



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

**UPDATE: OCTOBER 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 MEETING IS OCTOBER 15 AT 7:30 P.M. ON ZOOM. ALL ARE WELCOME.**

The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85030487627?pwd=CVSlZaxZTKQPFgJQlKpzbYbBt8GJrg.1>

Meeting ID: 850 3048 7627; Passcode: 912394

One tap mobile

+13052241968, 85030487627#, \*912394# US

+13092053325, 85030487627#, \*912394# 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
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 850 3048 7627

Passcode: 912394

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcXvYidU9s>

**September 8 Annual Meeting Picnic Review:** Thanks to all who attended our picnic at Marilla Park. Mike Attfield reviewed our work over the past year and conducted the election for our steering committee members. Those elected to three-year terms are: Mike Attfield (chair), Eve Faulkes (vice chair), Sheila

Rye (secretary), Barb Howe (treasurer), Al Anderson, Bonnie Brown, Susan Brown, Judy Cohen, Laura Cohen, Tim Hairston, Mike Sharley, and Don Spencer.

Mike Attfield, Cindy O'Brien, and Jim and Sheila Rye played music, and Al Anderson sang for us.

We were pleased to meet Ashley Swanson, secretary of the Morgantown Human Rights Commission, at the picnic.

Eve brought the posters of panels of our "Celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964" exhibit and copies of our graphic novel *West Virginians' Experiences in Civil Rights: How We Have Been Connected All Along* to review.

Here are some photos from the picnic:



*Eve explains the posters to Stan Cohen.*



*Cindy, Mike, Sheila, and Jim perform.*





*Al Anderson singing.*



*Susan Brown reading the graphic novel.*

**Eve is taking our “Celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964” exhibit and graphic novel on the road.**

Here are photos she took of her stops in September.

### September 3-5: Clarksburg Kelly Miller Community Center



*James Griffin, chair of the board of the West Virginia Black Heritage Festival.*





**September 6-13: Fairmont State University Library**



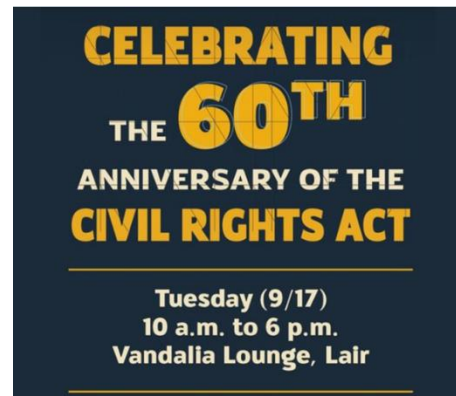
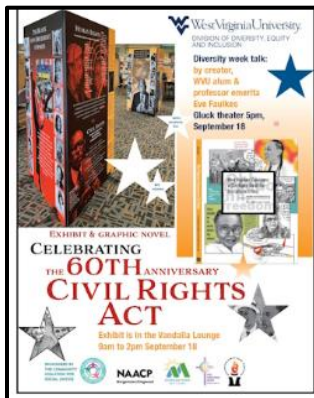
**September 12: Morgantown Mutual Aid Fair at First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown**

**September 14: Morgantown Arts Walk**



**September 16:** Eve spoke about our book and exhibit for Dismantling Racism Together. Her presentation is available at with Passcode: pE%\$a5nK: [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/Mr1C-Y5lzhrongR0GsvFox\\_0MhhdvofnaP9wZM8z1CcBXb\\_k1kVGGg4E-oeRZrEpw9ZNhnb6z1bey1ku.IEI\\_ofvKYX9If4w?canPlayFromShare=true&from=share\\_recording\\_detail&continueMode=true&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2Fiwo8W-uKutl4vI2sNnzdyGqJ0rDnGHwovH8FnRuGtRAahVSioCTBrrvaWAdDV0.jQ0mUYmVga4TPEmF](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/Mr1C-Y5lzhrongR0GsvFox_0MhhdvofnaP9wZM8z1CcBXb_k1kVGGg4E-oeRZrEpw9ZNhnb6z1bey1ku.IEI_ofvKYX9If4w?canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&continueMode=true&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2Fiwo8W-uKutl4vI2sNnzdyGqJ0rDnGHwovH8FnRuGtRAahVSioCTBrrvaWAdDV0.jQ0mUYmVga4TPEmF)

**September 17:** Exhibit and Eve's talk at WVU Mountainlair for WVU Diversity Week with the cooperation of Javier McCoy of the WVU Center for Black Culture.



