

organized to build a sense of community among gay men and lesbians in the Portland/Vancouver area. Newsletter available by mail or e-mail. (360-735-1901, Socialites@aol.com.) (11/00)

The Thorny Roses is a social group for lesbians, primarily older than 45, who live in the Vancouver/Clark County area. (Judy 360-906-1763, Judy342@cs.com.) (11/00)

Willamette Valley: Social

GALA (Gay and Lesbian Alliance) meets at Lane Community College, Eugene. (541-741-4501, ext. 2336.) (11/00)

Gay Men's Discussion Group meets Mondays from 7:30 to 9 pm at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid, Eugene. (Hank 541-484-6259 or Trent at tseager@hivalliance.org.) (11/00)

Lane County Men's Health Network offers social events, retreats, workshops and training for bi, gay and trans men. Community calendars and mailings. Training and networking men to build community from a grassroots perspective. (1966 Garden Ave., Eugene. 541-342-5088, ext. 23. tseager@hivalliance.org.) (11/00)

Marionberry Salon, formerly the Coalition to End Bigotry Book Group, meets monthly in Salem for potluck and discussions of books touching on lesbian, gay or bisexual experience. (Cary 503-363-6036, caryandken@aol.com.) (11/00)

The Lesbian Connection (TLC) Lunch Bunch meets at 11 am every Sunday at the French Horn and on the second Friday of the month from 5 to 8 pm at the Fifth Street Market food court in Eugene. All women welcome. (Bonnie 541-683-2793.) (11/00)

SPIRITUALITY

Metro: Spirituality

Ainsworth United Church of Christ is a multicultural, open and affirming church. Sunday worship is at 10 am, and church school for children runs concurrently. (2941 NE Ainsworth St. 503-284-8767. aucc@teleport.com.)

The Anawim Community. Gay men meet weekly for Christian meditation and prayer. (7:30 pm Thursdays. 503-281-0722.) (11/00)

Bridgeport Community Church (U.C.C.) is a growing community of progressive, political people exploring and celebrating the Christian faith. We are multicultural, lesbian, gay, bi and straight, and our children are valued members. (10:30 am Sundays. 621 NE 76th Ave. 503-258-0992.) (11/00)

Community of St. Andrew invites all to join a diverse Catholic faith community for prayer and fellowship. (9:30 am Sunday Mass, 806 NE Alberta St. 503-281-4429.) (11/00)

Dignity Portland meets for Mass Sundays at 4 pm at St. Stephens Episcopal Church followed by a social. (Southwest 13th Avenue at Clay Street. e-mail: dignitypd@aol.com.) (11/00)

Directions Northwest (ECWR) helps gay and lesbian Christians integrate faith and sexuality through Bible study and fellowship. (PO Box 86383, Portland, OR 97286-0383. 503-727-3387.) (11/00)

Eastrose Fellowship Unitarian Universalist. A welcoming congregation, offers Sunday service at 10:30 am. (1133 NE 181st Ave., Gresham. 503-665-2628. eastrose@teleport.com.) (11/00)

Estacada United Methodist Church Reconciling Congregation, where we really mean everyone is welcome. (204 SE Main St., Estacada.) (11/00)

First Congregational United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation in the liberal Christian tradition. Sunday worship is at 10:25 am, and church school for children runs concurrently. (1126 SW Park Ave., 503-228-7219.)

Full Circle Temple is a place of worship for women of all ages offering workshops, song and drum circles, meditation rooms and altars of celebration, incorporating what you bring to share. (10 am-10 pm Tuesday-Sunday. 3125 E Burnside St. 503-238-0675.) (11/00)

The God Connection Center for Worship, Growth and Leadership invites you to celebrate your spirituality with the Revs. Berdell Moffett and Casey Chaney. Liberal, practical, all are welcome. (10 am service every Sunday. 4828 NE 33rd Ave. 503-481-7591.) (11/00)

Grace Space, a newly formed multidominational spiritual center led by the Rev. Stephanie Torres, holds Sunday evening celebrations. (5 pm at Unity Church, 4525 SE Stark St. 503-287-3216.) (11/00)

Integrity, the gay and lesbian ministry of the Episcopal Church, meets on the second Friday of each month in the Morrison Room at Trinity Cathedral. Eucharist is celebrated at 6:45 pm followed by a potluck and fellowship. (147 NW 19th Ave., 503-289-1687.)

