

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. 12)

**Visit us on
Facebook**
[www.facebook.com/
groups/6028241093](https://www.facebook.com/groups/6028241093)

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

**ShenandoahValley
Equality@gmail.com**

**The 2022 Virginia General Assembly Session:
Sustaining and furthering progress depends on us.**

So much is at stake.

Every year, Equality Virginia monitors LGBTQ-related legislation introduced to the Virginia General Assembly and advocates on behalf of Virginia's LGBTQ community. EV works to introduce and support pro-equality legislation and to oppose bills that move us backward. The session goes from January 12-March 12.

Your voice matters.

EV amplifies the voices of LGBTQ communities by engaging thousands of Virginians in grassroots advocacy and connecting constituents with their legislators.

Engage.

Join EV's email list: Stay updated on our efforts to bring equality to the Commonwealth. We will send information on how to take action to make change.

Host a speaker: Connect with a transgender or non-binary Virginian in your local community from our speaker's bureau to build understanding.

Give now: Help us build a stronger movement to make positive change for LGBTQ people in Virginia.

Get a ticket for EV's Commonwealth Dinner: (See page 4 for information about the event scheduled for March 26.)

<https://equalityvirginia.org/get-engaged/>

The Friendly City Safe Space

serves the LGBTQ+ Community in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. Located on the second floor of the Ice House in Harrisonburg, VA (217 South Liberty Street, Suite 203).

Visit their Facebook page (address below) for drop-in hours.



FCSS seeks more **volunteers**. Whether you want to sign up for a time slot, host events, or help with advertising and media, FCSS has a space for you.

Find FCSS on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/FriendlyCitySafeSpace/

FCSS is a program of the **Shenandoah LGBTQ Center**.

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, including:

- the 2022 Virginia General Assembly session, (which runs from January 12-March 12);
- the 2022 elections for the US House of Representatives, local school boards, and city councils;
- and events sponsored by local and state-wide community organizations (see pages 8 and 9 of this newsletter for information).

Members of the SVE community who are on **Facebook** have been and are receiving regular posts, including about events by other local community organizations; information about local, state, and federal elections; new laws passed during the 2021 General Assembly session; ways you can impact legislation in Virginia; and opportunities to support our communities locally and sustain and advance our movement in Virginia and nationally.

If you are not receiving that information, join Shenandoah Valley Equality's Facebook group at

www.facebook.com/groups/60282410939



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

EV's 19th annual Commonwealth Dinner

is the state's largest black tie gathering for our community. Enjoy live entertainment, a silent auction, a dance, and network with others. At the dinner, EV also recognizes OUTstanding Virginians who have contributed to the equality movement and represented our community with distinction. We hope you can join us for this special event.

A promotional poster for the 19th Annual Commonwealth Dinner. The background is a dark blue gradient with a starry pattern. The text is white and centered. At the bottom, there are three Polaroid-style photos: one of two women at a table, one of a woman dancing, and one of two men in tuxedos. The EV logo is in the bottom right corner.

19th Annual
**Commonwealth
Dinner**
Tickets Now Available!

See you
at the
Dinner!

Saturday, March 26, 2022
Greater Richmond Convention Center
[BIT.LY/EVTICKETS2022](https://bit.ly/EVTICKETS2022)

2022 Elections

Equality is always on the ballot.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Key elections will be held for seats in:

The US House of Representatives

Local School Boards

City Councils

Primary election: June 21, 2022

General election: November 8, 2022

Register to vote

Check your registration status

Find your polling place

Apply to vote absentee by mail

For more information, go to

vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation

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

WAYS TO EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITY

- **FOLLOW** Shenandoah Valley Equality on Facebook. We share information about local events, opportunities to connect, and ways to sustain and advance equality.
- **JOIN SVE.** Non-voting membership is FREE; voting membership is only \$15/year.
- **CONNECT. Local events are happening.** After the pandemic abates, SVE hopes to resume our monthly potlucks and dinners, 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 and organizations of particular relevance to our communities; we will share information about them on our Facebook page and the newsletter.
- **NOMINATE** yourself to serve on SVE's Board of Directors (nominations are due December 1 every year). All nominees must be voting members.
- **READ** and share our newsletter, *The Valley ConnectShen* at www.svgla.org
- **ORGANIZE, EDUCATE, ENGAGE, AND ADVOCATE** for equality, justice, & 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. 12 for membership information.

Follow Shenandoah Valley Equality on Facebook

We share information about local events and organizations, opportunities to connect, and ways to sustain and advance our progress and well-being.

www.facebook.com/groups/60282410939

Community Organizations

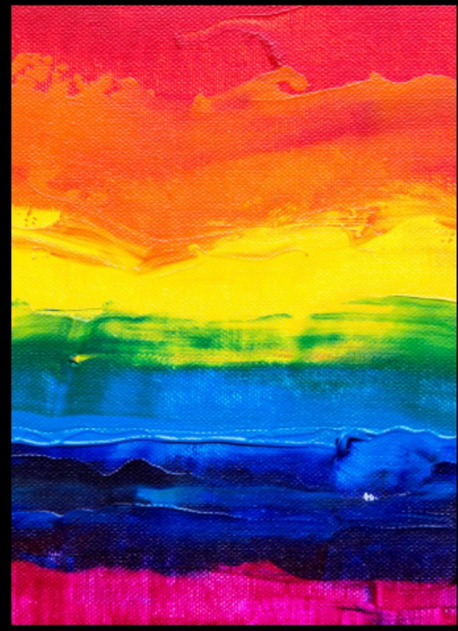
Alliance for A Progressive Virginia	apvonline.org
American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia	acluva.org/tag/equal-rights/
Bi Gay Lesbian & Allies Against Discrimination (Blue Ridge Community College)	catalog.blueridgectc.edu/
BC Allies (Bridgewater College)	www.bridgewater.edu/student-life/activities-and-organizations/clubs-organizations-and-honor-societies
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 Safe Space	facebook.com/FriendlyCitySafeSpace/
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.



**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.

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

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 LEPPE

**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.

Hope House of the Shenandoah

The Shenandoah LGBTQ Center, in partnership with Valley Community Services Board, has received a grant to address homelessness for young people ages 18-24 who are not living with their parents or guardians. Working together, we will provide rapid rehousing, rent assistance, and optional wraparound services to help these young people develop the skills they need to thrive. This program provides housing options in Augusta County, Staunton, Waynesboro, Rockbridge County, Lexington, Buena Vista, Bath County, Highland County, Rockingham County, and Harrisonburg. For more information, email hopeshenandoah@gmail.com or call/text the Hope Line at 540-245-3321. To apply for services, visit:

<https://www.shenlgbtqcenter.org/hope-house>

Additionally, we are looking for volunteers to participate in our Youth Advisory Council. Ideally, we would like participants from across our service area which we are broadly calling "North" (Harrisonburg/Rockingham) "Central" (Augusta/Staunton/Waynesboro/Highland) and "South" (Rockbridge/ Lexington/Buena Vista/Bath). We especially need a representative of school districts from each of the three areas as well as mental health & social services providers. Participants with lived experiences of youth homelessness are also encouraged. If you or someone you know would be interested in participating, please fill out an application at this link:

<https://forms.gle/cK8qYhsTD1gtM8669>

HOPE HOUSE
of the
SHENANDOAH





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

SHENANDOAH VALLEY EQUALITY



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:

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, then you have chosen the side of the oppressor.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

