





March 5

We look forward to another week of community building on the steps of the post office. Stopping by for even 15 minutes is sure to boost your spirits and contribute to our community by showing your support. Join us on March 5 anytime between 11:00 and 1:00.

Artwork by Cookie Rivera



## Last Week

One of the beautiful things about the ARC community is the willingness of so many to generously share their gifts and talents. Last week we were treated to delicious and carefully crafted Rice Crispy treats and cake pops lovingly prepared by Christine Davidson. We enjoyed thought provoking music and words from Frank Pendola, while Martha Coffey joined in with maracas. And two of our youngest friends, Aniyah and Aleiyah, read the beautiful words of Amanda Gorman's "[The Hill We Climb](#)." Others helped set up or clean up, brought signs, checked on everyone's well-being, or just stopped by to learn what ARC was all about. Our peaceful gatherings every week are a testament to the open-minded, diverse, and generous ARC community.

*And yes, we are far from polished,  
far from pristine,  
but that doesn't mean we are  
striving to form a union that is perfect.*

*We are striving to forge a union with purpose,  
to compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters, and  
conditions of man.*

- Amanda Gorman, "The Hill We Climb"



## Remembering Mike Kelly

Many of us fondly remember Mike Kelly, a steadfast ARC supporter who passed away last October. We wanted to share his obituary which was recently published. We will forever be grateful for Mike's engaging conversations, friendly and welcoming demeanor, and his tireless advocacy for justice. [Read Mike's obituary here.](#)

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.



**March 6** Town Council Meeting 5:30

**March 15** School Committee Meeting 5:00

**March 20** Town Council Meeting 5:30

Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas:

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

# 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](#)

24<sup>th</sup> 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 1 (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 2 (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](http://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](http://web.uri.edu/nonviolence) Phone: (401) 874-2875

[f](#) NonviolenceURI [@](#) nonviolence\_URI [t](#) Nonviolence\_URI [v](#) NonviolenceURI

## 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 I 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.](#)

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](http://www.westerlyri.gov) and submitted to the Office of Town Clerk.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (FULL MEMBER)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

BOARD OF CANVASSERS (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

LICENSING BOARD (AUXILIARY MEMBER)

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

HOUSING AUTHORITY (ONE MEMBER)

MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE (TWO MEMBERS)

ZONING BOARD (2nd ALTERNATE)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (FULL MEMBER)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (AUXILIARY MEMBER)

PLANNING BOARD (FULL MEMBER)

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

BOARD OF FINANCE (TWO FULL MEMBERS)

CONCERTS ON THE BEACH COMMITTEE (TWO FULL MEMBERS)

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW (FULL MEMBER)

## 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](http://www.westerlyri.gov).



### 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



### 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*

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

Amanda at our Sunday  
rallies. Your kindness and  
generosity are greatly  
appreciated.

*oppressor, never the  
victim. Silence encourages  
the tormentor, never the  
tormented.”*  
— Elie Wiesel

## Educate



### **Author Mark Charles in Westerly**

On Wednesday evening, March 1 about 35 people from Westerly and local communities gathered together to hear Mark Charles, author of *Unsettling Truths- The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery*. Charles, a Native American activist with roots in the

Navajo Nation, and former independent candidate for president of the United States, shared with the audience the untold history of the development of the United States.

Charles' book is a prophetic blend of history, theology and cultural commentary. Charles reveals the far-reaching, damaging effects of the "Doctrine of Discovery." It all starts with the U. S. Constitution's "We the People" Charles told the audience. "We the people" excludes Natives, African Americans, Latinos, women, women of color and more marginalized communities. He challenged us to shift our paradigm from one of believing that the United States was founded for fair representation and equality of all people to the reality that it was founded on implicit bias that has never been fully removed.

The truth is that no one can claim to have discovered a land if that land was already inhabited. Turtle Island, the indigenous name for North America, was conquered but it was not discovered. Untruths like this find a way of getting into our national story providing falsehoods and myths that have resulted in the continued exploitation of Native Americans and others. "In fact", Charles said, "we never abolished slavery. We just redefined and codified it under the primal justice system." His goal is to have the nation acknowledge that there are problems in the root of the system, which is America's foundation.

The audience was mesmerized by the facts presented by Mr. Charles as he quoted the words and beliefs of many of our nation's heroes. Until we have a common history, said Mr. Charles, we will not have a common destiny. In his book he lays out the true history of our country without sugarcoating the facts. If we allow ourselves to think through this new paradigm, as painful and unsettling as it may be, we come to realize that until we recognize these injustices we will not be able to heal as a nation. One way to heal would be through what Charles calls a Truth and Conciliation Commission.

For those interested in learning more about Mark Charles, his groundbreaking book, and his efforts to heal our nation's wounds we recommend his website [www.wirelesshogan.com](http://www.wirelesshogan.com). You can also follow him on FaceBook and listen to his podcast "Second Cup of Coffee".

Photo: Mark Charles (left) with members of Westerly Peace and Justice: Anne Pearce, Dottie Stumpf, Madeline Labriola, George Parent, Marlies Parent.

## Making Change with America's Women of Change



Since 2022 the US Mint has represented women on the US quarter. An ambitious four-year program represents an ethnic, racial, and geographic mix of women of diverse backgrounds and accomplishments in American history and areas of life, including suffrage, civil rights, abolition, government, humanities, science, space, and the arts.

