



Weekly Newsletter

20 Nov 2022



Artwork by Cookie Rivera

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“Remember this, whoever you are, however you are, you are equally valid, equally justified, and equally beautiful.”

– [Juno Dawson](#)

Embrace



November 20

This Week's Protest

In celebration of National Adoption Awareness Month, we are very excited to announce that this Sunday, November 20, our very own **April Dinwoodie** will share thoughts about the intersection of diversity and adoption and foster care. April is a member of the ARC Steering Committee and host of the podcast "Born in June, Raised in April: What Adoption Can Teach the World." She is also a writer, speaker/trainer, coach, and consultant for corporations, the federal government, adoption agencies and school systems.

Learn more about April and her work on [her website](#).



Last Week's Protest

Rain did not dampen the spirits of those determined advocates who stood on the Westerly Post Office steps on Sunday, November 13 to hear **Geoff Kaufman** tell his fascinating stories of his work with indigenous people in many parts of the country. Geoff's experience has built him a lifetime of historical facts that tell the truth of the struggles and sorrows of our Native American family. Geoff's love of music enhanced his storytelling as he burst into song during his presentation. His beautiful voice filled the air and touched the hearts of all who were present as well as the spirits among us.

As we continue our celebration of Native American Heritage month we were happy to welcome **Marlies and George Parent** to our stage. Marlies and George have for many summers spent time with the Dine people in the Southwest. Often called Navajoland, the people living on the reservation continue to be their focus as they retain friendships and connections with many families. Their personal stories describe the needs and concerns of the people there. In the spring, they hope to bring Mark Charles, Native American activist, public speaker and author of "[Unsettling Truths, The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery](#)" to Westerly.

We are so very grateful for talented ARC participants like Geoff, Marlies and George who continuously join us to share their personal experience and wisdom. Because of them we continue to learn and grow in our knowledge and understanding of our history.

Looking Ahead

Swearing in Ceremony

Stay tuned for information on the swearing in ceremony for newly elected Town Council and School Committee members. We hope you can join us to celebrate the achievement of **Leslie Dunn** and **Kevin J. Lowther II**, the first Black elected officials on Westerly's School Committee and Town Council. More details coming soon!

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

Empower

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.



November 21 Town Council Workshop and Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm

December 5 Town Council Workshop, 5:30 pm

December 7 School Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm

December 12 Town Council Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm

Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas:

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

Multicultural Committee Meets

The Multicultural Committee, recently appointed by the Town Council, had its first meeting on November 7. The committee is the result of [months of work by Westerly ARC](#) to convince our town leaders of its importance. The eight members of the committee are excited to begin this work. During the first meeting, the following officers were elected:

- April Dinwoodie - Chairperson
- Frank Pendola - Vice Chairperson
- Ruth Tureckova - Secretary

In the coming months, we will share updates on the committee meetings and activities.

Act

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

[View our Calendar](#)



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 protests, 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



Food Bank Donations

At this time many food banks are experiencing shortages. If you are able, please consider bringing one or two nonperishable items for the food pantries when you come on Sundays. Always consider the nutritional value of your food donations. Bring healthy, easily prepared foods. i.e. rice, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruits, vegetables, baked beans, soup, tuna or chicken, bottled tomato sauce, brownie or dessert bread mixes, cereal, various canned pasta. Boxes will be available for collections. Thank you.

Educate



The Attack on Native Children, Identity, and Sovereignty

Read about efforts to overturn the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). [This article](#) from Anti-Racism Daily explains the history of the act, how adoptions

have been used as a weapon to weaken tribal nations, and the implications if the Supreme Court votes to overturn the ICWA.

Culture Calendar

[American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month](#)

This month is a time to recognize the history, culture, and contributions of Indigenous people. The link above has many relevant resources from the



New York City Department of Education. Another great resource is [this article](#) which includes ways to celebrate and [podcasts from the Native community](#).

[National Adoption Month](#) - November

The goals of National Adoption Month include: “increase national awareness of adoption issues, bring attention to the need for adoptive families for teens in the U.S. foster care system, and emphasize the value of youth engagement.” The 2022 theme is “Small Steps Open Doors,” which speaks to the large impact that small steps can have toward establishing permanency for teens. Click to read President Clinton’s [proclamation establishing National Adoption Month](#).

[Transgender Day of Remembrance](#) - November 20

Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. See the link above for resources and details about how to get involved.

Up Next

Calendar of Events	
November 20	April Dinwoodie presenting on transracial adoptions, at our weekly protest
November 21	Town Council workshop and regular meeting, 5:30 pm
December 5	Town Council workshop, 5:30 pm
December 7	School committee meeting, 6:00 pm
December 12	Town Council regular meeting, 5:30 pm



Westerly Anti-Racism Coalition

Join our weekly protests

Sundays 11-1

Downtown Westerly Post Office steps

westerlyarc@gmail.com

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