



Weekly Newsletter

19 Feb 2023



Artwork by Cookie Rivera

[Visit Our Website](#)

“The thing about Black history is that the truth is so much more complex than anything you could make up.”

—Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Embrace



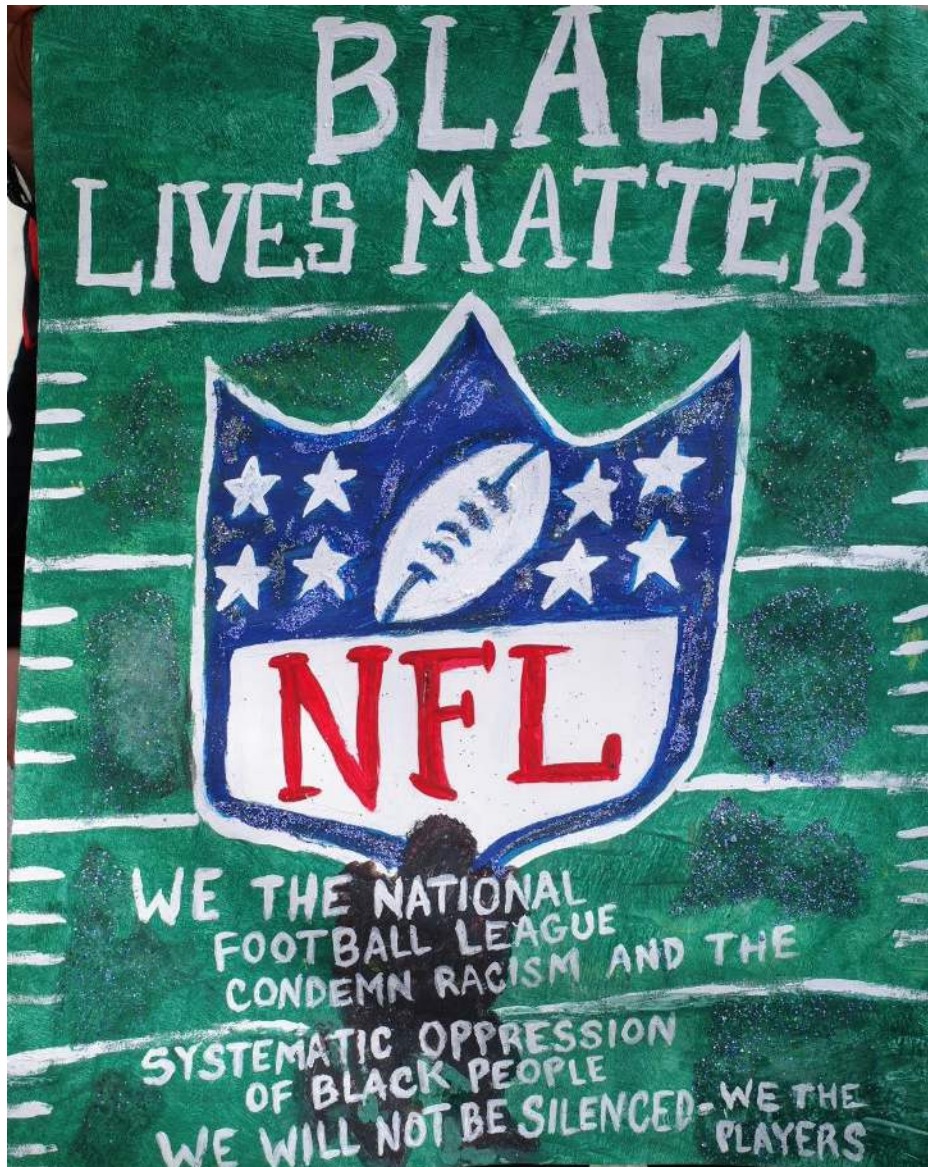
February 19

This Week

We will meet again this Sunday from 11-1pm to be encouraged and to join with others as we work together to change the culture of violence so prevalent in our society. The latest mass shooting, this time on the campus of Michigan State University, leaves us all with a deep sense of sadness and confusion.

The enormous amount of guns in our country is daunting. The [Small Arms Survey](#) states that "U.S. civilians alone account for 393 million (46%) of the worldwide total of civilian held firearms." These weapons pose a threat to every one's safety. We recognize that gun violence is a complex issue with no simple solution; yet, more needs to be done to protect us all from gun violence. As members of ARC we join with others to support common sense gun laws, more resources into mental health, education in nonviolent methods of resolving conflict, and reversing our culture of violence.

Join us this week as we continue to hold conversations about so many of the issues that we face. **Frank Pendola** is on the docket to sing some beautiful folk music for us.



Last Week

A quiet Sunday greeted the supporters of ARC on the post office steps last week. Small groups were eagerly chatting about current events, progress being made in our anti-racism work and some thoughts on future activities.

Senator Victoria Gu stopped by and shared some of her legislative proposals. **Cookie** and **Sabrina** brought two new posters that highlighted the Super Bowl and Valentine's Day. Cookie reminded us that the NFL "condemns racism and the systemic oppression of black people, we will not be silenced-we the players" and another poster reminded us that Martin Luther King said, "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too heavy a burden to bear." Thank you Cookie and Sabrina for your beautiful art work and the loving and caring way you bring it to our space.

