAISING TRANS KIDS GROUP: The next meeting of the Raising Trans Kids group will be on Saturday, March 2nd, 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.

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.



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

CHILD SAFETY 101
SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH
MON COUNTY CENTER
4:00PM - 6:00PM

Presented by:
 Monongalia County Child Advocacy Center

FREE EVENT

What You Need to Know to Protect the Kids You Care About
 Free community event for adults to learn about child safety and child abuse prevention.

Guest Speaker
 Author of *The Brave Knight*, Diane Tarantini, will be the guest speaker. She will be presenting on child abuse prevention and promoting her new book (written for adults!).

Education Materials
 Guests in attendance will have the opportunity to take home education materials relating to child abuse prevention and child safety.

Food Available
 Light refreshments will be available.

Questions? Contact Taylor at MCCAC (304)598-0344 or tshultz@moncocac.org



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!

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE: Check out the Center's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WVUCenterforBlackCulture for a series of posts honoring prominent African Americans throughout the month of February.

WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM: The Native American Studies has several important events in March and early April. Flyers are posted below under "WVU Events Open to the Public" as all are free and open to everyone. The events are:

Wednesday, March 27: "Madan Sara" hybrid film screening and virtual discussion with coexecutive producer Lulaine Childs, moderated by Gwen Bergner (Professor of English, Harriet E. Lyon Professor of Women's & Gender Studies). Attend on campus: G21 Ming Hsieh Hall or Register to attend via Zoom at wvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6hbOo7UGxz3Jp9s. "This film is about market women in Haiti, collectively called 'Madan Sara,' who serve a vital role in the country's economy by tirelessly transporting food, clothing, and other basic necessities from farmers and producers for sale at the open markets. Without these entrepreneurs, Haiti's economy would come to a standstill, and yet the Madan Sara occupies a precarious financial position and risks bodily harm due to the country's political instability."

Tuesday, April 2: "Imagining the Indian," a film which deals with the fight against Native American mascoting. This will be from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in G-2 Ming Hsieh Hall (the "addition" to WVU's Oglebay Hall). Ben West (Cheyenne), the director, and Yancey Burns, the producer, will be the panel speakers.

Wednesday, April 10: April 10, 7:00-9:00pm: "AMÁ" Hybrid film screening and discussion with Native American Studies Elder-in-Residence Jean Whitehorse (Navajo), moderated by Bonnie Brown, NAS Program Coordinator. Free & open to the public. Attend on campus: G20 Ming Hsieh Hall or Register to attend via Zoom at wvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eIXkly2icCT1Uq. Filmmaker Lorna Tucker's "Amá" addresses the involuntary sterilization of thousands of Native American women at U.S. government-run hospitals, a practice that continued into the 1970s and included other women of color. Ms. Whitehorse is one of the Native women who experienced sterilization without consent and is a key figure in this moving documentary film.



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>.

AREA EVENTS



The Morgantown History Museum opened its Black History Exhibit on February 23rd. The exhibit will be open through May 2024 at 175 Kirk Street.

According to the City of Morgantown’s press release, “The exhibit will contain four main galleries. The first exhibit, titled ‘Settlement, Slavery and the Civil War’ reveals the lives of African Americans during the turbulent formative years of the county.

“The second gallery, ‘Emancipation and Reconstruction’ gives a voice to early African American entrepreneurs and other citizens through photos, artifacts and information. The third gallery, ‘The Shape of Separate but Equal’ shows the changes brought about in education for African Americans from elementary through graduate level, and tells the stories of some of the individuals involved in the process.

“The fourth and final gallery, ‘Modern Figures,’ showcases African American individuals who have been successful community leaders in their respective fields.

“The Black History Exhibit was created in cooperation with the Morgantown/Kingwood National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Scott's Run Museum.

“The Morgantown History Museum is currently open Wednesday- Friday 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. and Saturday- Sunday 12:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. The museum also closes for all state observed holidays.

“For more information on the reception or exhibit, or if you are interest in taking a group tour of the museum, please email morgantownwvhistory@morgantownwv.gov.”

WVU EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FILM SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION



West Virginia University Leadership Studies
with Native American Studies Present:

FILM SCREENING

APRIL 2, 2024
6:00 - 9:00 PM

MING HSIEH HALL, G21
1600 UNIVERSITY AVE.
MORGANTOWN, WV 26506

PANEL DISCUSSION

The screening is free and open to
the public

Panel Speakers include:

Ben West (Cheyenne) - Director
Yancey Burns - Producer



CO SPONSOR:



Spring 2024 Human Rights Film Series & Elder-in-Residence

hosted by the WVU Native American Studies Program

March 27th, 7:00-9:00pm: "MADAN SARA" Hybrid film screening and virtual discussion with co-executive producer Lulaine Childs, moderated by Gwen Bergner (Professor of English, Harriet E. Lyon Professor of Women's & Gender Studies).

