



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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ccsjwv@hotmail.com
www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: DECEMBER 1, 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.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH AT 7:30 P.M. VIA ZOOM. All are welcome.

Here is the Zoom information. Please note that Zoom now requires either a password or a waiting room. This is set up for a waiting room.

Barb Howe is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Community Coalition for Social Justice December Meeting
Time: Dec 15, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87528465801>

Meeting ID: 875 2846 5801

One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,87528465801# US (Washington D.C); +13126266799,,87528465801# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location:

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C), +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York), +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 875 2846 5801

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87528465801>

The Zoom information will be mailed out again the weekend before the meeting and then again that morning. It will also be posted on our website at www.ccsjwv.org and on our Facebook page.

The recording of our September 15th annual meeting with Rev. Ronald English is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYEK9tl_vVY&feature=youtu.be

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.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2021 WILL BE JANUARY 18TH AT 2:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM: Our theme is “**West Virginia Civil Rights Leaders.**” The Zoom link will be available on our website and Facebook page. We are co-sponsoring this virtual event this year with the WVU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and Main Street Morgantown

Ilene Evans will provide a virtual portrayal of West Virginian Memphis Tennessee Garrison as our featured event for the day. According to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia, “Teacher and civic activist Memphis Tennessee Carter (March 3, 1890-July 25, 1988) was born in Hollins, Virginia. . . . she grew up in the southern West Virginia coalfields. . . .



Garrison graduated from Bluefield State College in 1939. She taught school in McDowell County and also served as a welfare worker for the U.S. Steel Company in Gary, its company town. In this latter capacity, she helped to settle racial disputes, provided counseling to black miners and their families, and developed cultural and recreational opportunities for residents of the area.

Garrison was active with the Republican Party and with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She helped to develop and sustain chapters of the NAACP in southern West Virginia, and served as a national vice president and as a field secretary who undertook special organizing and membership activities. One of her most important achievements was the creation of the Christmas Seal Project, which became an important fund-raising effort for the NAACP.” The photo is from e-WV at www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2083.

We are pleased that The Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP has invited **DeMarcus Bandy** to participate in our program as their representative. His presentation will be on “Structural and Systemic Racism and How to Build an Equitable Future.” Demarcus is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Mountaineer Middle School. He participates in the TAG program and is a member of the Varsity basketball and track teams. He aspires to be a robotics engineer in the future. This is his 3rd year participating in this event.

We appreciate the financial support from the City of Morgantown for this program.

CCSJ ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE: Our annual report for October 1, 2019, -September 30, 2020, is available at <http://ccsjwv.org/documents/about-us/2019-20%20annual%20report.pdf>.

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 library has added some of these at the Arnettsville branch.

The lists have been updated and are available now at ccsjwv.org/resources.html. There are two lists. One is exclusively books focused on African Americans. The other list includes our former environmental justice and economic justice lists. There is an index on page 3 of the “catalog” that includes links to the various topics so that you can easily find something that might interest you.

For more information on the library’s current procedures and hours, please go to www.mympls.org/.



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

City of MORGANTOWN APPROVED “A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY POLICING” AT ITS SEPTEMBER 1ST MEETING: The committee working on this issue next meets on December 7th at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom, and all are welcome to participate. Agendas and call-in information are posted at www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/Search/?term=&CIDs=35,&startDate=&endDate=&dateRange=&dateSelector=.



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting should be Thursday, **December 17th** 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/.

The Human Rights Commission has announced the recipients of its **2020 Human Rights Day Awards**. The individual award winner is **Mavis Grant-Lilley**, and the group/organization award goes to **First Presbyterian Church**. The awards will be presented on December 15th at 7:00 p.m. during the Morgantown City Council meeting via WebEx. The link to the City Council meeting will be available at hwww.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/.

Award recipients also will be recognized at a **special ceremony on December 17th at 5:30 p.m.** in front of the Monongalia Arts Center on High Street. West Virginia Delegate Danielle Walker will be the keynote speaker, and the award recipients will speak briefly about their experience. The event will also be streamed live on the Human Rights Commission’s Facebook page. The community is invited to view the event online at www.facebook.com/MorgantownHRC and celebrate Human Rights Day.

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 December:

December 2: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery – Slavery is not just history but affects over 30 million persons throughout the world today. Its roots are in discrimination, poverty and indebtedness, vulnerability, and the rule of law.

December 3: International Day of Disabled Persons – Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.

December 10: International Human Rights Day – On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

December 16: Bill of Rights Day – Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791 – including the First Amendment Rights of religion, association, speech, petition, and press.

December 18: International Migrants Day – A day to affirm commitment to diverse and open societies which provide opportunities and lives of dignity for all migrants.



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

The December meeting will be **December 8th at 7:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Details and agenda are available through the weekly newsletter or email morgantownnow@gmail.com.



MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS DECEMBER 15TH: 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 has committees on Education; Communications, Press and Publicity; Criminal Justice; Political Action; Legal Redress; Health; Community Coordination; and Environmental and Climate Justice.

