



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

UPDATE: MARCH 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.

MARCH CCSJ MEETING IS TUESDAY, MARCH 21, AT 7:30 P.M. ON ZOOM. All are welcome.

COMMUNITY COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE MARCH MEETING
TIME: MAR 21, 2023 07:30 PM EASTERN TIME (US AND CANADA)

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/89968285827?pwd=Uk4yUULPNGJYEUZA0HBLADUZDENHUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89968285827?pwd=Uk4yUULPNGJYEUZA0HBLADUZDENHUT09)

MEETING ID: 899 6828 5827
PASSCODE: 879837
ONE TAP MOBILE
+13126266799,89968285827#, *879837# US (CHICAGO)
+16468769923,89968285827#, *879837# US (NEW YORK)

DIAL BY YOUR LOCATION
+1 312 626 6799 US (CHICAGO)
+1 646 876 9923 US (NEW YORK)
+1 646 931 3860 US
+1 301 715 8592 US (WASHINGTON DC)
+1 305 224 1968 US
+1 309 205 3325 US
+1 669 900 6833 US (SAN JOSE)
+1 689 278 1000 US
+1 719 359 4580 US
+1 253 205 0468 US
+1 253 215 8782 US (TACOMA)

MEETING ID: 899 6828 5827

PASSCODE: 879837

FIND YOUR LOCAL NUMBER: [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/U/KEER34LFAW](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/keEr34LFAW)

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: The City of Morgantown has scheduled an orientation meeting for the members of this board who have been appointed to date.



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting should be Thursday, March 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/DocumentCenter/View/396/Calendar-of-Annual-Human-Rights-Observances-PDF

Here are the events for March:

National Women’s History Month – Honors women as significant agents of change.

March 8: International Women’s Day – Celebration of the economic, political, and social achievements of women worldwide. Recognition of need for empowering women to meet their health and family planning needs as central to realizing greater equality. With access to education, economic opportunity, and quality health care, healthier mothers can have healthier babies, economic gains, and help create less pressure on our planet's natural resources.

March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination –Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.

International Forest Day – Call for awareness of the importance of forests in protecting air quality, water retention, plants for pharmaceuticals, habitat for birds and other wildlife – all of which provide a balance for survival of all.

March 22: World Water Day – Calls for awareness of how essential potable water is to the rights of all people in West Virginia and worldwide.

March 31: Cesar Chavez Day – Honors Mexican American farm worker. Labor leader, and activist Cesar Chavez (1927- 1993) who was a nationally respected voice of social justice.



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.

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

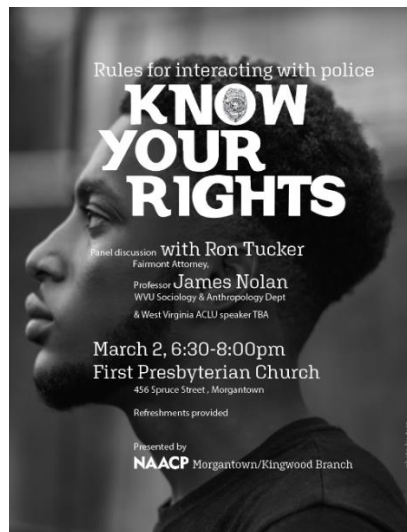


MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER: NOW is alternating mixers and meetings so the next meeting should be March 14th.

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



MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, MARCH 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 has a Readings on Race and Rights group that is publicized through the NAACP listserv.

The next blood drive is scheduled for April 27th.

The branch is also planning a Community Day at the BOPARC Marilla Center from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 7th. Stay tuned for more details.

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 began this session by 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. It was not on the Judiciary Committee's agenda as of March 1st. 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 passed the Senate and was sent to the House Education Committee and then to the Finance Committee. At "press time," the House Education Committee has not acted 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.

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:

1. How to Respond to Ukraine at this Time ~

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is firmly committed to supporting communities already facing oppression as they flee from Ukraine.

Partnership—Building trusting relationships with grassroots organizations supporting communities facing injustice

Welcoming Communities—Preparing and mobilizing congregations in the US to sponsor asylum-seekers and refugees fleeing the violence in Ukraine

Collaboration—Working with fellow funders to pool resources for grassroots groups organizing for positive change in Ukraine in the medium and long terms

Changing the Narrative—Challenging and dismantling disinformation and misinformation about asylum-seekers and refugees and reframing the narrative around displacement and its impacts

Providing Resources—Connecting asylum-seekers and refugees with legal representation to navigate the immigration process, whether in the nations surrounding the Ukraine or in the United States

Get Active & Donate to UUSC’s Emergency Response Fund.

