



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

UPDATE: JANUARY 1, 2022 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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.

January CCSJ Meeting is January 18th at 7:30 p.m. featuring Ellen Rodrigues of WVU LGBTQ+ Center and Becky Rodd of Dismantling Racism Together: Ellen Rodrigues is director of the Center and will provide a brief overview of the Center’s work. Becky Rodd is one of the leaders of the local effort to address potential state legislation about teaching divisive issues. There is legislation being introduced around the country concerning teaching divisive issues in our country’s history, like slavery, and we need to be prepared to counter these efforts during this legislative session.

All are welcome to join us via Zoom at this link:

TOPIC: COMMUNITY COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE JANUARY MEETING
TIME: JANUARY 18, 2022, 7:30 PM EASTERN TIME (US AND CANADA)

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/86788557314?PWD=cTFsUjBUAFdZAExQQ1V4ZGRyC2pzUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86788557314?pwd=cTFsUjBUAFdZAExQQ1V4ZGRyC2pzUT09)

MEETING ID: 867 8855 7314; PASSCODE: 570245

ONE TAP MOBILE: +13126266799, 86788557314#, *570245# US (CHICAGO)

+16468769923,86788557314#, *570245# 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)
- +1 408 638 0968 US (SAN JOSE)

MEETING ID: 867 8855 7314

PASSCODE: 570245

FIND YOUR LOCAL NUMBER: [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/KRTMAJUEC](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86788557314)

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. To attend on Zoom, you must register at <https://bit.ly/3Cni4u5> or <https://olliatwvu.wufoo.com/forms/x24y6z01kh3png/> The Zoom link will be sent the morning of the 17th. To watch the presentation on Facebook Live, on the 17th, go to <https://www.facebook.com/olliatwvu>.

This year’s program features students from Mylan Park Elementary School, North Elementary School, and Cheat Lake Elementary School; WVU Paul Robeson Mahalia Jackson Gospel Choir; Al Anderson, soloist; WVU Chamber Singers; Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP; and community leaders. Morgantown Mayor Jenny Selin will welcome everyone to the event.

Main Street Morgantown co-sponsors this family-friendly event, while the City of Morgantown provides financial support.



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, **January 20th** 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 January:

January 17: 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 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 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.



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 lwmorgantown@gmail.com.

The League has posted a link to a story from West Virginia Public Broadcasting on its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LWVMM that deals with the West Virginia Secretary of State's sending voter confirmation postcards. According to the story, "If you are a registered voter and have: changed your address with the DMV or post office, or not voted — or updated your voter registration — in the past four years, you'll be getting a postcard from the West Virginia Secretary of State's office to verify your address."

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



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER: The next meeting will be January 11th 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 25th 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.



NOW is also promoting **RUN NOW**. This “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 Session: 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 JANUARY 18TH: 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 NAACP is also participating in the CCSJ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration on January 17th. See above for information on how to access this event.

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



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BROTHERN-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. “We ask that everyone wear a mask inside the building.”



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN JANUARY PROGRAMS: Services for January are via videos and Zoom until further notice. All are at 10:45 a.m. For more information, please use UUFMWV@gmail.com & UUFMWV.org.

January 2: “Your Health is Most Important, Can We Predict Your Future?” This selected video program will focus on essential knowledge for you now! This will be an “On Demand — Personal Timing Activity.” [https://youtu.be/a9hd-yqMk_4].

Zoom programs will resume January 9th with the link to be provided.

January 9: BOOKS - Part 1: Mortimer J. Adler on “Great Ideas & Great Books.” Philosopher Mortimer Adler has a definition of justice, as well as why “moral virtue is an indispensable condition of your pursuit of happiness.” (See also the “Six Great Ideas with Mortimer Adler,” in which the philosopher talks about the broad topics of truth, beauty, goodness, liberty, equality and justice.)

January 16: “Martin Luther King Day Program” ~ Equal justice for voters is on the line in Morgantown and more so nation wide, affecting us all! This will be a Zoom program with a presentation and discussion.

