

October 1, 2026

The Westport Wave

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www.westportvillagesociety.org

WVS Annual Meeting

By WVS President Thad Van Bueren

This is a reminder that the Westport Village Society will hold its Annual Member Meeting on Friday October 2, 2026 at the Westport Community Center with a potluck to follow. Please plan to join us!! A social mixer will start at 5:30 PM, providing a chance to meet neighbors and renew your membership or join WVS for the first time. The Annual Member Meeting will start at 6:00 PM with an update on WVS, the election of three Board Members, and a discussion of your ideas about priorities for the coming year.

A potluck will take place immediately after the Annual Meeting and is expected to commence around 7:00 PM in the Westport Church. Fourth District County Supervisor Bernie Norvell plans to attend and has agreed to answer questions. Please contact Sheila Winslow at (916) 812-3528 to coordinate contributions of food and beverages if you plan to participate in the potluck!

Ballots were mailed to both current and past members for whom we have current mailing addresses. We also emailed a package containing the meeting notice, ballot, and membership application to everyone on our email list because we lack current mailing addresses for some past members. Please be sure to renew your membership and vote the ballot using the instructions provided in the notice we sent. Ballots and renewals must reach our mailing address by October 2 to be counted, or you can return them to the Election Inspector before the meeting at 6 PM on October 2, 2026.

Information about WVS is available at: <https://www.westportvillagesociety.org/> and a membership application can be downloaded from that website along with information about the organization and its activities. We hope to see you October 2, 2026!

Four candidates have submitted statements of interest for the three open positions on the WVS Board of Directors. Those positions have 3 year terms. The statements provided by those candidates follow in alphabetic order:

Robert D. Finnell

I am an incumbent WVS Director running for another term commencing October 3, 2026. I am a licensed California attorney since 1984 and currently operate a Fractional General Counsel Practice to a number of emerging growth software companies in the Bay Area. I earned a Juris Doctor

from Santa Clara University School of Law and Bachelor Degree in Economics and Political Science from the University of Michigan.

I own a residence adjacent to the Westport Headlands Park since June 2010. I have consistently attended WVS Board Meetings since 2013 and I've been a WVS Director and the Secretary since October 2022. My other corporate governance experience includes:

- 1. Westport Water County Water District (public entity): Current active Director on the WCWD Board of Directors since November 2024.*
- 2. Westport Municipal Advisory Committee (public entity) – former WMAC Member and Secretary ending/expiring December 2025.*
- 3. Northwoods League, Inc., a summer collegiate for-profit baseball league of 22 affiliates based principally in the Midwest – currently and past 27 years.*
- 4. Crest View Pool Association in Orinda, California – 24 Members - Director, President and Corporate Secretary – currently and past 22 years.*

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5. Northwoods League Foundation - 501 (c)(3) non-profit entity – currently and past 18 years.

6. 301 Bryant Street Homeowners Association in San Francisco - Board of Directors (and HOA Secretary)- 16 consecutive years (2002-2018).

I would be honored to continue to serve WVS!

Rob Holt

My name is Rob Holt and I am interested in running for your open board position. I have lived full time in Westport for over 2 years and my family has owned the property located at 24950 Abalone St for 6. Over those 6 years my wife and I have participated in many of the community events at different levels. For the last 2 years I have been involved with the Westport Community Center and Church. I was elected treasurer in 2025, then President/Treasurer in 2026. As a board member of the Community Center, I have:

- *Built a website and e-commerce platform for the community center to bolster membership enrollment*
- *Organized workdays to help maintain the facility*
- *Organized guest speakers for the community*
- *Built an e-commerce site for the Ducky Derby*
- *Designed, procured funding, and built an audio/video system for the community center*
- *Have taken the lead on the replacement of the headland's stairs*
- *Built a donation kiosk for the community garden*
- *Have accepted a lead position in food service at the Ducky Derby and WVFD BBQ*
- *Facilitate the Zoom Meetings for the WVS*
- *My wife Debbie and I mow the headlands and Community Center throughout the year*

As a child, my family vacationed at Westport Union Landing every summer, then as an adult with kids, we continued that tradition until our kids were out of the house. Over those years we knew Westport would be a great place to live, for many reasons, thus our leaving the valley and moving here. I have a broad skill set and feel I could contribute to the mission of the Westport Village Society. I respect the knowledge and history of previous board members and will freely share my ideas with the intention maintaining the “special place” called Westport.

