





April 16

## This Sunday

### Celebrating Earth Day

Some may wonder what Earth Day and climate change have in common with our efforts to stem the tide of racism in our country. Although all of us are feeling some of the consequences of climate change, its most devastating repercussions disproportionately affect members of our BIPOC family. BIPOC communities often suffer the consequences of air pollution, unsafe drinking water, toxic dumps and food deserts. All over the world impoverished countries are filled with plastic debris, deforested land, failed crops and rising sea levels. In an equitable society these discrepancies wouldn't exist.

While we are working to solve the climate crisis we must find ways to protect the most vulnerable through mitigation and building resilient communities. This means prioritizing the human needs of all people and providing the funding and research to save lives and livelihoods.

On Sunday, April 16 Geoff Kaufman, who sailed on *The Clearwater* with folk singer Pete Seeger, will perform songs reminiscent of his time as an environmental activist. Be sure to join us for what is sure to be an inspiring performance beginning at 12:00 on Sunday.



## Last Sunday

It was Easter Sunday and the sun was bright with a gentle chill in the air. Slowly the ARC community gathered to stand together once again in solidarity with all those who face discrimination and oppression. Meredith, our sidewalk artist, drew these inspiring words on the sidewalk from the Prophet Micah: "Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly." These are the tenants by which ARC supporters attempt to be standard-bearers of truth in these very difficult moments in our country's history.

As we gather each week we feel the strength of this beloved community. We are reminded that "the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice." With that in mind, we embrace each other with renewed hope and continue to move forward in solidarity.

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**JUNETEENTH COMMITTEE Plans are Evolving!**



The Juneteenth committee is planning a lovely celebration for Juneteenth 2023! This will be our 3rd year observing this federal holiday that commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. Sunday, June 18th is the proposed date with the theme "Celebrating the Journey" We will use our regular Sunday time from 11-1pm so as not to interfere with Father's Day. The exact location will be announced soon. There will be music, speakers, performers, crafts and traditional foods. All ages are welcome. If you would like to bring refreshments or help in any other way please contact us by sending an email to [westerlyarc@gmail.com](mailto:westerlyarc@gmail.com) or speak to one of the organizers at the Sunday gathering. With everyone's help we can make this the best Juneteenth ever!



# peace parade

**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.**

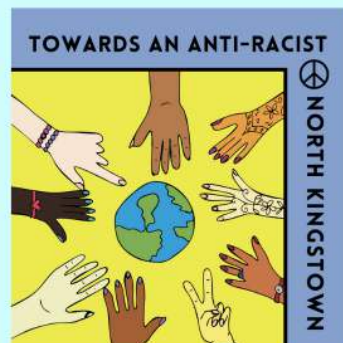
**Join us on Saturday, 4/29 at Saugutucket Park in Wakefield**

**Kid and pet friendly!  
Face painting for kids** **10am - 12pm**

**Snacks**

**Information**

**Activities for kids**



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

## EMPOWER



April 17

From the [The Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence](#) (RICAGV)

On Monday April 17 the House Judiciary Committee is hearing 2 priority bills including regulating

assault weapons and safe firearm storage. *Take action before Monday at 2 PM by contacting your representatives and urge them to support the passage of these bills to prevent gun violence.*

You can **read our two priority bills here** (regulating assault weapons and safe firearm storage): <https://www.ricagv.org/legislative-agenda/>

**Read our FACT SHEETS about each bill here:**

[Regulating Assault Weapons](#)

[Safe Firearm Storage](#)

Legislator Contact Info and Sample Script

## 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 17** Town Council Meeting 5:30 pm

**April 19** School Committee Meeting 5:00 pm

Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas:

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

### **Important School Committee Meeting April 19**

This Wednesday at 5:00 PM will be presenting an overview of the Equity Audit at the School Committee Meeting. We encourage folks to attend and show support for the findings that will help us understand where we are with respect to equity in the Westerly Schools. Please note the meeting will not be at the Town Hall but at Babcock Hall.

**Wednesday, April 19**

**5:00 pm (no Executive Session)**

**Babcock Hall**

[Help Improve Our Newsletter](#)

## **Help Wanted**

We're still hoping for a few more volunteers to assist with and expand our newsletter. Pass this along to anyone who you think might be interested.

- **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](#)

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# How You Can Help

[View our Calendar](#)

Besides the requests and ideas featured in this newsletter, here are a few ongoing ways to stay involved and help out.



## 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

### This Week in History

*Understanding the history of past injustices can inform us as we advocate for justice and equity today. This week, we are trying out a new section in our newsletter to help us all learn from the past. Let us know what you think and send us your ideas!*

Have you heard of the Colfax massacre in Louisiana, where approximately 150 Black people were killed by a mob of white men on Easter Sunday? Read this article from the Equal Justice Initiative to learn more about this tragic event and its aftermath: "[Armed White Mob Kills 150 Black Citizens After Gubernatorial Election In Colfax, Louisiana.](#)"

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# Picking Up Stones

An American Jew's Moral Dilemma

Written and Performed by

**Sandra Laub**

**April 23 @2PM**

**The Dragon's Egg**

401 Shewville Rd Ledyard, CT

Admission is free or with a donation

Seating is informal; bring a cushion or chair

*"an up to the minute one-woman play about what it feels like to be a liberal Jew in America- Laub brings heart, soul, an incisive mind and honed craft to this material"*

## Culture Calendar

### April 21\* **Eid al-Fitr**

"Eid ul Fitr, known as 'عيد الفطر' in Arabic and Asian countries, is a religious festival for all Muslims around the world. Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the holy month of **Ramadan**. **Eid al Fitr** is Allah's reward for believers who fasted during the holy month of Ramadan. This is also believers thanking Allah for giving them the chance and the strength to carry out His commands during the blessed month of Ramadan.

Traditionally, Eid al Fitr is celebrated for three days in almost all Muslim countries." Learn more at [Islamic Finder](#). (\*The exact date is subject to the sighting of the moon.)



### April 22 **Earth Day**

"This annual celebration is an opportunity to raise awareness and advocate for change around the issues most impacting our planet – and celebrate the beauty of Mother Earth." Read more and learn Earth Day facts, some good news about the environment, and [31 Ideas to Meaningfully Celebrate Earth Day](#).

## Up Next



## Calendar of Events

April 17	Town Council Meeting, 5:30
April 19	School Committee Meeting, 5:00
April 23	" <a href="#">Picking Up Stones</a> " at the Dragon's Egg, Ledyard, 2 pm
April 29	Peace Parade, Saugatucket Park in Wakefield, 10 am-12 pm



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### Westerly Anti-Racism Coalition

Join our weekly gatherings

Sundays 11-1

Downtown Westerly Post Office steps



westerlyarc@gmail.com

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