



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

**UPDATE: APRIL 1, 2024**

**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, April 16th, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.**

Bob Cohen, a member of the Morgantown Civilian Police Review and Advisory Board, will discuss the board's work.

Join Zoom Meeting

[us02web.zoom.us/j/82648221389?pwd=SHVTcjhXVFFxcFU5QkcwTzJKRTY3UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82648221389?pwd=SHVTcjhXVFFxcFU5QkcwTzJKRTY3UT09)

Meeting ID: 826 4822 1389

Passcode: 635077

One tap mobile

+13052241968, 82648221389#, \*635077# US

+13092053325, 82648221389#, \*635077# US

Dial by your location

• +1 305 224 1968 US

• +1 309 205 3325 US

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

• +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

• +1 646 931 3860 US

Meeting ID: 826 4822 1389

Passcode: 635077

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/k6qBmimQO>

**JOIN US ON APRIL 21ST FOR A SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GATHERING:** All are welcome to join us for a potluck gathering at the First Presbyterian Church, 456 Spruce Street, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. to discuss the outcomes and ramifications of the recent Legislature's actions. The League of Women Voters of Morgantown and Monongalia County and the Morgantown Human Rights Commission will be there, and we are waiting to hear from other groups. If your organization would like to participate, please email Mike Attfield at [ccsjwv@gmail.com](mailto:ccsjwv@gmail.com). All are welcome to this free event. Parking is available in the church lot on Forest Avenue.

**CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964:** We are awaiting official word on funding from the City for our exhibit, but Eve Faulkes is working on designing a graphic novel to be part of the exhibit that will include stories of people from around the state. She has made arrangements for the exhibit to "tour" to MultiFest in Charleston in early August and to the Charleston YWCA.

**CONTACT US:** Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at [mdattfieldo@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ccsjwv@gmail.com). Please send items to share with our membership to Barb Howe at [barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu](mailto: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, April 18th, at 6:30 p.m. Contact information for the commission and information on filing complaint forms is at [www.morgantownwv.gov/272/Human-Rights-Commission](http://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/](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/).

**Vacancies on Human Rights Commission.** There are currently two vacancies on the commission. According to the City of Morgantown's website, "Appointments of to the Commission are made by City Council, and all must be residents of the City. All seats are non-ward specific." Information on applying for the commission is available at [morgantownwv.gov/FormCenter/Boards-and-Commissions-Application-7/Application-to-Serve-on-City-Boards-and--45](http://morgantownwv.gov/FormCenter/Boards-and-Commissions-Application-7/Application-to-Serve-on-City-Boards-and--45).

**Here are the events for April:**

**National Child Abuse Prevention Month** – A time to emphasize the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect and to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of children and families.

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month** - A month to promote awareness of sexual assault, harassment, or other abuse to increase prevention efforts to protect all people of all ages.

**April 1: Youth Homelessness Matters Day** – Part of a campaign to create brighter futures for young people who have faced homelessness and to show them they have the power and opportunity to become whatever they put their minds to.

**April 7: World Health Day** – Calls for an awareness that without nurture and protection of health, persons are vulnerable to economic and social hardship and inability to fully utilize or engage in human rights.

**April 16: Holocaust Remembrance Day** – Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising – Seeks to commemorate the Holocaust by remembering and honoring the victims of the Holocaust which include six million Jews, thousands of Russian gypsies, homosexuals, persons with disabilities, and others.

There is a calendar of annual human rights observances at [www.morgantownwv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/396/Calendar-of-Annual-Human-Rights-Observances-PDF](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/396/Calendar-of-Annual-Human-Rights-Observances-PDF).



**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 will be sponsoring a **candidate forum on Wednesday, April 24th**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Greenbag Road, Morgantown. The first hour will be a candidate forum for School Board and all three candidates will be participating (Ron Lytle, Christina Morgan and Shawn Smith). Attendees are encouraged to bring questions for the candidates. The last hour will be an educational session during which Justin Hershberger of the Mon County Public Defender's Office will discuss the role and responsibilities of the Magistrate. Magistrate candidates have been invited to a meet and greet with the audience after Mr. Hershberger's presentation. All are welcome to this free event.

