

December 1, 2019

The Westport Wave

Published by the Westport Village Society, P. O. Box 446, Westport, CA 95488

Home For The Holidays

Steve Brigham, Editor

Gosh, it sure is nice to be home for the Holidays! But this year, after ten wonderful years of living on the Westport Headlands, Donna and I are in a new home (which we really love) in Forks, Washington. Forks is known as the gateway to the Northwest Washington Rainforest and Olympic National Park (it's also known as the fictional setting of the *Twilight* book series, but I promise you that we aren't vampires, nor are at least most of the people who live here!)

Forks is a friendly, self-sufficient town of 3000 people, just 14 miles inland from the beautiful small tribal seaside town of La Push. We are in the middle of a vast tree farming region, which is managed as an eco-friendly renewable natural resource. On average, we do get a lot of rain here (100 inches a year), which is why Donna and I love it here so much. Even if it's a dry year, we still get a lot of rain, and we are always green. Here we have all the goods and services available that we have come to expect in Fort Bragg, and yet we are still just a one-stoptlight town with all businesses locally owned and operated – no chain stores of any sort. Everyone knows everyone, just like in Westport, and we all care for one another while still respecting everyone's individual freedoms. A



"When you see a Forks in the road, take it!" - Yogi Berra

model, perhaps, of a 21st Century locally sustainable community? Well, we think so, absolutely!

Our new home (we moved here at the end of October) is a completely restored, very spacious 90-year-old farmhouse surrounded by trees and fields and our new friends the cows and elk! A huge herd of wild elk passes through our front yard every few days, and they are very nice and polite folks indeed!

You'll be hearing more about Forks, Washington in the *Westport Wave* in the coming months – mainly because I'm still happy to remain as your *Westport Wave* Editor (it's mostly an internet job anyway, so really my job hasn't changed). Until then, a very **Happy Holidays, Happy Hanukkah, and Merry Christmas** to all of you from Donna, me, Kitty-Cat, and all the cows and elk here at Happy Acres North!



The Switzer Farm (at left, in its salad days) has never looked better than it does today! Come see the restoration progress on Dec.7th!

also from 3:00PM to 5:00PM on Saturdays through December 14th for Tea. We will be Closed from December 15th through February 12th and re-opening February 13th.

Please see our flyer on page 9 of this newsletter for our special events in December, including Paint Night in the Parlor on December 6th and Holiday Tunes with Erin Brazill on December 14th.

Please call (707) 964-3688 for reservations and more information, and like our Facebook page for more info., weekly specials, and “Local Love”! Happy Holidays!

<https://www.facebook.com/abalonepub>

December 7th Holiday Party at The Switzer Farm (Fee House) in Westport Saturday, December 7th

Gary Weiss

Gary and Michiko Weiss and their daughters Maia and Tashi would like to invite all Westporters to join us for a holiday open house party at our place (36700 North Highway 1) on Saturday, December 7th, between 3:30 and 7:00PM. It's our chance to meet those we haven't yet met, to get to know better those of you we have met, and to celebrate the Holidays with all of you. We will have good food (Tashi, Maia, and their friend Michael are cooking) and beverages, and hope you can just bring yourselves and good cheer. Casual!

Please RSVP to Gary at garyevanweiss@gmail.com or 415-939-5862 by December 4th, 2019 to let us know if you can make it!

December at the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub

Tabby Korhummel, Hotel and Pub General Manager

The Old Abalone Pub is open in December from 5:00PM to 8:00PM on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays thru December 14th for Dinner, and



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PUB!

Westport Holiday Tree Lighting 5:15PM Sunday, December 15th

Sarah Cullar

This year our Holiday Tree Lighting and activities for the kids will be on Sunday, December 15th.

Activities will include holiday crafts, decorating the tree, the tree lighting itself, a visit from Santa, and a Holiday movie. Ornament making will be from 3:00PM to 4:45PM at the Community Center. At about 4:45PM, we'll head down to the tree site across from the Westport Community Store and let the kids finish decorating the tree. The plan is to plug in the tree around 5:15PM, and then head back up to the Community Center for a visit from Santa and a holiday movie with popcorn, hot cocoa, and hot apple cider. Anyone is welcome to come participate and watch all the fun, or at least be there for the lighting of our Westport Holiday Tree!



Come join the fun on December 15th!





