



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

UPDATE: APRIL 1, 2021

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.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 20th, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. All are welcome.

Here is the Zoom information:

Topic: Community Coalition for Social Justice April Meeting

Time: Apr 20, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81556969416>

Meeting ID: 815 5696 9416

One tap mobile

+13017158592, 81556969416# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,81556969416# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 815 5696 9416

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81556969416>

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.



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, **April 15th** 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/.

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 April:

National Child Abuse Prevention Month – A time to emphasize the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month - A month to promote awareness of sexual assault, harassment, or other abuse to increase prevention efforts to protect all people of all ages.

April 1: Youth Homelessness Matters Day – Part of a campaign to create brighter futures for young people who have faced homelessness and to show them they have the power and opportunity to become whatever they put their minds to.

April 7: World Health Day – Calls for an awareness that, without nurture and protection of health, persons are vulnerable to economic and social hardship and unable to fully utilize or engage in human rights.

April 16: Holocaust Remembrance Day – Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising – Seeks to commemorate the Holocaust by remembering and honoring the victims of the Holocaust, which include six million Jews, thousands of Russian gypsies, homosexuals, persons with disabilities, and others.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES FORUM RECORDING IS AVAILABLE: If you missed the forum on March 24th, you can view it on the Facebook page of the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP at www.facebook.com/groups/morgantown.naacp/permalink/1615238345343475/. There will eventually be a YouTube link, but that was not yet available at “press time.”



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

The April meeting will **April 13th 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 APRIL 20TH: 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 Kingwood Chapter of the NAACP

Sabra United Methodist Church

1234 Richwood Ave
Morgantown

**Thursday, April 15
1:00PM—6:00PM**

All blood donations from African-American donors will be screened for the sickle cell trait to help provide lifesaving blood to the over 100,000 patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Please make an appointment by calling 1-800-REDCROSS or by visiting redcrossblood.org and using the sponsor code:

NAACPMORGANTOWN



All donors receive a free health screening prior to donating.
1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org/OurBlood | #BlackBloodDonorsNeeded

* Free health screening will check temperature, blood pressure, pulse rate and hemoglobin (iron) levels. © 2021 The American Red Cross | 2021-APL-0094 | 918801-MS-02



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN-MENNONITE: Morgantown Church of the Brethren will enjoy an outdoor Easter service on Sunday, April 4, at Wiles Hill Park at Eureka Drive and Virginia Avenue at 8:00 a.m., to which all are welcome. Later it will be followed by a 10:00 a.m. Zoom service. Information is 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 IN APRIL:

Easter Sunday, April 4, at 11:00 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Morgantown via Zoom. "Rev. Michael D. O'Kelly, Minister Emeritus, will address our Zoom audience with "Of Soul &'Till The End Of Time!" Please join us for this yearly event and joyful morning."

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 APRIL EVENTS:

Please join us for the Morgantown PFLAG April 2021 Events!

April Meeting

General Meeting & 2021 Board Elections

Tuesday, April 13
6:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/99864891779>

Meeting ID: 998 6489 1779

Passcode: aprilfools

April Social Saturday

Every Saturday (4/3, 4/10, 4/17, and 4/24)
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/92731711445>

Meeting ID: 927 3171 1445

Passcode: chaitea

April Raising Trans Kids Meeting

Saturday, April 10
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

For meeting information, please email raisingtranskids@pflagmorgantown.or

April Meeting Agenda

I. Check In/social

- II. March Minutes Approval
- III. Education committee updates
- IV. Elections for PFLAG Board
- V. Pride Month Plans?
- VI. WVU New Student Orientation?
- VII. Book club?

MORGANTOWN HUMANISTS: For information about this group, please contact Mike Attfield at mdattfieldo@gmail.com. The Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/groups/855227111328432.



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER PROGRAM IS APRIL 21ST: Racial disparity exists when it comes to healthcare for African Americans. These disparities include less access to healthcare, fear of treatment during healthcare visits and past traumas from racist practices. These disparities continue to face African Americans in West Virginia particularly when it comes to COVID-19 vaccination. Nicole Wilson-Carr, committee lead on the Morgantown/Kingwood NAACP Health

Committee, will join Dismantling Racism Together on Wednesday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m. She will speak to the challenges of getting African Americans vaccinated for COVID-19, challenges such as lack of knowledge and access to the use of technology needed to register for vaccines, the lack of people who “look like me” giving vaccines, and the fears from past traumas where African Americans were deceived in scientific “experiments.” Please join us. Bring your questions, your thoughts, and ideas on how to support the NAACP as it seeks to address these challenges.

Here is the Zoom link to join the meeting and discussion:

Dismantling Racism Together is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Dismantling Racism Together-April 21

Time: Apr 21, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89812891380>

Meeting ID: 898 1289 1380

One tap mobile

+13017158592,89812891380# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,89812891380# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 898 1289 1380

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89812891380>

MORGANTOWN PRIDE: At “press time,” this group’s Facebook page was not available. The website is 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.