Free & open to the public. Attend on campus: G21 Ming Hsieh Hall or Register to attend via Zoom:

https://www.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6hbOo7UGxz3jp9s



This film is about market women in Haiti, collectively called "Madan Sara," who serve a vital role in the country's economy by tirelessly transporting food, clothing, and other basic necessities from farmers and producers for sale at the open markets. Without these entrepreneurs, Haiti's economy would come to a standstill, and yet the Madan Sara occupies a precarious financial position and risks bodily harm due to the country's political instability. Lulaine Childs is co-owner of New York City-based Street Team Productions, creating content for different platforms, including the Behind the Boards Podcast. Street Team distributes the short film "N'AP Boule" by Haitian filmmaker Alexandrine Benjamin and is currently working on a documentary on the 1974 Haiti World Cup team.

Film Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZEIZVa-MWI>

April 10, 7:00-9:00pm: "AMÁ" Hybrid film screening and discussion with Native American Studies Elder-in-Residence Jean Whitehorse (Navajo), moderated by Bonnie Brown, NAS Program Coordinator.

Free & open to the public. Attend on campus: G20 Ming Hsieh Hall or Register to attend via Zoom:

https://www.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eIXkly2icCT1Uq

Filmmaker Lorna Tucker's "Amá" addresses the involuntary sterilization of thousands of Native American women at U.S. government-run hospitals, a practice that continued into the 1970s and included other women of color. Ms. Whitehorse is one of the Native women who experienced sterilization without consent and is a key figure in this moving documentary film. Jean Whitehorse will be on campus the second week in April, having classroom and faculty dialogues and engaging with Health Sciences graduate students. This is a rare opportunity for community members to learn directly from a Navajo Nation elder. The daughter of a Navajo code talker, Ms. Whitehorse attended government boarding schools, was part of the U.S. government's Indian Urban Relocation program, was active in the Civil Rights/Native Rights movement and Alcatraz Island occupation, and worked for New Mexico's Tribal Library Program for over 26 years before retiring.

Film Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWU1BuUUb-4>



The Film Series is made possible by the WVU Community Human Rights Film Festival fund (established by Morgantown residents Carol Howe Hamblen and Don Spencer). Additional support is provided by partners throughout the University: Departments of History, English, Political Science, World Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics, the Center for Women's & Gender Studies, the Reed College of Media, and WVU Health Sciences Center Graduate Women Advocating Science organization and the Health Science Center Graduate Student Organization. The fund is overseen by the WVU Native American Studies Program.



For more information: <https://NAS.WVU.EDU> 304-293-4626 BonnieM.Brown@mail.wvu.edu



WVU RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM AND HUMANITIES CENTER PUBLIC TALK BY DR. DONOVAN SCHAEFER ON "FEELING IS BELIEVING: A NEW APPROACH TO CONSPIRACY THEORY." This presentation will be Monday, March 4, at 4:30 p.m. in the Milano Room of the WVU Downtown Library. The talk will address "What makes people

believe? How do science and disinformation battle to convince us? And why has the apocalyptic discourse of conspiracy theory risen to prominence in our current political moment? This talk considers a new way of assessing the relationship between thinking and feeling, suggesting that we see them as deeply interrelated rather than fundamentally separate. Shifting our frame of reference allows us to draw a clearer map of how and why conspiracy theories have managed to gain such a powerful hold in contemporary society.” Dr. Schaefer is an associate professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

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.

There is only one more key date on the legislative calendar:

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. Bills that are still alive at “press time” are highlighted in yellow:

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 and is now in the Senate, where it is referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee and then to the Senate Finance Committee so it is still very much alive.

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. We thought this bill was dead, but it was revived and passed the House. It has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. This is a particularly dangerous bill. As the West Virginia Association of Museums has noted, multiple people contribute to a museum exhibit so who would be charged with a felony?

HB 5036: Creating the Parents' Bill of Rights. This did not move out of its first House committee. The companion Parents' Bill of Rights (**SB 505**) was introduced on January 22nd and did not move out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. There is another similar bill (**HB 4313**) called the Parents' Bill of Rights that passed the House of Delegates on February 28th and was referred to the Senate.

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.

SB 870: Restoring Sanity Act. Senator Rucker introduced this bill on the last day to do so in the Senate. A committee substitute passed through the Education Committee and was then referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 26th, where it died.

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

On February 28th, the House of Delegates passed **HB 5297: Relating to prohibiting pubertal modulation and hormonal therapy when provided to assist in a gender transition** on a vote of 88-11. According to Fairness West Virginia, this bill will “ban gender-affirming care for transgender adolescents.

“The bill, House Bill 5297, removes a very narrow exception in existing state code that allows transgender youth who are at risk of self-harm or suicide to continue receiving this care. The bill will now head to the Senate for consideration.

