



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

UPDATE: AUGUST 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, August 20, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88610315986?pwd=52wKXDRgCF1JaO6pb591X2MJ3zp1uQ.1>

Meeting ID: 886 1031 5986

Passcode: 978826

One tap mobile

+13092053325, 88610315986#, *978826# US

+13126266799, 88610315986#, *978826# US (Chicago)

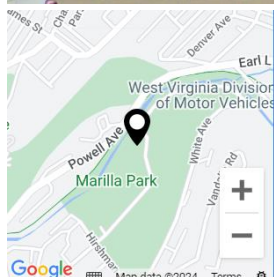
Dial by your location

- +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

Meeting ID: 886 1031 5986

Passcode: 978826

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcBCbDy5Dg>



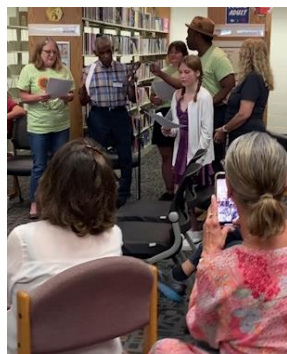
CCSJ Picnic at Morgantown's Marilla Park Pavilion on Sunday, September 8, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.:

All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share if possible. We will provide drinks. This will be our annual meeting so will include a very short business meeting to elect members of our steering committee, who serve three-year terms. The

current steering committee members are willing to continue: Mike Attfield (chair), Al Anderson (vice chair), Sheila Rye (secretary), Barb Howe (treasurer), Susan Brown, Judy Cohen, Laura Cohen, Tim Hairston, and Mike Sharley. We are also pleased to announce that Bonnie Brown, Eve Faulkes, and Don Spencer are willing to join the steering committee. If you are interested in joining the committee, please let us know at ccsjwv@gmail.com

Our main purpose is a chance to get together in person and socialize. Do note, please, that CCSJ is a 501 (c) (3) organization. We encourage everyone to be an informed voter, but **no political campaigning is permitted at our events**, so please leave your buttons, shirts, and other campaign paraphernalia at home. Thank you!

"Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964" exhibit opening on July 2nd: About 50 people attended the exhibit opening at the Morgantown Public Library. Mike Attfield welcomed everyone and talked about CCSJ. Eve Faulkes then presided over the program, which included comments by storytellers John Gaddis talking about John Watson, his father-in-law who was a Tuskegee Airman; former WVU NAACP student chapter president Dayna Pratt; and retired WVU Extension Agent Reita Marks. The Osage Soul & Gospel Choir and Al Anderson sang. We recorded the program, and that recording is available on our website at ccsjwv.org/ccsj-news.html#CRAAE.



Left to right: Osage Gospel 'n Soul Community Choir, led by Al Anderson and Aristotle Jones (tan hat); Al Anderson sings; Eve Faulkes



Left to right: Reita Marks, Dayna Pratt, and John Gaddis were our storytellers.

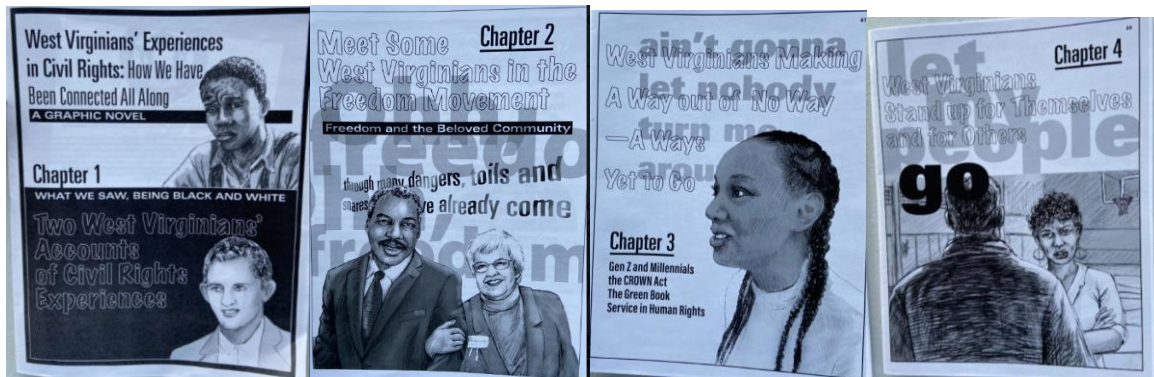
People enjoyed reading the 4 chapters of the graphic novel that Eve designed. The storytellers included are:

Chapter 1: Al Anderson and Duane Nichols.

Chapter 2: Ken Hechler, Rev. Ronald English, Joan C. Browning and her West Virginia Human Rights Commission Beloved Community (Charlene Marshall, Tim Hairston, Ivin Lee, Phyllis Carter, Tank Williams, Ken Gilbert, and H. R. Whittington), Winston Fuller, John Garlow Sr. and Dr. William Waddell; Maria Gaddis, John Watson, and John Gaddis.

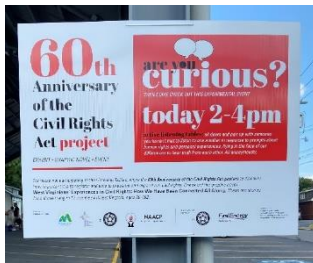
Chapter 3: Dayna Pratt, Suraya Boggs, Hair! (Sierra Velez, Charlene Marshall, Sarah Little, Dayna Pratt) and the CROWN Act (Asha Gaines, Mavery Davis, Katonya Hart, Shirley and Mary Taylor), Carolyn Bailey Lewis and the *Green Book*, Don Spencer, Catherine Shipe East, Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, Rachel Welsh de Iga.

Chapter 4: Charlene Marshall, Reita Marks, Crystal Good, Janie Claytor-Woodson, Rev. Elizabeth Walker, Rosemary Ketchum, Cal Carlson.



We appreciate the financial support of the City of Morgantown and First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown, for the exhibit. The Morgantown Human Rights Commission and Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP also provided support. Don Spencer and Susan Brown did background research for the exhibit. Joan Browning and Barb Howe were the editors. FirstEnergy Foundation has provided funds to make copies of the graphic novel and then will allow us to sell copies after we have spent their funds.

The exhibit was available on the second floor of the library throughout the month of July.



Eve Faulkes hosted related activities at the Farmers Market Pavilion on Spruce Street for Saturday, July 13, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The goal was to encourage conversations by having people participate in active listening experiences. About 30 people attended that program.



Interracial and intergenerational conversations.



The exhibit panels were reprinted as posters to display at the event.



Judith Stitzel (left) and Brenda White review the graphic novel.



CCSJ and Morgantown Human Rights Commission information.



Eve Faulkes will be hosting the exhibit here. Stay tuned for future "bookings."

CCSJ and Civilian Police Review and Advisory Board: CCSJ member Rich Cohen attended the CPRAB focus group that Megan Gandy conducted with social justice and advocacy organizations to collect opinions about safety and policing in Morgantown and sent this report:

On July 23rd I attended the three-hour focus group together with four other participants: an attorney who represented the Civil Rights Commission; Whole Families, Whole Veterans, a group providing mental health services; and two groups providing services to the unhoused.

The session started with a discussion of one good and one bad experience we have had with the Morgantown Police Department. We were then asked to discuss as a brainstorming exercise seven topics, including 1- Experiences with the MPD; 2-The role of the MPD; 3-Our role; 4-How is the MPD fulfilling and not fulfilling its mission; 5-Recommended changes in MPD; 6-Recommendations in order of priority; 7-What else should have been discussed.