January 23: BOOKS - Part 2: William E. Rees on “Can Books Guide our Future.” William Rees is a Canadian population ecologist and developer of the “ecological footprint” concept and tool. Basic ecological, sociological, and systems science principles for decades have been flashing red-light warnings that the human presence, globally as well as regionally, is on a disastrous course toward catastrophe.

January 30: “Bringing the UU Principles to Life.” This presentation by Michael Siciliano, UUFM Vice President & Community Minister will include a group discussion.

Contact information: UUFMWV, P.O. Box 4109, Morgantown, WV 26504. President, Duane Nichols; V.P. Michael Siciliano; Secretary, Tim Nelms; Treasurer, Denny Houseknecht.

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/855227111328432.

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: January 29: Thomas Paine Birthday Celebration; and February 12: Darwin Day.



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER MEETS JANUARY 17TH AT 7:00 P.M.: Rebecca Rodd provided this information on the next meeting, a “MLK Day discussion on Being Effective Change Agents for Social Justice. The speaker will be Dr. Amena Anderson, WVU professor in the Leadership Studies Program.

Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/DRTMonthlyProgram>. Please join us.

Dismantling Racism Together meets monthly to discuss educational topics related to systemic racism. In addition we are working on several advocacy projects in coalition with other organizations, including lobbying against bills that would prevent or limit teaching about racism in our schools. All are welcome to join our monthly meetings or to participate in our planning and strategy group. Contact Becky Rodd at rebeccarodd@yahoo.com if you’d like more information.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE RAISING TRANS KIDS IS JANUARY 8TH: 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. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page_internal or www.morgantownwvpride.org. Morgantown Pride has an Instagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en>.

MORGANTOWN CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE: At the December 16th hearing on the ordinance establishing this board, Judge Susan Tucker ruled in favor of the Fraternal Order of Police, which argued that the ordinance conflicted with civil service commission procedures. The ordinance has a severability clause, stating that, if any part is deemed invalid, the rest of the ordinance would still stand. We do not yet know if the City of Morgantown will appeal the decision.



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.

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/

BQSC FAQs

Do you have to be a Black queer person to be involved with the BQSC?

Everyone is welcome to be involved with the BQSC! It is important to note that the programs, events and initiatives will center the needs, lived experiences, history and legacies of Black queer people.

Can students make requests around programming, initiatives, etc. within the BQSC?

Yes! The BQSC will hold space for a voluntary committee of students to contribute ideas or make requests and recommendations around programming, events and initiatives. Make sure to visit go.wvu.edu/BQSC if interested.

Why is this important? Why a coalition?

Coalitions are invaluable in advocacy because they create structures for students, faculty and staff to share ownership of common goals. We come together to pool our knowledge, resources and lived experiences to create space where our voices can be heard and valued.

Follow the CBCR and LGBTQ+ Office to stay involved and up to date!

The Center for Black Culture and Research and the LGBTQ+ Center host:

THE BQSC OPENING MIXER

Black Queer Student Coalition

JANUARY 20, 2022 @ 7 PM
MOUNTAINLAIR MOUNTAINEER ROOM




STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS



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

January 17: We Are The Economy: A Zoom of Our Own Conversation on Mutual Aid & Community Well-Being, 8:00-9:30 p.m. For more information, please go to www.facebook.com/events/1648207335514611/?ref=newsfeed.

AN ECONOMY OF OUR OWN

Dr. Caroline Shenaz Hossain, Diverse Solidarity Economies Collective

Katonya Hart, WV Women's Commission on Economic Empowerment

Crystal Arnold, Post Growth Institute

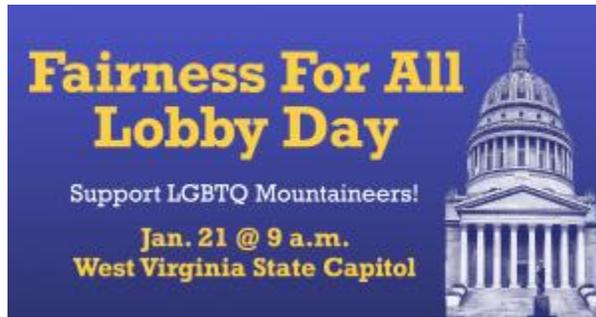
with AEEO Founder Risky Gard Diamond

**WE ARE THE ECONOMY:
COMMUNITY WELL-BEING & MUTUAL AID**



JANUARY EVENTS PLANNED:

January 8: Fairness West Virginia Benefit Show at 8:00 p.m. by The Loud. Artists performing are Down In Round Three, Quilt Monsters, Jay Parade, Sempervivi (Lexington, KY Pop Punk), Bane Star. \$10 minimum donation requested.



