



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: 1 JUNE 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. **We are trying something new for us and will be meeting by Zoom on Tuesday, June 16th, at 7:30 p.m. Note the time change to 7:30. Everyone is invited to join us. The call-in and meeting identification number information will be sent later, but, if you have not used Zoom, you can go to zoom.us to learn how to access a meeting.**

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. The library is now open enough that people can order books and pick them up curbside. For more information on this procedure, please go to www.mympls.org/.

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. The City of Morgantown has granted our request for \$1850 to support this event, but it is subject to potential reduction depending on the City's financial situation because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



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@bartletthouse.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: pantryplusmore.org/donate/, 9 Rousch Drive, Westover, WV 26501, (304) 282-1123, info@pantryplusmore.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/ycf-establishes-emergency-impact-fund-to-aid-in-covid-19-response/



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

The key dates are:

Early voting continues June 1-6: 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. Early voting hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

June 3: Last day to request an absentee ballot

June 9: ELECTION DAY and return of absentee ballot. Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.

To quote the county clerk’s office, “Thank you in advance for wearing a face mask when you vote in person to protect the health and safety of our Election Officials!”

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, **June 18th** 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 June:

June LGBT Pride Month – Commemorates the anniversary of the June 28, 1969 Stonewall riot in New York City, the incident that initiated the modern gay rights movement in the United States. LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) Pride Day is the last Sunday in June.

June 1: Stand for Children Day – A day to emphasize the importance of standing up for children by supporting systemic change and increased funding for public education.

June 5: World Environment Day – Observance promoting an awareness of the impact of environmental conditions on individual and community well-being and food sources which make life possible for current and future generations.

June 8: World Oceans Day – Call for awareness of the importance of protecting oceans from pollution and rising sea levels to prevent individuals and entire communities from loss of property, housing, livelihood, and food supplies.

June 12: Loving Day – Observes the anniversary of the 1967 United States Supreme Court decision *Loving v. Virginia* which struck down the miscegenation laws in 16 states barring interracial marriage.

Race Unity Day: June 14 – Observance promoting racial harmony and understanding and the essential unity of humanity.

June 18: Juneteenth – Originally commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas in 1865, it is now celebrated throughout the United States to honor African-American freedom and achievement.

June 20: World Refugee Day – Raises awareness about the plight of refugees and displaced persons.

June 26: United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture - A day to remind people that human torture is not only unacceptable but also a crime and a universal violation of a human right.



The League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County reminds everyone to please complete your 2020 census form. You can google 2020census.gov to find the form.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/. April and May meetings were by video chat, but no June meeting has been posted as of “press time.”



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION

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Follow GMIA on Facebook at ww.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/, on the web at www.morgantowninterfaith.org, or by email at morgantowninterfaith@gmail.com

for updates.



NAACP MEETS JUNE 16TH: 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.



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN-MENNONITE: The congregation has been meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays for services via Zoom, which has allowed people who no longer live in the area to participate. They also plan to have some outdoor services on blankets at Wiles Hill Park. Follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634>.



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN STAYS VIRTUAL: Beth Houseknecht reports that “We have 3 folks who have reached out for June. Musician Andrew McKnight, a friend of Robb's named Bob, and Rev. O'Kelly - probably will include a membership meeting and that's 4.” 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.

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 EVENTS AND FUTURE PLANS: The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 9th from 6-7:30 via Zoom: zoom.us/j/7358121634?pwd=aEExalBnK24ycEFKYktlYXhJd3lzUT09, Meeting ID: 735 812 1634, Password: PFLAGSOC

“We decided that we would like to start a network of supportive listeners. The idea is that we want to continue to serve the community by offering folks people to talk with about their experiences. As such, if you're willing to be a supportive listener to individuals who reach out to PFLAG,” please contact Amy Root at kennedyamye@gmail.com. She “will add your name to a list of folks who will be contacted if a someone reaches out for some support/with questions. If there are specific topics you have personal experience with, let her know . . . If you volunteer, you will use the chapter Zoom account to communicate (i.e., you will not be giving personal phone number/email to strangers).”

PFLAG will participate in WVU's Diversity Week in October. Specifically, PFLAG and the WVU LGBTQ+ Center will host a panel on 'Faith and the New Sexuality.' If you'd like to join the education committee, please let Amy know at the above email.



