

December 1, 2023

# The Westport Wave

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## Light the Westport Holiday Tree with Santa! Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM

Val Hale and Erin Detrick

Local families and friends, please join us on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM across from the Westport Store to help Santa light the Westport Christmas Tree! After lighting the tree, Santa will hand out presents. Parents, please RSVP to Erin ASAP to ensure Santa knows who is getting a gift. You can RSVP by coming by or calling the Westport Store (707) 964-2872, or contact Erin at (707) 489-2546 or email [erind.3500@gmail.com](mailto:erind.3500@gmail.com). Let's keep the tradition alive! Happy Holidays!  
*(photos from the 2018 Westport Holiday festivities)*





**Christmas  
Carols at  
the  
Westport  
Hotel,  
December  
17<sup>th</sup>**

Tabby Korhummel

**The Westport Hotel will be closed through February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 for our normal winter break. Please note that there**

**will be a special Christmas Carol sing-along benefit dinner at 4:00PM on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**New Fire-Safe Programs Coming to Westport in 2024**

Carla Thomas and Dan Maxey, WFSC

The Westport Fire Safe Council will be participating in several programs during the winter months for defensible space and home resiliency against fire threats. There will be workshops to make your home and property safer from fire, to improve your defensible space, to become a certified home hardening inspector, and to respond to a range of emergency situations (CERT). You can still obtain reflective address plates and request defensible space clearing assistance for your property.

The Westport Fire Safe Council will apply for Fire Wise Community status for our area. This program documents that our community is practicing good fire prevention and preparedness activities. Other Fire Wise Communities have been able to reduce fire insurance costs or avoid cancelation by being in a Fire Wise Program.

Winter is also a good time for grant writing. We will continue to submit grants to bring more roadside fuel reduction to our area in 2024.

Carla Thomas has completed Community Emergency Response Team training (CERT) and is looking for people who are interested in joining the Westport CERT Team of volunteers. The primary role of CERT Teams is to help trained first responders and to provide support to the community while waiting for the professionals to arrive.

Those in the CERT program receive training on how to assist emergency responders. This training includes medical assessment and triage, emotional support to victims, cribbing (how to use blocking to leverage and lift a heavy object off of a person or other object), traffic flagger certification, incident command system, assessment on whether it's safe to enter a damaged building, how to correctly use a fire extinguisher, and how to search a building for people who need help as well as other important activities. CERT teams also conduct activities to prepare a community for emergencies. If any of these programs sound interesting to you, please contact Carla Thomas 707-272-1994

or [carlasthomas@earthlink.net](mailto:carlasthomas@earthlink.net). Thank you for all your contributions to our WVFD emergency responders. Please keep them in mind during this holiday season. Have a safe and peaceful holiday!

**Event Planning Meeting at the Westport Hotel December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Tabby Korhummel

We will have a special event planning meeting at the Westport Hotel on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM. we will discuss future events, including the Westport Whale Festival to be held the last weekend in March, the Great Rubber Ducky Races to be held on Mother's Day, and "A Breath of Plein Air". Everybody's welcome to come and share their ideas and energy. I'm hoping to get some volunteers and delegate different jobs to make these fundraisers fun and beneficial for our community, including ways that these events can benefit other nonprofits in our town. Questions, contact Tabby at the Westport Hotel (707) 964-3688, email [westporthotel@mcn.org](mailto:westporthotel@mcn.org)

## Westport Volunteer Fire Department News

WVFD

Thanks to a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, the Westport Volunteer Fire Department acquired a new state of the art “jaws of life” extrication tool that will be put in service early next month. This battery operated tool is relatively lightweight, easy to deploy, and can be operated by one person. It will help us reduce the time it takes to rescue people who are trapped inside a vehicle. More information can be found in the joint press release below:

### Westport Volunteer Fire Department Awarded Grant from the Office of Traffic Safety for New Emergency Response Equipment

Westport, Calif. – Westport Volunteer Fire Department is the recipient of an \$18,651 grant to purchase new extrication equipment. Known as the “jaws of life,” first responders use these specialized tools to safely rescue crash victims trapped inside a vehicle.

“This grant will have a significant impact on our ability to protect and serve our community, allowing us to respond even more effectively to traffic collisions in our 190 square mile response area,” said Westport Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dan Maxey. “The funding will pay for state-of-the art extrication equipment that is light weight and can be deployed quickly.”

Delays in providing care to crash victims impact the “golden hour” of survival, a core principle in the emergency medical services industry. Reducing the time it takes to get to the patient, treat what can be treated, and transport the patient to the hospital helps increase the chance for recovery.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

## Westport Community Church Election News

Erin Detrick, President, Westport Community Church

The WCC board members would like to announce the three candidates for the December 2023 election. There are two 3-year board member positions available this election. Sue Korhummel and Lee Tepper are running to fill their positions again. Albert Roberts, former board member, is also running.

Current WCC members will have a ballot mailed to them on December 1, 2023. For your vote to count, simply choose your candidates and return the ballot promptly so the board receives it in time. Please return ballots to PO Box 23, Westport, CA 95488. Contact me at [erind.3500@gmail.com](mailto:erind.3500@gmail.com) or catch up with me at the Westport Community Store with any questions you may have regarding the election, membership information, etc. Newly elected members will be announced in the January edition of *The Westport Wave*.

