

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

**UPDATE: MAY 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, May 20, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87010598997?pwd=J0f0wYz9Mcp80aXR2XFqfMCalvcurV.1

Meeting ID: 870 1059 8997

Passcode: 838334

#### One tap mobile

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- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 870 1059 8997

Passcode: 838334

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kWTbgLn6K

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.

UPDATE ON EXHIBIT ON 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CIVIL RIGHTS ACT AND WEST VIRGINIANS' EXPERIENCES IN CIVIL RIGHTS: HOW WE HAVE BEEN CONNECTED ALL ALONG.

Our exhibit is now at the library of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg.



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."

If you are interested in hosting the 6-panel exhibit at a library, museum, or other public site, please contact Eve Faulkes at <a href="mailto:faulkeseve@gmail.com">faulkeseve@gmail.com</a>. It "travels" in the back of her car.

Tim Hairston distributed copies of our book at the West Virginia Human Rights Commission's Fair Housing event on April 17th.

We plan to have a table at Morgantown PRIDE's Block Party from noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 14th, at the Morgantown Riverfront Park. We will have the posters of the exhibit panels and copies of our book to sell there.

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

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.

**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."





Morgantown Human Rights Commission: The next regular meeting should be Thursday, May 15th 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-to-Serve-on-City-Boards-and--45.

### Here are the events for May:

**Older Americans Month** – Celebrates progress in protection of older in the United States and recognizes the importance of end-of-life independence and care for older adults.

**Asian Pacific American Heritage Month** – Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

May 1: International Worker's Day – Also known as May Day, it celebrates the social and economic achievements of workers worldwide. The day commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which police and protesters clashed following a worker's strike for an eighthour day.

**May 3: World Press Freedom Day** – Serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.

**May 15: International Day of Families** – Celebration of two or more persons providing a continuity of support for each other usually in terms of affection, nurture, security and protection.

May 21: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – Recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange, and creativity, as well as the obligation to create a more peaceful and equitable society based on mutual respect.



# 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 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.

Morgantown NOW and the WV Childcare Coalition are co-hosting a Childcare Community Conversation on the evening of May 20th in Morgantown. Contact morgantownnow@gmail.com for more info.

NAACP

Morgantown-Kingwood Branch of the NAACP Meets Tuesday, May 20th. This meeting of the membership will be at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact the NAACP at 3241naacp@gmail.com for more information and to learn how to participate.

The branch has a Readings on Race and Rights group and does its work with a variety of committees, including Education, Political Action, Legal Redress, Criminal Justice, and Health.

Follow the NAACP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/naacp3241/?ref=page internal.

We appreciate the fact that the Branch shares this Update with its membership.



Morgantown Civilian Police Review Advisory Board Needs 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."

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 <a href="https://www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/Civilian-Police-Review-Advisory-Board-47">www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/Civilian-Police-Review-Advisory-Board-47</a>.



**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 <a href="monographics.">monographics.</a> monographics.

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.

"Let's get the church garden ready to plant!

Church Garden Work Day - Saturday, May 3 - 10:00a - NOON

Help us finish church garden beds, install garden edging, and fertilize our church garden beds to prepare for summer planting. All ages are welcome to help."





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**





"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!"

"Fairmont Pride Members and greater NCWV LGBTQ+ community:

"During our Hometown Market & Fairmont Pride Block Party event this year, we are hosting a new segment where we are asking state and local LGBTQ+ community leaders and allies to speak. We've got two 5-minute spots I'd like to fill and we need your help identifying some passionate leaders in our community! Have them reach out to me at the below address 📦



Follow this group on Facebook at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/fairmontpride">https://www.facebook.com/fairmontpride</a>.

#### MORGANTOWN PRIDE PLANNING FOR BLOCK PARTY

"We are having our annual Morgantown Pride Block Party on June 14th from 12-5PM at the Hazel Ruby McQuain Amphitheater (185 Garrett St, Morgantown, WV 26501). We will have live entertainment, vendors, raffles, and more! Currently, we are looking for volunteers, donations for our raffle, vendors, and sponsors. I've attached links below for anyone interested in signing up or getting involved.

"Volunteers: https://signup.com/go/NvUVRKG

"Raffle: https://forms.gle/6XXSGjBxur4wZ7yn8

Raising Trans Kids

"Vendor or Sponsorship: https://forms.gle/W2tkc9QfjDti4tuY8



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 <a href="https://www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en">www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en</a>.

**PROJECT RAINBOW:** Follow this group on Facebook at <a href="www.facebook.com/projectrainbowwv">www.facebook.com/projectrainbowwv</a>. The Facebook has an "informational video about harm reduction starring a member of our Board of Directors, Iris. We are so proud of the work they are doing at <a href="www.women's Health Center of West Virginia">www.women's Health Center of West Virginia</a> and grateful they're willing to lend some of their expertise to us at Project Rainbow.

"As always, we strive to operate our low-barrier shelter from a harm reduction framework to ensure that we are supporting our most vulnerable and underserved community members."

**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.

Dressing in theme is a wonderful way to enhance the festive atmosphere, but please know that it is not required. Whether you choose to channel the Jazz Age or come as you are, your presence is what truly matters.





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 Author-in-Residence Gets Our Book:



Bonnie Brown, coordinator of the Native American Studies Program, gave Susan Devan Harness (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes) a copy of our book after her presentation at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on April 7. Bonnie also purchased copies of our book as gifts for students helping with the Program's events in April.

