



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

UPDATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2023

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.

FEBRUARY CCSJ MEETING IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, AT 7:30 P.M. ON ZOOM. All are welcome as we discuss our plans for 2023.

Topic: Community Coalition for Social Justice February Meeting
Time: Feb 21, 2023 07:30 P.M. Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81274658681?pwd=SWlXajZMY1JLK3RPTENycE8zbkVxUT09>

Meeting ID: 812 7465 8681

Passcode: 809906

One tap mobile

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+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

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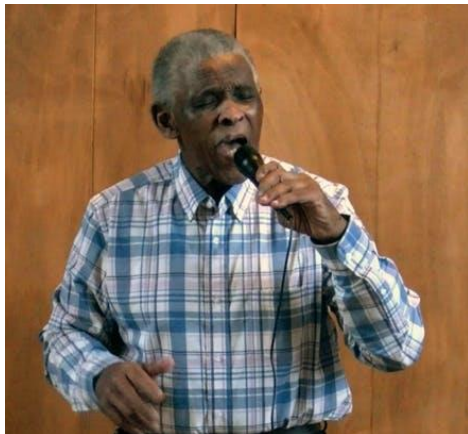


MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY 2023 WAS MONDAY, JANUARY 16TH: Thank you to everyone who made our 17th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event on Monday, January 16th, a success. We could not do this without the financial support of the City of Morgantown. We also appreciate the publicity support from Amy Loomis of Main Street Morgantown, which has co-sponsored this event with us for many years. We held our event virtually this year with the support of Jascenna Haislet, Michelle Klishis, and Diane Cale of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at West Virginia University.

Our theme this year was “Telling West Virginia’s Stories and Dreams,” so we want to thank all those who participated in the program: Jeremy Thomas as master of ceremonies; Morgantown Mayor Jenny Selin; Al Anderson, Charlene Marshall, and Sarah Little, who shared their stories of growing up in Osage and attending segregated schools; local musicians Al Anderson and Chris Haddox; the WVU Community Choir under the direction of Dr. Kym Scott; and WVU music faculty member Dr. Hope Koehler. The Morgantown-Kingwood Branch of the NAACP contributed to the program by inviting Dr. Joseph Jones, visiting assistant professor at the WVU Reed College of Media, to speak on is “Communities of Care: West Virginia and a Civic Identity for the 21st Century.”

You can see more about the event on our webpage at www.ccsjwv.org/ccsj-news.html#MLK, where there is a link to the recorded sections at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-IGBh8EY0k.

There is also a story about the event on *Black by God: The West Virginian* at blackbygod.org/articles/community/martin-luther-king-jr-celebration, and we thank Crystal Good, the editor and publisher of *Black by God*, for asking us to provide this story and photos of Al Anderson (left, below), who sings at each of our events, and Morgantown musician Chris Haddox (right, below).





Left to right: Charlene Marshall, Sarah Little, and Al Anderson shared their stories. Photo by Mike Attfield.

CONTACT US: Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at mdattfieldo@gmail.com. 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@gmail.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 CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE: Morgantown City Council has not yet appointed the final two members of this board.



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting should be Thursday, February 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/.

The Commission presented its 2022 annual awards to Ixya Vega, the Morgantown City Council member for the third ward, and to Holler Health Justice: a POC- & queer-led racial, economic & reproductive justice nonprofit. You can learn more about Holler Health Justice at www.hollerhealthjustice.org.

You can find a calendar of annual human rights observances at www.morgantownwv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/396/Calendar-of-Annual-Human-Rights-Observances-PDF

Here are the events for February:

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.



LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA COUNTY

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA COUNTY (LWV-MM): The League of Women Voters is a constituent member of West Virginia Women Vote (WVWV).

Follow the League on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LWVMM and contact them by email at lwvmorgantown@gmail.com. You can join the League of Women Voters at tinyurl.com/join-lwvmm.

CCSJ appreciates the League’s continued membership in our organization.

GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER: NOW is alternating mixers and meetings so, instead of a regular meeting in February, “Morgantown NOW is so excited to bring together all of our Pals for a special Palentine's event! We will come together to celebrate friendship and collect Period Products for a lucky local organization. There will be a contest to determine who wins! We hope you will bring your favorite dish to share and a period product for a pal in need.

