



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: DECEMBER 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.

December CCSJ Meeting is December 14th at 7:30 p.m.: Please note earlier date for this month. All are welcome to join us via Zoom at this link:

Time: December 14, 2021, 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86851103365?pwd=Z1I3aXNIUTFwWmtkT1poR2JGRXpKZz09>

Meeting ID: 868 5110 3365

Passcode: 176332

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 868 5110 3365

Passcode: 176332

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86851103365>

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY 2022 THEME IS “RESPECT”: We will hold this event via Zoom on January 17th at 2:00 p.m. in cooperation with the WVU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) because of concerns about COVID-19. We have received an allocation of \$1500 from the City of Morgantown to reimburse us for expenses.

Local school children, the WVU Chamber Singers, WVU Paul Robeson-Mahalia Jackson Gospel Choir, and Al Anderson will participate. We have also asked local organizations including the NAACP, Morgantown Humanists, Tree of Life Congregation, WVU LGBTQ+ Center, and WVU Native American Studies Program to share their perspectives on the theme of respect.

The Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP will present a program related to teaching divisive issues in history as we expect there to be legislation introduced on this in the 2022 session of the West Virginia legislature.



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 will be Thursday, **December 16th** 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 December:

December 2: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery – Slavery is not just history, as it 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.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA COUNTY (LWV-MM): Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LWVMM and contact them by email at lwvmorgantown@gmail.com.

Interested in joining the League of Women Voters? Join online at tinyurl.com/join-lwvmm.

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MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER: The next meeting will be December 14th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/. Details and agenda are available through the weekly newsletter or email at morgantownnow@gmail.com.

Morgantown NOW also helped organize the Afghan women event with the WVU Libraries, which will take place on January 25 at 6:00 p.m., with registration available at [wvu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYsfuuvqDwqH9xubfAt-5S-LEq6TwqNTEoP](https://wvu.zoom.us/join/9123456789):

Justice for Afghan women and girls now: understanding and action, a virtual program **Description**

A virtual event by WVU Libraries, Eberly College, WVU Women's Resource Center, WVU Immigration Law Clinic and WV Now

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021 placed many women and girls in crisis. Join us with a panel of activists and immigration law experts to survey their journey.

Panelists include....

President and a cofounder of the Feminist Majority Foundation, Eleanor Smeal, with an international and national perspective and historic context

WVU Immigration Law Clinic leader and international law expert Alison Peck brings information about local action and legal challenges

Parween Mascari, Appalachian Lawyer, entrepreneur and “Halfghan” shares personal and legal perspective from first-hand experience

Manal AlNatour, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Arabic Studies and Director of Arabic Studies Program, on Afghan Women at the Crossroad: A Cultural Perspective

Renee Corbett, Outreach Worker, Refugee Resettlement & Immigration Services on the technicalities of the refugee experience

Introductions by Leslie Tower, Director of the WVU Women’s Resource and Barbara Evans Fleischauer, the longest-serving female member of the West Virginia House of Delegates.

Panel moderated by Amy S. Thompson, WVU Professor of Applied Linguistics and Department Chair of the Department of World Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics and the Director of International Relations and Strategic Planning for Eberly College and Sue Barazi, Vice President of the Islamic Association of WV and current President of West Virginia Interfaith Refugee Ministry.

Live captioning will be available on the Zoom virtual program. Request for other services can be made by contacting jason.kapcala@mail.wvu.edu at least three business days prior to the event.

For more information, go to [www.facebook.com/events/871020016842224?context=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A\[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%7D\]%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/871020016842224?context=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%7D]%7D)



NOW is also promoting these events:

“**RUN NOW** is a unique program available exclusively to NOW members that provides training on how to run for office and how to become a professional campaign operative. Prospective candidates and campaigners will have the opportunity to learn the full mechanics of campaigning from experts and thought leaders from top leading political organizations. NOW has a goal to train 2,022 members by the 2022 midterm elections. RUN NOW will be a catalyst to motivate more feminists to run for office and to lead winning campaigns in local, state, and national races.

“Upcoming RUN NOW Sessions:

December 7, 2021 (Tent.) – Coalition Building: Candidate Basics and Engagement From Various Diverse Groups

December 14, 2021 (Tent.) – Political: Candidate Basics

January 11, 2022 (Tent.) – How to Be a Campaign Manager?

NOW members can go to now.org/run-now/ for more information.



MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS DECEMBER 21ST: This meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Ryan Edsall from the Red Cross will be the speaker at this meeting.

Contact the NAACP at 3241naACP@gmail.com for more information and to learn how to participate.

The NAACP will be sponsoring a blood drive on December 8th at Sabra United Methodist Church, 1234 Richwood Avenue, from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m. Please sign up to be a repeat donor at www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?order=DATE&range=10&zipSponsor=26508.

