



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: JULY 1, 2021

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.

CONTACT US: Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at attfield@comcast.net. 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@hotmail.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.

We are not meeting in July. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, August 17th at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. All are welcome.** The Zoom link will be available in the August Update.

CCSJ ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 8TH AT 7:30 P.M.: We are pleased that **Eve Faulkes** has agreed to be our speaker for our annual meeting, discussing her forthcoming book reflecting the work that she and her students have done to celebrate the history of Scotts Run. Eve has recently retired from WVU where she taught graphic design with a focus on social justice. This will be a Zoom presentation that we expect to record for our website.

CCSJ ENCOURAGING PUBLIC INPUT INTO USE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS: City and county governments in Monongalia County are scheduled to receive a total of over \$32 million through the American Rescue Plan. CCSJ has joined the Morgantown-Kingwood Branch of the NAACP in asking that there be opportunities for public input into the use of these funds by following follow federal and state public outreach stipulations in “Best Practices for Local and State Prioritization of American Rescue Plan Act Funds” from the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy Fact Sheet (May 2021). The Treasury Department explicitly “urges state, territorial, tribal, and local governments to engage their constituents and communities in developing plans to use these payments, given the scale of funding and its potential to catalyze broader recovery and rebuilding.

We ask that these government bodies create channels to collect public input on their community's needs prior to crafting spending plans for these funds. This could include public meetings, surveys, and citizen advisory committees. Once an initial proposal is crafted, the public should again have the opportunity to comment on the plans because these funds provide a unique opportunity to help people who have suffered inequitable health and economic consequences from the pandemic.

CCSJ SUPPORT OF BLACK SCHOOLS INITIATIVE: Tim Hairston represents us on the project that Bekah Aranda and Adelheid Schaupp are leading to research, document, and recognize the historically black schools and the people who attended these schools in Monongalia County.

CCSJ AND LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING: We are following and supporting the League of Women Voters' work focused on the mandatory legislative redistricting that will follow the release of 2020 census data on September 30th. The goal is to draw fair maps. There will be a short time frame to draw boundaries for state races before candidates start to file their papers in early 2022. The national NAACP is focused on this effort, and we will be sharing information from those Zoom calls with the League.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY 2022: We have received an allocation of \$1500 from the City of Morgantown to reimburse us for expenses for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day 2022 and signed a contract with the Metropolitan Theatre with the hope that we can all gather again there next year. Please let us know if you have ideas as we begin to plan this event.



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, **July 15th** 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.

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/.

You can find a calendar of annual human rights observances at www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/Annual-HR-Observances.pdf.

Here are the events for July:

July 4- Independence Day – Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776, which led to the creation of a new union and new rights for citizens.

July 11- World Population Day – Emphasizes awareness that the world's #1 problem is too many people using too many resources and creating too much unsustainable waste. Excesses impact current climate, energy and support systems.

July 26- ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Day – Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LWVMM.

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS OF
MORGANTOWN-
MONONGALIA



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/.

The July meeting will **July 13th at 7:00 p.m.** According to the latest NOW e-newsletter, “We intend to hold the July meeting in person and outdoors as well, more to come on the location. During the meeting, we will be collecting donations for the Scott’s Run Settlement House, Inc. Annual School Supply Program. Every year Scott’s Run Settlement House distributes over 200 backpacks to school children in Monongalia County. Each student receives a new backpack filled with grade-appropriate supplies needed to start off the school year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Scott’s Run Settlement House is requesting monetary donations in lieu of supplies. If you are unable to provide a monetary donation, but still wish to contribute, please contact SRSH at (304) 599-5020 or e-mail the Program Coordinator, Courtney LaFollette, at clafollette@srsh.org and SRSH will assign specific supplies to you. Monetary donations can be made online through their website, www.srsh.org or by mail to SRSH, PO Box 590, Pursglove, WV 26546.”

Details and agenda are available through the weekly newsletter or email morgantownnow@gmail.com.”



MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS JULY 20TH: This meeting 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 is leading the effort to ask local government officials to provide opportunities for public input into the use of American Rescue Plan funds, as noted above.

There is also a book club that is open to members.

The branch is also discussing the potential membership of Morgantown’s new Civilian Police Review and Advisory Board. CCSJ has been involved in these discussions, as we await the City’s plan to solicit nominations and applications. See below for the membership categories designated in the ordinance creating the board.



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BROTHERN-MENNONITE: Follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634 or at www.morgantowncob.org. Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom.



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN:

Check the web site at www.uufmwv.org or the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/The-Unitarian-Universalist-Fellowship-of-Morgantown-WV-367256688732 for updates and Zoom links.



PFLAG RAISING TRANS KIDS JULY EVENT: This will be July 10th from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom “for West Virginia parents, guardians, and families who are raising transgender kids (of any age), or have kids who might be transgender.” The Zoom link is pflag-org.zoom.us/j/96676783725. The meeting ID is 966 7678 3725. To get the passcode, please email raisingtranskids@pflagmorgantown.org for passcode.

For more information on this group, go to www.facebook.com/pflagmorgantown/?ref=page_internal or www.pflagmorgantown.org.

MORGANTOWN HUMANISTS: For information about this group, please contact Mike Attfield at mdattfieldo@gmail.com. The Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/groups/855227111328432.



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER PROGRAM IS JULY 19TH ON PROMOTING DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN MONONGALIA COUNTY SCHOOLS: “Greater Morgantown Dismantling Racism Together presents an open forum on promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in our public schools. On Zoom, Monday, July 19, at 7:00 p.m., at us02web.zoom.us/j/87320381820.

