



Westerly ARC Newsletter

Weekly Newsletter

18 Sept 2022



Artwork by Cookie Rivera

[Visit Our Website](#)

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace."

– Jimi Hendrix

Embrace

Hispanic

Heritage Month

September 15-October 15



September 18

This Week's Protest

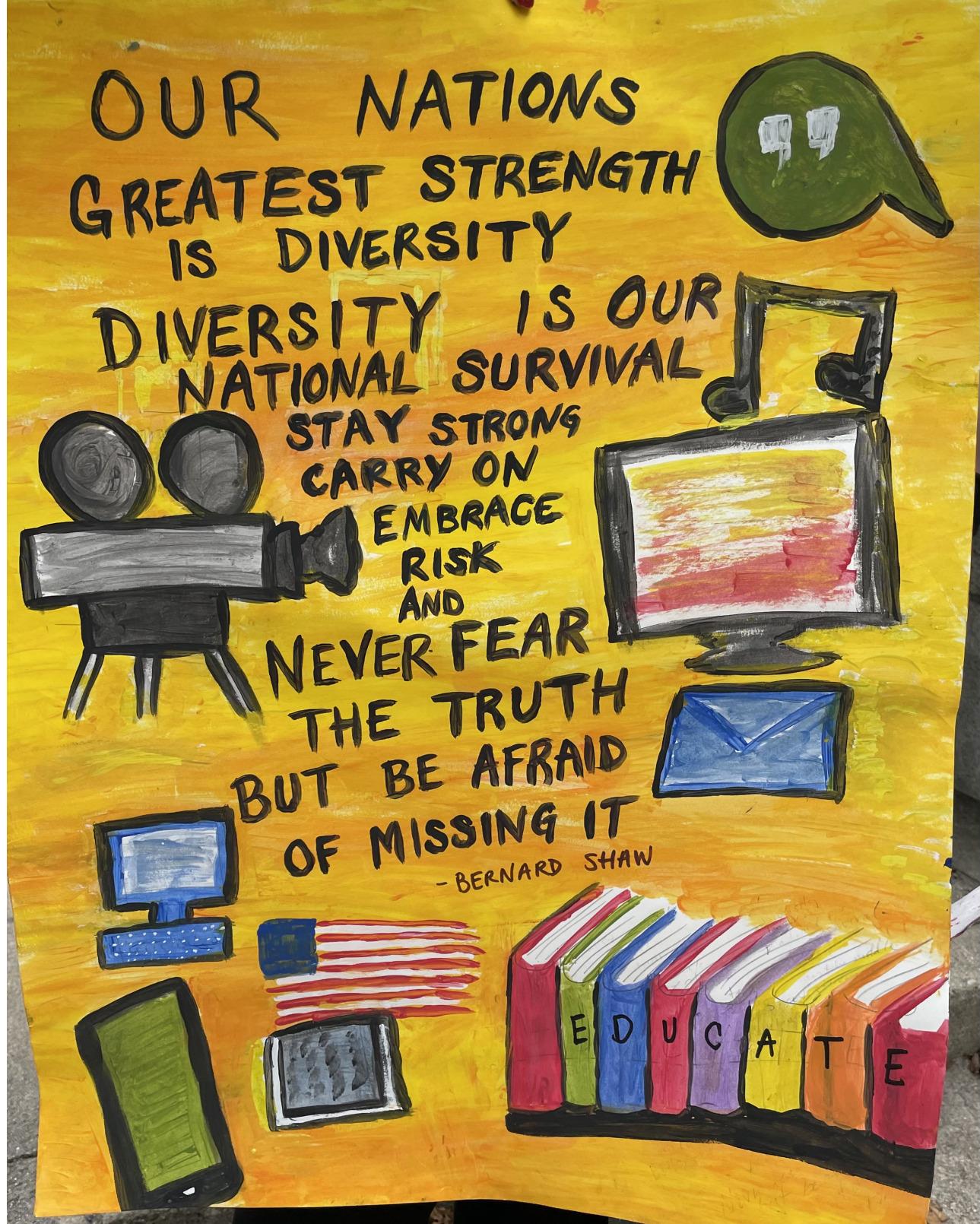
Join us this week as we recognize the start of Hispanic Heritage Month and Banned Books Week.

