

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

UPDATE: OCTOBER 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.

Our next CCSJ meeting will be on Zoom on Tuesday, October 17th, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85996766590?pwd=Z3czWUlmVWpjNS80Wm5BRzBpcUlqdz09

Meeting ID: 859 9676 6590

Passcode: 647952

One tap mobile

+13092053325,85996766590#, *647952# US

+13126266799,85996766590#, *647952# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +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
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)
- +1 507 473 4847 US

Meeting ID: 859 9676 6590

Passcode: 647952

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kEjlbQS6

CCSJ PLANS POT-LUCK GATHERING FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GROUPS ON NOVEMBER 5TH

We are working on an event for November 5th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in conjunction with the First Presbyterian Church at 456 Spruce Street in Morgantown. It's going to be a pot-luck celebration of what all that we have achieved in social and environmental justice over the years followed by a panel discussion of how we can work together so that our achievements are not nullified by the legislature and others in the future. All are invited to this event. We have already sent an alert email to all of the Social and Environmental Justice groups in the area. Right now we are working on details with the church and selecting the panel. We welcome ideas concerning this event and who should be on the panel (send to ccsjwv@gmail.com). Please come and share your food and ideas.

CCSJ SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FAIR WAS SEPTEMBER 17: Thank you to those who came out for our fair and, especially to the groups who set up tables. This was the first day of WVU's Diversity Week, and we appreciated the assistance of Anne Kerns, special events coordinator for the WVU Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, in publicizing our event and encouraging the WVU community to attend.

Steel Away of the CB Drum Studio, the Morgantown-based steel drum band, gave a very popular concert, and Al Anderson sang for us. We welcomed two of Morgantown's City Ambassadors and met representatives from the local public defender's office.

Unfortunately we had to cut the event a bit short because the weather did not cooperate.

The following groups participated:
Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association
League of Women Voters of Morgantown/Monongalia County
Morgantown City Ambassadors
Morgantown Human Rights Commission
Morgantown NOW
Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP
Quakers
Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center
WVU Center for Black Culture
WVU Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

WVU Native American Studies Program



We appreciate the financial support of the City of Morgantown and FirstEnergy Foundation for this event. We were able to use some of the funding from the FirstEnergy Foundation to purchase a new CCSJ feather flag, table covering, and table runner in the photo so we will be more visible at future events, and we especially thank Eve Faulkes for her assistance in designing and ordering these items.

CCSJ SUPPORTS "THE LAND WAS ALREADY LOVED" ON OCTOBER 9TH-10TH: Please see publicity for this important event below under the Native American Studies Program. We are proud to be able to provide some financial support for the program.

CCSJ POWERPOINT REVIEW: Mike Attfield prepared a short "history/review" of our work over the years for his presentation to City Council. You will be able to see it on our website soon, and we showed it at the fair.

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 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting should be Thursday, October 19th, 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 October:

LGBT History Month – Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the United States.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month – A time for celebrating the strength of battered women and their children and for connecting those working to end violence against women and children.

National Crime Prevention Month - Special awareness for the practice of crime prevention as well as victimization, volunteerism, and the need to create safer more connected neighborhoods and communities.

October 1: International Day of Older Persons – Appreciates the contributions which older persons in diverse situations make to their communities and recognizes the need for opportunities for willing and capable persons of advanced age to participate in and be celebrated for their action in society.

October 9: Indigenous People Day (Native American Day) – Celebrates and honors Native American history and culture.

October 15: World Food Day – A day for awareness of the need for greater equity in access to food production and distribution locally, statewide, nationally and internationally.

October 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Day – Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.

October 24: United Nations Day – Commemorates the founding of the United Nations in 1945.

October 31: World Cities Day – "The human future is largely an urban future. We must get right reduction of greenhouse emissions, strengthening resilience, ensuring basic services such as water and sanitation, and designing safe public streets and spaces for all to share." (UN Sec.Gen.)



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).

The League is hoping to present a forum with local legislators in conjunction with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in early December. More details will be available in the November Update.

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.



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

NAACP

MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17TH: 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 and does its work with a variety of committees, including Education, Political Action, Legal Redress, Criminal Justice, and Health.