All paper products will be provided and 123 Pleasant Street will be serving drinks. Please sign up at [www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aafa62ea7ff2-palentes#/
We look forward to seeing you soon!](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054aafa62ea7ff2-palentes#/)

Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/ or email at morgantownnow@gmail.com.



MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST: This meeting of the membership 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 is planning a **“Know Your Rights” seminar on Thursday, March 2nd**, at 6:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 456 Spruce Street, Morgantown. Information about speakers will be forthcoming. All are welcome to this free event.

The branch has a Readings on Race and Rights group that is publicized through the NAACP listserv.

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



WEST VIRGINIA COALITION FOR TRUTH IN HISTORY: This group organized in 2022 in response to proposed legislation at the state level dealing with the way history is taught in our public schools. It is again meeting on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. To participate, you must register to receive the Zoom link, email wvtruthinhistory@gmail.com.

The group is currently tracking five bills before the legislature:

SB 130: Anti-Racism Act of 2023. This passed the Senate the first day of the current session as a revision of the bill that did not pass in the last seconds of the 2022 legislature. It passed the House Education Committee on Monday, January 30, and now goes to the House Judiciary Committee. The Coalition is opposing this bill.

SB 33: Prohibiting certain divisive acts or concepts from schools, state agencies and any groups receiving state funding. This bill has been assigned to the Senate Education Committee and then the Senate Finance Committee. At “press time,” there has been no action on this bill.

SB 216: Requiring all schools to instruct students on Holocaust and other genocides. This bill has been assigned to the Senate Education Committee and, at “press time,” there has been no action on this bill.

HB 2347: Establishing the Anti-Stereotyping Act. This bill has been assigned to the House Education Committee and, if it passes there, to the House Judiciary Committee. At “press time,” there has been no action on this bill.

HB 2423: Prohibit “divisive concepts” from schools, state agencies and any groups receiving state funding. This bill has been assigned to the Workforce Development Committee, then to the House Education Committee, and then to the House Judiciary Committee. At “press time,” there has been no action on this bill.

Please see below for information on other bills, how to contact legislators, and the legislature’s calendar. Bills can move quickly at times.



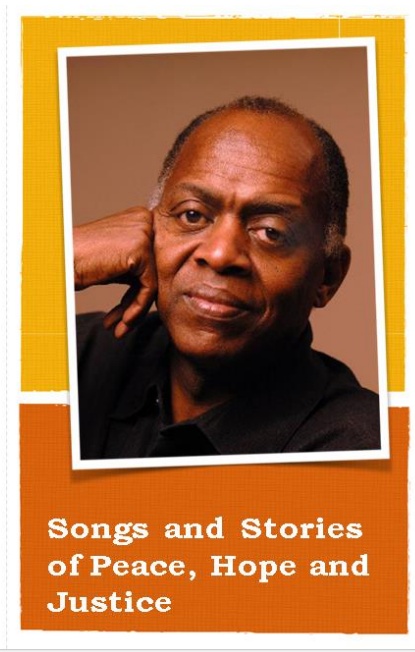
MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN-MENNONITE: The church has a Blessings Box outside the church at 464 Virginia Avenue, Morgantown, where you can drop off extra food you may have or take some if you need it, or swap food. Feminine hygiene products are also welcome.

The church is sponsoring a special program on Sunday, February 5th. All are welcome.

Sunday, February 5, 10:30 a.m.

Morgantown Church of the Brethren
(& Sistren) (& Othren)
464 Virginia Ave., Morgantown

Pot-luck lunch to follow.



Come Let Us Dream

Arr. Mark Hays, Lyrics-John Middleton

I Am a Small Part of the World

Arr. Sally Albrecht and Jay Althouse

Wait on You

Traditional Spiritual

Thankful.

Lyrics and music by David Foster, Carole Bayer Sager and Richard Page

You'll Never Walk Alone.

Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Swimming to the Other Side

Pat Humphries

Each Other's Light

Alia Gonzalez and Anthony Brown

Things That Never Die

Music- Lee DeGler, words- Charles Dickens

I Believe This Belongs to you.

Ester Nicholson JD Martin and Jan Garret

We are Building up a New World.