Here are the upcoming key dates:

- April 6 - Voter Registration Deadline
- April 14 - 24 - Early Voting
- April 27 - Election Day

Kudos to Morgantown City Clerk Christine Wade, who included a diversity training section in the poll worker training for the City election. Aisury Vasquez, the WVU Diversity Outreach Coordinator, discussed bias and the ways that unconscious bias could impact the voting experience. Ms. Wade made this section available to anyone who wanted to log in, and CCSJ was happy to send the link to a variety of local groups.

The Morgantown City Council to vote on CROWN-related ordinance. At the March 30th Committee of the Whole meeting, City Council members voted to advance a proposed revision to the City Human Rights Commission ordinance.

The first reading of this ordinance is scheduled for April 6th regular meeting of City Council that starts at 7:00 p.m. Information about speaking during the public portion of the meeting will be available by Friday, April 2nd, at www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter. If this passes the first reading, it should be on the agenda for the April 20th meeting for a public hearing and then second reading and final vote. You can get contact information for city council members at morgantownwv.gov/154/City-Council.

The language in this ordinance is designed to reflect language in a bill that Delegate Danielle Walker introduced to the West Virginia House of Delegates, but which did not get through the committee process.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 153 GOVERNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON HAIR STYLE OR TEXTURE

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2021, the City Council of The City of Morgantown adopted its Resolution affirming support for the CROWN Act, which is intended to create a respectful and open world for natural hair; and WHEREAS, the resolution supporting the CROWN Act directed that the City Code be amended to provide specific protection for natural and protective hairstyles in connection with the City's prohibition on discrimination based on race; and

WHEREAS, there is currently pending before the West Virginia House of Delegates legislation adding protection for natural and protective hairstyles to the West Virginia Human Rights Act, codified at W. Va. Code § 5-11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance will add language from Senate Bill 108 and House Bill 4508 to the City Human Rights Commission authorizing ordinance with the intention to establish a consistent protection against discrimination based on natural and protective hairstyles;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Morgantown hereby ordains that Section 153.02 of the City Code is amended as follows:

Discriminate or discrimination means to exclude from, or fail or refuse to extend to, a person equal opportunities because of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, blindness, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status or veteran status and includes to separate or segregate.

For the purposes of this article, discrimination based on race includes, but is not limited to, discrimination based on hair textures and protective hairstyles historically associated with a particular race.

Race means a social construct grouping humans based on shared physical or social qualities into categories generally viewed as distinct, including but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles.

Protective hairstyles means hairstyles historically associated with a particular race and includes, but is not limited to, hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists.

This ordinance is effective upon adoption.

MORGANTOWN SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY POLICING AND CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD: The committee met on March 22nd and reviewed some of the comments received about the proposed ordinance to establish a civilian police review and advisory board. The next meeting will be Monday, April 12th, at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. Meetings are open to the public. Go to www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter and scroll down to "Special Committee" to find information on accessing the meeting. It should be posted a few days before the meeting.

STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS

STATE LEGISLATURE UPDATE: None of the bills mentioned last time moved out of the committee stage. But there is one that is important and is on a potential path to passage: HB 3293, the transgender athlete ban. This passed out of the House of Delegates and is now in the Senate Education Committee. You can

track the vote for this in the House at www.wvlegislature.gov/legisdocs/2021/RS/votes/house/00282.pdf. To see groups speaking out in opposition to this bill go to fairnesswv.org/2021/03/31/wvs-advocates-for-women-oppose-house-bill-3293-the-trans-athlete-ban/. The legislative session ends at midnight on April 10th.



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



FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA TRACKS LEGISLATION AT THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS: You can see bills that the group is tracking at Fairnesswv.org.

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



ACLU APRIL NEWS: The ACLU is tracking numerous bills during the 2021 legislative session. Learn more at www.acluww.org/en/legislation/see-what-were-tracking-2021-legislative-session. To get the current status, you will have to go to www.wvlegislature.gov/bill_status/bill_status.cfm.

DIVERSITY HOLIDAYS FOR APRIL 2021

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

Celebrate Diversity Month – launched in 2004, seeks to help diverse people gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other

4/2 – People with Disabilities: World Autism Awareness Day – seeks to improve the lives of people with the disorder so they can lead full and meaningful lives

4/4 – Christian: Easter – a key holy day in the #1 most-practiced faith, it honors the resurrection of Jesus

4/8 – Buddhist: Buddha’s Birth – royalty who became a spiritual leader and launched Buddhism, one of the most popular religions

4/12 – Islamic: Ramadan – first day of Islam’s most sacred month, during which Muslims are not allowed to eat or drink from dawn until dusk

4/22 – International: Earth Day – celebrated internationally in more than 192 countries

4/22-24 – Native American: Gathering of Nations – more than 500 Native American tribes meet to celebrate their traditions and cultures