



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

UPDATE: APRIL 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, April 15, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Ace Parsi, chair of Mountaineers Indivisible, will speak about the issues the group is addressing.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81066335929?pwd=diJGVmM3Yav6YSL0ixdZb05CzuhjJpH.1>

Meeting ID: 810 6633 5929

Passcode: 564669

One tap mobile

+16469313860, 81066335929#, *564669# US

+13017158592, 81066335929#, *564669# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

- +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)
- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US

Meeting ID: 810 6633 5929

Passcode: 564669

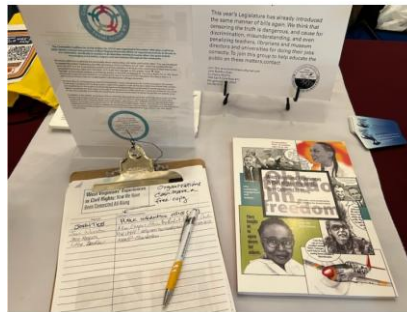
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdNpCM9Vcc>

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=prpJepIW48I>.



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

Eve Faulkes represented us at Black Policy Day at the capitol in Charleston on March 10 and distributed copies of the West Virginia Humanities Council version of our book and postcards with a QR code for those who might want to order it later. Eve is pictured here below with storyteller Janie Claytor-Woodson.



She and Joan Browning attended The Sandbox Project in Battle Creek, Michigan, on March 14-16, where Joan was one of the speakers. Eve and Joan passed out copies of our book to people from Michigan, Illinois, California, and Washington, DC. The goal of that project was to hope that "white and white identifying kids can find inspiring and tempering stories of historic people/groups who look like them resisting white supremacy and advancing racial justice."

We have sent a display copy and postcards with a QR code for orders to the Grave Creek Archaeological Complex in Moundsville for its gift shop.

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 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 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 have distributed almost all of the 250 books funded through the West Virginia Humanities Council with the latest distribution of 30 to the WVU Center for Black Culture.

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.



The posters of our exhibit panels are on display in WVU’s Chitwood Hall, the home of the history department, thanks to Dr. Melissa Bingmann. The posters are half the size of the exhibit panels and do not have the “books” with additional information on some of the people featured in the exhibit. The photo to the left shows one of the exhibit panels with the open “books.”

The 6-panel exhibit will soon be available to show. If you are interested in hosting it at a library, museum, or other public site, please contact Eve Faulkes at faulkeseve@gmail.com. It “travels” in the back of her car.

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, April 17th 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 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.

Here are the events for April:

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

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

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

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

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



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA COUNTY (LWV-MM)
SPONSORS CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM APRIL 3RD: "Join us for an informative and engaging Candidate Forum & Meet and Greet! Hear directly from the candidates, ask questions, and learn about their visions for our community.

In Person & by Zoom.



Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025



Time: 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM (doors open at 6:00PM)



Location: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) located at 5000 Greenbag Road (Mountaineer Mall)



Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84350243145...>

"Come meet the candidates, connect with fellow community members, and make an informed decision for the upcoming election. Light refreshments will be provided.

"We look forward to seeing you there!"

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, APRIL 15TH. 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 state NAACP meeting will be on Zoom 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 ONE MEMBER: The City of Morgantown is currently accepting applications for the one vacancy 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." Chelsea Bihlmeyer is the newest member 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.

The 2024 annual report, submitted January 31, 2025, is at chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.morgantownwv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6045/2024-CPRaAB-Annual-Report.



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 new pastor, Stephen.

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 monquakers@gmail.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.



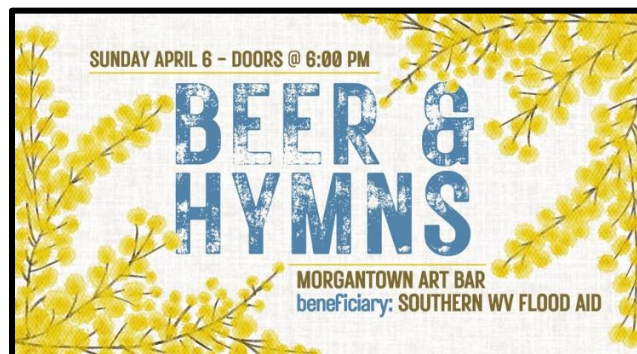
DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER. There is no information available about the next meeting at "press time."

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, APRIL 15TH, AT 6:30 P.M. No location was posted at “press time.”

“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: “We are now accepting vendor and sponsorship applications! Let's get hype for the 2025 Block Party! Hit the link below to sign up today!
<https://forms.gle/W4QA5P3pQv3zY8ym6>



“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!”

“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.