On December 15th, Katy Tahja will present “An Eclectic History of Mendocino County”

Mendocino County History Talk & Book Signing Sunday, December 15th at 2:00PM in Westport

Thad Van Bueren

Why are there herds of white deer scattered around the center of the county? What was Winston Churchill doing here in 1929? What time in history was Ukiah growing tobacco, and why? A lady stagecoach driver had a route through the interior of the county – what unique skill did she have? For answers to these and other history mysteries, local historian Katy Tahja presents readers with the first new history of the area in 100 years, “An Eclectic History of Mendocino County.”

At the **Westport Community Hall on Sunday December 15th at 2:00PM**, Tahja will share tidbits of history from Mendocino County and her photo collection, for a look at what’s happened from 1852 to 2002. Rather than dry statistics, she will focus on interesting vignettes that tell behind-the-scenes stories such as tales of an indigenous woman using native plants, a lady lighthouse keeper, and a whorehouse madam. Along with exploration and discovery of the county, native culture, settlers arriving, agriculture, industry, transportation, flora and fauna and more, readers will discover interesting critters, people,

places, and things they might never have heard about before.

Katy Tahja is a retired librarian who married into a family that arrived in Comptche in 1883. She and her husband raised a family and there are now three generations living on the family ranch with her grandson going to the same one room school his mom attended 30 years ago. She is the author of several previous books including *Logging Railroads of Humboldt & Mendocino Counties*, *Early Mendocino Coast*, *Humboldt State University*, *Rails Across the Noyo: Trackage History of the Skunk Train*, and a little book called *All Roads Lead to Comptche*. She and her husband are docents at the Kelley House Museum in Mendocino, and she is a newspaper columnist with professional storytelling skills.

The Westport Community Garden

Thad Van Bueren

Now in our 8th year, the **Westport Community Garden** at the Westport Community Center (top of Abalone Street) produces delicious and nutritious fresh, organically grown vegetables that you can pick yourself at any time, **ABSOLUTELY FREE!** The Garden is open to **EVERYONE** and is supported by your donations to the Westport Village Society. The greenhouse has been recovered with a new heavy duty plastic shell, and winter crops are coming in nicely. Please contact Thad at 964-7272 if you’d like to lend a hand, or just show up anytime to pull weeds, plant starts, and harvest some fresh organic veggies.

In December we’ll have romaine lettuce, butter lettuce, red leaf lettuce, arugula, Italian parsley, cilantro, onion chives, French thyme, Greek oregano, lemon balm, green curly kale, mixed purple kale, Chinese snow peas, strawberries, Italian green beans, green string beans, broccoli, and lots of carrots. Stop by the Garden frequently for fresh additions to your meals. It’s all organic – we never ever use pesticides or chemical fertilizers.

Please note that Aimee’s Saturday morning fitness class at the Westport Community Hall will take a break for winter, resuming in the Spring. Thanks, and Happy Holidays! – Aimee Maxey



*Ring the bells that still
can ring
Forget your perfect
offering
There is a crack in
everything
That's how the Light
gets in*

-- Leonard Cohen

**Sign Up to Use The Westport
Community Hall And Church**

You can reserve the Westport Community Hall or the Westport Church for classes and other activities by placing your event on the Community Hall and Church Calendar at the Westport Store. Reservations are on a first come basis. Donations are welcome to help sustain the facilities. Please leave the buildings in better condition than you found them, turning off lights and appliances, removing trash, cleaning, and locking up. No smoking or alcohol use is allowed. Please contact Val at 489-6380 or Thad at 964-7272.

**Westport Community Church
December Spiritual Programs**

Baile Oakes

**2nd Sunday, December 8th, 10:00AM
Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group**

This discussion group is focused upon Thich Nhat Hahn's Book: "Living Buddha, Living Christ". No need to have the book. We will share passages from the book and discuss how they might or might not influence how we show up for ourselves and all Creation.

**4th Sunday, December 22nd, 10:00AM
Monthly Quaker Worship Group**

Katharine White continues to gift our community with a Quaker Worship Group meeting. Katharine usually begins with a reading from Quaker passages, then leads us in a quiet meditation. Participants are encouraged to share thoughts that arise during this time of meditation. This is followed by Katharine leading us in a shared discussion of our experience, including sharing of any of our thoughts or readings that one is inspired to bring to the group. This has been and will continue to be a very peace-filled and nurturing experience.