**September 21: Scotts Run Street Fair in Osage.** Bonnie Brown and her son Clancy Wells helped staff the exhibit.



**September 25-29: First Baptist Church in Charleston** on Shrewsbury Street . . . the only church in West Virginia where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ever preached. Rev Paul Dunn is the pastor.



**September 30-October 11: Marshall University**



We are making plans to make the graphic novel more widely available through the funding we have received from the FirstEnergy Foundation. The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation has also pledged funding to provide copies for Mavery Davis, one of the storytellers, to distribute to groups on the West Side.





**Joan Browning donates copies of her book: *Deep in Our Hearts: Nine White Women in the Freedom Movement*.**

We have four copies 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](mailto: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](http://ccsjwv.org/join-us.html).

*Joan poses with her book on July 13.*

**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, October 17, 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 three 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 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 12: 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):** 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 League’s Facebook page has a statement from the League of Women Voters of West Virginia opposing Amendment 1 that is on the ballot this fall.

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).

**Future meetings:**

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





**Sunday, October 27: 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Berlin-Style FUNdraiser, 131 Pleasant Street, Morgantown.** “Join us at The Co-Op for our 3rd annual Berlin-style Ping Pong Tournament. All proceeds benefit Holler Health Justice. There will be nonstop ping pong plays, raffles, and much more. We will put the FUN in fundraising for a great cause.”

**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, OCTOBER 15.** 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](https://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](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.”

The board meets the second Tuesday of each month at noon at the Morgantown Public Safety Building conference room. For links to agendas and minutes of past meetings, go to [www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/Civilian-Police-Review-Advisory-Board-47](https://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](https://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](https://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](mailto:faulkeseve@gmail.com).



**DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER MEETS MONDAY, OCTOBER 21:** The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. by zoom to hear Atty. Joseph F Long speak about the Reparations Fund of the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia. The zoom link to join is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85962493623>.

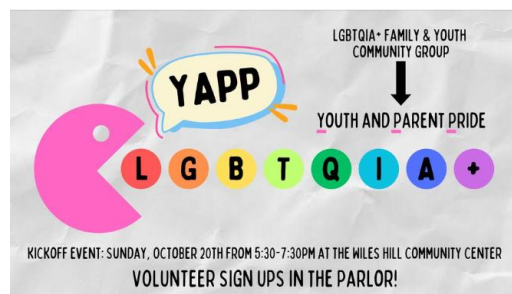
To learn more about Dismantling Racism Together, go to [www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dismantling%20racism%20together%20morgantown](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dismantling%20racism%20together%20morgantown).

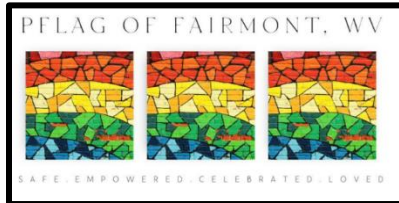


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MORGANTOWN:** The church is located at 456 Spruce Street. Adult Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. Online worship is at 10:00 a.m., and in-person worship is at 11:00 a.m. Learn more about this work at [www.firstpresmorgantown.org/community-missions](http://www.firstpresmorgantown.org/community-missions). The church posted this notice on its Facebook page:

“Volunteers Needed for the \*NEW\* Y.A.P.P. Network Kick-off Event🐼

“The \*NEW\* Y.A.P.P. (Youth and Parent Pride) Network is a community group formed for the purpose of building support and resources to nurture LGBTQIA+ youth and parents in the greater Morgantown area. Y.A.P.P. is currently focused on serving youth ages 11-14 and their families by providing a safe and positive space to connect with one another and with supportive community members and organizations. Y.A.P.P. will host its kickoff event on Sunday, October 20th from 5:30-7:30pm at the Wiles Hill Community Center. We are seeking volunteers for roles like set up, tear down, greeters, and snack providers for this event. If you feel led to serve, sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please email Samantha Leggett-Bradley ([sb00078@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:sb00078@mix.wvu.edu)) with any questions.”





