



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

UPDATE: JANUARY 1, 2021

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2021 WILL BE JANUARY 18TH AT 2:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM AND FACEBOOK LIVE: Our theme is **“West Virginia Civil Rights Leaders.”** You must pre-register at <https://bit.ly/3mnuXgw> to attend via Zoom. You do NOT have to be an OLLI member to register. You can set up a free Zoom account at zoom.us.

No registration is required to watch the presentation on Facebook. To view the presentation via **Facebook Live**, on the day of the event go to the OLLI page at <https://www.facebook.com/olliatwvu>, and the stream should appear at the top of the OLLI page. This live video will start approximately ten minutes prior to the event and should appear at the top of the OLLI Facebook page once streaming has begun. If there are any problems, we will post messages on Facebook alerting you of delays or other issues.

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 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. This is his 3rd year participating in this event.

We will also welcome Janis-Rozena Peri singing Dr. King’s favorite song, “If I Can Help Somebody,” and “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing.”

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

COMMUNITY COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE/DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER COMMUNITY FORUM IS FEBRUARY 3.

All are welcome to join Dismantling Racism Together and CCSJ for this Zoom event, with the link provided below.

Dismantling Racism Together is a small group of people who came together last fall with energy to seek ways to combat systemic racism in our community. Through monthly Zoom meetings, members have been learning about racism and specifically how the NAACP and ACLU approach the topic. After learning about CCSJ’s broad community reach, having an information gathering community forum was suggested.

Simply put, we hope the meeting will be a time for participants to share what is on their racism-related agenda, identify local examples of systemic racism and, if there is sufficient energy, test the waters to identify/prioritize an initiative. At a minimum, we would identify areas for dismantling work and learn of the allies in the community.

The following topical areas are suggested for the agenda:

1. identify local examples of systemic racism,
2. what is on the racism-related agenda of other participants,
3. what are others, not present, doing to combat systemic racism, and,
4. identify/prioritize an initiative.

Time: Feb 3, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88416123662>

Meeting ID: 884 1612 3662

One tap mobile

+13126266799,88416123662# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,88416123662# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 884 1612 3662

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdoKR1X1Jh>

CCSJ Supports HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION RESOLUTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL: The Morgantown Human Rights Commission has asked us to comment at the January 26th Morgantown City Council Committee of the Whole meeting in support of their proposed resolutions on land acknowledgement -we will include that statement in our MLK Day 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.”

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.

LOCAL NEWS

The City of MORGANTOWN SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY POLICING AND CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD MEETS JANUARY 4TH at 3:00 p.m. This meeting will take place via WebEx at cityofmorgantown.my.webex.com/meet/cityofmorgantown using the meeting number 793 734 477. The meeting will be broadcast live on Morgantown 15 and live streamed via the City of Morgantown website at morgantownwv.viebit.com/. The public can also listen live by calling 408-418-9388 and using the access code 793 734 477.

Meetings are usually held every Monday afternoon. Go to www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter and look for the name of the committee to get the WebEx information for each week.

We understand that there are tentative plans to present the ordinance creating this board at the Morgantown City Council Committee of the Whole meeting on January 26 at 7:00 p.m. via WebEx. The Agenda Center link above will have information on the agenda for that meeting, ways to access the meeting, and ways to comment on agenda items.



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting should be Thursday, **January 21st** 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 plans to present two resolutions to City Council at the January 26th meeting. One is a “RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF A LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT FOR THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN,” acknowledging that “we are on the traditional territory of native peoples, including, over time, the Shawnee, Delaware (Lenape), the Seneca of the Iroquois (Haudenosaunee) Confederacy, and others.” The second is a “RESOLUTION FOR RECOGNIZING THE SECOND MONDAY IN OCTOBER AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S DAY RATHER THAN COLUMBUS DAY.”

CCSJ supports these resolutions and will express that support to City Council on the 26th. To add your support, please see the information above about the Special Committee’s presentation that night.

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 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 18: 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.



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

The January meeting will January 12th 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 JANUARY 19TH: 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.



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN-MENNONITE: 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 JANUARY:

January 3: Board Meeting

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 JANUARY EVENTS:



Please join us for the Morgantown PFLAG January 2021 Events!

