



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

UPDATE: 1 MAY 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: While West Virginia is beginning to think about reopening, we are still following the physical distance guidelines and are not having a steering committee meeting in May.

Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfeld 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.

UPDATED LIBRARY BOOK LISTS ONLINE – For several years, the City of Morgantown provided funds for us to purchase library books focused on social justice issues for the Morgantown Public Library on Spruce Street. With funds from the Appalachian Community Foundation, we also purchased books for the Clinton District and Clay-Battelle Branch Libraries. Most of these are books for children.

The lists for African American books, economic justice books, and environmental justice books have been updated and are available now at ccsjwv.org/resources.html. While we do not know when the library will reopen, these lists may give you ideas for future reading.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2021 WILL BE JANUARY 18TH: We have applied to the City of Morgantown for support for our event in 2021. We are tentatively considering a theme that highlights historic West Virginia civil rights activists and/or the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Freedom Rides. Meanwhile mark your calendars for Monday, January 18th at 2:00 p.m. for our fifteenth annual celebration and let us know if you have ideas.



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

SUPPORT LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS: Do you want to “do something” to help in this difficult time when we are supposed to be staying at home? If so, we are suggesting that the following local organizations might benefit from any financial assistance you are able to provide as they help people in need in the Morgantown-Monongalia County area. As far as we know, all are 501 (c) (3) organizations so contributions would be deductible to the extent allowed by law:

Bartlett Housing Solutions (Bartlett House): www.bartletthousingsolutions.org/donate; 10 West Run Road, Suite 200, Morgantown, WV 26508, (304) 292-0101, info@bartlettthouse.org

Caritas House: www.facebook.com/pg/CaritasHouse/about/?ref=page_internal; 391 Scott Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26508, (304) 985-0021. See more about this effort below under the news from the Church of the Brethren.

Christian Help: www.motownchristianhelp.com/donate; 219 Walnut Street, Morgantown, WV 26505, In-Kind Contributions / Collection Drives: information@motownchristianhelp.com, (304) 296-0221; Financial Contributions: finance@motownchristianhelp.com, (304) 296-0221 ext. 11.

Community Kitchen, Inc. at Trinity Episcopal Church: www.morgantowncommunitykitchen.com/, PO Box 922, Morgantown, WV 26507.

Empty Bowls Monongalia: ebmon.org/, 7 Rousch Drive, Westover, WV 26501, (304) 241-5510

Milan Puskar Health Right: mphealthright.org/donate/, 341 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505, (304) 292-8234, info@mphealthright.org

Morgantown Area Meals on Wheels: morgantownwvmow.networkforgood.com/projects/79143-morgantown-area-meals-on-wheels-fundraising, 3375 University Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505, (304) 599-1954, morgantownareamow@gmail.com.

The Pantry Plus More: pantryplussmore.org/donate/, 9 Rousch Drive, Westover, WV 26501, (304) 282-1123, info@pantryplussmore.org.

Scotts Run Settlement House: www.srsh.org/, P O Box 590, Pursglove, WV 26546, (304) 599-5020, www.srsh.org/contact for email form.

The Shack Neighborhood House: www.the-shack.org/, P.O. Box 600 Pursglove, WV 26546, (304) 599.5466, www.the-shack.org/contact-us.html for email form.

United Way's list of food and hunger sites at www.unitedwaympc.org/food-hunger/

Your Community Foundation of North Central West Virginia, Inc., Emergency Impact Fund for North Central West Virginia: P.O. Box 409, Morgantown WV 26507, 304-296-3433 www.ycfwv.org/yfc-establishes-emergency-impact-fund-to-aid-in-covid-19-response/



YOUR VOTE MATTERS: The West Virginia Primary Election is now scheduled for **June 9th**. All Monongalia County registered voters should now have received an application for an absentee ballot.

The key dates are now:

May 19: Last day to register or update your voter registration

May 27 - June 6: Early Voting at Any registered voter within Monongalia County is eligible for early voting at Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Greenbag Rd., Unit D-20 (former Goodwill Store), Morgantown, WV 26505; Mason Dixon Park, 79 Buckeye Rd., Core, WV 26541; Westover Community Building, 399 Crowl St., Westover, WV 26501; WVU Alumni Center, 1 Alumni Dr., Morgantown, WV 26505; or Fort Pierpont - Suite #102, 200 Fort Pierpont Dr. Suite 102, Morgantown, WV 26508.

