



*THE VALLEY CONNECTS*

Mission Statement:

The mission of Shenandoah Valley Equality is to build inclusive community for LGBTQ people in the Shenandoah Valley.

**EMPOWER  
YOUR  
COMMUNITY!**

**Join SVE**

*(Membership pg. 13)*

**Visit us on  
Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/60282410939](http://www.facebook.com/groups/60282410939)

**Contact the editor  
to advertise and/or  
submit event  
information:**

**ShenandoahValley  
Equality@gmail.com**

**NOVEMBER ELECTIONS:**

**Equality is always on the ballot.**

**On November 2nd, Virginia voters will elect the next Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, all 100 members of the Virginia House of Delegates, and some local school board members (varies by locality).**

*So much is at stake for our community.*

**Election Information and Deadlines**

- Register to vote or apply for a ballot online: [www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/)
- The deadline to register to vote is **October 12.**
- The deadline to request a ballot to be mailed to you is **Oct. 22.** Your request must be received by **5:00pm.**
- You may vote early in person **NOW** through **October 30** at your local registration office, Mondays-Fridays (except holidays), and on two Saturdays (Oct. 23 & 30).
- See who is on your ballot - follow the link below.

For details about the information above, go to:

[www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/calendars-schedules/upcoming-elections.html](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/calendars-schedules/upcoming-elections.html)

**Your vote matters.**

# LIVING QUEER HISTORY LECTURE:



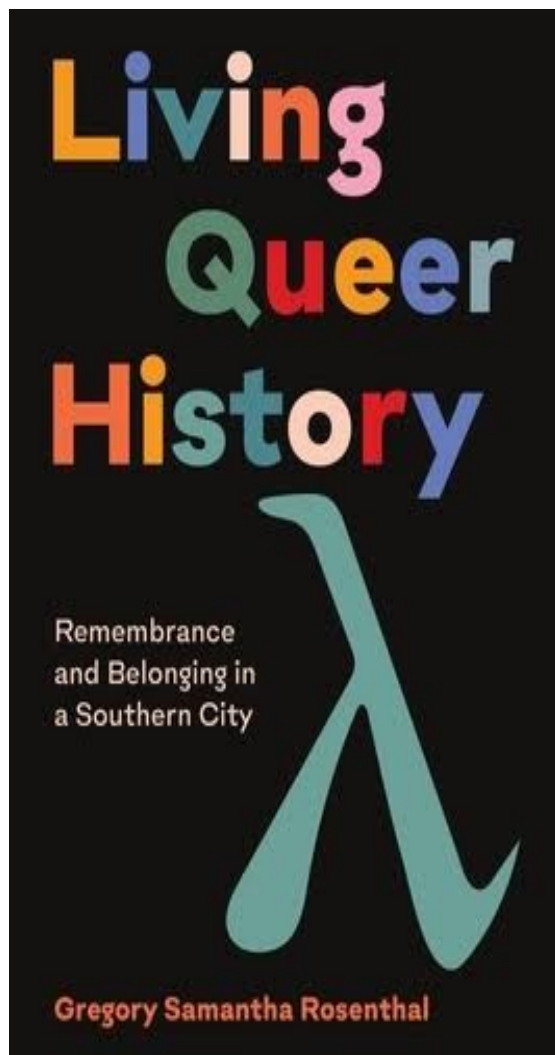
## A Conversation Celebrating LGBTQ History Month

featuring author, activist, and public historian

**Dr. Gregory Samantha Rosenthal**

**October 28, 4:00-6:00 PM EST LIVE VIA ZOOM**

Join us for Eastern Mennonite University's inaugural LGBTQ+ History Month Lecture, including university- and community-based partnerships from across the Shenandoah Valley. Dr. Rosenthal will be speaking about their forthcoming book, *Living Queer History: Remembrance and Belonging in a Southern City*, where they discuss their own journey – coming out and transitioning as a transgender woman – in the midst of working on a community-based history project.



