

<p><b>COMMITMENT?</b></p> <p>What are your values?</p> <p>What do you value in someone else?</p>	<p><b>RELATIONSHIPS?</b></p> <p>A Free One-Day Seminar Saturday, February 12, 1994</p> <p>Pre-registration Not Required But Appreciated by February 1, 1994</p> <p>For Further Information Call (503) 775-5024</p> <p>Sponsored by:</p> <p><b>The Potter's House Ministries</b> <i>Gays &amp; Lesbians Worshipping Together</i> 3830 SE 62nd, Portland</p>	<p><b>SINGLE or MARRIED?</b></p> <p>As a couple, how will you handle problems?</p>
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**Not every cloud has a silver lining.**



**Some are wood.**

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WHISTLER GAY SKI WEEK	Feb 6 - 13 ♂
WINTER PARTY - SOUTH BEACH	Feb 10 - 14 ♀
W. CARIBBEAN VALENTINES' CRUISE	Feb 11 - 18 ♀
PANAMA CANAL CRUISE	Feb 20 - 27 ♂
'94 WINTERFEST - LAKE TAHOE	March 13 - 20 ♀
WHITE PARTY - PALM SPRINGS	April 1 - 3 ♂
QE2 TRANSATLANTIC	Apr 24 - May 5 ♀
PLAYA BLANCA WOMEN'S WEEK	Apr 30 - May 6 ♀
GAY GAMES & STONEWALL - NEW YORK	June 18 - 26 ♀

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## SPIRITUALITY

### Open and affirming churches to celebrate

Ecumenical Welcoming Sunday is a day set nationally to celebrate the growing witness of churches in the Welcoming Churches Movement which publicly welcome gay, lesbian and bisexual people into their local churches. The Lake Oswego United Church of Christ, 1111 SW Country Club Road, will celebrate Ecumenical Welcoming Sunday at its 10:30 am worship service, Sunday, January 23. The Lake Oswego congregation is one of 112 Open and Affirming churches nationally within the United Church of Christ.

In its Open and Affirming statement adopted last year, the congregation stated, "We celebrate the family in all its diverse forms, and affirm all loving and committed relationships. We welcome all people into our community of faith, regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, ethnic background, socioeconomic status, or physical/mental abilities. Each person is invited and encouraged to participate in all aspects of our church's life and ministry." The service on Ecumenical Welcoming Sunday will include special prayers and litanies honoring the inclusion found in God.

### Brethren/Mennonites have mixed national meetings

At separate national meetings of the Mennonite and Brethren churches, gay and lesbian concerns created controversy. At the Mennonite Church General Assembly and Convention, the Supportive Congregations Network, a group of churches affirming of gay and lesbian people, was denied meeting space at the convention center. A statement calling for homosexuality to be named a sin, and for dialogue to stop, was submitted but not acted upon.

On a more positive note, a seminar on homosexuality was attended by over 450 people. Delegates to the meeting raised concerns about the exclusion of gay men and lesbians from the delegate floor. A youth convention speaker addressed the reality that some of the youth present were lesbian or gay.

During the Brethren Annual Conference a movement to remove the moderator of the Church of Brethren was defeated. The moderator, Chuck Boyer, had stated, "I have written very straightforwardly to individuals and said that I personally am ready to accept gay, lesbian and bisexual people into positions of leadership in the church." The conservative Right, and those who align themselves with the belief that homosexuality is evil, made an unsuccessful attempt to remove Boyer from office.

Also during the conference, a panel presented several views of gay and lesbian experiences in the church, from a congregation's decision to

affirm a gay member to a lesbian pastor's story of her calling. Over 500 people crowded the room and hallways to hear members of the panel speak.

### Reform Jews recognize gay and lesbian relationships

At the biennial conference of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, a resolution was passed that urged its members to consider expanding benefits to lesbian and gay couples in "committed relationships." The union, which represents 850 congregations in the US, Canada and Puerto Rico, also encouraged its members to strengthen their commitment to gay and lesbian Jews. Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, president of the 120-year-old union said at the conference, "We are pledged to the concept that we are one family.... They are our fellow congregants, our friends and committee members—and yes, our leaders both professional and lay."

In his presidential address, Schindler presented 12 recommendations to the union. They included proposals that it support the right of lesbian and gay couples to adopt children, to file joint income tax returns, and "to share in the benefits that society normally assigns to married couples." He also recommended that benefits to staff, including health care, be made available to lesbian and gay couples. The president's address sets the tone for the union's agenda over the next two years. Reform Judaism, according to a conference delegate, is extremely supportive of gay and lesbian issues over and above other religious communities. The conference also included workshops on welcoming gay men and lesbians into synagogues, social action work for people with AIDS, and a reception for gay and lesbian delegates.

According to Rick Sholl, chair of gay and lesbian concerns for the American Jewish Congress, Reform Judaism has also been outspoken on ending the ban on gays and lesbians in the military; supporting a federal gay rights law; supporting the ordination of openly gay and lesbian rabbis and had a "high-level delegation" at the March on Washington.

### E-mail connection

Through electronic mail, a network of lesbian, gay and bisexual Christians are dialoguing about faith issues. The network was started by Dr. Louie Crew, who is a founding member of the gay and lesbian group Integrity. To participate in this forum of discussion and ministry, contact Dr. Crew at lcrew@andromeda.rutgers.edu, through the Internet.

*Compiled by Matthew Nelson, an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ and Lee Norwood*

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