



[Read all about it!](#)

New ARC Column in the Westerly Sun

Be sure to check out the *Westerly Sun* from Thursday, March 23 for the [first of ARC's monthly columns](#)! We are excited to have this opportunity to educate a wider audience about the work we are all doing through Westerly ARC to understand the impact of racism and inequality in order to create a more inclusive community for everyone.

Please subscribe to the *Sun* to show your support. Share our column on social media and with your contacts. Write to the newspaper to comment on our column.

[Read ARC's Column](#)

Embrace



March 26

This Week

Join us this Sunday, March 26, as we continue our weekly peaceful gatherings and our celebration of the importance of women in our lives. Frank Pendola will share some of his beautiful songs and stories from his musical history. We are so grateful for these talented musicians who have joined our efforts.

Music has been a critical part of every historical social movement, bringing people together, inspiring and teaching through melody and adding a dimension of gratitude every time. At a moment's notice they are willing to perform and share their incredible talents. Frank, Geoff and Big Lux we can't thank you enough for all you bring to our gatherings.



Last Week

Sunday, March 19, we heard one of our local musicians, Geoff Kaufman, tell stories and sing some amazing songs from his repertoire of sailing music and his work with Pete Seeger. Geoff's music and words always promote deep thinking and conversation and help us to connect the calls for justice today with activism in previous times. In celebration of Women's History Month this week's songs included the stories of wives of Nantucket whaling ship captains who wrote of the clever ways in which they used their power during a time when women did not have the same rights as men.

Geoff finished with a very moving piece written by Pat Humphries which could easily be a theme song for Westerly ARC. [Read the beautiful and poignant lyrics to "Common Thread" here.](#) You could feel the passion of the group as we sang the chorus "We will rise all together, we will rise." You can also [listen to the song here.](#)

In a many colored garden we are growing side by side

We will rise all together we will rise

With the sun and rain upon us not a row shall be denied

We will rise all together we will rise.

We will rise like the ocean we will rise like the sun

We will rise all together we will rise

In our many coloured fabrics made from strands of common thread

Finally, Geoff recommended two novels which tie into the purpose of our weekly gatherings.

- [Horse](#) (Geraldine Brooks) Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, *Horse* is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.
- [The Time of Our Singing](#) (Richard Powers) Richard Powers's *The Time of Our Singing* is a story of self-invention, allegiance, race, cultural ownership, the compromised power of music, and the tangled loops of time that rewrite all belonging.

JUNETEENTH COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The Steering Committee of Westerly ARC is inviting anyone from the community who would like to be part of the planning process for this year's Juneteenth celebration to please come forward! This committee will prepare the events for our 3rd annual observance of this federal holiday that commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. Please sign up today by sending an email to westerlyarc@gmail.com or speaking to one of the organizers at the Sunday gathering. With everyone's help we can make this the best Juneteenth ever! The committee has convened and is looking for more volunteers. See Madeline or Leslie on Sunday or email us at westerlyarc@gmail.com.

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

Empower

March 27

Housing Town Hall



Let's Talk about Housing Issues

RI State Senator Victoria Gu, Town Council President Ed Morrone, Vice President Kevin Lowther, and

- Matthew Netto (AARP)
- Russ Partridge (Warm Center)

Mon Mar 27th 6-7:30pm
Westerly Library
RSVP & ask questions:
victoria4ri.com/town-hall

Please join RI State Senator Victoria Gu, Town Council President Ed Morrone, and Town Council Vice President Kevin Lowther on **Monday, March 27th, 6-7:30pm at the Westerly Library** for a town hall meeting about housing issues and proposed state legislation. AARP's Matthew Netto will talk about Accessory Dwelling Units, and Russ Partridge from the WARM Center will

talk about their work to help people in the community who are experiencing housing insecurity. We expect a few other RI State Representatives to be in attendance as well.

Click below to RSVP.

RSVP

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.

April 3 Town Council Meeting 5:30

April 5 School Committee Meeting 5:00

Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas:

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



Help Improve Our Newsletter

Help Wanted

Are you or someone you know interested in joining Westerly ARC's newsletter team? We are looking for help with any of the following:

- **Compiling, formatting, and publishing** – We will train you in how to use our newsletter template to add previously created content. You will work with an experienced person and be able to add your own ideas!
- **Creating content** – You will assist with researching and creating specific content for our newsletter. We have some ideas, and you can bring your own.
- **Taking photos** – Can you take some photos at our weekly gatherings on the post office steps and/or at other events? We'd love to use your photos in the newsletter.

Maybe you know a young person who is good with technology or would like to earn some community service hours! Click below to contact us if you are interested or talk to Madeline or Tim on Sunday. Thank you!

[Click here to contact us](#)

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 I 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.](#)

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 (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

LICENSING BOARD (AUXILIARY MEMBER)

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

HOUSING AUTHORITY (ONE MEMBER)

MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE (TWO MEMBERS)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (FULL MEMBER)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (AUXILIARY MEMBER)

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

BOARD OF FINANCE (TWO FULL MEMBERS)

CONCERTS ON THE BEACH COMMITTEE (TWO FULL MEMBERS)

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (ALTERNATE MEMBER)

MUNICIPAL LAND TRUST (FULL MEMBER)

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Act

[View our Calendar](#)

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



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

Culture Calendar

Transgender Day of Visibility -

March 31

In 2023, over 300 anti-LGBTQ bills have been filed so far, with over half specifically targeting trans people, particularly youth. This follows 2021 as the most anti-LGBTQ legislative session in history. This hypervisibility typically comes at the expense of

trans people who are demonized and scapegoated by politicians and in media.

That's why it's still necessary for trans people to be seen through authentic, diverse, and accurate stories to reflect the actual lived experiences of trans people; both for themselves and for those people who believe they've never met a trans person. (Read more from [GLAAD](#))



Up Next

Calendar of Events	
March 27	Housing Town Hall , Westerly Library, 6:00-7:30
April 3	Town Council Meeting, 5:30
April 5	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.



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