Queer history is a living practice. Talk to any group of LGBTQ people today, and they will not agree on what story should be told. Many people desire to celebrate the past by erecting plaques and painting rainbow crosswalks, but queer and trans people in the 21st century need more than symbols—they need access to power, justice for marginalized people, spaces of belonging. Approaching the past through a lens of queer and trans survival and world-building transforms history itself into a tool for imagining and realizing a better future.

*Living Queer History* tells the story of an LGBTQ community in Roanoke, Virginia, a small city on the edge of Appalachia. Interweaving historical analysis, theory, and memoir, Gregory Samantha Rosenthal tells the story of their own journey—coming out and transitioning as a transgender woman—in the midst of working on a community-based history project that documented a multigenerational southern LGBTQ community. Based on over forty interviews with LGBTQ elders, *Living Queer History* explores how queer people today think about the past and how history lives on in the present.

**Gregory Samantha Rosenthal** is Associate Professor of History at Roanoke College and co-founder of the Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project.

**Sponsored by the EMU Office of DEI**  
(CODI@emu.edu)

# The Friendly City Safe Space

serves the LGBTQ+ Community in the Harrisonburg and  
Rockingham County area. Find us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/FriendlyCitySafeSpace/](http://www.facebook.com/FriendlyCitySafeSpace/)



**And still we wait.** For a return to a more or less normal world of connection and community.

Please know that SVE is still looking forward to a time when we can once again safely join together for regular social events.

Even though that time is not yet at hand, important events (virtually, locally, and across the state) are still taking place.

Please see pages 9 and 10 of this newsletter for information about local and state-wide community organizations.

Please know, too, that those in the SVE community who are on Facebook have been and are receiving regular posts, including information about new laws passed during the 2021 General Assembly session, upcoming election information, and events from other local community organizations.

If you are not currently receiving that information, you can join the SVE Facebook group at

**[www.facebook.com/groups/60282410939](https://www.facebook.com/groups/60282410939)**

# VIRGINIA TIES

TRANSGENDER INFORMATION AND EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

The 8th annual **Transgender Information & Empowerment Summit**  
October 20-23, 2021

*TIES is a **free** conference sponsored by Equality Virginia and the Virginia Equality Bar Association and serves the needs and interests of transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming Virginians of all ages, as well as their friends, family members, partners, and allies. **Register today!** The conference will be **virtual**. Last year's virtual format allowed more people than ever to make connections, get information, and access resources.*

*The event is **FREE**. Registration is required.*

To register, volunteer, and see the schedule, visit

[equalityvirginia.org/events/ties-2021](https://equalityvirginia.org/events/ties-2021)



Aurora Higgs

TIES 2021 Keynote:  
Queer, Creative, & Can't Be Stopped



Thursday  
October 21  
6:30-7:30 PM

## TIES

### Name & Gender Marker Change Legal Clinic

Register here:  
[bit.ly/TIES2021clinic](https://bit.ly/TIES2021clinic)  
(link is case sensitive)



EV EQUALITY VIRGINIA



Charley Burton

TIES 2021 Keynote:  
A Life of Leadership



Wednesday  
October 20  
6:30-7:30 PM

# 2021 Elections in Virginia

## ARE YOU REGISTERED & READY TO VOTE?

Key elections will be held for 3 state-level offices:

**Governor**

**Lieutenant Governor**

**Attorney General,**

**All 100 seats in the House of Delegates,  
and some local school board offices**

**General election: November 2**

Every year, Equality Virginia monitors all legislation introduced to the Virginia General Assembly and advocates on behalf of Virginia's LGBTQ community, helping to introduce and support pro-equality legislation and to oppose bills that move us backwards. Stay informed and voice your support or opposition to specific bills by joining EV's email list for their monthly newsletter, action alerts, and events:



**Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression Programming** works toward promoting James Madison University's commitment to diversity through education, support, advocacy and the fostering of equity for all students, inclusive of all sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

[sogie@jmu.edu](mailto:sogie@jmu.edu)

Like us on Facebook [@JMU.SOGIE](#)

Follow us on Instagram [@jmu.sogie](#)



**Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression**

## The Yoga Room

is now open

66 E Market St Harrisonburg VA 22801

offering private and small group yoga instruction

yogaroomdowntown66 on facebook

Call Matt Batton for an appointment  
540.313.0339

## YOUR ADVERTISEMENT HERE!

\$15/issue or \$50/year (4 issues): Business Card

\$25 per issue or \$80/year: Quarter Page

\$50/issue or \$175/year: Half Page

\$100 for a Full Page ad per issue

ShenandoahValleyEquality@gmail.com

## WAYS TO EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITY

- **LIKE and FOLLOW** Shenandoah Valley Equality on Facebook. We share information about local events.
- **JOIN SVE.** Non-voting membership is FREE; voting membership is only \$15/year
- **CONNECT.** After the pandemic, SVE hopes to resume our monthly potluck and dinner meet-up, quarterly breakfast, and annual equality forum.
- **ADVERTISE** in our newsletter (see this newsletter for ad prices and sizes)
- **SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS** with your business and referrals.
- **TELL US** about local events of particular relevance to our community; we will share them on our Facebook page.
- **NOMINATE** yourself to serve on SVE's Board of Directors (nominations are due December 1 every year). All nominees must be voting members.
- **READ** our newsletter, *The Valley ConnectShen*. Share it with a friend.
- **ORGANIZE, EDUCATE, AND ADVOCATE** for equality, justice, and liberation.

### Connect with SVE

Non-voting membership is **FREE**.

Voting membership is **\$15** a year.

You must be at least **18** to join.

See pg. 13 for membership information.

## 2021 Election Timeline

SEPTEMBER 17

Early in-person voting starts

OCTOBER 12

Last day to register to vote

OCTOBER 22

Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot

OCTOBER 30

Last day to vote early in-person

NOVEMBER 2

General Election Day! Polls open from 6AM - 7PM



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# Community Organizations

<b>Alliance for A Progressive Virginia</b>	<a href="http://apvonline.org">apvonline.org</a>
<b>American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia</b>	<a href="http://acluva.org/tag/equal-rights/">acluva.org/tag/equal-rights/</a>
<b>Bi Gay Lesbian &amp; Allies Against Discrimination (Blue Ridge Community College)</b>	<a href="http://catalog.blueridgectc.edu/">catalog.blueridgectc.edu/</a>
<b>BC Allies (Bridgewater College)</b>	<a href="http://www.bridgewater.edu/student-life/activities-and-organizations/clubs-organizations-and-honor-societies">www.bridgewater.edu/student-life/activities-and-organizations/clubs-organizations-and-honor-societies</a>
<b>Love Actually Won (community of conversion therapy survivors and allies in Virginia)</b>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/LoveActuallyWon/">www.facebook.com/LoveActuallyWon/</a>
<b>Coalition for Transgender Rights in Virginia</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/michellemarie51/">https://www.facebook.com/michellemarie51/</a>
<b>Equality Virginia</b>	<a href="http://www.equalityvirginia.org">www.equalityvirginia.org</a>
<b>EMU Safe Space</b>	<a href="http://www.emu.edu/studentlife/clubs/safe-space/">www.emu.edu/studentlife/clubs/safe-space/</a>
<b>Free Mom Hugs Virginia—Shenandoah Valley</b>	<a href="https://facebook.com/groups/456758691888492">facebook.com/groups/456758691888492</a>
<b>Friendly City Safe Space</b>	<a href="https://facebook.com/FriendlyCitySafeSpace/">facebook.com/FriendlyCitySafeSpace/</a>
<b>Friendly City Transgender Alliance</b>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/Friendly-City-Transgender-Alliance-100565454864352/">www.facebook.com/Friendly-City-Transgender-Alliance-100565454864352/</a>
<b>He She Ze and We</b> (Peer-to-peer support group for adult caregivers of transgender and non-binary family members)	<a href="http://www.heshezewe.org">www.heshezewe.org</a>
<b>JMU LGBTQ Employee Group</b>	<a href="http://www.jmu.edu/lgbtfacultystaff">www.jmu.edu/lgbtfacultystaff</a>
<b>JMU SOGIE Programming</b>	<a href="http://beinvolved.jmu.edu/organization/sogie">beinvolved.jmu.edu/organization/sogie</a>
<b>JMU Madison Caucus for Gender Equality</b>	<a href="http://www.jmu.edu/caucusgenderequality/">www.jmu.edu/caucusgenderequality/</a>
<b>JMU Student Organizations</b>	
• Madison Equality	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/madisonequality">www.facebook.com/madisonequality</a>
• Queers United for Educating STEM Together	<a href="http://beinvolved.jmu.edu/organization/quest">beinvolved.jmu.edu/organization/quest</a>
• Shades of Pride	<a href="http://beinvolved.jmu.edu/organization/shadesofpride">beinvolved.jmu.edu/organization/shadesofpride</a>
<b>LGBT Democrats of Virginia</b>	<a href="http://lgbtvadem.org/">lgbtvadem.org/</a>
<b>Parents and Allies of LGBTQ Students in Rockingham County Public Schools</b>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/241142777675519">www.facebook.com/groups/241142777675519</a>
<b>PFLAG Blue Ridge</b>	<a href="http://pflagblueridge.org">pflagblueridge.org</a> and <a href="mailto:pflagbr@gmail.com">pflagbr@gmail.com</a>