Follow the NAACP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/naacp3241/?ref=page_internal.



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN-MENNONITE: Follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634 or at www.morgantowncob.org. Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom, with the link available at www.morgantowncob.org. "Non-vaccinated people need to wear masks in the church and we ask that everyone bring a mask to wear during singing."

On December 21, at 7:00 p.m., the church will hold a **Longest Night Service**, around the campfire behind 501 Center St (MCOB parsonage). Smores and hot apple cider to follow.



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN DECEMBER PROGRAMS: For information about services, please go to www.uufmwv.org/sunday-services.html or www.facebook.com/The-Unitarian-Universalist-Fellowship-of-Morgantown-WV-367256688732/?ref=page_internal.

December 5: 10:45 AM ~ Monthly Board Meeting of Officers, Trustees, and Membership. Consideration of Budget for Calendar Year 2022. 11:30 AM Discussion on "The Future of the UUFM." Meeting to be both On-Site at Fellowship Building and On-Line Internet via Zoom. See also: UUFMWV.org.

December 12: 10:45 AM ~ "Seeds for Future Growth" by Michael Siciliano, V.P. of UUFM & Community Minister. Meeting to be both On-Site at Fellowship Building and On-Line Internet via Zoom. See also: UUFMWV.org.

December 19: 10:45 AM ~ "BOOKS - Part 1: Mortimer J. Adler on Great Ideas & Great Books." See this introduction on Vimeo ... In this clip, philosopher Mortimer Adler talks to Bill Moyers about his definition of justice, as well as why "moral virtue is an indispensable condition of your pursuit of happiness." Injustice and Virtue is from the 1982 six-part series "Six Great Ideas with Mortimer Adler," in which the philosopher talks about the broad topics of truth, beauty, goodness, liberty, equality, and justice. Learn more about the series here: billmoyers.com/series/six-great-ideas-bill-moyers-mortimer-adler/. vimeo.com/126857577

December 26: 10:45 AM ~ "BOOKS - Part 2: William E. Rees on Can Books Guide our Future." See this introduction on YouTube ... William Rees, Canadian population ecologist and developer of the "ecological footprint" concept and tool, conversed with lead Post-Doom host Michael Dowd and co-host (science writer) Connie Barlow. This 58-minute episode is titled "Ecological Grounding." It is a superb quick course (and reminder) of the basic ecological, sociological, and systems science principles which, for decades, have been flashing red-light warnings that the human presence, globally as well as regionally, is on a disastrous course toward catastrophe. www.youtube.com/watch?v=j__AW5pycaA

PFLAG: The closest chapter now is in Fairmont, with information available at www.pflagfairmont.org. According to its website, "PFLAG Fairmont meets each month, usually on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm on the 2nd floor of the Ruth Ann Musick Library on the campus of Fairmont State University."

MORGANTOWN HUMANISTS: This is "An American Humanists Association chapter; science, reason, experience and compassion guide our attempt to understand and improve our world.... consider joining us !!" For information, go to www.facebook.com/groups/85522711328432.

The Humanists will be participating in CCSJ's Martin Luther King, Jr., Day program with comments on "respect." There are also several important days coming up: December 21: Solstice, the oldest continuously celebrated human holiday; January 29: Thomas Paine Birthday Celebration; and February 12: Darwin Day.



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER: Rebecca Rodd provided this information on the next meeting, **Monday, December 20th, at 7:00 p.m. at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86108590369>**

"Dismantling Racism Together will hold an educational event regarding potential 2022 WV Bills, including those that would limit DEI efforts and the teaching of 'divisive topics' in K-12 schools.

"Be Prepared: Potential 2022 WV Bills to limit teaching about racism and sexism

"Be prepared with us to stand against attempts to prevent discussion about the history of racism and sexism. Travis Mollohan advocates for WVU with local, state and federal government, and will speak to topics of interest in the upcoming regular session of the WVU Legislature, including bills related to divisive concepts and critical race theory.

"Dismantling Racism Together is a greater Morgantown group focused on working to dismantle systemic racism by educating ourselves and others, by advocating for change, and by supporting organizations and initiatives that seek to build a just and equitable society. We invite you to join our monthly educational meetings on the third Monday of each month at 7 pm on Zoom. Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting. If interested in joining our regular planning meetings, or for other information, please email us at dismantling-racism-together@gmail.com."



MORGANTOWN PRIDE DECEMBER EVENTS: The Raising Trans Kids Community Group is for West Virginia parents, guardians, and families who are raising transgender or gender diverse kids (of any age), or have kids who might be transgender or gender diverse. December's event will be December 11th from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. The Zoom link is us02web.zoom.us/j/83281989034. Please

email raisingtranskids@gmail.com for the passcode. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page_internal or www.morgantownwvpride.org.



