

December 1, 2025

# The Westport Wave

Published by the Westport Village Society, P. O. Box 325, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

## Light the Westport Christmas Tree with Santa Saturday, Dec. 6th at 5:30PM

Val Hale and Erin Detrick

**Local families and friends, please join us on Saturday, December 6th 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. Locals who have been asking about how they can donate a gift for the event, please have a ready-to-play-with, wrapped \$12-\$15 present turned into the Westport Store by December 1st. Please indicate if the gift is for girl/boy/unisex and for what age. **To get more info. & RSVP, just stop by or call The Westport Store (707) 964-2872 or contact Erin at (707) 489-2546. Let's keep the tradition alive! Happy Holidays!**



Westport Christmas – Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>!

## Community Potluck and Holiday Celebration, Saturday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, After the Christmas Tree Lighting

Sheila Winslow

**Please join your neighbors and friends at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Potluck and Holiday Celebration at the Westport Church!** Last year we had approximately 34 people! The Church is all decked out for the Holidays with the warm feeling of the season. Bring your favorite dish, beverage and Christmas cheer! There will be hot cocoa and coffee available. Please RSVP to 916-812-3528 or [sheilawinslow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sheilawinslow@sbcglobal.net). Doors will be open at 4:30PM. We expect to start around 5:30PM after the tree lighting ceremony and visit from Mr. & Mrs. Claus. I hope to see you all there!

**WESTPORT HOTEL INVITES  
YOU TO CELEBRATE**

*Our Last Night of the Year*

DECEMBER

**6**

AT 5:00 PM

**WITH MUSIC BY LOCAL FAVORITES**

**STEVEN BATES**

*&*

**JOEL JORDON**

*Music starts at 5:30*



707-964-3688

[westporthotel@mcn.org](mailto:westporthotel@mcn.org)



# Christmas Cookie Swap & Tea

Sunday Dec 7th

2:00-4:00pm



Please join us for a holiday Cookie Swap & Tea

- Bring 3 dozen cookies to trade & eat
- Create a Christmas cookie plate to take home or bring to your next holiday party
- Bring ribbons and trim for your plate (we will have some to share)
- Eat cookies and drink tea with friends

Contact Dorine or Tabby 707-964-3688

## Westport Church

24900 Abalone St.

## Habemus Editorem!

Steve Brigham

It is my pleasure to have been your *Westport Wave* Editor for the past 14 years (170 monthly issues, all on time!). But volunteering is not just about one person; rather, over time, it is more like a relay race. And now, it is my turn to hand the baton off to a new *Wave* editor. I am pleased to report that Ed Truthan has volunteered to take over *The Westport Wave* with the **January 2026** issue.

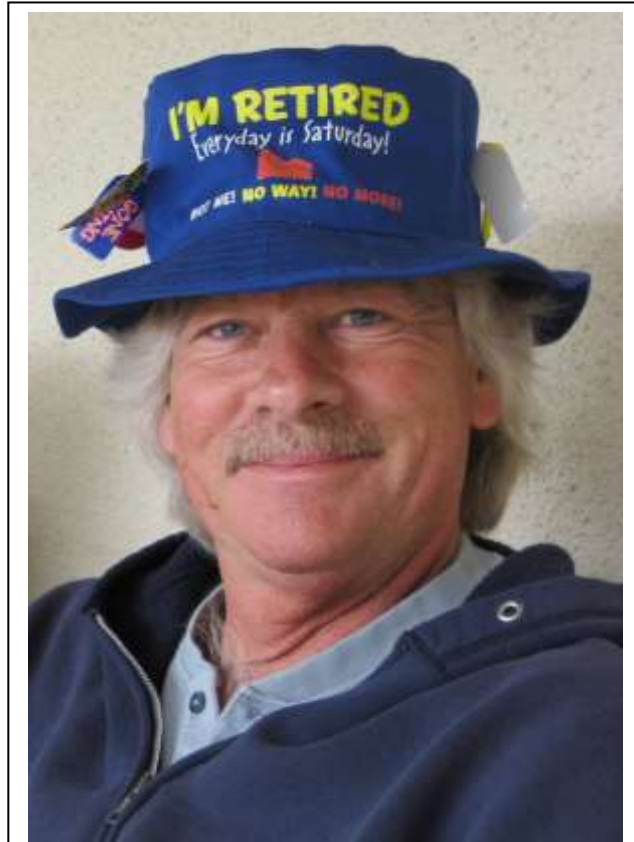
As many of you know, Donna and I moved up to the Washington rainforest in 2019, ever in search of more rain and fewer people. Although I have continued to edit this monthly newsletter from a distance, it was pretty obvious that to do the job well, we instead needed an Editor that lives in Westport – and so we have quietly been searching for a qualified new *Wave* Editor for the past 6 years. Now, our search is over.