Join us for an insightful discussion on racial disparities in West Virginia, featuring

KELLY ALLEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR •
WV CENTER ON BUDGET & POLICY

Thurs., Dec. 3 • 6pm • Facebook Live:
Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the
NAACP page and community group

Morgantown-Kingwood
Branch of the NAACP
morgantownNAACP.org

You can join via Zoom, or on the chapter's Facebook page, where the event will be live-streamed.

Use the Zoom information below, or RSVP on Facebook and send the link to friends so that they can

join: <https://fb.me/e/3JBgo1CMJ>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87380393703?pwd=SXlVa0pOUmJUYU9vMUF3bnRJeUhBZz09>

Meeting ID: 873 8039 3703 Passcode: 577302

One tap mobile: +13017158592,87380393703#,,,,,,0#,577302# US (Washington D.C)

Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/morgantown.naacp.



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN-MENNONITE DISTRIBUTED ADVENT BASKETS: These included candles, holders, reading material, goodies, and objects of beauty. Advent began on November 29th.

Services continue online with information available at www.morgantowncob.org/.

Follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634.



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN STAYS VIRTUAL WITH THESE PROGRAMS IN DECEMBER:

December 6: Monthly Board Meeting

December 13: Rev. Michael D. O'Kelly (Minister emeritus and Poet) with a seasonal address

December 20: Joining UU's of Greater Pittsburgh for a Seasonal Program featuring Matt Meyers from Boston

December 27: WV Delegate Barbara Evans Fleischauer with insights and updates

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 MORGANTOWN DECEMBER EVENTS: There will not be a monthly meeting in December. There will be Social Saturdays on December 5th, 12th, and 19th. The Raising Trans Kids group will meet on December 12th.

Follow this group on Facebook at facebook.com/pflagmorgantown/?ref=page_internal.



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AT 7:00 P.M., VIA ZOOM.

“The speaker will be Morgantown PRIDE President Ash Orr who will present a session on anti-racism training, including some of the special problems faced by people of color.

"If you're interested in attending, please RSVP to <https://bit.ly/DismantlingRacismTogether-December> and a link will be sent to you.

"If you have any questions, please email them to DismantlingRacismTogether@gmail.com."

Videos of the November meeting with Mollie Kennedy of the ACLU and the October meeting with representatives of the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP are available at www.firstpresmorgantown.org/dismantling-racism-together.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE: Follow this group on Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/ as events are sometimes posted on short notice.



WVU LGBTQ+ Center WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT ONLINE FROM 1:00 TO 2:15 P.M.: "Join the LGBTQ+ Center for a special program featuring distinguished speakers Anne Behr, BSN RN of WVU's Positive Health Clinic, who will discuss HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment; and author/activist/alumnus Hank Trout, who will discuss 'The San Francisco Principles,' a call for new research and healthcare measures for long-term HIV/AIDS survivors."

To receive the Zoom meeting link to attend, please RSVP at <https://docs.google.com/.../1XBLANqRTUB.../edit>

For more information on any of these activities, please go to lgbtq.wvu.edu/home or follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/search/top?q=wvu%20lgbtq%20center.



WVU PROGRAM FOR NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES ANNOUNCES AMERICAN INDIAN ARCHIVES WORKSHOP: Native American Studies will host a workshop for West Virginia Educators and Librarians, in collaboration with Dickinson College-Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center, the Carlisle Indian School Project, and WVU Libraries. DETAILS to be Announced in Spring 2021. (Grant Funding Assistance from the West Virginia Humanities Council).



MON COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER IS THE HOMETOWN CHARITY FOR THE 2020 SUBARU SHARE THE LOVE EVENT. "This is such an honor and we look forward to working closely with the Subaru team again this year to raise money to support children in our community who have experienced abuse and neglect. When you purchase a vehicle, now through January 4, 2021, you can choose the MCCAC as your charity

and \$250 will be donated to our agency. Last year, Subaru raised \$16,759 in support of the MCCAC. Thank you Subaru of Morgantown for your continued support.

"As a part of our partnership with Subaru of Morgantown we will be hosting a Holiday Celebration at the Subaru show room on December 12th between 12-4! Enjoy some hot cocoa, send a letter to Santa, meet Frosty and check out some cars. We hope to see you there! For more details call Kelsey Lillard (304) 598-0344."

STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS



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

ACLU WEST VIRGINIA ANNOUNCES WEST VIRGINIA CRIMINAL LAW REFORM COALITION:

According to the ACLU web site, “A coalition of organizations working to reform West Virginia’s outdated, costly, and ineffective system of criminal laws is optimistic for the possibility of continued bipartisan cooperation ahead of the 2021 Legislative Session.

“The West Virginia Criminal Law Reform Coalition has also launched a new website that will serve as a hub for the many ongoing reform efforts. The website will provide in-depth information on key policy proposals in addition to other tools like a blog section, volunteer sign-up and a policy simulator that will help visitors see just how much money could be saved by reducing incarceration.