“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-your-calendar-for-the-fairness-for-all-lobby-day/.

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



ACLU POSTS NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS: “Here are our resolutions for our 101st year of work in the Mountain State:

“1. Defend Reproductive Freedom – We will continue to oppose any attempt to legislate forced birth on West Virginians, and we’ll keep fighting not just for the right to abortion, but also access for all who need it.

“2. Reform Our Brutal Incarceration System – West Virginia’s jails are bursting at the seams. Most of the people being held in our regional jails haven’t been found guilty of a crime; they’re just too poor to afford bail. These overcrowded facilities are breeding grounds for COVID-19. At one point in 2021, more than one in seven people at North Central Regional Jail was infected. We will advocate forcefully in the upcoming session for a bill capping regional jails at their maximum occupancy levels, in addition to many other reforms of our brutal criminal legal system.

“3. Protect Our LGBTQ+ Neighbors – When the Legislature banned trans girls from playing sports in 2021, we promised to take the state to court. Weeks after the session ended, we made good on that promise. This summer, we secured an injunction against the discriminatory ban for our 11-year-old client, Becky. There are already rumors that lawmakers will take up bills banning lifesaving medical care

for trans youth and allowing businesses to discriminate in the name of religion. We won't stand by while state lawmakers attack our communities for political gain.

"4. Defend Democracy – The 2022 elections will be a crucial moment for civil liberties and we'll do our part to make sure voters are informed of the issues and that they can continue to participate in our democracy safely. Because of the pandemic, West Virginia allowed everyone to vote by mail in 2020. The program was a huge success, helping lead to the second-highest turnout in our history. Voting by mail is effective and it's safe. It's time to let West Virginia vote by mail permanently.

"5. Resist Efforts to Criminalize Poverty – West Virginia is one of the poorest states in the nation, and from the state to the local level, elected leaders seem hellbent on making it a crime to be poor. We will never stop advocating for an equitable society, whether that means defending evidence-based harm reduction efforts, opposing panhandling and "nuisance property" laws, or fighting to reform our cash bail system.

"6. Protect Immigrants – West Virginia has one of the lowest undocumented populations in the country, but one of the highest ICE arrest rates. As Congress continues to shamefully drag its feet on passing immigration reform, it's up to us to help our immigrant neighbors know their rights and fight back.

"7. Build for the Next 101 Years – As long as this nation exists, we will need the ACLU to uphold democratic processes, fight for civil rights and civil liberties, and make our systems more genuinely inclusive and equitable for all people. We need you to join us in fighting the battles ahead and building for the future."

ACLU BILL OF RIGHTS BASH IS MARCH 19TH: "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 Ibtisam 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.

DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2022

From www.diversityresources.com/2022-diversity-calendar/

1/1 – Emancipation Proclamation (Black American): on this day in 1863, President Lincoln declared all persons held as slaves would be free

1/4 – Birthday of Louis Braille (People with Disabilities): French educator Louis Braille created a system of reading and writing for those who are visually impaired. His system, known worldwide as “braille,” remains largely unchanged today

1/6 – Feast of the Epiphany (Christian): a feast day that celebrates the relevance of God incarnate as Jesus Christ

1/14 – Makar Sankranti (Hindu): a festival in the Hindu faith that is dedicated to the Hindu religious sun god Surya

1/17 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Black American): MLK Jr. was an American Baptist minister and activist, revered as one of the great leaders of the American civil rights movement

1/27 – International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust (United Nations): commemorates the approximately 6 million Jewish men, women and children murdered during World War II