All discussions were to be considered confidential although they were taped, and the participants were referred to solely by an assigned number from 1-5, not by name. I was able to provide information which I acquired as a representative of the Tree of Life Congregation, based on my dealings with MPD in securing security for the Synagogue, as a member of CCSJ and a resident of South Park, and about police training and practices from my work as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Wetzel County and as a Criminal Defense Attorney in Marion and Monongalia Counties.

I can tell you that the consensus is that police training currently does not prepare officers to de-escalate situations nor to deal with homeless, addicted, gay, or trans citizens who need help. Nor to deal with women. Accordingly, the MPD needs help from adequately trained individuals, training of officers needs to change, and MPD needs more money to hire more officers.



Joan poses with her book on July 13.

Joan Browning donates copies of her book: *Deep in Our Hearts: Nine White Women in the Freedom Movement* by Emmie Schrader Adams, Elaine DeLott Baker, Joan C. Browning, Dorothy Dawson Burlage, Constance Curry, Theresa Del Pozzo, Casey Hayden, Penelope Patch and Sue Thrasher. This “is an eloquent and powerful book that takes us into the lives of nine young women who came of age in the 1960s while committing themselves actively and passionately to the struggle for racial equality and justice. These compelling first-person accounts take us back to one of the most tumultuous periods in our nation’s history—to the early days of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), the Albany Freedom Ride, voter registration drives and lunch counter sit-ins, Freedom Summer, the 1964 Democratic Convention, and the rise of Black Power and the women’s movement. The book delves into the hearts of the women to ask searching questions. Why did they, of all the white women growing up in their hometowns, cross the color line in the days of segregation and join the Southern Freedom Movement? What did they

see, do, think, and feel in those uncertain but hopeful days? And how did their experiences shape the rest of their lives?”

Joan has donated five copies of this book to the CCSJ. We then donated one to the Morgantown Public Library. The other four are for sale at \$35 each if conveyed by hand or \$40 if mailed. If you would like one, you can reserve it by sending a note to Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu. You can pay for it by sending a check to our P.O. Box at Box 160, Morgantown 26507-0160. Or you can pay using PayPal. For details on this go to our “Join Us” page at ccsjwv.org/join-us.html.

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, August 15, 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.

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/.

Vacancies on Human Rights Commission. There are currently four 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.

Here are the events for August:

August 6: National Night Out – Marks the importance of collaborative efforts in reducing crime and for strengthening neighborhood relationships which help prevent crime and protect persons from criminal activity.

August 9: International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples – Celebrates the richness of indigenous cultures and recognizes the challenges indigenous peoples face today, ranging from poverty and disease to dispossession, discrimination, and denial of basic human rights.

August 12: International Youth Day – Celebrates young people and the integral role they play to create a world fit for children.

August 23: International Day for the Remembrance of Slave Trade and Its Abolition – Memorializes the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade, coinciding with the anniversary of the uprising in Santa Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated its abolition. Tragically other forms of slavery still persist today.

August 30: International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance – A day to promote taking a stand against secret imprisonment, forced disappearance and abduction and placing persons in any situation without access to relatives and/or legal representation.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA COUNTY (LWV-MM): 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.

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



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



Consider wearing a T-shirt in honor of Women's Equality Day (August 26th) and also bringing a dental hygiene item to donate! Here are some suggestions: a.co/d/auggWJ1, a.co/d/gilxgIN, and a.co/d/9qA9LOV.

Future meetings:

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.

NAACP

MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, AUGUST 20. 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.

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. “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.



Share your voice on Morgantown policing:
www.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_etlz4qBxKJRVl8W.



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN-MENNONITE: Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom with the link available at www.morgantowncob.org. Everyone is welcome.

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_.

The church is a member organization of CCSJ.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION: If you are interested in this group, please contact Eve Faulkes at faulkeseve@gmail.com.



