



To make music in the heart.

- Howard Thurman

Bread for the Preacher, Dec. 2009

## Embrace



December 18

## This Week: Come Celebrate with Us!

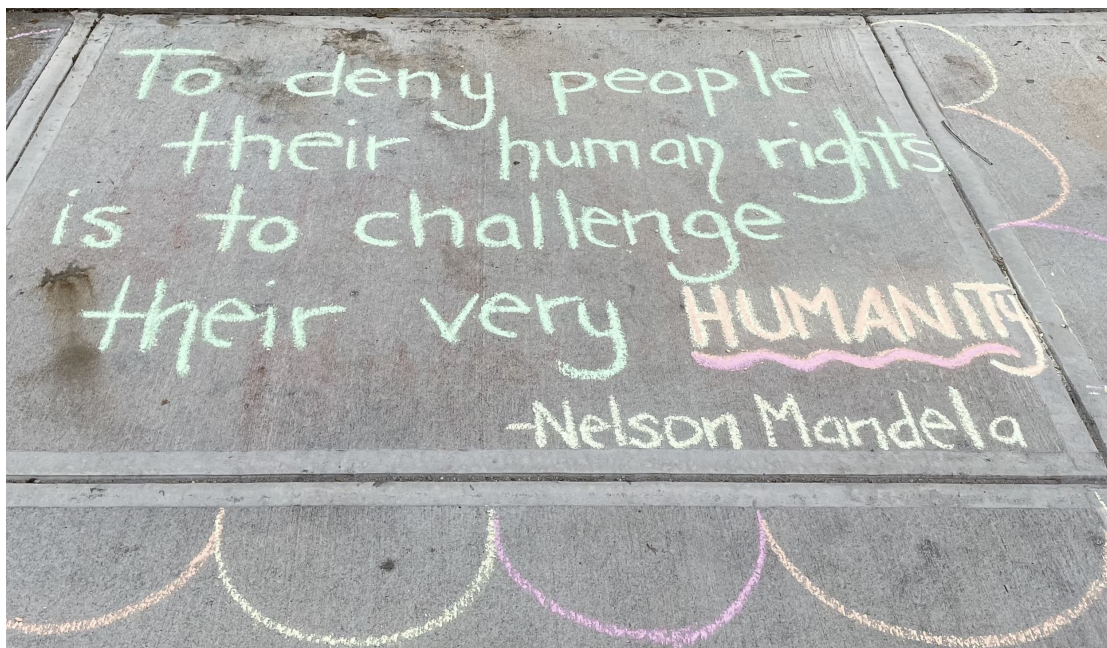
This Sunday, December 18 will be a festive day for the ARC community. Recognizing the convergence of three cultural holidays we have put together a memorable celebration that honors Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. We have lined up several speakers including:

- ARC participants **Sandra Laub** and **Katherine Rosen** who will relate their personal memories of Hanukkah,
- **Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth**, pastor of United Congregational Church of Westerly, who will share her story of Christmas,
- **April Dinwoodie**, ARC cofounder, who will unfold the story of Kwanzaa.

As we observe these three holidays, we examine how they connect to our goal of justice and equity for all. **Kevin "Big Lux" Lowther** will provide entertainment for all. Don't miss this special event!

Please stop by to join in this celebration of our rich and culturally diverse heritage. Bring a favorite food to share if you are able. We begin gathering at 11:00 and the Program will begin at 12:00.

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## Last Week

On Sunday, December 11th we commemorated International Human Rights Day. Adults and children alike were on hand on the Post Office steps to listen to **Leslie Dunn** passionately read a children's version of the UN Declaration of Human Rights document.

The [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. The most translated document in the world, it proclaims the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Additional resources: [UNESCO Human Rights Day](#), [Stand Up for Human Rights](#)

Big thank you to **Christine Davidson** and others who brought some special cookies and cupcakes that were enjoyed by all.

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Join us for these upcoming Sunday events

- **Christmas Day** falls on Sunday this year. As we all know, racism does not stop just because it's a holiday. Some ARC supporters are planning to come to the Post Office as they express their desire to continue to be a presence for the rights and dignity of everyone. Please feel free to join us if you are able.
- **New Year's Day** is also a Sunday and the rally will continue from 11-1 for all those who would like to start the New Year on a positive note. At 1:00 you are invited to meet around the Peace Pole at Christ Church on Elm St. for the annual **World Day of Prayer for Peace** which is traditionally celebrated by **Westerly Area Peace and Justice**. All are welcome.

We meet every **Sunday from 11:00-1:00** on the steps of the Westerly Post Office on High Street. Join us anytime!

**Empower**



## **Election brings diversity to Westerly's leadership (Boston Globe)**

Westerly is making headlines across New England thanks to our newly elected town officials. Click to read [this article from the Boston Globe](#) that features an interview with Leslie Dunn, Victoria Gu, and Kevin Lowther.