"Each year, Americans observe **National Hispanic Heritage Month** from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America." (www.census.gov)

If you have any resources to contribute to our recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, please contact us at westerlyarc@gmail.com.

Banned Books Week is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. Banned Books Week was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores and libraries. Typically held during the last week of September, it highlights the value of free and open access to information. Banned Books Week brings together the entire book community – librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types – in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular.

Banned Books Week 2022 will be held September 18 – 24. The theme of this year's event is "Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us."



Last 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.

Last Sunday, **Madeline Labriola**, a member of the ARC steering committee, shared her memories of that day. She spoke of her concern that many choose

to seek revenge rather than reconciliation. Invading Iraq and Afghanistan led to 20 years of war that cost the U.S. over \$2.4 trillion plus interest. Countless lives were lost and 2 countries destroyed. However, we can turn tragedy into hope by turning that day into a day of service in memory of all those who risked their lives to help others on 9/11 and everyday. To round out our program, Geoff Kaufman, one of our favorite musicians, performed beautiful music celebrating peace.

Read more about the National Day of Service and ways that you can serve by clicking below.

[Read more](#)

Artwork by Cookie Rivera

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



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.”



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.

Several residents spoke against the proposed equity audit at the last School Committee meeting. Please consider writing to the School Committee (mgarceau@westerly.k12.ri.us) or attending the meeting on the 21st to express support for the audit. The audit is an important tool to continue to work towards more inclusive opportunities and experiences for all students and staff at Westerly Public Schools. **Click here for a [sample letter of support](#)**. Thank you!



Upcoming Meetings:

- 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
- Monday, 3 Oct - Town Council Workshop and Reg. 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, 5 Oct - 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>



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, 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



Show Up

Stop by one of our weekly protests or show up to one of the events or meetings described in this newsletter.

generosity are greatly appreciated.

[Read More](#)

Educate

In the News



peace parade

Peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but the means by which we arrive at that goal.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Nonviolence is active and challenges us to stand up to injustice on personal and societal levels. The principles and steps can be applied to virtually all situations that we experience in our lives each day. Learn about what nonviolence is and ways to manifest it within your community.

Join us on Saturday, 10/1 at Saugutucket Park in Wakefield

Kid and pet friendly!
Face painting for kids
Snacks
Information
Activities for kids

10am - 12pm



Nonviolent Schools RI



TOWARDS AN ANTI-RACIST NORTH KINGSTON

Peace Parade

Our neighbors and co-peace activists **Nonviolent Schools RI** and **Toward an Anti-Racist North Kingston (TANK)** are holding a Peace Parade on Sat. Oct. 1 from 10-12 in Wakefield.

Please join them as they stand up to injustice on a personal and societal level.

[Click here for details of the Peace Parade.](#)



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>



Pax Christi USA and Meta Peace Team offer Bystander Nonviolence Skills Training

Here is a wonderful workshop that is sponsored by Pax Christi USA. We have all participated in peaceful protests with very few incidents of violent speech or behavior, but sometimes even the most peaceful intentions can result in conflict. When that happens it's so important that we know some skills to deescalate these situations. If you are able to give the time on Sat. Oct. 1, we know you will find this program well worth your while.

[Click here for more information and to register for the workshop.](#)



International City of Peace

Did you know that Westerly-Pawcatuck is designated as an **International City of Peace**?

Check out this Guest Opinion column in the *Westerly Sun* by **Frank Thacker** where he explains the history behind this recognition and what it means for our community. Thank you, Frank!

[Welcome to Westerly-Pawcatuck, an International City of Peace](#)



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.

Up Next

Calendar of Events	
15 September–15 October	Hispanic Heritage Month
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
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.
1 October 2022	Peace Parade, 10-12, Wakefield
1 October 2022	Nonviolence Skills Training Workshop, 11-3:30, online
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](#)