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



MORGANTOWN CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD NEEDS TWO MEMBERS:

There are two vacancies on the board at this time. The City of Morgantown is currently accepting applications and you can get a link to the application and more information by going to https://morgantownwv.gov/640/Civilian-Police-Review-and-Advisory-Boar. "The Board shall consist of nine members

appointed by City Council. Each member shall be a resident of the city or an active member of an organization that works within the city to promote purposes consistent with the purpose of the Board."

For links to agendas and minutes of past meetings, go to https://www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/Civilian-Police-Review-Advisory-Board-47.



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.

Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom with the link available at www.morgantowncob.org.

Follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634.



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN (UUFMWV.org) OCTOBER SCHEDULE:

Sunday, October 1: "The Ethics of What We Eat": Lecture at Williams College by Peter Singer, professor of bioethics at Princeton University and professor at the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics at the University of Melbourne. Peter Singer takes a hard look at the food we eat, where it comes from, and how it is produced. (12/14/2009). https://youtu.be/UHzwqf_JkrA.

Sunday, October 8: "What is the Healthiest Diet." YouTube Video by Michael Greger, M.D., NutritionFacts.org. You can download the Plant Based Diet booklet featured in the video. This video is thanks to David Greenberg, owner of WiseStreet.com, who graciously donated his team's time, energy, and resources to create this animation. https://youtu.be/JhQrCnOoEjQ.

Sunday, October 15: "Meditation & Lifestyle Changes Really Count." Presentation & Discussion with Bill Reger Nash and Neal Newfield reflecting their work at West Virginia University and more generally. Service at the Fellowship Building at 429 Warrick Street. Doors open at 10:45 a.m., program at 11:00 to 12:00.

Sunday, October 22: "Real Health is Fundamentally Spiritual Health." YouTube Video by Will Tuttle, Ph.D., World Peace Diet, spreading the word across the nation from New England to California. Will and his wife travel extensively to bring information to conscientious eaters. https://youtu.be/pwvujHfvD_c.

Sunday, October 29: "Vegan Voyages Trip to Cambodia." Experience a trip to Asia via the incredible plans for a 14-day excursion. These trips create lifetime insights and memories. https://vegantravelasia.com/adventures/cambodia-vegan-tour/

We are a Welcoming Congregation and support the Community Coalition for Social Justice. See also: UUFMWV.org. or email uufmwv@gmail.com.

WORLD QUAKER DAY IS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1st: The Monongalia Friends Meeting invites everyone to join them on World Quaker Day. The theme this year is 'Living the Spirit of Ubuntu," "the belief that every person is worthy of being heard and we are all interdependent." Join the Friends Meeting at 11:00 a.m. for 30 minutes of Silent Worship, followed by discussion. There will also be a light lunch served. The

meeting house is at 648 East Brockway Ave., Morgantown 26502. Please call 304-276-4416 with any questions.



WEST VIRGINIA COALITION FOR TRUTH IN HISTORY MEETING AGAIN: The Coalition met for the first time since last spring on Thursday, September 28th, to discuss ideas for the future. A joint meeting with Dismantling Racism Together is planned for November 20th at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. All are

welcome to join the coalition as we get ready for the legislative session. Send your email address to ccsjwv@gmail.com, and we will pass on your information to the coalition's leadership.



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER MEETS MONDAY, OCTOBER 16^{TH} AT 7:00 p.m. BY ZOOM. Eli Baumwell, interim executive director of the WV ACLU, will speak on the role and work of the ACLU.

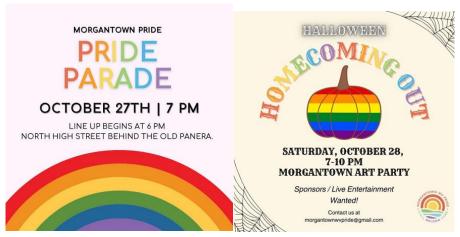
The Zoom link is. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85962493623

Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dismantling%20racism%20together%20morgantown.

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



MORGANTOWN PRIDE PARADE AND HALLOWEEN HOMECOMING OUT FOR OCTOBER 27th AND 28th:



"Get ready for a big, gay, spooky bash "

"Homecoming Out is Halloween themed this year for middle and high school students (8th-12th grade)!