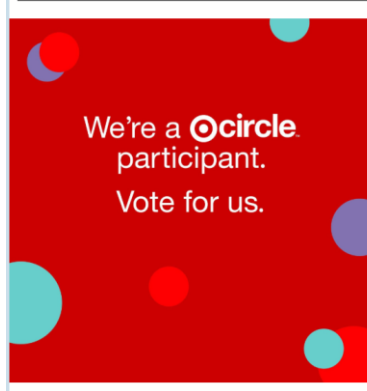
RAISING TRANS KIDS GROUP: Anyone interested in joining the meeting for the first time or to get more information can email raisingtranskids@gmail.com.


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.





We're a  participant.
Vote for us.

Target Circle

We're featured in Target Circle! Vote for us in the Target app or website until the end of March.

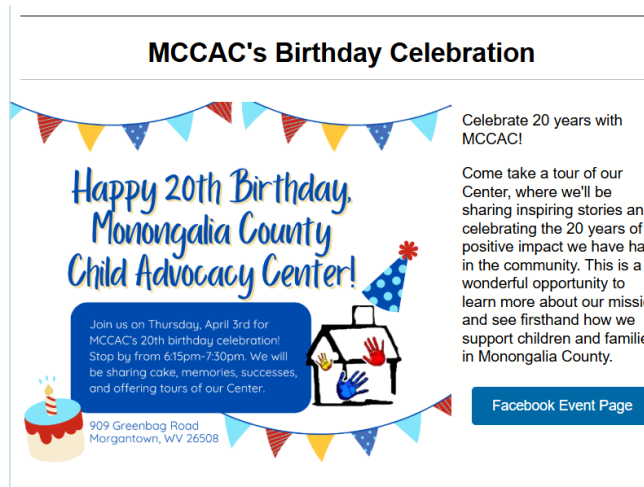
Here's how:

Step 1: Choose 'My Target' in the Target app or 'Account' on Target.com

Step 2: Tap 'Cast votes'

Step 3: Find us & vote

MCCAC's Birthday Celebration



Join us on Thursday, April 3rd for MCCAC's 20th birthday celebration! Stop by from 6:15pm-7:30pm. We will be sharing cake, memories, successes, and offering tours of our Center.

909 Greenbag Road
Morgantown, WV 26508

[Facebook Event Page](#)

Celebrate 20 years with MCCAC!

Come take a tour of our Center, where we'll be sharing inspiring stories and celebrating the 20 years of positive impact we have had in the community. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our mission and see firsthand how we support children and families in Monongalia County.



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.

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.

WVU Native American Studies Program



"A Road to Home" will be shown on **Wednesday, April 2nd**, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in 4002 Field Hall (formerly called the Business & Economics Building on the downtown WVU campus. There will be a panel discussion, and refreshments will be served. This is a free public event and part 1 of the WVU Community Human Rights Film Series.

About the film: "WVU's LGBTQ+ Center hosts "A Road to Home", an award-winning film that tracks the lives of six houseless LGBTQ+ young people over an 18-month-long period. Their lives reflect the experiences of the estimated 500,000 houseless youth on American streets, 40% of whom are LGBTQ+. For some of these people, being LGBTQ+ is the third strike against them, for they've grown up as people of color from poor households. All six youth were rejected by their families. Following them around New York City offers glimpses of how they learned to survive in the streets while struggling to find beds and some sense of purpose and direction for their lives.

"In the course of their journeys, four receive aid from the Ali Forney Center, a program devoted solely to houseless LGBTQ+ youth. Founder Carl Siciliano's struggle to keep the Center's programs alive mirrors the journeys of the youths themselves. The film shares not only the dangers, fears, and lonely anxiety of houselessness, but also the resulting heart wounds that must be healed. The people in this film are determined that their traumas will not define them for the rest of their lives."

Panelists:

Mia Sebastian is a graduate student pursuing her Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at WVU's College of Applied Human Sciences. She also attended WVU as an undergraduate and received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Criminology with minors in anthropology and forensics. She plans to become a Licensed Professional Counselor and work with at-risk youth, unhoused individuals, and individuals experiencing Substance Use Disorder. She is currently completing her internship at Milan

Puskar Health Right where she has gained experience counseling low-income, uninsured, and under-insured community members. She also helps out with Health Right's Harm Reduction Clinic, Comprehensive Opioid Addiction Treatment Program, and the Friendship Fairmont Drop-In Center.

