



History in the Making

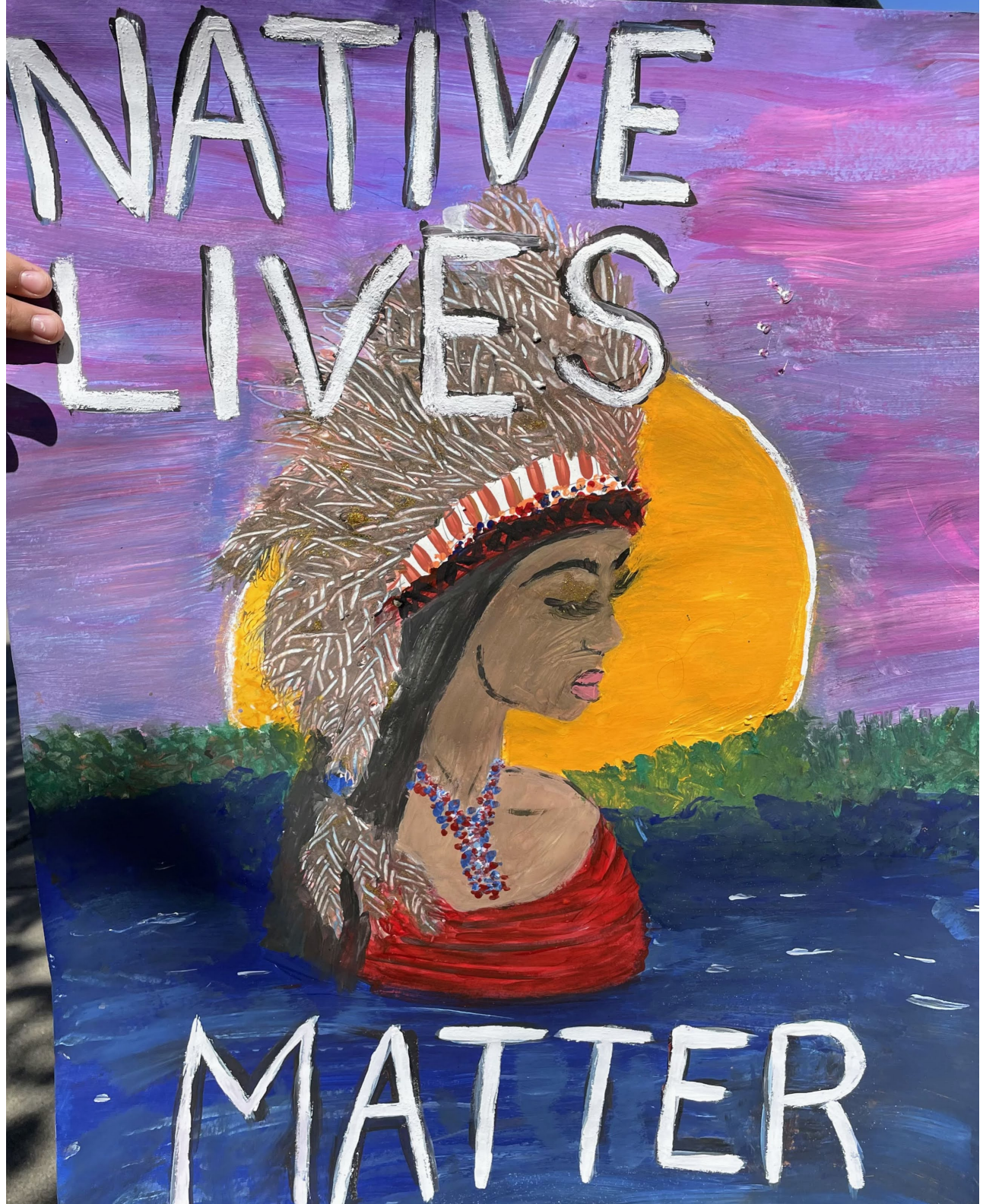
Congratulations to **Kevin Lowther**, **Leslie Dunn**, and **Victoria Gu**, members of Westerly ARC, on their victories this past Tuesday, November 8. Representing the next generation of town leaders, these three intelligent, talented and charismatic citizens put themselves on the line and stepped out into the community to seek election for the first time in a highly volatile voting cycle. Their courage, resilience and strategic planning resulted in Westerly and Senate District #38 having diverse and youthful participation in local and state government.