“Let’s be clear about what happened today’,” said Andrew Schneider, Executive Director of Fairness West Virginia. “Our delegates voted to strip parents of their ability to get the medically-necessary, lifesaving care that more than 550 health care providers in West Virginia support. They told parents with transgender teens who are at serious risk of self-harm or suicide that they can’t get their kid the help that doctors say they need. I don’t understand how anyone could look at these families and tell them their child’s life doesn’t matter, but that’s what they did today with this vote.” This bill now goes to the Senate.

SB 496: Prohibiting racial discrimination based on certain hair textures and hairstyles. This was the CROWN Act. It passed through the Senate Judiciary Committee and then was referred to the Senate Finance Committee, where it has died.

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. The February CCSJ Update included a long list of bills that NOW said were needed for a “REAL Women’s Bill of Rights.” Almost none moved beyond being introduced in a committee. Only SB 496 made it to the Senate floor and then died when referred to the Senate Finance Committee as noted above.

The only other bill that moved was **HB4874: Relating to fatality and mortality review team**. This has passed the House and Senate but with amendments in the Senate so has to go back to the House to concur.

HB 5243: Relating to Women’s Bill of Rights was passed by the House of Delegates on February 14 and referred to the Senate Judiciary committee. **The Senate passed its version – SB 601: Creating WV Women’s Bill of Rights – on February 28.**

STATE-WIDE EVENTS



WEST VIRGINIA NOW: 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 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.



"Please join us at noon on April 14 at West Virginia State University in Charleston for the 2024 Bill of Rights Brunch. We'll be honoring Neema Avashia, advocate and author of "Another Appalachia: Coming up Queer and Indian in a Mountain Place." And we'll be presenting an award to one of our longest-serving board members, Chuck Smith. At the brunch, we'll reflect on our wins, commiserate over our defeats and share our plans for defending civil liberties in West Virginia.

"Our brunch is being catered by 1010 Bridge Road with musical entertainment by Megan Bee. Artists, businesses and others have donated dozens of amazing items to our silent auction. We can't wait to see you there!"



WEST VIRGINIA TRANS COALITION: “The West Virginia Transgender Coalition is a grassroots organization that works to ensure the wellbeing, safety and lived equity of all trans, nonbinary, and gender expansive community members within the state of West Virginia.” For more information, please go to www.facebook.com/wvtranscoalition/.



WEST VIRGINIA 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 100 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!

REPAIERS | Poor People's Campaign | KAIROS CENTER

“The West Virginia Poor People’s Campaign will be holding the event on the State Capitol steps (riverside) this Saturday at noon (try to come by 11:30 a.m. for a show of force for the press.). Bring your banners, signs or art if you desire, and most of all bring yourselves. It has never been more important that our lawmakers see a show of solidarity and a mass movement. All of us are facing a legislature that is attacking the poor, low wealth members of our communities and state and weakening the rights of those who may be better off or don't fit the mold.”

DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR MARCH

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

March: Women’s History Month. March is Women’s History Month, dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the contributions and achievements of women throughout history and in contemporary society. It’s a time to reflect on the struggles for women’s rights and to promote equality and recognition across various fields.

March 1: Zero Discrimination Day. Zero Discrimination Day calls for the elimination of all discrimination. Its goal is to promote both inclusivity and equality across the world. First initiated by the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to address the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV/AIDS. This day encourages all people to take a stand against it and serves as a reminder of why it's so important to create a world where everyone is treated with respect, regardless of their identity, their race, religion, and HIV status.

March 8: International Women's Day. This day originated in the early 20th century from labor movements in North America and Europe. Officially observed since 1911, the date commemorates the 1917 women's strike in Russia, which was pivotal in earning women the right to vote. This day globally celebrates women's achievements and advocates for gender equality.

March 10 – April 9: Ramadan. Ramadan is a sacred month of fasting, prayer, and reflection for Muslims worldwide. It commemorates the month in which the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Observers fast from dawn to sunset and engage in increased spiritual reflection and community activities. Date may vary based on moon sighting.

March 15: International Day to Combat Islamophobia. This global initiative hopes to address the prejudice and discrimination faced by Muslims worldwide. This day further advances the need to combat stereotypes and promote tolerance and acceptance. A more accepting world means that the rights and safety of Muslims are protected continuously.

March 18 – 24: Neurodiversity Celebration Week. This international event celebrates the wide range of diversity in the neurodivergent community including dyslexia, autism, and even ADHD, among others.

March 31: Easter. Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It marks the culmination of the Passion of Christ and is preceded by Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and penance.

March 31: International Transgender Day of Visibility. Dedicated to celebrating transgender people, it hopes to eradicate discrimination faced by the community worldwide. It was first founded by a U.S.-based transgender activist Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009. She was frustrated that the only well-known day focused on the community was Transgender Day of Remembrance, which mourns the murders of transgender people across the world instead of celebrating those living as transgender.