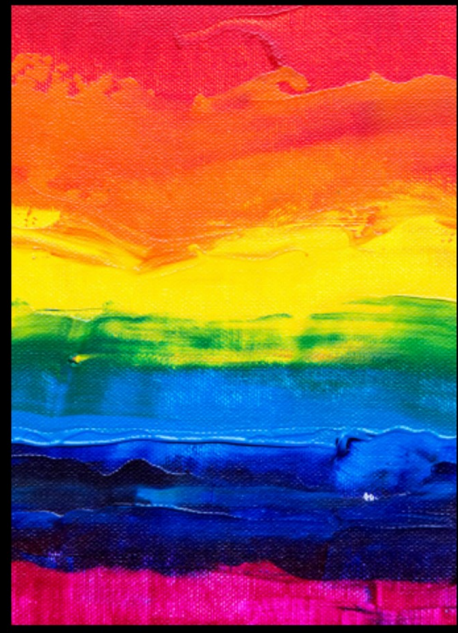
**Do you know of a local or state-wide organization that should**

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# Community Organizations

<b>Safe Zone JMU</b>	<a href="http://www.jmu.edu/safezone/">www.jmu.edu/safezone/</a>
<b>Shenandoah LGBTQ Center</b>	<a href="http://www.shenlgbtqcenter.org">www.shenlgbtqcenter.org</a>
<b>Shenandoah Valley Equality</b>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/60282410939/">www.facebook.com/groups/60282410939/</a>
<b>Shenandoah Valley Pride Alliance</b>	<a href="http://www.shenandoahvalleypride.org">www.shenandoahvalleypride.org</a>
<b>Staunton Pride</b>	<a href="http://www.stauntonpride.org">www.stauntonpride.org</a>
<b>Students Out Understanding &amp; Loving Sisters (SOULS) at Mary Baldwin College</b>	<a href="http://www.mbc.edu/student_activities/clubsandorgs/#cultural">www.mbc.edu/student_activities/clubsandorgs/#cultural</a>
<b>Southerners on New Ground—Harrisonburg</b>	<a href="http://southernersonnewground.org/harrisonburg/">southernersonnewground.org/harrisonburg/</a>
<b>Transgender Education Association of Northern Virginia</b>	<a href="http://www.tgeagw.org">www.tgeagw.org</a>
<b>Vibrant Menders LGBTQ+ Action Group</b>	<a href="mailto:vibrantmendersva@gmail.com">vibrantmendersva@gmail.com</a>
<b>Virginia Anti-Violence Project</b>	1.866.356.6998 (helpline) & <a href="http://virginiaavp.org/">virginiaavp.org/</a>
<b>Virginia Organizing</b> [State-wide intersectional social justice advocacy organization]	<a href="http://www.virginia-organizing.org/issues">www.virginia-organizing.org/issues</a>
<b>Virginia Department of Health—Transgender Health Services and Support</b>	<a href="http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/disease-prevention/disease-prevention/transgender-health-services-support/">www.vdh.virginia.gov/disease-prevention/disease-prevention/transgender-health-services-support/</a>
<b>Virginia Partisans Gay &amp; Lesbian Democratic Club</b>	<a href="http://www.vapartisans.org/">www.vapartisans.org/</a>
<b>People of Faith for Equality in Virginia</b>	<a href="http://www.faith4equality.org/">www.faith4equality.org/</a>
<b>Additional Resources:</b>	
<b>Education/support: Bisexual and Pansexual</b>	<a href="http://biresource.org">biresource.org</a> and <a href="http://robynochs.com">robynochs.com</a>
<b>Education/support: Asexual</b>	<a href="http://www.asexuality.org">www.asexuality.org</a>
<b>The National Center for Lesbian Rights</b>	<a href="http://www.nclrights.org">www.nclrights.org</a>
<b>The National Center for Transgender Equality</b>	<a href="http://transequality.org">transequality.org</a>

