



## Westerly ARC Newsletter

Weekly Newsletter

21 Aug 2022



Artwork by Cookie Rivera

[Visit Our Website](#)

"There is no hierarchy of oppression."

- Audre Lorde

## Embrace

[Sunday Protests](#)

**Last Sunday**



As part of our continued remembrance of the 77th Anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, **Keiko Dinwoodie** shared stories 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 - her brother is currently a teacher in Hiroshima. One interesting story is how students in Hiroshima return to school during summer vacation on August 6th to hold memorial ceremonies for the victims of the bombings. The entire community spends time together in their desire for world peace and an end to nuclear weapons. Keiko also brought a poster displaying pictures of Hiroshima's national monuments and Peace Park. She also lovingly helped us make paper cranes, an international symbol of peace, and found at the Peace Park in Hiroshima.

We also welcomed **RI State Senate candidate Victoria Gu** and her parents. Victoria is running for State Senate in District 38. Victoria's parents, **Kenneth Gu** and **Lisa Chen**, graciously talked about their journey immigrating from China to the US and settling in South County. Victoria grew up in South County, became involved in political campaigning with an emphasis on affordable housing, environmental justice and what Asian-American representation means to the wider community. Thank you to the Gu family for sharing their stories.

To Find out more about Victoria Gu, check out the following websites and social media links.

[victoria4ri.com](http://victoria4ri.com)

[facebook.com/victoria4ri](https://facebook.com/victoria4ri)

[twitter.com/victoria4ri](https://twitter.com/victoria4ri)

[instagram.com/victoria4ri](https://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.*

Aug 21

## This Sunday

We are excited to have **Christine Martone**, president of the **South County League of Women Voters**, and **Nina Rossomando** and **Etta Zasloff**, past presidents, with us this



Sunday, August 21 to share information about the **"Let RI Vote Act"** which was recently passed by the state legislators. This law expands voter access while ensuring the integrity of RI Elections. They will have pamphlets on voting, voting procedures as well as an opportunity for voter registration. Program begins at 12:00 pm.

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



### **In the News**

SHE DID IT! Congratulations to fellow ARC member **Meredith Ingram**, who courageously took the road less traveled to earn a Master's Degree in Social Work from Sacred Heart University, graduating with a GPA of 4.0. We are so very proud of this beautiful soul!

"You filled me with hope about the next chapter of the great American story when you used your power to make a difference in our society. When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation

who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression and war. So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide."

John Lewis (1940–2020, US Congressman from GA, civil rights leader)

## **Empower**

### **Town Meetings**

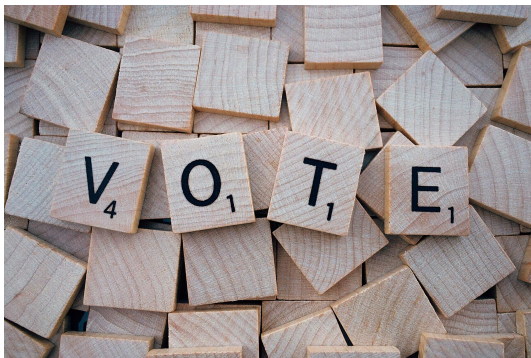
We continue to monitor the **Westerly Town Council** and **School Committee** meetings. Please see the schedule below and if possible attend the meetings. A big thank you

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.

- Wednesday, 7 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

The Democratic and Republican primary, a statewide primary, is on **13 September 2022**. To receive a **mail in ballot**, complete and submit the attached application and mail in or bring to your local board of canvassers by 23 August 2022 at 4 pm.

[<Primary Mail Ballot Application.pdf>](#)

The Primary in Westerly for the State House and State Senate is September 13. **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 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.lww.org/rhode-island/lww-south-county>.

