



Weekly Newsletter

19 March 2023



Artwork by Cookie Rivera

[Visit Our Website](#)

"Though we have more Native women serving in Congress, a woman of color in the vice president's office, and women making moves across the country, we still have to recognize that the disadvantages that we face are created by a system designed to keep us out, and that, coupled with systemic racism, makes Women's History Month all the more important."

— Deb Haaland, Native American, 54th Secretary of the Interior

Embrace



March 19

Join us this Sunday, March 19, as we continue our vigilant presence in the heart of Westerly. Standing on the steps of the Post Office for almost 3 years we have developed into a loving community. Along with meeting and making new friends you will enjoy the music of Geoff Kaufman this week in celebration of Women's History Month. The discussion is lively, the faces are smiling and the gathering is always one that demonstrates our belief in the democratic process as we navigate the waters of social change. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to add their voice.



Last Week

It was a lovely winter day with the sun shining and the crowd slowly growing to more than 35 people on the Post Office steps on Sunday, March 12. Families strolling by stopped to engage in casual conversation and lend support. Large sized handmade signs announce who we are and sidewalk chalk artist Meredith Ingram left words of wisdom to inspire those passing by.

The community we are building each Sunday is diverse in age, culture, social status and religion. We are a cross section of our community and a microcosm of the U.S. We are proud to be a dynamic, evolving and beloved community that believes “the moral arc of the universe bends towards justice.”

JUNETEENTH COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The Steering Committee of Westerly ARC is inviting anyone from the community who would like to be part of the planning process

for this year's Juneteenth celebration to please come forward! This committee will prepare the events for our 3rd annual observance of this federal holiday that commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. Please sign up today by sending an email to westerlyarc@gmail.com or speaking to one of the organizers at the Sunday gathering. With everyone's help we can make this the best Juneteenth ever! The committee will convene in the next few weeks.

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

Empower



Let's Talk about Housing Issues

RI State Senator Victoria Gu, Town Council President Ed Morrone, Vice President Kevin Lowther, and

- Matthew Netto (AARP)
- Russ Partridge (Warm Center)

Mon Mar 27th 6-7:30pm
Westerly Library
RSVP & ask questions:
victoria4ri.com/town-hall

March 27

Housing Town Hall

Please join RI State Senator Victoria Gu, Town Council President Ed Morrone, and Town Council Vice President Kevin Lowther on **Monday, March 27th, 6-7:30pm at the Westerly Library** for a town hall meeting about housing issues and proposed state legislation. AARP's

Matthew Netto will talk about Accessory Dwelling Units, and Russ Partridge from the WARM Center will talk about their work to help people in the community who are experiencing housing insecurity. We expect a few other RI State Representatives to be in attendance as well.

Click below to RSVP.

RSVP

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.



March 20 Town Council Meeting 5:30

April 3 Town Council Meeting 5:30

April 5 School Committee Meeting 5:00

Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas:

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

Help Improve Our Newsletter

Help Wanted

Are you or someone you know interested in joining Westerly ARC's newsletter team? We are looking for help with any of the following:

- **Compiling, formatting, and publishing** - We will train you in how to use our newsletter template to add previously created content. You will work with an experienced person and be able to add your own ideas!
- **Creating content** - You will assist with researching and creating specific content for our newsletter. We have some ideas, and you can bring your own.
- **Taking photos** - Can you take some photos at our weekly gatherings on the post office steps and/or at other events? We'd love to use your photos in the newsletter.

Maybe you know a young person who is good with technology or would like to earn some community service hours! Click below to contact us if you are interested or know or have any questions. Thank you!

[Click here to contact us](#)

International Nonviolence Summer Institute

The University of Rhode Island Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies is pleased to announce that the 2023 International Nonviolence Summer Institute will be in person at the University of Rhode Island. Participants can choose Level

24th Annual
International Nonviolence Summer Institute June 5-16, 2023
 On-campus




Nonviolence and conflict reconciliation training based on the philosophy and strategy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Level I Nonviolence Trainers Certification, June 5-16 (Training fee: \$850 tuition + \$100 registration)
 Housing fee for Level I (two weeks of campus housing in Brookside Hall, if needed): \$770

Level II Nonviolence Leadership Training, June 12-16 (Training fee: \$550 tuition + \$100 registration)
 Housing fee for Level II (one week of campus housing in Brookside Hall, if needed): \$385

