



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

UPDATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2025

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.

Next CCSJ Meeting is Tuesday, February 18, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85657804590?pwd=yUbK1q218Gk6kCW1raUAnlYglrrPf6.1>

Meeting ID: 856 5780 4590

Passcode: 399753

One tap mobile

+13017158592, 85657804590#, *399753# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968, 85657804590#, *399753# US

Dial by your location

- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 856 5780 4590, Passcode: 399753

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85657804590?pwd=yUbK1q218Gk6kCW1raUAnlYglrrPf6.1>

CCSJ CELEBRATED MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY ON MONDAY, JANUARY 20TH AT 2:00 P.M.: We hosted a Zoom celebration entitled “**Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as Remembered by Storytellers in the graphic novel, *West Virginians' Experiences in Civil Rights***” with the co-operation of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at WVU. Eve Faulkes and Mike Attfield organized this program that featured interviews with Al Anderson, Joan Browning, Rev. Ron English, Don Spencer, and Sierra Velez, all of whom are

featured in our book. Al also sang. The video of the speakers is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qosCwY9YT8>.

The full recording, including the discussion after the video, will be available on our website soon.

At our invitation, Joan Browning wrote an article “Remembering Dr. King” that was published in the *Dominion Post* on Sunday, January 12th, including an invitation to attend our program on the 20th. You can access that article at chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://ccsjwv.org/documents/ccsj-news/DP-2025-01-12_JB.pdf



WEST VIRGINIANS' EXPERIENCES IN CIVIL RIGHTS: HOW WE HAVE BEEN CONNECTED ALL ALONG is now available. You can support local businesses and buy it at:

Appalachian Gallery, 270 Walnut Street, Morgantown. The phone number is 304-296-0163. The store is open from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Barnes & Noble, 3000 University Town Centre Dr., Morgantown. phone: 304-599-1294. The store is open Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m and from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Terra Cafe, 4325 Industrial Avenue, Star City. phone: 304-554-2233. The cafe is open Monday-Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Thursday-Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The book also is now available on Amazon as both paperback (\$15) and Kindle (\$8) versions. The easiest way to find it is to type “Eve Faulkes” in the Amazon search engine.

If you buy the book on Amazon, you may be able to leave a review. Go to Amazon.com, search for Eve Faulkes to bring up the book title. Then go to the bottom of the page where it says “Review this product” in the lower left corner. Here are the guidelines: “Only customers who have spent at least \$50 on Amazon in the last 12 months can submit ratings and reviews. [But you do not have to have purchased our book through Amazon.]

“Before posting a review, we check if it meets our Community Guidelines. That includes our rules against creating, editing, and removing reviews in exchange for compensation.

“We check if the reviewer bought or used (e.g., streamed) the item on Amazon and paid a price available to most Amazon shoppers. If we confirm both, we label the review with Verified Purchase. Reviews without this label can also be helpful. For example, a customer buys an item from a different company, but wants to share their opinion on Amazon.”



With funding from the West Virginia Humanities Council, we were able to reprint the book to offer free copies to libraries, museums, schools, and related organizations and appreciate the support of the West Virginia Association of Museums in our outreach efforts.

We have distributed 97 books to date, but still have room in this order so let us know if you know of organizations that might be interested.

It is important to note that *“This project [our reprint] is presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Humanities Council, the official state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations do not necessarily represent those of the West Virginia Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.”*

We also have “seconds” of the book from a printing with a graphics error that we can make available for free to groups that can use multiple copies, like for a class. We have sent the first class set to Frankfort Middle School in Ridgeley, West Virginia, for the West Virginia studies class.



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. 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 barbarahowe3@gmail.com.

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, February 20th 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/.

Don Spencer, a former member of the Human Rights Commission and a member of the CCSJ Steering Committee, wrote an article about the commission's work for the *Dominion Post* that was published on Sunday, January 19th.

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 February:

Black History Month – Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.

February 1-7: World Interfaith Harmony Week

February 14: Race Relations Day – A day designated by the National Council of Churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations and learning.

February 15: Susan B. Anthony Day - Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), a pioneer in the Women's Rights Movement.

February 20: World Day of Social Justice – Recognition of the imperative for tackling issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA COUNTY

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 lwmorgantown@gmail.com. You can join the League of Women Voters at tinyurl.com/join-lwvmm.