Sabel Regalia

I'd like to be considered for a position on the Westport Village Society board. I moved to town full-time this winter after buying a home here. As a self-employed entrepreneur I have flexibility to volunteer my time to the WVS events and projects.

I have three years experience as a founding member of the steering committee and initial board of a fledgling food co-op in Sonoma County, where I grew membership, organized events, and fundraised. I have experience with meetings, agendas and action items, I have great people skills, decent tech skills, and poor first aid skills (so I'm not joining the fire department).

I have a vested interest in the future of Westport as I plan on living here for the foreseeable future (I have a plot in the cemetery so I'm literally not going anywhere). The Headlands are my front yard. I'm an herbalist and botanist, and I have an interest in native plant and habitat restoration. I'm interested in creating long-term income streams for the WVS through use of the headlands and other community-owned endeavors.

I have a lifelong history in this town, raised scrambling up and down the headlands before there was a staircase. I care deeply about the health and wellbeing of the entire community, most of whom I consider family. I'd love to see the unique assets of Westport remain under the stewardship of the folks who cherish this town, and I believe my contributions within the container of the WVS would be a boon to the village.

Thad M. Van Bueren

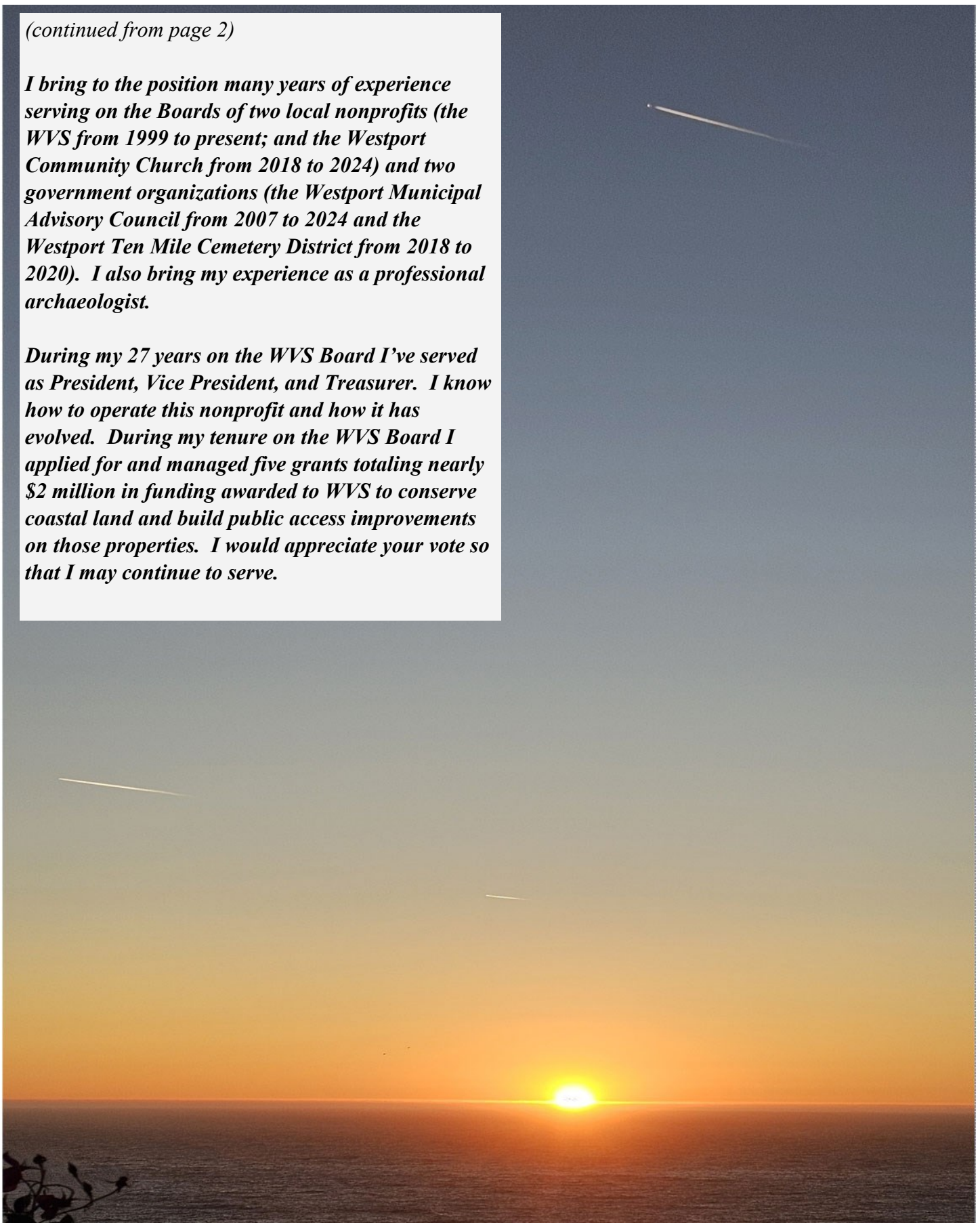
It's been my privilege to serve on the Westport Village Society Board of Directors since 1999. I find the mission of this nonprofit inspiring and enjoy working with other members to make good things happen in our community. I ask for your vote so that I may continue to serve another 3-year term as a Director. My purpose in running again is to support WVS projects and activities that help our community thrive. Some initiatives I'd like to complete with your assistance are the coastal access improvements on the DeHaven property, repairing the deteriorating stairway at the Westport Headlands Park, and fostering activities that nurture our community.