Lyrics by Vincent Harding

Bio: Anthony Brown

The gifted American baritone, Anthony Brown, is an international promoter of peace and citizen of the world. His work as peacemaker has taken him to political hot spots in Africa, Asia and South America, and was used to facilitate the reducing of tensions in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Northern Uganda. In each venue he stresses the oneness of the human family.

Known for his rich baritone and clear diction, he has performed in concert halls and fine arts centers around the world. Lauded for his moving performances of Spirituals, he is a versatile and dynamic performer who sings in a variety of genres including opera, oratorio, Broadway show tunes, art songs and folk tunes. His performances have been enthusiastically received by audiences of all ages in national and international settings. As a lover of folk songs, he has taken the music of America around the world. In addition, he often sings the folk songs of the people in the countries where he performs and invites the audience to accompany him. He has collaborated with legendary folk singer **Pete Seeger**, who appears with him via video in the multi-media musical documentary, *I Go On Singing, Paul Robeson's Life in Word & Song*.

Through his music, he inspires audiences to join the movement for peace, justice and reconciliation.

February 5th, in the midst of our winter, we will gather around stories and songs from around the world, shared by a participant in those events.

Gifted American baritone, Anthony Brown, is an international promoter of peace and citizen of the world. His work as peacemaker has taken him to political hot spots in Africa, Asia and South America, and was used to facilitate the reducing of tensions in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Northern Uganda. He has toured with programs of Spirituals, opera and oratorio performances, and a collaboration with

Pete Seeger on the life of Paul Robeson. As he explores the ways that music crosses our assumptions about humanity, he draws the audience into singing with him - and deepens their participation in the movement for peace, justice and reconciliation.

The program is part of Tony's work with people of all faiths and no faith. It is in lieu of our church service, starting at 10:30. **Building policy requires use of masks until the coffee time and potluck lunch to follow.** Deb Bergen has added that guests will get a warm welcome and do not need to contribute to the potluck lunch.

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 FEBRUARY PROGRAMS:

Sunday, February 5th: "Songs and Stories of Peace, Hope and Justice." Performer is the gifted baritone Anthony Brown, 10:30 a.m., Church of the Brethren, 464 Virginia Street, Morgantown, WV. [Pot-luck to follow.] More info at bit.ly/fp-robeson, and see description above.

Sunday, February 5th: "Embracing Possibility through Transition" / Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President - YouTube. Sunday Service of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond, October 16, 2022. NOTE ~ This Service video is 1 hr. & 15 min long. The presentation of the UUA President starts after 46 minutes. Video Link: youtu.be/k3c4fggSbTU

Sunday, February 12th (Lincoln's Birthday): "Of All the People, By All the People, For All the People" | Meadville Lombard Theological School, Commencement Address, Rev. Ashley Horan (MDiv '12), May 15, 2022. www.meadville.edu/ml-commons/details/of-all-the-people-by-all-the-people-for-all-the-people/

Sunday, February 19th, Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, President, Unitarian Universalist Association, *UUA Newsletter*, January 28, 2023. After two and a half years of study and conversations with thousands of Unitarian Universalists, the Article II Study Commission submitted their report and proposal to the UUA Board of Trustees for its January 20th meeting. www.uua.org/files/2023-01/a2sc_rpt_01172023.pdf

Sunday, February 26th: "Can the World's Religions Help Save Us from Ecological Peril?" A spiritual connection to nature is essential for environmental recovery. From the Article "Sacred Trees, Holy Waters" in *Columbia Magazine*, Winter Edition 2022 – 2023. magazine.columbia.edu/article/can-worlds-religions-help-save-us-ecological-peril

PFLAG: The closest chapter now is in Fairmont, with information available at www.pflagfairmont.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGFairmont.



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER: Plans for the February meeting were not finalized at "press time." Go to www.facebook.com/events/1097911857554914 for future information.

Bonnie Brown's PowerPoint of the January meeting on "Rejecting the Doctrine of Discovery" is available at docs.google.com/presentation/d/1WEYjfJMok5WBU7SQnlLkHEcfIT7xac8v/edit#slide=id.p1



MORGANTOWN PRIDE MEETS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH: This will be on Zoom from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. You can find the Zoom link information at morgantownwvpride.org/events/event/monthly-morgantown-pride-meeting/.