Looking Ahead

Children's Day will be held Sunday, February 26. As Black History Month draws to a close, we will celebrate with our children the contributions made by African Americans. The day will include stories, crafts, music, and refreshments. Children of all ages are encouraged to come and join in the celebration.

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

Empower

Positions Available on Town Council Boards

Get involved and make positive changes in Westerly by volunteering for one of the many boards.

Applications can be obtained on the Town of Westerly's website www.westerlyri.gov and submitted to the Office of Town Clerk.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (FULL MEMBER)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

BOARD OF CANVASSERS (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

LICENSING BOARD (AUXILIARY MEMBER)

VETERANS 'ROLLS OF HONOR' MEMORIAL COMMITTEE (1ST AND 2nd ALTERNATES)

HOUSING AUTHORITY (ONE MEMBER)

MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE (TWO MEMBERS)

ZONING BOARD (2nd ALTERNATE)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (FULL MEMBER)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (AUXILIARY MEMBER)

PLANNING BOARD (FULL MEMBER)

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

BOARD OF FINANCE (TWO FULL MEMBERS)

CONCERTS ON THE BEACH COMMITTEE (TWO FULL MEMBERS)

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW (FULL MEMBER)



International Nonviolence Summer Institute

The University of Rhode Island Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies is pleased to announce that the 2023 International Nonviolence Summer Institute will be in person at the University of Rhode Island. Participants can choose Level 1 Kingian Nonviolence Training of Trainers (June 5–9) or Level 2 Advanced Nonviolence Leadership Training (June 12–16). Applicants for the Level 2 Training have to have their Level 1 Training certification before this training. [Click here to learn more and to register.](#)

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.



February 13 Town Council Meeting, 5:30

February 15 School Committee Meeting, 5:00

February 27 Town Council Meeting, 5:30

March 1 School Committee Meeting 5:00

March 6 Town Council Meeting 5:30

March 15 School Committee Meeting 5:00

March 20 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

What to Read Next?

The life of a Black suffragist in the Jim Crow South, studies of African American modernism, abstraction, and sculpture in global art, the story of the two women – one black and one white – in a famous 1957 school integration in 1957 Arkansas, tales and reflections on the legacies of the Great Migration, an anthology of the lyrics and diversity of rap, and many others are the topics of more than 20 titles that The Yale University Press has put together to celebrate Black History Month. Black History is American History, and even as the calendar approaches March, we have a list of terrific suggestions for you to consider, classic titles to contemporary works. [Check out Yale's list](#).



February 21

How to Talk about Race in 2023 with Ray Rickman

"How to Talk About Race in 2023" enables us to discuss race and racism with people who may be different from us. Ray is an expert on helping individuals talk with others about race in a positive manner. The subject of language use and how to value people who may be different or new to your community is part of this discussion. Ray enjoys helping people find a positive personal role to play in improving race relations during these challenging times.



February 21, 6:30–8:00 pm, [North Kingstown Free Library](#).

February 21

Towards an Anti-Racist North Kingstown: Panel Discussion

Students come into classrooms with different experiences, derived in part by their social positions – their race, class, gender, sexual orientation, ability, national origin, language(s), citizenship status, etc. Equity requires inviting students' whole selves into

Towards an Anti-Racist North Kingstown (TANK) presents:



DEDICATED TO THE DREAM
Welcoming Others' Knowledge & Experience in NK

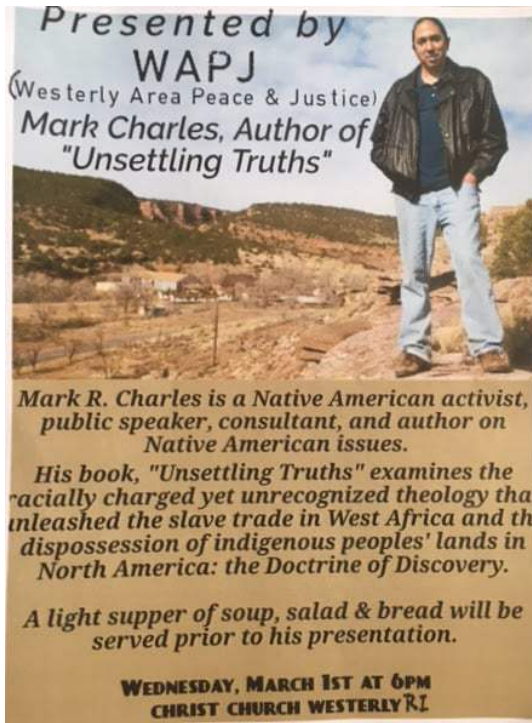
02.21.23 - 5 PM @ NK FREE LIBRARY

tank.org.nk@gmail.com <https://tinyurl.com/258ah8p8>

the classroom to celebrate our varied humanity, to understand the meaning of our differences, and to imagine how we might change the world.

Hear from students, teachers, parents, authors and local officials about the value of teaching the truth; the importance of representation; the impact of legislation to ban books and limit what can be discussed in classrooms; and ways to advocate within your community for all of these things.

