



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

UPDATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2021

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.

Racism exists in our society, in our nation, and, yes, in our town. Two Morgantown organizations, Dismantling Racism Together and The Community Coalition for Social Justice, are co-sponsoring a meeting on the evening of Feb. 3 (via Zoom) to discuss and learn more about racism in our community and what we can and must do to address it.

It is our hope that by all of us coming together for this discussion, we can find ways to coordinate our efforts and to work together to learn more about how to begin to dismantle racism locally.

We hope you will join us. Below is the information you will need to sign into the meeting.

Topic: Community Coalition for Social Justice/Dismantling Racism Together Community Forum

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

Join Zoom Meeting: 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)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 884 1612 3662

Find your local number: us02web.zoom.us/j/kdoKR1X1Jh, with the link provided below.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 16th, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. All are welcome.

Here is the Zoom link:

Barb Howe is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Community Coalition for Social Justice Meeting

Time: Feb 16, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: us02web.zoom.us/j/83527574441

Meeting ID: 835 2757 4441

One tap mobile

+13126266799, 83527574441# US (Chicago)

+16468769923, 83527574441# 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 DC)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 835 2757 4441

Find your local number: us02web.zoom.us/j/kcJcQ4II7V

CCSJ SUPPORTS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION RESOLUTIONS FOR MORGANTOWN CITY COUNCIL: The Morgantown Human Rights Commission has asked us to comment at the February 23rd Morgantown City Council Committee of the Whole meeting in support of their proposed resolutions on land acknowledgement, Indigenous People's Day, and CROWN non-discrimination. We "debuted" the land acknowledgement statement during our Martin Luther King, Jr., Day event and have added our name to the documentation that Bonnie Brown, coordinator of the West Virginia University Native American Studies Program, is compiling to present to City Council in support of that resolution and the one on Indigenous People's Day. These resolutions were scheduled for presentation in January but were postponed to February. We expect to also support CROWN non-discrimination.

You can find copies of the resolutions at ccsjwv.org/local-news.html.

Bonnie Brown, Jena Martin, and Don Spencer will make the presentations at the Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the virtual meeting. There will be a public comment period on the agenda immediately following the presentations to allow for 2–3-minute comments. The hope is that the resolutions will come-up for City Council's public hearings at 7:00 p.m. at the virtual meeting on March 2. The vote on whether to adopt would follow.

Don Spencer is asking for letters of support to Mayor Dulaney for Council review on the three applications as soon as possible. The date for the Committee of the Whole meeting is February 23rd, but the deadline for the agenda preparation is February 16. The Mayor's Council email address provided on the City website is: rdulaney@morgantownwv.gov.

Please send copies of your letters to Don at dspencer36@comcast.net.

If you wish to watch the City Council meetings online or comment on these resolutions during the public portion, go to www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter and click on the “download” button for the agenda for the meeting you wish to watch. The agenda is usually posted on the Friday before the meeting.

THANK YOU TO FIRSTENERGY FOUNDATION: CCSJ has received a grant of \$2,000 from the FirstEnergy Foundation to support our work. We thank Elizabeth Durr, who works in the Regional External Affairs office, for her initiative in making this possible and will keep everyone posted as we decide how to use this generous gift.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2021 WAS JANUARY 18TH VIA ZOOM AND FACEBOOK LIVE: Our theme was “**West Virginia Civil Rights Leaders.**” Thank you to the approximately 170 people we could identify who watched or participated via OLLI, CCSJ’s Facebook page, or the NAACP Facebook page.

Ilene Evans portrayed West Virginian Memphis Tennessee Garrison as our featured event for the day. We were pleased that the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP invited DeMarcus Bandy to participate in our program as their representative. His presentation was 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.

Morgantown Mayor Ron Dulaney welcomed everyone on behalf of the City, and Dr. Hope Koehler sang “Hold On” and “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing.”

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

You can see Mayor Dulaney’s introduction, Barb Howe’s PowerPoint on “West Virginia Civil Rights Leaders,” and Morgantown/Kingwood NAACP Branch president, Dr. Jerry Carr, Jr.’s, introduction of Demarcus Bandy on our website at ccsjwv.org/ccsj-news.html#MLK-Jr-Day-2021.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY 2022: We have submitted our funding request to the City of Morgantown for funding for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day 2022 and signed a contract with the Metropolitan Theatre with the hope that we can all gather again there next year. Please let us know if you have ideas as we begin to plan this event.