For information on this group, go to www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page_internal or www.morgantownwvpride.org. Morgantown Pride has an Instagram page at www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en.



RAISING TRANS KIDS Email raisingtranskids@gmail.com for information on the next meeting.



MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER: The next MCCAC "Girls' Night Out" will be May 19, 2023.



WVU HONORING DIVERSITY SERIES: As part of its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, the WVU Honors College is launching a new seminar series this spring. "The Honoring Diversity Series will feature engaging diversity and inclusion topics presented by WVU faculty and staff experts. Seminars will be held on Tuesday evenings via Zoom. To register for the Zoom link, you will have to go to www.honors.wvu.edu/news/2023/01/10/honoring-diversity-series-spring-2023

"Ableism Disrupted"

Lesley Cottrell, director of WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 7

In this presentation, Cottrell will define ability and ableism, review and discuss examples of ableism from our daily lives, explore different perspectives of disability and bias and identify and discuss ways to interrupt ableism with resources, support and advocacy.

"Assistive Technology: Helping People Overcome Barriers"

Doug Crumpston, program manager for WV Assistive Technology System

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 14

Topics to be discussed include assistive technology around us, finding the correct technology, universal design for all and ways to get assistive technology.

"Anti-Asian Racism in White Normative Spaces"

Matt Shin, doctoral candidate in communications studies

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 21

Shin will discuss the history of racial classification, provide historical context of Asian discrimination and suggest strategies to move forward.

“Navigating Religious & LGBTQ+ Social Identities”

Alyssa Beall, teaching assistant professor of religious studies

Samantha Leggett-Bradley, doctoral student in communications studies

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 28

Topics to be discussed include sacred texts supporting and combating LGBTQ+ identities, addressing questions of religious authority and strategies to be an LGBTQ+ individual or ally and a religious person.

“Affirming Spaces and Inclusive Practices

Natalie Shaffer, adjunct professor of music

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 7

“Shifting Perspectives on Disabilities: Strategies to Move Forward”

Andrea Taliaferro, associate professor of physical education and kinesiology

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 21

“Marginalization and the Ethics of Disbelief”

Sharon Ryan, professor of philosophy

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 28

Marginalized people are wronged through acts of violence and discrimination. Frequently, we find ugly and irrational attitudes in the minds of wrongdoers and their cultural accomplices. When attempting to articulate their experiences in the dominant culture, marginalized victims frequently face skepticism and disbelief. Is this skepticism and disbelief, by its nature, wrong? Or is moral wrongdoing just a matter of our actions toward others. If beliefs do wrong others, what are our responsibilities toward shaping beliefs?

“Histories of Pride & LGBTQ+ Publics in West Virginia”

Jacob Kopcienski, WVU alum and doctoral student at Ohio State University

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 4

In this presentation, Kopcienski will discuss the history of LGBTQ and feminist movements, provide a timeline of key events in West Virginia, discuss LGBTQ music and performance and share research resources for LGBTQ history.

“LGBTQ+ Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention”

Bridget Bailey, assistant professor of social work

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 11

Bailey will discuss suicide risk in LGBTQ+ youth, prevention and intervention of suicide in LGBTQ+ youth and treatment using dialectical behavior therapy with LGBTQ+ youth.

“Microaggressions are not so Micro”

Marla Gladstone, doctoral student in coaching and teaching studies

Rachael Purtell, doctoral candidate in communications studies

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 18



AN EXHIBITION BY WVU ART IN THE LIBRARIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES IS OPEN.

This exhibit will be available through May 2023 (print and online) at the WVU Downtown Library and from June through December 2023 at the WVU Beckley Campus Library. It will be at the Appalachian State University Library from January through July 2024 and at the Marshall University Library from August through December 2024.

The exhibit will also become a digital exhibit living on the WVU Libraries' website and archived on the Research Repository at WVU at researchrepository.wvu.edu.

For further information, please contact Sally Brown Deskins, WVU Libraries' Exhibits Coordinator, at sally.brown1@mail.wvu.edu or 304.293.0369.