MORGANTOWN CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE: City Council has been interviewing candidates for this board and has made no appointments to date.

The lawsuit that the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) filed against the City of Morgantown is moving forward. CCSJ and the NAACP had filed to be intervenors in this suit. CCSJ and the NAACP had filed to be intervenors in this case, and the FOP objected in both cases. At the hearing on November 30th, Judge Susan Tucker ruled against CCSJ and the NAACP. However, she granted us both groups amicus curiae status.

Judge Tucker will preside at an important hearing on **December 16th at 10:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 1 of the Justice Center, across from the post office parking lot on High Street. This is NOT the county courthouse. The hearing concerns the lawsuit that the Fraternal Order of Police has filed against the City of Morgantown over the legality of the ordinance creating this board. The hearing is expected to last two hours. **It is important that people attend to show support for the City of Morgantown and this important ordinance.** The courtroom is on the third floor at the end of the hallway.



WVU LIBRARIES' FOOD JUSTICE IN APPALACHIA EXHIBIT: This exhibit is available in the WVU Downtown Campus Library through June 2022. To see an online exhibit and the presentations at the exhibit opening in October, go to exhibits.lib.wvu.edu/exhibits/food-justice-in-appalachia.



WVU LGBTQ+ CENTER: The Center has an active program of events planned that are open to the public.

In addition to events focused on students, the Center is sponsoring **"Faith: An Online Panel with LGBTQ+ Affirming Faith Leaders,"** with part 1 on Thursday, December 2nd, at 7:00 p.m.

"What does the Bible/ sacred text say about LGBTQ+ people? Join us in this discussion about LGBTQ+ identity and the holy texts in Jewish and Christian traditions: scriptures, interpretations, translation, and yes, even queer representation. This is the first of a 3-part series on faith, which will address the intersection of religion and LGBTQ+ identity. Parts 2 and 3 will be held in 2022 and focus on Islam and Buddhism."

Panelists Rev. Dr. Wes Bergen, Pastor, Morgantown Church of the Brethren-Mennonite; Rev. Samantha Coggins, WVU Campus Minister, Presbyterian Student Fellowship; Rabbi Joe Hample, Spiritual leader at Tree of Life Congregation; Rev. Zac Morton, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church; and Rev. Jenny Williams, Pastor of Avery United Methodist Church "will talk about the way they affirm LGBTQ+ identity, life and faith through theology, scripture, and practice."

Sign Language Interpreting and Captioning Services are available by request for participants who are deaf or hard of hearing. To request an Interpreter or Captioner please contact Jason.Kapcala@mail.wvu.edu by December 1st.

Register for the event at wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AZSTjg6pRwy6_HVuT0QXig.

Go to the Center's website at lgbtq.wvu.edu/events to join the Center's website and/or register for events. You can follow the Center on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WVULGBTQCenter/

MORGANTOWN GETS PERFECT SCORE ON MUNICIPAL EQUALITY INDEX!

Fairness West Virginia posted this press release on its website:

"Morgantown becomes second WV city to earn perfect marks on LGBTQ equality index

"CHARLESTON, West Virginia — The city of Morgantown today became the second city in West Virginia to earn full marks on an annual report card that grades cities on how inclusive they are for the LGBTQ community.

"The Human Rights Campaign released its annual Municipal Equality Index Thursday morning, and several West Virginia cities scored highly. Both Huntington and Morgantown earned full marks, while other cities in the state improved their score.

"It's time for the world to know that West Virginia can be a welcoming place where all kinds of people belong'," said Andrew Schneider, executive director of Fairness West Virginia. "We've known for a long time these communities are welcoming, and today's report card proves that. I congratulate the leaders of Morgantown for all of their hard work this year toward inclusivity. I look forward to more cities joining the ranks of these all stars, and to leaders at the state level stepping up to protect all Mountaineers from discrimination'."

"The MEI examines how inclusive municipal laws, policies, and services are of LGBTQ people who live and work there. Cities are rated based on non-discrimination laws, the municipality as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement and leadership on LGBTQ equality. Scorecards for individual cities can be viewed [here](#).

"Leaders from Morgantown and Huntington joined Fairness West Virginia to announce the scores and celebrate the improvements Thursday morning. . . .

"West Virginians should feel proud knowing that so many of their local officials are working to advance equality'," Schneider said. "While we still have much work to do at the state and federal levels, mayors and city council members across this state continue to show that advancing equality isn't just the right thing to do — it makes our communities stronger'."

"Morgantown's score in the 2020 MEI was 77, meaning the city jumped 23 points in a single year. Part of Morgantown's significant score increase was because members of city council there adopted a bill to ban the dangerous and discredited practice of conversion therapy.

