

December 1, 2022

The Westport Wave

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

Westport Christmas Festivities Friday, December 9th at 6:30PM!

Val Hale and Erin Detrick

Local families, please join us on Friday, December 9th at 6:30PM across from the Westport Store to help light the Westport Christmas Tree!

Afterwards, we'll meet at the Community Center, where Santa will pay us a visit. There will be hot chocolate and kids will get to vote on the Christmas movie that will be shown. We are asking families to RSVP by December 6th so that Santa knows who will be there to receive a present. You can RSVP at the Westport Store or by calling (707) 964-2872. Let's keep the tradition alive! Happy Holidays!





Westport Christmas Caroling Choir

Erin Brazill

I am definitely feeling the Christmas Spirit this year, and am hoping that a few people (adults and children of all ages) would like to form a little choir to sing Christmas Songs together at the Westport Church a few times, then ultimately go Christmas Caroling on a date TBD.

For now, I have reserved the Church on **Wednesday December 7th, Wednesday the 14th, and Friday the 23rd from 6PM to 8PM.**

I have my guitar, and we have the piano to pick out harmonies and melodies. I have a stash of copies of traditional favorites, but would also love it if people brought copies (maybe 6 copies) of a favorite holiday song or two.

The ultimate goal would be to go caroling close to Christmas, in our little village of Westport.

Please come and sing and have fun with music. I am flexible with timing and dates somewhat, as long as the Church is available. At the first meeting we can talk about details and ideas. Please reach out to me if you are interested (or just come!) or have any questions or ideas. Texting is always best, or at

ebrazill72@gmail.com

Westport Village Society Year End Winter Solstice Gathering Sunday, December 18th

Bill Knapp, WVS President

It has been an eventful year for the community and for the Westport Village Society. WVS, with the support of the Westport Hotel, is hosting an in person solstice/holiday gathering for the community. Please mark your calendars for a celebration **Sunday December 18th from 4:00 PM at the Westport Hotel.** This is intended to be a community sharing event. Food and drink will be available, but you are encouraged to bring something to share, pot luck style. There will be live music, for listening and dancing.

We look forward to catching up with you and sharing ideas about how to make good things happen for Westport during the coming year! Bring yourselves, your friends and family, and something to share, including food and conversation.

WVS will be making an announcement about finalizing the acquisition of the DeHaven Creek Headlands, placing the parcel into conservation. Everything is in place for delivery of the California State Coastal Conservancy grant funds allowing a December 15th closing.



Westport Winter Sunset



December Classes and Events at the Westport Community Center

You are invited to participate in several activities planned at the Westport Community Center and Church in December. Come join the fun and help support our valuable community gathering places! The goal is keep activities as affordable and safe as possible. Event hosts are asked to follow simple rules posted in the two meeting halls. Masking is suggested but not required.

Some classes the Community Center are suspended in December, while others continue. Zumba and Yoga classes will both pause this month, but look for an update in the January 1st Westport Wave. A sliding scale donation of \$5-\$10 per session is suggested for these ongoing weekly classes at the Community Center:

- **Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:00pm** – RIPPED exercise program with Kayla. This combines resistance, speed, force, endurance, and core exercises to promote fitness.
- **Wednesdays at 9:00am** – Tai Chi with Beck.

The monthly Art Class will also be skipped this month because the last Saturday falls on December 31. It is expected to resume January 28th, so please look for details in the next newsletter. Several one-time Events are also scheduled in December at the Church and Community Center. Contact the event organizers if you want to help out or participate.

Sunday, December 4th from 9:00am to 11:00am – WCC membership drive and waffle bar breakfast. Waffles, toppings, coffee, and tea for \$20. Contact Tabby at tabikat@mcn.org. Come visit with your neighbors and help support our community gathering place!

Friday, December 9th – Local families, please join us on Friday, December 9th at 6:30PM, across from the Westport Store to help light the Westport Christmas

Tree. Afterwards, we'll meet at the Community Center, where Santa will pay us a visit. There will be hot chocolate and kids will get to vote on the Christmas movie that will be shown. We are asking families to RSVP by December 6th so that Santa knows who will be there to receive a present. You can RSVP at the Westport Store or by calling (707) 964-2872. Let's keep the tradition alive! Happy Holidays!

Saturday, December 10th – Holiday Bazaar/Craft Faire from 12:00pm to 3:00pm. Local vendors, refreshments, and baked goods. If you are interested in being a vendor or helping out, contact Erin at erind.3500@gmail.com.

If you have ideas for future events and classes please contact Erin at erind.3500@gmail.com so they can be added to the calendar at the Westport Store and announced ahead of time in the Wave newsletter.

Next Westport Fire Safe Council Meeting on January 14th

Melinda McLaughlin

The Westport Fire Safe Council will hold its next meeting on January 14, 2023 at 10 am., at the Firehouse. Fire Safe Councils are grassroots, community-led groups organized to help residents protect their homes, communities, and environments from catastrophic wildfire. Our number one priority is to acquire a chipper/shredder to reduce fuel and volunteers to operate it. We also hope to recruit community volunteers to train through Urban Search & Rescue (USAR).



The Westport Church

Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group – Second Sunday, December 11th, 2:00PM

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 Church Covid precautions.

