

Let's Party Like It's 1999!

Steve Brigham, Editor

This year, our Winter Holidays have a bonus, so there's just more to celebrate! You think I'm talking about The End Of The World? Heavens no, it's even better than that! It's our grand **Westport Village Society 20th Anniversary Party** on **December 9th** at the **Westport Hotel**. See Lois's article on this page for details, and plan on attending this gala event!

But back to The End Of The World. Will it happen on the upcoming Winter Solstice on December 21st? Once again, *The Wave* keeps you informed, so see Thad's article on page 4 for more on that. Most folks think that this grand turning of the Mayan Calendar is just a turning, and that our world will indeed continue into our own Year 2013, just like it did during our own Y2K from a few years ago. But will it?

The Chinese have a saying: "May you live in interesting times." When humans lack explanation, they typically turn to speculation. That speculation is pretty interesting in itself! So enjoy our Winter Holidays this year, and let's all party like it's 1999!



Local Artists at a Westport Plein Air Festival.

Celebrating Our Community!

Lois Senger

As a fitting finale to the 20th Anniversary Year of the Westport Village Society, **everyone is invited to the Westport Hotel on Sunday, December 9th, from 4PM to 6PM, for a celebration honoring all our many volunteers throughout the years.** This party is for everyone, and especially for all present and former board members, all volunteers over the years for the Ducky Races, Plein Air, and other fundraisers, and all who have worked to maintain the Headlands and build the stairs down to the beach. We will have photos on a slide projector of the Ducky Races, the building of the Stairs, Plein Air, and other community events, and share our stories of all the fun times we've had together during the past 20 years!

In preparation for this event, a few of us started to recall some of the stories that happened over the years as the community came together and raised money for the purchase of the Westport Headlands. We didn't want development. We wanted open views, walks to the beach, and a place for the WVFD BBQ and other events for the town. And so we got busy!

Marie Fostiak started the Recycling Center that we still know now. It was difficult for her to train us in the ways of recycling and she spent hours going through our trash to sort it so it could be accepted and we would get a check from Solid Waste of Willits which would go in the Headlands Fund. We had our first Ducky Race at Wages Creek. We threw our ducks over the railing on Highway 1 into the river. They got stuck. Everyone put money into the pot and the winners would get cash prizes. Darwin won and put his \$100 back into the pot and everyone followed suit. More money for the Headlands Fund!

We formed a non-profit 501(c)(3), as it was required to hold land and negotiate with the owners. Homer

Whitehouse spent hours filling out forms to send to the government. We had brainstorming meeting facilitated by Marsha McNally and Randy Hester, who used to own property in town and taught Planning at UC Berkeley. We came up with a name, Westport Village Society. We came up with goals and a statement of purpose, and Homer wrote it on the application. We had more ducky races and raffles and raised more money for the Fund. Our goal was \$25,000, and the community pulled together and did it! Our State Senator Wesley Chesbro supported our effort to obtain funding from the state Coastal Conservancy to help preserve the Westport Headlands as open space and ocean access for public use.

Marie, Dorine Real, and others negotiated, with the Mendocino Land Trust and Roger Sternberg, helping in the process. Sean Hogan did pro-bono legal work for us. We reprinted the original Westport history book and sold copies to raise money for the Headlands Fund. Greg and Larry upgraded the Ducky Race by adding a BBQ to the event. They loaned their dishes, kitchen and donated food. Otto and Thelma offered the Deli as a staging for meal prep on BBQ day. Marie donated ice, etc. Thanksgiving Coffee donated coffee. Lots of people baked goodies for the bake sale. Jennifer made smoothies. Tom Burnham and Sapphire and now Steve grew and brought Mother's Day flowers. Xavier was steady washing dishes with his able crews. Heidi organized lists and helped Lee with signs and merchandise. So many people helped with the quilts, with Aimee, Nita, and Bobbie leading the way and Rosalie selling tickets. Thad, Donna, and their family worked ducky registration.

Liza brought Plein Air events and art. Pam and Steve Brown supervised the BBQ at the ducky races and got volunteers to serve. Homer, Pete, Falcon, Peter, and others set up and ran the ducky races. The WVFD set up tables and managed parking, and Jeff Saunders, Gus, and David cleaned up after everyone. Becca, Robin, Steve, Nedra, George, Elaine, all the musicians – it's the whole community and more! We want to thank each and every one at this celebration reception on the 9th! Please come join us, bring stories, and any pictures you want to share! We will also have the new history books available for purchase, and this is a great opportunity to have Thad sign your books. **See you there!**

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, Bellydance, 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 in January. 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 367-0010 to chat about it.

