



## Westerly ARC Newsletter

Weekly Newsletter

23 Oct 2022



Artwork by Cookie Rivera

[Visit Our Website](#)

“The dynamism of any diverse community depends not only on the diversity itself but on promoting a sense of belonging among those who formerly would have been considered and felt themselves outsiders.”

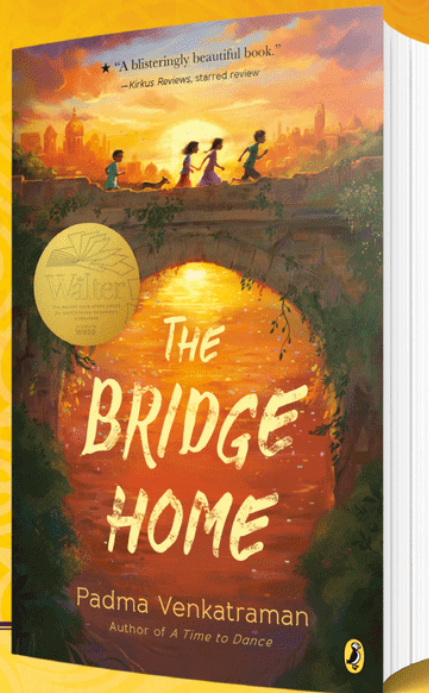
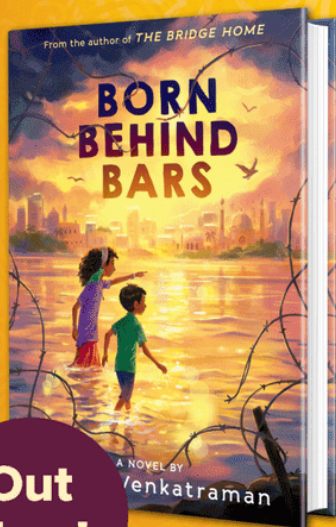
– Sonia Sotomayor

# Embrace

★ “This is a poignant portrait of love, sacrifice, and chosen family.”

—*Publishers Weekly*,  
starred review

5 Starred Reviews



- 2020 South Asia Book Award Winner
- 2020 ILA-CBC Teachers' Choices List
- 2020 Notable Books for a Global Society Award List
- 2020 ALSC Notable Children's Books List
- 2020 Walter Award Winner
- 2020 Golden Kite Award Winner for Young Reader and Middle Grade Fiction
- 2019 Global Read Aloud

October 23

## This Week's Protest

It isn't often that we have the honor of having someone as our guest speaker as well-known and critically acclaimed as **Dr. Padma Venkatraman**. We are very excited to have with us on Sunday, October 23 Dr. Venkatraman, author, educator and scientist who will speak on **global diversity**.

Throughout Dr. Venkatraman's career, she has been a strong advocate for understanding the importance of diversity in our world. She is originally from India and she received her PhD in Marine Science in the United States. Before she began publishing teen and tween fiction books, she had a distinguished career as a chief scientist and research marine biologist. All of her books are published by Penguin Random House.

Thanks to the staff at the **Westerly Public Library** who arranged for Dr. Venkatraman to join us. This program will be especially interesting to tweens and teens as well as adults so please bring your family and friends to this week's peaceful protest.

**PRESENTATION will begin at 11:30 this week only!**

[Read more about Dr. Venkatraman here!](#)

## Looking Ahead

### Children's Day

We will celebrate Children's Day on Sunday, October 30 with a Halloween Party. Stories, refreshments, music and crafts will be featured. Wear a costume if you like and plan to join the fun.



## Last Week's Protest

**Frank Pendola** shared music and reflections with the Westerly ARC family last Sunday on the steps of the post office. Frank's powerful voice and beautiful music caught the ear of many passersby. The music Frank sings always gives us moments to ponder on the history of the fight for equity and justice while we consider our own roles in this movement. Frank also shared a beautiful story of one of his former students standing up to adult bullying behavior.

We are grateful for Frank's words and music which continue to nourish and inspire us all.

---

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

---



## **Christ Episcopal Church Welcomes Westerly ARC**

The Westerly ARC Steering Committee was hosted by **Reverend Sunil Chandy** and members of his congregation at **Christ Episcopal Church** during a luncheon last Sunday. We enjoyed lunch and conversation while getting to know each other. Later, each member of the Steering Committee shared their path to joining ARC and thoughts on how we can support each other.