The LWV of Morgantown-Monongalia County invites everyone to subscribe to LWV-MM's Substack. A subscription gets you automatic updates. And it's free. The new Substack post, on January 26, is at <https://lwmorgantown.substack.com/p/valuing-all-members-of-our-society>.

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.

Meetings are usually the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Monongalia Friends Meeting, 648 E. Brockway, Morgantown.

NAACP

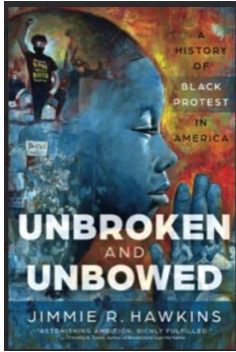
MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH. This meeting of the membership will be at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact the NAACP at 3241naacp@gmail.com for more information and to learn how to participate.

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.

The Morgantown/Kingwood Branch will be hosting the state NAACP meeting in April.

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.”

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.



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.

MONONGALIA FRIENDS MEETING: We welcome them as a new member organization of CCSJ. First Day meetings are at 11:00 a.m. at 648 E. Brockway, Morgantown. Contact them at monquakers@gmail.com.



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



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER. There will be no regular meeting in February, but the community is invited to join Dismantling Racism Together and First Presbyterian Church in a community-wide read of *Unbroken and Unbowed: A History of Black Protest in America*. In this compelling and informative volume, Jimmie R. Hawkins walks the reader through the many forms of Black protest in American history, from pre-colonial times through the

George Floyd protests of 2020.

Hawkins will be in Morgantown, Sunday, February 9, at 2:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church to discuss elements of his book with the community. Please join us by registering for the event. Each week you will receive an email with questions for reflection and a reminder for the February event. Register

for the Community Read at wvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2rgmfVmcB8ReA3c. The book is available at First Presbyterian Church or through online vendors such as Thrift Books, Barnes and Noble, Amazon, or Westminster John Knox Press.

Follow this group on Facebook at 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. The church's Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/FPCMorgantown and has details about the many activities. The church is a member organization of CCSJ.

Join us and
v. Jimmie Hawkins
Sunday, February 9, 2019
at First Pres on Spruce
for a lecture/discussion
on his book and activities

UNBROKEN AND UNBOWED
A HISTORY OF BLACK PROTEST IN AMERICA
JIMMIE R. HAWKINS

2:30 p.m. Sunday, February 9th
DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER
Discussing Reverend Jimmie Hawkins's book, *Unbroken and Unbowed: A History of Black Protest in America*

Jimmie Hawkins is not only an author/scholar, but also is an advocacy director who leads both the National Center for Public Witness and the National Center for Public Witness Ministry at the United Nations. He has chaired several interfaith and non-profit boards. His ministry includes being a leader in the National Center for Monday Movement since its inception in 1983. He has participated in three acts of civil disobedience: the actions of the NC General Assembly in 1983, the curtail voting rights, refusal to disband, HB2 and other draconian laws. He served as a member of the NC Justice Committee and has been active in justice advocacy throughout his life. He is engaged with the Poor People's Campaign and participated in a direct action at the Supreme Court.



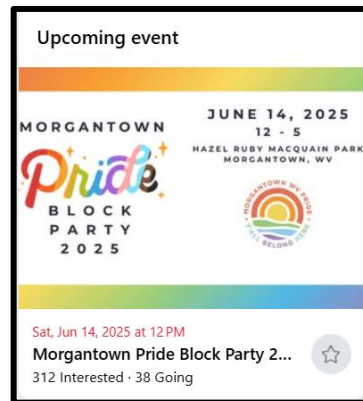
FAIRMONT PRIDE: Follow this group on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/fairmontpride>.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the Frank & Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center.

“Join us in person (weather permitting) for our February Public Meeting. All are welcome to attend but only members can vote on corporate items, so be sure to apply for membership today! Bring a friend, allies welcome!”



MORGANTOWN PRIDE EVENTS:



“Come celebrate PRIDE with us in 2025! Join us for an afternoon of entertainment, food, vendors, and community on June 14th, 2025 from 12-5. Stay tuned for updates on who'll be joining us and what surprises we're able to pull off! Registration will open March of 2025!

“As always, this event is open to the public, and we welcome all ages to participate in Morgantown's Pride!”

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.

PROJECT RAINBOW: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/projectrainbowwv.



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.



MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (MCCAC). Follow this group at moncocac.org/news/ or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC. According to its January newsletter, in 2024 MCCAC provided services to 945 clients, educated 1,476 community members on vital issues surrounding child safety, conducted 223 forensic interviews, facilitated 953 therapy sessions, and provided 5,326 advocacy services.

The MCCAC is also launching its “Build the Bounce” campaign to raise \$100,000 in 2025 to celebrate its twentieth anniversary.

Save the Date for upcoming events:



Girls' Night Out – May 30th. The 2025 theme is “Roaring ‘20s.” The event will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the WVU Erickson Alumni Center. Sponsorships are now available at levels from \$250 (Jazz Age Patrons) to \$5,000 (The Gatsby Gold). You can find information about sponsorships at the MCCAC Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC. Contact Taylor at tshultz@moncocac.org if you are interested in sponsoring GNO 2025!



Golf Tournament – July 26th. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. at the Mountaineer Golf Course.

check out the movement at www.repaircafe.org

SCOTTS RUN RESONANCE- PASSING IT FORWARD says

Don't throw THAT away!
Do you love something that needs repair and you don't want to toss it? We are lining up people who know how to fix stuff like we did before we lived in a plastic world. We want to exchange knowledge between generations.

We can FIX it...at the

REPAIR CAFE

Feb 15, 10-2 at the SHACK
We will have tables for: **Wiring** for lamps/Larry Goodwin; **Cast iron skillet** repair/DJ Cassell; **Computer and Electronic help**/Jeffrey Thompson; **Clothing repair** /hemming/Charlene Marshall; **Knife** sharpening/Ryan Summerkorn; **Photo Repair**/photoshop/dollhouse models to work on/Eve Faulkes; **iPhone** confusion/Dani Reese Fortney; **small object & general household repair**/Alex Panger; and more... nothing with gasoline since we are indoors). Collecting more repair-ers. + **Food, coffee, friendship, live music!**

all are welcome it's free

bring old objects to

objects have stories

- **Call us if you have something else you need repaired not covered by our folks and we'll find another fixer!** 304 918 8662 or DJGCassell@gmail.com
- **Also CALL to sign up** at a table to get your item fixed. You can just show up and enjoy the conversation and café, but signups will be taken first for fixes and it's just going on for four hours! We are still the first REPAIR CAFE in WV, but it's a worldwide movement, and Scotts Run knows how to Make Do or Do Without... by repairing it. JOIN US Saturday February 15.

This project is made possible by the Mid Atlantic Arts Central Appalachia Living Traditions grant awarded to the Scotts Run Resonance project with the partners of the The Scotts Run Museum and Trail, The Ferry House, and THE SHACK.

Mid Atlantic Arts Central Appalachia Living Traditions THE FERRY HOUSE

SCOTTS RUN COMMUNITY SING: This group usually meets the last Monday of the month.



Morgantown WV Mutual Aid

MORGANTOWN MUTUAL AID: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/search/top?q=morgantown%20mutual%20aid. We are happy to be coordinating more with this group now.

Notices from the January 30 Mutual Aid newsletter:

The next mutual aid meeting is on Sunday, February 2nd, at 5:30 pm at the Grind. (You can also attend virtually with this recurring Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84679936713>)

The next Mutual Aid Fair is on Thursday, February 13th.

All-hands, “big picture” meeting is set for Sunday, February 16th (the Sunday following the next Mutual Aid fair). Current projects to discuss include birth control distro, food distro, community resource list, pamphlets for public distro, clothes borrowing project, meal prep/delivery, ride shares,

Food Not Bombs is still in need of volunteers, sign up at:

signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/213401172068/false#/invitation. This group provides a free community meal on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. in front of Monkey Wrench Books on High Street in downtown Morgantown.

The next Prison Pen Pal writing circle will be Monday, February 24th, at 6 pm at Durar. Come to learn more about the program and get matched with a pen pal. You can also get matched to a pen pal by filling out APBP's online survey: <https://appalachianprisonbookproject.org/get-involved/pen-pal-program>

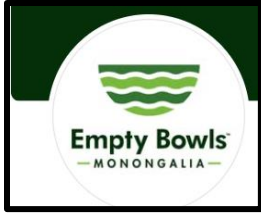
Freedom Farmers (Guerrilla Gardening Project) is planning a benefit show at Art Party on Friday, February 28th.

