

February 26

This Week: Children's Day

Every month or so we provide a special day for all the children and young at heart in our loving and beautiful community. As Black History Month draws to a close we will celebrate with our children the contributions made by our African American brothers and sisters. The day will include a story read by Leslie Dunn, music by Frank Pendola, refreshments by Chris Davidson and a special performance by two of our youngest activists, Aniyah and Aleiyah. Crafts will also be available for those inspired by art.

Children of all ages are encouraged to come and join in the celebration.



Last Week

Thanks to Frank Pendola for reading us this beautiful poem on Sunday, February 19 as we gathered together as a community on the post office steps. Frank also sang the song inspired by these words written by Joe South "Walk A Mile In My Shoes" from the folk songs of the 70's. Thanks again to our resident troubadour who continues to brighten our Sundays with his powerful music.

Judge Softly by Mary T. Lathrap 1895

Pray, don't find fault with the man that limps,
Or stumbles along the road
Unless you have worn the moccasins he wears,
Or stumbled beneath the same load.

There may be tears in his soles that hurt
Though hidden away from view.
The burden he bears placed on your back
May cause you to stumble and fall, too.

Don't sneer at the man who is down today
Unless you felt the same blow
That caused the fall or felt the blow
That only the fallen know

Read the entire poem here.

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.



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>

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.](#)

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

[Help Improve Our Newsletter](#)

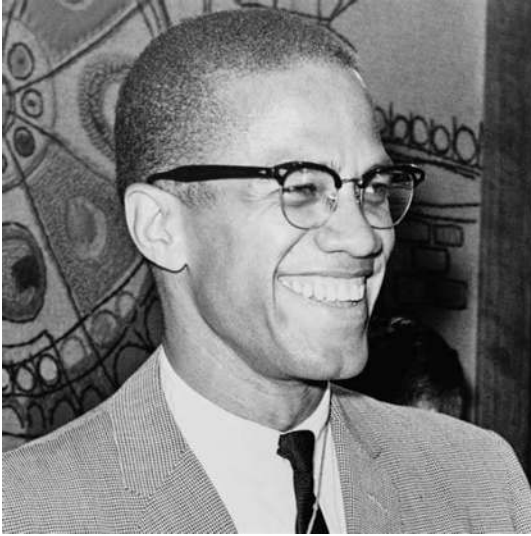
Help Wanted

Are you 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!
- **Content creators** - You will assist with researching and creating specific content for our newsletter. We have some ideas, and you can bring your own.

Click below to contact us if you are interested or have any questions. Thank you!

Educate



Who Was Malcolm X?

Malcolm X, later known as el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz, grew up in a poor family in Michigan. While imprisoned for robbery, he converted to the Nation of Islam (NOI). After his release, he became a major figure of the Civil Rights Movement by promoting Black nationalism, self-defense, and liberation. He later left the NOI, converted to orthodox Sunni Islam, and founded the Organization of Afro-American Unity. In 1965, he was

assassinated while giving a speech in New York City ([Britannica](#)).

You may be familiar with the information above, but you are sure to learn something new in [this article](#) from Anti-Racism Daily. This reflection question from the article is well worth considering: *How does your understanding of Malcolm X's legacy differ from what you learned growing up (if you learned about him at all)? Where did you first learn about him?*

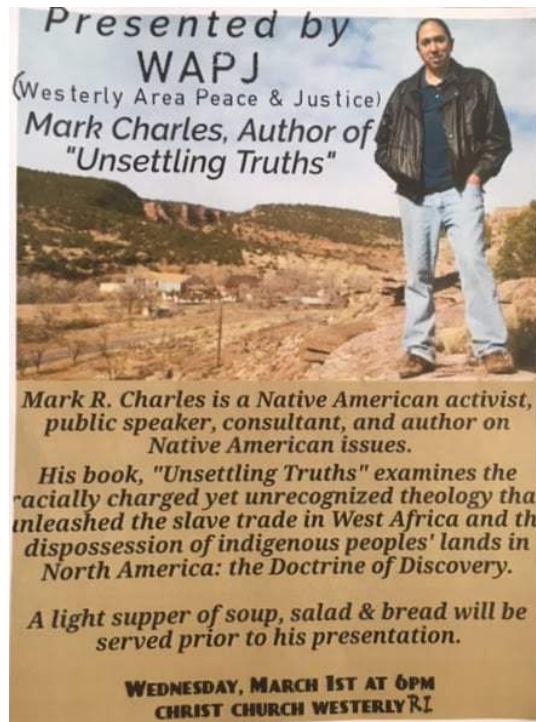
[Read more about Malcolm X here.](#)

Lincoln's Birthday and the Birth of the NAACP

In her popular and award-winning nightly newsletter "[Letters from an American](#)," Harvard-educated professor of history at Boston College, Heather Cox Richardson considers current political issues within the broad sweep of American history. In a recent post, she traces the birth of the nation's leading organization in the fight for racial equity. She says, "On February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky. Exactly 100 years later, journalists, reformers, and scholars meeting in New York City deliberately chose the anniversary of his birth as the starting point for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ([NAACP](#)).



They vowed, "to promote equality of rights and eradicate caste or race prejudice among citizens of the United States; to advance the interest of colored citizens; to secure for them impartial suffrage; and to increase their opportunities for securing justice in the courts, education for their children, employment according to their ability, and complete equality before the law."
[Read more here.](#)



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

[Click here for more information.](#)

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
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.



Dennis Culliton
Executive Director & Co-Chairman of The Witness Stones Project, Inc.



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

Zero Discrimination Day - March 1

Zero Discrimination Day is a global movement that takes place on March 1 every year. Headed by UNAIDS, the day is a call to action for eradicating discrimination in all forms and promoting social inclusion and tolerance. Not everyone enjoys the same level of privilege, but to deprive someone of their right to live the way they desire is a travesty. Every individual has the right to live with dignity, regardless of appearance, race, geography, or belief. ([National Today](#))



This year's theme for Zero Discrimination Day is "Save lives: Decriminalize." [Read more here.](#)

image source: [Visual Art Ideas](#)

Up Next

Calendar of Events	
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](#)