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/. This is a very active Facebook page so please check it out for references to fighting racism and white privilege, ordering a Morgantown Pride t-shirt, and more.



“Please celebrate Pride Spirit Week with us!

“We encourage you to celebrate Prom week your way! Dress up and send us pics, make art, share your stories or dance a little. We are giving away various things this month including Pride attire, gift baskets and gift cards from local businesses and other fun stuff so send us pics, messages or emails to be included in the raffles each Sunday in June.”

And

“We are so excited to celebrate Pride Month! as an organization we are trying to find ways to safely celebrate at home. Please join us in showing off Your spirit! those who participate and share with us their Spirit week creations will be put into our weekly raffles for giveaways. We encourage you to dress up, make art and share your inspirations with us. Please tag Morgantown Pride, email us or private message us to be eligible for our giveaways.”

FACEBOOK LIVE EVENT WAS MAY 31ST: This was hosted by Women's March WV Eastern Panhandle, Women's March West Virginia, Morgantown-Kingwood NAACP Branch #3241, Morgantown Pride, West Virginia Working Families Party, Our Future West Virginia, and ACLU of West Virginia. It looks like there were 4,000 people watching the program.

The speakers were Dr. Jerry Carr Jr. (president of the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP), Romelia Hodges (Fairmont Alliance of Minorities Network Administrator; Commissioner of the Governor's African American Task Force), Rosemary Ketchum (Wheeling City Council Candidate Ward 3), Jason Davis (Kyumei Ju Jitsu LLC), Audra Slocum (Associate Professor of English Education, WVU), Stephen Smith (Candidate for Governor), Jennifer Wells (Our Future West Virginia), Delegate Sean Hornbuckle (District 16), Delegate Sammi Brown (District 65), Delegate Danielle Walker (District 51), Mollie Kennedy (ACLU-WV), and Ash Cutright (Morgantown Pride).

There were requests that this powerful program be recorded and made available later.

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.



FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES: “Too many transgender people in West Virginia can't access the healthcare they need. We're working to fix that. We launched an interactive health guide for transgender people across our state, and we're adding more providers and clinics each month!” Check out the guide at fairnesswv.org/transhealthguide/.

Fairness also wants to hear stories: “Calling all LGBTQ people in West Virginia: Have you faced discrimination because of your sexual orientation or gender identity? If so, we want to hear your story! Unfortunately, too many people still don't believe LGBTQ people face discrimination in the year

2020. Share your story with us so we can fight for bills like the Fairness Act.”

Share your story at fairnesswv.org/stories/

Follow Fairness West Virginia on Facebook (and see the above image in a larger format!) at

www.facebook.com/fairnesswv.



ACLU ANNOUNCES REVISED PRIDE SCHEDULE: Events will take place as follows: Wheeling – August 22-23; Morgantown – September 5; Parkersburg and Huntington – October 10; Fairmont, Lost River, Charleston, and Elkins – all to be announced; Eastern Panhandle, Buckhannon, and Beckley – all canceled.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN JUNE 2020

06/07 – Christian: Trinity Sunday – celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

06/11 – Roman Catholic: Feast of Corpus Christi – Latin for ‘Body of Christ’, this movable Christian feast commemorates the Holy Eucharist

06/14 – Baha’i: Race Unity Day – celebrated worldwide to promote racial harmony and understanding

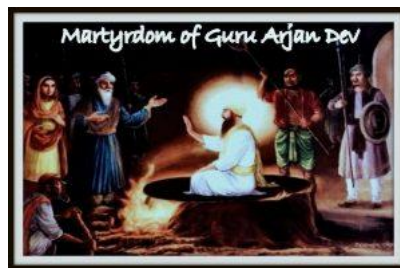
06/14 – Eastern Orthodox Christian: All Saints Day – marks the close of the Easter season

06/16 – Sikh: Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib

06/19 – Roman Catholic: Feast of the Sacred Heart – one of the most popular of all devotions in the Roman Catholic Church

06/20 – Pagan and Wiccan: Litha (Summer Solstice) begins at sundown – sabbat observed on the summer solstice

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www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-