



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

**UPDATE: 1 JANUARY 2020**

**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.

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP:** We will NOT have a steering committee meeting in January so our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 18th**, at **7:00 p.m.** at **Panera's on Patteson Drive**. We have reserved the back meeting room. *If public schools are closed for the day or dismiss early for inclement weather, our meeting is cancelled.*

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.

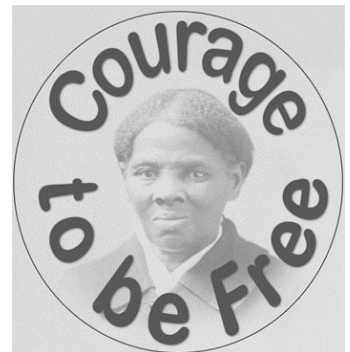
**PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR DUES** - \$10 for individuals and \$25 for organizations – to CCSJ, PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160. You can join or donate by credit card via PayPal on our web site.



**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2020 IS JANUARY 20TH:** Our Fourteenth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration will be at **2:00 p.m.** at the **Metropolitan Theatre**, 369 High Street, Morgantown. The City of Morgantown provides financial support for this event which we co-sponsor with Main Street Morgantown.

All are welcome to join this family-friendly event.  
Admission is free, although donations are appreciated.

This year, in keeping with the theme "Courage To Be Free," the Community Coalition for Social Justice (CCSJ) and Main Street Morgantown are pleased to present Ilene Evans, sponsored by The History Alive! Program of the West Virginia Humanities Council.



Ms. Evans offers a captivating and interactive portrayal of Harriet Tubman, a woman born into slavery but determined to live free or die, who courageously made her way to freedom and then returned to lead many more people out of slavery as a conductor on the Underground Railroad.

The program will also feature participation by a variety of talented people from our community, beginning with Mike Atfield and friends playing music in the lobby before the program begins.

Bill Kawecki, Mayor of Morgantown, will open the program with a few words of welcome. He will be followed by Emily Spieler, one of the founding members of CCSJ, who will provide a brief history of CCSJ on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. There will be musical performances by Al Anderson and friends, as well as singing by the Cheat Lake Elementary School Choir. Jeremy Thomas will read the children's book, *Words Set Me Free*, the story of young Frederick Douglass. Also, the winners of the NAACP student essay competition will read their essays. The program will conclude with everyone raising their voices together in song.

Those attending are asked to bring donations of food for the Scotts Run Settlement House Backpack Feeding Program for school children. Suggestions include granola bars, individual snack servings of applesauce, cereal boxes, or fruit snacks.

ASL interpretation by Stephenie Woodall will be provided during the program.

Art students from St. Francis Elementary School provided posters to promote the event. Financial support for this event comes from the City of Morgantown and Rachel Wood of Virtus Wealth Solutions.

The League of Women Voters and Morgantown Human Rights Commission will have information tables in the lobby, and we will again ask people to bring donations for the Scotts Run Settlement House Backpack Feeding Program that serves 803 children in 12 Monongalia County schools. You can learn more about that program at [http://www.srsh.org/home/our\\_work](http://www.srsh.org/home/our_work), which includes a link to the list of requested items.

We will also have our social justice-themed bumper stickers for sale.



**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 will be Thursday, **January 16th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Public Safety Building Conference Room on Spruce Street. You can get copies of the agendas and minutes for the commission meetings at [www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/).

The commission will also have an information table in the lobby of the Metropolitan Theatre at our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event on January 20th.

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

**Here are the events for January:**

**January 18: World Religion Day** – Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.

**January 20: Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** – Established in 1983 and observed for the first time on January 20, 1986. Also known as King Service Day – Federal legislation signed in 1994 challenged Americans to transform the King holiday into a day of citizen action and volunteer service.

**January 27: Holocaust Memorial Day** - Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945. The United Nations urges all its member states to honor Nazi era victims and to develop education programs to help prevent future genocides.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS:** The League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County, a CCSJ member organization, will have an information table at our Martin Luther King, Jr., Day event.

The League of Women Voters is working with the state-wide West Virginia Women Vote project and the local group, West Virginia Women Vote-Morgantown, to begin planning for the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, which gave all women in the country the right to vote in 2020. If you are interested in participating in the planning, please contact Vicki Conner at [vicki\\_conner@msn.com](mailto:vicki_conner@msn.com).



**MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER JANUARY ACTIVITIES:** Follow this group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/](http://www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/). No January events were posted as of “press time.”

