



## Westerly ARC Newsletter

Weekly Newsletter

14 Aug 2022



Artwork by Cookie Rivera

[Visit Our Website](#)

*“As long as racism exists to ruin the lives of countless people of color, it should be something that upsets us. But it upsets us because it exists, not because we talk about it. And if you are white, and don’t want to feel any of that pain by having these conversations, then you are asking people of color to continue to bear the entire burden of racism alone.”*

— Ijeoma Oluo, [So You Want to Talk About Race](#)

# Sunday Protests

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



## Last Sunday

On Sunday, 7 August, we commemorated the 77th anniversary of the atomic bombing of **Hiroshima and Nagasaki**, which occurred on August 6 and 9, 1945. Peace activist and ARC member **Jonathan Daly-LaBelle** and Representative **David Morales** spoke about the U.N. Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Representative Morales has been a strong advocate for the elimination of nuclear weapons. He connected nuclear weapons to a larger conversation about our country's over-reliance on militarism, including the upgrading and revamping of our entire nuclear arsenal.

"The way to peace is not through more weapons. The United States must lead the way toward a safer world, and in Rhode Island we can do our part by passing a resolution urging our federal government to sign the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons, while also passing legislation to learn if and how our state pension



## This Sunday

We continue to pay tribute to the tens of thousands of people killed by atomic bombs 77 years ago. We cannot forget the lessons of **Hiroshima and Nagasaki**. We must act in their memory and eliminate nuclear weapons once and for all. As part of our remembrance we have special guest, **Keiko Dinwoodie**, who will share her thoughts about growing up in Hiroshima in the years following the dropping of the atomic bomb. Keiko spent her childhood in Hiroshima with her father, mother and brother. She moved to the United States after marrying her husband Jim. Keiko is a banking professional who resides in Westerly. Keiko and Jim have two children and two grandchildren. A warm welcome Keiko!

Keiko will also help us make paper cranes, an international symbol of peace, found at the Peace Park in Hiroshima.  
<https://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/english/158105.html>

funds are supporting the development of military arms.” said Representative Morales.

In February 2022, Representative Morales introduced H7518, legislation to promote international peace. Specifically, the bill urges the federal government to pursue a broad range of measures to reduce the danger of nuclear war, to sign and ratify the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons, to make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of our national security policy, and to spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war. The Committee recommended H7518 be held for further study.

Representative Morales, at age 20, was the youngest graduate in the history of Brown University Public Affairs master’s program. He was elected in 2020 with the support from the Sunrise Movement and Working Families Party. Now 22, he is the **youngest Latino state legislator in the country**, proudly presenting District 7 in Providence. Representative Morales is a dynamic speaker and a passionate advocate for public education, affordable housing, labor rights, immigration, tax reform, and healthcare accessibility. He encouraged everyone to build and deepen connections between new and budding leaders to build a better society, and reminded all to be mindful that we need to care for ourselves before we can take care of others. Thank you Jonathan and Representative Morales!

We also welcome **RI State**

**Senate candidate Victoria**

**Gu** and her parents. Victoria is [one of four Asian-American candidates running for the RI state legislature](#) – whoever wins would be the first Asian-American to serve in the RI legislature. Victoria is running for State Senate in District 38. Victoria’s parents, Kenneth Gu and Lisa Chen, will talk about their journey immigrating from China to the US and settling in South County. Victoria will talk about growing up in South County, how she got involved in political campaigning, and what Asian-American representation means to the wider community. We hope you will join us as we welcome the Gu family.

To find out more about Victoria, check out the following website and social media links.

<http://victoria4ri.com/>

<http://facebook.com/victoria4ri>

<http://twitter.com/victoria4ri>

<http://instagram.com/victoria4ri>

*Please note we do not officially endorse any candidate, but give all candidates an opportunity to address our ARC community on Sunday mornings to discuss their platform and policies, and engage in a Q&A.*

# Empower

## Town Meetings

We continue to monitor the **Westerly Town Council** and **School Committee** meetings. Please see the schedule below and if possible attend the meetings. A big thank you to **Stevi Blanchette** and **Pam Young** who attend the School Committee meetings and to Stevi for keeping our ARC community posted on the issues with her meeting summaries. We are so grateful to you and for you.



- Monday, 15 Aug - Town Council Workshop, 5:30pm
- Wednesday, 17 Aug - School Committee Meeting, 5:00pm
- Wednesday, 9 Sept - School Committee Meeting 5:00pm
- Monday, 12 Sept - Town Council Workshop 5:30 pm
- Monday, 19 Sept - Town Council Regular Meeting 5:30 pm
- Wednesday 21 Sept - School Committee Meeting 5:00 pm

School Committee meetings convene at 5:00, Town Council meetings at 5:30pm, and both meet in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Westerly Town Hall, 45 Broad Street. ARC is committed to attending these meetings regularly, and we need more volunteers to attend with us! Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas: <https://clerkshq.com/westerly-ri>



## Voters' Corner

When it comes to voting, knowledge is our power. That's why we are building a **voter education resource** into our newsletter. Each week our newsletter will include a Voters' Corner — a space for us to provide basic voting information and for you to ask questions about voting.

We welcome all questions: voting process and rights, RI local and state candidates, and their platforms and policies, etc. Whatever questions you have, you're not the only one. The voting landscape can seem confusing so **send us your questions** about voter rights, voting or anything in between, and we will do our best to answer your questions. Our hope is to provide knowledge, clarity, and confidence in your vote. Send your voting questions to [westerlyarc@gmail.com](mailto:westerlyarc@gmail.com).