Ed Truthan (see his article on page 5) is very qualified in computer graphics, publishing, and deadlines, and he is a very friendly person that I'm sure you'll all like. He lives in Westport with his wife and mother-in-law, just like I once did. Recently retired, I know he will be a real "doer" for Westport and fit into our community in very fine fashion.

We've all been through a lot together in the past 14 years (see the Newsletter page of our website [www.westportvillagesociety.org](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org) for 14 years of monthly back issues), certainly a long enough period of time where we have seen many milestones in our small town, and have literally watched one another grow up in that time no matter how old we really are. As with all the editions of the *Westport Wave* since 1992, our back issues now tell a long and interesting story of the day-to-day community projects we've all

### 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](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org) – where you'll find our most current issue as well as 14 years of monthly back-issues, all in living color, with live links! Check it out, and tell your friends!



**The Honor is to Serve!  
Thanks for all the good times!**

worked on together for all those years, and the fun times we've all had together over the years. My fondest memories are of working with all of you on our many community committees and projects during that time and getting to know you all well.

Many years ago, I realized that my greatest motivation for volunteering is to help individual friends with their projects, because it makes them happy. And when I help friends with a common goal, we can team up with more friends and be a real force for community improvement. Our amazing community contributors to *The Westport Wave* over the years are too many to mention, but we will keep hearing from them in 2026 and beyond. Pay attention to all the *Wave* by-lines over the years – these folks are the real heroes of this story!

The teamwork that it takes to put together a monthly newsletter every month on time is amazing, and with that I will leave you with that most Westportian of words of the last 14 years – **TEAMWORK!**  
**Together, we did it, and Thank You All!**



**Let's All Welcome your New Westport Wave Editor, Ed Truthan, and his wife Cheryl! – S.B.**

## **Introducing New Westport Wave Editor Ed Truthan**

**Ed Truthan**

Hello everyone! After many years of operating a small but successful business in the Bay Area, my wife Cheryl and I, now in our late sixties, recently opted to let it all go and begin enjoying a hard-earned retirement. As events would have it, we were blessed to find and purchase a lovely home just north of Westport. Not a day goes by that we aren't deeply thankful to have ended up in one of the most captivating places on Earth, both for its stunning beauty, and the talented and diverse community of people who inhabit Westport and its surroundings.

We're still adjusting to "retired life" where long-deferred interests and hobbies will hopefully find new

time to grow and flourish. For over two decades in my 20's thru early 40's I was a full-time resort town "lounge" musician (Vail, Colorado & Lahaina, Maui mostly...) and still enjoy singing and playing guitar ballads for friends, family, and just the ocean. I'm a life-long armchair student of astronomy and science, with a deep interest in Native American history, but my longest running hobby (since 1998) involves aviation, specifically PC Flight Simulation, which, since the advent of Virtual Reality headsets, is now even more immersive than ever. It is, perhaps, the perfect retirement hobby, as it can be quite challenging and keeps the mind sharp!

Upon attending the October 3rd annual meeting of the Westport Village Society, Thad Van Buren mentioned the need for someone to take over for the Wave's long-time editor Steve Brigham. Having been the graphics and marketing director of our small company, and accustomed to advertising deadlines and other promotional activities, I raised my hand as it seemed to be a perfect fit with my skill set and newly found retirement freedom.

As I will be assuming the job during December to gather the regular contributors' articles and information for the January 2026 issue, I encourage all contributors to give me a quick introductory shout at their convenience via email or phone during December. The new contact email for all submissions and communications is [thewestportwave@gmail.com](mailto:thewestportwave@gmail.com) (same as before but with "the" as a prefix). Text messaging to my cell phone 707-932-1135 for quick communications is also welcome and encouraged.