February 21, 5:00 pm, North Kingstown Free Library (before the Ray Rickman event)



March 1

Mark Charles Author of Unsettling Truths

Presented by Westerly Area Peace & Justice

Mark R. Charles is a Native American activist, public speaker, consultant, and author on Native American issues. His book, *Unsettling Truths*, examines the racially charged yet unrecognized theology that unleashed the slave trade in West Africa and the dispossession of indigenous peoples' lands in North America: the Doctrine of Discovery. A light supper of soup, salad & bread will

be served prior to his presentation.

Wednesday, March 1 at 6:00 pm, Christ Church, Westerly

March 4

A Witness to History: the Big Business to Slavery in Little Rhode Island

A public forum on the often overlooked history of slavery in Rhode Island.

Free to the public.

As kickoff to the first [Witness Stones Project](#) in Rhode Island the Kingston Congregational Church is pleased to welcome renown historian and scholar, Dr. Christy Clark-Pujara, author of *Dark Work: the Business of Slavery in Rhode Island* and Professor of History and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of African American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-

 **Witness STONES Project™** The Witness Stones Project™ is an educational initiative whose mission is to restore the history and honor the humanity of the enslaved individuals who helped build our communities.


A Witness to History: the Big Business of Slavery in Little Rhode Island
Saturday, March 4, 10:00 am-12:00pm
at Kingston Congregational Church
2610 Kingstown Road, Kingston, RI
FREE TO THE PUBLIC!


As kickoff to the first Witness Stones Project in Rhode Island, we are pleased to welcome renown historian and scholar, Dr. Christy Clark-Pujara, author of *Dark Work: the Business of Slavery in Rhode Island* and Professor of History and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of African American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Dennis Culliton, Founder and Executive Director of The Witness Stones Project, Inc.

Dr. Clark-Pujara will speak to us about Rhode Islanders' extensive involvement in the slave trade and Dennis Culliton will introduce the Witness Stones Project, a local effort to recognize and honor the lives of enslaved individuals from our local, South Kingstown, area.

If you any questions please call the church (401)783-5330 and office@kingcongchurch.org

 For more information Scan this code to visit the Witness Stones Project Page on our Church Website.


Christy Clark-Pujara
Professor of History and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of African American Studies
 With a Ph.D. in History from the University of Iowa, Clark-Pujara is an author of *Dark Work: The Business of Slavery in Rhode Island* and *Every Breath Comes Back*. She also co-edited *The Business of Slavery in Rhode Island* (2017).


Dennis Culliton
Executive Director and Co-Chairman of the Witness Stones Project, Inc.
 Culliton is a member of the Rhode Island Historical Society and the Rhode Island African American Historical Society. He is also a past president of the Rhode Island African American Historical Society and the Rhode Island African American Historical Society. He is also a past president of the Rhode Island African American Historical Society.

Madison, and Dennis Culliton, MAT, Founder and Executive Director of The Witness Stones Project, Inc.

[Click here for more information.](#)

March 4, 10:00-12:00, Kingston Congregational Church

March 11

Big Lux with Special Guest, the Westerly High School Jazz Band

Join Westerly's own Big Lux as he makes his debut performance at the UNITED Theatre! He will be joined by the Westerly High School Jazz Band, a dynamic group that gave Lux his introduction to jazz and improvisation as a student. [Purchase tickets here.](#)

March 11, 7:00 pm



Culture Calendar

Feb 20 - **World Day of Social Justice**

"Social justice makes societies and economies function better and [reduces poverty, inequalities](#) and social tensions. It plays an important role in attaining more inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development paths and is key for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([2030 Agenda](#)), especially at a time when the achievement of those goals remains faraway." ([United Nations World Day of Social Justice](#))



Feb 21 - **Mardi Gras, Carnival**

Did you know that New Orleans did not host the first North American Mardi Gras? Are you aware of the connections between Black History and this annual pre-Lenten celebration? Take some time to learn something new about Mardi Gras and Carnival. Here are two brief sources with some surprising facts:

[9 Things You May Not Know About Mardi Gras](#)

[The Black History of Mardi Gras](#)

Image Source: [AFAR](#)

Up Next

Calendar of Events	
February 21	Towards an Anti-Racist North Kingstown Panel Discussion, 5:00 pm, North Kingstown Free Library "How to Talk about Race" 6:30-8:00 pm, North Kingstown Free Library
February 26	Children's Day at our weekly gathering, 11:00-1:00, post office steps
February 27	Town Council Meeting, 5:30 pm
March 1	Mark Charles, guest author; 6:00 pm; Christ Church in Westerly
March 1	School Committee Meeting, 5:00
March 4	A Witness to History: the Big Business to Slavery in Little Rhode Island , 10:00-12:00, Kingston Congregational Church
March 6	Town Council Meeting, 5:30
March 11	Big Lux with Special Guest, the Westerly High School Jazz Band , 7:00 pm, United Theater
March 15	School Committee Meeting, 5:00



Westerly Anti-Racism Coalition

Join our weekly gatherings

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.

[Unsubscribe](#)

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