Both Leslie and Kevin are the first Black leaders elected to School Committee and Town Council respectively. Victoria became the first Asian American woman to represent Westerly, Charlestown and South Kingston in the RI Senate.

Months of canvassing, speaking and debating led to the victories for these candidates. Supported by their families, friends and local residents, they brought forth issues including affordable housing, beach access, equity and equality issues, human rights, and diversity. Although Westerly ARC did not officially endorse any candidate, we made our Sunday platform available for any and all candidates to be heard.

History is being made thanks to the support and love of this community. Good luck Kevin, Leslie and Victoria. We wish you a safe and exciting journey ahead as you continue to bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice.

Embrace



November 13

This Week's Protest

November is Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people.

Heritage Month is also an opportune time to educate the general public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges. Click below to read about ways to celebrate Native American Heritage Month.

Join us on the steps of the post office this Sunday between 11-1pm as we continue to have engaging conversations and learn from each other. This week, **Geoff Kaufman** will teach and entertain us with words and music relevant to this month.

[Read More](#)



Last Week's Protest

A beautiful Sunday brought many of our loyal supporters and several new faces to the steps of the Westerly Post Office on Sunday, November 6. Signs and banners waved in the breeze as Frank Pendola took to the microphone to entertain the crowd with his beautiful music. Sharing some of his original music and his personal stories, Frank moved many hearts with his original tune about Westerly. Here are some lyrics to ponder:

["In summer she is Mecca, Thousands at her throne.](#)

In February she is mine, I walk her shores alone.

Westerly, Westerly – my Emerald City by the Sea

My lovely ocean lady, her fingers white with foam

Westerly, Westerly is Home.”

We continue to be blessed with so many people who are willing to share their talents and experiences with us. Geoff Kaufman sang a favorite folk song and on the spur of the moment Felicia came to the mic and moved us all with a beautiful rendition of Nina Simone’s “Feeling Good.” Thank you to all of our talented performers.

Looking Ahead

Be sure to circle your calendars for Sunday, November 20 when our very own April Dinwoodie will take the stage to tell us about adoptions and foster care. April is a member of the ARC Steering Committee and the founder of “Born in June, Raised in April.” She is a writer, podcaster, speaker/trainer, coach, and consultant on transracial adoptions.

Learn more about April and her work on [her website](#).

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

Empower

Town Meetings

Westerly ARC encourages those who can to attend Westerly Town Council and School Committee meetings.

Your presence and involvement is an important way to show our elected

officials that creating a more equitable and inclusive town and school system must always be a priority.

Monday, Nov 14 Town Council Meeting, 5:30 pm

Wednesday, Nov 16 School Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm

Monday, Nov 21 Town Council Workshop and Regular Meeting 5:30 pm

Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas:

<https://clerkshq.com/westerly-ri>



Speaking Out Against Lies

In case you missed it last week, here is a link to ARC'S STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO BOB CHIARADIO'S FALSE ACCUSATIONS

[Read ARC's Response](#)

Act

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

[View our Calendar](#)



Share

Spread the news!
Forward this newsletter to at least one person



Donate

ARC member Amanda Dunn continues to collect toiletries,



Show Up

Stop by one of our weekly protests, join one of the events listed in

you think might be interested in it. Ask them to sign up for our newsletter on the [Westerly ARC website](#).

We have **over 200 subscribers** as of now; help us reach an even wider audience!

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.

this newsletter, attend a town meeting, etc.

"We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

— Elie Wiesel

Food Bank Donations

At this time many food banks are experiencing shortages. If you are able, please consider bringing one or two nonperishable items for the food pantries when you come on Sundays. Always consider the nutritional value of your food donations. Bring healthy, easily prepared foods. i.e. rice, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruits, vegetables, baked beans, soup, tuna or chicken, bottled tomato sauce, brownie or dessert bread mixes, cereal, various canned pasta. Boxes will be available for collections. Thank you.

