

**PORTLAND, ORE., MEMBERS HOLD CONFLICT RESOLUTION WORKSHOP
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On March 4, nearly 20 members from all four divisions of the SGI-USA membership in Portland, Ore., turned out at their community center for a conflict resolution workshop facilitated by Karen (Gila) Stephens, a graduate student at Portland State University who is doing her master's thesis in education on conflict resolution. Leah Stenson, office manager for the Oregon Peace Institute, spoke about the mission of the peace institute, a nonprofit organization that promotes conflict resolution, and provided resources on that topic and related topics such as anger and nonviolence for distribution and purchase.

The idea for the workshop came about after Ms. Stephens attended several workshops sponsored by OPI. Both she and Ms. Stenson wanted to give SGI members an opportunity to learn some new techniques that would enable them to deal with conflict more effectively.

Ms. Stephens, who is also an artist, incorporated several exercises that involved drawing in the workshop. In one exercise, the participants were told to draw their conflicts on large sheets of paper. After the drawings were complete, each participant paired up with a partner and attempted to decipher the other's drawing, i.e., conflict. Later, participants who had the desire to do so had the opportunity to share their drawings and their reactions to the exercise with the rest of the group.

Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the exercises, and although not everyone in the room knew each other well, there was a pervading feeling of warmth and camaraderie by the end of the workshop. One participant said that "the workshop made me realize that others perceive things differently than I. I was floored with the positive feelings this created in me and the rest of the group."

In the process of examining their conflicts, the participants had not only learned some new techniques and perspectives for dealing with conflict — they had also made some new friends.