Follow the League on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LWVMM](http://www.facebook.com/LWVMM) and contact them by email at [lwmorgantown@gmail.com](mailto:lwmorgantown@gmail.com). You can join the League of Women Voters at [tinyurl.com/join-lwvmm](http://tinyurl.com/join-lwvmm).

The Morgantown/Monongalia County League is a member organization of CCSJ.



**MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER:** Follow this group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/](http://www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/) or email at [morgantownnow@gmail.com](mailto:morgantownnow@gmail.com).

**Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.:** We will be meeting together at the Morgantown Art Bar for Taco Tuesday.



**Saturday, April 13, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.:** Morgantown NOW will be tabling at this event to assist people in checking their voter registration status and registering them to vote as needed at the Spruce Street Pavilion.

**Saturday, April 20, 2:30 p.m.:** RDVIC's Walking With Survivors. The walk will start at 3:30 p.m. and the event will last until about 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, April 25:** Champagne for SANEs, Table 9, 40 Donley Street, Morgantown

**Tuesday, May 14:** Meeting at Friends Meeting House, 7:00 p.m. Special Guest Amaya Williams will present on Bystander Intervention (pt. 2)

**Tuesday, June 11:** Mixer: TBA, 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 9:** Meeting at Friends Meeting House, 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, August 13:** Mixer, TBA, 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 10:** Meeting at Friends Meeting House, 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, October 8:** Mixer: TBA, 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 5:** VOTE (Election Day)

**Tuesday, November 12:** Meeting at Friends Meeting House, Annual Meeting/Officer Elections, 7:00 p.m.

**December:** Mixer: TBA

\*This schedule is an attempt to plan out consistency for the year! We will do our best to stick to this schedule but everything is subject to change for extenuating circumstances.



**MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, APRIL 16TH:** This meeting of the membership will be at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact the NAACP at [3241naacp@gmail.com](mailto: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.

There will be a **Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, April 2, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.** at the Elks Lodge 411, 1138 Chestnut Ridge Road. You can sign up to donate at [www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time).

Follow the NAACP on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/naacp3241/?ref=page\\_internal](http://www.facebook.com/naacp3241/?ref=page_internal).

We appreciate the fact that the Branch shares this Update with its membership.



**MORGANTOWN CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD NEEDS TWO MEMBERS:** The City of Morgantown is currently accepting applications for the two vacancies on the board, and you can get a link to the application and more information by going to [morgantownwv.gov/640/Civilian-Police-Review-and-Advisory-Boar](http://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 [www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/Civilian-Police-Review-Advisory-Board-47](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/Civilian-Police-Review-Advisory-Board-47).

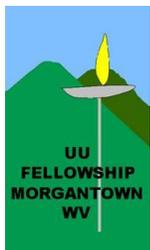


**MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN-MENNONITE:** Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom with the link available at [www.morgantowncob.org](http://www.morgantowncob.org).  
“Christians for a Free Palestine is calling for a mass mobilization to Washington, DC, April 8-9, in order to use our public voice and our collective power to challenge Christian Zionism, advocate for a permanent ceasefire, demand an end to U.S. military aid to Israel, and ensure a long-lasting, just, and sustainable peace for Palestinians and Israelis. Learn more and register at [christiansforafreepalestine.com/takeaction](http://christiansforafreepalestine.com/takeaction).”  
#ChristiansforaFreePalestineDC

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](http://www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634).

The church is a member organization of CCSJ.



**UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN:** The church is located at 429 Warrick Street, Morgantown, WV. No information was available about April services by “press time.”

