



Westerly ARC Newsletter

Weekly Newsletter

11 Sept 2022



Artwork by Cookie Rivera

[Visit Our Website](#)

"Even the smallest act of service, the simplest act of kindness, is a way to honor those we lost, a way to reclaim that spirit of unity that followed 9/11."

—President Obama, 2011 radio address

Embrace



UNITED THROUGH SERVICE



Find a volunteer opportunity in your community.

AmeriCorps.gov/911Day
#911Day

September 11

This Week's Protest

September 11 2022 is **National Day of Service and Remembrance or 9/11 Day**, a federally recognized day of service in the US on the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Please join us this **Sunday from 11am- 1pm** on the Post Office steps as ARC members share their reflections on this day of service and **Geoff Kaufman**, one of our favorite musicians, performs a selection of peace songs.

Click below to find out more about how you can volunteer to be of service.

[Read more](#)



Last Week's Protest

"To get an anti-racist government you need anti-racist leaders!"

- RI Senator Cynthia Mendes

Last Sunday, September 4th, ARC welcomed **Cynthia Mendes, candidate for Lieutenant Governor of RI**. Cynthia spoke passionately on "How We Get An Anti-Racist Statehouse." Cynthia is a single mom, a gun violence survivor, a community advocate, and she knows what it is like to have to work multiple jobs at once to make ends meet. Cynthia is of Puerto Rican and Cape Verdean descent, has worked in the dental field, and NEVER imagined getting into politics. She prioritized volunteering in the community like serving unhoused Rhode Islanders, those who were food insecure, and mentoring young women of color.

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 Q&A.

Click below to learn more about Cynthia Mendes.

[Read more](#)

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

BOOKS UNITE US

CENSORSHIP DIVIDES US

BANNED BOOKS WEEK
September 18 - 24, 2022
bannedbooksweek.org

BANNED BOOKS WEEK

@BannedBooksWeek • @banned_books_week • #bannedbooksweek

Artwork ©2021 American Library Association

Looking Ahead

Banned Books Week

On Sept. 18 and 25th our Sunday programs will focus on the latest attack on our freedom, the banning of books. We are protesting this attempt to censor learning by holding a **“Read-In”** on the steps of the post office from 12-1 on Sunday, Sept. 25. Everyone is asked to bring a banned book or borrow one from our lending library and sit for one half hour in silence, reading as a sign of our solidarity with all those who oppose the practice of censoring and banning books and materials from our schools and libraries.

We are grateful to the Westerly Library and Wilcox Park Librarians for sending us a [Freedom to Read Book list](#) in honor of Banned Books Week. Banned Books Week is from Sept 18-25, 2022. According to the Library, the list “is intended to promote the habit of reading and the act of speaking up. We embrace the freedom to read because everyone should be allowed to make their own choice when it comes to learning about the world around them. The books have been selected by our local librarians to spark conversation and inspire readers.”

Thank you to our beloved librarians at the Westerly Library.



Donate to the Mobile Library

A special request from Ery Caswell, Librarian, Adult Services Librarian, Mystic & Noank Library

Ery has made a [banned book wish list](#) that people can buy copies for the mobile library if they're so moved to do so. It's hosted through [Bookshop.org](#) and all of the copies will be bought from *People Get Ready*, a Black-owned bookstore in New Haven. The first

10 books are those most frequently banned or challenged in the last year according to the American Library Association. Ery is happy to have multiple copies of these books since they'll be among the most circulated and could have them available for use in book clubs, etc. There are books listed from prior years, along with some titles about sex education, consent, parenting queer & trans youth, and other books that would be welcome additions to the collection.

Anyone who would like to purchase a copy of a book for the mobile library may do so through that list! You can send the book(s) to Ery Caswell at 40 Library St., Mystic, CT 06355. Please include the name and the title of the book(s) ordered for the collection so that a donation note can be included in the book.

Empower

Town Meetings

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ON 21 SEPTEMBER AT 5PM AND SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF THE NEED FOR A WESTERLY SCHOOL EQUITY AUDIT. (We will send more information on the meeting and agenda as soon as we receive it.)



