



Community Coalition for Social Justice Annual Report for October 1, 2019-September 20, 2020

- Monthly e-newsletters to 299 individuals and organizations about local and state-level social justice events, an increase of 57 over our last annual report.
- Sponsored our Fourteenth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day celebration at the Metropolitan Theatre on January 20, 2020, with a theme of “Courage to be Free.” With funding from the West Virginia Humanities Council’s History Alive! program, we featured Ilene Evans portraying Harriet Tubman.
 - We again worked with Barb Watkins, executive director of Main Street Morgantown, who handles publicity for the event with our assistance and who arranges for our banner to be hung across High Street. In 2020 she arranged for Main Street Morgantown to purchase ads on several local radio stations as a new form of publicity.
 - Nora Sheets, the art teacher at St. Francis, had her students prepare posters to advertise the event that Main Street distributes to downtown businesses to advertise the event. Ms. Sheets also paid to update the banner for High Street.
 - In addition to our usual publicity that included state and local officials, day care centers, neighborhood associations, and faith communities, we added more faith communities to our mailing list, and Julia Hamilton, activities director for extended day programs for the Monongalia County Board of Education, publicized the event through her network.
 - We worked with the Morgantown-Kingwood Chapter of the NAACP and its president, Dr. Jerry Carr, Jr., for the third year to feature the two winners of their essay contest as participants in our program.
 - In addition to Ms. Evans, seventy people participated in the program in some way, including CCSJ members who “staffed” the event with the assistance of Joe Kaehler and the staff of the Metropolitan Theatre. They included the Cheat Lake Elementary School choir with Jennifer Connoley as director, Al Anderson and Friends, Jeremy Thomas as storyteller,
 - The League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County and the Morgantown Human Rights Commission had information tables in the lobby to advertise their work.
 - We again collected donations for the Scotts Run Settlement House’s Backpack Feeding Program.
 - For the first time, we were able to provide ASL interpretation with Stephenie Woodall.
 - Rachel Wood of Virtus Wealth Solutions donated funding to purchase “Courage to be Free” stickers for children to reflect our theme.
- Participated in the WVU Women’s Basketball Game iBelong! program with a literature table and children’s activity on February 22nd.

- Cancelled in-person meetings starting in March due to COVID-19 and moved to Zoom meetings starting in June that allowed everyone interested to participate.
- Updated our list of books available at the Morgantown Public Library branches with the new list now available at <http://ccsjwv.org/resources.html>.
- Presented a program by Mike Attfield and Sheila Rye about CCSJ to the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Morgantown on July 23rd.
- Increased our cooperation with the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP with Barb Howe as a member of the branch's Community Coordination Committee and the branch's commitment to have a student participate in our 2021 MLK Day event.
- At the invitation of the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP, our co-chairs, Susan Brown and Sandra Nelms, added their names on our behalf to the NAACP's letter to Morgantown Police Chief Ed Preston, seeking to work together to address issues that have arisen across the country from the death of George Floyd and others.
- Accepted the invitation of the City of Morgantown to have a representative on the City's Special Committee on Community Policing and Citizens Review Board. Tim Hairston is our representative, and the committee presented a resolution that was adopted by the City of Morgantown City Council on September 1, 2020.
- Held our annual meeting on September 15th as a Zoom call with the Rev. Ronald English of Charleston speaking on "From Hurt to Healing." Sent invitations to local groups like the NAACP, Morgantown NOW, PFLAG, Morgantown Pride, League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County, and others. Twenty-eight members of the NAACP, Morgantown NOW, Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association participated. The recording of the program is available on our website.
- Maintain a web site at www.ccsjwv.org and Facebook page at Community Coalition for Social Justice at Morgantown, WV.
- Began planning for our 15th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day event that will be held virtually on January 18, 2021, because of COVID-19. We will feature Ilene Evans portraying West Virginia civil rights activist Memphis Tennessee Garrison, and the NAACP has identified a student to participate. The City of Morgantown has again provided funding for this event.