



THE VALLEY CONNECTSHEN

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. 11)

***The Valley
ConnectShen***

is published quarterly

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

**ShenandoahValley
Equality@gmail.com**

**MOVING EQUALITY FORWARD:
Another Historic Virginia Legislative Session**

Governor Northam signed several pro-equality bills into law, which will positively transform Virginia’s legal landscape. Some of the 2021 legislative successes include:

- updating the Older Americans Act to designate LGBTQ older adults as a population with “greatest social need,” which provides equal access to aging services and resources, such as Meals on Wheels, transportation assistance, legal aid, and more
- banning the LGBTQ “panic defense,” a harmful legal strategy that attempts to excuse violence perpetrated against LGTBQ people
- establishing an LGBTQ+ Advisory Board to the Governor on economic, governmental, professional, educational, and cultural issues affecting LGBTQ+ Virginians, especially in rural and underserved areas
- allowing confirmatory or second-parent adoption
- The first step in repealing Virginia’s constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage
- updating Virginia’s HIV law, which will decrease barriers to prevention and treatment services

See details about these legislative victories at
<https://equalityvirginia.org/2021-legislative-victories/>



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

Please know that after a year into this pandemic, 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 6 and 7 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, 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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/60282410939>

Celebrate with us, virtually!



—18TH ANNUAL—
COMMONWEALTH
DINNER

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM

EV is Virginia's state-wide, non-partisan education, outreach, & advocacy organization seeking equality for LGBT Virginians.

The evening of celebration is **FREE for everyone.**

For 16 years, LGBTQ Virginians from across the state have joined together with local political, business, and non-profit leaders and torchbearers to celebrate the strides towards full, lived equality. After a year unlike any other, we cannot wait to show you a new dinner unlike any other. EV will spotlight the 2021 "OUTstanding Virginians," those who represent our community with distinction by dedicating their lives to working for equality. We are also celebrating another historic year of advocacy in the Commonwealth, and hope you will join us for this special event.

Register and get your free tickets here:

equalityvirginia.org/events/commonwealth-dinner-2021/

**Shenandoah Valley Equality is
hosting a virtual table. Please join us!**

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

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

DEADLINE for next newsletter is **May 15**

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 quarterly 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 include them in our monthly e-calendar and quarterly newsletter FREE.
- **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 quarterly 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. 11 for membership information.

-Make a new beginning this Spring-

Now is a great time to explore yoga!

**Call or text the Yoga Room
for a free appointment**

540.313.0339

66 East Market St

Downtown Harrisonburg

Community Organizations

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

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

Community Organizations

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

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

2021 Elections in Virginia

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

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

Governor

Lieutenant Governor

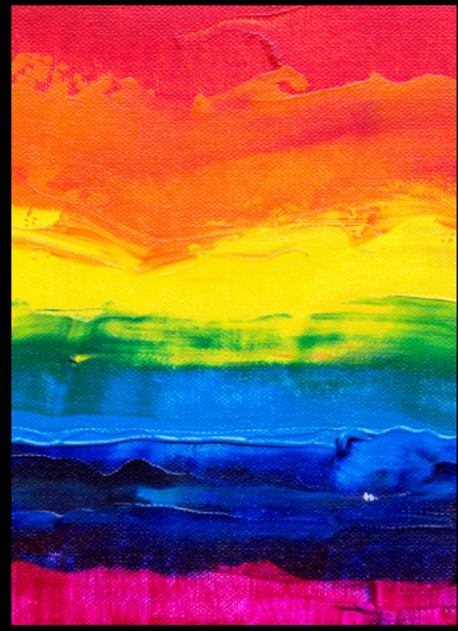
Attorney General

All 100 seats in the Virginia House
of Delegates are up for election.

Primary elections: June 8

General election: November 2

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/>



**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/



“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.

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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**

"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 a 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

**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
1-866-488-7386 (available 24/7)

Trans Lifeline:

www.translifeline.org
1-877-565-8860 (staffed by trans* people for trans* people in crisis)

I'm alive support chat:

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

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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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

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

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 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:

“Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot un-educate a person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore. We have seen the future, and the future is ours.”

Cesar Chavez, co-founder of the National Farm Worker Association

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