This project is being presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations do not necessarily represent those of the West Virginia Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Other sponsors are the WVU Office of the Provost and Humanities Center, The Antero Foundation, The Oakland Foundation, MPB Print & Sign Superstore, Marshall University Libraries and Online Learning, Appalachian State University University Libraries, and West Virginia Library Commission.

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH FILM FESTIVAL:



**CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE
AND RESEARCH**

BLACK FILM FESTIVAL
SUBMISSIONS OPEN

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 10, 2023

*Submit your film, short film, or documentary to
eric.jordan@mail.wvu.edu*

The Film Festival will be held March 31st and April 1st in the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms.



The annual Soup and Bread Luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 25th, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Hazel Ruby McQuain Community Center at Mylan Park. Sign up to volunteer for this event at www.ebmon.org/volunteer-opportunities. Tickets include a bowl and are \$15 for adults and \$12 for children under 12 and can be purchased at www.ebmon.org/ticket-purchase.

STATE-WIDE EVENTS

The **West Virginia Legislature** will be in session until March Saturday, March 11th. Many of the groups listed here, including the ACLU and Fairness West Virginia, are tracking bills and organizing lobbying efforts. You can follow their efforts and get legislative updates from their websites and Facebook pages or track bills at the “bill status” tab at www.wvlegislature.gov/. All information on a bill’s status is current as of “press time,” but can change at any time.

You can also find information on how to contact your legislators at www.wvlegislature.gov.

Key dates on the Legislature’s calendar are:

1st Day January 11, 2023: First day of session.

35th Day February 14, 2023: Last day to introduce bills in the House. Does not apply to originating or supplementary appropriation bills. Does not apply to House resolutions or concurrent resolutions.

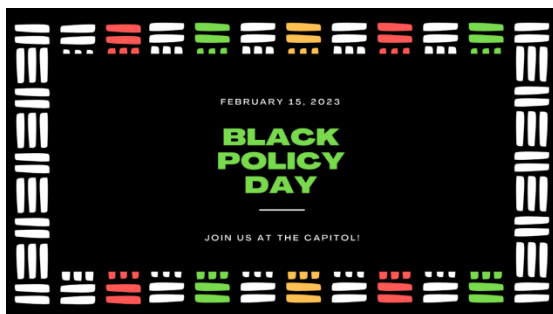
41st Day February 20, 2023: Last day to introduce bills in the Senate. Does not apply to originating or supplementary appropriation bills. Does not apply to Senate resolutions or concurrent resolutions.

47th Day February 26, 2023: Bills due out of committees in house of origin to ensure three full days for readings.

50th Day March 1, 2023: Last day to consider bill on third reading in house of origin. Does not include budget or supplementary appropriation bills.

60th Day March 11, 2023: Adjournment at Midnight.

CCSJ is a 501 (c) (3) organization so we do not endorse candidates, but we do track legislation related to social justice.



Join the Black Voter Impact Initiative and friends for Black Policy Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, February 15th! Register at givebutter.com/BPD2023.



WEST VIRGINIA NOW: West Virginia NOW is online at www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow and wvnow.org. NOW also has a legislative agenda:

Support:

SB 158: Prohibiting person under age of 18 from entering into marriage. Assigned to Judiciary Committee.

HB 3018: Establishing that 18 is the age of consent and removing the ability of an underage person to obtaining a consent to marry through their parents, legal guardians, or by petition to the circuit court. Assigned to the Judiciary Committee.

Oppose:

HB 2007: Prohibiting certain medical practices (deals with gender affirming care). Has passed through Health and Human Resources Committee and Judiciary Committee. The Judiciary Committee amended it to include prohibiting all gender affirming care, including hormone therapy for trans, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming youth. It now goes to the full House with recommendation to passage.

HB 2244: Providing a process by which a city may hold an election to recall an ordinance (could be used to overturn ordinances establishing Human Rights Commissions or CROWN acts, etc.). Has passed through Political Subdivisions Committee and now in Judiciary Committee.

HB 2972: Prohibits public universities or university associated healthcare facilities from performing gender reassignment surgeries or gender affirming care upon minors. Assigned to Health and Human Resources Committee and then to Judiciary Committee.

HB 2998: Non-binary not permitted on birth certificates. Assigned to Judiciary Committee.

HB 3001: To prohibit punishment for teachers who refuse to use pronouns inconsistent with a child's sex. Assigned to Education Committee and then to Judiciary Committee.