RDVIC (RAPE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INFORMATION CENTER) SEEKING ENTRIES FOR ‘ZINE: Kay Powney, the prevention educator for RDVID, is taking submissions until February of poetry, artwork, questions, and prose for a ‘zine entitled *A Common Guide for Ending Sexual Violence*. April is Sexual Awareness Month. Kay’s email is kaylam@rdvic.org.

Also, “RDVIC has posted on Facebook that Our shelter is in need of some essential items to continue providing a safe and supportive space for those escaping domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking. Your donations make all the difference!

“Please call (304) 292 5100 for more information on how and where to drop off donations!”

Here is the list of items needed: nightshirts, pajamas women’s underwear (large and up), men’s clothing, paper towels, toilet paper, garbage bags, liquid laundry detergent, all sanitizing products, sweatpants, tops/leggings, women’s shoes size 7 and larger, winter coats/boots, flip flops/rain boots, gift cards, nonperishable food, bus passes, light bulbs, phone chargers/blocks, headphones/Bluetooth speakers, batteries, art supplies, journals/notebooks, makeup, skin care/sunscreen, perfume, body spray, body wash, board games, puzzle books, adult coloring books, weighted blankets, luggage, cat/dog supplies, umbrellas, and deodorant.



Empty Bowls Monongalia Soup and Bread Luncheon is Saturday, February 22nd, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.: This event will take place at the Hazel and J. E. Ruby Community Center at Mylan Park. You can buy tickets from the link at <https://www.ebmon.org/luncheon>.

There are still some volunteer positions open. You can get descriptions of the positions and sign up at We need around 500 volunteers so there’s definitely something for everyone! Check out the positions & Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FAAAC2FA7FFC43-40852903-2025#/>.

West Virginia University Programs Open to the Public

Women’s Resource Center Survey: Leslie Tower, director of the center, is “Calling Current & Former WVU Students & Employees: Share Your Lactation Experience!
 “Have you ever expressed milk while working or studying at WVU? We want to hear from you! By participating, you will help us gather valuable insights about your experiences expressing milk after returning to work or school. This research project is being conducted by Leslie E. Tower, PhD, Professor of Social Work and Cara L. Sedney, MD, MA, FAANS – Chief Wellness Officer for WVU Hospital. Let’s create a campus that supports all nursing parents!

“Link to survey: https://wvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1NgPJVx96oTwu6q.”

Center for Black Culture: The exhibit will be in the Vandalia Lounge of the Mountainlair. It is free and open to the public.

The Homage Exhibit
 Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11am to 5pm
 I'm Interested

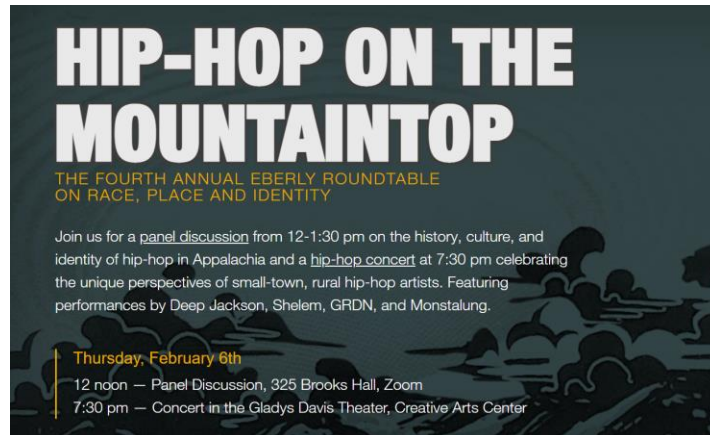
HOMAGE
 Traveling Black History Exhibit
 "FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM AT HOME AND ABROAD: A JOURNEY THROUGH..."
 IVY LEAF, DELTA

BLSA Black History Month Event
 By Student Organizations
 Tuesday, February 4, 2025 12pm to 1:30pm
 I'm Interested Register →

Black History Month
 GUEST SPEAKER HOSTED BY BLSA
 DR. ROSLYN ARTIS
 GUEST SPEAKER
 12:00-1:30pm
 February 4, 2025
 Location: Fitz Simmons Hall
 RSVP WITH QR CODE

WVU College of Law, Fitzsimmons Event Hall, 101 Law School Drive.

