



## **WESTERLY AREA PEACE AND JUSTICE**

### **Mission Statement**

*To witness and work for the causes of peace and justice among ourselves and in our community.*

**Minutes for Westerly Area Peace and Justice (WAPJ) meeting held on November 3, 2025**  
**We met at the Quaker meetinghouse**

### **Annual Events and Activities**

1. January 1: World Day of Peace
2. January: Martin Luther King Commemoration
3. September: International Day of Peace Sept 21

**Participants:** Pam McDonald, Linda Stillman, Caroline Hanssen, David Madden, Dottie Stumpf, Maureen Logan, Frank Thacker, Marlies Parent, Edie Morren, Ellen Dodge

**We observed two minutes of centering silence**

### **Strategic Alliance**

1. Linda told us the purpose of the Strategic Alliance (SA) is to create friendly partnerships among organizations and businesses having a philosophy similar to the United Nations
2. There are no binding commitments that are expected from those organizations that are part of the SA
3. Organizations support each other by publicizing, co-sponsoring (not necessarily with money) and/or participating in events of others
4. The SA website advertises and supports initiatives and programs among member organizations and businesses
5. Linda emphasized that WAPJ is doing the work of the UN's global initiative on the local level even if we don't fully realize it
6. There are 169 UN human rights and development "targets" and similar goals have been happening in this area
7. After Linda spoke at Westerly High School to create awareness of the work the UN is doing, a lot of excitement was generated, one student spoke of the possibility of creating

connections and similar goals that align with UN targets among the 40 clubs that students take part in

8. Concern was expressed about the possibility that not every organization and business would be in agreement about being associated with a particular event; Linda replied that an event or activity that is political in nature (such as support or not for Israel regarding the War in Gaza) would not be publicized and supported and that she would be the one to make a judgement on what would or would not be allowable
9. Linda's goal is to promote Westerly as a hallmark community, a blueprint for rest of country for how to bring the goals and methods of the Young Global Leadership Foundation to the local level. <https://www.yglf.org>

### **WAPJ Retreat**

1. The retreat will be held at Frank Thacker's home, 38 Valley Drive, Westerly from 9AM to 1PM on Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> (see attachment)

### **Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC)**

1. Concern was expressed about the crisis of food insecurity for needy families and individuals with the interruption of SNAP money due to the government shutdown
2. The PNC is the best place for people who wish to donate in response to the crisis place
3. <https://pawcatuckneighborhoodcenter.org/donate/>

### **Annual Martin Luther King Commemoration**

1. Pam has been communicating with Bill Lancelotta and the Westerly Library
2. We will meet once again at the library, this year on Thursday, January 15 from 5:30 to 7:30
3. The program will consist of watching the film "King in Chicago" and discussing in small groups, this will depend on having the license rights to show it; Bill is looking into this
4. Refreshments, discussion leaders, and advertising are still needed at this time

### **People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE)**

1. Pam told us how PACE has created a database to show how much energy of different kinds is being used in all 169 towns in CT this will be used to help towns determine how to plan for more efficient ways to use energy
2. <https://www.pacecleanenergy.org/pace-services/#DATA>

### **Peace Pole News**

1. The Peace Pole Group will meet on Thursday, November 20 from 1:00 to 2:00 at Frank's home, 38 Valley Drive, Westerly
2. The Presbyterian Church will soon have a Peace Pole
3. The Westerly Rotary Club is now the Rotary Peace Club
4. Darren and Frank will create a documentary of peace exhibit at the Artist Cooperative Gallery of Westerly, 14 Railroad Avenue, Westerly
5. A representative from Nonviolent Schools Rhode Island will speak to the Rotary Club in the near future

Caroline shared an update with us on Mrs. Moon, the 82-year-old leader of the Unification Church (Family Federation for World Peace and Unification), who is currently in frail health and recovering from a recent heart procedure. She has experienced a worsening health condition while in detention in South Korea on bribery charges.

Marlies suggested the book Indigenous Peoples History of the United States

<https://www.beacon.org/Roxanne-Dunbar-Ortizs-Indigenous-Peoples-History-of-the-United-States-A-Graphic-Interpretation-P2123.aspx>

We will meet for WAPJ retreat at Frank's home, 38 Valley Drive, Westerly on Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 1:00.

The next meeting of WAPJ will be on December 1 at 12:00PM at the Quaker meetinghouse, 57 Elm Street, Westerly

Respectfully Submitted,  
David Madden  
WAPJ, secretary  
November 8, 2025