This is a Welcoming Congregation and supports the Community Coalition for Social Justice. See also: [UUFMWV.org](http://UUFMWV.org) or email [uufmwv@gmail.com](mailto:uufmwv@gmail.com).



**GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION:** If you are interested in this group, please contact Eve Faulkes at [faulkeseve@gmail.com](mailto:faulkeseve@gmail.com).

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AN  
**INTERFAITH GATHERING**  
 IN HONOR OF  
**DARRIN LESTER**



**When:** Sunday, April 14 at 6:00 pm  
**Where:** Ascend WV Basecamp  
 1279 University Ave, Morgantown, WV 26505

Please bring at least one book that has transformed your life and inspired your worldview/faith. You will be encouraged to discuss your book with the group and donate it to the Appalachian Prison Book Project. Food will be provided. Please RSVP [here](#) or by scanning the QR code below.







If you have any questions, please contact Landon Lambert at [lm Lambert12@gmail.com](mailto:lm Lambert12@gmail.com)



**DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER MEETS MONDAY, APRIL 15TH AT 7:00 P.M. ON ZOOM:** At least two candidates for the Monongalia County School Board (Shawn Smith and Christina Fattore Morgan) will discuss and answer questions related to diversity, equity & inclusion; discipline; and working with local school improvement councils. Please join by zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85962493623>.

To learn more about Dismantling Racism Together, go to [www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dismantling%20racism%20together%20morgantown](http://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dismantling%20racism%20together%20morgantown).



**WEST VIRGINIA COALITION FOR TRUTH IN HISTORY:** The Coalition was very active during the legislative session, including, after the session, publishing an op ed in the *Charleston Gazette* and a letter to the editor in the *Dominion Post* about its issues. Future meetings will depend on actions by the legislature as the WVCTH monitors issues that might come up in special sessions. Send your email address to [ccsjwv@gmail.com](mailto:ccsjwv@gmail.com), and we will pass on your information to the coalition's leadership.

**FAIRMONT PFLAG:** Information is available at [www.pflagfairmont.org](http://www.pflagfairmont.org) or [www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGFairmont](http://www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGFairmont).

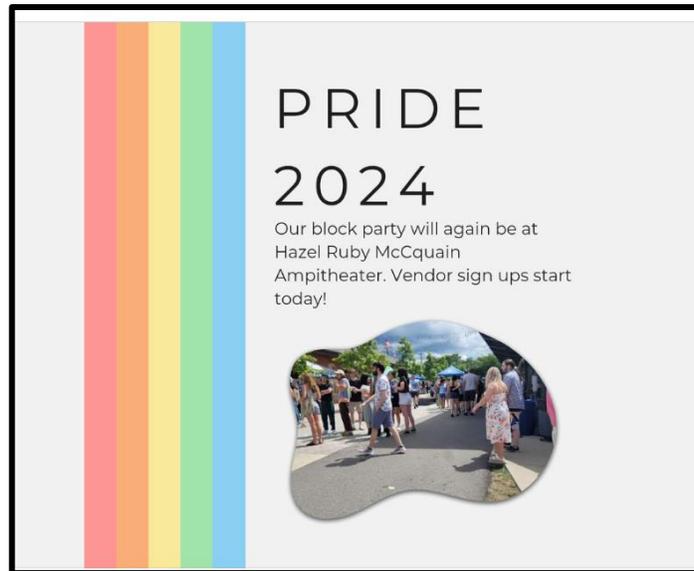


“Get ready to celebrate love, acceptance, and equality at Fairmont Pride! Join us for a day of live music, vendors, and more! Pack the car for this family-friendly community event hosted by PFLAG Fairmont” at 12:00 p.m. at the Fairmont Greenspace, 308 Watson Avenue.



**MORGANTOWN PRIDE EVENTS:**

The 2024 Block Party will be on Sunday, June 15th.



“Vendor sign ups have begun! We will close vendor sign ups and start registration for back up vendors as soon as we reach 50 sign ups or May 29th whichever comes first!