Educate



Thoughts on International Adoption

Adoption is often thought of as a humanitarian way to help children displaced or orphaned by war. This week Anti-Racism Daily asks us to look deeper into the circumstances that leave children in such desperate and life altering situations.

"Two weeks ago, the Associated Press reported on an Afghan girl kidnapped and adopted by a U.S. Marine after his colleagues murdered her family. Two days later, the *New York Times* accused Russia of using adoption to turn Ukrainian children into the "spoils of war" ([NYTimes](#)). What seems strange and abhorrent when committed by the Russian government is normalized and praised when performed by the United States, which has taken hundreds of thousands of children of color from poor countries over the course of decades. As today's newsletter explains, the transnational adoptee and the spoils of war have never been as distinct as we'd like to believe."



Trans Day of Joy Rally

Event: Join us for a rally to celebrate Trans Day of Joy! This will feature a line-up of local trans leaders, advocates and speakers. Community organizations and resources will be available. We welcome all trans community members, families, and our allies!

A celebratory rally in support of trans communities in the face of continued attacks.

When: Saturday, November 12

Time: 11:30am - 12:30pm

Where: [Contemporary Theater](#) outside area (327 Main St, South Kingstown, RI 02879) (off Main St in Wakefield, about 40 min south of Providence)

Sponsored by: [LGBTQ Action RI](#), [The Womxn Project](#), Youth Pride.Inc., SAGE RI, RI Democratic Women's Caucus, Beyond the Stacks, Towards an Antiracist North Kingston (TANK), TGI Network of RI, RI Queer PAC, PFLAG of Greater Providence, Contemporary Theater, UU Congregation of SC.



Coming Together Around Resilience, Love, & Acceptance

- Beyond the Stacks
- Contemporary Theater Company
- GLAD, Legal Advocates & Defenders
- Haus of Codec
- LGBTQ Action RI
- Old Lesbians Organizing for Change
- PFLAG of Greater Providence
- Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
- RI Democratic Women's Caucus
- RI Queer PAC
- SAGE RI
- Sojourner House
- South County Pride
- T&I Network of RI
- Thundermist Health Center
- Towards An Antiracist North Kingstown (TANK)
- URI Gender and Sexuality Center
- UU Congregation of SC
- The Women's Project
- Youth Pride, Inc.



Picking Up Stones: Grappling with the Moral Dilemma of Israel and Palestine

This 50-minute one-woman monologue was written and will be performed by Sandra Laub, an actress, playwright, and teacher. "Sandra grapples with the moral question of how to remain pro-Israel while disagreeing with Israeli policies and attitudes towards the Palestinian people who live within Israel's borders."

This performance will be held on Zoom on Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 3:30. [Click here for more information and to register](#) for the performance.

Culture Calendar

[American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month](#)

This month is a time to recognize the history, culture, and contributions of Indigenous people. The link above has many relevant resources from the New York City Department of Education. Another great resource is [this article](#) which includes ways to celebrate and [podcasts from the Native community](#).

[National Adoption Month](#) - November

The goals of National Adoption Month include: "increase national awareness of adoption issues, bring attention to the need for adoptive families for teens in the U.S. foster care system, and emphasize the value of youth engagement."

The 2022 theme is "Small Steps Open Doors," which speaks to the large impact that small steps can have toward establishing permanency for teens. Click to read President Clinton's [proclamation establishing National Adoption Month](#).

[World Kindness Day](#) – November 13

Did you know that being kind can lower your blood pressure? Find out more in [this article](#) about World Kindness Day.

Up Next

Calendar of Events	
November 12	Trans Day of Joy (see above)
November 14	Town Council Meeting, 5:30 pm
November 16	School Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm
November 20	April Dinwoodie presenting on transracial adoptions, at our weekly protest
November 21	Town Council workshop and regular meeting 5:30 pm



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 or at one of our events.



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