

# Western Friend Annual report 2013

**Western Friend:** building practical and spiritual connections in print, online and face-to-face.

## Western Friend

### Draft, Draft, Draft--Draft

#### Annual Report

2013

The purpose of **Western Friend** is to build community among our constituent yearly meetings: Inter-Mountain Yearly Meeting (IMYM), North Pacific Yearly Meeting (NPYM), and Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM). In addition to publishing **Western Friend** magazine, **Western Friend** works to bring Friends together in person, and online around common interests. In particular one of our recent books, *To Be Broken and Tender: a Quaker Theology for Today* continues to enrich the spiritual life of Friends. This book appeals a broad range of Friends as well as to those outside of Quakers. It is also popular with meeting study groups. Marge Abbott, author of *To Be Broken and Tender* continues to travel the country, leading Friends in workshops based on the book. The newest book published by Western Friend in 2013 is "An Inner Strength, Quakers and Leadership. This collection of essays from contemporary American Quaker leaders explores the inner strength that compels so many quiet quakers into leadership roles far more often than our numbers might predict.

2013 has been a year of visioning and questioning for Western Friend. Through sessions at Yearly meetings, surveys, presentation at Monthly meetings, and reflection among the board, Western friend has explored what do Friends of the West need and want from Western Friend? The message came back pretty clear: 1. Continue the great work on the magazine, 2. Expand our online presence. 3. Expand the connections and resources that WF provides for the three Yearly meetings of the West.

Much focus in in 2013 has gone toward re-designing and expanding the WF web site, with the new site to be launched in 2014. The new site will feature....., WF has contracted with Bryley Oxley, a young Friend, from [Portland\(?\)](#) to develop the site.

**Western Friend** currently publishes six issues per year and continues to give readers articles and essays that engage Friends' hearts and minds. Themed issues have been an especially popular way to expand Friends' understanding of salient topics with the themes in 2013 being; \_\_\_\_\_. During the past year Western Friend has reached thousands of Friends through our books and magazines.

This year Jerry Peterson, from Mountain View Friends Meeting (IMYM), Jonathan Brown from Eastside Friends Meeting(NPYM), and Sandy Farley from Palo Alto Meeting(PYM) completed their service to the WF Board. We send them on their way with deepest gratitude, while welcoming new board members, Judith Streit, and Regina Renee Ward, both of Mountain View Friends Meeting, (IMYM), Alan Mountjoy-Venning, Olympia Monthly Meeting(NPYM). A vacancy remains on the board for a PYM representative.

**Western Friend's** financial situation for the fiscal year ending 9/30/2013 was stable. Although Western Friend budgeted for an operating loss in FY2012-13 of \$6,400 in anticipation of costs and possible disruptions in the transition to a new editor, we realized a net loss of only \$3,708. Unrestricted net assets were \$23,440 on 9/30/2013. A three month operating reserve would be closer to \$30k. In 2013, we completed a financial review of the FY 2012, by Richard Winkle, CPA completed a financial review of Western Friend, funded by the restricted contribution of PYM for this purpose. Mr. Winkle found no findings of concern, and the Board accepted his report. The Board feels that Western Friend stands on firm financial footing as we continue to build our services and effectiveness. Finances are tight, and frugal, yet stable.

The passing of 2013 also marks the one year anniversary for Mary Klein, as the Editor/Executive Director of Western Friend. Mary has brought her own passion and style to this work, focusing her skills and talents on excellent magazine issues, and increasing our web presence, and connections, online and face to face.

In 2014, WF Board members will be actively visiting and contacting Monthly meetings. We are also seeking volunteer liasons in the monthly meetings who can represent and connect Western Friend more strongly and personally in each meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Percy,

Clerk