



WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WESTERLYARC.WEEBLY.COM](https://westerlyarc.weebly.com)

EMAIL: [WESTERLYARC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WESTERLYARC@GMAIL.COM)

### *WESTERLY ANTI-RACISM COALITION NEWSLETTER FOR 8.7.2022*

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#### THIS SUNDAY'S PROTEST

Join us each Sunday, from 11:00am-1:00pm on the Westerly Post Office steps as we gather together in our commitment to build a more just, equitable, and sustainable world. This Sunday, 7 August, we will commemorate 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 will speak about the U.N. Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Representative Morales is a strong advocate for the elimination of nuclear weapons. He will speak on the impact of spending trillions of dollars on nuclear weapons both on our community and around the world.

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. We welcome Jonathan and Representative Morales!

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#### LAST SUNDAY'S PROTEST

We had to postpone our July 31 program welcoming RI State Senate candidate Victoria Gu and her parents. The Gu family has been rescheduled to speak on Sunday, 14 August. Victoria Gu 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. Her parents, Kenneth Gu and Lisa Chen, will talk about their journey immigrating from China to the US, 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 give a warm welcome to the Gu family.

*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.*

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## 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 [westelryarc@gmail.com](mailto:westelryarc@gmail.com).

Our first voting resource comes from The League of Women Voters, South County (LWVSC). Through its online survey, the League seeks input from Westerly residents about questions and issues important to them. The League uses the survey results to develop specific questions to ask local and state candidates at LWVSC's live Candidate Forums. The survey is your opportunity to submit questions and issues to potential candidates for Westerly Town Council, Westerly School Committee and RI State Senate District 38. We have a sincere, smart and savvy ARC community and we encourage all to complete the survey. Let the candidates hear your voices and concerns. To complete the anonymous survey, visit <https://forms.gle/3KVogT9TEpjfEaik7>.

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

The Primary for Westerly 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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### LESLIE DUNN AND KEVIN LOWTHER ARE CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL OFFICE - JOIN THEIR CAMPAIGN

Leslie and Kevin are both graduates of Westerly High School and co-founders of the Westerly Anti-Racism Coalition. They have stood in solidarity with their community when students, librarians and teachers came under attack. They pushed for meaningful improvements to our town government so that it was more inclusive. They have demonstrated compassionate and committed leadership and a love for our community. Leslie is running for School Committee and Kevin is running for Town Council. The Westerly Democratic Committee endorses both candidates. Both bring a young, enthusiastic, diverse and compassionate voice, and commitment to our community. If you want to be a part of their exciting and ground-breaking campaign, sign up for their mailing list and let them know how you can lend a hand.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJaSivd3gCyDI0TJEy2ijP0dltBICNeBJ4KYh8X7EFq1nBXg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJaSivd3gCyDI0TJEy2ijP0dltBICNeBJ4KYh8X7EFq1nBXg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

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### EDUCATE, EMBRACE AND EMPOWER - WE NEED YOUR HELP

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 |

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>

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### LENDING A HELPING HAND TO THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY IN NEED

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.

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ARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| <i>DATE</i>   | <i>PRESENTER</i>  |
|---------------|---|
| Aug. 7, 2022  | Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance, Jonathan Daly-LaBelle with special guest RI State Representative David Morales @ 11am, Westerly Post Office Steps |
| Aug. 14, 2022 | Victoria Gu, and parents Kenneth Gu and Lisa Chen share the story of their journey from China to R.I.   |

PEACE,

WESTERLY ARC