

December 1, 2021

The Westport Wave

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What Were The Odds?

A Westport Holiday Story

by Bill Brazill

It seems like it was between Christmas and New Years in the mid-1970s that this story takes place. We were hunkered down with some out-of-town friends and their little kids at our place down from the Westport Store (which was owned back then by Rosemary and John Seaman). Milton Kerchenko hadn't come up with the street name of Omega Drive yet. He and his wife Lois Kerchenko lived where Ann Hickman's house is now. It was great when our young friends came for a visit for a couple of days as we always had lots of projects and they were talented and loved to help and really appreciated the town of Westport and the area; we all also loved eating out of the ocean.

It had been storming for days and on this particular night there was a big wind storm that arrived from the East that was really unusual, knocking out the power and telephone and bringing leaks to the house we never knew we had. It raged all night but the morning dawned clear. I was up early to check the storm damage and make coffee. Going outside I could not believe what I didn't see. Our outhouse had disappeared! It had blown over before on its side in big storms but this time it had vanished! I went to the bluff edge and looked down to the beach 60 feet below and there it was. Like a crashed rocket ship, the peak of the roof buried in the sand. After thinking with a cup of coffee and waiting for the sun to rise I looked to see if there was any smoke coming out of the Morgan's chimney. Dave always had good ideas and was a great friend. I needed his help on this one. Nobody was up yet. But what I did see looking east I could not believe!



The Flying Outhouse (photo by Tom Knight)

Parked right across the street, not 25 feet away at Kip and Sharon Goodwin's place was a brand new shiny four-wheel drive Toyota truck with a big WINCH on the front bumper! Now in those days there were never any new cars in town, seems we all drove cars that barely ran. And not only that, smoke was coming out of their chimney.

Turns out Sharon's brother had recently purchased his pickup in the mid-west and had driven out for a visit arriving late the night before and was excited to see if he could help with his new truck. What were the odds of this happening?

Dave came down with a full sheet of plywood, we attached it to the winch cable on the truck that now was parked on our bluff top. We walked it down to the beach, attached the undamaged outhouse on the plywood and up it came. In no time we had it righted in its proper place and this time we drove wooden stakes at each of the corners so it would never fly again.

The whole job took less than an hour. We took the rest of the day off. Only in Westport!



The Westport Christmas Tree (photo By Erin Detrick)

Free Masks for COVID Protection

COVID Response Network

Courtesy of the Mask Awareness Project of the COVID Response Network, complimentary mask kits are available at the following locations, so anyone can pick up free mask packs anytime. **This project is made possible by North Coast Opportunities, the Community Foundation of Mendocino, and generous community members.**

Fort Bragg – Down Home Foods and Colombi Market

Mendocino – Spark Gallery, Corners of the Mouth, and Frankie's

CRN Mission

The mission of the **COVID Response Network** is to do what we can as concerned people to make a broad, deep, and effective response to the threats of COVID-19. Our pilot region is the Mendocino Coast of California.

Court-Ordered Community Service Opportunities in Westport

Gary Quinton

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 grass and weed cutting, painting, handyman work, and more. We can help you with registration paperwork and compliance/completion documents. If you are interested, please call Gary Quinton, (707) 964-7073.

Light the Westport Christmas Tree with Santa!

Erin Detrick, Westport Community Store

It's that time of year to welcome the holiday spirit and light the Westport Christmas tree with Santa! With COVID precautions, we will meet at the Westport Store on Saturday, December 11th at 5:15PM . Everyone will countdown with Santa and light the tree. Afterwards, Santa's helpers will hand out presents to the children. Please call the store at (707) 964-2872 &/or email me at erind.3500@gmail.com with any questions. Love and peace to all, this holiday season, and always!



Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group – December 12th, 10:00AM

Baile Oakes

This **Westport Community Church** 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 our selves and all Creation.