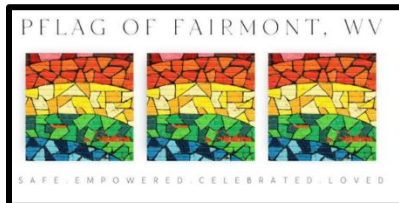
DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER MEETS MONDAY, AUGUST 19: The program will be at 7:00 p.m. by zoom. "We will be discussing the book *Unbroken and Unbowed: A History of Black Protest in America* by Jimmie Hawkins. The book traces the many forms of protest from pre-colonial times through the George Floyd protests of 2020. It will be helpful to have read the book but you are welcome to join in even if you've not read it."

The book is available on Amazon and other sites. Please join by zoom at us02web.zoom.us/j/85962493623.

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH JOINS CCSJ: We welcome the First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown, as a new organizational member. The church is located at 456 Spruce Street. The church's community engagement/mission efforts include a free Community Pancake Breakfast each Sunday, a church garden, and support for groups like the Appalachian Prison Book Project. Learn more about this work at www.firstpresmorgantown.org/community-missions.



FAIRMONT PFLAG MEETS TUESDAY, AUGUST 20: This meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. at The Joe, 323 ½ Adams Street, Fairmont.

Information is available at www.pflagfairmont.org or www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGFairmont. There are many events listed on the Facebook page.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE EVENTS: The next public meeting is Friday, August 23, at 6:30 p.m. at Terra Café at 6:30 p.m.





For information on Morgantown PRIDE, go to www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page_internal or www.morgantownwvpride.org. This is a very active Facebook page so check it regularly for updates and more events.

Morgantown Pride has an Instagram page at 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.

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.

WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS NEEDS HOST FAMILIES: WVCIP is inviting mid-career professionals from around the globe to experience American culture and enjoy West Virginia hospitality while spending two months in Morgantown.

Visitors come from a wide array of backgrounds, including academia, social work, industry and business. A major part of their experience is to live with community members and their families to introduce them to American culture and make them feel at home in West Virginia.

Hosts can sign up for a one-, two- or four-week period from August 30 through November 1.

The Council is a community-based program that works in collaboration with WVU Global Affairs to connect participants with meaningful internships and local host families.

To host, contact Nancy Smaltz, host committee coordinator, at 304-216-7196 or cip@mail.wvu.edu and complete the host interest form at wvuglobal.wufoo.com/forms/znc5did12508II/.

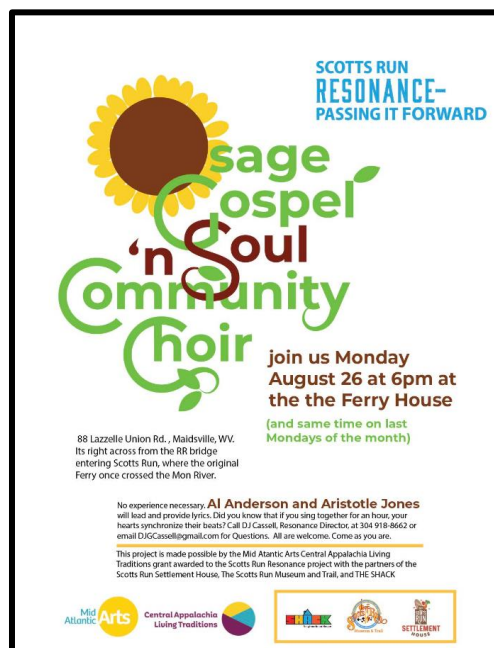


MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (MCCAC). Follow this group at moncocac.org/news/ or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC. The MCCAC will be at the Pantry Plus More Back to School Bash on Saturday, August 3.



Save the Date for the next Girls' Night Out – May 30, 2025.

SCOTTS RUN COMMUNITY SING: This event happens every last Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Ferry House, 88 Lazzelle Union Road, Maidsville. It is right across from the railroad bridge entering Scotts Run. You do not have to be from Scotts Run to participate. It is for everyone, from anywhere, and for all ages!