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## **Town Meetings**

Westerly ARC encourages those who can to attend Westerly Town Council and School Committee meetings. Your presence and involvement is an important way to show our elected officials that creating a more equitable and inclusive town and school system must always be a priority.



**January 4** School Committee Meeting, 5:00

**January 9** Town Council Meeting, 5:30

**January 18** School Committee Meeting, 5:00

**January 23** Town Council Meeting, 5:30

Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas:

<https://clerkshq.com/westerly-ri>

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# Act

[View our Calendar](#)

Here are a few ongoing ways you can support the work of Westerly ARC.



## Share

Spread the news!  
**Forward this newsletter to at least one person** you think might be interested in it. Ask them to sign up for our newsletter on the [Westerly ARC website](#).

We have **over 200 subscribers** as of now; help us reach an even wider audience!



## Donate

ARC advocate Amanda Dunn continues to collect toiletries, personal care items, and non-perishable food to distribute to our community. Please bring your donations to Amanda at our Sunday rallies. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.



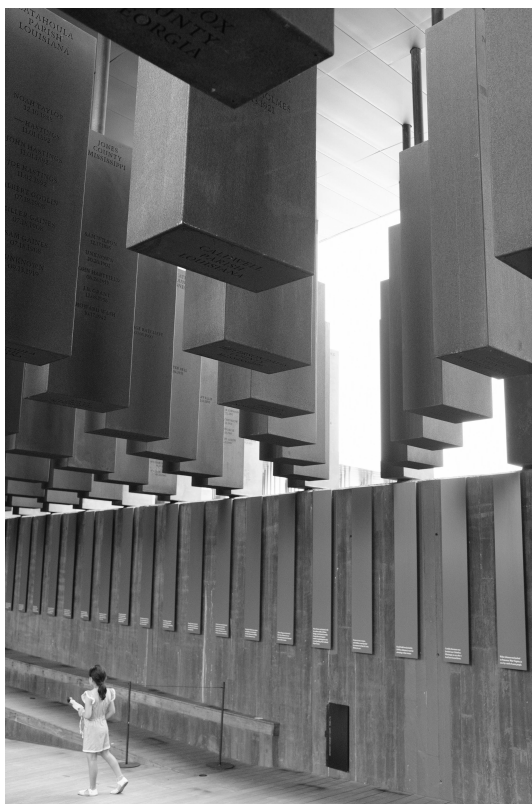
## Show Up

Stop by one of our weekly gatherings, join one of the events listed in this newsletter, attend a town meeting, etc.

*"We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."*

— Elie Wiesel

# Educate



## The Four Levels of Racism

This article from Anti-Racism Daily is a great reminder of the different types of racism that exist in our community.

Explanations and examples are provided for each of the four types: internal racism, interpersonal racism, institutional racism, and structural racism.

[Read the article](#) to learn more about how you can recognize and challenge all types of racism.

## Culture Calendar

### December 18-26 **Hanukkah**

The eight-day Jewish celebration known as Hanukkah or Chanukah commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, where according to legend Jews had risen up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt.

([History.com](http://History.com)) [Read more of the Hanukkah Story.](#)



### December 18 **International Migrants Day**

Every year on 18th December, the world marks International Migrants Day, a day set aside to recognize the important contribution of migrants while highlighting the challenges they face. ([UN.org](http://UN.org))

### December 25 **Christmas Day**

Christmas is a time of spiritual reflection on the important foundations of the Christian faith. It's also a celebration. It's when Christians celebrate God's love for the world through the birth of the Christ child: Jesus. The Bible tells of his birth hundreds of years before, fulfilling prophecies. ([Christianity.com](http://Christianity.com))

### December 26-January 1 **Kwanzaa**

Kwanzaa—a seven-day celebration traditional to the African American community—takes place Dec. 26–Jan. 1. Derived from the Swahili phrase *mutanda ya kwanzaa*, which means “first fruits,” Kwanzaa was first celebrated in 1966 and reinforces traditions across the continent of Africa.

It is a cultural celebration of Blackness that is about knowing self, understanding self, reinforcing self and understanding the beauty that lies within. It is an African American African-centered celebration of community that fills a void that previously existed for African Americans. (Don Harrell, [UCF Today](#))

## Up Next

Calendar of Events	
December 18	Honoring Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa, Westerly Post Office, 11:00–1:00
January 1	World Day of Prayer for Peace celebrated by Westerly Area

	Peace and Justice, Christ Church, 1:00 pm
January 4	School Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm
January 9	Town Council Meeting, 5:30 pm
January 18	School Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm
January 23	Town Council Meeting, 5:30 pm



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### **Westerly Anti-Racism Coalition**

Join our weekly gatherings

Sundays 11-1

Downtown Westerly Post Office steps



westerlyarc@gmail.com

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