“On Tuesday, February 4, 2025, BLSA is hosting Dr. Roslyn Artis for our Black History Month Guest Speaker event. She will discuss her journey of being Black and a woman in white spaces while also touching on her journey of being Black and a woman in leadership. Please join us in listening and asking questions. We will be catering Huey Magoos for the event.”



Register for the panel discussion at <https://wvueberly.wufoo.com/forms/mu08ngs04zo2xa/>

Order free tickets for the concert at <https://wvuccam.universitytickets.com/w/event.aspx?id=1921>.

The fourth annual Eberly Roundtable presents a free concert celebrating the unique perspectives of small-town, rural hip-hop artists. Featuring performances by Deep Jackson, Shelem, GRDN, and Monstalung, this concert shows that hip-hop is alive and vital in Appalachia. The concert is presented by the Eberly College of Arts & Sciences in partnership with the WVU Center for Black Culture, College of Creative Arts & Media, Office of the Provost, WVU Research Office, and WVU Humanities Center.

STATE-WIDE EVENTS

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE: The legislative session starts on February 12th and runs until midnight on April 12th. CCSJ is non-partisan, but we do care about what happens there. Please use the links below for groups you support as they will be following legislation that can change suddenly. Go to www.wvlegislature.gov/ to find ways to contact your legislators and track the status of bills.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES: CCSJ is sharing this email that came from West Virginia NOW that reflects a concern from other groups related to public hearings at House of Delegates.

Dear Speaker Hanshaw,

I am writing to you about the proposed changes to the House committee process. I appreciate the effort to create a more deliberative and thoughtful process, and hope that it will lead to

more effective policymaking. However, I am concerned about the elimination of citizens' right to a public hearing.

Public hearings are a necessary opportunity for West Virginia's citizens to make our voices heard in the legislative process. As proposed, the changes would put public comment on the first day a bill is considered in committee. For this to be an effective option, committee agendas would have to be published well in advance of the meeting. Without adequate prior notice, members of the public who want to speak about a bill may not have the opportunity to do so.

For this reason, I am asking you to reinstate the public hearing in the final rule changes. West Virginians deserve to have our voices heard.

Thank you,

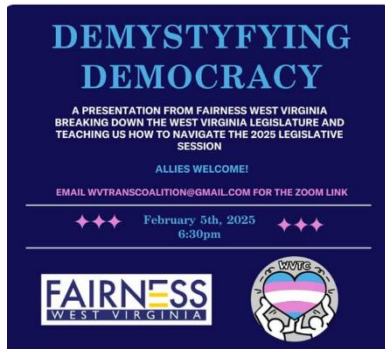


WEST VIRGINIA NOW: For more information, go to www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow or email Amanda Ray, the state NOW president, at amandajray@yahoo.com.



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

The following events were posted on their Facebook page.



“West Virginia's legislative session lasts only 60 days, and in that time, lawmakers introduce hundreds of bills. But only a few actually make it all the way to the Governor's desk to become law. So how do we make sense of the noise? How do we follow what's happening under the dome and take action that will make a real impact?”

“Join us for an important discussion on these questions and more next Wednesday night!”



“On February 17, 2025, Fairness WV will host the third annual Fairness For All Day at the West Virginia Legislature. This lobby day is a chance for members of the community to meet with legislators about important issues facing the LGBTQ+ community.

“If you or your organization would like to have a table at this event, contact jack@fairnesswv.org for more details.”

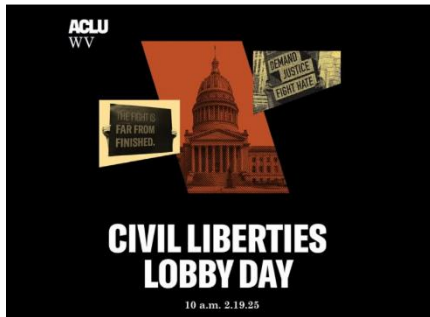
Check the Fairness West Virginia Facebook page for information from the Human Rights Campaign about federal identity documents.



ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES: Follow this group at www.acluww.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ACLUWV. There is information on this page about dealing with ICE agents and other immigration-related concerns.



This will be Tuesday, February 4th, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. “Are you looking for a way to get involved in the 2025 Legislative Session? Wondering how to navigate the session and have an impact? Join us for our Citizen Lobbyist Training to talk about effective citizen lobbying, tips and tools, and more. Register for the virtual training (held on Zoom) here: <https://secure.ngpvan.com/FbR-pTK4cEWtZYXuEJAhhA2>.”