Some scholarships. Academic credits available for Summer Session I
 More info at: www.uri.edu/nonviolence

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE AND PEACE STUDIES

The URI Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies organizes educational programs, training workshops, documentary films, and guest lecture series to promote nonviolence, inner peace, well-being, human rights, and a beloved global community. Learn more: web.uri.edu/nonviolence Phone: (401) 874-2875

 NonviolenceURI  nonviolence_URI  Nonviolence_URI  NonviolenceURI

1 Kingian Nonviolence Training of Trainers (June 5-9) or Level 2 Advanced Nonviolence Leadership Training (June 12-16). Applicants for the Level 2 Training have to have their Level 1 Training certification before this training. [Click here to learn more and to register.](#)

Positions Available on Town Council Boards

Get involved and make positive changes in Westerly by volunteering for one of the many boards.

Applications can be obtained on the Town of Westerly's website www.westerlyri.gov and submitted to the Office of Town Clerk.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

LICENSING BOARD (AUXILIARY MEMBER)

VETERANS 'ROLLS OF HONOR' MEMORIAL COMMITTEE (1ST AND 2nd ALTERNATES)

HOUSING AUTHORITY (ONE MEMBER)

MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE (TWO MEMBERS)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (FULL MEMBER)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (AUXILIARY MEMBER)

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TWO FULL MEMBERS)

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

BOARD OF FINANCE (TWO FULL MEMBERS)

CONCERTS ON THE BEACH COMMITTEE (TWO FULL MEMBERS)

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

MUNICIPAL LAND TRUST (FULL MEMBER)

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

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](#).

Don't forget to like, subscribe, comment, and share on our social media posts!



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

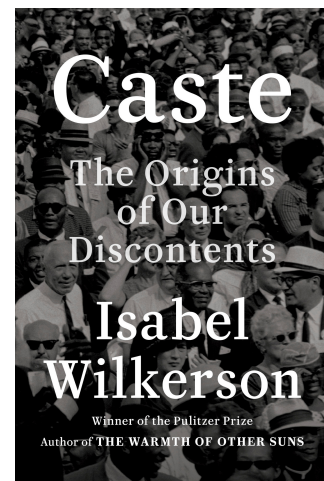
Stop by one of our weekly gatherings, join one of the events listed in this newsletter, attend a town meeting, etc.

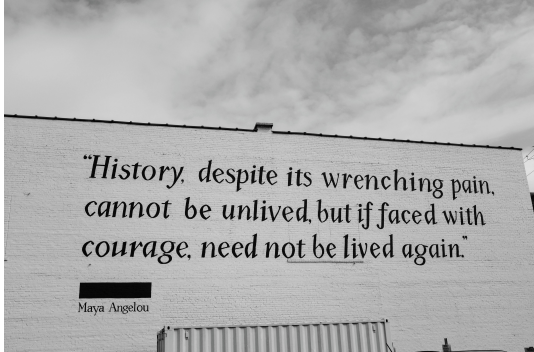
"We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."
— Elie Wiesel

Educate

Isabel Wilkerson Interview

Recently Krista Tippet, host of the *On Being* podcast, interviewed *Caste* author Isabel Wilkerson. Listen to this rich, expansive and warm conversation to learn more about why Wilkerson says that race is the skin but "caste is the bones." Wilkerson's metaphors help us deepen our understanding of why inequality exists and inspire us to work together for change. We cannot recommend this interview highly enough! [Click here to listen](#).





While Isabel Wilkerson helps us understand the truth through metaphors, Bishop Nicholas Knisely of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island reflected on truth telling after a visit to the Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. [Read his thoughts here.](#)

Culture Calendar

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - March 21

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on the day the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid "pass laws" in 1960. The 2023 theme of the International Day focuses on the urgency of

combatting racism and racial discrimination, 75 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. ([United Nations](#))

Ramadan Begins - March 22

Ramadan is considered one of the holiest months of the year for Muslims. In Ramadan, Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an, and fast from food and drink during the sunlit hours as a means of drawing closer to God and cultivating self-control, gratitude, and compassion for those less fortunate.

([Islamic Networks Group](#))



Image source: [Vecteezy](#)

Up Next

Calendar of Events	
March 20	Town Council Meeting, 5:30
March 27	Housing Town Hall , Westerly Library, 6:00-7:30

April 3	Town Council Meeting, 5:30
April 5	School Committee Meeting, 5:00



Westerly Anti-Racism Coalition

Join our weekly gatherings

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