“‘During what is a deeply divisive time in our country, criminal law reform is one issue that both sides of the political spectrum agree can have a positive impact,’ said Lida Shepherd, co-director American Friends Service Committee, WV Economic Justice Project (AFSC). ‘We hope this new website will be a useful resource for people, including lawmakers and the public, to get informed and especially get involved in the movement for criminal law reform.’

“Lawmakers enacted an historic number of reform bills in 2020. The ten bills passed in this year’s legislative session will help make West Virginia’s criminal laws more humane and less burdensome to taxpayers, said Eli Baumwell, policy director for the American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia (ACLU-WV)

“‘West Virginia is finally waking up to the reality of our criminal system,’ Baumwell said. ‘With bipartisan support in the Legislature and a growing coalition of activists and organizations, this platform will serve as the hub for much-needed reform efforts.’

“Now more than ever, policymakers must focus on decreasing the number of people in West Virginia’s crowded incarceration facilities, said Greg Whittington, president of the WV Family of Convicted People (WVFCP).

“‘Most of the people sitting in our jails have not been found guilty of any crime,’ Whittington said. ‘They are in jail because they are too poor to purchase their freedom as they await trial. Because it is impossible to adhere to social distancing guidelines in these facilities, we have seen simple misdemeanor charges become death sentences.’

“The Rev. Jeff Allen, executive director of the West Virginia Council of Churches (WVCC), said: ‘We are excited about this initiative that will look for ways to help make the criminal justice system in West Virginia fairer, more just, and redemptive.’

“Quenton King, criminal justice policy analyst with the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy (WVCBP), said: ‘The West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy is proud to be a founding partner of the West Virginia Criminal Law Reform Coalition. The advocacy and research of the coalition is a long-

overdue step toward shining light on the disparities and injustices that occur at all levels of our legal system.’

“The website address is www.freedomwv.org.”



FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA is starting its effort to pass the Fairness Act in the 2021 Legislative session. This would amend the state Human Rights Law to include banning discrimination in employment and housing based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Sign up to be part of this campaign at fairnesswv.org/2020/10/04/tell-house-speaker-hanshaw-its-time-to-pass-the-fairness-act/.

“West Virginia Medicaid Participants & State Employees File Suit Challenging Ban on Transgender Health Coverage

“A federal lawsuit challenging West Virginia’s blanket exclusions of coverage for gender-confirming care in West Virginia’s Medicaid and state employee health insurance plans was filed today. The class-action lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia on behalf of Christopher Fain, a Medicaid participant; and Zachary Martell and Brian McNemar, a dependent and state employee, respectively. The suit was filed by Lambda Legal, Nichols Kaster, PLLP, and the Employment Law Center, PLLC.

“‘Transgender and nonbinary West Virginians are denied coverage for essential, and sometimes life-saving, gender-confirming care—while cisgender West Virginians receive coverage for the same kinds of care as a matter of course. The exclusions of gender-confirming care in West Virginia’s state health plans are unconstitutional and discriminatory, and deny transgender and nonbinary West Virginians basic dignity, equality, and respect.’ said Avatara Smith-Carrington, Tyron Garner Memorial Fellow at Lambda Legal and lead attorney on the case.

“*Fain v. Crouch* is a class action lawsuit challenging blanket exclusions of coverage for gender-confirming care in West Virginia’s state health plans. The blanket exclusions of coverage for care are stated expressly in the health plans offered to Medicaid participants and to state employees. West Virginia’s state health plans serve approximately 564,000 Medicaid participants and 15,000 state employees.”

More information about this lawsuit is available at <http://fairnesswv.org/2020/11/12/lambda-legal-files-lawsuit-challenging-wvs-discriminatory-health-plans/>.

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

2020 SUMMIT ON RACE MATTERS IN WEST VIRGINIA: The purpose of this summit is to discuss race in a comprehensive, collaborative, and compassionate manner designed to build the Beloved Community in West Virginia. Presented by the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, more information and registration available here. **The next session is Thursday, December 3rd.** Beginning at **4:00 pm**, the sixth and final session of the series will focus on race matters in housing and wealth. The speaker line-up is as follows:

Keynote Speaker: Boyce Watkins; Panelists: Valerie R. Wilson and Reverend Matthew Watts

The summit website, www.racematterswv.tv, contains information about the series and the registration link.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN DECEMBER 2020

From: www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2020/



12/08 – Roman Catholic: Feast of the Immaculate Conception – celebrates the Roman Catholic belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, conceived without original sin

12/08 – Buddhist: Bodhi Day (Buddha’s Enlightenment) – Mahāyāna Buddhists celebrate Buddha’s attainment of understanding

12/10 – Jewish: Hanukkah (12/11-12/18) begins at sundown – commemorates the Jewish victory over the Syrian Greeks, ending a three-year period of religious persecution

12/20 – Pagan and Wiccan: Yule begins at sundown – sabbat celebrated on the winter solstice, often observed as the rebirth of the great horned hunter god and the newborn solstice sun

12/25 – Christian: Christmas – celebrates the birth of Jesus, a public holiday in many countries worldwide

12/26 – Roman Catholic: St Stephen’s Day – public holiday