

January 1, 2023

The Westport Wave

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The Westport Holiday Tree 2022

Photos by Jeff Mathias

What a big and beautiful Holiday Tree Westport had this year! Here it is when first lit on December 9th, right across from the Westport Store. Thanks so much to everyone who worked on this project, providing great joy to young and old during the shortest days of the year!



Happy
New Year



The Westport Church

Just imagine, you are lying on your back, looking at the sky. You are aware of the vastness of the sky. A little plane appears. Your mind immediately becomes focused on the plane, and begins to follow it. You have totally forgotten about the vastness of the sky. Both are there, but the mind attaches itself to that which is moving and changing.

Silence is always there and has been since the beginning of time. Sound appears, and disappears. The mind attaches itself to the sound - analyzes it, enjoys it, despises it, reacts to it. Although the silence is always there, the mind will always go to the sound.

You read a newspaper. You think about the story, the pictures and the politics. How often do you consider the blank piece of paper on which the news is printed? You go to a movie. You think about the story, the acting, the song, the action. Do you ever notice the screen where many movies have been projected?

Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group – Second Sunday, January 8th, 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.

Silence Under the Sound

Babaji

It takes two wings to soar in the sky of liberation. Two wings. There are two aspects to everything in life. If we pay attention to just one part of our life, and neglect the other part, we get stuck and can't go anywhere.

The nature of the mind is to attach itself to that which is transitory. On the surface are things that are always changing - our identities, our relationships, the events in our life. But there is also an aspect that is ever present, ever pure, whole, perfect that is always in the background.

Paying attention to that aspect of our life that is beyond our superficial self, is living a spiritual life. If we are only identifying with what is happening on the surface - our emotional life, our physical life, our material life - suffering is bound to happen.

The more we identify with our own inner fullness, the more strength we gain to deal with whatever comes our way. Instead of being swayed with what is happening on the surface, a spiritual aspirant remains grounded in what is always there, ever whole.

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.

Next Westport Fire Safe Council Meeting on January 14th

Melinda McLaughlin

The Westport Fire Safe Council will hold its next meeting on Saturday, January 14th, 2023, at 10:00AM at the Westport Firehouse. Fire Safe Councils are grassroots, community-led groups organized to help residents protect their homes, communities, and environments from catastrophic wildfire.

Meeting Agenda:

1. Mission
2. District Size
3. Informational Packets
4. Home Owner Requirements
5. Call for Volunteers
6. Future Projects
7. Grant Writing
8. Open Questions
9. Good of the Order
10. Next Meeting Date & Time

DeHaven Reprise

Thad Van Bueren

One year ago the dream of conserving DeHaven Beach and Headlands was launched through a collaboration among the Westport Village Society, the land owner Donna Medley, and the State Coastal Conservancy. WVS was overwhelmed by strong local support and the generosity of the community. The funds donated by the community helped pay for several studies and closing costs that supported our efforts to obtain a grant. In September the SCC approved a grant for the acquisition and planning phases of the project. We are happy to announce that escrow closed December 15, 2022. Thanks so much for your support!!

WVS will seek public input as the planning process for the DeHaven property rolls out in 2023. Botanical and wetland surveys will occur in the spring and engineering input will be sought for prospective trail and parking improvements. Public meetings will be announced in future articles. The goal is to prepare a responsible management plan that balances wise

conservation with responsible public access. Contact wvs@westportvillagesociety.org to get involved and offer input.

Westport Winter Solstice Gathering a Success

Bill Knapp, President, WVS

On December 18th many Westportians and friends gathered at the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub. It was a chance for people to meet and reconnect sharing food and conversation with folks who haven't been together in a public setting for some time.

There was live music, lots of local food brought to share with neighbors and friends, all topped off with a heartwarming vibe of camaraderie and good cheer. It was really nice to gather, in person, with old and new friends in such a welcoming and, dare I say it, elegant venue. Westport and the people who make up the Westport community are truly special. We all live in a wonderfully unique and exceptional place. The Solstice Gathering was a great way to acknowledge the who and where of our community.

Special thanks to the Westport Hotel and its owners and staff, whose hard work helped make this event possible. Last, but not least, thanks to all the people who came and made this a pleasant and memorable year-end event.