Interfaith Spiritual Center. Gay men's spirituality groups form every other month. Spiritual directors from various world religious traditions are available for guidance, classes and retreats. (3910 SE 11th Ave., second floor. 503-233-2026, ext. 3. www.hometown.aol.com/djrho5/webpage.html.) (11/00)

Lesbian and gay meditation group. "Compassionate Heart Sangha," meets for meditation in the Buddhist Vipassana tradition. Donation requested. (7:30-9 pm Wednesdays at Flanders House, 2926 NE Flanders St. Jon 503-239-5539.) (11/00)

Metanoia Peace Community (United Methodist) is a "house church," bringing gay and straight together. (Daily prayer 7:20 am, Sunday gathering 6 pm at 2116 NE 18th Ave. 503-281-3697.) (11/00)

Metropolitan Community Church of Portland holds ecumenical Sunday morning worship services at 9 and 11 am. Sunday school for children is held during the 11 am worship service. (2400 NE Broadway. 503-281-8868. mcccpx@aol.com.) (11/00)

Potter's House Ministries Life Center. Evangelical and charismatic Christian. (3830 SE 62nd Ave. 503-775-5024.) (11/00)

Radical Fairies Fae Dirt info line: 503-235-0826 (11/00)

SisterSpirit offers women's spirituality celebrations, discussion groups, a drumming circle, workshops and classes. Schedule of events available. All women are welcome. (Office hours: 3-6 pm Tuesday-Friday at 3430 SE Belmont St., #102. Mailing address: PO Box 9246, Portland, OR 97207. sistersp@teleport.com. 503-736-3297.) (11/00)

Southminster Presbyterian Church is a challenging, supportive community that welcomes all people. It is the first More Light Presbyterian Church in Oregon. (Sundays at 10 am summer, 9:30 and 11 am winter. 12250 SW Denney Road, Beaverton. 503-644-2073.) (11/00)

St. Philip Nori gay and lesbian outreach. A gay/lesbian-positive community for Catholics and their friends. Mass at 7:30 pm on Fridays followed by a social. (Paulist Center, 2408 SE 16th Ave. 503-231-4955.) (11/00)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, the new home of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus, has been welcoming all people since 1863. (Wednesday service 12:10 pm; Sunday services 7:45 am and 10 am. Sunday school and child care at 10 am. Southwest 13th Avenue at Clay Street. 503-223-6424.) (11/00)

University Park United Methodist Church is a member of the network of Reconciling Congregations and meets for worship each Sunday at 10 am. (4775 N Lombard St. 503-289-7843.) (11/00)

Zion United Church of Christ, an open and affirming congregation, is open to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and heterosexual people who wish to worship in a Christ-centered, warm, caring, multiage/race/cultural faith community. (Service: 11 am Sundays. 2025 NE 23rd Ave., Gresham. 503-665-8741.) (11/00)

Washington: Spirituality

East Vancouver United Methodist Church. Reconciling, welcoming. (10 am Sundays. 5701 MacArthur Blvd., Vancouver. 360-693-4761. ourclarkcounty.columbian.com/273/) (11/00)

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. Two Sunday services, traditional and "less traditional" in an open and affirming congregation. (1220 NE 68th St. Vancouver. 360-693-1476.) (11/00)

Universalist Congregation of Salem meets on the third Sunday of each month for a potluck. (6 pm, 5090 Center St. NE. 503-363-8716.) (11/00)

Interfaith Spiritual Community meets every Sunday at the Heart Center for inspirational messages, children's celebrations and joy. We honor and celebrate all sacred paths, recognizing each person's divine gifts and supporting spiritual growth, healing and enlightenment. (6-7:30 pm. 1578 Commercial St. SE, Salem. 503-763-6030.) (11/00)

Morningside United Methodist Church is a reconciling congregation where everyone is welcome to participate in the full life of the congregation. (8:30 and 11 am Sundays. 3674 12th St. SE, Salem. 503-364-5013.) (11/00)

Sweet Spirit Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) holds worship at 11 am Sundays followed by coffee and fellowship as well as potluck lunches every second Sunday. (Services held at American Legion Hall, 4774 Lilac Lane NE, Salem. Mailing address: Pastor Ken Kerr, PO Box 12753, Salem, OR 97309. 503-315-7923.) (11/00)

YOUTH

Metro: Youth

Outside In operates a clinic for anyone who can't qualify for the Oregon Health Plan as well as a needle exchange service. It also has some transitional housing for youth 20 and younger as well as for youth who are HIV+ and younger than 23. It also plays host to **VOICES** (Voices of Individual and Community Empowerment from the Streets), a self-support group for queer youth. (10 am-6 pm Monday-Friday. 1236 SW Salmon St. 503-223-4121.) (11/00)

Pride Project brings together Washington County lesbian, gay, bi, trans and questioning youth to plan and attend monthly social events. Also information, referral, support and advocacy services for Washington County. (Molly 503-260-5792.) (11/00)

Rainbow is a multicultural peer support and activity group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans and questioning youth. (4:30 pm Mondays at Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, 2400 NE Broadway. 503-281-8868.) (11/00)

Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center (SMYRC) offers drop-in computer access, pool tables and an informal place to hang out. Also plays host to weekly youth support groups including Windfire, Trans Youth Group and Personal Deity Proxy (a creative group). (4-8 pm Wednesday, 4 pm-midnight Friday and Saturday. 424 E Burnside St. 503-872-9664. www.smyrc.org.) (11/00)

Youth HIV/STD Prevention Project provides fun and educational programs along with counseling and testing to queer youth in a friendly, relaxed environment. (503-872-9664.) (11/00)

YouthNet, a program of Love Makes a Family, offers tutoring and mentoring for lesbian, gay, bi and trans youth as well as for children of LGBT parents. (503-227-1981.) (11/00)