“Thanks everyone for your patience and we know we will have another great year!

Information on vendors, sponsorships, and parade participation is available at [docs.google.com/.../1vfwaSqc1LIAJ61Ykcy.../edit...](https://docs.google.com/.../1vfwaSqc1LIAJ61Ykcy.../edit...)

For information on Morgantown PRIDE, go to [www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page_internal) or [www.morgantownwvpride.org](https://www.morgantownwvpride.org). Morgantown Pride has an Instagram page at [www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en).



**RAISING TRANS KIDS GROUP:** Anyone interested in joining the meeting for the first time or to get more information can email [raisingtranskids@gmail.com](mailto:raisingtranskids@gmail.com).

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.



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



### #High5Drive

MCCAC is gearing up for April - Child Abuse Prevention Month! With that comes the statewide campaign:

#High5Drive 🙌

Give a High 5. Donate \$5. Encourage Brave WV Kids. The goal for our Center in Monongalia County is to give a High 5 (Donate \$5) to all of the clients that we served in the year 2023 - 629 clients. This means our goal is to raise \$3,145 with this campaign.

You can participate in the #High5Drive by donating below. You can also visit one of our campaign sites (AntiquiTea House, The Tea Shoppe) to donate!

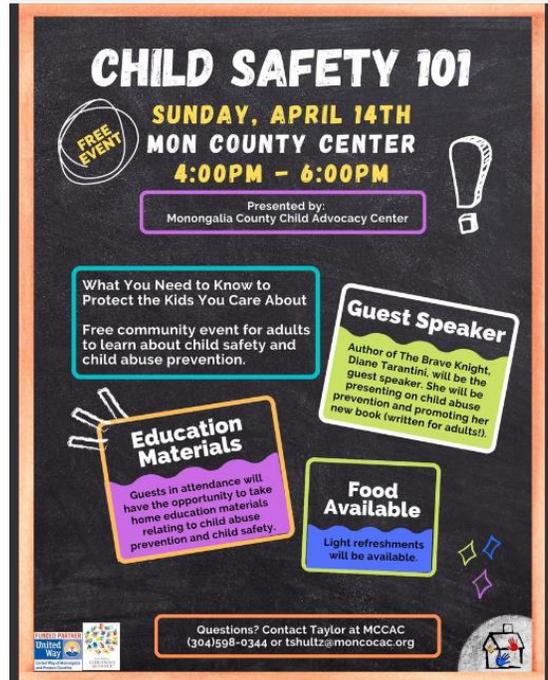
You can donate at [give.wvcn.org/team/569283](http://give.wvcn.org/team/569283)

## Check Out Where MCCAC Will be during Child Abuse Prevention Month



- April 12th - Child Abuse Prevention Month Resource Event on High Street from 10:00am to 3:00pm
- April 14th - Child Safety 101: What You Need to Know to Protect the Kids You Care About at the Mon County Center (Mylan Park) from 4:00pm to 6:00pm
- April 20th - Health Fair at Woodland United Methodist Church from 8:00am to 12:00pm
- April 28th - Annual Spring Tea Membership Bash for Women's Giving Circle at The Silo at 2:30pm

[Child Safety 101 Information](#)



This event will be held on Friday, May 17, 2024, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Tropics in Cheat Lake. MCCAC is still looking for sponsors for the event, along with items for the auctions and raffles. If you are interested in participating in this way, please reach out to Taylor at [tshultz@moncocac.org](mailto:tshultz@moncocac.org).

Still need a ticket? Get the early bird rate until May 3rd!

Sponsorship information is available at [files.constantcontact.com/1b7ea99f701/f077091f-7fd1-4aab-8352-aecb16947f62.pdf](https://files.constantcontact.com/1b7ea99f701/f077091f-7fd1-4aab-8352-aecb16947f62.pdf).