**Do you know of a local or state-wide organization that should be listed here? Tell us.**



**FRIENDLY  
CITY  
TRANSGENDER  
ALLIANCE**



## **Friendly City Transgender Alliance**

Friendly City Transgender Alliance is a collective of individuals, who personally identify as Transgender and/or any form of self-expression that challenges traditional binary gender roles.

As an alliance we do not define or categorize individuals' personal expressions.

[www.facebook.com/Friendly-City-Transgender-Alliance-100565454864352/](https://www.facebook.com/Friendly-City-Transgender-Alliance-100565454864352/)



**“Standing on the Side of Love”**

**HARRISONBURG  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS**

*One Journey, Many Paths*

*We are a lay-led, religious community offering a unique spiritual and moral witness in the Shenandoah Valley.*

*We invite all who search for truth and meaning with open hearts and open minds to join us in worship, in mutual support, and in shared ministry to each other and to the world.*

*For more information, contact us at: <http://huuweb.org> and (540) 867-0073*

HUU is a UUA-Certified Welcoming Congregation. We declare our intention to be inclusive and expressive of the concerns of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender persons at every level of congregational life and to support the rights of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people.

***YOUR ADVERTISEMENT HERE!***

**\$15/issue or \$50/year (4 issues): Business Card**

**\$25 per issue or \$80/year: Quarter Page**

**\$50/issue or \$175/year: Half Page**

**\$100 for a Full Page ad per issue**

**Contact [ShenandoahValleyEquality@gmail.com](mailto:ShenandoahValleyEquality@gmail.com)**

SHENANDOAH VALLEY  
**EQUALITY**

**EMPOWER YOUR  
COMMUNITY!**

**We need your support to continue as a viable and evolving community presence working on your behalf. The goals of SVE are:**

- to gather and communicate important community information;
- to collaborate with allies and LGBTQ-friendly organizations;
- to organize events within the greater Valley area for social and educational networking with LGBTQ people; and
- to advocate for full LGBTQ equality, dignity, and inclusion in the Valley, state, and national communities.

**Level 1 (voting) Membership \$15 per person (from July-July)**

Your support helps with administrative costs through the year. Members receive:

- An e-mailed version of the newsletter and advance information about SVE events
- A vote for members of the SVE Board of Directors (*MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE BY DECEMBER 1 TO VOTE FOR AND/OR SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS*).

**Level 1 Membership:** Please include a check for \$15 for each person and send this form to: **Shenandoah Valley Equality, P.O. Box 1023, Harrisonburg, VA 22803**

Name #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Name #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Address #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address #2: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail #1: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail #2: \_\_\_\_\_

**[Check Box]** I/we verify that I am/we are at least 18 years of age.

**Level 2 (non-voting) Membership— FREE**

Level 2 members receive an e-mailed version of the newsletter and advance information about all SVE events. To join as a non-voting member, **email your first and last name and state that you are at least 18 years of age to [ShenandoahValleyEquality@gmail.com](mailto:ShenandoahValleyEquality@gmail.com)**

## "Out in the Boondocks"

### LGBTQ Valley Meet-up Group

If you're a member of the LGBTQ community living in the boondocks in or around the Shenandoah Valley, come meet up with us.