2. Ukraine Children’s Action Project ~

“Life-saving, hope-delivering, resilience-reinforcing programs, services and essential humanitarian support for Ukraine’s displaced and refugee children – extraordinary young people in the cross-hairs of an out of control superpower...”

<https://www.eifoundation.org/partners/ukraine-childrens-action-project/>

3. Provide Sanctuary for Those Forced to Migrate ~

Learn more about the Unitarian Universalist Association’s Congregational Accompaniment Project for Asylum Seekers (CAPAS). This project is a great model for organizations to provide a safe, welcoming, and healthy environment for people exercising their right to migrate, whether from Ukraine or any other nation.

<https://www.uusc.org/initiatives/asylum-is-a-human-right-uuscs-congregational-accompaniment-project-for-asylum-seekers-capas/>

Contact the Fellowship at UUFMWV.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/The-Unitarian-Universalist-Fellowship-of-Morgantown-WV-367256688732 or email uufmwv@gmail.com.

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 MEETING IS MARCH 20TH: The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. by zoom. Information on the purpose and activity of the newly formed Morgantown Civilian Police Review and Advisory Board will be presented by board member, Bob Cohen.

The zoom link to join the presentation and discussion following is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85962493623>



MORGANTOWN PRIDE: No information about a March meeting was available at “press time.”

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.



Sign-ups will be posted April 15th.



Donations and funds raised will go towards the Rainbow House, West Virginia’s first LGBTQ+ shelter!



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. “Take a Vacation to the Tropics with MCCAC at Tropics in Cheat Lake. Join us for another fun night of dinner, dancing, auctions, and more! Keep an eye out for a Girls’ Night Out email with more details and a link to purchase tickets.

“Sponsorships are also available. If you have any questions, please reach out to Taylor: 304-598-0344 or tshultz@moncocac.org.”



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

“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 wronging 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

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

Cheryl Boyce Taylor
Poetry Reading

Date: Monday, March 6, 2023
Time: 7:30 pm
Location: Milano Room at the Downtown Library



CHERYL BOYCE TAYLOR

Cheryl Boyce-Taylor is a poet, author, and curator. She is the winner of the 2022 Publishing Triangle's Audre Lorde Award for her verse memoir, *Mama Phife Represents* (Haymarket, 2021), which stands as a tribute to her late son, hip hop icon Malik "Phife Dawg" Taylor of A Tribe Called Quest. Cheryl's latest work, *We Are Not Wearing Helmets* was published by Northwestern University Press. A VONA fellow, her work has been published in *Poetry*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Aloud: Voices from the Nuyorican Poets Cafe*, *The Mom Egg Review* and *Adrienne*.

Contributors: LGBTQ+ Center, Humanities Center, Dept. of English, Africana Studies, Center For Black Culture and Research and the Faculty Justice Network.

OTHER WVU EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

“Lost and Found: What's Next for the West Virginia Feminist Activist Collection” On March 9, 2023, 7:00-9:00 PM, via Zoom. Join WVU Professor Emerita Judith Stitzel and members of the Artemis Sisters Collective in a conversation about the importance of women collecting and preserving the herstory of their local, state and regional activities for future generations. Artemis was formed in the 1980s by women living in Morgantown who were interested in fostering and promoting opportunities for creative, social and political engagement. Artemis members will share their experiences of donating materials to the Archive and taking part in oral history interviews. This is a follow up to the 2021 program, “Don't Throw It Out.” Register for the Zoom link at [wvu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwof-6hgz8vGdx1z8Xi5Z6aHXLk7AE3MFjp](https://wvu.zoom.us/j/6hgz8vGdx1z8Xi5Z6aHXLk7AE3MFjp).

A reading by writer and alumna Valerie Nieman – Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 7:30 PM, Milano Room, Downtown Wise Library

A guided discussion of Melissa Bank’s *The Girls’ Guide to Hunting and Fishing* – Thursday, March 23, 2023, 5:00 PM, Downtown Library Classroom 104 (lower level)

MORGANTOWN CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Residents who live within the City of Morgantown city limits are eligible to vote in the city council election on April 25th if they are registered.