"Join us from 7-10 PM on October 28th at the Morgantown Art Party!

"If you'd like to sponsor or provide live entertainment, please fill out this form: forms.gle/hFtuRgEfV7xAb6Cf7."

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 GROUP MEETS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH, FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 3:30 P.M.

Anyone interested in joining the meeting for the first time or to get more information can email raising transkids@gmail.com for the call-in passcode and/or more information. All meetings are held virtually via Zoom for now.

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. Follow Morgantown Pride on Facebook.



Raising Trans Kids

Community Group

EMPTY BOWLS MONONGALIA FUNDRAISING EVENTS: The major fall event is October 14th.



Tickets are \$150, \$300 for a couple, and \$1,500 for a table of 10 and can be purchased at www.ebmon.org/funraiser.



Volunteers are needed for Game Day Parking:

Please review the spots available to manage the parking lot at the Morgantown Church of the Brethren located at 464 Virginia Ave, Morgantown, WV 26505. Volunteers should be at the parking lot 2 hours before WVU kickoff and will take parking donations of \$15 per spot until lot is filled. For more detailed information, please email EBMon.office@gmail.com. We thank you for your support in fighting against food insecurity in Monongalia County.

You can sign up to volunteer at

www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FAAAC2FA7FFC43-football?fbclid=IwAR0SgGcx7UgsxoBGSBo0sB UDBga9sLFUxZZ54ty-IWgPCbdhUUU5Q2nAxw#/.

The **Soup & Bread Luncheon** will be Saturday, February 24, 2024. Volunteer opportunities are now available at www.ebmon.org/volunteer-opportunities.

MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (MCCAC). Follow this group at moncocac.org/news/ or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC.



The Center is participating in the West Virginia Botanic Garden's "Scarecrow Spectacular," with "Mothman" as seen at left on the Center's Facebook page. The garden is located at 1061 Tyrone Road in Morgantown, and visitors can vote on their favorite scarecrow created by area nonprofit groups.

The next fundraising event will be the Battle of the Bartenders - Holiday Edition! This event will be held on Thursday, November 30th at Kegler's. Stay tuned for additional details, including the bartending teams! Interested in getting involved with the Battle of the Bartenders event? Contact Taylor at 304-598-0344 or

tshultz@moncocac.org.

Kroger Community Rewards support the CAC: If you already use Kroger rewards and have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose. Choose MCCAC from the organization list, and Kroger will donate a percentage of your spending to the CAC. MCCAC's NPO number: 90621.

Scotts Run Community Sing: This event happens every last Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Scott's Run Settlement House, 41 Ladybug Drive in Osage. You do not have to be from Scotts Run to participate. It is for everyone, from anywhere, and for all ages!



The RDVIC (Rape and Domestic Violence Center) celebrates 50 years of serving our community!
Attire: Dressy Business to Cocktail

Refreshments will include a cash bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and Bonnie Belle's Desserts

Live entertainment: Rick K & The All-nighters.

Tickets are \$75 per person for admission, \$100 per person for admission and two drinks, \$100 for a half-hour session of bourbon tasting, and \$1,000 to sponsor a cocktail table. The \$1,000 includes admission for two people, four drink tickets, a reserved cocktail table, and recognition at the event as well as on RDVIC's social media and website.

WVU EVENTS AND RESOURCES



WVU LGBTQ CENTER EVENTS: Follow this group at lgbtq.wvu.edu and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WVULGBTQCenter.

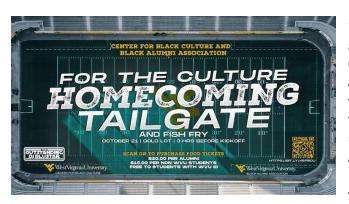
Tuesday, October 24: OutFront Series, Speaking Event: Dr. Anthony Fauci, Dr. Stef Shuster speaking on LGBTQ+ Healthcare. 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. "Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Stef Shuster will be speaking about LGBTQ+ Healthcare in the

tenses of Past, Present and Future from the challenges people face to resources. Register for the Zoom meeting at https://wvu.zoom.us/.../tJMtfuuurTMqE9CrTXn5SB5uvhYPKMEss."