It was wonderful to share our story with such a supportive and loving community at Christ Episcopal Church. We look forward to working together in our work to educate, embrace, and empower others to create a more equitable and just community.

# Empower

## Meet the Candidates, Stay Informed

There are many opportunities to learn about candidates for local and state offices. Mark your calendar and plan to attend or view one or more of these events. Bring a friend! Make an informed decision!

Ways to get involved:

- Write a letter to the editor in support of your candidates.
- Volunteer to canvas with a candidate.
- Do your research. See the links below for helpful resources on candidates and voting.



### October 13 Westerly Town Council Candidate Forum

Westerly Town Hall,  
6:30pm

[View Recording](#)



### October 20 Westerly School Committee and Senate District 38 Candidate Forums

Westerly Town Hall  
5:30pm

[View Recording](#)



### October 26 Westerly Democratic Candidates

Venice Restaurant (165  
Shore Road), 6:00-  
8:00pm



See below for voting  
resources!

# 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.



**Monday, Oct 24** Town Council Workshop and Regular Meeting 5:30 pm

**Wednesday, Nov 2** School Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm

**Monday, Nov 7** Town Council Workshop, 5:30 pm

**Monday, Nov 14** Town Council Meeting, 5:30 pm

**Wednesday, Nov 16** School Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm

**Monday, Nov 21** Town Council Workshop and Regular Meeting 5:30 pm

Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas:

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



## Voters' Corner

Early Voting Oct. 19–Nov. 7 (Town Hall)

Election Day: November 8

Click button below for sample ballot

### Voting Resources

- [Vote.RI.gov](http://Vote.RI.gov) - Update your voting record, register to vote, find your polling place, view a sample ballot, apply for a mail ballot and more!
- [League of Women Voters of Rhode Island](http://League of Women Voters of Rhode Island) - a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government; conducts candidate forums and has many local resources.
- [Vote.org](http://Vote.org) - online voter guides for every state, including where to vote, what's on the ballot, voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications and more!

## Act

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 member 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 protests, join one of the events listed in this newsletter, attend a town meeting, sign up for one of the trainings linked above.

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

[Read More](#)

---

## Educate





October 23

### **Democracy Unveiled in Song**

On Sunday, October 23, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County (27 North Road, Wakefield), local musician and activist **Geoff Kaufman** will present, "Democracy Unveiled in Song" at the 10 am service. This service asks us to take a careful look at the nature and state of our "democracy" in the United States. Until recently, many of us, including the speaker, may have taken its security for granted, but now it is clearly in peril and we must ask: how do we respond? Geoff seeks the answer through the music of Leonard Cohen, David Mallett, Tommy Sands, and Charlie King along with the words of MLK set to music by Eileen Vance.

All are welcome to attend in person and the service will be available on a simulcast zoom. Link will be posted on the UUCSC website:

<https://uusouthcountyri.org>.



November 17

### **Picking Up Stones: Grappling with the Moral Dilemma of Israel and Palestine**

This 50-minute one-woman monologue was written and will be performed by Sandra Laub, an actress, playwright, and teacher. "Sandra grapples with the moral question of how to remain pro-Israel while disagreeing with Israeli policies and attitudes towards the Palestinian people who live within Israel's borders."

This performance will be held on Zoom on Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 3:30. [Click here for more information and to register](#) for the performance.

---

## **Culture Calendar**

[Diwali](#) - Oct 24

Diwali is a festival of lights and is one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs. The festival usually lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika. It is a celebration of good over evil.



[Global Diversity Awareness Month](#) - October

Global Diversity Awareness Month is a reminder of the positive impact a diverse culture of people can have on society as a whole.

## Up Next

Calendar of Events	
October 23	Dr. Padma Venkatraman speaks on global diversity, 11:30, at the weekly protest
October 23	“Democracy Unveiled in Song,” Geoff Kaufman performs, 10:00 am, UU Congregation of South County (online and in person)
October 24	Town Council Workshop and Regular Meeting 5:30 pm
October 30	Children’s Day (celebrating Halloween), 11:00-1:00, at the weekly protest
November 2	School Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm
November 8	Election Day. Vote!



Join our weekly protests

westerlyarc@gmail.com

Sundays 11-1

Downtown Westerly Post Office steps

You received this email because you signed up on our website at one of our events.



[Unsubscribe](#)

[Megaphone, Fast, Give icons created by Freepik - Flaticon](#)

