



Weekly Newsletter

01 Jan 2023



Artwork by Cookie Rivera

[Visit Our Website](#)

"Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word."

—Göran Persson (Prime Minister of Sweden 1996–2006)

Embrace



January 1

This Week

As 2022 draws to a close, we would like to **reflect on our accomplishments** this year. In 2022, the ARC community successfully supported local candidates in an [historic election](#). We educated ourselves and others through book discussions, a variety of guest speakers at our Sunday gatherings, and by exchanging ideas. We embraced our community by partnering with several local organizations. We empowered each other to take action by writing letters to the editor, speaking at local meetings, and more.

We will meet this Sunday from 11-1 for all those who would like to start the New Year on a positive note. We will take some time to look back at our accomplishments of the past year and share some thoughts about the exciting year ahead. We will also be **lighting the Kwanzaa Candles**. We hope you can join us!

At 1:00 you are invited to gather around the Peace Pole at Christ Church on Elm St. for the annual **World Day of Prayer for Peace** which is traditionally celebrated by Westerly Area Peace and Justice. All are welcome.

Read More: The Year in Review



Last Week

The wind chills may have been in the teens, but that didn't stop a few ARC supporters from gathering on Christmas Day on the post office steps. The spirit of the holidays was present as we enjoyed conversation and Christmas cookies while ignoring the frigid temperatures as best as we could.

The group was then treated to Kevin "Big Lux" Lowther sharing some recorded tunes, including his own yet-to-be-released song about holiday elves. We ended the gathering listening to the *Sister Act 2* version of "[Joyful Joyful](#)" featuring Lauryn Hill. By the end of the energetic song we were indeed feeling the joy and forgetting about the cold.



Join us for these upcoming Sunday events

January 8 Asa Peters, Indigenous Speaker

Asa Peters is a music-maker and learner who finds home in Mashpee, MA and Narragansett, RI. He enjoys playing and writing music, spending time outside, and making meaningful memories and bonds with those around him. Asa is currently working as a research associate at UMass Boston with the Institute of New England Native American Studies and the Asian American Studies program. He is a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe with roots in the Narragansett tribe, and lives much of his life through the lenses of his communities' histories which inform his priorities and values.

January 15

A celebration of Martin Luther King Day.

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

Empower



January 3

Swearing-In Ceremony for State Senator Victoria Gu

Come celebrate the historic occasion of the swearing-in of Victoria Gu, who, along with Linda L. Ujifusa of Portsmouth, are the first two Asian Americans to win seats in the General Assembly. The swearing-in ceremony will take place in the Senate Chambers of the Rhode Island State House in Providence on **January 3 at 4:00 pm**. You are welcome to come as early as 2:30 to take pictures. Congratulations, Victoria!

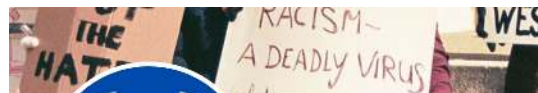
In case you missed it, here is the link to the *Boston Globe* article that includes interviews with Victoria, Kevin

J. Lowther III, and Leslie Dunn: [Election brings diversity to Westerly's leadership.](#)

Like, Subscribe, Comment, Share!

The ARC Steering Committee has been meeting to revise our goals for 2023. We look forward to sharing more about our work and how you can be involved.

In the meantime, one of the most important actions you can take is to engage with us on social media. Like, subscribe, share, and comment on our posts on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) in order to spread the word about the positive impact ARC is having on our community. Make this your first [New Year's resolution](#) and start now! Thank you.



Westerly ARC

275 likes · 343 followers



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.



January 4 School Committee Meeting, 5:00

January 9 Town Council Meeting, 5:30

January 18 School Committee Meeting, 5:00

January 23 Town Council Meeting, 5:30

Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas:

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

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

Don't forget to like, subscribe, comment, and share on our social media posts!



Donate

ARC advocate 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 gatherings, join one of the events listed in 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

Educate



ARC Steering Committee member Madeline Labriola wrote a [beautiful letter in the Westerly Sun](#) with her reflections on hope for peace in the coming year.

Please take time to read her letter and consider what you can do to promote peace in 2023.

Culture Calendar

Three Kings Day (Epiphany) - January 6

At the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas comes a day called the Epiphany, or Three Kings Day. This holiday is celebrated as the day the three wise men first saw baby Jesus and brought him gifts. On this day in Spain, many children get their Christmas presents. In Puerto Rico, before children go to sleep on January 5, they leave a box with hay under their beds so the kings will leave good presents. In France, a delicious "kings' cake" known as *la galette des rois* is baked. Bakers hide a coin, jewel, or little toy inside it. ([National Geographic](#)) Learn more about Three Kings Day [here](#).



Up Next

Calendar of Events	
January 1	World Day of Prayer for Peace celebrated by Westerly Area Peace and Justice, Christ Church, 1:00 pm
January 3	Swearing-in ceremony for Victoria Gu, RI State House, Providence, 4:00 pm
January 4	School Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm
January 9	Town Council Meeting, 5:30 pm

January 10	Community reading of "Letter from Birmingham Jail," Westerly Public Library , 5:30 pm
January 18	School Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm
January 23	Town Council Meeting, 5:30 pm



Westerly Anti-Racism Coalition

Join our weekly gatherings

westerlyarc@gmail.com

Sundays 11-1

Downtown Westerly Post Office steps

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



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