This year, there will be elections for candidates in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th wards for four-year terms. The candidates who will be on the ballot are Joe Abu-Ghannam and James Guiliani (1st ward), Louise “Weez” Michael (3rd ward), Danielle Trumble and Marly Ynigues (5th ward), and Brian Butcher and Ben Mayle (7th ward). Write-in candidates must file by April 11th to have votes counted that are cast for them. While candidates run from a ward, voters can vote for someone from each ward.

Information on registering to vote, absentee voting, and polling places is available at www.morgantownwv.gov/157/Election-Information.

STATE-WIDE EVENTS

The **West Virginia Legislature** will be in session until midnight on 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.

There are three bills that we did not track before:

SB 10: Campus Self-Defense Act (Campus Carry). This was opposed by many people involved with higher education but was signed into law by Governor Justice on March 1st. It is effective July 1, 2024.

HB 2092: CROWN Act (prohibiting discrimination based on natural hair). This was introduced on January 11th and assigned to the Government Organization Committee and then to Judiciary. There has been no action on this bill.

HB 3503: Relating to nondiscrimination at institutions of higher education. This was introduced on February 14th and assigned to the House Education Committee. The attempt seems to be to eliminate DEI offices at public institutions of higher education. There has been no action on this bill by “press time.”

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

Key dates on the Legislature’s calendar are:

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.



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. This passed the House of Delegates on March 1 and now goes to the Senate.

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 passed the House of Delegates and was sent to the Senate with referrals to the Health and Human Resources Committee and then to the Judiciary Committee. At “press time,” it had not moved in the Senate.

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.). It passed through Political Subdivisions Committee and was sent to the Judiciary Committee. At “press time,” it had not moved in the Judiciary Committee.

HB 2972: Prohibits public universities or university associated healthcare facilities from performing gender reassignment surgeries or gender affirming care upon minors. It was assigned to Health and Human Resources Committee and then to Judiciary Committee. At “press time,” it had not moved out of the Health and Human Resources Committee.

HB 2998: Non-binary not permitted on birth certificates. It was assigned to the Judiciary Committee, and, at “press time,” had not moved out of that committee.

HB 3001: To prohibit punishment for teachers who refuse to use pronouns inconsistent with a child’s sex. It was assigned to the Education Committee and then to the Judiciary Committee. At “press time,” it had not moved out of the Education Committee.

SB 252: Prohibiting obscene materials in or within 2,500 feet of WV schools. It was assigned to the Judiciary Committee, and at “press time,” it had not moved out of that 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. It was assigned to the Judiciary Committee, and, at “press time,” had not moved out of that committee.

SB 253: Criminalizing engaging in adult cabaret performance where it may be viewed by minor. It was assigned to the Judiciary Committee, and, at “press time,” had not moved out of that committee.

SB 103: Prohibiting certain funding and attendance of minors to drag shows. It was assigned to the Judiciary Committee and then to the Finance Committee. At “press time,” had not moved out of the Judiciary Committee.

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

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

And, in an example of what can happen at the legislature, Fairness posted this notice on its website:

WV Senators approve HB 3042, the License to Discriminate Bill

CHARLESTON, West Virginia — Members of the state Senate voted 30-3 in favor of the License to Discriminate Bill on Tuesday night [a day after it passed the House of Delegates]. Moments before the bill passed, Senate Republicans suspended the state’s constitutional rules that require bills to be read and considered on three separate days.

Senators also refused to allow any committee to consider the proposal and instead brought the bill directly to the floor for a vote. The bill, dubbed the “Religious Freedom Restoration Act” by its supporters, will now head to the Governor’s desk for his approval or veto.

“It’s pretty clear to me why our Senators are so fond of this fly-by-night Democracy,” said Andrew Schneider, executive director of Fairness West Virginia. “Proponents of

the bill like to pretend it's a harmless proposal that merely protects religious freedom, but it's nothing more than a license to discriminate under the guise of religious freedom."

HB 3042 could allow anyone to be exempt from following a law or a governmental policy if they believe that law or policy burdens their religious beliefs. That means that any individual religious belief has the potential to determine which state and local laws a person or corporation must follow.

"If that's not a license to discriminate, I don't know what is," Schneider said.

