

a view from the

WEST POINT INN

The Newsletter for the West Point Inn Association and Friends

December 2021 • Issue 48

Mission Statement:

The West Point Inn Association exists to preserve, maintain, operate and educate the public about the significance of the historic West Point Inn.

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The newsletter is published with funds provided in memory of Lifetime Member, Ernest E. Emig, and Honorary Member, Harold Allen Atkinson.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Don Keeley

I am writing this message a few days before Thanksgiving, and I am once again reminded of all the things we should be thankful for. The Inn has survived the darkest days of the Pandemic and is slowly returning to normal (pre-pandemic) operations.

We should all be thankful for the wonderful work of our Innkeepers, often under very trying circumstances. Our Innkeepers have spent weeks alone at the Inn as Health Orders kept the Inn closed to guests. They have taken on extra work related to cleaning and sanitizing between guest visits. They have managed the solar electrical system and the water system, and completed numerous maintenance projects. Overnight guests often remark that the Innkeepers have made their visit especially memorable. I couldn't agree more.

During the darkest periods of the pandemic, when the Inn was closed to overnight guests, and Pancake Breakfasts and other events that generated income were cancelled, the Board had a real concern that the Inn would run out of money. The Development Committee, co-chaired by Jim Parton and Dan Ciccarone, and with support from our Treasurer, Mark Northcross, managed a fundraising campaign that replaced a significant amount of lost revenue. These fundraising efforts along with income from a partial reopening of the Inn and the re-start of Pancake Breakfasts, have eliminated the financial threat that the Inn faced. We should all be thankful for the generous fundraising donors, overnight guests and Pancake Breakfast patrons that have kept the Inn financially sound.

The Inn was closed to all overnight guests for most of 2020, and reopened on a very limited basis in February 2021. The Inn is now open for overnight guests at 50% capacity, with whole Inn bookings, member discounts and the ability to use West Point Bucks to pay for overnight fees all in place. Barring any Covid-19 setbacks, we plan to reopen the Inn at 100% capacity in February 2022, and reinstate the member benefit of booking reservations 120 days in advance. The Reopening Committee, co-chaired by Nancy Fox and Alyssa Jorgensen, has driven all of these reopening activities. Thanks to Nancy and Alyssa's hard work, we have been able to reopen the Inn in a safe and healthy manner, in compliance with all Marin County and California Health Orders.

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The Inn first opened to the public in 1904, and even though there have only been limited number of overnight guests this year, maintenance needs continue. Michael Jeffries has volunteered to coordinate maintenance activities, often pitching-in to help complete the work himself. The Toby Cabin floor structure was completely removed and rebuilt (with help from Head Innkeeper David Durr), roof leaks were repaired, fireproofing upgrades were installed in the kitchen, and numerous windows and doors are being repaired. The Inn continues to look great and work well, thanks to the efforts of several volunteers.

There have been no monthly Work Parties since February 2020, but that doesn't mean traditional Work Party activities are no longer needed. Lin Johanson and Chris Marcuse, with help from Bonnie Jones and Fran Rondeau, have been organizing "Mini Work Parties" for volunteers to tackle some of these needs. Work has included deep cleaning of the Inn and cabins, cleaning of curtains, mending and repairs, touch-up painting, brush clearing and stacking of firewood in the woodshed. These Mini Work Parties have also been an opportunity for prospective members to participate in a required volunteer activity to complete their membership application.

Visitors often learn about the Inn by viewing our website. Recognizing that the website had not been updated in several years, Alyssa Jorgensen volunteered to work with the web master to redo the website. Thanks to Alyssa's work, the website has an updated look, new photographs and historical video clips. There are more updates planned. Please take a look at the refreshed website (www.westpointinn.com).

Our Membership Committee Chair, Talia Friedman, is implementing a new membership management software program, Wild Apricot. When completed, the software will allow us to manage our membership roster more efficiently, communicate with members more quickly and easily, and allow payments. It is a big task, and Talia deserves our thanks for taking it on.

Fire safety remains a top priority for all of us. Pete Martin, our fire safety expert, has worked closely with the Marin County Fire Department to make sure we are up to date with all current information and in compliance with all requirements. We are thankful for the abundant early rains that have diminished the immediate fire risk, but we know this is only a temporary reduction in risk.

As I end the year as your President, I want to thank my fellow Board members, Committee Chairs, members and all others who have offered their advice and support throughout the year. I truly appreciate it.

Looking ahead to 2022, your Board of Directors plans to re-open the Inn to overnight guests at 100% capacity, resume the monthly Work Parties, and begin to add events back to our calendar. Given where we have been, it will almost feel normal again.

WPIA LOOKING FOR A BOARD SECRETARY

The West Point Inn Association is looking for a Secretary. The Secretary is an officer of the Association, and the primary responsibility is to keep minutes of the monthly Board of Directors Meetings and the Members Meetings held each Spring and Fall. Serving as Secretary is a great way to learn more about the operation of the West Point Inn and to learn about the challenges we face.

Wing Pepper, the current Secretary, has done a tremendous job for the Association, but Wing has been living on the East Coast and does not plan to return to the Bay Area in the near future. Since all of the Association's meetings have been Zoom Meetings since early 2020, Wing has been able to fully participate while living 2,800 miles away (even with a 3 hour time difference!).