[Read more here](#) to find out who has been featured in this series and what new faces you will see in 2023 and beyond.

**Witness STONES Project™**  
The Witness Stones Project™ is an educational initiative whose mission is to restore the history and honor the humanity of the enslaved individuals who helped build our communities.

**A Witness to History: the Big Business of Slavery in Little Rhode Island**  
Saturday, March 4, 10:00 am-12:00pm  
at Kingston Congregational Church  
2610 Kingstown Road, Kingstown, RI  
**FREE TO THE PUBLIC!**

As kickoff to the first Witness Stones Project in Rhode Island, we are pleased to welcome renown historian and scholar, Dr. Christy Clark-Pujara, author of *Dark Work: the Business of Slavery in Rhode Island* and Professor of History and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of African American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Dennis Culliton, Founder and Executive Director of The Witness Stones Project, Inc.

Dr. Clark-Pujara will speak to us about Rhode Islanders' extensive involvement in the slave trade and Dennis Culliton will introduce the Witness Stones Project, a local effort to recognize and honor the lives of enslaved individuals from our local, South Kingstown, area.

If you any questions please call the church (401)783-5330 and office@kingcongchurch.org

For more information Scan this code to visit the Witness Stones Project Page on our Church Website.

**Christy Clark-Pujara**  
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND THE DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES  
With a Ph.D. in History from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Christy's research focuses on the experiences of Black people who migrated from the South to the North in the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries. She wrote *Dark Work: The Business of Slavery in Rhode Island* (NYU Press).

**Dennis Culliton**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CO-FOUNDER OF THE WITNESS STONES PROJECT, INC.  
Dennis is a retired teacher, author, and historian. He is the author of *Kingston's African American Church: A History* and has been featured in his research and public education work in the *Journal of American Studies*, *Commonwealth*, *Journal of Social Studies Education*, and *Journal of American Studies*. He is currently working on a book project about the history of the Witness Stones Project and its impact on the community.

March 4

### A Witness to History: the Big Business to Slavery in Little Rhode Island

A public forum on the often overlooked history of slavery in Rhode Island.

Free to the public.

As kickoff to the first [Witness Stones Project](#) in Rhode Island the Kingston Congregational Church is pleased to welcome renown historian and scholar, Dr. Christy Clark-Pujara, author of *Dark Work: the Business of Slavery in Rhode Island* and Professor

of History and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of African American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Dennis Culliton, MAT, Founder and Executive Director of The Witness Stones Project, Inc.

[Click here for more information.](#)

March 4, 10:00-12:00, Kingston Congregational Church

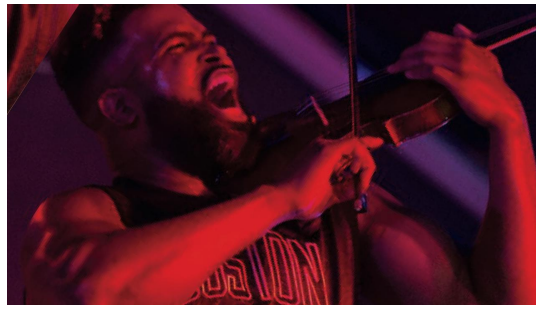


March 11

## **Big Lux with Special Guest, the Westerly High School Jazz Band**

Join Westerly's own Big Lux as he makes his debut performance at the UNITED Theatre! He will be joined by the Westerly High School Jazz Band, a dynamic group that gave Lux his introduction to jazz and improvisation as a student. [Purchase tickets here.](#)

March 11, 7:00 pm



## **Culture Calendar**

### **National Women's History Month - March**

It's 2023, and while many strides have been made for women in the past few decades, there's still a long way to go. Inequality and sexism still exist in the United States (as well as the rest of the world). In a 2017 Pew Research Center survey, four-in-ten women (42%) said they experienced gender discrimination at work. These prevailing inequities (in addition to the strides made by our heroes) are why it's so important to celebrate Women's History Month in March. Read more in this article from *Woman's Day*: "[25 Women's History Month Facts to Read and Share This March](#)"



### **Purim - March 7**

The story of the joyous holiday of Purim might appear somber at first glance: It tells of the near-destruction of the Jewish people as decreed by Haman, an adviser to the Persian King Ahasuerus. Due to her courage and her eventual role in saving the Jews, the story of Purim is known as "Megillat Esther," or the Scroll of Esther. However, Ahasuerus' newly crowned queen, Esther — who replaced Vashti when she was thrown out of the kingdom — is secretly a Jew. (Read more at [My Jewish Learning](#))

### **Harriet Tubman Day - March 10**

Harriet Tubman was an escaped enslaved woman who became a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad, leading enslaved people to freedom before the Civil War, all while carrying a bounty on her head. But she was also a nurse, a Union spy and a women's suffrage supporter. Tubman is one of the most recognized icons in American history and her legacy has inspired countless people from every race and background. (Read more at [History.com](#))

# Up Next

Calendar of Events	
March 4	<a href="#">A Witness to History: the Big Business to Slavery in Little Rhode Island</a> , 10:00-12:00, Kingston Congregational Church
March 6	Town Council Meeting, 5:30
March 11	<a href="#">Big Lux with Special Guest, the Westerly High School Jazz Band</a> , 7:00 pm, United Theater
March 15	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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