“Ready to get involved in politics at a state level? Join the ACLU of West Virginia and community partners for a day of advocacy, trainings, and community at the Capitol! We'll host a series of skill building sessions to teach people about recent changes to the legislative process, how to navigate resources on the Legislature's website, and how to talk to lawmakers about the issues you care about. There will also be activities for children of all ages: story time for younger kids and youth advocacy training for teens.”

- 10:00 Welcome
- 10:30 Skill building sessions
- 11:00 Floor sessions
- 11:30 Movie sessions
- 2:30 After-School Programming
- 3:30 Storytime Read-In
- 5:00 After Party

If you have any questions, email mail@acluwv.org. The RSVP link on Facebook was not working at “press time.”



RAINBOW PRIDE OF WEST VIRGINIA EVENTS:

For more on this group’s events, go to www.facebook.com/RainbowPrideWV or rainbowpridewv.org.



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/.

BLACK POLICY DAY AT THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE: This day will be Monday, March 10, at the State Capitol. You can register and get more information at blackpolicydaywv.org/. According to that website, “Black Policy Day (BPD) is a transformative event held annually at the Capitol in West Virginia.

“It is much more than a single-day gathering.

“It represents a powerful movement that aims to address policy issues affecting Black communities in West Virginia and foster cooperative and united communities.”

DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

www.diversityresources.com/february-diversity-calendar-2025/

February Awareness Months 2025

Black History Month

Black History Month honors the achievements and struggles of the Black community. This month hopes to educate the world about many of their overlooked contributions and the social injustices that still exist in society.

American Heart Month

The American Heart Association’s Go Red For Women movement works to help women beat heart disease, the number one killer of women in America. First celebrated in 1964, it is essential as it is a leading cause of death for both men and women globally.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

This is a national effort to raise awareness about teen dating violence. Nearly one in three teens will experience some form of abuse from someone they are dating before they become an adult. This month aims to raise awareness about what constitutes a safe and healthy relationship.

Ethnic Equality Month

Ethnic Equality Month promotes understanding and equality among all ethnic groups. It aims to highlight the importance of recognizing and addressing ethnic disparities and fostering an environment where all ethnicities are valued and respected.

February Interfaith Calendar 2025 Highlights

February 1: Eastern Orthodox Christian: The Presentation of Christ –This day commemorates the presentation of the infant Jesus at the Temple, symbolizing his dedication to God. It’s a time for Eastern Orthodox Christians to reflect on faith, family, and renewal.

February 1*: Pagan and Wiccan: Imbolc –Imbolc marks the midpoint between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, celebrating the return of light and the stirrings of new life. Wiccans and Pagans honor Brigid, the goddess of fire and fertility, with rituals and gatherings.

February 15: Buddhist: Parinirvana – Parinirvana, or Nirvana Day, commemorates the Buddha’s passing into final Nirvana after his physical death. It’s observed through meditation and teachings, reflecting on impermanence and compassion.

February 24: Coptic Orthodox Christian: The Great Lent – The Great Lent is a period of fasting, prayer, and repentance, leading up to Easter in the Coptic Orthodox faith. It’s a time of spiritual discipline, reflection, and seeking closer communion with God.

February 26: Hindu: Maha Shivaratri – Maha Shivaratri honors Lord Shiva, celebrating his divine power and significance in Hinduism. Devotees fast, chant, and hold night vigils, dedicating the day to reflection and spiritual growth.

Others

February 1: National Freedom Day – Commemorating the signing of the 13th Amendment that abolished slavery in the U.S., National Freedom Day is a reminder of the country's commitment to freedom, equality, and unity for all.

February 1–7: World Interfaith Harmony Week – This week encourages mutual respect, understanding, and peace across different religions and beliefs, celebrating diversity and promoting interfaith harmony globally.

February 4: World Cancer Day – World Cancer Day aims to raise awareness, improve education, and inspire action for a future without cancer, supporting patients and advancing research efforts worldwide.

February 9–15: National Salute to Veteran Patients Week – Honoring hospitalized veterans, this week shines a light on their sacrifices and promotes appreciation for those who have served, encouraging communities to reach out and support veteran patients.

February 11: International Day of Women and Girls in Science – This day celebrates the achievements of women and girls in science, advocating for greater gender equality in STEM fields and inspiring the next generation of female scientists.