

Are You Ready For Thirteen?

Steve Brigham, Editor

You may have noticed that the world didn't end on December 21st! So now I've got to face the music. You see, I've always been somewhat of a triskaidekaphobic, which is a rather silly way of saying that I've always been a bit fearful of (actually it's more like having a great respect for) the number thirteen. And now that we've just endured the latest Mayan 13th b'ak'tun, we've got our own Year 2013 to deal with – all year long!

You can say a lot about the number thirteen – lots of folks are leery about any Friday the 13th, of course, and many tall buildings don't even list a 13th floor. There were 13 original colonies that formed the eventually mighty USA – but the USA is only 237 years old this year, and we've definitely had a troubled history, including our fateful Apollo 13 space mission 43 years ago, which lifted off at 13:13 Military Time in the afternoon (what were they thinking?) Now many of our cognitive behaviorist friends might tell us that there really is no such thing as an “unlucky number” – it's just that we only remember the relatively few times that a number seems unlucky, and ignore the majority of times that it isn't. OK, fine – I'll just have to deal with it!

On a different subject, perhaps you're reading this on New Year's Day morning. And if you are, maybe you're feeling just a little woozy from last night's partying! But did you know that even if you stand perfectly still, you're always still moving in nine different directions at once? Our Earth is moving by itself and through the cosmos all the time in plenty of different ways to make you dizzy, including a 26,000-year-cycle “wobble” on its axis. So back to The-End-of-The-World-That-Didn't-Happen, this month in *The Wave*, we've got a great article by John Allison on page 3 explaining how the world may really well have changed on December 21st, in part due to our Earth's “wobble” being divided (astrologically, from our



Tom Burnham “signs in” at WVS 20th Anniversary.

viewpoint) into 13 (uh-oh!) 2000-year astrological sectors. This is a great story, with a happy ending!

Looking ahead to January, please note that our own Thad Van Bueren is on Sunday, January 20th at 1 PM at the Westport Church going to present his long-awaited program on his new and definitive Westport area history book Belonging To Places. See page 3 for more on that, and definitely plan on attending this conveniently scheduled talk, which will have plenty of time for questions and dialog, and is the perfect time to buy one or more of the remaining first-printing books and have Thad sign them!

And looking back at December 2012, we all sure had a great time at our Westport Village Society 20th Anniversary Party at The Westport Hotel, which celebrated our first two decades of community involvement in modern-day Westport. We had great food and libations for all, plus a continuous slide show of some of our many community projects over the last 20 years, and even a Holiday tree trimmed with Rubber Duckies that our guests signed and placed! Thanks to all who attended and made this great event possible, especially Lee and Dorine for providing such a wonderful venue!



WVS 20th Anniversary party on Dec. 9, 2012.

Again presuming that you're reading this on New Year's Day morning, I always realize that my editorials can make anyone dizzy, whether they've been partying the night before or are just standing still! So here's the cure – meet up with Thad and me at the Ranger Station at Westport-Union Landing State Beach at 10AM for our New Year's Day Walk and Talk, and after that, go to the Westport Hotel for their New Year's Day Hoppin' John Brunch (if you don't know what Hoppin' John is, you'll just have to go there to find out!) Yep, this is Westport, and we think of everything!

One more thing – I just realized that although we now mark the beginning of Christian Year 2013, it's actually the 14th year in this new 21st Century! We've **finished** our 13th year, so we don't have to worry about that anymore! I feel better now!

New Programs at the Westport Community Center

Tabitha Korhummel

The Mendocino Coast Parks and Recreation District has begun the process of starting an enrichment program in Westport! The mission of the MCRPD is to provide opportunities on the Mendocino Coast that promote physical and mental well-being for everyone, through active play, community enrichment programs, and events. The MCRPD serves the entire Mendocino County Coastal Region from Gualala to Westport, encompassing the FBUSD Boundaries with the fairly recent annexation of the Westport area.

The enrichment program will include but not be limited to Tiny Tots Tumbling, Zumbatomic (ages 4-12), Yoga, Belly dance, Gardening, Sewing, Cooking classes, and after school study time with internet access. Utilizing the Westport Community Garden, Church, and School building, the program will provide enrichment for all ages, and give our community more opportunities to "get together." This will save us all time and gas money by not having to drive to Fort Bragg or beyond to take a class, and it's a pretty exciting thing if you ask me!

We hope to start the programs soon. Please take a few moments to get involved, since this community's input is vital! Would you like to take or teach a class? What classes are you interested in? What days and times work best for you? Please email your ideas to tabikat@mcn.org, or call me at 367-0010 to chat.

Winter Comfort Food

Barbara Anderson

With the Holidays over, it's a nice change to get back to simpler (and less expensive) fare for a while! Here's an easy and quick recipe that is great for a winter "comfort food" supper – perfect on a cold rainy evening. Use this recipe "as is," or invent your own variations on the theme!

Mac 'N Cheese Jalapeno

4 ounces (one cup) dry elbow macaroni
 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
 2 tablespoons seeded and diced jalapeno chiles
 2 teaspoons minced garlic
 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 1 cup milk
 2 ounces (3/4 cup) shredded sharp cheddar cheese
 2 ounces (3/4 cup) shredded American cheese
 salt to taste

Cook macaroni, drain, and set aside. Melt butter in a saucepan, add jalapeno and garlic, and sauté around 3 minutes, until tender. Whisk in flour and cook for one minute. Whisk in milk, then stir in the American and cheddar cheese. Cook, stirring frequently, until sauce is thick and cheese is melted. Stir in cooked macaroni and season with salt. Top, if desired, with sour cream, chives, parsley, or paprika. Enjoy!