June 3: Last day to request an absentee ballot

June 9: ELECTION DAY and return of absentee ballot

Lists of candidates are available at services.sos.wv.gov/apps/elections/candidate-search/ for state-wide races and at monongaliacountyclerk.com/myfiles/elections/Candidate_Report.pdf for local races like sheriff and Board of Education members.

Please note that there are also four levies on the Monongalia County ballot that are renewals of the levies currently in effect with the addition of new organizations to the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Levy. They are the Monongalia County Urban Mass Transportation Authority Levy (supports MountainLine bus system), Fire Protection Levy (supports volunteer fire departments and others), Morgantown Public Library System Levy, and Parks, Trails, and Recreation Levy (supports Camp Muffly Park, Chestnut Ridge Park, Mason-Dixon Historical Park, Mon River and Deckers Creek Rail Trails, WV Botanic Garden, Westover Park Baseball Facilities, Cheat Lake and Laurel Point soccer fields, and the Morgantown Ice Arena). If you get an absentee ballot, the levy information and places to vote is on the back of the ballot.

For more information about Monongalia County, please go to monongaliacountyclerk.com/myfiles/elections/2020Primary/Absentee_Ballot_Info_4_28_2020.pdf.



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting should be Thursday, **May 21st** at 6:30 p.m. in the Public Safety Building Conference Room on Spruce Street. However, the City has been cancelling all non-essential meetings so stay tuned. 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 May which is Older Americans Month – Celebrates progress in protection of older in the United States and recognizes the importance of end-of-life independence and care for older adults.

And Asian Pacific American Heritage Month – Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

May 1: International Worker’s Day – Also known as May Day, it celebrates the social and economic achievements of workers worldwide. The day commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which police and protesters clashed following a worker’s strike for an eight-hour day.

May 3: World Press Freedom Day – Serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.

May 15: International Day of Families – Celebration of two or more persons providing a continuity of support for each other usually in terms of affection, nurture, security and protection.

May 21: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – Recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange, and creativity, as well as the obligation to create a more peaceful and equitable society based on mutual respect.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/. Events remain cancelled until further notice.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION: No updated information was available about future meetings at “press time.” Follow GMIA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/, on the web at www.morgantowninterfaith.org, or by email at morgantowninterfaith@gmail.com for updates.



NAACP MEETS MAY 19TH: This meeting will be at 5:30 p.m., probably via Zoom. Contact the NAACP at 3241naacp@gmail.com for more information and to learn how to participate.



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN-MENNONITE SUPPORTS CARITAS HOUSE: Throughout this crisis, Morgantown Church of the Brethren will be collecting personal and cleaning supplies for Caritas House. These supplies are delivered regularly by volunteers to people who are ill, isolating and/or quarantined and in need of help.

There is a waterproof collection box on the front porch of 464 Virginia Avenue for contributions. Needs include personal hygiene items, bleach, disinfecting wipes, paper products, and so on.



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN GOES VIRTUAL IN MAY: Two programs will be available via Zoom, with a link to be provided by email. Please contact the Fellowship at UUFMWV@gmail.com for more information.

May 3: Michael Siciliano will present an inspirational talk about Unitarian Universalism and Religiosity.

May 10: Duane Nichols will present "Crusade against Theocracy: The Reminiscences of Judge Jacob Smith Boreman of Utah, 1872-1877." This will be the Whitney Cross Presentation.

Since these are volunteer Zoom presentations, they are often very spontaneous.

If there is no service on Sunday, the Fellowship encourages everyone to go to <http://uupittsburgh.org/> and enjoy one of many Sunday Services. The 8:00 p.m. services with The Church of the Larger Fellowship is superb for an online service.



PFLAG MORGANTOWN ALSO GOES VIRTUAL IN MAY:

May 12 @ 6:00: PFLAG General Meeting via Zoom.
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96795335898?pwd=NGVdcGYxVFU4M00rRmU1cTVLQXB4UT09>

Meeting ID: 967 9533 5898

To access the password, please email secretary@pflagmorgantown.org.

Social Saturday at 9:00 a.m. every Saturday in May (5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/23, & 5/30) via Zoom.