Sarah Riedel, M.S., is a Clinical Therapist at Milan Puskar Health Right and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh's Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. With over two years of experience in individual and group therapy, she takes a holistic, biopsychosocial approach to treatment. Although she is grounded in existential-humanist and cognitive-behavioral frameworks, particularly Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, she tailors therapy to each client's needs. Passionate about LGBTQ+ advocacy, she is dedicated to working with underserved populations, including individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty. She believes healthcare is a fundamental right and advocates for accessible mental health care. She is committed to continuous learning and growth as an advocate, striving to bridge the gap between mental health care and systemic change.

Derek Silski is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Approved Licensed Professional Supervisor in the state of West Virginia and a Nationally Certified Counselor with six years of experience in counseling and eight years of experience in Substance Use Disorder treatment. He is a part-time faculty member in WVU's School of Counseling and Well-Being for the Mental Health and Addiction Studies programs and is mental health director at Milan Puskar Health Right, where he helped develop the Comprehensive Opioid Addiction Treatment Program. He also serves on the board of the West Virginia Counseling Association. With a passion for increased access to treatment and harm reduction, he advocates for policy improvements, professional development, best practices in the field, and reducing stigma around mental health and substance use disorders.

Moderator:

Valerie Adkins is an undergraduate senior pursuing their Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies at WVU's Eberly College of Arts and Sciences. They are set to graduate in May 2025 and is accepted as a Master of Social Work candidate for summer 2025. Valerie plans to become a Licensed Graduate Social Worker and work with the LGBTQ+ population facing comorbid hardships such as housing instability, mental health, substance use, trauma and PTSD, healthcare access, disabilities, chronic illness, and financial instability. They are currently completing an internship at WVU's LGBTQ+ Center where they have gained experience with program development and facilitation, advocacy, education, and person-centered support.

**2025 HUMAN RIGHTS
FILM SERIES**


**DAUGHTER OF A
LOST BIRD**


**Wed., April 9th
7:00 - 9:00 PM**

Doors open at 6:30
Refreshments Served

**4002 Field Hall
Downtown WVU Campus**

Open to the Public—Everyone Welcome





SUSAN DEVAN HARNESS (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes) presents:
"RACIALIZED: Power Structures in American Indian Transracial Adoption."

Harness is WVU's 2025 Native American Studies Author-in-Residence and an associate producer of *Daughter of a Lost Bird*. Her award-winning book *Bitterroot: A Salish Memoir of Transracial Adoption* has won wide acclaim... 'Making sense of her family, the American Indian history of assimilation, and the very real—but culturally constructed—concept of race have helped Harness answer the often puzzling questions of stereotypes and explore a sense of nonbelonging, the meaning of family, and the importance of forgiveness and self-acceptance. *Bitterroot* provides a deep, rich context in which to experience life.'

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENTARY FILM: "Lost birds" is a term for Native children adopted out of their tribal communities. Beautiful and intimate, the film follows Native adoptee Kendra Mylnechuk Potter on her journey to find her birth mother, April, also a Native adoptee, and return to her Lummi homelands in Washington. With a sensitive yet unflinching lens, director Brooke Swaney (Blackfeet/Salish) documents the two connecting with relatives and navigating what it means to be Native and to belong to a tribe from the outside looking in. Along the way, Kendra uncovers generations of emotional and spiritual beauty and pain and comes to the startling realization that she is a living legacy of U.S. assimilationist policy. By sharing a deeply personal experience of inherited cultural trauma, the film opens the door to broader and more complicated conversations about the erasure of Native culture and questions of identity surrounding adoption.

"This poignant story provides living proof that history is not only the past, but the present too."
Human Rights Watch Film Festival

FOR MORE INFORMATION on this joint event: <https://nas.wvu.edu/>

This Film Series is made possible by the **WVU Community Human Rights Film Fund**, established by Morgantown residents Don Spencer and the late Carol Howe Hamblen. Additional support for this event is provided by the Carolyn Reyer Visiting Lectureship for Native American Studies and WVU's Native American Studies Program, part of the Eberly College of Arts & Sciences.

"About the film: "Lost birds" is a term for Native children adopted out of their tribal communities. Beautiful and intimate, the film follows Native adoptee Kendra Mylnechuk Potter on her journey to find her birth mother, April, also a Native adoptee, and return to her Lummi homelands in Washington. With a sensitive yet unflinching lens, director Brooke Swaney (Blackfeet/Salish) documents the two connecting with relatives and navigating what it means to be Native and to belong to a tribe from the outside looking in. Along the way, Kendra uncovers generations of emotional and spiritual beauty and pain and comes to the startling realization that she is a living legacy of U.S. assimilationist policy. By sharing a deeply personal experience of inherited cultural trauma, the film opens the door to broader and more complicated conversations about the erasure of Native culture and questions of identity surrounding adoption.

"'This poignant story provides living proof that history is not only the past, but the present too'."