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I bring to the position many years of experience serving on the Boards of two local nonprofits (the WVS from 1999 to present; and the Westport Community Church from 2018 to 2024) and two government organizations (the Westport Municipal Advisory Council from 2007 to 2024 and the Westport Ten Mile Cemetery District from 2018 to 2020). I also bring my experience as a professional archaeologist.

During my 27 years on the WVS Board I've served as President, Vice President, and Treasurer. I know how to operate this nonprofit and how it has evolved. During my tenure on the WVS Board I applied for and managed five grants totaling nearly \$2 million in funding awarded to WVS to conserve coastal land and build public access improvements on those properties. I would appreciate your vote so that I may continue to serve.



Three Trans-Pacific commercial airliner contrails accent the stunning multi-colored gradient of the sunset sky near Westport on the evening of Tuesday, September 29th, 2026. The flight paths of most Trans-Pacific flights originating from Eastern Asia, including those from China, South Korea, and other countries of the Western Pacific Rim arrive in the USA along the Westport area coastline. Photo by Ed Truthan.

Additions to the Westport Volunteer Fire Department

By John Allison

~ We are pleased to welcome three additions to the Fire Department! ~

Beck Regalia re-joined the Department as an active-duty member who has been responding again to emergency calls.

Fiona Regalia has joined the Department as an associate member after successfully completing her three-month probationary period for training. She took the Firefighter's Oath and will become an active-duty member upon her return next Spring from academic studies in Greece.

Our newest member, **Jonathon Thompson**, successfully completed his probationary period for training and was sworn in as an active-duty member of the Department on September 9. He grew up in Fort Bragg and now lives in Westport full time, where he owns and operates a business trimming and removing hazardous trees.



Jonathon Thompson, foreground, being sworn in as an active-duty member on September 9th, 2026.