**Court-Ordered Community Service
Opportunities in Westport**

Do you need to serve court-ordered Community Service or serve in a Sheriff's Department Work Release program? Why not serve it in your community? We would value your time! There are several places and varied types of work in Westport where you can provide your hours and get credit towards the satisfaction of your court order, including work for the Westport Volunteer Fire Department, Westport-Ten Mile Cemetery District, and the Westport Village Society. Jobs include weed cutting, painting, handyman work, and more. If you are interested, please call Gary Quinton, (707) 964-7073.



Sinterklaas in Groningen, Netherlands in 2015

A Brief History of Santa Claus

Thad Van Bueren

In a newsletter some years back I shared the story of the origin of the humble doughnut, a tradition rooted in the Dutch celebration of New Year's Eve. That delicacy, called *olieballen* (literally "dough balls boiled in oil"), was brought to the American continent by Dutch immigrants settling in New York and elsewhere. My family made them with dried fruit and nuts, sort of like an apple fritter, but topped with powdered sugar like freshly fallen snow.

This year I thought I would share the origin of Santa Claus, another tradition with deep roots in the Netherlands. It all began in the distant past several long centuries ago. Sinterklaas (pronounced "sintər'klas") is a feast celebrated annually with the giving of gifts like candy and oranges on St. Nicholas' Eve December 5th. Saint Nicholas is the legendary patron saint of children and the source of the popular Christmas icon Santa Claus. Did you know?

Sinterklaas is based on the historical figure of Saint Nicholas (AD 270–343), a Greek bishop of Myra in modern Turkey. He is depicted as an elderly man with white hair and a long, full beard. He wears a long red cape over a traditional white bishop's alb, often with a red stole, red mitred hat, and ruby ring. He typically holds a golden shepherd's staff (called a "crook").

Sinterklaas traditionally rides a white horse named Amerigo and carries a book in which is written whether each child has been good or naughty in the past year.

Sinterklaas is assisted by Zwarte Piet ("Black Pete"), a blackface helper dressed in 16th-century noble Moorish attire such as a lace collar and feathered cap. Zwarte Piet typically carries a chimney sweep's broom and a bag with candy for good children and lumps of coal for bad ones. Ancient songs mention naughty children were put in Zwarte Piet's bag and taken back to Spain. This part of the legend refers to the period when Moors raided the European coasts as far as north as Iceland to acquire slaves. This helper's blackface

appearance has been attributed in more recent centuries to his delivery of gifts down sooty chimneys.

On the evening of December 5th, adults pretend to act on behalf of Sinterklaas and his helpers to fool children into thinking the Saint has delivered their presents. A note is often found accompany gifts, usually containing a humorous poem that teases the recipient for well-known bad habits or other character deficiencies. I can remember my Dutch maternal grandmother sent a Sinterklaas package each year with tasty treats. It always included Droste chocolate, spiced *speculaas* cookies shaped like windmills, *stropwafel* (caramel waffle cookie), Hopjes coffee candies, and a special treat imported from Indonesia called *Assam cookjes* that were made of sugar soaked in the essence of Tamarind fruit.

Saint Nicholas Day is December 6th, the day this celebration is observed in neighboring Belgium, Luxembourg and northern France (French Flanders, Lorraine and Artois). The tradition is also celebrated in territories of the former Dutch Empire including Curaçao in the Caribbean, Suriname in South America, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. It's just one of many diverse cultural traditions celebrated during this month. However you celebrate in December, may the spirit of community, peace, and love abound! Have a great New Year too!



Westport 2020 Calendar

Cover of the 2020 Westport Wall Calendar

order them from the WVS for a donation of \$10 (for WVS members) or \$12.50 (for non-members). Shipping by mail is included. You might consider giving them as gifts. Mail orders should be sent to the address listed below telling us where to send your order and enclosing a check made out to the Westport Village Society.

Please support our organization and enjoy historic scenes each month that connect you with our community. We welcome your input and

suggestions for future calendars! We also welcome donations of historic images. For mail orders write : **Westport Village Society, P.O. Box 446, Westport CA 95488.** This is a busy time for the postal service, so get your order in soon or buy your copy at the Westport Community Store or Westport Hotel. We will also have them for sale following the History Talk December 15th at the Westport Community Hall.

