



Weekly Newsletter

27 Nov 2022



Artwork by Cookie Rivera

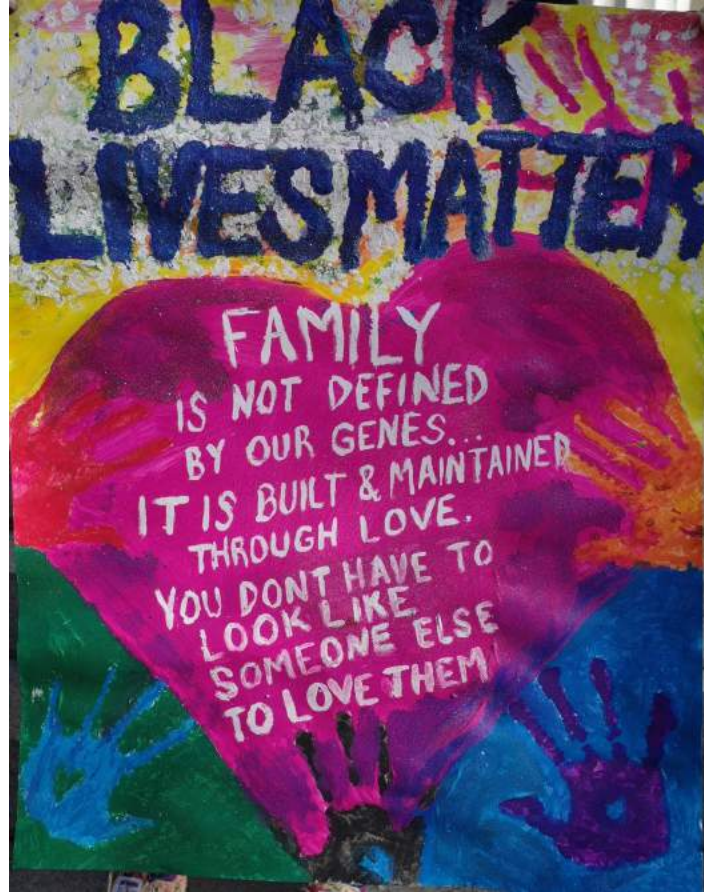
[Visit Our Website](#)

"If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, that will be enough."

- Meister Eckhart 1260-1326

German Catholic theologian, philosopher and mystic

Embrace



November 20

This Week's Protest

Honoring the Victims of the Club Q Attack in Colorado Springs

As many of us spent time with family and friends this past week, we were also saddened by the news last Sunday morning of the horrific attack at the Club Q nightclub in Colorado Springs where five people were killed and 18 injured in yet another mass shooting.

Westerly ARC mourns for those whose lives were cut so tragically short at the intersection of hate and gun violence. From Orlando to Pittsburgh to Charleston, from Buffalo to Uvalde to Colorado Springs, we grieve with the families and friends of those killed and pray for the healing of those injured. We must all recommit ourselves to work for a world where the human dignity of all is respected.

The Human Rights Campaign has reported 300 violent deaths of transgender and nonconforming people since they began keeping statistics in 2013. Victims of this violence are overwhelmingly black, younger than 35, and killed by a firearm. In 2021, fifty-seven transgender and gender nonconforming people were killed as well as 32 already murdered this year. (USA Today 11/21/22)

We offer this Sunday as a vigil in support of LGBTQ+2S people in our community. We join them in this moment of grief as we remember the names

of those murdered on Sunday and in recent years.



November 28

Swearing-In Ceremony

The swearing-in ceremony for newly elected Town Council and School Committee members is scheduled for **November 28 at 5:30pm**. We hope you can join us at Town Hall to celebrate the historic achievements of **Leslie Dunn** and **Kevin J. Lowther II**, the first Black elected officials on Westerly's School Committee and Town Council. Refreshments will be served.