Southern Oregon: Youth

The **Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Group of Klamath Falls** provides support for gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth and their allies. (For more information, e-mail boytoy22@hotmail.com.) (11/00)

Southern Oregon Youth Outreach (SOYO), a group for gay, lesbian, and bi youth aged 14-20 meets on the first and Thursdays of the month in Ashland. (541-488-6990.) (11/00)

Washington: Youth

Triple Point Youth Program is a social/support group for gays, lesbian, bi and trans youth between 13 and 22 in Vancouver, Wash. Meets 6-8 pm Tuesdays and 3:30-5:30 pm Thursdays at 1104 Main St. Suite M-100. (Amanda 360-693-1188.) (11/00)

Willamette Valley: Youth

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning Youth Group for ages 13-18 offers support, information and fun. Free, confidential, drop-in. (4-6 pm Fridays at Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hilyard St., Eugene. 541-684-3466.) (11/00)

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender youth group for ages 25 and younger meets every Monday. (5 pm Mondays at Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St., Eugene. 541-346-1134.) (11/00)

Willamette Valley: Spirituality

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is an open and affirming congregation offering worship and church school. Child care provided. Wheelchair accessible. (10 am Sundays. 700 Marion St. NE, Salem. 503-363-3660.) (11/00)

The Gay-Straight Alliance of the Unitarian

ADVICE

Tipping the scales

Snubbed dyke demands decent service

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I appreciate your column and read it religiously. My question pertains to the inequality within our community.

As lesbians, it seems we are not treated equally by our brothers. To keep this short, I'll share only one example.

My experience has been that whenever I go out to a gay/lesbian bar and the bartender is male, I never get fair service. If a man walks up to the bar after me, he always get faster, more attentive service. It appears that the bartender is strained even to look at me, let alone ask me what I'd like to drink. It is a Catch-22 situation.

Women/lesbians are accused of poor tipping, yet we frequently receive rotten service. So, why tip that kind of service?

Plus, if we are assertive and say something, then of course we are labeled "bitchy," and the cycle continues. How do you suggest handling this inequality within our own community?

—Risky

DEAR RISKY:

Ms. Behavior will start with the assumption that you're not the kind of lesbian who sits at the bar with nine friends who drink a total of 36 beers, eat 45 meatball heroes, split the bill to the penny based on who got the most meatballs, then tips two bucks. She also will assume that the bartender is not a shallow, crotch-gazing party boy.

With those as givens, if you're reasonable customers, you should get decent service. If you don't, poor tipping with no comment is not the solution; it only perpetuates the cheap-dyke stereotype. (It's also an excuse for lesbians who really ARE cheap to feel justified about their bad manners and for gay men who dislike dykes to think the bad service was warranted.)

So, when the bartender snubs you, say something direct, but stick to the situation at hand, describing why you're displeased. Do not try to educate him about the entire cultural, political and socioeconomic structure that perpetuates the oppression of your sisters.

Don't, for example, remind him that lesbians only get 49 cents for every dollar a man earns. He doesn't care. And if you annoy him, he might not wash your glass properly.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

A friend and I are continuing our training in our respective technical fields. We spend a lot of time in and out of class together. However, when we're sitting so close that I can feel her breath on my neck, my mind is



definitely not focused on building my skills on the task at hand.

She's an attractive, sophisticated older woman who never has experienced the rapturous bliss of making love with another woman. She accepts me for the out, soft-but, rebel lesbian I am.

At times, we share eye-to-lip, then eye-to-eye glazed glances as well as seemingly innocent touches, and when we meet in the hall between classes, she often tells me she was thinking of me. No elaboration, just that she was thinking of me. At other times, especially when I've decided that today is the day I'm going to find out whether she's interested in taking our friendship further, she seems to be withdrawn, shy or nervous about being around me.

My dilemma is, at this point in our friendship, should I risk all to pursue intimacy with this lady who my fantasies are made of?

—Hanging by a Thread

DEAR HANGING BY A THREAD:

What's your other choice? To sit in class and drool on your notebook?

It's hard for Ms. Behavior to understand why you perceive this as a big risk. You clearly don't want a friendship with this woman, anyway; you want her breath on your neck (or your thighs or whatever). So, there's not much point in sitting around in a worked-up state without finding out whether she's interested, too.

It's true, Ms. Behavior usually advises against messing around with straight women. On the other hand, it's possible your friend really is a fledgling dyke who'd like nothing better than "the rapturous bliss of making love with another woman."

And everyone has to start somewhere. So, if you want to pursue a relationship with her (and don't mind dealing with all the issues that come with someone's first queer relationship), tell her how you feel.

Be aware she might be the kind of straight woman who'll flirt and fantasize but not dabble. If she tells you she's not interested, believe her.

Even if she expresses ambivalence and goes back and forth, forget it. You'd be signing up for drama and trauma and probably torture. So, stay away, unless you like that sort of thing.

Write your confused and conflicted heart out to MS. BEHAVIOR at MsBehavior@aol.com.