Here is the information:

Amy Root is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

PFLAG Social Saturday Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

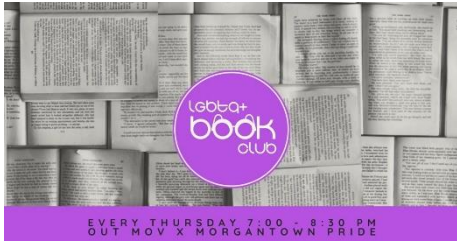
<https://zoom.us/j/624282185?pwd=Sm91cmIQXFPNjQ5ejh2cXJRU016dz09>

Meeting ID: 624 282 185

To access the password, please email secretary@pflagmorgantown.org.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE DIGITAL 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/.



Morgantown Pride is partnering with Out MOV to create an **LGBTQ+ online book club!** The hope is to connect with our community during this isolating time. The second book is *Sugar Run*, by Mesha Maren. Meetings will be held online every Thursday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with 4 weeks per book. Please Join us! The Zoom link is us04web.zoom.us/j/797659369.

INCREASING MORGANTOWN'S MUNICIPALITY EQUALITY INDEX UNDERWAY: Morgantown Pride members "have been working alongside the Morgantown Human Rights Commission to increase our Municipality Equality Index - which demonstrates how our city supports our LGBTQ+ community. With the suggestion of our mayor and HRC, we created two volunteer liaison positions for our city which can be found below. These positions have been voted on and passed by the Morgantown HRC."

They were presented to the Morgantown City Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting on April 28th. The position descriptions are below.

If you have comments, you can find contact information for council members at www.morgantownwv.gov/154/City-Council. Please note that meetings are now virtual meetings, so it is best to email comments to be read by the city clerk during the meeting. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 5th at 7:00 p.m.

LGBTQ+ City of Morgantown Liaison Position

Position Description: Under general supervision, the LGBTQ+ City liaison will serve as an accessible and friendly ear to the City's LGBTQ+ community and elevate LGBTQ+-related concerns to the City Manager and other City officials. The liaison will also develop, plan, organize, direct, and implement public information, employee support, and community education and organization efforts with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer communities. This includes planning, preparing, and distributing information to stimulate interest on the part of the community in the services and programs provided by The City of Morgantown and identifying existing and prospective needs for new or improved services or programs. The potential liaison shall interact with community groups, volunteer organizations, government agencies, various councils and boards, private business, etc., to improve communication and identify community interests and concerns. This position will include interaction with city employees and administrative and managerial staff in city departments to promote diversity and resolve problems and complaints. Extensive contact with the Mayor of Morgantown, Morgantown City Council, Human Rights Commission of Morgantown, The Minority Liaison Coordinating Council, and community members requires sensitivity, sound judgment, and a cognizance of the unique obstacles faced by people in the LGBTQ+ community.

Examples of Liaison Responsibilities:

- Acts as the LGBTQ+ liaison to the City of Morgantown, Human Rights Commission of Morgantown, The Minority Liaison Coordinating Council, community interest groups, volunteer organizations, etc., to facilitate community outreach, provide information about city services and programs, and promote and enhance diversity in the city workforce;

- Participates in meetings on a continuing basis and interprets city policies to area councils and community interest groups to identify and prioritize service needs, issues, topics, and concerns;
- Develops questionnaires and surveys to identify community interests, needs, perceptions, attitudes, and problem areas, and compiles and analyzes information to develop effective strategies and programs to ensure their needs are being met;
- Proposes and assists in the development or revision of city services, policies, procedures, outreach programs, and educational and informational materials based on community needs and concerns;
- Serves as a liaison with and nurtures relationships between the city and various organizations, interest groups, committees, etc., representing the LGBTQ+ community, to maintain a learning network designed to promote and identify the needs of the LGBTQ+ community;
- Consults with relevant parties with any investigation either with the Human Rights Commission of Morgantown or with city officials conducting the investigation;
- Meets with and counsels city employees and departmental representatives in order to resolve problems and complaints;
- Refers members of the public alleging charges of discrimination or harassment based on sexual orientation or gender to the Human Rights Commission of Morgantown, The Minority Liaison Coordinating Council, and Police LGBTQ+ Liaison, assisting claimants in negotiating the process;
- Prepares reports with supporting data, tables, graphs, demographics, etc., using computer applications for use by the administration in planning services and programs;
- Establishes priorities for involvement in community programs and activities within the framework of available budgetary and staff resources;
- Schedules, prepares, and conducts speaking engagements at organizations, community groups, schools, etc.;
- Researches and identifies areas where local, state, and federal issues or legislation may impact areas of concern as relates to the LGBTQ+ community and assists in formulating initiatives to address those issues;
- Collaborates with City Officials in the development of Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action policies, goals, and objectives to attract, retain, and promote a diverse workforce;
- Evaluates public information materials to determine their effectiveness in promoting and describing city programs and services;
- Provides information and referral services in response to inquiries from city employees, community interest groups, and individuals;
- Uses computer applications and other automated systems such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, e-mail, and database software in performing work assignments.
- *Attend educational events and trainings held by the City Police Liaison, Human Rights Commission of Morgantown, The Minority Liaison Coordinating Council, City Manager, and/or City Council.