This is an informal group where members get together or in smaller groups for meals, hiking, movies, live performances, kayaking, and other events.

If you would like to be on the e-mail list for events, send your name and e-mail address to Claire Hollady at [chollady@gmail.com](mailto:chollady@gmail.com)

**Support our Advertisers,  
Empower your Community.**

**SVE thanks businesses & organizations that advertise in our newsletter.**

**"EVERY TIME YOU SPEND MONEY, YOU'RE CASTING A VOTE FOR THE KIND OF WORLD YOU WANT."**

ANNA LAPPE

**SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY  
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ECONOMY**

### Need Support?

**Trevor Crisis Intervention Line (LGBT+):** [www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)  
1-866-488-7386 (available 24/7)

### Trans Lifeline:

[www.translifeline.org](http://www.translifeline.org)  
1-877-565-8860 (staffed by trans\* people for trans\* people in crisis)

### I'm alive support chat:

[www.imalive.org](http://www.imalive.org)  
Crisis Text Line: Text START to 741-741

### National Suicide Hotline:

1-800-273-8255

**Collins Center**  
& Child Advocacy Center  
Support • Prevent • Treat

The Collins Center strives to eliminate sexual violence and its impact in our community.

Serving Harrisonburg & Rockingham County

**Sexual Assault Crisis Services**

**Prevention & Education**

**Trauma-Informed Counseling**

**Child Advocacy Center**

217 S. Liberty Street, Suite 205, Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
540.432.6430 | [www.thecollinscenter.org](http://www.thecollinscenter.org)

**24-Hour Hotline: 540.434.2272**

We serve all individuals regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, familial status, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, language proficiency, disability, veteran status, political affiliations or beliefs.



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[advisor@huntcountryinvestments.com](mailto:advisor@huntcountryinvestments.com)

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FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services offered through Securities  
America Advisors, Inc. Hunt Country Wealth Management and  
Securities America are separate entities.*

SHENANDOAH VALLEY

EQUALITY





## **PFLAG Blue Ridge**

We are parents, families, friends, and allies uniting with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender loved ones to promote support, education, and advocacy.

[www.pflagblueridge.org](http://www.pflagblueridge.org)

[PFLAGBR@gmail.com](mailto:PFLAGBR@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/pflagblueridge>

<https://twitter.com/PFLAGBR>

### **Charlottesville Trans\* Families Group Meetings**

**When:** 3rd Saturday of each month, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** ASG, 315 Tenth St. NE, Charlottesville, VA 22902 (corner of 10th & Jefferson)

**Contact:** Facilitator Karen at 434-882-3453 or [karenmeandering@gmail.com](mailto:karenmeandering@gmail.com)

PFLAG Blue Ridge offers free monthly support groups for parents, family, friends, and allies of the LGBT community. If you are a parent, family member, friend, or ally of a gay, lesbian, bisexual, and/or transgender individual looking to increase your support, or if your loved one has recently come out to you and you are struggling to process your own feelings as well as looking for resources to help understand — we are here for you. Join us as we share our experiences, joys, concerns, and resources in a confidential and non-judgmental environment.



**SIDE BY SIDE** is dedicated to creating supportive communities where Virginia's LGBTQ+ youth can define themselves, belong, and flourish.

See our website for C'ville youth group meetings

<http://www.sidebysideva.org/>

Youth Support Line:  
888-644-4390



**HCHC** offers a wide variety of services, including dental care, behavioral health, care management (**formerly the Valley AIDS Network**), women's health, and primary care (pediatrics through adult). Interpretation services are available for patients in all areas of health and dental services.

Visit [hburgchc.org](http://hburgchc.org) or contact by phone:

### **SCHEDULING**

Main Site: 540-433-4913

Dental: 540-236-3688

### **AFTER HOURS MEDICAL**

540-433-4913



The Virginia Anti-Violence Project works to address and end violence, with a specific focus on LGBTQ communities across Virginia.

Call our LGBTQ Partner Abuse and Sexual Assault Helpline:

**1.866.356.6998** Monday-Friday 8am-8pm

### Quotable:

**“Change does not roll in on wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle.”**

*—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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