New Year's Day Walk and Talk

The second annual Westport New Year's Day Walk/Talk will be held at Westport-Union Landing State Park on January 1st, 2013. Thad Van Bueren and Steve Brigham will talk about local natural and cultural history on this walk that will begin at the park ranger station at 10AM walking south along the headlands. This is an informal event – you can leave at any time or catch up with us if you're late. Thad's new book on Westport area history, [Belonging To Places](#), will be available for sale. Come join us and welcome in the New Year, Westport Style!

Give Your Input on Bike Plan!

Thad Van Bueren

A meeting will be held Dec. 6th from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at the Westport Church to get your input on a plan for developing the Pacific Coast Bike Route along State Route 1 in Mendocino County. If you want a safe alternative to the existing situation, let Caltrans and the Mendocino Council of Governments know your opinions on their draft plan. You can download it at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist1/d1transplan/system_planning/pcbr-cct.htm. This plan will determine which sections are built first and how they will be designed. What would it be like to have safe ways to get around our local area that do not require a car? You may also want to attend a meeting at the Fort Bragg Town Hall starting at 5:30 PM on Dec. 4th to hear about rehabilitation of the haul road south of Ward Avenue.

129 Years Ago in *The Wave*

Steve Brigham

Well, it wasn't actually called *The Westport Wave*, but it was the very first regularly published newspaper in Westport. As reported in Thad Van Bueren's new book [Belonging to Places](#) (which is available at the Westport Store), the brand-new *Westport News* published its very first weekly issue on December 22, 1883. Sad to say, our first Westport newspaper only published for a few years, and was replaced by the end of the decade by the larger Fort Bragg and Mendocino newspapers that still exist today. But I'm quite sure that those folks 129 years ago would be happy to know that Westport still has a local newspaper in the 21st Century!

Holiday Goodies!

Barbara Anderson

Here are two great Holiday treat recipes from Kathryn LeMieux and Dorine Real. Try 'em – you'll love 'em!

Kathryn's Nanaimo Bars

1 cup (1/2 lb.) butter or margarine
2 ¼ cups powdered sugar
¼ cup unsweetened cocoa
1 large egg
1 ¾ cups graham cracker crumbs
1 cup sweetened flaked dried coconut

½ cup chopped pecans or walnuts
2 tablespoons milk
1 tablespoon vanilla
3 ounces unsweetened chocolate

In a 2 to 3 quart pan, combine 6 tablespoons butter, ¼ cup sugar, and cocoa. Stir over low heat until butter melts. Off heat, beat in egg; mix in crumbs, coconut, and nuts. Press mixture in bottom of an 8-inch square pan. Bake in a 350 degree oven until slightly darker, about 20 minutes. Let cool. Beat ½ cup butter with remaining sugar, milk, and vanilla until fluffy. Spread over crust. In a bowl, combine 2 tablespoons butter and chocolate; set bowl in hot water. Stir often until chocolate is smooth; spread over filling. Cover and chill 1 hour or up to 2 days. Cut into 25 squares.

Per piece: 194 cal. (60 percent from fat); 1.6 g. protein; 13 g. fat (6.8 g. sat.); 20 g. carbs. 137 mg. sodium; 29 mg. Cholesterol.

Dorine's Shortbread for Molding

Mix together:

½ c. butter, softened
1 Tbsp. brown or white sugar
1/8 tsp. vanilla
Pinch salt
¾ c. bread flour or all-purpose flour

Add more flour 1 Tablespoon at a time until the dough is quite firm and sticks to itself rather than the bowl. Form by pressing into an 8" x 8" pan, topping with chopped or sliced nuts, and scoring. Molding in candy molds (use small ones), slicing like refrigerator cookies and stamping. Bake at 325° for 12 min. or until faintly colored.

The Time Traveler

Thad Van Bueren

Over the past year I've explored in this column several calendars including the Gregorian and Chinese systems. It is appropriate this month to look at another time reckoning system because it will pass into a major new period on the approaching winter solstice this December 21st. I'm speaking about the Mesoamerican calendar, a system of chronological accounting that has both circular and linear elements.

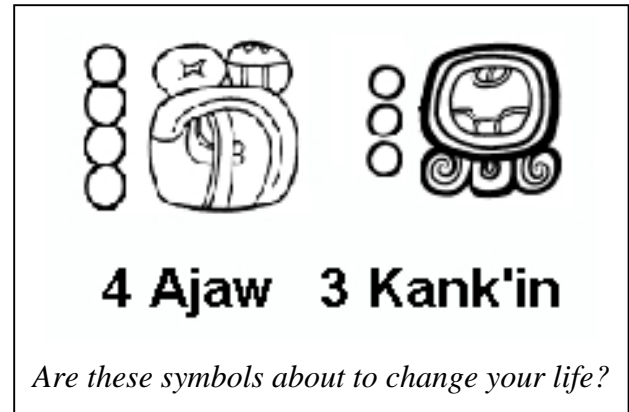
My interest in the Mayan culture began over 30 years ago when I participated in an excavation of a formative period Mayan site in Belize in 1981 during my graduate work in archaeology. At that time, the Mayan time reckoning system was already well known, but decoding the glyphs as a written language had only begun. We now know each glyph stands for a sound in the Mayan language and that they have specific meanings, grammar, and ways in which they are conjoined and modified to express meaning. The Maya were the only new world culture to develop a fully written language, and their astute astronomical observations and use of the mathematical concept of zero attest to their sophistication.