Westport Village Society Quarterly Business Meeting January 25th

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 25th, 2023. WVS will be having its business meeting at 6:30 PM at the Westport Community Center (old school house next to the Church). This will be a combination in person and Zoom meeting. An agenda and Zoom access details will be emailed and posted at the Westport Store and on the WVS website in early January. One agenda item will be discussion about possible 2023 (calendar year) events and activities. Membership is not required to attend WVS Business Meetings. If you have any suggestions for the Agenda or want to be added to the WVS email list, please send an email to WVS@westportvillagesociety.org.



2022 in Review

Westport Volunteer Fire Department

2022 was a very productive year for the Westport Volunteer Fire Department. In March our new ISO rating of 04/4X went into effect. This rating puts us in the top 32% of all fire departments evaluated by ISO in the United States, including paid as well as volunteer departments, and is one of the best ISO ratings of fire departments on the Mendocino Coast. It should help members of our community obtain fire insurance.

On June 30 Chief Dan Maxey led the response to a water rescue involving 11 people, including 7 children, who were trapped in a small cove below the parking area north of Howard Creek when the tide was coming in. All 11 people were safely rescued and brought to high ground by a CalFire helicopter. This was the largest number of lives saved by a fire department in a single water rescue incident in Mendocino County.

Much of our work during the year was devoted to training and upgrading equipment. In addition to our regular training schedule, six consecutive Saturdays were devoted to various aspects of Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 training by CalFire Battalion Chief Nate Deurloo. Several members of our Department

completed all six sessions, making them eligible to participate in wildfire strike teams and to provide coverage at CalFire stations.

We were awarded several grants that made it possible to significantly upgrade our equipment. We purchased a surplus Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance from Laytonville Fire, which is now our initial response vehicle for medical calls. This acquisition also enabled us to dedicate our rescue unit to calls that involve rescuing people from the bottom of a cliff and extricating people who are trapped inside vehicles. The other vehicle we acquired is a trailer with a system of compressed air tanks so our firefighters can refill their SCBA bottles at the scene of a fire. Towards the end of the year we were awarded a USDA grant

that enabled us to purchase a new side-by-side ATV vehicle that will enhance our emergency response to medical and injury calls on beaches and other off-road areas.

We also purchased new turnouts for structure fires from the proceeds of a grant, and received a generous donation of upgraded mobile radios from Mendocino Fire. Grants from the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council and a Mendocino County allocation of PG&E settlement funds enabled us to purchase six 5,000 gallon water tanks. Two of those tanks will be installed on Branscomb Road, and four will be installed off Highway 1 in Rockport. These tanks will enable us to store a total of 30,000 gallons of water for firefighting in remote parts of our response area. Westport also became its own Fire Safe Council, giving our community access to various fire prevention and fire containment resources.

In May and October we had two successful fundraising events and greatly appreciate the support of our community. We still need more active duty firefighters, and encourage anyone potentially interested in joining our team to contact a WVFD member.

We wish everyone in the Westport Community a healthy, happy, and safe New Year!



Happy New Year Orientation Check

January 2023 Westport Calendar

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

Sunday, January 1st – New Year’s Day

Friday, January 6th – Micro Full Moon, 3:07PM

Sunday, January 8th – “Vision Board” Art Class with Sue and Tabby, 10:00AM – 12:00PM, Westport Community Center (see page 2)

Sunday, January 8th – Thich Nhat Han Discussion Group, 2:00PM, Westport Church (see page 3)

Tuesday, January 10th – Westport Municipal Advisory Council meeting, 7:00PM, Westport Community Church. Face masks required. Contact WMAC95488@gmail.com for info.

Wednesday, January 11th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)

Thursday, January 12th – Westport Community Church Board Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Church (see p.2)

Thursday, January 12th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM (call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom)

Saturday, January 14th – Westport Fire Safe Council Meeting, 10:00AM, Westport Firehouse (see page 4)

Saturday, January 14th – Westport Community Garden Volunteer Work Day, 10:30AM, Westport Community Garden

Monday, January 16th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Thursday, January 19th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM to 10:00AM, Westport Store (masks encouraged)

Saturday January 21st – Super New Moon, 12:53PM

Sunday January 22nd – Lunar New Year – Chinese Year of the Rabbit Begins.

Wednesday, January 25th – Westport Village Society Quarterly Business Meeting, 6:30PM, Westport Community Center (see page 4)

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 11 years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org. **Contributions for our February 1st, 2023 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by January 27th**, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!