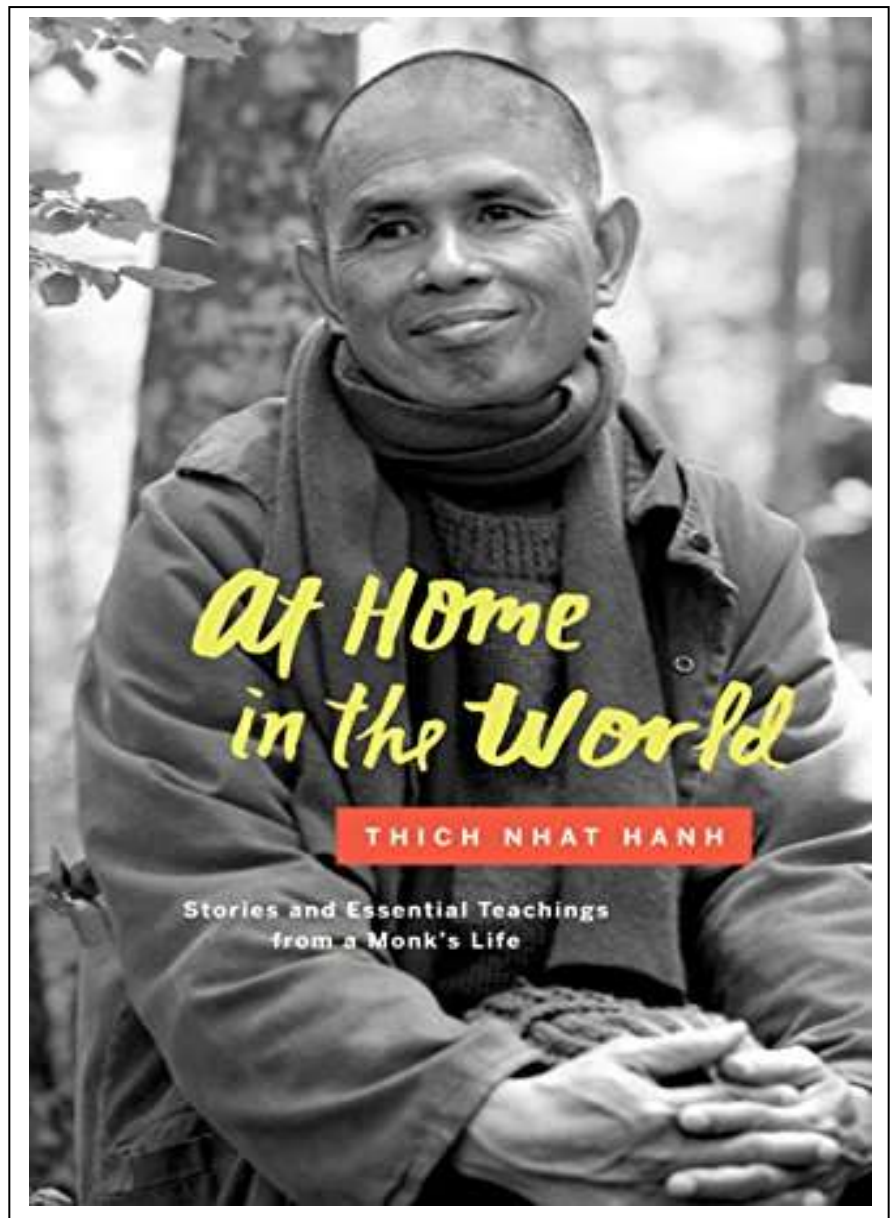
We request that attendees be vaccinated and we will meet according to the Church Covid precautions.

Westport Community Church News

Erin Detrick, President, WCC

The Westport Community Church Board would like to announce that the Church and Community Hall are now available for indoor activities. Protocol for events: 1. You must write your event details on the calendar available at the Westport Store. Without this step, your event does not exist. 2. All those that attend your event (including vaccinated individuals) **MUST WEAR A MASK.**

Cleanup is also required with hygienic wiping of touched surfaces like door handles. All activities must be placed on the calendar at the store. Please contact me at erind.3500@gmail.com or 707-489-2546 for information about holding events or any other questions you may have regarding the Church or Hall. Again, our Church Board thanks you for your continued patience and support.



Introduction To Our New Hill Top Neighbor Babaji

Baile Oakes

As some of our neighbors already know, we have a new neighbor at Hill Top Ranch!

Babaji is a spiritual teacher, originally from India. He established Sonoma Ashram in Sonoma County in 1991 as a sacred and nurturing environment for spiritual growth and selfless service. He also leads various social service projects in India, including a school, homes for abandoned youth, and an eye hospital, among others.

While deeply rooted in the ancient yogic wisdom of Northern India, Babaji's teachings are practical and accessible to all regardless of religion, faith, or creed.

Babaji says, "Spirituality is not a mystery. It is the inherent nature of each individual to live a spiritual life."

If you would like to meet Babaji and learn more about his service in life, he will be speaking on *Peace Through Meditation* at our Westport Community Church on January 9th, 2022 at 2:00PM. Please consider welcoming our new neighbor and join us!

Babaji shares time between Hill Top and the Sonoma Ashram. We can look forward to reading more from him in future editions of the Wave. For more information on Babaji, please visit www.sonomaashram.org.

Westport Volunteer Fire Department News

WVFD

The Westport Volunteer Fire Department is having a busy and productive year in 2021. Our volume of 911 emergency calls continues to be higher than it has been in the past. Since 2019 we have averaged 88 emergency calls a year. This is 57% higher than our previous three-year average of 56 calls a year.



November 20th Saturday WVFD Training, with WVFD members in blue and CalFire crews in yellow.

We have 12 active duty firefighters to respond to these calls. Many of our calls involve medical emergencies or traumatic injuries – one of our members is a paramedic, and five are EMTs. We have plenty of room for more active duty members. Joining the Fire Department is a great way to give back to the community. It's also interesting, rewarding, and fun!

We continue to train four times a month to maintain and sharpen our skills. The Saturday training on November 20th was devoted to hose testing. With help from a couple of CalFire crews who trained with us, we were able to pressure test 4,712 feet of fire hose that day. Pressure testing enables us to maintain and confirm the integrity of our fire hose, and also lets us practice deploying and re-bedding fire hose.

We now have five fire engines in service in addition to our rescue vehicle. All our vehicles are maintained by a professional mechanic so they will be ready to go when we get a call.