Introducing “The Wayward Bookshop”

By Tabitha

Just about a year ago my daughter Arista Regalia (Westport native born on Pelican Street) called me to share a very exciting dream she had to create a mobile book store. It’s been a wonderful and challenging journey along the way to bring her dream to fruition! For the love of books, small business and big dreams come true we hope everyone will come celebrate with us **Sunday October 11th 11:00-4:00pm at the Lost Coast Inn, home of the Sirens’ Cafe**. There will be books, bagels, coffee, soup, sourdough and prizes!

About The Wayward Bookshop

www.thewaywardbookshop.com

Fiction in motion. Serving the Mendocino Coast.

The Wayward Bookshop is a fiction only, fantasy-focused mobile bookshop, parked primarily on the Mendo Coast. This bookshop started as a little dream for a big nerd, who found she couldn’t wait till retirement to open a bookshop. It was a now dream. With a curated selection of new and used books, as well as bookish merch and second hand clothing, The Wayward Bookshop is here to bring you a touch of whimsy on wheels.



The Wayward Bookshop

Grand Opening!

Shop new and used fiction titles, whimsical goods,
or just come to chat about books!
Soup, bagels & baked goods at the Siren's Cafe!

Sunday, October 11th
11:00am - 4:00pm
@
The Siren's Cafe
37040 N Highway 1, Westport CA





Fall hours Thursday- Saturday 5-8:30pm

707-964-3688

WE WILL BE **CLOSED** FOR A
PRIVATE EVENT 10/17

&

CLOSED 10/31 SO OUR STAFF
CAN TRICK OR TREAT



MUSIC IN THE PUB!

CHAD SWIMMER W/ ANDALELE
10/11 AT 5:30

BELLHOPPERS W/ ERIN
BRAZILL, HALLOWEEN SET
10/30 AT 5:00

SAVE THE DATE! NOV 7TH 3:00 PM
FOR OUR ANNUAL PIE & OTHER
THINGS PUMKIN CONTEST!! BE A
COMPETITOR AND OR A JUDGE



TRIVIA NIGHT WITH ARISTA, AT THE OLD ABALONE PUB

- Friday October 23rd sign up by 6:00pm with your team name/members
- \$5 per person, trivia starts at 6:30 pm.
- Theme is Spooky Season. 3 rounds plus bonus questions.
- Winning team takes the pot!

Taste of the Harvest

OUR NEXT TEA WILL BE
OCTOBER 24TH





Babaji

Maintaining Peace

Last week the Ashram hosted Peace in the Plaza - an event in the main plaza in Sonoma to inspire the community towards inner peace. Many joined us and it was a beautiful gathering that we hope to do for many years to come. So this word "peace" has been very much on my mind for the past few weeks.

Peace is there. It's always there. But how easily we lose it over small things like: somebody didn't smile at me, somebody didn't acknowledge what I did, didn't hear me, didn't make time for me, didn't do what I wanted them to do. All of these feelings come, and we lose our peace.

We can sit and meditate for hours, go to seminars, read all the books and pray, and look very holy from the outside. Are we really maintaining our peace?

What does it take to maintain our peace?

It reminds me of a story. There was an old monk and a young monk living together. The old monk asked the young one, "What is conflict? I have lived alone, and this word 'conflict' I read about but I don't understand it." The young monk nodded and didn't say anything.

Later that morning when they were having breakfast, suddenly, the young monk pulled the elder's bowl towards him. The old monk said, "That's mine. Give it to me." The young monk pulled the bowl back.

And this went on two, three times. Finally, the old monk said - "Okay, you have it." The young one said, "Just a minute ago, we were having a conflict. But the moment you said, 'Okay, you have it,' you ended the conflict."

It's our insistence on our desire, our way of thinking, our idea, our way of seeing something that creates conflict. The day we develop this ability within us to allow a little space for the other we end the conflict. In those moments, we are creating peace.

How can we develop the practice of looking for our own happiness in the smile of the other person? It is this attitude that truly brings peace into the world. This is more than feeling good about ourselves because we have done something or given something - it is truly experiencing a state of joy from the receiver's happiness.