The Westport Community Church, Inc. is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) corporation organized in 1983 to facilitate opportunities for spiritual growth and serve the needs of the Westport community. WCC is located at 24900 Abalone Street in the unincorporated village of Westport, California, and includes a church, community center, storage building, and grounds used for community gatherings, meetings, and other purposes. We depend on donations and volunteer work by members to keep the nonprofit operating. Thank you for your support!

### Future Movie Date and Potluck

Jeff Mathias

**Save the date** – on **Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6PM**, I'd like to do a potluck and screening of the movie ***The Lost Century: And How To Reclaim It*** at the Community Center. This is a movie about how we can change our worldwide energy strategy right now to stop what will be a disastrous century if nothing is done. What if we already have the technology to solve our energy problems, but it's long been covered up by big money interests? I'll have more on this movie in the January edition of *The Westport Wave*.



The Westport Church

## Thich Nhat Hanh Discussion Group Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2:00PM

Baile Oakes

This **Westport Community Church** discussion group is focused upon the teachings of **Thich Nhat Hanh**. We will share his messages, different each month, and discuss how they might or might not influence how we show up for our selves and all Creation. This month, our quote is on Understanding and Compassion (see box below). We request that attendees be vaccinated and we will meet according to Church Covid precautions.

*If you pour a handful of salt into a cup of water, the water becomes undrinkable. But if you pour the salt into a river, people can continue to draw the water to cook, wash, and drink. The river is immense, and it has the capacity to receive, embrace, and transform. When our hearts are small, our understanding and compassion are limited, and we suffer. We can't accept or tolerate others and their shortcomings, and we demand that they change. But when our hearts expand, these same things don't make us suffer anymore. We have a lot of understanding and compassion and can embrace others. We accept others as they are, and then they have a chance to transform.*

*--Thich Nhat Hanh*



Babaji

## Living Our Dharma - Being a Good Human Being

Babaji

The holiday times are here again. The whole purpose of these sacred days is to remind us about the journey of our own soul. Yes, we spend time gathering with family and friends, but that's not the whole thing. Can we stop - take a step back, take a deep breath, and ask: "Where am I going? What is the journey of my soul?"

All traditions speak about the same thing. As my Guru said, "Before you become a Hindu, a Muslim, a Christian, a Jew, be a good human being." What kind of commitment am I going to make towards the evolution of my own soul? Or simply put: what commitment am I going to make to be a good human being?

I always remind people to stop, take a step back, take a deep breath and remember: Nothing is worth losing your peace.

### How do we live in the world without losing our peace?

If somebody has insulted you, what do you do? The immediate impulse is usually to snap back, to get

even. We want to protect our honor, but this "honor" is such a false notion of the Self. If we allow ourselves to react, while it may feel good in the moment, the effect will bring even more pain later on.

When a conflict with another arises, it is the perfect time to really pay attention to what is happening inside rather than flowing outward. If we are truly committed to our dharma to maintain peace, we do not allow ourselves to react.

It's a wonderful practice that can be done every day and in every situation – to always pay attention to whether you are reacting or responding. Responding requires bringing a little space – considering the effect of our actions on the recipient, thinking about how she or he may react in turn. Taking some time to think through the consequences of our behavior helps us to stop from reacting in a destructive way.

This practice creates an opportunity for us to grow inside. We develop forbearance and patience. We develop the ability to perceive things differently, and transmute the energy that arises within before letting it flow out. If we always live like a rubber band, ready to snap back, we live a very volatile life.

So these special days are there for a reason, and we are very fortunate if we can honor them in a way that truly honors our Self.

Separating yourself from all the story, just come back to yourself. Take a step back from everything. Welcome that deep breath. In that moment there is no judgment, there is no expectation, there is no waiting for anything to happen. Experience that moment of contentment. This moment is the perfect moment.



*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](http://www.sonomaashram.org) or reach out by email at [info@sonomaashram.org](mailto:info@sonomaashram.org). We'd love to hear from you!*



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

## December 2023 Westport Calendar

Ongoing classes at the Westport Community Center:

**Wednesdays at 9:00AM** – Tai Chi with Beck.

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**Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Store

**Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** – Hanukkah Begins at Sundown

**Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Municipal Advisory Council Meeting CANCELLED. Contact WMAC95488@gmail.com for details

**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Holiday Tree Lighting, 5:30PM, across the street from the Westport Store (see page 1)

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** – Thich Nhat Hanh Discussion Group, 2:00PM, Westport Community Church (see page 4)

**Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** – New Moon, 3:32PM

**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse

**Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM, Zoom. Call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom.

**Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** – Hanukkah Ends at Sundown

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** – Special Benefit Dinner and Christmas Carol Sing-Along, 4:00PM, Westport Hotel (see page 2)

**Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** – Special Meeting on Fundraising Events, 4:00PM at the Westport Hotel (see page 2)

**Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Store

**Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** – Winter Solstice, 7:27PM

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Day

**Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>** – Boxing Day

**Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>** – Kwanzaa Begins

**Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>** – Full Moon, 4:33PM

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>** – New Year’s Eve

**Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024** – New Year’s Day

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*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 nearly 12 years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website [www.westportvillagesociety.org](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org). **Contributions for our January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by December 27<sup>th</sup>**, and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at [westportwave@gmail.com](mailto:westportwave@gmail.com). Thanks!