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.



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 should be Thursday, **February 18th** 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 three resolutions to City Council at the February 23rd 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.” The third is a RESOLUTION FOR SUPPORT OF “CROWN” NON-DISCRIMINATION IN THE CITY AND IN THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA.

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 February, which is Black History Month, celebrating Black History Month – Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.

February 1-7: World Interfaith Harmony Week

February 14: Race Relations Day – A day designated by the National Council of Churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations and learning.

February 15: Susan B. Anthony Day - Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), a pioneer in the Women’s Rights Movement.

February 20: World Day of Social Justice – Recognition of the imperative for tackling issues such as poverty, exclusion, and unemployment.



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

The February meeting will **February 9th 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 FEBRUARY 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. The branch has committees on Education; Communications, Press and Publicity; Criminal Justice; Political Action; Legal Redress; Health; Community Coordination; and Environmental and Climate Justice.

The NAACP is providing information about the proposed ordinance to create a Civilian Police Review and Advisory Board. Members were part of the City of Morgantown Special Committee on Community Policing and Citizens Review Board that presented its ordinance creating this board at the Morgantown City Council Committee of the Whole meeting on January 26th. No date has been set for a vote on this ordinance. Information about the ordinance is available at www.facebook.com/naacp3241/. Members are available to speak to local groups so please email 3241naacp@gmail.com if your organization would like to learn more.



Empty Bowls[™]
— MONONGALIA —

EMPTY BOWLS IS FEBRUARY 27TH: Empty Bowls Monongalia will be a drive-thru event from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available for a minimum donation of \$15 each for those ages

13 and above. For more information, to buy tickets online, and to sign up to volunteer, please go to ebmon.org/luncheon/.



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 FEBRUARY:

February 7: Meeting of the UUFM Board

February 14: History Professor Joe Super

February 21: UUA Siding With Love Sunday

February 28: Earth and Existence Part 2 Human Consciousness with Personal Identity Michael Siciliano

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 FEBRUARY EVENTS:



Understanding the Transgender Transitional Process: Birth Sex to Gender Identity
Moderator: Mavis Grant-Lilley
Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 10:00 – 11:50 am

PFLAG Morgantown and WVU OLLI partner to bring you the course on **February 3rd** at 10:00 a.m. on Understanding the Transgender Transitional Process: Birth Sex to Gender Identity, moderated by Mavis Grant-Lilley.

Specialists for transgender persons will present information on how gender affirmation in youth through adults may be achieved by focusing on genetics, and biological, endocrinological, and psychological needs. There will be opportunity for questions and answers.

About the moderator: Mavis Grant-Lilley is the Chair of the Education Committee of Morgantown PFLAG.

To Join OLLI and Enroll: Visit Morgantown OLLI website at: olliatwvu.org/morgantown/

RAISING TRANS KIDS: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2:00 P.M. TO 3:30 P.M.: “This meeting is for parents, guardians, and families who are raising transgender kids (of any age), or have kids who might be transgender. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom: zoom.us/j/92816521628, Meeting ID: 928 1652 1628.

“For Zoom passcode, please email raisingtranskids@pflagmorgantown.org.”

PFLAG also hosts virtual Social Saturdays. For more information, follow this group on Facebook at facebook.com/pflagmorgantown/?ref=page_internal.



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER: This group’s February meeting will be the February 3rd joint meeting with CCSJ and other interested groups. See above for the Zoom link. All are welcome.

For more information on this group, please go to www.firstpresmorgantown.org/dismantling-racism-together or email DismantlingRacismTogether@gmail.com.

WVU HOSTS SOCIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT FEBRUARY 11TH FROM 1:00 TO 4:00 P.M.: The community is invited to this free virtual event that “will focus on Narratives and Black Voices, exploring the question, “What happens when stories are silenced, taken out of context, and/or misunderstood?” Our objective is to be able to connect these stories to policy recommendations in a report to be issued to the Senate Faculty Committee in May 2021. This summit is not intended for passive observers and measure will be taken to ensure a safe, but also courageous space.” Register at tinyurl.com/SJSummit2 to get the Zoom link.

The agenda is available at socialjusticesummit.wordpress.com/2021/01/12/social-justice-summit-2/.



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 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.



MORGANTOWN CITY COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS NOW UNDERWAY: CCSJ does not endorse candidates, but we do encourage everyone to vote. If you are a resident of the City of Morgantown, you can get election information at www.morgantownwv.gov/157/Election-Information. We are pleased to note that City Clerk Christine Wade will be working with the WVU Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and possibly other groups to provide diversity training to City poll workers. We will keep you posted if this information will be available to the general public to view.

STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS



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

The February membership meeting will be online on Thursday, February 18th, at 7:00 p.m. “Join WVNOW to discuss upcoming initiatives and discuss the 2021 legislative session.”

West Virginia NOW is also working on the national **28th Amendment NOW ERA Postcard Campaign**. “With printable cards and addresses.

“Write postcards and mail asap! We are asking the new administration to direct the National Archivist to certify Virginia’s ratification, thus reaching the required 38 states for passage of the 28th Amendment.”

To learn how to participate in our postcard campaign go to tinyurl.com/ERApostcards_

“Make sure your Senators and Congresspeople have cosigned the bills to remove the deadline that were introduced last week. If they have not, make calls, send letters, write postcards and ask them to cosponsor.

“Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) and Congressman Tom Reed (R-N.Y.) introduced H.J.Res.17 - Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment - www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-joint-resolution/17/cosponsors?r=1&s=2&q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22Equal+Rights+Amendment%22%5D%2C%22party%22%3A%22all%22%7D

“U.S. Senators Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) announced S.J.Res.1 - A joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment - www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-joint-resolution/1?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22Sjres1%22%5D%7D&s=3&r=1

Join Vote Equality and write letters to the editor - voteequality.us/advocate/write4rights/.

Editorial note: Some of us will well remember writing letters for this in the early 1980s!



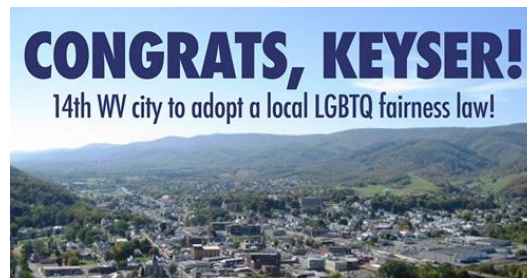
FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA OFFERS VIRTUAL TRAINING FOR ADVOCATES:

Fairness is also offering free virtual training to be a better advocate for LGBTQ 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.

The next training is Thursday February 11th, at 6:00 p.m. “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.

After signing up below, you will be sent a link to join the zoom meeting closer to the training date.

Registration is available at 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.



ACLU FEBRUARY NEWS:

Legislative Town Hall (Virtual): FEBRUARY 9, 2021 @ 6:30 PM –@ 8:00 PM

“Join our Virtual Town Hall to talk all things 2021 Legislative Session.

“Hear from ACLU-WV staff about our legislative priorities and what we expect from this session. Speakers include: Joseph Cohen - Executive Director, Eli Baumwell - Policy Director, Greg Whittington - Criminal Law Reform Campaign Director, and Dijon Stokes - Voting Rights Project Manager.

Join on zoom at the link/number below on February 9th at 6:30 pm.

aclu.zoom.us/j/81266745729; Meeting ID: 812 6674 5729

One tap mobile

+13017158592,81266745729# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,81266745729# US (Chicago)

Citizen Lobbyist Training is February 11th at 6:30 p.m.: “Join us for our Citizen Lobbyist Training to talk about effective citizen lobbying and learn about the changes for the 2021 session during the COVID pandemic and ways to make an impact from home.

“Join us on zoom at the link/number below: aclu.zoom.us/j/83640011858; Meeting ID: 836 4001 1858

One tap mobile

+13126266799,83640011858# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,83640011858# US (New York)

The ACLU of West Virginia is seeing a late winter/spring communications intern. The application deadline is February 15th. For more information, please go to www.acluww.org/en/news/aclu-wv-seeks-spring-communications-intern

MULTICULTURAL CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2021

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

Black History Month

2/11 – LGBTQ+: Tammy Baldwin – birthday of first openly LGBTQ+ Senator and Congressperson

2/12 – Chinese New Year – three-day festivity, beginning the Year of the Ox

2/14 – Black American: Frederick Douglass (1817-1895) – birthday of renowned abolitionist, who helped free the slaves

2/15 – Buddhist: Parinirvana or Nirvana Day – remembers Buddha’s passing in 483 BC and his final nirvana

2/15 – Women: Susan B. Anthony – birthday of advocate for women’s right, who helped women gain the right to vote

2/17 – Christian: Ash Wednesday – the beginning of Lent, a period of fasting for 40 days until Easter Sunday