WeRISE NEWSLETTER

Jeni's Fundraiser

3998 Gramercy St, Columbus

Join WeRISE at Easton Jeni's Ice Cream for an ice cream social fundraiser on Election Day, Tuesday, November 4th, from 3-6pm. We've curated a special combo for our guests called Rich Harmony (Brambleberry Crisp and Salted Peanut Butter with Chocolate Flecks). Between 3-6pm 25% of your purchase will go towards helping WeRISE host future community events!

Santa is coming!

545 S Otterbein Ave, 43081

Enjoy holiday festivities with WeRISE on Sunday December 14 from 2-4 at Family Room Coffee and Bakeshop! There will be hot chocolate, candy, and photos with Santa available for family fun!

Model Mentor Program

Westerville City Schools

Our Westerville middle schoolers are looking for mentors for the 2025-2026 mentorship program. Help students build confidence, character, and leadership skills by meeting once a month during the school day. If you are looking to create a positive impact in your community, reach out to WCSModelProgram@westerville.k12.oh.us by November 14, 2025.

Westerville Public Library - November

126 South State Street, 43081

Stop into the Westerville Public Library in November to celebrate Native American Heritage Month, you can learn about the origins of the Tribes of Turtle Island and participate in family friendly activities like coloring.

Local Spotlight: Over Grown

10 North State Street, 43081

Over Grown is a tropical house plant boutique dedicated to helping everyone enhance their lives through successful plant ownership. We offer a curated selection of houseplants, stylish pots, accessories, and plant-themed attire, expert repotting services, home and business plant consulting, and a monthly plant subscription. What sets us apart is our commitment to education—we empower our customers with the knowledge and confidence they need to thrive as plant parents.

Building Community

Westerville Queer Collective (WQC)

Food Pantry – Donate to or use the food pantry organized by WQC located inside Java Central in Uptown Westerville.

Queer Little Libraries – Host a library on your lawn that will feature intersectional & BIPOC authors. Books will be supplied by WQC. Fill out a form here to enroll!

Finding Support - Visit the WQC Resource Guide or call the Trevor Project hotline +18887346197 if you need help.

Ella Baker Statue Unveiling

Ohio State – Newark, OH

Artist Dana King unveiled *a luta continua*, the first sculpture ever of Ms. Ella Baker. Ms. King, who "creates Black bodies in bronze," sculpted a stunning piece of art

that not only recognizes Ms. Baker but also showcases many of the organizations she worked with. The statue is a tribute to Baker's lifelong commitment to challenging injustice and cultivating leadership among marginalized people.

The statue is a representation of courage in the face of oppression, a refusal to accept being silenced, inspiration for the enduring struggle. This statue calls us to reflect on our history as well as our responsibility. Our responsibility to carry on the work of civil rights activists like Ms. Baker. Our responsibility to learn the truth about our nation's development and its persistent injustices. And our responsibility to work toward creating a just and equitable society.

Prior to the unveiling, those in attendance heard from SNCC activist Courtland Cox and civil rights historian and OSU professor, Dr. Hasan Jeffries. WeRISE board member, and Ohio State Newark faculty member, Dr. Tiyi Morris moderated the panel during which Mr. Cox and Dr. Jeffries reflected on the past and the future by providing context on Baker's life and the Civil Rights Movement. The event was a wonderful commemoration of the legacy of Black women's activism through the life and work of Ms. Ella Baker.

Community Discussion

Email weriseforgw@gmail.com with your comments

WeRISE is dedicated to cultivating learning spaces that further racial healing and normalize a culture of equity and justice. A part of creating such spaces means engaging the community in discussions about how different platforms can influence the public discourse. Our email is open to receive comments on this short post by Dean Shareski (2025) about the loss of civil discourse (click here to read). Below are a few questions to think about after reading the post, WeRISE encourages readers to share their thoughts on the topics in the post and may share some responses in the next newsletter.

How do you help your media literacy keep up with the widespread way in which AI is being used? From creating videos or other visuals, to help writing interview prompts, or preparing statistics, how do you evaluate the credibility of the information you are receiving.

When was the last time you engaged in conversation with someone who held a viewpoint different than your own in attempt to understand the other person? What was the subject of the conversation and how did you work to keep the conversation civil? Was this an in-person conversation or did it take place virtually?

Do you find yourself more hesitant now than in previous years to initiate conversations with people who have different viewpoints that yourself? Why or why not?