Last Week's Protest

On Sunday, November 20, in recognition of National Adoption Awareness Month, we were very excited to hear our very own **April Dinwoodie**. She shared her personal journey of family separation, foster care and adoption. April helped shed light on the nuances of adoption and foster care, encouraging us to seek a deeper understanding of the narratives that tend to make headlines. A few key points that were shared:

- Adoption is a life-long journey, not a one-time transaction
- The human rights of all humans must be respected and honored
- Children should not be commodified
- There is a patchwork of laws, policies and practices surrounding adoption and foster care that can make room for unethical practices
- In order to reform the processes of adoption and foster care, continuous education is needed

Looking after the best interests of the most vulnerable children must be centered in anti-racism with practices that are rooted in equity. To learn more about foster care and adoption possibilities check out [AdoptUSkids](#) and read [a resource about transracial adoption](#) April contributed to for the [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#).

April is a member of the ARC Steering Committee and the founder of "Born in June, Raised in April." She is a writer, podcaster, speaker/trainer, coach, and consultant on transracial adoptions.

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

Asa Peters, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Member to Speak Dec. 4

Mark your calendars to attend the Dec. 4 weekly vigil to hear Asa Peters speak about his journey as a Native American growing up in Rhode Island. Here's a short bio.

Asa Peters is a music-maker and learner who finds home in Mashpee, MA and Narragansett, RI. He enjoys playing and writing music, spending time outside, and making meaningful memories and bonds with those around him. Asa is currently working as a research associate at UMass Boston with the Institute of New England Native American Studies and the Asian American Studies program. He is a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe with roots in the Narragansett tribe, and lives much of his life through the lenses of his communities' histories which inform his priorities and values.

See [this link](#) for a story about Asa and others in the August 25th edition of the *Westerly Sun*.

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.



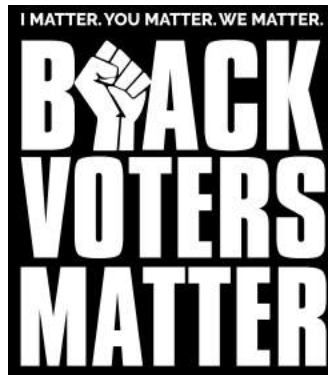
November 28 Town Council Special Meeting, [Swearing-In Ceremony](#), 5:30 pm

December 5 Town Council Workshop, 5:30 pm

December 7 School Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm

Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas:

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



Black Voters Matter – Virtual Text Bank

[Black Voters Matter](#) is sending out texts to Black voters before election day for the Georgia runoffs. Anyone can volunteer to help in this effort which will take place on Monday, December 5 from 5:00–6:30 pm. [Register here](#) and make a difference!

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;



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



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

help us reach to
wider audience!

generosity are greatly
appreciated.

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. Thank you.

Educate

A promotional poster for a Zoom event. At the top left is the Jewish Book Council logo. The main text reads "A Conversation with Tova Friedman December 5 | 7:00 PM | Zoom". On the left is a portrait of Tova Friedman. In the center is a quote: "Tova Friedman, shown in both photos to the left, was one of the youngest survivors of Auschwitz. In her memoir, *The Daughter of Auschwitz*, written with award-winning former war reporter Malcolm Brabant, Tova shares her experiences with the world to honor the victims who were silenced. Tova believes she has a responsibility to keep the history alive, especially at a time when it is in danger of being forgotten. 'I am a survivor. That comes with a survivor's obligation to represent one and a half million Jewish children murdered by the Nazis. They cannot speak. So I must speak on their behalf.'" Below the quote is a photo of Tova and Malcolm Brabant. On the right is the book cover for "THE DAUGHTER OF AUSCHWITZ" by Tova Friedman and Malcolm Brabant, with the "VOICES OF HOPE" logo at the top.

Daughter of Auschwitz: My Story of Resilience, Survival and Hope

Join Voices of Hope and the Jewish Book Council for our December Power of Words Series program with Tova Friedman, author of *Daughter of*

Auschwitz: My Story of Resilience, Survival and Hope. This event will take place via Zoom on December 5 at 7:00 pm. [Register and find more information here.](#)

[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](#).

Up Next

Calendar of Events	
November 27	Remembering our LGBTQ+ family, at our weekly protest, 12:00 pm
November 28	Swearing-In Ceremony Town Hall, 5:30 pm
December 4	Asa Peters, speaker at Sunday rally, 12:00 pm
December 5	Town Council workshop, 5:30 pm
December 7	School committee meeting, 5:00 pm
December 11	Children’s day at our weekly protest, celebrating International Human Rights Day, 11:00-1:00
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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