

Community Coalition for Social Justice 333PO Box 160 Morgantown, WV 26507-0160 ccsjwv@gmail.com www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: MARCH 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, March 18, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89413791272?pwd=90TYrnjOpzdQRXIR7RwhgRaUql16PX.1

Meeting ID: 894 1379 1272

Passcode: 822537

One tap mobile

- +16468769923, 89413791272#,*822537# US (New York)
- +16469313860, 89413791272#, *822537# US

Dial by your location

- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US

Meeting ID: 894 1379 1272

Passcode: 822537

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcF2xNtXHY

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY ZOOM IS NOW AVAILABLE: If you missed our program or just want to watch it again, you can find the link on our website at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prpJepIW48l.



WEST VIRGINIANS' EXPERIENCES IN CIVIL RIGHTS: HOW WE HAVE BEEN CONNECTED ALL ALONG NEWS.

Joan Browning and Eve Faulkes participated in a "Let's Talk" program at the Kanawha County Public Library on February 24 that included 19 people from a variety of organizations in the Charleston area. They passed out copies of the West Virginia Humanities Council version of our book.

Our book was also on display on the Black Voter Impact Initiative table at an event at that library on February 13. Dr. Shanequa Smith of the Black Voter Impact Initiative told us that she received about 45 of the 350 books that the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation funded for Westside Together and had been distributing them at Black History

Month events and elsewhere. She told us that she had to ration them because people wanted more copies than she could provide and that Westside Together had already distributed all its copies.

We have sent 900 postcards to the Appalachian Studies Association to include in the "swag bags" or put out on tables at that conference at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tennesee, this month. Eve Faulkes designed the card with a QR code for easy ordering and included the back cover "blurb" from Dr. Wilburn Hayden, a long-time important member of the association and editor of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*'s special issue on Black Appalachia. We appreciate the support of Mary Thomas, executive director of the association, for her assistance with this outreach.

You can support local businesses and buy the book 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 Avene, 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 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."





We gave completed our grant requirements for the \$2,000 minigrant from the West Virginia Humanities Council and submitted our final report. We were honored that the council included our book as the "Grantee Spotlight" in the winter 2024-2025 issue of its *People and Mountains* newsletter.

We have distributed 120 books to date, but still have room in this order so let us know if you know of organizations that might be interested. At last count, we have sent books to 12 academic libraries in West Virginia and 1 in Maryland; 4 faith-based groups in the Charleston area, 17 museums in West Virginia and 1 in Maryland; 5 other academic units in West Virginia; 53 public libraries, including 2 in Maryland; 6 K-12 schools, including 1 in Tennessee; and 15 other groups, including social justice and civil rights groups, in about 30 corners, literally from Hancock to Mercer and Jefferson to Mason and Mingo.

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 still 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. In February we sent class sets to Keyser Middle School and Marlinton Middle School.

Students at the Marlinton Middle School are using the book for class projects, thanks to their teacher Peggy Owens, the teacher and photographer who sent us the photos below of her granddaughter Diamond Owen with her first-place exhibit at the school's social studies fair and of a fifth-grader with a Freedom Rides poster. Joan Browning will be meeting with the fifth graders to share her experiences as a Freedom Rider.





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, March 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/.

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-to-Serve-on-City-Boards-and--45.

Here are the events for March:

National Women's History Month – Honors women as significant agents of change.

March 8: International Women's Day – Celebration of the economic, political, and social achievements of women worldwide. Recognition of need for empowering women to meet their health and family planning needs as central to realizing greater equality. With access to education, economic opportunity, and quality health care, healthier mothers can have healthier babies, economic gains, and help create less pressure on our planet's natural resources.

March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.

International Forest Day – Call for awareness of the importance of forests in protecting air quality, water retention, plants for pharmaceuticals, habitat for birds and other wildlife – all of which provide a balance for survival of all.

March 22: World Water Day – Calls for awareness of how essential potable water is to the rights of all people in West Virginia and worldwide.