STATE-WIDE EVENTS



WEST VIRGINIA NOW: For more information, go to www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow or email Amanda Ray, the state NOW president, at amandajray@yahoo.com.



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



"Our Annual Gala is Quickly Approaching!"

"Fairness West Virginia Institute is dedicated to education and advocacy on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer West Virginians and their allies. Fairness presents an annual fundraiser gala each year in the fall to recognize and celebrate the progress toward full equality in the Mountain State.

"Join us for an unforgettable evening where diversity and inclusivity take center stage. Roll the dice, spin the wheel, and revel in the thrill of A Night in Monte Carlo, all in support of a noble cause. Every chip you play, every dance you share, fuels our mission to foster love, acceptance, and equality for the entire LGBTQ+ community. Indulge in an elegant atmosphere, savor delectable cuisine, and dance the night away to celebrate love in all its forms. Together, let's raise the stakes for a brighter, more inclusive tomorrow. Your presence makes a difference; your joy makes it unforgettable.

"So we're excited to invite you to this year's A Night in Monte Carlo! Join us on Sept. 21, 2024 at Embassy Suites in Charleston as we dance the night away. This black tie-optional party will help us celebrate our efforts to make the Mountain State a better place for LGBTQ+ people to live, work and raise a family. We'll have food, music, dancing, and a silent auction. See you at the Gala where everyone's a winner!"

You can buy tickets at secure.everyaction.com/pcT65hQ-7Ua6fdo50Zd_pw2. Sponsor information is available at fairnesswv.org/gala/.

Supporters can book discounted rooms (\$139/night) at Embassy Suites. To get the discount, book your room by September 5. Book Online: Visit Embassy Suite's website and book your room like normal. Set the date of your stay, select "special rates," and enter the code "929." Or, simply click this link. Book by Phone: Call 304-347-8700 and select "reservations" from the menu. Give the reservationist the code "929."



ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES: Follow this group at www.acluww.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ACLUWV.



Appalachian Queer Youth Summit is August 7-August 11: "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."

For more information and links to register, serve as a junior counselor, or volunteer, please go to www.acluww.org/en/events/appalachian-queer-youth-summit-2024.



Executive Director Search Still Open: The ACLU of West Virginia is searching for a new executive director through Axis Talent Partners. The position description and application are available at axistalentpartners.applytojob.com/apply/kRwAhtQdXw/Executive-Director-At-ACLU-West-Virginia. The website says applicants are encouraged to submit their applications by August 9. There is an open rolling application, but candidates who submit before August 9th are likely to be in the first round of reviews by the search committee.



RAINBOW PRIDE OF WEST VIRGINIA EVENTS: Drag Queen Bingo will be held on Sunday, August 4, at 5:00 p.m. at the Lee Lounge, 218 Leon Sullivan Way, in Charleston. The Big Gay Cookout will be held on Sunday, August 18, at 12:000 p.m. at the Gorman Shelter in Coonskin Park in Charleston.



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/.



DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

www.diversityresources.com/august-diversity-calendar-2024/

August 7: Purple Heart Day – Today, remember Americans who have been wounded in battle, have done courageous acts while at war or who gave their life for our freedoms. Purple represents bravery

and courage and it is the oldest military decoration presented to service members in the United States. It was first created by George Washington in 1782.

August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples – The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples hopes to raise awareness about the rights and contributions of indigenous populations worldwide. Today, start a dialogue about the indigenous communities and society by understanding the challenges they face such as marginalization.

August 26: Women's Equality Day – This day remembers the passage of the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution in 1920, which gave women the right to vote. Celebrate the achievements of women in history this month. Remember the ongoing struggle for gender equality and women's rights every day.

August 31: International Day of People of African Descent – This day was established by the United Nations to celebrate the rich heritage and contributions of people of African descent worldwide, and to promote the full inclusion of people of African descent in all aspects of society. It also aims to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance that people of African descent face globally.