



Weekly Newsletter

11 Dec 2022



Artwork by Cookie Rivera

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“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. ... Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

**Embrace**



December 11

## Children's Day This Week

**Human Rights Day** is just around the corner, and it's as important as ever to celebrate and promote our fundamental human rights. Human Rights Day was established on the 10th of December 1950, two years to the day that the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since then, the 10th of December has served as an opportunity to campaign and hold world leaders to account in the defense of the rights outlined in that landmark document.

Join us on Sunday, December 11 as we commemorate International Human Rights Day. We especially **invite children** of all ages to hear Leslie Dunn read a children's version of the UN Declaration of Human Rights document. Christine Davidson will bring some special cookies. Don't miss it!

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## Last Week

We continue to have a very enthusiastic group of friends and neighbors joining us on the Westerly Post Office steps every Sunday and December 4 was no exception. With over 25 people in attendance, including some new faces, we were engaged in good conversation and networking.

In the absence of our planned speaker, Asa Peters, **Christine Davidson** shared a story from a book she is using in her URI class of future teachers. The story was one person's account of how to engage others in fighting harassment in an elementary school. It pointed out the importance of people working together to bring about social change and to support one another.

This example reminded us of the work that we are doing in ARC. Without community support we would not have been able to accomplish some of the goals we put forth in 2020. This is grassroots organizing at its best!



### **Westerly ARC Mourns the Loss of Mike Kelly**

It is with a heavy heart that we share with you the passing of our good friend and ARC advocate Michael Kelly. Mike joined our Sunday rallies the summer of George Floyd's murder. He came religiously every week to stand with us holding his

multi-colored sign that announced

that all people, black, brown, gay, straight, women and men deserved dignity and respect. He was friendly and kind with a great thirst for racial justice.

Mike lost his year and a half battle with cancer while living with his family in Connecticut. His daughter, Jes, reminded us how much our group and the friends he made here meant to him. We hope you will join us in giving thanks for Mike's life and witness. His family plans to hold a memorial service in late winter or early spring in Westerly.



Join us for these upcoming Sunday events

- On **December 18**, Westerly ARC will celebrate three wonderful holidays together. We will honor **Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa** with stories, music and food. We are **seeking volunteers** to share their memories of celebrating these traditions. Can you make latkes, bring Christmas cookies or other refreshments? Please send us an email if you can contribute in any way ([westerlyarc@gmail.com](mailto:westerlyarc@gmail.com)). Let's make this a multi-cultural shared community event!
- **Christmas Day** falls on Sunday this year. As we all know, racism does not stop just because it's a holiday. Some members of ARC 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

### 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.



**December 12** Town Council Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm

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

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

Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas:

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

## 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 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

## Educate

### Culture Calendar

**December 10** [International Human Rights Day](#)

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, colour, 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](#)

## Up Next

Calendar of Events	
December 11	Children's Day, celebrating International Human Rights Day, Westerly Post Office, 11:00-1:00
December 12	Town Council regular meeting, 5:30 pm
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 18	School Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm



### Westerly Anti-Racism Coalition

Join our weekly protests

Sundays 11-1

Downtown Westerly Post Office steps

westerlyarc@gmail.com

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



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