— Human Rights Watch Film Festival"

Award-winning writer and Native children & families advocate Susan Devan Harness (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes) will serve as NAS Author-in-Residence April 7-11, 2025. According to her website, "her interest in transracial adoption in general, and American Indian transracial adoption specifically, extends well beyond the academic."



MORGANTOWN CITY COUNCIL ELECTION IS TUESDAY, APRIL 29: Registered voters who live within the City of Morgantown may vote for City Council members for the 2nd, 4th, and 6th wards on Tuesday, April 29. In addition there will be two issues on the ballot:

- An ordinance creating a new article of City Code entitled "Camping on Public Property"
- An ordinance amending the City Charter to modify City Manager residency requirements

Information on registering to vote, early voting, and precinct locations for Election Day is at <https://www.morgantownwv.gov/590/Voter-Information>.

You can find a sample ballot with the text of the proposed ordinances at <https://www.morgantownwv.gov/529/Sample-Ballot>.

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:

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%20virginia> that urges people to “make some noise” about key issues to the league. You can also follow their issues at <https://lwvwwv.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 OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES: Follow this group at www.acluwwv.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ACLUWV.

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->

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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/.

DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR APRIL

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

April 2: International Autism Acceptance Day – This day promotes understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of individuals on the autism spectrum, focusing on recognizing their unique strengths and contributions.

April 5: Gold Star Spouses Day – This U.S. observance honors the surviving spouses of military members who lost their lives in service, sacrifices and supporting their resilience.

April 9: International Day of Pink – This day bullying, homophobia, transphobia, and all discrimination, with communities worldwide wear pink in solidarity. It's a call for inclusivity fostering awareness and support for a safer, world.

April 22: Earth Day – Earth Day raises global environmental protection, inspiring action to change, reduce pollution, and promote sustainability. It's a reminder of our shared responsibility to protect the planet for future generations through conscious, everyday choices.



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April 24: Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day – This day commemorates the lives lost during the Armenian Genocide, honoring the heritage and resilience of Armenian communities worldwide.

It serves as a call for reflection, understanding, and recognition of historical injustices to prevent future atrocities.

April Awareness Months 2025

Genocide Awareness Month: Genocide refers to the deliberate and systemic destruction or killing of a group of people because of their ethnicity, race, or religion. Learn about genocide throughout history, including in Rwanda, Cambodia, Bosnia, and Armenia, and the Holocaust. Learn what you can do to help those who are victims of these horrific tragedies.

Paralyzed Veterans Awareness Month: This month, learn about the challenges of veterans living with spinal cord injuries or dysfunction. The Paralyzed Veterans of America has 34 chapters across the country that educate the public about its programs, services, and support for injured veterans and their families. Take time to honor those who make these lifelong sacrifices for our country and freedoms daily.

April Heritage Months 2025

Scottish-American Month: This month, learn about the culture and contributions of Scottish Americans to society. Tartan Day is celebrated on April 6th to remember the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320, which granted Scotland independence from England. Highland games are enjoyed this month, including the hammer throw, tug-of-war, and caber toss. April is a time to learn about the impact that Scottish culture has had on America. Learn about their rich traditions to promote acceptance of all heritages in society.

National Arab American Month: This month, recognize the contributions of nearly 3.5 million Arab Americans to all aspects of American culture. It is also a time to raise awareness about anti-Arab bigotry and how to eradicate it. Focus on challenging stereotypes and prejudices in the workplace and beyond this month.

April Interfaith Calendar 2025 Highlights

Jain: April 10: Mahavir Jayanti – Mahavir Jayanti celebrates the birth of Lord Mahavir, the 24th Tirthankara in Jainism, revered for his teachings on nonviolence and truth. Jains honor his legacy with prayers, processions, and acts of compassion.

Jehovah's Witnesses: April 12: The Memorial of Jesus' Death – This solemn observance marks the death of Jesus Christ, viewed as a sacrifice for humankind's salvation. Jehovah's Witnesses gather worldwide to commemorate this event with prayer, reflection, and the sharing of bread and wine.

Jewish: April 13*: Passover – Passover, or Pesach, commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery, celebrating freedom and resilience. Jewish families gather for a Seder meal, retelling the Exodus story and reflecting on themes of justice and liberation. *means it begins the prior evening.

Sikh: April 14: Vaisakhi – Vaisakhi, marking the harvest season, is also a major religious celebration for Sikhs, commemorating the founding of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh. It is observed with prayer, community gatherings, and processions that honor cultural and spiritual heritage.

Christian, Coptic & Eastern Orthodox Christian: April 20: Easter – Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, symbolizing hope and renewal in the Christian faith. Observed with services, feasts, and gatherings, it is one of the most significant celebrations across Christian communities.