

December 4

This Week's Protest

As the holiday season is in full swing, why not take a moment to join us at our peaceful rally this Sunday? Based on many conversations and comments from previous participants, you can be sure to benefit in one or more of the following ways:

- feel more connected to your community
- make new friends of all ages and backgrounds
- have engaging conversations
- learn something new
- be inspired and more hopeful about the future

We know that not everyone is able to attend our weekly gatherings, but for those who can and haven't done so yet, why not stop by this Sunday? In recent weeks, we have had several newcomers join us. We look forward to seeing you anytime between 11:00 and 1:00 on the post office steps! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out (westerlyarc@gmail.com).

Please note that our scheduled guest speaker for this week, Mashpee Wampanoag tribe member **Asa Peters**, has had to reschedule his visit to ARC for next month. We look forward to seeing him then!



Last Week's Protest

On Sunday, November 27 many ARC participants joined with people across the country to pay tribute to the victims of the recent mass shooting in Colorado Springs at the Club Q nightclub. The names of the five people killed were read while candles were lit. The memorial ceremony reminded those gathered that it was 44 years ago when Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California, was assassinated. On this Day of Remembrance, the names of the 49 people massacred at the Pulse gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida in 2016 were also read.

We offered this Sunday vigil in support of LGBTQ2S+* people in our community. It is important that they know that we do not tolerate bias-motivated crimes in our country and that we support all communities that have been maligned, harassed, intimidated and abused.

Violinist Kevin "Big Lux" Lowther played the James Taylor song "Fire and Rain" which includes beautiful, poignant and fitting lyrics ("I Always Thought I'd See you Again").

* 2S (Two-Spirit) is an umbrella term used by some Indigenous North Americans to describe Native people in their communities who fulfill a traditional third-gender role in their cultures. Two-spirit individuals are revered, sacred, divine and held in high regard in Indigenous culture.

<https://www.torontopflag.org/two-spirit>



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.

Looking Ahead: Join our December Festival

On Sunday, Dec. 18 Westerly ARC will celebrate 3 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. If you would like to tell a story please send an email to westerlyarc@gmail.com to be included in the program.

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 5 Town Council Workshop, 5:30 pm

December 7 School Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm

December 12 Town Council Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm

Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas:

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

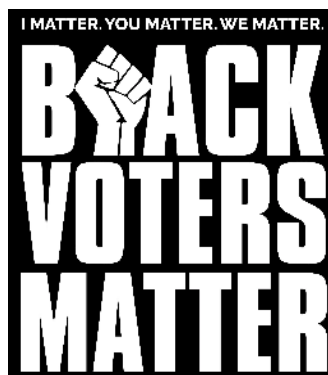


Swearing-In Ceremony

The swearing-in ceremony for newly elected Town Council and School Committee was held at the Town Hall on November 28. Many members of the public were there 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. Congratulations to Kevin who was elected as the vice president of the council!

Read more in [this Westerly Sun article](#).

And congratulations are also due to [Hakeem Jeffries](#), the first Black lawmaker to be elected House Democratic leader (also the first Black person to lead either political party in either chamber of Congress). It is great to see such positive change happening at both a local and national level!



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; 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

Books Unbanned Book Club

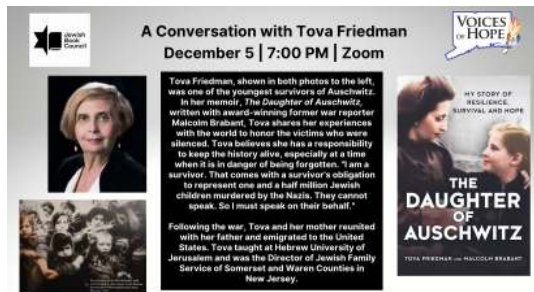
The African American Policy Forum is launching the *Books Unbanned: From Freedom Riders to Freedom Readers Book Club*. They are currently in the process of seeking Book Club Conductors

who will be trained in leading a book discussion in the community where you live. This is a great opportunity for anyone who is interested. The first step to becoming a conductor, or learning other ways to support this effort, is to attend one of the interest sessions below.



- December 6 at 5PM (ET): [Registration Link](#)
- December 8 at 4PM (ET): [Registration Link](#)

To learn more, feel free to email us at westerlyarc@gmail.com or speak with Tim Flanagan on Sunday.



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.](#)

Culture Calendar

December 1 [World AIDS Day](#)

World AIDS Day is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. About 38 million people are living with AIDS today and 35 million have died of HIV or AIDS related illnesses.



December 3 [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. This year's theme is "Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world."

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.

Up Next

Calendar of Events	
December 4	Join us at our weekly rally at the Westerly Post Office, 11:00-1:00
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
December 18	Honoring Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa at our weekly protest, 11:00-1:00



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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