You can purchase tickets at [www.eventbrite.com/e/girls-night-out-2024-travel-to-the-tropics-tickets-754035950827?aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/girls-night-out-2024-travel-to-the-tropics-tickets-754035950827?aff=oddtcreator).

**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!

**WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM:** The Native American Studies has several important events in April. Flyers are posted below under "WVU Events Open to the Public" as all are free and open to everyone. The events are:

**Tuesday, April 2: “Imagining the Indian,”** a film which deals with the fight against Native American mascoting. This will be from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in G-2 Ming Hsieh Hall (the “addition” to WVU’s Oglebay Hall). Ben West (Cheyenne), the director, and Yancey Burns, the producer, will be the panel speakers.

**Wednesday, April 10: April 10, 7:00-9:00pm: “AMÁ”** Hybrid film screening and discussion with Native American Studies Elder-in-Residence Jean Whitehorse (Navajo), moderated by Bonnie Brown, NAS Program Coordinator. Free & open to the public. Attend on campus: G20 Ming Hsieh Hall or Register to attend via Zoom at [wvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eIXkIly2icCT1Uq](http://wvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eIXkIly2icCT1Uq). Filmmaker Lorna Tucker’s “Amá” addresses the involuntary sterilization of thousands of Native American women at U.S. government-run hospitals, a practice that continued into the 1970s and included other women of color. Ms. Whitehorse is one of the Native women who experienced sterilization without consent and is a key figure in this moving documentary film.

**AREA EVENTS**



The Morgantown History exhibit will be open through May 2024 at 175 Kirk Street.

“The Morgantown History Museum is currently open Wednesday- Friday 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. and Saturday-Sunday 12:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

“For more information, or if you are interest in taking a group tour of the museum, please email [morgantownwvhistory@morgantownwv.gov](mailto:morgantownwvhistory@morgantownwv.gov).”



The **annual International Street Festival will be held on Sunday, April 14** from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Downtown Morgantown. “Come celebrate Morgantown’s diversity! The event will showcase many of the different cultures that contribute to our community. The Courthouse Square area from Walnut Street to Pleasant Street will be a pedestrian only area with exhibits, entertainment, children’s games and food. Additional activities offered along High Street to the Mountainlair. International Street Festival presented by WVU Office of Global Affairs is a Main Street Morgantown Affiliate Event.”

**SOUP LUNCHEON**

465 MAIN STREET OSAGE • 304 599-9615 • CALL NANCY 304 695-0233 FOR QUESTIONS

TO BENEFIT THE SCOTT'S RUN MUSEUM AND TRAIL • 8 HOMEMADE SOUPS WHILE THEY LAST

**Scott's Run**

**SAT. APRIL 27, 11:00 TILL WE'RE OUT!**

**\$10 soup, salad, dessert**

Eat In or Take Out at The Museum  
 Eight homemade soups,  
 salad and dressing, rolls, dessert  
 Live music for those eating in!

**WVU EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**FILM SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION**

West Virginia University Leadership Studies  
 with Native American Studies Present:

**FILM SCREENING**  
 APRIL 2, 2024  
 6:00 - 9:00 PM  
 MING HSIEH HALL, G21  
 1600 UNIVERSITY AVE,  
 MORGANTOWN, WV 26506

**PANEL DISCUSSION**  
 The screening is free and open to  
 the public

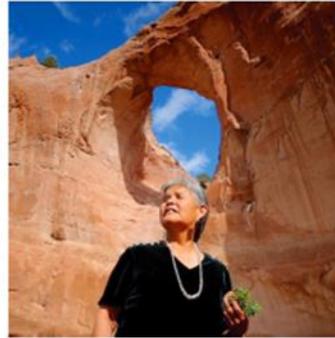
Panel Speakers include:  
 Ben West (Cheyenne) - Director  
 Yancey Burns - Producer

**IMAGINING THE INDIAN**  
 THE FIGHT AGAINST NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTING  
 GAME OVER FOR RACISM