Photo courtesy of Rae Jean Sielen



**WEST VIRGINIA NOW**: For more information, go to www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow or email Amanda Ray, the state NOW president, at <a href="mailto:amandajray@yahoo.com">amandajray@yahoo.com</a>.

Huntington: Our newest chapter is up and running! Contact us at huntingtonwvnow@gmail.com to get involved!

Kanawha Valley: KVNOW meets on the 4th Thursday of every month at the Public Library.



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

Executive director Andrew Schneider "spoke to Anna Sale of the Death, Sex & Money podcast to talk about what it's like lobbying for LGBTQ+ rights in a deep-red state like West Virginia." You can find the link to the podcast on Slate.com from the Fairness West Virginia Facebook page.

Fairness is starting to build its calendar of PRIDE events for the summer at https://fairnesswv.org/pride/



"Our friends at the First Presbyterian Church in Charleston are hosting this amazing benefit concert on May 16! The concert will feature musical selections from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. There's no charge for admission, but feel free to bring a donation! You generous contributions will go to supporting our work at Fairness."

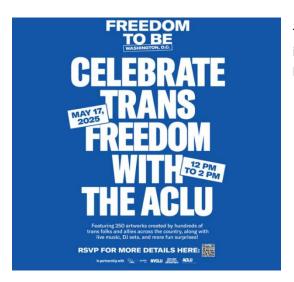


**ACLU of West Virginia Updates:** Follow this group at www.acluwv.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ACLUWV.



"Registration is now OPEN for the Our Voice, Our Power Summit. This free three-day event brings together young Black people and other young people of color to learn about organizing and building community and resiliency:

https://secure.ngpvan.com/lj3rTFP4lE2dBZMZUgQdRA2"



The ACLU of West Virginia is planning a bus. You can find information in the comments section of the Facebook page related to this event: www.facebook.com/ACLUWV.



**RAINBOW PRIDE OF WEST VIRGINIA EVENTS:** For more on this group's events, go to www.facebook.com/RainbowPrideWV or rainbowpridewv.org.





The ACLU-WV is thrilled to announce another Appalachian Queer Youth Summit from August 6 to 10.

"This camp will bring together teens ages 15-19 who either identify as LGBTQ+ or come from LGBTQ+ families from across West Virginia and give them the tools they need to organize and advocate for the issues they care about.

"Campers will learn how to talk to legislators, how to run meetings, tell powerful stories, and more, and will participate in a collective action to better the lives of LGBTQ+ people after the camp concludes.

"Perhaps most importantly, AQYS campers will get to be themselves around people who understand them.

"This year's camp will be held in Morgantown! As always, participation is totally free and travel stipends are available for those who need them.

Please contact Mollie Kennedy at mkennedy@acluwv.org with any additional questions. At "press time," registration links had not been updated.



**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 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/wvtranscoalition/">www.facebook.com/wvtranscoalition/</a>.

#### **DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR MAY**

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

May 5: Day for Awareness of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls - This day brings attention to the high rates of violence faced by Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people across North America. It advocates for justice, awareness, and action to address these ongoing issues within Indigenous communities.

**May 5: Cinco de Mayo** - Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Mexican army's victory over France at the Battle of Puebla in 1862, symbolizing resilience and pride. In the U.S., it has become a celebration of Mexican heritage, marked with cultural festivities and events.

May 9: Military Spouse Appreciation Day – This day recognizes the sacrifices and resilience of military spouses, who support their families and communities through the unique challenges of military life. It's a day to show appreciation for their strength and dedication.

May 17: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia – This day promotes equality and fights against discrimination faced by the LGBTQ+ community globally. It's an opportunity to stand up for inclusivity, raise awareness, and foster a culture of acceptance.

May 26: Memorial Day – Observed in the U.S., Memorial Day honors those who lost their lives while serving in the military. It's a day of remembrance, marked by ceremonies and tributes to recognize their sacrifices.

## **May Awareness Months 2025**

**Better Hearing & Speech Month**: During this month, we learn about different communication disorders and the importance of detecting them early with intervention. The community hopes to better educate the general public about how to support those with communication challenges best.

**Mental Health Awareness Month:** This campaign aims to educate the public about various mental health disorders and promote the importance of mental health care and support. It encourages open conversations, reduces stigma, and advocates for accessible mental health services for all.

**National Military Appreciation Month:** Throughout May, we honor and remember those who have served our nation. Celebrate their dedication and sacrifice by donating to nonprofit organizations that provide essential support to military families, ensuring they receive the care and assistance they deserve.

## **May Heritage Months 2025**

**Jewish Heritage Month**: This month, immerse yourself in the rich history and culture of Jewish Americans and Canadians. Learn about their significant contributions to the cultural and social development of both countries and appreciate the diverse heritage that has shaped our societies.

**Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month:** In May, take time to recognize and celebrate the profound impact that Asian American and Pacific Islander cultures have had on the social fabric of America. This month highlights their contributions, achievements, and the rich cultural diversity they bring to our communities.

**Haitian Heritage Month**: Enjoy the vibrant art, cuisine, and music of the Haitian community while acknowledging the historical challenges they have faced. This month provides an opportunity to celebrate Haitian culture, recognize their resilience, and appreciate their contributions to our shared heritage.