Gifts From Within

Babaji

In Sanskrit the word “giving” is *Daan*. To be able to give is considered one of the greatest virtues. But giving of what? What can you really give to somebody?

Of course there are all kinds of presents that you can buy, but the true gift is giving of yourself. This requires looking at yourself. True giving can only

happen when you come from a place where there is no ego and no expectation. When you are coming from that place in your heart, your Divine Self, you are able to give unconditional love. You are able to forgive. You are able to tolerate. You are able to accept someone the way they are.

Look for the good qualities in the people in your life. A person may have 99 bad traits, but try to find one good thing and remind them of that. Those kind words coming from someone who is close can make such a great difference.

We are all capable of giving in this way. It just takes remembering that we are all Divine. When we forget, we get caught in our ideas - our likes and dislikes, attachments and resentments - and we get very far from our true selves.

This year, consider giving something more than just presents wrapped in shiny paper. Give forgiveness. Give acceptance. Give tolerance. Give appreciation. Remind those around you of the good in them that you see.

When these virtues flow from you, the Divine can manifest through you, and it's a great gift to the world as well as a great gift to yourself.

Babaji’s mission is to help people experience fullness in life through simple spiritual practices and meditation. He currently divides his time between the Sonoma Ashram in Sonoma and Upasana Hilltop Sanctuary here in Westport. For more information, please visit www.sonomaashram.org or reach out by email at info@sonomaashram.org.

24/7 Westport Wave

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



Tabby painted faces in the day of the dead tradition which brought more art and fun for everyone.

There was a wonderful mix of people from all over the coastal area. At one point, I counted 34 smiling faces there.

After eating, chatting, and viewing the community altar, some folks chose to mingle in the church while the young and old alike moved over to the warm and cozily set up community center and

watched the movie Coco and drank Hot Chocolate.

Day of the Dead Event A Wonderful Evening

Erin Brazill

The first Westport Day of the Dead event on November 6 was absolutely magical. We needed to switch the venue from the Westport Cemetery to the Westport Church within 2 days due to inclement weather, and with support we were able to make that move. The Church provided a warm, cozy environment, with a wood fire going, hot chocolate simmering, and the flickering light of many, many tiny LED candles.

The altar stretched the whole length of the church and was filled beyond what I had imagined. It was actually a very emotional experience to see the love, the loved ones and the touching artifacts people brought. Sean Hawthorn played gentle acoustic guitar music which was absolutely perfect for the event.

Many thanks to everyone who came to this event. You are what made it so special. I know it can be hard to leave the house on a drizzly evening and I so appreciate you being there. Special thanks to Juliana Sanchez, Erin Detrick, Baile, Tabby, the Children's Fund, my wonderful class at TLC, The Westport District Cemetery Committee, and all the sweet helpers who stayed with me the following day to make sure the Church and Community Center were ship-shape afterwards.

I am grateful for the trust and love that was poured into this first time event. It was truly a special and beautiful evening.



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM YOUR
WESTPORT WAVE!**

December Westport Calendar

(Please see also the Westport Community Center activities and classes on page 3)

Sunday, December 4th – Westport Community Church Membership Drive and Waffle Bar Breakfast, 9:00AM to 11:00AM, Westport Community Church (see page 2)

Wednesday, December 7th – Christmas Caroling, Westport Church, 6:00PM to 8:00PM (see page 2)

Wednesday, December 7th – Full Moon, 8:08PM

Thursday, December 8th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM to 10:00AM, Westport Store (masks encouraged)

Friday, December 9th – Westport Christmas Tree Lighting followed by a Visit from Santa and a Movie for the Kids!, 6:30PM, across from The Westport Store (see page 1)

Saturday, December 10th – Westport Community Garden Volunteer Work Day, 10:30AM, Westport Community Garden

Saturday, December 10th – Holiday Bazaar and Craft Faire, 12:00PM to 3:00PM, Westport Community Center (see page 3)

Sunday, December 11th – Thich Nhat Han Discussion Group, 2:00PM, Westport Church (see page 4)

Tuesday, December 13th – Westport Municipal Advisory Council meeting, 7:00PM, Westport Community Church. Face masks required. Contact WMAC95488@gmail.com for info.

Wednesday, December 14th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)

Wednesday, December 14th – Christmas Caroling, Westport Church, 6:00PM to 8:00PM (see page 2)

Thursday, December 15th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM (call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom)

Sunday, December 18th – Westport Village Society Winter Solstice/Holiday Gathering, 4:00PM, Westport Hotel (see page 2)

Sunday, December 18th – Hanukkah Begins at Sundown

Wednesday, December 21st – Winter Solstice, 1:48PM

Friday, December 23rd – Super New Moon, 2:16AM

Friday, December 23rd – Christmas Caroling, Westport Church, 6:00PM to 8:00PM (see page 2)

Saturday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 25th – Christmas Day

Monday, December 26th – Boxing Day

Monday, December 26th – Kwanzaa Begins

Monday, December 26th – Hanukkah Ends at Sundown

Saturday, December 31st – New Year's Eve

Sunday, January 1st, 2023 – 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. Both the current *Westport Wave* and over ten years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org.

Contributions for our January 1st, 2023 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by December 27th, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!