The Mesoamerican calendar came into common use in the fifth century BC among the Zapotec and Olmec. The site I helped excavate demonstrated Mayans were also using that system well before the start of the Christian era. The Maya substantially refined the calendar through careful astronomical studies, which included an understanding of the 584 day cycle of the planet Venus. They used a vigesimal (base 20), rather than decimal, counting system, although one exception to that rule will be discussed shortly in connection with their calendar.

The Mayans actually used two calendar systems: the sacred 260-day count known as the *Tzolk'in* and the 365-day solar year known as the *Haab'* which consisted of 18 months of 20 days each, plus a five day period of nameless days. The two calendars synchronize in a repeating cycle or calendar round that lasts 52 Haab'. Smaller cycles of 13 days (the *trecena*) and 20 days (the *veintena*) were important aspects of the *Tzolk'in* and *Haab'* cycles, respectively. The "long count" was used to track longer periods on carved monuments, books, and artifacts. That written calendar was based on a mythological starting-point that most scholars believe is equivalent to 11 August 3114 BC in the Gregorian calendar. Dates in the Mayan long count are measured in days (*k'ins*), 20 day months (*uinals*), 360 days secular years (*tuns*), 7200 day periods (*ka'tuns*), and 144,000 day periods equivalent to about 394 years called *b'ak'tuns*.

In the Mayan long count, 21 December 2012 is when the Mayan calendar rolls over to 13 b'ak'tun, or about 5,125 years after the mythical world creation date. The glyphs representing this date in the sacred and

secular cycles is 4 Ajaw, 3 Kank'in, as shown in the figure below. Many Mayan long count inscriptions also contain a supplementary series, which provides information on the lunar phase and which one of the nine Lords of the Night ruled that time segment.



The 13th b'ak'tun is significant not just because it is the day the calendar turns over to the next 394-year period, but also because the number 13 has special significance in the sacred Mayan calendar. For example, the sacred year is 13 months in duration (20 days each month). According to the creation myth in the *Popol Vuh*, we inhabit the fourth world. The prior one ended after 13 b'ak'tuns. Some outside observers have suggested this may imply the current human world will culminate in the same time frame. Others believe the world will simply enter a new age. As we approach the solstice, hold a positive thought (or several!), and use that to inform your actions in the coming year!

Changing the Elements Around Us

Liza Saenz-Bernard

"But Eden is burning, either brace yourself for elimination or else your hearts must have the courage for the changing of the guards." -- Bob Dylan

The art world is on hold for a couple months as far as this column goes. Artists usually know where to go for what they need to keep being creative. Getting away from whatever you are creating for just a few minutes will do wonders. This spring, the Westport Hotel will start with another great Love Show, for Valentine Day. The December into February art

show was going to have *Change* as the theme, but instead, I'm taking a break from hanging art.

Sitting down to write to Westportians has me searching for something of interest. Instead of the SF Calendar section, the Sunday's November 25 INSIGHT elevated my awareness. The article 'Elements of Modern Life' says, "Rare earths are the flotsam of a churning, restless planet – 17 oddly behaving metal oxides pushed between the mantle and the crust over countless eons. They're so old, they date from the formation of the cosmos, and so universal they're found in meteors and moon dust."

For the list of the 17 elements and their use, the SF Insight gives a quantity of information, such as the worldwide operations of mines and their productivity. Terbium 65, for example, is mined mostly for the military, with the rest for fun stuff. A British firm called FeOnic Technologies makes a little stick-on device that vibrates from rapid changes of Terfero-D when electronically stimulated (a Soundbug). Part of our civilization could change our ways and do without mining this one. The productivity for the USA in 2012, was zero, the article states, but by 2016, California predicts to produce 10,000 metric tons. For explanations on how rare earths are made into magnets, and how laser crystals and fiber cables are "doped" with rare earths, go to www.sfgate.com/rare-earth.

You can also look at YouTube Rare Earth (not the Rock & Roll band from the 1970s) where the videos are quite astounding. Watch "Wings Over Canada" for the first rare earth mine in Northern America. The narrator is very proud of how much their minerals are worth. When asked what is the highest mineral on demand, he states it is Neodymium 60 which is needed for hybrid cars. Each car uses 40 pounds of rare earth metals. We need this for our washers and dryers, and the list goes on. "Windmill turbines take 2 metric tons of powerful magnets, which are about 1/3 rare earths, about 660 pounds." If this is upsetting, do not look at the next video from Malaysia where they are against mining. Or Hitler's reaction to Lynes rare earth plant, in which he is portrayed as the good guy.