March 31: Cesar Chavez Day – Honors Mexican American farm worker. Labor leader, and activist Cesar Chavez



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 League of Women Voters of West Virginia's Legislative Action Workgroup (LLAW) has been actively monitoring bills since the Legislature opened its 60-Day session on Feb 12. When a priority bill begins moving, League members throughout the state receive Make Some Noise Action Alerts via email. The same information is posted for the public on the LWV of WV Facebook page for anyone to follow and respond. And, for some high priority bills, LLAW has been submitting written testimony, according to new House rules codified in HR 1.

The LWV of Morgantown-Monongalia County discussed the League's legislative priorities in the context of the new Governor's and Legislature's 2025 agenda. Subscribe to LWV-MM's Substack to read all about it.

The LWV of Morgantown-Monongalia County invites everyone to subscribe to LWV-MM's Substack https://lwvmorgantown.substack.com. A subscription gets you automatic updates. And it's free.

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 Wednesday 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, MARCH 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: First Day meetings are at 11:00 a.m. at 648 E. Brockway, Morgantown. Contact them at monogalia.com.

Monongalia Friends Meeting 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. There is no information available about the next meeting at "press time."

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.

It is a value of First Presbyterian Church that when we gather we welcome one another just as God loves us, without any conditions.

No matter who you are or where you're from

No matter where you live or work

No matter your family of origin or ethnicity

No matter who you love or how you identify, or wherever you are on your spiritual journey We welcome you just as God loves you, without any conditions.







FAIRMONT PRIDE MEETS TUESDAY, MARCH 18TH AT 7:00P.M.: "Join us for our March Public Business Meeting at FSU's Folklife Center. Note that we have moved the meeting location to the second floor! (Accessible via stairs and elevator.)

Check out one of our four initiative committees and get involved! Bring a friend, allies welcome!"

"Fairmont Pride and Main Street Fairmont are excited to cohost the 2025 Hometown Market and Pride Block Party, sponsored by Fairmont Pride (formerly PFLAG Fairmont) on Saturday, June 21, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.! Vendors, music, games, and entertainment for the whole (chosen) family! Join us that evening for our annual afterparty!"

Follow this group on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/fairmontpride.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE:





"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.

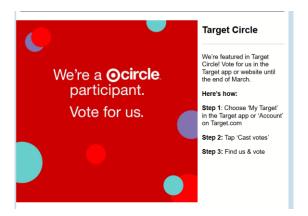


RAISING TRANS KIDS GROUP: Anyone interested in joining the meeting for the first time or to get more information can email raisingtranskids@gmail.com.

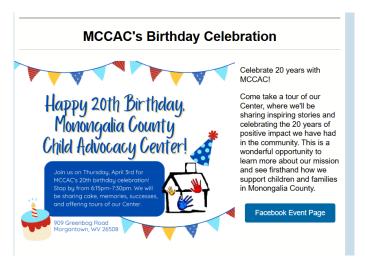
The Raising Trans Kids community group is for West Virginia parents, guardians, and families who are raising transgender or gender diverse kids (of any age), or have kids who might be transgender or gender diverse.



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



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:

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



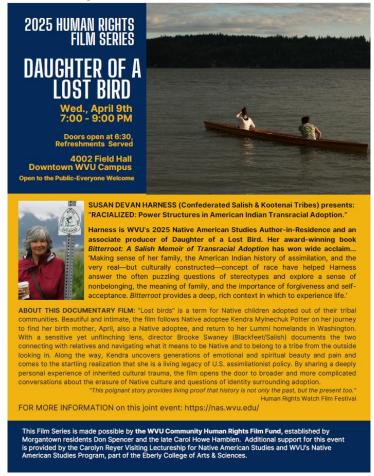
Golf Tournament – July 26th. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. at the Mountaineer Golf Course.

Scotts Run Community Sing: This group usually meets the last Monday of the month.



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.

WVU Native American Studies Program



STATE-WIDE EVENTS

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE: The legislative session started on February 12th and runs until midnight on April 12th. CCSJ is non-partisan, but we do care about what happens there. Please check the names of groups below that you support for 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.

Here is the calendar for the rest of the session, and just remember that nothing is final in the legislature until midnight on the 60th day:

March 18, 2025: Last day to introduce bills in the House. House Rule 91a does not apply to originating or supplementary appropriation bills, and does not apply to Senate or House resolutions or concurrent resolutions.