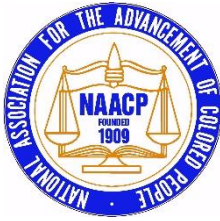
You can follow Morgantown NOW’s 2020 legislative initiatives as they are developed at [morgantownnow.org/legislative-initiatives/](http://morgantownnow.org/legislative-initiatives/).



**GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION (GMIA):**

The January meeting should be January 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. No other details were available at “press time.”

You can follow GMIA on Facebook at [ww.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/](http://ww.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/) or on the web at [www.morgantowninterfaith.org](http://www.morgantowninterfaith.org). The email address is [morgantowninterfaith@gmail.com](mailto:morgantowninterfaith@gmail.com).



**NAACP PROGRAMS:** The next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 21st**, at 5:30 p.m. at the Pines Country Club.

The NAACP and Greater St. Paul AME Church will be having their annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration at the church, 61 Beechurst Avenue, Morgantown, on Sunday, January 19th at 3:00 p.m. All are welcome. The winners of the NAACP essay contests will read their essays at this event and then share them again the next day at our event at the Metropolitan Theatre.



**PFLAG MORGANTOWN JANUARY EVENT:**

**January 11th: Raising Transgender Kids.** This program will be from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. “This meeting is for anyone (parents, grandparents,

guardians, etc.) raising transgender kids.

“We will get together to chat, discuss struggles and successes, and share resources. Location will be kid-friendly so please feel free to bring your trans and non-trans kids!

“Please contact us for details on specific meeting location.” You can reach PFLAG at [info@pflagmorgantown.org](mailto:info@pflagmorgantown.org) or by calling 304-296-8236.

Follow PFLAG on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pflagmorgantown/](http://www.facebook.com/pflagmorgantown/) or [www.pflagmorgantown.org](http://www.pflagmorgantown.org).



**MORGANTOWN PRIDE EVENTS:** This group “provides social and educational resources for the LGBTQ+ Community, Friends and Allies in Mon. County.” Follow this group’s activities on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/](http://www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/).

No January events were posted at “press time” on the Facebook page or at [morgantownwvpride.org/events/](http://morgantownwvpride.org/events/).

**Here are the future events:**

**April 17-19: Pride Weekend 2020.** There will be a Pride Parade downtown on the 17th “and all are welcome to participate!” The second annual Pride block party will be on Saturday, April 18th! No further information about this event was available at “press time.”

Morgantown Pride is also “thrilled to announce that we have been asked to be in a documentary! Over the next few months, we will team up with filmmaker and director Sara Werner - a wonderful woman who wants to highlight our organization and the local queer community! We are beyond thankful for this opportunity to collaborate!”

**WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH:** The Center is promoting its Social Justice Spotlight series at [cbc.wvu.edu/social-justice-video-spotlight](http://cbc.wvu.edu/social-justice-video-spotlight). “Social Justice Spotlight is a film series produced by The Center for Black Culture and Research, which features interviews with academics and professionals from across campus who have recognized the importance of a culturally responsible curriculum. Their courses

and academic programming provide students with the canons of their discipline, while also intentionally creating a more diverse classroom learning environment.”

## THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BREAKFAST

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2020  
8 AM, MOUNTAINLAIR BALLROOM

**EUGENE  
NAPOLEON**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

▲ Former WVU and Professional Football Player

▲ CEO of NAP Records and NAP Sports Vision Entertainment

CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH



WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH ANNOUNCES MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY BREAKFAST:

THE MLK Unity Breakfast will take place in the Mountainlair Ballrooms at 8:00 a.m. on Monday January 20, 2020.

“The Breakfast is an opportunity for the WVU and greater Morgantown communities to come together to celebrate the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. , and to recognize those in our community who have worked to uphold the principles of equity and social justice that he lived and gave his life for.”

For more information about Eugene Napoleon, please go to [cbc.wvu.edu/events/2020-martin-luther-king-jr-unity-breakfast](http://cbc.wvu.edu/events/2020-martin-luther-king-jr-unity-breakfast).

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Achievement and Scholarship Awards will be presented at the breakfast.



**WVU LGBTQ CENTER EVENTS:** Spring semester events should be posted soon at [www.facebook.com/pg/WVULGBTQCenter/events/?ref=page\\_internal](http://www.facebook.com/pg/WVULGBTQCenter/events/?ref=page_internal) or [lgbtq.wvu.edu/](http://lgbtq.wvu.edu/).

### STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS



Information about the **Kanawha Valley NOW** chapter is available at [www.facebook.com/Kanawha-Valley-NOW-1976287046030339/?ref=br\\_rs](http://www.facebook.com/Kanawha-Valley-NOW-1976287046030339/?ref=br_rs) or email [kanawhavalleynow@gmail.com](mailto:kanawhavalleynow@gmail.com).

West Virginia NOW has a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow](http://www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow) and a web page at [wvnow.org](http://wvnow.org).



Join organizations and individuals committed to moving West Virginia forward at the **2020 All Kinds Are Welcome Here Civil Liberties Lobby Day at the State Capitol!**

“It’s time to mark your calendars for the highlight of the legislative session, the All Kinds Are Welcome Here Lobby Day! We hope to see you on Wednesday, Jan. 23, to show our lawmakers that the LGBTQ community and its allies are a powerful voice in the state. We’ll

begin checking people in at 9 a.m. outside of the Senate Chamber.

**“RSVP to lobby day online now!”** Go to <http://fairnesswv.org/2019/12/13/our-2020-lobby-day-is-fast-approaching/>.

“In what’s sure to be one of the most important political years of our lifetime, it’s important to stand together in solidarity to let them know that West Virginia should be a place that welcomes and respects all people.

“Senate President Mitch Carmichael recently came out in support of LGBTQ nondiscrimination — a pivotal moment as we campaign for statewide nondiscrimination protections. We have the chance to finally pass the Fairness Act in 2020 and ensure that no West Virginian is discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. But to do that, we’ll need your help.

“We’ll host an Advocacy Training online prior to Lobby Day — stay tuned for more details on this. This training will make sure you’re comfortable talking to legislators about issues that are most important to you.

“After catching up with all of your favorite organizations at their tables, join us at 10:15 a.m. for a press conference featuring representatives from Fairness WV and our partner organizations. You’ll then have an opportunity to attend a floor session in the House or Senate Galleries at 11 a.m. Following the floor session, we encourage you to speak with your legislators.

“Help us send a message that all kinds are welcome here in West Virginia! We hope to see you on Jan. 23, so get registered and invite your friends today!

“We’ll be partnering with incredible folks from all over the state again for the fourth annual event! We’ll have an advocacy training webinar prior to Lobby Day to make sure you are comfortable talking with your elected officials about issues that matter to you.”

“Partners: ACLU of West Virginia, Planned Parenthood Votes South Atlantic, Fairness West Virginia, WV FREE, Call to Action for Racial Equality: CARE Coalition, Rainbow Pride of West Virginia, Inc., West Virginia Citizen Action Group, and West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence.”



**ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:** On December 26th, the ACLU issued this press release on its web site:

“As we approach the second session of the 84th West Virginia Legislature, we at the American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia (ACLU-WV) are preparing again to protect constitutional liberties. The First Amendment, as well as rights to equal protections under the law, due process, and privacy are all at stake.

“We will support policies that protect civil liberties of all West Virginians, particularly the most vulnerable, and we will oppose those that deny the promise of the Bill of Rights to all.

“One of our top priorities will be **bail reform**. We’ll seek legislation that balances public safety with people’s basic freedoms, meaning their ability to live and work and to not be confined to a cell without being found guilty of a crime. We’ll work to end cash bail, a system that enables those with financial means to escape pretrial imprisonment while keeping the poor locked up. This system costs the state enormous amounts of money and disrupts the lives of those who are accused – but not yet convicted – of a crime.

“We’ll demand **more transparency in policing** and support the creation of a statewide cooperative review board. These boards allow the public to hold officers accountable for actions taken while on duty. We will also continue our efforts on civil asset forfeiture, encouraging the creation of a database of all goods and money that the government seizes from people accused of crimes.

“**Juvenile justice reform** is another top concern. We’ll back legislation that promotes a safe and harassment-free school environment, one that prioritizes comprehensive mental and behavioral health services for our students over treating them like criminals.

“We’ll promote democracy with legislation for **ranked-choice elections for the state judiciary**, allowing a true representation of West Virginians’ choices to be reflected in election outcomes. This system allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference. If a candidate receives more than half of the first-choice votes, that candidate wins. If no one receives a majority of first-choice votes, the candidate with the fewest first choices is eliminated. The voters who ranked the eliminated candidate first then have their second-choice votes distributed to other candidates. This continues until a candidate has a majority of the active votes.