**FAIRMONT PFLAG SOCIAL HOUR AND PUBLIC MEETING IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22:** The meeting will be at 7:00p.m. at 801 E. Park Ave. in Fairmont.

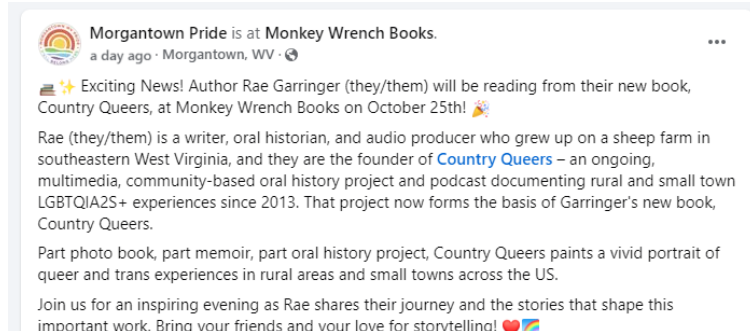
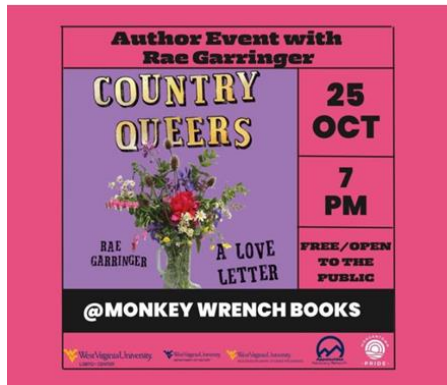
Information is available at [www.pflagfairmont.org](http://www.pflagfairmont.org) or [www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGFairmont](https://www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGFairmont). There are many events listed on the Facebook page.



#### MORGANTOWN PRIDE EVENTS:







For information on Morgantown PRIDE, and descriptions of the board positions, go to [www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page\\_internal](http://www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page_internal) or [www.morgantownwvpride.org](http://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](https://www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en).

**PROJECT RAINBOW:** There will also be a Spooky Drag Bingo on Saturday, October 12, at the Morgantown Art Party and Murder Mystery Dinner on Monday, October 28, at Gibbie's Pub.



**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).

**Save the Date for upcoming events:**



**Battle of the Bartenders** – November 19, 2024, 5:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Kegler's Sports Bar, 735 Chestnut Ridge Road. "Four teams of two will compete to be the best - the team who raises the most money by the end of the night takes home a prize! "Stay tuned for further information about the teams."

**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!

**MORGANTOWN MUTUAL AID FAIR IS OCTOBER 10:** This event will be from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church Gym, 456 Spruce Street, Morgantown. “Individuals will be able to get assistance with basic resources and outreach services. Have services or resources to offer? We are seeking applications for outreach services and items that might be helpful to low to no income individuals. Contact Brian Butcher via email at [brian@wvhousingjustice.org](mailto:brian@wvhousingjustice.org) or send us a direct message.” Follow this group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/events/26398354889810327/26398354896476993/](https://www.facebook.com/events/26398354889810327/26398354896476993/).

## WVU EVENTS

**NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM PEACE TREE CEREMONY IS NOVEMBER 6:**

**2024 WVU PEACE TREE CEREMONY**

**Guest of Honor: KODY GRANT**  
(Pueblo of Isleta/Eastern Band of Cherokee)

**Wednesday, November 6**


**11:30am: Peace Tree Ceremony**  
outdoors, at the WVU Peace Tree  
(Rain Location: Gluck Theater, Mountainlair Student Union)

**5:00pm: Mr. Grant’s public lecture, Gluck Theater**

Kody Grant has many years of experience in cultural education and museum interpretation. Throughout his career, he’s aimed to bridge audience members’ existing knowledge with the historical and contemporary realities of Native Nations. He started his museum career at the Oconaluftee Indian Village in Cherokee, NC and has since served multiple museums and organizations, developing programming and providing consultation on Native-related topics. He shares insights on early Cherokee society and governance, on his roles as an Indigenous historical and cultural interpreter, and as a tribal liaison for the Univ. of VA.