**CO SPONSOR:**  
 West Virginia University  
 HUMANITIES CENTER

**April 10, 7:00-9:00pm: "AMÁ"** Hybrid film screening and discussion with Native American Studies Elder-in-Residence Jean Whitehorse (Navajo), moderated by Bonnie Brown, NAS Program Coordinator. *Free & open to the public. Attend on campus: G20 Ming Hsieh Hall or Register to attend via Zoom: [https://www.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eIXkily2icCT1Uq](https://www.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eIXkily2icCT1Uq)*

Filmmaker Lorna Tucker's "Amá" addresses the involuntary sterilization of thousands of Native American women at U.S. government-run hospitals, a practice that continued into the 1970s and included other women of color. Ms. Whitehorse is one of the Native women who experienced sterilization without consent and is a key figure in this moving documentary film. Jean Whitehorse will be on campus the second week in April, having classroom and faculty dialogues and engaging with Health Sciences graduate students. This is a rare opportunity for community members to learn directly from a Navajo Nation elder. The daughter of a Navajo code talker, Ms. Whitehorse attended government boarding schools, was part of the U.S. government's Indian Urban Relocation program, was active in the Civil Rights/Native Rights movement and Alcatraz Island occupation, and worked for New Mexico's Tribal Library Program for over 26 years before retiring. Film Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWU1BuUUb-4>



The Film Series is made possible by the WVU Community Human Rights Film Festival fund (established by Morgantown residents Carol Howe Hamblen and Don Spencer). Additional support is provided by partners throughout the University: Departments of History, English, Political Science, World Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics, the Center for Women's & Gender Studies, the Reed College of Media, and WVU Health Sciences Center Graduate Women Advocating Science organization and the Health Science Center Graduate Student Organization. The fund is overseen by the WVU Native American Studies Program.



For more information: <https://NAS.WVU.EDU> 304-293-4626 [BonnieM.Brown@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:BonnieM.Brown@mail.wvu.edu)

## LEGISLATURE UPDATES

The legislature adjourned sine die at midnight on March 9th. In the end, several bills that had been moving through the process and that were of concern to social justice advocates did not pass. Several of these did not get out of the Senate Judiciary Committee, where Senator Charles Trump, a Republican from Berkeley Springs, was the committee chair.

The most important of these were:

**HB 4299:** Permit teachers in K-12 schools be authorized to carry concealed firearms as a designated school protection officer. This bill passed the House but died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**HB 4654:** Removing bona fide schools, public libraries, and museums from the list of exemptions from criminal liability relating to distribution and display to minor of obscene matter. This bill passed the House of Delegates but died in the Senate Judiciary Committee. A last-minute attempt to amend it into another bill failed. Thanks to the West Virginia Coalition for Truth in History, West Virginia Library Association, and West Virginia Association of Museums for their efforts to stop this bill.

**HB 4313:** Creating the Parents’ Bill of Rights passed the House of Delegates but died in the Senate Judiciary Committee. It was similar to other bills that also did not move.

**SB 448:** Requiring age-appropriate instruction on Holocaust in public schools – in the Senate. This died in the Senate Rules Committee.

**SB 870: Restoring Sanity Act.** This bill died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**HB 5297: Relating to prohibiting pubertal modulation and hormonal therapy when provided to assist in a gender transition,** where it died in the Senate Health and Human Resources Committee. Senator Mike Maroney, a physician and Republican from Glen Dale, was the chair of this committee.

**HB 5243: Relating to Women's Bill of Rights.** This died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

### STATE-WIDE EVENTS



**WEST VIRGINIA NOW:** NOW is focusing on encouraging people to register and vote this year and also supporting the equal rights amendment and abortion. For more information, go to [www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow](http://www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow) or email Amanda Ray, the state NOW president, at [amandajray@yahoo.com](mailto:amandajray@yahoo.com).



**FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA:** Follow Fairness West Virginia on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fairnesswv](http://www.facebook.com/fairnesswv). According to the Fairness website, “We tracked about 40 anti-LGBTQ+ bills — bills that would, in one way or another, restrict the rights of our community or put us at risk for discrimination, harassment or violence.

“We defeated almost every single anti-LGBTQ+ bill this year, except for one bill, House Bill 4233, which bans listing ‘non-binary’ on a child’s birth certificate, a practice that already isn’t currently allowed.”



**ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES:** Follow this group at [www.acluww.org](http://www.acluww.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ACLUWV](http://www.facebook.com/ACLUWV).



“Please join us at noon on April 14 at West Virginia State University in Charleston for the 2024 Bill of Rights Brunch. We’ll be honoring Neema Avashia, advocate and author of "Another Appalachia: Coming

up Queer and Indian in a Mountain Place." And we'll be presenting an award to one of our longest-serving board members, Chuck Smith. At the brunch, we'll reflect on our wins, commiserate over our defeats and share our plans for defending civil liberties in West Virginia.

"Our brunch is being catered by 1010 Bridge Road with musical entertainment by Megan Bee. Artists, businesses and others have donated dozens of amazing items to our silent auction. We can't wait to see you there!"

Secure your tickets or become a sponsor at [action.aclu.org/event/bill-rights-bash-2024-sponsorships-and-tickets](https://action.aclu.org/event/bill-rights-bash-2024-sponsorships-and-tickets).



**THE ACLU-WV IS THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE ANOTHER APPALACHIAN QUEER YOUTH SUMMIT FOR THE SUMMER OF 2024!**

"This camp will bring together teens ages 15-19 who either identify as LGBTQ+ or come from LGBTQ+ families from across West Virginia and give them the tools they need to organize and advocate for the issues they care about.

"Campers will learn how to talk to legislators, how to run meetings, tell powerful stories, and more, and will participate in a collective action to better the lives of LGBTQ+ people after the camp concludes.

"Perhaps most importantly, AQYS campers will get to be themselves around people who understand them.

"This year's camp will be held Aug. 7-11 in Morgantown. As always, participation is totally free and travel stipends are available for those who need them.

"Ready to come to camp? Apply at [action.aclu.org/webform/wv-appalachian-queer-youth-summit-2024-camper-application/](https://action.aclu.org/webform/wv-appalachian-queer-youth-summit-2024-camper-application/)

"Are you a former camper age 20-21 who would like to serve as a Junior Counselor? Apply at [action.aclu.org/webform/wv-aqys2024juniorcounselorapplicationhere](https://action.aclu.org/webform/wv-aqys2024juniorcounselorapplicationhere) today!

"Interested in volunteering? Apply at [action.aclu.org/volunteer/wv-aqys-2024-volunteer-applicationhere](https://action.aclu.org/volunteer/wv-aqys-2024-volunteer-applicationhere) today!

"Please contact Mollie Kennedy at [mkennedy@acluwv.org](mailto:mkennedy@acluwv.org) with any additional questions."



**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/](https://www.facebook.com/wvtranscoalition/).

## **IT IS TIME TO VOTE!**

CCSJ is a 501 (c) (3) organization, so we do not promote or endorse candidates. We do promote voting! Here are the important dates for the primary election:

### **April 23 - Deadline for any new voter registrations or any voter changes before Primary Election.**

**To check your registration status, go to [govotewv.com](http://govotewv.com).** Under the “Online Voter Tools,” you can register for the first time, update your registration if you have a new address, a new party affiliation, or want to change your registration from a political party to non-party affiliation or independent. You can also just check the status of your registration. For instance, if you have not voted recently, you may need to re-register. The “Voter Information” tab will tell you the forms of identification you need to show when you register to vote or when voting for the first time.