“We’ll also defend democracy by expanding an amendment to the state Constitution to *allow* dual employment of most **state employees** -- who are typically civic-minded and knowledgeable -- so that they may **serve in the Legislature**. Currently, no state employees are permitted to serve in the Legislature.

“As part of our support for marginalized communities who lack protections, we will advocate for **passage of the WV Fairness Act**, which would add sexual orientation and gender identity to the state’s Human Rights Act.

“We’re also ready to fight back against the latest attack on **bodily autonomy** -- a rumored “born-alive bill.” This legislation falsely portrays the reality of abortion services and invites government intrusion into the doctor-patient relationship.

“Finally, to help you make sense of it all, we’ll track legislation and keep an updated list on our website. At the end of the session we will create a scorecard on legislation that received a floor vote and on which we took a public position.

“We’re ready to make real, positive change in West Virginia, and we hope you’ll join us in this fight.”

You can get email alerts about these issues by signing up at [www.acluww.org/en/news/join-our-fight-2020](http://www.acluww.org/en/news/join-our-fight-2020).

The ACLU is also responding to the recent incident at the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation basic training class, where trainees were photographed giving the Nazi salute. The organization announced on December 30th that “During the upcoming session, we will advocate for a **Holocaust education requirement** in West Virginia middle and high schools. We cannot let the session end without making certain that all of our students know about the horrors of the Holocaust and other genocides.” To follow developments on this issue, please go to [www.acluww.org/en/news/memory-holocaust-slipping-away-we-cannot-let-happen](http://www.acluww.org/en/news/memory-holocaust-slipping-away-we-cannot-let-happen).



**FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA ANNOUNCES ONLINE FAIRNESS ACT ADVOCACY TRAINING:** With the legislative session starting now, Fairness is offering two online training programs.

“We’re gearing up for a tough legislative fight. If we want to finally pass a statewide law in 2020 that bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, we need your help. We need a engaged group of advocates across the state willing to step up and join the fight.

“Please join us for one of our two online advocacy trainings in January. All you need to join us is a computer and desire to make West Virginia a better place for LGBTQ people to live. We’ll learn about the time-tested messaging you can use to persuade family and friends, equip you with the answers to difficult questions you might face and expand the advocacy tools you have to make your voice heard at the capitol.

“As the training gets closer, you will be sent a link to the online training in your email.”

Sign up for one of the trainings – January 7 at 6:00 p.m. or January 18 at 1:00 p.m. at [fairnesswv.org/2019/12/27/become-a-better-advocate/](http://fairnesswv.org/2019/12/27/become-a-better-advocate/).



Fairness also has a list of **Faith Leaders for Fairness** available at [fairnesswv.org/faith/](http://fairnesswv.org/faith/) that includes people from around the state who support passing the Fairness Act to protect to include LGBTQ people. Morgantown faith leaders who have signed as of December 31, 2019, are Rev. Wes Bergen (Church of the Brethren, a CCSJ member organization), Rabbi Joseph Hample (Tree of Life Synagogue), M. Div. Amanda Kathryn Hill (WVU Medical Center), Rev. Matthew Johnson (Suncrest United Methodist Church), Rev. John Elliott Lein (St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church), Rev. Emily Misfeldt (Ruby Memorial Hospital), Rev. Zachary Morton (First Presbyterian Church), Rev. Stephen Prince (Mountaineer Charge, United Methodist Church) Moira Reilly



(WVU Medicine Children’s chaplain), Pastor Bob Roberts (First Christian Church), Rev. Shawn Weaver (Cheat Lake United Methodist Church), and Rev. Jennifer C. Williams (United Methodist Church). Others can sign up from the website so please spread the word.

**RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN JANUARY 2020**  
**FROM [www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2020/](http://www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2020/)**

**Note: This is a new source as Peter Clark, who supplied our previous calendars, is no longer able to do this.**

01/02 – Sikh: Guru Gobind Singh’s Birthday – honors Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708), the Sikhs’ tenth great master and teacher

01/06 – Christian: Epiphany – celebrated in Hispanic and some European countries, marking 12 days after Christmas and the three kings arriving in Bethlehem with gifts for baby Jesus

01/07 – Coptic Orthodox Christian: Christmas – observed on this date by the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt and several Eastern Orthodox Christian communities (Eastern Europe)

01/14 – Eastern Orthodox Christian: New Year

01/15 – Hindu: Makar Sankranti – harvest festival, marking the beginning of spring in India

01/19 – Baha’i: World Religion Day- celebrates oneness of world religions and a motivating force for world unity