We hope to resume in-person meetings at some point in 2022, and Wing will no longer be able to serve as Secretary from the East Coast. If you have an interest in this position, please send an email to president@westpointinn.com.

2021 ELECTION RESULTS

Lin & Chris Marcuse

We want to congratulate the winners of the 2021 Board of Directors election. Mark Northcross and Patti Schmidt will be returning to the Board while, Peter Karlen will be a first-time director. We look forward to great things from all three during their term and thank them for stepping up to serve the Inn and the Association.



WORK PARTIES RESUME JANUARY 15, 2022

Don Keeley

After a long hiatus, West Point Inn Work Parties will resume Saturday, January 15, 2022 and continue the third Saturday of each month (except December). Work Parties begin at 10AM and end at approximately 2PM. It will be wonderful to gather once again to help maintain the Inn.

Due to concerns about Covid-19, we plan to start slowly. Work Parties will be limited to the first 30 people who sign-up via email (workparty@westpointinn.com). In the past, people have come to the Inn to join a Work Party without signing-up in advance; this will no longer be possible. Wrist bands will be given out to attendees at each Work Party. Work Party volunteers must be fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated is defined as a minimum of 14 days past your second vaccination date for Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, or a minimum of 14 days past your single vaccination date for Johnson & Johnson vaccine. You may be asked to provide proof of vaccination on the day of the Work Party.

Lunch and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided at each Work Party.

We look forward to welcoming our member and prospective member volunteers back to the Inn!

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Lin Marcuse & Gordy MacDermott

We want to thank everyone who participated in this shortened pancake breakfast season. Many thanks to Nancy Fox, Bonnie Jones and Fran Rondeau (in various combinations) who ran the August, September and October events. While we started with only a couple of hundred diners in August, a great segment on KTVU's Morning Show brought in many new guests. We had nearly 450 in September and over 500 in October, a possible record for the month!

A new addition to the pancake events this year were fresh blueberries, chocolate chips and real maple syrup. All new and outstanding ideas which were dependent upon the season but we all look forward to see what the new season brings. Come join us and bring your ideas!

We are looking for breakfast and clean up hosts for next year. We need breakfast hosts for September as well as clean up hosts for May, June, August and September. Please contact us at pancakes@westpointinn.com if you are interested. It's a lot of fun and you will have a ton of support from the pancake team. Also, please contact us if you are interested in working one of the events next year and we will put you on the list. A reminder will go out in the spring asking which occasion you want to work, breakfast or cleanup, on May 8, June 19, July 10, August 14, September 11 or October 9.

Lastly, if you can't work one of these dates, please plan on coming up to join us for great pancakes with a spectacular view. Here's to seeing you at the Inn again soon!



TANGERINE BUTTERMILK CAKE

Fran Rondeau

What better way to use those organic tangerine peels than to flavor your sugar? Pre chop and swirl! You will have enough for 2 lovely loaves. This makes perfect holiday gifts or sliced and served with a cup of tea when anyone pops in to visit. Bon appétit!

Mix 2 cups sugar and 3 tangerine peels-into cuisinart-(2 cups sugar and peel of 3 tangerines)

In mixer, cream:

- the tangerine flavored sugar with
- 2 sticks butter or 1 cup of canola oil
- add: 4 lg. eggs

In a separate bowl mix:

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 t. baking soda
- 1/2 t. baking powder
- 1/2 t salt

Alternate adding dry ingredients with 3/4 cup of buttermilk

Bake 350 50-60 minutes

INNKEEPERS REPORT

Lin Marcuse & Fran Rondeau

The Innkeepers have been doing a great job taking care of the inn and guests as we have been operating at 50% capacity. Our Innkeepers have ushered and assisted the guests as they get reacquainted with sharing lounges and kitchen facilities. Everyone has been getting along, and we have our welcoming and personable Innkeepers to thank for that. We're also getting ready to go to 100% capacity in February.

We want to introduce our newest innkeeper, Janice Hayes. Janice is a retired San Francisco firefighter who also served in the Marine Corps. She is an avid surfer who has a love for nature. In Janice's own words, "I'm grateful to be a part of this magical space and looking forward to being a part of preserving it for the use of other like-minded people. Having recently retired from the fire service I have more time to enjoy the outdoors and Mt Tam is one of the best places to explore."

Be sure to welcome Janice when you meet her. And, hopefully, we'll all be able to enjoy the Inn again soon!

RESERVATIONS UPDATE

Alyssa Jorgensen

Reservations are now open through 2022. Below are some details about bookings moving forward this year.

- The 90-120 day advance member booking window has been reinstated as of December 1, 2021.
- WPI member discount is 50% per accommodation, per night. PLEASE NOTE: a member must be staying in the room/cabin to get the 50% discount (no discounts for non-member friends).
- Continue to use code NORA2021 for both member rates and access to advance booking (this code will change in early 2022).
- Reservations are available through March 2022 for members (Feb 2022 for non-members).
- On February 1, 2022 the Inn plans to be fully open at 100% occupancy.
- WPI members do not get a discount on Whole Property bookings, but members are able to book 30 days in advance of non-members.

For any additional questions, please visit the website or email reservations@westpointinn.com.

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BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO:

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WANT TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE?

PLEASE SEND SUBMISSIONS

AND PHOTOS TO

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