The Fort Bragg Library's computer catalog came up with 40 books with the 'rare earth' as the key word. Most were Science Fiction and several by Clive Cussler. Battle Star Gallactica and the mineral 'frak'

may have been in the top 30's, but my patience on this subject takes me to a dark side, but the more research one does, some fears come to light. "Sometimes the brightest light comes from the darkest places."

"The Guide To The Elements" by Albert Stwerka went on my wish list. "A new particle detector using ultra-pure liquid xenon has been constructed beneath 5,000 feet of rock in Italy to detect dark matter. WOW! Our little planet is being drilled in too many places. Can't fix our planet, but it's possible to cut back on some techno-machines. No Worries! Latest newscast today says that in a few years you can fly to Mars for \$500,000. Problem solved, go mine Mars!

Getting online for more knowledge on this subject, I came across a video newscast from Kootenay's mining company. There is a 3D video that starts from a satellite view of earth then zooms into Mexico and then into the earth. The colors are similar to an Avatar clip with names of the elements going around in a circle inside the earth's crust. To watch, go to www.kootenaysilver.com.

Here is a list of things a person is able to change: change your medium, your ways, your hair color (stop coloring it), your doctor, your way of listening, your friends, food intake, your cell phone use, drive less, change your mind! Email me at saenzphoto@yahoo.com for some creative communication. Or call 962-9234. HAPPY HOLIDAYS! HAPPY NEW YEAR! And to all a good night!



"The Elements of Art"

December at the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub

Festive and Cozy

Dorine Real

Evenings are dark and rainy lately, but it's cozy in the Old Abalone Pub. It's the season to come in and play cards or sit by the fire. Our Midwinter herbal tea blend is available now, and we're starting to decorate. Our Holiday Tree will debut at the Westport Village Society party on Sunday afternoon, December 9th.

We will have several special holiday events. At brunch on the 9th there will be latkes for Chanukah. On the Winter Solstice (Friday, the 21st), we'll have a fire for you to send your wishes for the coming year to the heavens. Goldie Westheimer will play carols – and we hope you will sing – on Saturday evening, the 22nd. Music will start at 5:00 so you can stop in before dinner. There will be complimentary cider. On Boxing Day (Wednesday, the 26th) we will open specially for our annual brunch with Monte Cristo sandwiches. There will *not* be a New Year's Eve party, but we will have a special New Year's Day brunch featuring Hoppin' John for prosperity.

Sean Hathorn continues to play flamenco guitar most Fridays, but Alejandro Yanez will be the guitarist on December 7th. The Westport Hotel and the Old Abalone Pub will be closed for the month of January.



January 1st Walk at Westport Union Landing State Park in 2012. Join us at 10 AM on New Year Day 2013 at the Ranger Station!!

Westport Calendar

- December 4th – Haul Road Meeting, Fort Bragg Town Hall, 5:30PM
- December 4th – WMAC Meeting, Church, 7PM
- December 6th – Pacific Coast Bike Route Meeting, Westport Church, 5:30PM
- December 8th – Hannukah begins at sunset
- December 9th – **Westport Village Society 20th Anniversary Party**, Westport Hotel, 4:00 to 6:00PM
- December 13th – New Moon, 12:42AM
- December 13th – Bookmobile, Store, 9:00-9:30AM
- December 21st – Winter Solstice, 3:12AM
- December 21st – Solstice Wish Burning, Westport Hotel
- December 22nd – Christmas Carols With Goldie, Westport Hotel, 5PM
- December 25th – **Christmas Day**
- December 26th – Boxing Day Special Brunch, Westport Hotel
- December 26th – Kwanzaa begins
- December 27th – Bookmobile, Store, 9:00-9:30AM
- December 28th – Full Moon, 2:21AM
- January 1st – **New Year's Day** walk at Westport-Union Landing State Park, 10AM at ranger station; New Year's Day Brunch, Westport Hotel

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. Members of the WVS receive their free **COLOR** copies on or before the first day of every month by e-mail (or postal mail, if requested – please allow a few days extra for postal mail). Printed (black-and-white) copies of each month's newsletter are also available free to all at the Westport Community Store, from the first day of each month on. WVS member dues pay for this newsletter production – which is a good reason in itself to join our Society – join the **Westport Village Society** today, and sign up for your free monthly newsletter at www.westportvillagesociety.org. Contributions for the January 1, 2013 edition of *The Westport Wave* are due by **December 28th**, and should be sent to editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@aol.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488.