Sitting in meditation with our eyes closed is good, but the real spiritual practice is how we live our day to day lives. Do we walk in the world with the sense of "What can I do for you?" instead of "I have the right of way, I need to go." Can we find a little joy in just letting the other person have what they want or go their own way?

Our sense of entitlement, our sense of "I know best" - these are human habits that we all have. But they become collective and we are seeing it all over the world today - they are the reason for conflict. We have enough. We don't need to accumulate more. Yes, it may make my life a little easier, but at what cost? Creating so much anxiety, fear all over the world. Others lose their peace, we lose our peace.

Creating a peaceful world begins with developing peace as an individual and it's everybody's responsibility to create peace.

If you say, "I'm not fighting, I don't bother anybody. What can I do to bring peace?" just look at yourself. There are moments we are all presented with when we lose our peace. In that moment, if we can take a nice deep breath and honor that peace within, we have made a great contribution to the collective peace.

We all can practice this. We all have moments when we are presented in our life, and anytime we avoid conflict and preserve our peace is a very sacred moment.

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It is said: if you want to maintain your peace, forget two things: the good you have done to the other, and the harm that the other has done to you. And remember two things: remember God, and remember death.

When we keep remembering or reminding someone of our good deed, expectation grows. We all know that our expectations of others often don't get met, and then we lose our peace. When we constantly bring to mind the harm that another has done, we keep living in bitterness. The more we remember, the more we talk about it, the more that negativity just lives. Remember God - remember that higher presence within you and all around you and remember death - everything ends there.

The choice is ours while we are living: do we want to live in peace or do we want to live in misery? Every moment provides us an opportunity to work on peace: our individual peace and collective peace. May we be able to catch ourselves in those moments when we start to lose our peace, and watch our minds. Are we justifying our reaction? That's one option. The other option is:

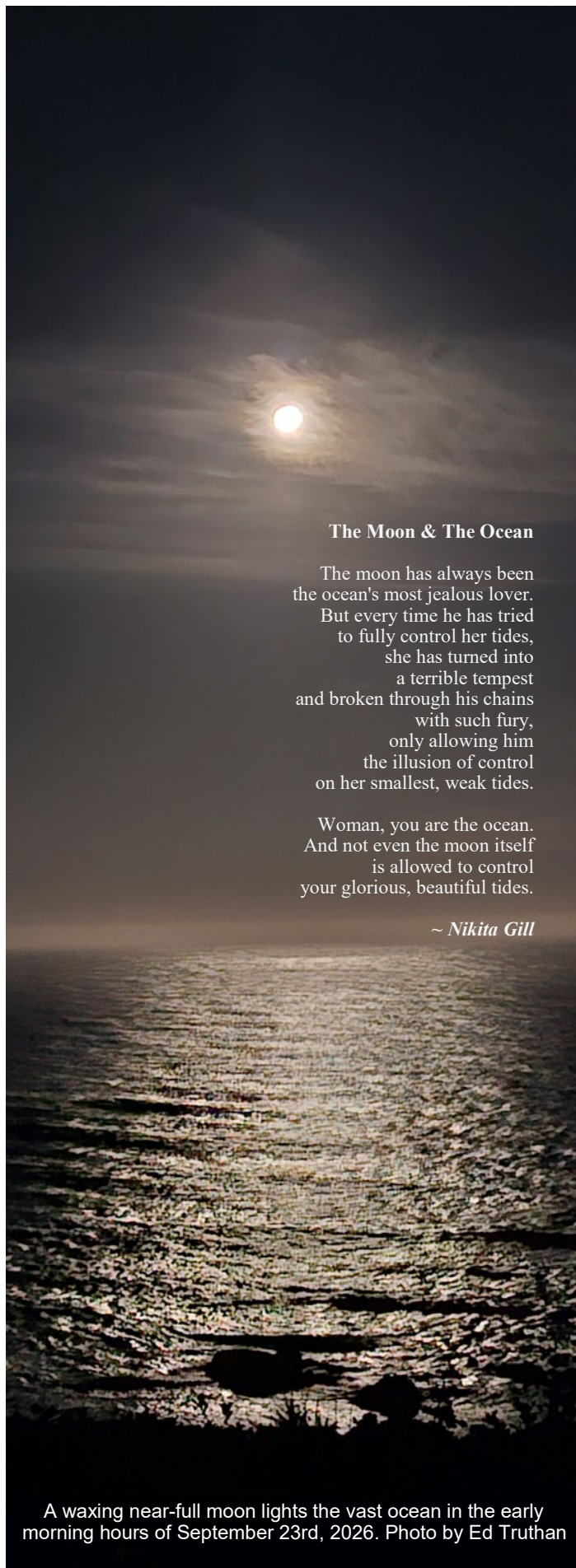
**Stop, take a step back, take a deep breath.
Maintain your peace.**