"The city of Morgantown is a welcoming place where everyone is valued'," said Morgantown Mayor Jenny Selin. "We've worked hard together as a community to advance policies that will ensure our LGBTQ residents can live free from discrimination, and we will continue this important work in the future. All of our children, including our LGBTQ children and their friends, deserve the chance to grow

up in communities that support them. I'm proud that our city has earned full marks on the Municipal Equality Index this year'."

For the rest of the press release, a link to the announcement, and links to more details about Morgantown's score and scores for Charles Town (45), Charleston (94), Huntington (100), Lewisburg (45), Parkersburg (13), and Wheeling (59), go to fairnesswv.org.

STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS



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



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

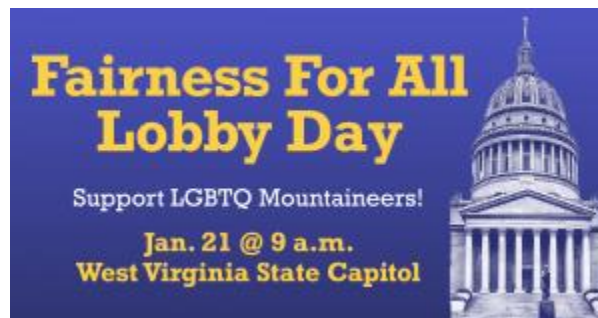
Fairness starts Text Team for Equality: "Our team at Fairness is gearing up to fight harder than ever before to protect LGBTQ Mountaineers from discrimination. We're thrilled to announce that Fairness was one of just a dozen organizations chosen from more than 200 groups across the country to partner with Movement Labs to launch a new program to text West Virginia voters about the need for nondiscrimination laws like the Fairness Act and the Equality Act.

"That means, with your help, we're embarking on a new campaign to reach West Virginia voters where they are. We're looking for volunteers to help build our Text Team for Equality. You can join our team and text voters across the state wherever you are, and whenever works best for you.

"Don't worry if you've never texted for a campaign like this before! We'll give you all the training and support you need, and you'll join a team of rockstar volunteers across the state.

"Help fight for LGBTQ equality by joining Fairness West Virginia as we text voters about the importance of nondiscrimination!"

Please go to fairnesswv.org/2021/10/26/join-our-text-team-for-equality/ to submit contact information to join the team.



“The 2022 legislative session is just around the corner, and we’re expecting an unprecedented number of attacks against LGBTQ West Virginians. Some lawmakers want to make it legal for foster care agencies to turn away LGBTQ kids and parents, and others want to ban gender affirming health care that that is lifesaving for transgender people. Now, more than ever, we need to stand together as a community to push back against these attacks!

“That’s why we’re launching the Fairness For All Day at the state capitol! On Jan. 21, 2022, hundreds of LGBTQ people and our allies from across the state will come to Charleston to lobby for full equality.”

RSVP for January 21st at fairnesswv.org/2021/11/05/mark-you-calendar-for-the-fairness-for-all-lobby-day/.



ACLU BILL OF RIGHTS BASH RESCHEDULED TO MARCH 19, 2022, DUE TO COVID. “Join the ACLU-WV staff, board and friends for an evening of civil rights and celebration!

“We hope you can be a part of our Bill of Rights Bash fundraiser this year as we celebrate the work of the ACLU of West Virginia, honor giants in the civil liberties community, and look forward to the challenges ahead.

“Three outstanding West Virginians will also be honored at this event: Rabbi Victor Urecki and Ibtesam Barazi will receive the Sid Bell Memorial Award for their service to the ACLU of West Virginia, and West Virginia Delegate Danielle Walker will receive the Roger Baldwin Award for her service to our state.

“Interested in being a sponsor? [View sponsorship options and descriptions here](#), and contact Rose Winland at rwinland@acluwv.org with questions.

“We are looking forward to seeing you at the Bill of Rights Bash!” The event will be held at the Beni Kedem Temple, 100 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25301.

The ACLU is also hiring a staff attorney. More information is available at www.acluwv.org/en/jobs/join-our-team-aclu-wv-staff-attorney.

DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2021

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

12/1 – World AIDS Day – increase education and awareness of AIDS

12/3 – United Nations: International Day of Persons with Disabilities – promotes the dignity, rights, and well-being of people with disabilities

12/10 – United Nations – International Human Rights Day

12/16-12/24 – Mexico: Las Posadas – commemorates events associated with the birth of Jesus

12/21 – Winter Solstice/Yule – the Pagan and Wiccan winter sabbat

12/25 – Christian: Christmas – celebrates the birth of Jesus, the Christian messiah

12/26 – Black: Kwanzaa (12/26-1/1) – inspired by African harvest celebrations