WVU Public History and Native American Studies alum Travis Henline, Curator of Indigenous History and Culture for the Jamestown Settlement & American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, will formally introduce our guest of honor.

**Everyone Invited – Programs are Free & Open to the Public**



**WVU WOMEN’S RESOURCE CENTER NEWS:** This exhibit and expo are open to the public.

### Silent Witness Exhibit

**8/30 – 10/4/24**  
**10/1/24**  
**10/7 – 10/11/24**

**Silent Witness Exhibit, Vandalia Lounge, at Mountainlair**  
**Silent Witness Expo, Vandalia Lounge, Lair**  
**Silent Witness Exhibit at HSC Pylons**

The WVU Women's Resource Center invites students, faculty, staff, and community members to help honor those murdered by acts of domestic violence at the annual Silent Witness Exhibit, a collection of life-sized silhouettes that represent West Virginians who were murdered by a family member or intimate partner.

The exhibit is free and open for public viewings in the Vandalia Lounge of the Mountainlair from **Sept 30th - Oct 4th, 2024**, and at the Health Science Center Pylons **from Oct. 7 - 11**.

A Resource Expo will also be held in the Vandalia Lounge on **Tuesday, Oct. 1 from 12 to 2 p.m.** Several groups will participate and provide information on available services, resources, and programming at WVU and across West Virginia for those who have experienced domestic violence or for those who know family or friends who have experienced domestic abuse or violence. Participating organizations include Carruth, Interfraternity Council (IFC), LGBTQ+ Center, School of Social Work, Student Family Resources, WellWVU, and WVU Advance Center.



**MONONGALIA COUNTY EARLY VOTING SITES ANNOUNCED:** You can start to make a plan to vote now. Early voting starts October 3<sup>rd</sup> and runs through November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Monday through Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There will be four locations this fall: The County Election Center at Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Greenbag Road, near Anybody Fitness and the site of the old Goodwill Store for long-time residents; Mason-Dixon Historical Park, 79 Buckeye Road, Core, in the red barn; Suncrest Towne Centre 525 Suncrest Towne Centre Dr. next to First United Bank when coming from Stewartstown Road; and, **new this fall, the WVU Art Museum Education Center, 20 Fine Arts Drive**, with parking available in lot 51.

#### STATE-WIDE EVENTS



**WEST VIRGINIA NOW:** For more information, go to [www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow](https://www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow) or email Amanda Ray, the state NOW president, at [amandajray@yahoo.com](mailto:amandajray@yahoo.com).

There is a new NOW chapter starting in Huntington. For information on the first event on October 28 at Black Sheep, go to <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564175287992>



**FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA:** Follow Fairness West Virginia on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fairnesswv](https://www.facebook.com/fairnesswv).





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

The ACLU opposes Amendment 1 that will be on the West Virginia ballot this fall. According to their website, “Amendment 1 would change the West Virginia Constitution to prohibit ‘the practice of medically assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing of a person.’ Cynically, the proposed amendment concludes by stating that this does not prohibit the practice of capital punishment.” For more information, please go to <https://www.acluww.org/en/news/life-and-death-ballot-vote-no-amendment-1-november>.



#### RAINBOW PRIDE OF WEST VIRGINIA EVENTS:



“Prepare for a wicked night at Drag Queen Bingo ~ Halloween Edition! 🎃👑

“On Sunday, October 6th from 5-8pm, haunt your way to Lee St Lounge for a frightfully fabulous evening of bingo and fierce queens. Just \$20 to play and you’ll be hexed with laughs, prizes, and maybe a few ghostly surprises. 🧛‍♀️

“Get those looks together for our Costume Contest!

“Categories include: ✨ Prettiest (who says witches can’t be glam?); 🐾 Ugliest (we want to see that full monster mode!); 😱 Scariest (make us scream, darling!); 🧟 Most Original (surprise us!); 👑 Viki Williams Drag Queen Look-A-Like (spooky realness!)

“Each category comes with a \$25 cash prize—so bring your deadliest looks and slay! 🕸 21+ only (no tricks, just treats 🍷) Expect cackling queens, killer costumes, and maybe a few skeletons out of the closet.”



“SAVE THE DATE! 🌈🌟 Saturday, November 16, 2024, at the Women’s Club in Charleston, Rainbow Pride of WV will be hosting an iconic affair... the Power of One & Legends of Pride gala! 🦄 🌟🌟

“Event details to come.