Tuesday, November 7: OutFront Series, James Conlon, TJ Chang –LGBTQ+ Politics and Policy Speaking Event. "James Conlon and TJ Chang have a special interest in fighting for LGBTQ+ rights in the political sphere. Join them in their discussion about how to make positive change for the LGBTQ+ communities in Politics and Policy." Go to the Center's Facebook page to find the registration link, which was not available at "press time."

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Applications to nominate people for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Achievement Award and for the Scholarship Award will be online on Monday, October 2nd, at the Center's website: https://cbc.wvu.edu/. The award recipients will be announced at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day breakfast, on Monday, January 15, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Note the new time for the breakfast!



"Join us for the ultimate Homecoming Tailgate and Fish Fry! A Hosted by the WVU Center for Black Culture and Black Alumni Association, it's a celebration you won't want to miss! Amark your calendars for Oct. 21 in the Gold Lot, three hours before kickoff. Let's unite and have a blast! Tickets: \$20 for Alumni and Community Members, \$15 for Non-WVU Students, FREE for WVU students with a valid student ID.

Purchase: https://wvublackhomecoming.eventbrite.com."



WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM FORUM: "THIS LAND WAS ALREADY LOVED: Native Leaders discuss their Nations' Connection to Place" on October 9 & 10, 2023.

THIS LAND WAS ALREADY LOVED:

Native Leaders Discuss their Nations' Connection to Place

A forum hosted by the West Virginia University
Native American Studies Program

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 9: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY WVU PEACE TREE CEREMONY

Tadodaho Sidney Hill, Onondaga Nation, Haudenosaunee Confederacy will preside

Faithkeeper Oren Lyons, Onondaga Nation ,Haudenosaunee Confederacy, will give the keynote address: "Truth to Power: History from Indigenous Perspectives"

OCTOBER 10: ALL-DAY PUBLIC FORUM

Leaders of several Native Nations with historical, ancestral and current connections to the land now known as West Virginia will share insights, along with outlooks for the future:

Tadodaho Sidney Hill and Faithkeeper Oren Lyons, both of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy, Shawnee Tribe Chief Ben Barnes, Eastern Shawnee Tribe Chief Glenna Wallace, Delaware Nation President Deborah Dotson, Delaware Tribe of Indians Chief Brad KillsCrow and Cherokee Nation representative Catherine Foreman Gray



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Registration required to attend In-person or virtual via livestream

DETAILS AND REGISTRATION AT NAS.WVU.EDU Call 304-293-4626 for more information







This project is 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.

Front photo by Danny Hoover of Morgantown, WV. View from Spruce Knob, elevation 4,863 ft., the highest point in West Virginia.

The registration link for the WVU Native American Studies October events is now live at nas.wvu.edu/fall-2023-forum. The QR code on the poster will scan directly to the webpage registration.

WVU EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE FOCUS: The following events were publicized in the September WVU Humanities Center newsletter and are open to everyone.

Tuesday, October 3, at 6:00 p.m.: Honoring Diversity Series #1 - LGBTQ+ Rights: Past, Present and Future. Presenter – Brad Grimes

Attendee Register Link: https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rGfcrshLTLi0oI5GCt15fA.

Tuesday, October 10, at 6:00 p.m. Honoring Diversity Series #2 - Deconstructing Narratives of Criminalization Through Art and Art-Making. Presenter – Dr. Gloria Negrete-Lopez Attendee Register Link: https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8DAikuirR-GZa6HLWZXLbA.

Tuesday, October 17 at 6:00 p.m.: Honoring Diversity Series #3 - Messages from the Ivory Tower. Presenter - Niara Campbell

Attendee Register Link:

https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Fo2K9WcPRCGR0BaAjIO0Kw.

Tuesday, October 24 at 6:00 p.m.: Honoring Diversity Series #4 - Ableism Disrupted Presenter - Dr. Lesley Cottrell

Attendee Register Link – https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zDeQ_q82SIGkffqsZPi8Vg

Wednesday, October 25 at 6:00 p.m.: Honoring Diversity Series #5 - Which Witch was Which: The European Witch Craze. Presenter - Dr. Aaron Gale Attendee Register Link – https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Qz2WgBLnRB-bDbZBb26iSw.

