

PNQM Silent Retreat
Camp Huston, Gold Bar, Washington
January 19-21, 2018 (with optional extension to Jan. 22)

This retreat offers an opportunity to reach more profound depths in the Silence of Quaker worship. The weekend is not a retreat in the sense of turning away from life. It is a temporary intentional community where we seek communion with the Holy Spirit, the world around us, and each other. With God's help, we may be led to new priorities and insight for our lives. We may reach a deeper communion with our authentic selves, our spiritual community, and with the Divine.

The weekend begins with a potluck supper Friday evening at 6:30. Visiting helps us unwind and begin to know each other. After supper, housekeeping details are arranged, questions are discussed, and our schedule completed and explained. We will begin Meeting for Worship, and enter the living Silence that will last until the rise of Meeting on Sunday noon, no matter what the activity.

There are three parts to our worship. One is our scheduled times of community worship. The schedule will be posted in the dining room. It is meant as a suggested plan for corporate gathering, rather than a rigid structure. Secondly, we will worship as we prepare vegetarian meals, and eat together. Menus and recipes will be available. We encourage silent worship with your group before beginning meal preparation; and cleanup groups may want to close their work with worship together. The third part of worship is the unscheduled times. Unscheduled time can be used for worship while walking through the countryside, hiking to Wallace Falls, sitting, reading, contemplating, sleeping, creative pursuits, journaling, and/or praying. On Sunday, we will break the Silence at the rise of the 11AM Meeting for Worship, and then have fellowship over lunch before we clean up and go our separate ways.

The retreat will be at Camp Huston, a tranquil forested setting, 1-1/2 hours by car east of Seattle, and about 45 miles west of Stevens Pass on US highway #2. We sleep in bunk beds (some double sized) in heated dorms with bathrooms and showers off each dormitory. The two dorm buildings have two dorms rooms and bathrooms each, and a common room with a wood stove, refrigerator and small microwave. We cook our meals, eat, and worship together in the dining hall, which is about 60 feet from the closest dorm building. The ground between the three buildings is flat, but there are no wheelchair paths. There are single steps up into the buildings.

There is sometimes snow in Gold Bar, and it is often muddy. Temperatures may range from below freezing at night, up to the 60's during the day. The buildings are right next to a river, with views of the Cascades. There are walks along the river, and a vigorous 4 mile hike up to Wallace Falls through the state park, as well as the grounds of Camp Huston to wander through. For the energetic, there is a basketball court! Due to the natural inquisitive clamor of children, we ask that those young children unable to enjoy a silent

retreat, not be subjected to it. However, young people willing to accept the discipline of silence are most welcome, and will add to our community. There will be Friends who have volunteered as “active listeners” for those who need a listening ear. Their names will be posted; please indicate on the registration form if you would like to volunteer.

The retreat starts at 6:30PM Friday with a potluck supper, and ends on Sunday about 1:30PM. (For those who wish to stay an extra day, the retreat recommences at 3:00 PM on Sunday and continues till about 1:30 on Monday.)

PLEASE BRING: 1) A Friday potluck dish. 2) Your own plate, bowl, mug and cloth napkin (we provide silverware.) 3) Bedding, pillow, earplugs, towel, & flashlight. 4) Because we often have leftovers, we recommend bringing a lidded container so you can take some leftovers home.

Wear warm clothing, especially if you want to take the opportunity to worship in the outdoor shelter, and bring appropriate hiking gear if you plan to go up the four miles to the falls. Snow can be a possibility.

A sign up sheet will be in the dining hall for cooking and cleanup. Please sign up for one meal preparation or clean up. Final cleanup instructions will be given Sunday after lunch.

DIRECTIONS to Camp Huston, 14725 Ley Road, Gold Bar, WA 98251 (425) 793-0441. From Seattle: North I-5, East US-2 to Monroe. OR North I-5, take exit 171 (Lake City Way) to SR-522, to US-2, east to Monroe. From the North: South I-5, East US-2 to Monroe. Gold Bar is on US-2, 14 miles east of Monroe. From the East: West US-2 through Leavenworth and Stevens Pass. Gold Bar is about 45 miles west of the pass. At Gold Bar, turn left (or right if you are coming from the east) onto First Street, at the *Wallace Falls State Park* sign. After about 0.3 mile, turn right at the second 4-way stop sign, and follow signs to *Camp Huston* and *Wallace Falls State Park* for about 1.1 miles. After the entrance to Camp Huston, take the lower, or far right hand road of the three. Drive a few hundred yards to a cluster of brown buildings on the left, our bunkhouses & dining hall.