March 24, 2025: Last day to introduce bills in the Senate. Senate Rule 14 does not apply to originating or supplementary appropriation bills, and does not apply to Senate or House resolutions or concurrent resolutions.

March 30, 2025: Bills due out of committees in house of origin to ensure three full days for readings.

April 02, 2025: Last day to consider bill on third reading in house of origin. Does not include budget or supplementary appropriation bills.

April 12, 2025: Adjournment at Midnight.

The League of Women Voters of West Virginia has an active Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=league%20of%20women%20voters%20of%20west%20virginiaa that urges people to "make some noise" about key issues to the league. You can also follow their issues at https://lwvwv.org/



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

West Virginia NOW is very active on its Facebook page during the legislative session.



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

Check the Fairness West Virginia Facebook page for information about bills of current concern, especially those attacking transgender West Virginians.

ACLU

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

West Virginia The ACUWV has started its Capitol Tracker website so you can easily check on bills it is tracking. You can go to their Facebook page and look for the "button" for Capitol Tracker to get the link to sign up or go to https://fastdemocracy.com/shared-bills/?sharing-bill-list-id=t64hdYkQZ9s5&fbclid=lwY2xjawlxqJBleHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHRC3FzZEZLDRTkfZ9Hth_QDIKJkU0ELTQbJR0Spz5K-tred3hewPoqZntA_aem_us5k57YfsX88X30A7hukmg



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 ID MARCH 10TH AT THE CAPITOL: Eve Faulkes plans to be there with our posters, books, and postcards for those who want to order the book. She used this event last year as a way to identify potential storytellers for our book.

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.

[&]quot;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 MARCH

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

March 1: Zero Discrimination Day – Observed by the United Nations, Zero Discrimination Day promotes equality and addresses the discrimination faced by individuals worldwide, fostering a more inclusive global society.

March 7: Employee Appreciation Day – Employee Appreciation Day is a chance for organizations to recognize and celebrate their employees' hard work and dedication, building morale and fostering a positive workplace culture.

March 8: International Women's Day – International Women's Day celebrates the achievements of women worldwide while advocating for gender equality and women's rights, bringing attention to critical issues that women face globally.

March 15: International Day to Combat Islamophobia -

This day addresses and raises awareness about Islamophobia, encouraging global communities to work together against prejudice, promote inclusivity, and support Muslim communities.

March 25: Medal of Honor Day – A U.S. observance honoring Medal of Honor recipients, this day recognizes those who have demonstrated remarkable valor and sacrifice, highlighting the importance of courage and service.

March Awareness Months 2025

Gender Equality Month: Gender Equality Month is dedicated to recognizing and promoting gender equality and celebrating the contributions of all genders to society. It serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for equal rights, opportunities, and treatment, irrespective of gender. The month encourages reflection, discussion, and action to address disparities and work towards a more inclusive and equitable world. Gender Equality Month aims to advance understanding, foster inclusivity, and empower individuals to challenge and change discriminatory practices and beliefs.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month: This month, dedicate time to increasing awareness and understanding of people living with developmental disabilities, which can affect physical, emotional, and cognitive development. Promote inclusion and acceptance and the rights of those living with disabilities. This will lead to a greater understanding of all people worldwide.

Women's History Month: This month, celebrate the contributions and achievements of women throughout history globally. This month-long celebration hopes to shed light on women's roles in influencing nearly every part of society, including politics, music, the arts, and science, to name a few. March is a time to promote gender equality and learn about women's worldwide challenges.

March Heritage Months 2025

Greek-American Heritage Month: There are nearly 3 million Greek Americans of partial or full Greek ancestry. It is celebrated to coincide with Greece's Independence Day from the Ottoman Empire. This month, honor and recognize the contributions and achievements of Greek Americans. In fact, the concept of democracy comes from Ancient Greece.

Irish-American Heritage Month: This month, honor the nearly 32 million Irish Americans who have contributed to our rich history and culture. Learn about Irish immigrants' impact on many major U.S. cities and how they helped shape American culture.