2020 Westport Calendars Available Now, Make Great Holiday Gifts!

Thad Van Bueren

The Westport Village Society 2020 Wall Calendar is now available for sale at local outlets or by mail order from WVS. The cover photo is shown here. Each month features local historic photographs from our substantial WVS archive. The calendar is an 8.5x11 format that spreads open to 11x17 and can be hung from a punched hole. It specifies major holidays and quarter moon phases, along with key Westport events like the Great Rubber Ducky Races and the WVFD Annual BBQ.

You can purchase the calendars directly at local outlets including the **Westport Community Store** and the **Westport Hotel** for \$12.50 each, or mail

24/7 Westport Wave

This month's *Westport Wave* and over 7 years of monthly back-issues are always free to everyone at any time on the Newsletter page of our website www.westportvillagesociety.org – in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS! (by Kathryn LeMieux)

December 2019
Westport Calendar

- Tuesday, December 3rd** – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Monthly Meeting cancelled (see <http://www.westportmac.org/>)
- Thursday, December 5th** – Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Community Store
- Thursday, December 5th** – Sinterklaas Eve (see page 6)
- Friday, December 6th** – Paint Night in the Parlor with Derek DiOrio, 5:00-7:00PM, Westport Hotel
- Saturday, December 7th** – Weiss Holiday Party at the Switzer-Fee House, 3:30PM to 7:00PM (see page 2)
- Saturday, December 7th** – Fort Bragg Tree Lighting Ceremony, 6:00PM at the Guest House, followed by the Holiday Lights Parade at 7:00PM, Downtown Fort Bragg
- Sunday, December 8th** – Monthly Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church
- Wednesday, December 11th** – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Firehouse
- Wednesday, December 11th** – Full Moon, 9:12PM
- Saturday, December 14th** – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Firehouse

- Saturday, December 14th** – Holiday Tunes with Erin Brazill and Riley, 6:00PM, Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub (see page 9)
- Sunday December 15th** – Katy Tahja History Talk and Book Signing, 2:00PM, Westport Community Hall (See page 4)
- Sunday December 15th** – Holiday Ornament Making, 3:00PM, Westport Community Hall
- Sunday, December 15th** – Westport Community Holiday Tree Lighting, 5:15PM, Westport Community Store (see page 3)
- Thursday, December 19th** – Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Community Store
- Sunday, December 22nd** – Monthly Quaker Worship Group, 10:00AM, Westport Community Church
- Sunday, December 22nd** – Hanukkah Begins at Sundown
- Tuesday, December 24th** – Christmas Eve
- Wednesday, December 25th** – Christmas Day
- Wednesday, December 25th** – New Moon, 9:15PM
- Thursday, December 26th** – Kwanzaa
- Thursday, December 26th** – Boxing Day
- Monday, December 30th** – Last Day of Hanukkah
- Tuesday, December 31st** – New Year’s Eve
- Wednesday, January 1st, 2020** – New Year’s Day

The Westport Wave is a free monthly community newsletter published by the **Westport Village Society**, a non-profit community-benefit organization. Internet subscribers to *The Wave* receive their **COLOR** copies on or before the first day of every month by e-mail. Printed (black-and-white) copies of our current newsletter are also available for free at the Westport Community Store. **Check out our website www.westportvillagesociety.org, to read and download both our current issue and over seven years of past issues of *The Wave*.** Contributions for our January 1st, 2020 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by December 27th, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thank You!

MUSIC AND EVENTS AT THE WESTPORT HOTEL

11/30 Matthew Westmorland

12/6 5-7pm Paint Night in the Parlor

12/7 Chad Swimmer

12/14 Holiday tunes with Erin Brazill and Riley

CLOSED 12/15/19- 2/12/20

February 14th Five course Valentine dinner

EVENTS:

12/6 5-7pm Paint Night in the Parlor:

Join artist Derek DiOrio for another fun night of art, games, laughter and friends! All supplies will be provided to create block prints perfect for holiday cards and gifts.

12/7 & 12/14 Holiday teas:

Dorine will be serving her delightful holiday themed tea the first two Saturdays in December. Gather with loved ones for a memorable holiday experience

12/14 our last night of the year:

Celebrate the season with Erin Brazill singing her favorite holiday tunes and more. Bring your friends and family to enjoy a meal together on our last night of the year.

2/13/2020 Reopening celebration

Happy hour from 5:30-6:30pm with ½ price pints, wine, cocktails, appetizers and music

2/14/20 five course Valentine's Day romantic dinner

Roses, champagne, beautiful music & ocean views