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



### Donate

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

[Read More](#)

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## Educate

### Anti-Racism Daily

Below is an excerpt from a 18 August 2022 article in ARD (Anti Racism Daily), titled "[Reflect before reaching out.](#)"

The George Floyd Rebellion confronted many people with the extent of American racism as never before. Some felt compelled to urgently check in with Black coworkers to offer their newfound sympathies for white supremacy, an



often jarring experience for the recipients of their well-wishes. Although the brief “racial reckoning” of 2020 may have been eclipsed by campaign promises and media manipulation, racial oppression and terror are still going strong in 2022. The past year has seen a [neo-Nazi supermarket shooting](#) in Buffalo ([NBC](#)), the Texas National Guard mobilizing against an [immigrant “invasion”](#) ([MSN](#)), Alaska Airlines forcing two passengers to deplane for writing in Arabic ([MSN](#)), and the executions of Koreantown hair salon workers ([Chron](#)). But after a major attack against a marginalized community, is it ever appropriate to

check in with a friend or colleague to offer support? If so, how? And how could anyone possibly be offended by such a well-intentioned sentiment?

Understanding the difference between intent and impact is a practice of decoupling our words and actions from how they impact other people. Oftentimes when addressing race, our words and actions don't land the way we intend, especially in times of deep emotional pain and trauma. And regardless of what we think we're doing, there's still harm in what we do. As Rebekah from the Only Black Girl blog aptly said in a 2018 post, "If I punch you in the face on accident—you still got punched in the face" ([Only Black Girl](#)).

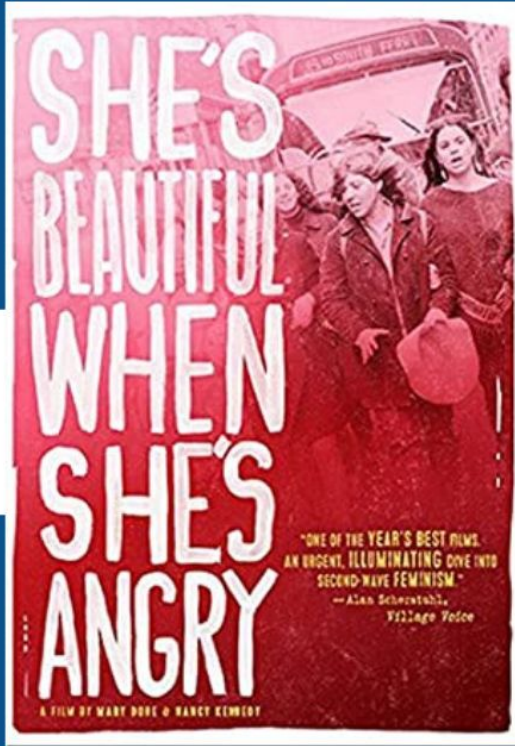
The action we take should do two things. The first is to *clarify your intention in reaching out*. Are you willing and able to support your marginalized colleagues? Or are you looking to alleviate your own guilt? The second is to consider the *impact of your outreach*. Does your outreach add burden or feel disingenuous? Are you in a position to actually support this person?

Navigating these questions requires discernment, consideration, and connection. After a traumatic experience, you likely valued support from people you could depend on and trust. But [three-quarters of white people](#) have only white friends. Building relationships across differences takes intention and care. Assuaging your guilt by shooting a glib message to an acquaintance in the wake of a tragedy is a poor way to start.

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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**



### Women's Equality Day Celebration

View trailer and purchase advance tickets [HERE](#). LWVSC will offer voter information and voter registration. A short discussion will follow viewing.

## Up Next

### Calendar of Events

21 Aug. 2022	"Let RI Vote Act" presented by South County League of Women Voters
26 Aug. 2022	"She's Beautiful When She's Angry", Documentary at United Theatre, 7pm
13 Sept. 2022	Primary Day in R.I.

## Westerly Anti-Racism Coalition

Join our weekly protests

Sundays 11-1

Downtown Westerly Post Office steps



westerlyarc@gmail.com

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