“How do we ensure our children are educated in an environment that actively supports diversity, equity and inclusion? How do we prepare them to help build a better future for everyone? We invite parents, grandparents, and interested community members to join us in respectful and open discussion on these timely and controversial topics

“Mike Ryan, Director of Mon County Schools DEI program, will share the recently developed Mon County Schools plan on diversity, equity and inclusion. Following will be an open discussion about both promoting equity and inclusion in the schools as well as how we strive to teach our children honestly about the systems in which we all live. Please join us.”

Future meetings noted on the website are set for August 16th, September 20th, October 18th, November 15th, and December 20th (tentative). For more information, please go to www.firstpresmorgantown.org/dismantling-racism-together or email DismantlingRacismTogether@gmail.com.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE: For more information on this group, please go to www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page_internal or go to www.morgantownwvpride.org.

MORGANTOWN CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP: As noted above, the application process for board membership is likely to be different from the usual form to volunteer for a City board or commission because the ordinance specifies, in Section 181.03. Membership and Terms:

(a) Members. The Board shall consist of nine members appointed by City Council.

(b) Qualifications.

(1) 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. If a member ceases to meet this qualification, the member shall immediately notify City Council, but the member shall remain in office until a successor is appointed unless he or she resigns or is removed from the Board. Each member shall be at least 18 years of age.

(2) No member shall hold any other office or employment with the City while a member of the Board.

(3) No member of the Board shall be a former employee of the Morgantown Police Department.

(4) No member of the Board shall be an immediate family member of any member of the Morgantown City Administration, City Council, or Morgantown Police Department.

(5) Three members shall come from historically disadvantaged communities that have traditionally experienced disparate policing or shall be residents of publicly subsidized housing. Three additional members shall be nominated by organizations that seek racial or social justice on behalf of historically disadvantaged communities or persons with disabilities.

(6) Openings on the Board should be filled based on The City of Morgantown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan adopted by [Resolution XX-XX of the Morgantown City Council on (Date)], as amended. In the event of a conflict between the membership qualifications and appointment procedures of this Article and the provisions of the City's diversity, equity, and inclusion plan, the provisions of this Article shall control.

(7) In the event that no applicant meets the requirements of subparagraph(b)(5), a position may be filled by seeking applicants according to the process identified by The City of Morgantown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan.

GO OVER THE EDGE FOR LIBERA IS JULY 24TH: Volunteers are rappelling down the Monongahela Building at 235 High Street in downtown Morgantown to raise funds for Libera, a nonprofit community of mentors which has impacted thousands of students over the last year through teen groups, counseling, distribution of mental health resources, and food and clothing. Their newest project is LovePacks, filled with mental and emotional health tools for homeless and foster youth. Learn more about this event at www.liberawv.com.

STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS



WEST VIRGINIA NOW: West Virginia NOW is online at www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow and wvnow.org.

The 2021 National NOW Conference, Springing Hope into Action: Amplifying NOW's Intersectional Feminist Agenda is just around the corner! The conference will be held Saturday, July 24 and Sunday, July 25; Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, August 1; and on Saturday, August 7 and Sunday, August 8, 2021. This will be a virtual conference and it is free of charge. Register for the conference at salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5996/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=426266.

The **WV NOW state Conference** is scheduled for November 13-14, 2021. This will be a virtual event. Details will be forthcoming.



FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES: Fairness is hiring a Development and Administrative Associate. More information is available at fairnesswv.org/2021/04/27/were-hiring-a-development-administrative-associate/.

Fairness sponsored an event featuring faith leaders around the state, calling on Senators Manchin and Capito to support the Equality Act. You can watch the recording of the event at fairnesswv.org/2021/06/17/wv-faith-leaders-call-on-manchin-capito-to-support-equality-act/. Morgantown leaders Rabbi Joe Hample (Tree of Life), Rev. Zac Morton (First Presbyterian), and Pastor Bob Roberts (First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ) participated.

Follow Fairness West Virginia on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fairnesswv or at fairnesswv.org.



ACLU NEWS: The ACLU has an Equity and Justice Fellowship that 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.” The application is available at www.acluww.org/en/aclu-wv-equity-justice-fellowship.

THE ACLU AND AMIZADE APPALACHIAN QUEER YOUTH SUMMIT IS JULY 31ST-AUGUST 1ST: “The ACLU-WV, in partnership with Amizade, is thrilled to announce our 2021 Appalachian Queer Youth Summit!

“This camp will bring together high school juniors and seniors (homeschool students welcome) who either identify as LGBTQ+ or come from LGBTQ+ families from across West Virginia and give them the tools they need to organize and advocate for the issues they care about.

“Campers will learn how to talk to legislators, how to run meetings, tell powerful stories, and more, and will participate in a collective action to better the lives of LGBTQ+ people after the camp concludes.

“Perhaps most importantly, AQYS campers will get to be themselves for a weekend around people who understand them.”

Note that registration is limited, and the priority registration date was April 30th.

For more information on this event and to register, please go to www.acluww.org/en/events/appalachian-queer-youth-summit-2021.

DIVERSITY HOLIDAYS FOR JULY 2021

From www.diversityresources.com/2021-diversity-calendar/

7/2 – Black American: Thurgood Marshall – birthday of the civil rights leader and first Black Supreme Court justice

7/6 – Tibetan: 14th Dalai Lama – marks the birth of Tibet’s leader in exile, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient

7/6 – Women, Mexican: Frida Kahlo – birthday of painter, one of the best-known artists of the 20th century

7/17 – Islamic: The Hajj – annual pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, required by all able Muslims at least once in their lifetime

7/18 – South African: Nelson Mandela – birthday of civil rights leader, and South Africa’s first black president

7/24 – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Pioneer Day – official holiday celebrated in Utah, marking the arrival of founder Brigham Young in the Salt Lake area

7/26 – Americans with Disabilities Act – outlawed discrimination against people with disabilities