Morgantown Police Officer Liaison Position

Position Description: Under general supervision, the LGBTQ+ Police Officer Liaison will serve as a dedicated officer that focuses on the public safety needs of the LGBTQ+ community and their allied community.

The officer will conduct educational initiatives alongside the LGBTQ+ City Liaison and Human Rights Commission on issues related to hate crimes and public safety. Their primary focus will be to gain trust of the LGBTQ+ and ally community and seek out information that leads to the closure of hate and violent crimes within the LGBTQ+ community. They will also conduct patrol functions and respond to all

LGBTQ+ based complaints. They will advocate creating mutual trust so the community members can gain increasing confidence in the police through the provision of fair and professional policing services. The potential liaison must interact with community groups, volunteer organizations, government agencies, various councils and boards, private business, etc., to improve communication and identify community interests and concerns. This position will include interaction with city employees and administrative and managerial staff in city departments to promote diversity and resolve problems and complaints. Extensive contact with the Mayor of Morgantown, Morgantown City Council, Morgantown Human Rights Commission, and community members requires sensitivity, sound judgment and a cognizance of the unique obstacles faced by people in the LGBTQ+ community.

Examples of Liaison Responsibilities:

- Attending the monthly Human Rights Commission of Morgantown meetings, Minority Liaison Coordinating Council meetings, and City Council meetings
- Present and lead in educational trainings alongside the City of Morgantown LGBTQ+ Liaison, Human Rights Commission of Morgantown, City Manager, and/or City Council
- Coordinating MPD participation in LGBTQ-related events in the city limits
- Creating a website or webpage "Safe Place" in which folks can contact the Police Liaison
- Responding to all "Safe Place MPD" website/webpage requests and inquiries
- Monitoring all LGBTQ+-related crime statistics and responses
- Working closely with the LGBTQ+ community on a variety of community-related events and issues.



MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER GALA STILL SCHEDULED FOR MAY 29: "It's 80's Night. Ladies grab your leg warmers and all things neon, it's 80's night! On May 29, 2020 the Monongalia County Child Advocacy Center will be hosting our annual Girls' Night Out fundraiser. The event will be held at the Erickson Alumni Center from 6:30-10 p.m. The evening will include pampering, entertainment,

food, cash bar, dancing, a live auction, and more! Come join us for a night of fun and dancing to help support children and families in our community. Who doesn't love a blast from the past? We hope to see you there!

Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite.com or by check or cash mailed to the MCCAC at 909 Greenbag Rd. Morgantown, WV 26505.

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 or email kanawhavalleynow@gmail.com.

West Virginia NOW has a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow and a web page at wvnow.org.

ACLU REACTS TO COVID-19: Go to www.acluww.org/ for links to ACLU press releases related to COVID-19, including ACLU news releases on preventing mass evictions, seeking records about COVID-19 in prisons and jails, and making remote learning more equitable and safe. There is also a link to “COVID-19 and

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN MAY 2020



05/07 – Buddhist: Vesak – also called Buddha Day, commemorates the birth, enlightenment and death of Buddha

05/21 – Christian: Ascension Day – marks the anniversary of the day Jesus rose to heaven

05/23 – Baha’i: Declaration of the Bab – commemorates the Bab’s prediction of the new messenger of God

05/23 – Islamic: Eid al-Fitr – begins at sighting of crescent moon, the Feast of Breaking the Fast marking the end of Ramadan

05/29 – Jewish: Shavuot – begins at sundown, festival of first fruits, following the key harvest season

FROM www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2020/