It costs money to maintain WVFD operations. Please keep an eye out for our annual fundraising letter, which should be arriving in your mail box early December. Contributions are greatly appreciated. They are also tax-deductible.

Best wishes from all of us for a happy, healthy, and safe Holiday Season!



During this past October, the Board held an emergency meeting to release the prior drought restrictions, but the Board continues to advocate for continued responsible water conservation behavior and focus.

The Board is also researching a possible Micro Grid strategy for an alternative power source. The Board welcomes Gary Weiss, the newest member to the Board and looks forward to filling the last vacancy on the WCWD’s five member Board.

The Board is looking for interested community members to assist with possible Grant Writing efforts for much needed water and sanitation equipment for the WCWD. The Board discussed its capital accounts and possible investigation on the process to increase those accounts over time, such as government agency financial grants.

The Board discussed a coming policy and process to assess added fees for past due payment to ensure that everyone pays their water bill in a timely manner (as a material majority does so today) and would reasonably expect others to stay current and not have the WCWD take other enforcement measures for timely payment. We are all in this together and compliance and accommodation is appreciated.

The Board and Staff will also explore the Water Meter upgrade process, sewer distancing compliance, and Water Storage Tank cleaning.

The WCWD team morale is good. In the coming months, the Community will also see continued WCWD website enhancements and focus.

Let’s please stay focused on best water conservation practices!

Westport Water District News

WCWD Directors

Greetings Westport Community:

The Westport Community Water Board convened on November 10, 2021 and discussed many items of likely interest to its customers and community. As a community, Westport mobilized to reduce water usage in a manner to conserve and manage our limited water resources during this past summer and early fall drought crisis. **TOGETHER WE DID IT!** The Board expressed its gratitude to the Staff of John Morrill, Kayla Cooper, and David Wilson for all their dedicated work and focus during this critical period of time. The Board and Staff are grateful to all customers who **REALLY** made the effort to conserve our water. But alas, we are not “out of the woods yet” as La Nina is expected to result in a drier than normal winter rain season, so please continue to conserve as a matter of course. The drought is staying with us for now.

24/7 Westport Wave

The Westport Wave is always free to everyone at any time on the Newsletter page of our website westportvillagesociety.org – where you’ll always find our most current issue as well as ten years of monthly back-issues, all in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!



The greenhouse still has some cherry tomatoes and peppers in it at the moment (but not for too much longer!). Try and make it up there to pick some before they're all gone.

The Community Garden work day will now take place on the **FIRST SATURDAY** of each month @10:30am. This month it will fall on December 4th. But, please feel free to stop in anytime you feel like getting your hands in the dirt - there are always projects happening and things needing to be done at the garden. If you are uncertain about what to do, just check the white board inside the

greenhouse for up-to-date tasks/jobs needing to be done around the garden. For the month of December, our main focus will be on finishing up the projects we did not complete in November. We still need to rebuild any existing, gopher ridden raised beds and fill them with soil, amend with nutrients and plant. Other tasks will include pruning, weeding, trellising and cleaning up any dead/dying plant matter.

Despite the days getting shorter and cooler, we are still able to grow a good amount of produce during the winter months because of our great little greenhouse. Thank you to everyone who has helped out with the garden over the past year and to the WVS. Happy Winter Solstice and New Year to everyone, and here's to having a prolific growing season in 2022!

December at the Westport Community Garden

Derek DiOrio

Stop by the **Westport Community Garden** in December for fresh, organically grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers – ready for you to harvest, **ABSOLUTELY FREE!** At the Westport Community Garden, fresh produce is free to everyone every day, so please come do your part by harvesting regularly so that nothing goes to waste! Just bring your own cutting utensil and a bag to take your goodies home in. We're at the end of Abalone Street at the Westport Community Center (look for the greenhouse).



HAPPY HOLIDAYS from Your Editor up here in the North Country, and from all of us at *The Westport Wave*!

Thursday, December 9th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM (call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom)

Saturday, December 11th – Westport Holiday Tree Lighting With Santa, 5:15PM, across from the Westport Store. Bring the family! (see page 2)

Sunday, December 12th – Thich Nhat Han Discussion Group, 10:00AM, Westport Church (see page 3)

Saturday, December 18th – Micro Full Moon, 8:35PM

Tuesday, December 21st – Winter Solstice, 7:59AM

Friday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 25th – Christmas Day

Sunday, December 26th – Kwanzaa Begins

Friday, December 31st, New Year’s Eve

Saturday, January 1st, 2022 – New Year’s Day

December Westport Calendar

(Please note that because of COVID, meeting occurrences, dates, and modes may vary.)

Friday, December 3rd – Super New Moon, 11:43PM

Saturday, December 4th – Westport Community Garden Work Day, 10:30AM, Community Garden (see page 6)

Monday, December 6th – Hanukkah Ends at Sundown

Tuesday, December 7th – WMAC meeting, 7:00PM? Please see wmac95488@gmail.com for details

Wednesday, December 8th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)

Thursday, December 9th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (masks required)

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. Both the current *Westport Wave* and ten years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org. **Contributions for our January 1st, 2022 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by December 28th**, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!