A view of Westport around the 1920s (courtesy of May Sherwood).

The Time Traveler

Thad Van Bueren

The image shown above did not make it into the new history book. It is one of many now in the Westport Village Society collection that simply would not fit in the publication. WVS plans to make them available on our web site before long. In this image only one wharf remains. That narrows it to the period between World War I and the Great Depression. It is hard to tell if the railroad built to transport ties from the Wages Creek watershed is present, but you can see the Baptist Church at the foot of Pacific Avenue, and the second school next to Clay Road. If you know the date of this image, call me at 964-7272.

For those interested in Westport history, I will offer a slide show illustrated with many historic photographs on Sunday January 20th at 1:00 PM at the Westport Church. The talk will run about 90 minutes, and is a reprise of a presentation I made in late October at the Kelley House Museum. Many locals were unable to attend that event and urged me to offer the show again in Westport. So this is your chance to see it! I'll make sure the Church is warmed up for the early afternoon show, and I hope to see many of you there! Happy New Year!

Reflections on the Winter Solstice

John Allison

Last month Thad Van Bueren explained the significance of the December 21st Winter Solstice on the Mayan calendar. We are now past December 21st, and the world did not end. Are things “back to normal” as they were after Y2K thirteen years ago, or are we entering a period of profound change? Several months ago I read Marcus Mason’s book The Astrology of 2012 and How It Affects You. Mason explains how the sun and solar system gradually change their position within the Milky Way Galaxy. On December 21st, the sun began to emerge from the Dark Rift of the Milky Way’s Galactic Equator and the earth’s orientation changed. These phenomena are rare events that he believes have profound astrological significance.

According to Mason, the Winter Solstice on December 21st marks our transition from the Age of Pisces to the Age of Aquarius. He describes the Age of Pisces, which lasted about 2,000 years, as an age of duality characterized by a split between spiritual and physical consciousness. The Age of Aquarius will be characterized by congruity and harmony between spiritual and physical consciousness, as well as a

balance between feminine and masculine energies. He invites us to “embrace a more heart-centered, spirit-centered approach to life, others, and the world,” and to “release the emotional attachments, thoughts and ideologies that hold us back from experiencing our connection with the Oneness of all life.”

And so we may be entering a period of profound change, with an invitation to let go of old attachments, habits, fears and ways of being that no longer work, in order that we can fully live both individually and collectively. In that regard I’d like to close by sharing a short poem I wrote a couple of years ago titled *Exodus*:

Each on a Personal journey, from slavery to freedom: of spirit, emotions, and old ways of being.	Angels and messengers help guide us on our path: slavery to freedom and new ways of being.
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Please Keep Jim In Your Prayers!

In early December, a horrible tragedy befell one of our best Westport friends. Jim Korhummel, who for many, many years has made it his livelihood to always help others in his community, suffered a near-fatal automobile accident on Branscomb Road. For a month now, he has been in intensive care at Santa Rosa General Hospital, with multiple life-threatening injuries and unable to breathe or do hardly anything else on his own without many tubes and machines. He has just now been transferred out of the hospital’s intensive care ward. Although his injuries were extremely severe, we are happy to report that he has no obvious paralysis, and it is hoped that he will make a functional recovery soon.

All these years, Jim has given so much to others. Now, there are many things you can do for Jim, including your prayers, however you may pray or meditate or whatever else you spiritually do. Please ask at the Westport Store for more information on what you can do to help. To Jim and Judy and the entire great Korhummel Family, we offer you our utmost and sincerest feelings of support!

Westport Hotel & Old Abalone Pub

Dorine Real

The Westport Hotel hosted an evening of caroling on December 22nd, and around 40 neighbors attended this festive event with piano accompaniment by Goldie Westheimer. We hope to make this an annual event, preferably in addition to the children’s presentation and visit from Santa that traditionally takes place at the Church. The Old Abalone Pub will have a special New Year’s Day Brunch on Tuesday, January 1st, featuring Hoppin’ John for prosperity. After that, the Hotel and Pub will be closed for sprucing up until February 14th, when we will have our annual Valentine’s Day Romantic Dinner. Please leave a phone message at 964-3688 or e-mail us at westporthotel@mcn.org if you would like to make a reservation for that dinner. Deep thanks to everyone who patronized the Old Abalone Pub or stayed with us at the Hotel this past year. We wish you the best for 2013, and we’ll see you in February!

January 2013 Westport Calendar

- January 1st – New Year’s Walk** at Westport- Union Landing Park, 10:00 AM at the ranger station; Brunch at the Westport Hotel.
- January 8th – WMAC Meeting**, Church, 7:00 PM
- January 11th – New Moon**, 7:44 PM
- January 17th – WVS Meeting**, Church, 7:00 PM
- January 20th – Westport History presentation**, Church, 1:00 PM
- January 26th – Full Moon**, 4:39AM

You are reading *The Westport Wave*, a free monthly community newsletter published on the first day of every month by the **Westport Village Society**, a non-profit organization. Internet subscribers to the *Wave* receive their free **COLOR** copies on or before the first day of every month by email. Printed (black-and-white) copies are also available free to all at the Westport Community Store, from the first day of each month on. Join the **Westport Village Society** today and sign up for your free newsletter at www.westportvillagesociety.org. Contributions for the February 1, 2013 edition of *The Westport Wave* are due by January 27th, and should be sent to editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@aol.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488.