Monday, October 30, at 7:30 p.m., in the Milano Room of the Downtown Library, The Appalachian Writer of Color Series will feature poet Lisa Kwong, author of *Becoming AppalAsian*. This event is co-sponsored by Mountaineer Week.

Tuesday, November 7 at 6:00 p.m.: Honoring Diversity Series #6 - Critical Conversations on Disabilities. Presenter - Dr. Samantha Ross

Attendee Register Link -

https://wvu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uQYO8Jq5TFOKQQa4NpKTHQ.

STATE-WIDE EVENTS



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



FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA: Follow Fairness West Virginia on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fairnesswv.



ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES: Follow this group at www.acluwv.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ACLUWV. Eli Baumwell is now the interim executive director of the ACLU of West Virginia.



There will be events at the Kanawha County Public Library and some virtual events from Monday, October 2nd to Thursday, October 5th. More information is available at https://www.acluwv.org/en/banned-booksweek-2023-schedule-events.



WEST VIRGINIA TRANS 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." For more information, please go to www.facebook.com/wvtranscoalition/.



"Dating relationships are hard to navigate, and it's sometimes difficult to spot red flags and abusive behaviors. That's why we want to Come Together to talk about Healthy Relationships, both to help youth and young adults identify dating violence and to help them and their supportive adults learn how to talk about safety.

"WE NEED YOU to submit your questions for our expert panel! Follow this link to make sure your questions about Healthy Relationships make it into the conversation: https://forms.office.com/r/7QcHD86eeW

"United for Love: Come Together is WV's Second Annual LGBTQ+ Teen/Young Adults & Their Allies Resource Event!

"Huntington Pride, in collaboration with Branches Domestic Violence Shelter, WHC of WV, West Virginia Transgender Coalition, and the Cabell County STOP Team, are excited to announce West Virginia's second annual LGBTQ+ Teen, Young Adult, and their allies resource event. This event will highlight health and safety resources, as well as provide safe, family-friendly fun and safety resources for LGBTQ+ teens.

"Designed to help empower future LGBTQ+ generations and their allies with the tools they need to thrive, this is a free event open to the community especially LGBTQ+ teens, young adults, and their allies.

"Where: Mountain Health Arena, Conference Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Huntington, WV When: October 7th, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Learn more at facebook.com/events/1743956149362802/."

DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

www.diversityresources.com/october-diversity-calendar-2023

Hispanic Heritage Month: Celebrated from September 15 – October 15, Hispanic Heritage Month honors the rich culture, history, and contributions of Americans with roots in the Caribbean, Spain, Mexico, Central, and South America. It was first established in 1968 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. September 15 is significant as it is the anniversary of the independence of many Central American countries.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month: First declared by Congress to raise awareness for the needs of those disabled in the United States, this month also celebrates the contributions of the nearly 18.6 million members of the United States Workforce. As a result of the month being honored, Congress has since created the Office of Disability Employment Policy in the Department of Labor which helps to educate and train people who are unemployed or underemployed and disabled in America.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month: This annual international health campaign day can be celebrated in many ways, whether breast cancer walks or runs as well as other events honoring those who are fighting the disease and those who have lost their fight too. In 2009, Male Breast Cancer Awareness Week began during the third week of October too.

Global Diversity Awareness Month: October is also a time to celebrate and promote respect for all cultures and embrace the richness of diversity in our global community. It is an opportunity to learn about different backgrounds, traditions, and perspectives that contribute to the tapestry of humanity.

October 9 – Indigenous Peoples' Day (US): Celebrated the second Monday of October and coinciding with Columbus Day, this day honors the culture and history of all Native American people in the United States and its territories. It's a day to recognize the violence they have faced in our history and the continued pursuit to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day forever.

If you live in South Dakota, it's known as Native Americans' Day, Discoverers' Day in Hawaii, and American Indian Heritage Day in the State of Alabama.

October 10 – World Mental Health Day: Nearly 50.2 percent of the LGBT community and 1 in 5 adults have experienced mental illness, according to the National Alliance on Mental Health. This international effort to expand mental health awareness was first celebrated in 1992. This day is intended to support those inflicted with mental illness and to break the silence on the stigma of having illness in America.