I want to thank Steve Brigham for his help and graciousness during this transition, and we are looking forward to many happy seasons of contributing to, and being members of, this remarkable community. We look forward to meeting many of you in the near future!



Babaji

## Remembering the Light That Is Within Us All

Babaji

As we enter into the winter season, the outside activities become limited, there is less light, and we spend more time indoors. During these times, when the darkness can seem so vast, it's even more important to remember that light that is within us all. It's there, it's just that our mind doesn't always go there.

How do you connect with that light inside? Where do you start? What I suggest is that you carve out a little time every day to turn inwards. Find a comfortable place to sit. Close your eyes, relax your facial muscles, neck, and shoulders. Soften your entire body. Turn your attention to the breath. Notice the breath as it comes in and notice your breath as it goes out. Keep your attention on your breath.

Then, keeping your eyes closed and your body soft, bring your attention to the center of the forehead. Slowly, with practice, you will notice that a light will begin to appear. If it doesn't come right away, imagine that it appears.

Everything starts with imagination. We can imagine that light instead of focusing on darkness. We can imagine hope, joy and peace instead of anger and fear.

Usually people believe only what they can see with their physical eyes. But we all have an "inner eye" too. Whenever we imagine something, we are seeing through the inner eye. That inner eye can be trained to flow towards good things, instead of bad. It can be trained to flow towards light. The sight of the inner eye is boundless. It's much vaster than these physical eyes can see.

So let us turn these winter months ahead into a time for practice. Find a little time to take a break from the world. Come back to yourself. Your practice doesn't need to be complicated. You do not need any philosophy, dogma or rituals. All you need is your own presence.

Once we begin to bring any kind of spiritual practice into our life, there is an invisible energy that comes towards us, and becomes accessible to us. That energy of Self-love, Self-caring comes. A simple practice is something we all can do.

The very moment that you give yourself permission to turn inwards towards your true and unchanging Self, new possibilities begin to open up inside you.



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



## **Thanks To All Who Helped at the Fall Church and Community Center Clean-Up!**

**Rob Holt**

A big THANK YOU to all that came out for the Fall Clean-Up at the Westport Church & Community Center! Boy did we get a lot done. A new basketball hoop was installed, the basketball court was pressure washed in

preparation for painting, and tree branches resting on the fence and community center were cut back and gutters cleaned. That's just the short list! Also, a big shout-out to Val for removing all the green waste. If you would like to receive email messages and text notifications about upcoming events at the Westport Church and Community Center, email your name and cellphone number to: [westportchurch@outlook.com](mailto:westportchurch@outlook.com) and we will add you to our list!



The Church is Decorated for the Westport Christmas Party, Saturday Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at the Westport Church (Sheila Winslow photo)

## December 2025 Westport Calendar

**Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** – Bookmobile, 9:00AM to 9:30AM, Westport Store

**Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** – Super Full Moon, 3:14PM

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Westport Christmas Tree Lighting With Santa, 5:30PM, across from the Westport Store (see page 1)

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** – Community Holiday Potluck and Christmas Celebration, immediately after the Christmas Tree Lighting, Westport Community Church (see page 1)

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** – Last Open Night of the Year Celebration, Westport Hotel and Pub, starting at 5:00PM with music by Steven Bates and Joel Jordan starting at 5:30PM (see page 2)

**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Cookie Swap and Tea, 2:00PM to 4:00PM, Westport Church (see page 3)

**Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM, Westport Firehouse

**Thursday, December 11<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.

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** – Hanukkah Begins at Sundown

**Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** – Bookmobile, 9:00AM-9:30AM, Westport Store

**Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** – New Moon, 10:47PM

**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** – Winter Solstice, 7:03AM

**Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Hanukkah Ends at Sundown

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

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

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

**Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>** – New Year's Eve

**Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026** – New Year's Day

**Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026** – Full Moon, 2:02AM

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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 14 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>, 2026 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025** and should be sent to our new Editor Ed Truthan at [thewestportwave@gmail.com](mailto:thewestportwave@gmail.com) Thanks!