Our first voting resource comes from **The League of Women Voters, South County (LWVSC)**. The League needs your input! As they prepare for live candidate forums and published voter guides for this election year, they are asking for our input. What are the topics important to your town? What questions would you like to see asked of your Town Council, School Committee, State House and State Senate Candidates? Let the candidates hear your voices and concerns. Please click on the link below to fill out this anonymous survey and give the League of Women Voters your input.

<https://forms.gle/3KVogT9TEpjfEaik7>.

In addition to its live Candidate forums, The League of Women Voters provides published **voter and voting guides**. Check out their terrific website @ <https://my.lwv.org/rhode-island/lwv-south-county>.

The Primary in Westerly for the State House and State Senate is **September 13**. Please make sure you are registered and have a plan to VOTE! Encourage family and friends to register and vote. We need a phenomenal turnout to ensure our voices are heard, loud and clear.

Six candidates are running for **RI State Senate, District 38**, which includes Westerly and parts of Charlestown and South Kingstown. The candidates are Sharon Ahern (D), Caswell Cooke (I), Robert DeVillers (I), Victoria Gu (D), Michael Niemeyer (D), and Westin Place (R). The three Democrats will face off in the Sept. 13 primary, the winner will participate in the League's Forum.

Sam Azzinaro (D) is running unopposed for re-election for **RI State Representative, District 37**, Westerly.

**The Westerly Town Council** has ten candidates for seven open positions: William Aiello (I), Joy Cordio (D), Dylan LaPietra (I), Robert Lombardo (I), Kevin Lowther (D), Mark Melvan (I), Edward Morrone (D), Philip Overton (R), Mary Scialabba (D), and Mark Sullivan (I).

**The Westerly School Committee** has seven candidates for three open positions: Leslie Dunn (D), Angela Goethals (D), Tim Killam (I), Seth Logan (I), Felix Martinez (I), Michael Ober (D), and Lori Wycall (R).

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## Act

[View our Calendar](#)

Here are a few ongoing ways you can support the work of Westerly ARC.



### Share

Tell us your story. Share your perspectives,



### Donate

ARC member Amanda Dunn continues to



### Show Up

Stop by one of our weekly protests or show



opinions, questions, ideas, etc. Write a piece for this newsletter or our website. Prepare a talk or performance for our weekly protest.

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.

up to one of the events or meetings described in this newsletter.

[Read More](#)

## Educate

### Register to Vote

Make sure you are registered to vote. If you can, volunteer your time or donate money to candidates who share your goals and values. Join the League of Women Voters of South County to get informed and take an active part in government. See <https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-south-county>.



Democracy doesn't just happen: it is the direct result of citizen participation.



Aug 13-14

### Narragansett Indian Pow Wow

The Narragansett Indian Tribe will hold its 347th recorded annual meeting and pow wow POW WOW this weekend, **August 13 and 14** 2022, open to the public for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Details:** Narragansett Indian Powwow is the oldest recorded pow wow in North America. Come join the

Narragansett Tribe of Rhode Island for their 347th Annual August Meeting Powwow on the Narragansett Reservation in Charlestown, Rhode Island.

**Featuring:**

- Native American Drumming, Singing, Dancing and Storytelling.
- Native American Art and Crafts for sale.
- Native American Traditional and Contemporary Foods.

**Date:** Saturday, August 13 and Sunday, August 14, 2022

**Time:** Gates open at 10am, both days with a Grand Entry at 1:00 pm on Saturday and continue until 7pm, resuming at 12:30pm on Sunday with another grand entry Sunday at 2pm.

**Location:** Narragansett Indian reservation Church Grounds, Indian Church Rd (Off South County Trail and Old Mill Road), Charlestown RI 02813

Bring lawn or camp chairs for seating. No dogs or alcohol allowed.

General Admission Adults \$6.00 and Children \$2.00

For more information, including schedule details, see [the tribal website](#).

The Public's Radio South County Bureau Reporter Alex Nunes spoke with Narragansett Chief Sachem Anthony Dean Stanton and his aunt Mary Starlight Stanton Brown about the two-day event at the tribe's reservation in Charlestown. Listen to the interview below.

<https://thepublicsradio.org/article/narragansett-indian-tribe-to-hold-annual-august-meeting-and-pow-wow-a-tradition-since-time-immemorial>

*Special Showing* Documentary Film  
(2014) 1hr 30 min  
Directed by Mary Dare



## WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY CELEBRATION

A provocative and rousing account of the birth of the modern women's liberation movement in the late 1960's through to its contemporary manifestations.

**Friday, August 26, 2022  
7:00 PM**

**UNITED THEATRE  
Westerly, RI**

**Tickets \$10 at Door**

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH COUNTY

## Calendar of Events

- 14  
Aug.  
2022  
Victoria Gu, and parents Kenneth Gu and Lisa Chen share the story of their journey from China to R.I.
- 13, 14  
Aug.  
2022  
Narragansett 347th Annual POW WOW
- 21  
Aug.  
2022  
The League of Women Voters RI - South County will discuss the details of the recent passing of the "Let RI Vote Act", legislation which expands voter access while ensuring the integrity of RI elections.
- 26  
Aug.  
2022  
"She's Beautiful When She's Angry", Documentary at United Theatre, 7pm
- 13  
Sept.  
2022  
Primary Day in R.I.

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### Westerly Anti-Racism Coalition

Join our weekly protests

Sundays 11-1

Downtown Westerly Post Office steps



westerlyarc@gmail.com

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