Last week, dozens of Mountaineers packed the Capitol for a public hearing on the bill. Opponents vastly outnumbered supporters of the bill by three to one. Multiple religious leaders spoke out against it, telling lawmakers that the bill is unnecessary because West Virginia already has strong protections for religious freedom.

"The truth is, Mountaineers just don't support discrimination," Schneider said. "As more people have learned about this bill and what it will do, more and more people have spoken out. It seems like Senators were afraid of facing even more backlash about the License to Discriminate, so they rammed it through in a single night."

West Virginia Senate			
Roll Call			
HB 3042			
Relating to forbidding excessive government limitations on exercise of religion			
Yea: 30	Nay: 3	Absent: 1	Excused: 0
Y AZINGER	Y MARONEY	A STOVER	
Y BARRETT	Y MARTIN	Y STUART	
Y BOLEY	Y MAYNARD	Y SWOPE	
N CAPUTO	Y NELSON	Y TAKUBO	
Y CHAPMAN	Y OLIVERIO	Y TARR	
Y CLEMENTS	Y PHILLIPS	Y TAYLOR	
Y DEEDS	N PLYMALE	Y TRUMP	
Y GRADY	Y QUEEN	Y WELD	
Y HAMILTON	Y ROBERTS	N WOELFEL	
Y HUNT	Y RUCKER	Y WOODRUM	
Y JEFFRIES	Y SMITH	Y MR PRESIDENT	
Y KARNES			



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.

The ACLU of West Virginia announced that the "United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit has granted a request to stay a lower court's decision in a case challenging West Virginia's cruel and discriminatory ban on young transgender athletes."

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@acluwv.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 NEXT MEETS MARCH 3RD: "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.

"We will be holding our next meeting on March 3rd at 7pm via Zoom. In the mean time, you are welcome to join our discord channel (please note, there is a vetting process in place for the safety of our group): <https://discord.gg/u5n9rn3fAx>

"If this will be your first time attending a WVTC meeting, you MUST fill out the Google Doc below to be appropriately vetted. This is a one time security measure put in place for the well-being of our organization. Upon being vetted, you will be emailed the Zoom link:
<https://forms.gle/6GxwhTtJAz19pLPBA>

"As a reminder, WVTC members must be 18+ and identify along the trans, nonbinary, gender expansive spectrum."

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

DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR MARCH
www.diversityresources.com/march-diversity-calendar-2023/

Women's History Month

Happy Women's History Month! This month honors the role that women like Dorothea Dix, Susan B. Anthony, Jane Cooke Wright, Mary Tape and so many others have played in American history. Consider hosting an event at your workplace to celebrate women. You could invite female business leaders or nonprofit founder to speak as well.

March 8: International Women's Day

This is another stellar opportunity to celebrate the women in your workplace. This day specifically highlights the political, cultural and economic achievements of women. To celebrate, you can do something as simple such as reaching out to a woman who has inspired you at work. A nice note letting a mentor, teacher or family member know about their impact can be so powerful.

March 8: Holi

Known as the "Festival of Colors," this Hindu holiday celebrates the winter harvest and the onset of spring. Weather permitting, consider hosting your friends and family in your backyard or driveway with brightly colored decorations. Hindu families will often get colored powders to throw and smear on their faces during the festivities.

March 10: Harriet Tubman's Birthday

Happy Birthday, Harriet! As an American abolitionist, she's known for saving a reported 70 people through the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was a network of African American and white people who offered shelter and aid to escaped slaves from the South. Download or borrow a library book to read more about her life.

March 17: St. Patrick's Day

While St. Patrick's Day is celebrated around the world, it's primarily a celebration of the saint who brought Christianity to Ireland. Consider toasting a pint of Guinness or making a traditional Irish recipe to enjoy this holiday!

March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

This day commemorates the date in 1960 that police opened fire on and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against "pass laws" in Sharpeville, South Africa. The day aims to convey a simple message — using your voice can be a powerful vehicle against racism. Your employees can honor this day by reflecting on biases in your workplace, and considering where they may have originated.

March 22 to April 21: Ramadan

Ramadan — an annual observance for Muslims worldwide — falls in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. During this time, Muslims abstain from eating or drinking from dawn until dusk. If you're not Muslim, but you want to see what Ramadan is like, you can try abstaining from eating from dawn until dusk and break the fast with an evening meal called iftar.