SB 252: Prohibiting obscene materials in or within 2,500 feet of WV schools. Assigned to the Judiciary Committee.



FAIRNESS IS TRACKING LEGISLATION: Fairness West Virginia is tracking these bills, which it says "threaten to erase LGBTQ people from public life:

SB 252: Prohibiting obscene materials in or within 2,500 feet of WV schools. Assigned to the Judiciary Committee.

SB 278: Protecting minors from exposure to indecent displays of sexually explicit nature. Assigned to the Judiciary Committee.

SB 253: Criminalizing engaging in adult cabaret performance where it may be viewed by minor. Assigned to the Judiciary Committee.

SB 103: Prohibiting certain funding and attendance of minors to drag shows. Assigned to the Judiciary Committee and then to the Finance Committee.

Sign up to take action against these bills at secure.everyaction.com/xUuLcsrCUEaK2zlws1wisw2.

As of “press time,” though, these bills have only been introduced and they have not been placed on any committee's agenda.

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



ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES: The ACLU tracks hundreds of bills during the legislative session. You can find these at www.acluww.org/en/legislation/see-what-were-tracking-2023-legislative-session.

Bill of Rights Bash 2023 is Saturday, April 1st from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Beni Kedem Temple, 100 Quarrier St., in Charleston. “Join the ACLU-WV staff, board and friends for an evening of civil rights and celebration!”

Sponsorship and ticket information is available at action.aclu.org/event/wv-bor-bash-sponsors-23.

“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.

“If you would prefer to mail your payment, you can view sponsorship options and descriptions and mail your reply form and payment to: ACLU WV Foundation, P.O. Box 3952, Charleston, WV 25339-3952

“Contact Rose Winland at rwinland@acluww.org or (304) 881-6950 with questions.

“We are looking forward to seeing you at the Bill of Rights Bash!”

Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ACLUWV.



WEST VIRGINIA TRANSGENDER COALITION: “The West Virginia Transgender Coalition is a grassroots organization that works to ensure the wellbeing, safety and lived equity of all trans, nonbinary, and gender expansive community members within the state of West Virginia.”

This group is tracking several anti-trans bills before the legislature:

HB 2007, HB 2972, HB 2998, and HB 3001. Information on all of them is under West Virginia NOW above.



For more information, please go to www.facebook.com/wvtranscoalition/.

DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

From www.diversityresources.com/february-diversity-calendar-2023/

Black History Month: Observing Black History Month is an ideal way of celebrating diversity all February. This month was chosen because two important figures in Black history were born in this month: Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. We recommend celebrating Black History Month by supporting Black-owned businesses, learning about noteworthy Black leaders, and donating to charities that promote equality and justice.

2/1: Lunar New Year: Lunar New Year is a festival celebrating the start of the new year in the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar. Great activities to celebrate Lunar New Year include eating a reunion dinner with family on New Year's Eve, setting off firecrackers and fireworks, putting up decorations, and giving red envelopes and other gifts.

2/11: Tammy Baldwin's Birthday: Happy Birthday, Tammy Baldwin! As the U.S.'s first openly LGBT women elected to both the House and the Senate, Baldwin illustrates the idea of why representation is important. Our representatives should look like our population — all races, genders, ethnicities, sexualities, socioeconomic statuses, backgrounds, beliefs, etc.!

2/14: Frederick Douglass' Birthday: Happy Birthday, Frederick Douglass! Douglass was an American abolitionist who escaped slavery and committed himself to social activism thereafter. To remember him today, read his most famous of his autobiographies, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*.

2/15: Nirvana Day: Also known as Parinirvana, this day is the annual festival that commemorates the death of Buddha after he reached his final nirvana. Buddhists often celebrate this day by visiting Buddhist temples or monasteries and meditating. If you're not Buddhist and want to celebrate the day, spend some time in meditation!

2/15: Susan B. Anthony's Birthday: Happy Birthday Susan B. Anthony! Anthony was one of the most visible leaders of the women's suffrage movement. She's remembered as a champion of labor rights, abolition, temperance, and equal pay for equal work. To continue to support her work, sign up to attend a women's rights march or donate to women's movements and organizations on this day.