It's such a powerful practice that transcends all religions and all traditions. It's all about you. Maintaining your peace is the greatest spiritual practice.

Every soul has its own journey. This is your journey, it's not somebody else's journey. And this is your work. You have to do it. It's all of our individual work and responsibility to create more peace in the world.



Babaji's mission is to help people experience fullness in life through simple spiritual practices and meditation. He 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. We'd love to hear from you!



The Moon & The Ocean

The moon has always been
the ocean's most jealous lover.
But every time he has tried
to fully control her tides,
she has turned into
a terrible tempest
and broken through his chains
with such fury,
only allowing him
the illusion of control
on her smallest, weak tides.

Woman, you are the ocean.
And not even the moon itself
is allowed to control
your glorious, beautiful tides.

~ Nikita Gill

A waxing near-full moon lights the vast ocean in the early morning hours of September 23rd, 2026. Photo by Ed Truthan

October 2026 Westport Calendar

Thursday, Oct. 1st - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

Friday, Oct. 2nd - **WVS Annual Meeting** at 6:00PM at Community Center, Social Mixer starts at 5:30PM with potluck to follow at the Church at 7:00PM.

Thursday, Oct. 8th - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

Thursday, Oct. 8th - Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store.

Thursday, Oct. 8th - Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 6:00PM, Zoom. Call Kayla Cooper at (707) 367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom.

Sunday, Oct 11th - The Wayward Bookshop introductory Grand Opening event from 11:00AM-4:00PM at the Lost Coast Inn, home of the Sirens' Cafe. There will be books, bagels, coffee, soup, sourdough and prizes. See the article on page 5 of this month's Wave for more details.

Wednesday, Oct. 14th - Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse.

Thursday, Oct. 15th - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

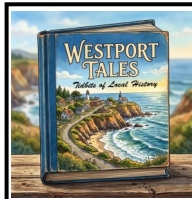
Wednesday, Oct. 21st - **WVS Board Meeting** at 6:30 PM at Community Center; contact wvs@westportvillagesociety.org for Zoom details.

Thursday, Oct. 22nd - Tai-Chi with Beck, 8:00AM at the at the Westport Community Center.

Thursday, October 22nd - Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store.

Sundayday, October 25th - Full "Hunter's" Moon occurs at 9:11PM Pacific Daylight Time.

Note: Basic/beginner Tai Chi Chuan with Beck on Thursday mornings improves focus, balance and strength, and is no charge for persons with paid memberships to the [Church/Community Center](#).



Do you have a tale of local interest to share with the community? Submit your "*Westport Tale*" to editor Ed Truthan at: thewestportwave@gmail.com

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 14 years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org.

Contributions for our November 1st, 2026 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by Tuesday, Oct. 27th, (or earlier if possible) and sent to editor Ed Truthan at thewestportwave@gmail.com Thanks!

Support the Westport Volunteer Fire Department...
Our Department depends on your donations!



Your support and contributions will enable us to meet our goals and improve our equipment and training. Any amount helps... and helps keep our community safer.



**To
Donate
Today**

www.westportvfd.org