Check the Frequently Asked Questions tab if you are uncertain about your eligibility to vote. For instance, you can vote in the primary if you are 17 years old and will be 18 by the time of the general election in November. You must be a U.S. citizen (born in the U.S. or naturalized). There are options if you are unsheltered. West Virginia law says that you must be a legal resident of the state for thirty days with the intent of making West Virginia your permanent residence.

Under the “Register to Vote” tab, you have several options to register to vote or update your voter registration online.

**May 1 – May 11- Early Voting** 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily (except Sunday). There are three early voting sites in Monongalia County: Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Greenbag Road, Morgantown, WV 26505, (Front side of Mall next to Mylan); Mason Dixon Park, 79 Buckeye Road, Core, WV 26541 (In the red barn); Suncrest Towne Centre, 525 Suncrest Towne Centre Dr., Ste. 101, Morgantown, WV 26505

**May 8** - Last Day to request an Absentee Ballot for Primary

**May 14 - PRIMARY ELECTION DAY.** Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If you are in line at 7:30 p.m., you may still vote. If you appear at the polls at 7:31 p.m., you will not be permitted to vote.

Monongalia County voters will be voting on the renewal of four levies that must be approved by 60 percent of the voters to pass and a school bond issue that must be approved by 50 percent of the voters to pass. All of the levies have social justice implications as they would continue support for the Morgantown Public Library System, Mountain Line bus system, volunteer fire departments and Morgantown Fire Department, and parks, trails, and recreation (county parks, West Virginia Botanic Garden, rail trails, etc. The bond issue is for the proposed Renaissance Academy focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) for the county high school students.

Monongalia County voters will also be electing members of the Board of Education, judges, and magistrates. These are the final elections for these positions, while voters will be choosing candidates for the November election for members of the state legislature, members of Congress, governor, etc.

Voters who are registered as Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians, or Mountain Party members MUST vote the ballot of that party. Voters who are registered with no party affiliation, may choose any of the above four ballots but must tell the poll workers they choice. If not, they will be given a ballot that only includes races and issues with no party affiliation: levies, bond issue, Board of Education, and judicial officers in Monongalia County. Everyone will have the same ballot in November.

#### **DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR APRIL**

[www.diversityresources.com/april-diversity-calendar-2024/](http://www.diversityresources.com/april-diversity-calendar-2024/)

**April 2: World Autism Acceptance Day** – This internationally-recognized day draws attention to people living with Autism globally. It is just one of seven official health-specific days that the United Nations recognizes. The acceptance of autism is the focus of autism rights advocates.

The neurodiversity paradigm is something that medical professionals and educators are bringing to life where the focus is acceptance of this community instead of the focus on the causes of the disease and suggestions for how this community should live.

**April 3: Yazidi New Year** – Also known as Sere Sal, this festival is celebrated by the Yazidi, a community with ancient roots across the Middle East. This day marks the beginning of a new year. On this day, they gather at sacred sites, perform religious rituals inviting blessings into their upcoming year, and perform traditional dances. It is a time of hope and unity while honoring their cultural identity throughout the world.

**April 10: International Day of Pink** – This worldwide awareness day hopes to educate the general public on the harmful effects of discrimination, bullying, and homophobia in the world. Wear pink to show solidarity with the commitment to promote a safe and inclusive world for all.

**April 22: Earth Day** – Today, let’s celebrate Mother Earth. Promote protecting the environment and advocate for sustainable living. This day serves as an important reminder of conservation, recycling, and action to protect the climate and our natural resources.

**April 22: Passover** – Passover, a significant Jewish holiday, is also observed in April. This eight-day festival commemorates the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Families gather to share Seder meals, read from the Haggadah, and reflect on themes of freedom and redemption. Passover is not just a historical commemoration but also a time for contemporary reflection on issues of freedom, justice, and human dignity.

**April 28: International Girls in ICT Day** – Today recognizes the importance of teaching girls about careers in Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Learning technical skills helps set up young girls and children alike to be independent. The future of the world and jobs is deeply rooted in technology.