“Mark your calendars... it’s going to be legendary.”



**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/).

#### DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

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

**Polish American Heritage Month:** The first Poles migrated to America starting in the early 1800s. This month, celebrate their contributions to culture and society. Once here, they were dedicated to preserving their heritage and culture and even started a national network of Polish-language newspapers, radio, and television stations to keep their language alive. New York State has the largest Polish-American population with Michigan, Wisconsin, and Connecticut having a substantial group too.

**Italian American Heritage Month:** Nearly 16 million Americans identify as Italian American according to the U.S. Census. Italian American Heritage Month occurs every October to overlap with Columbus Day, celebrated on the second Monday. It was first celebrated in 1989 with a proclamation from George H.W. Bush. Every year, a Columbus Day parade is held in New York City with an average million spectators.

**Filipino American History Month:** Filipino American History Month is celebrated as it was when the first Filipinos arrived in California in 1587. Many organizations in California and Hawaii, where many Filipino Americans reside, hold annual celebrations. Some call the month “Filipino American Heritage Month” while others regard it as a History month to focus on the events and lived experiences and their impact on society.

**ADHD Awareness Month:** Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a neurodevelopmental learning disorder that affects adults and children. It can lead to challenges dealing with self-control, focus, and impulsive behavior. This month hopes to raise awareness about the misconceptions

associated with the community. Take time to promote understanding and support to all those living with neurodiversity all year.

**Breast Cancer Awareness Month:** This month is dedicated to increasing awareness of breast cancer, promoting screening and early detection, and raising funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure. The campaign also offers support to those affected by breast cancer and commonly features pink ribbons as its symbol.

**Down Syndrome Awareness Month:** Each year, nearly 6,000 babies born in the United States are diagnosed with Down Syndrome, or 1 in every 700 babies. October focuses on the acceptance and inclusion of people with Down Syndrome. Learn about their unique strengths and promote a society and workplace that values diversity and offers support to those living with Down Syndrome and their families.

**Global Diversity Awareness Month:** This month is dedicated to celebrating and increasing awareness about the diverse cultures and populations that make up the world. It encourages individuals and organizations to learn about different cultures, as well as to promote inclusion and understanding across various cultural contexts. The celebration is an opportunity to reflect on the positive impact of diversity on society and to challenge and address issues of inclusion within communities and organizations.

**National Disability Employment Awareness Month:** This national campaign honors the contributions of people living with disabilities to the economy and workplace. It also raises awareness about disability employment problems and advocates for accommodations in the workplace for those living with a disability.

**October 3: Latina Equal Pay Day** – This day celebrates the progress Latinas have made with earnings compared to White non-Hispanic men. Latinas earn about 54 cents for every dollar and must work nearly double the time to earn the same annual income. Today, raise awareness on how to close this gap and advocate for fair-pay policies for all demographics.

**October 8: World Dyslexia Day** – Today, the world educates the public on the challenges that those living with dyslexia face at work and in the real world. It aims to increase understanding and acceptance of this learning disability while working toward a more inclusive work environment.

**October 14: Indigenous Peoples' Day** – This diversity day coincides with the federal holiday Columbus Day and honors the culture, contributions, and history of the Native American, Indigenous, and First Nations Peoples. By promoting their rich heritage and remembering the challenges they have faced in their history, we help promote a better understanding of all world cultures.

**October 16: International Pronouns Day** – International Pronouns Day is focused on gender inclusivity and promoting the proper use of pronouns to respect someone's chosen identity. It hopes to educate the public on the importance of personal pronouns in affirming someone's gender expression. Today, have open conversations for better understanding and acceptance among your friends, loved ones, and colleagues. First celebrated in 2018, it hopes to educate about personal pronouns and how being referred to as the wrong pronouns affects someone's mental health.



**October 31: International Overdose Awareness Day** – Today is the world’s largest yearly campaign to help end overdoses. It’s a great time to remember those we have lost without the stigma behind drug addiction. Listen to personal stories and acknowledge the grief of both family and friends who were left behind. Use the hashtag #EndOverdose on your social media to stand in solidarity with others in the fight to treat drug addiction.