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, 12 Sept - Town Council Workshop 5:30 pm
- Saturday, 17 Sept - Special Town Council Meeting 9:00 am
- Monday, 19 Sept - Town Council Regular Meeting 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, 21 Sept - School Committee Meeting 5:00 pm
- Monday, 26 Sept - Town Council Regular 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>

In the News



Letters to the Editor

Check out the the following good reads from the Westerly Sun's Letters to the Editor by fellow activists:

- **Pete Ogle**, "Winnapaug Plan a Profoundly Bad Idea," 8 September
- **Jay Lustgarten** "Let's Leave the Fossil Fuels in the Ground," 6 September
- "Gu Will Work to Protect the Environment" by **Geoff Kaufman and Harvey Perry**, 5 September

Thank you Pete, Jay, Geoff, and Harvey for using your voices to speak up and speak out on these important issues.

https://www.thewesterlysun.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/



WESTERLY CANDIDATES NIGHT

OCTOBER 6, 2022 ★ 6PM

Get to know the Candidates on the ballot for:
Westerly Town Council,
Westerly School Committee,
State Senate and House of Representatives

Westerly Candidates' Night

On October 6, 2022 the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce will hold a **forum for candidates** for Westerly School Committee, Town Council and State and National office. The meeting will begin at 6 pm at the Westerly Town hall at 45 Broad St., Westerly RI. The public is invited to attend in person or on the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce Facebook page, on local public access TV, or live on WBLQ (103.6 FM). See the following link for more information.

<https://www.oceanchamber.org/events/details/westerly-candidate-s-night-2022-33327>

Voters' Corner

For everything you need to know about voting and to make sure your vote counts, please check out the Secretary of State's website Vote.RI.gov. On the site, you will be able to view and update your voting record, register to vote, find your



polling place, view a sample ballot, apply for a mail ballot, find your elected officials, and trace your mail-in ballot.

Another voting information tool is [Vote.org](https://www.vote.org), a non-profit advocacy organization, based in the US, that provides online voter guides for every state, including where to vote, what's on the ballot, voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications, and information on deadlines, directions, and ID and residency requirements. They also have information on how to contact your election officials.

Spread the word and encourage all to vote, help others register and get to

the polls, stay informed and learn about the candidates through their websites and FB pages. Attend the forums or watch online. We will provide a calendar of events as we become aware of the dates. YOUR VOTE MATTERS.

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.

Educate



Westerly Area Peace and Justice UN International Day of Peace Event

On Wednesday, Sept. 21, Westerly Area Peace and Justice, our partners in social justice, are holding their **5th Annual Interfaith Peace Vigil** in commemoration of the U.N. International Day of Peace at 6 pm on the terrace of the Westerly Library. Please come and spread the word to everyone to join our voices with others around the world to pray and

act for peace. There will be readings, prayers and silence along with beautiful music by Frank Pendola and Geoff Kaufman.

Musical Meditation -- September 14, 7 pm

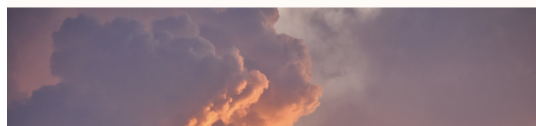
Join the **Chorus of Westerly's Threshold Choir** in this meditation and community healing event honoring essential workers who support our communities. This event is a space for these workers and their families to find comfort in a supportive musical environment. This event will take place at [Kent Hall](#) (119 High St., Westerly) and is free and open to all.

Free Admission

MUSICAL MEDITATION

A COMMUNITY HEALING EVENT TO HONOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS

9/14 | 7PM | 119 HIGH ST, WESTERLY



JOIN THE THRESHOLD CHOIR OF
THE CHORUS OF WESTERLY FOR A MEDITATION
IN HONOR OF THE ESSENTIAL WORKERS WHO CONTINUE TO
SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

TO LEARN MORE: WWW.CHORUSOFWESTERLY.ORG - 401.596.8663



Up Next

Calendar of Events

11 September 2022	Special event honoring the 21st anniversary of 9/11, music with Geoff Kaufman
13 September 2022	Primary Day in R.I. - VOTE, VOTE, VOTE
14 September 2022	Chorus of Westerly's Choir for Musical Meditation, 7pm Kent Hall
21 September 2022	International day of Peace Ceremony 6 pm Westerly Library terrace
21 September 2022	Westerly School Committee Meeting, 5pm - PLEASE ATTEND TO SUPPORT THE WESTERLY SCHOOL EQUITY AUDIT
18-24 September 2022	Banned Books Week - Presentations
25 September 2022	"Read-In" on the steps of the post office, 12pm. Ery Caswell shares his story and his "Beyond the Stacks" lending library
6 October 2022	Candidates' Night 6-9 pm, Westerly Town Hall, sponsored by Chamber of Commerce

Westerly Anti-Racism Coalition

Join our weekly protests

Sundays 11-1

Downtown Westerly Post Office steps



westerlyarc@gmail.com

You received this email because you signed up on our website at one of our events.

[Unsubscribe](#)

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