January Meeting: *General Meeting & Allyship TED Talk & Discussion*

Tuesday, January 12, 6:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/99672862356> Meeting ID: 996 7286 2356;

Passcode: AllyVerb

January Meeting Agenda

- I. Check In/social
- II. Education committee updates
- III. Membership Renewal
- IV. Elections for PFLAG Board – April 2021
- V. Other news?
- VI. Allyship TED Talk & Discussion

Good (brief) readings:

<https://info.umkc.edu/diversity/ally-is-not-a-noun/>

<https://hbr.org/2020/11/be-a-better-ally>

January Social Saturday

Every Saturday (1/2, 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, and 1/29) 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting,

[https://zoom.us/j/93329780701,](https://zoom.us/j/93329780701)

Meeting ID: 933 2978 0701,

Passcode: Latte

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



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY 13TH FROM 7:00-8:30 P.M. VIA ZOOM:

“As we continue to learn more about the systemic racism that exists in our community so that we can work directly to dismantle it, the January meeting of Dismantling Racism Together will take a closer look at the many ways the issues exist in our community, and how the dominant class often doesn’t realize either that it exists or that it benefits them.

“J. Spenser Darden, director of diversity initiatives and community engagement for West Virginia University’s Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will lead us into a deeper understanding and awareness of how ingrained racism is in ‘the system’.

“If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to <http://bit.ly/DismantlingRacismTogether-Jan21> and the login information will be sent to you.

“Also, you can mark your calendars for Feb. 3 for an evening joint meeting with the Community Coalition for Social Justice and as many other groups working on related issues as we can gather so that we can all become more aware of the many initiatives at work in the community.

“Let us all hope that the coming year brings with it more healing of our society as well as our bodies.”



MORGANTOWN PRIDE: Follow this group on Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/ as events are sometimes posted on short notice. You can also get more information at <http://morgantownwvpride.org/>.



WVU LGBTQ+ CENTER: For more information, 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: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WVU-Native-American-Studies-Program-287569261271676 or nas.wvu.edu/home.



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.”



WVU FOOD JUSTICE IN APPALACHIA PROJECT: January 22, noon, Food Justice in Appalachia with Joshua Lohnes, WVU Food Policy Research Director. This event is free and open to the public, but you must register at <https://wvu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYkde-qpzovEtlfSuNxJteay3uWoRXTQli0>.

There will also be an exhibit at the WVU Downtown Campus Library from August 2021 through June 2022. All are welcome to contribute art, photos, recipes, etc. before the deadline on February 1. For more information, please go to exhibits.lib.wvu.edu/gallery_foodjustice.



STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS

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

“



FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA ANNOUNCES LEADING EQUALITY CITIES: Huntington has again earned a 100% rating from the Human Rights Campaign’s Municipal Equality Index. Lewisburg and Wheeling improved their scores this year because they have openly LGBTQ people serving in elected or appointed roles. Charleston and Huntington are “All- Star” cities, with Charleston’s score at 91. For more information, please go to fairnesswv.org/2020/12/03/huntington-wv-earns-national-recognition-for-lgbtq-inclusivity/. Morgantown’s score was 77 – 3rd highest of the seven state cities scored.

Fairness is also offering free virtual training to be a better advocate for LBTQ people. “We’re gearing up for a tough legislative fight. If we want to finally pass the Fairness Act, a statewide law in 2021 banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, we need your help. We need an engaged group of advocates across the state willing to step up and join the fight.

“Please join us for one of our three online advocacy webinars in the New Year. All you need to join us is a computer and a desire to make West Virginia a better place for LGBTQ people to live. Participants learn about the time-tested messaging you can use to persuade family and friends to support equality for all people. We’ll 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 — even in the midst of a pandemic.

“We’re offering three virtual training sessions this year over zoom:

“Thursday, Jan. 14 at 6 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 30 at 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m.

“After signing up below, you will be sent a link to join the zoom meeting as the session you selected gets closer.”

Registration is available at <http://fairnesswv.org/2020/12/18/join-our-virtual-training-to-become-a-better-advocate-for-lgbtq-people/>

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

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN JANUARY 2021

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

1/1 – Black American: Emancipation Proclamation – President Abraham Lincoln declared all slaves to be free

1/4 – People with Disabilities: Louis Braille – birthday of the blind pioneer, who invented the most widely-used form of writing for the blind

1/6 – Christian: Epiphany – commemorates the arrival of the three kings, with gifts for the baby Jesus

1/14 – Hindu: Makar Sankranti or Maghi – celebrates the harvest

1/20 – Black American: Martin Luther King Jr. Day – national holiday celebrating the birthday of this social justice leader

1/27 – United Nations: International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

1/29 – Black American: Oprah Winfrey – the highly influential media billionaire was born on this day