

CULTURE

A visionary vacation

Shakti Cove provides a slice of heaven on earth

BY HERON



Liz (left) and Celia Cavali absorb the divine feminine energy at Shakti Cove

But, of course, lesbians without kids come to Shakti Cove for a different kind of adventure altogether. The guest book entries tell of honeymoons, anniversaries, retreats, secluded rendezvous.

APRIL 19, 1996: A great getaway from reality. This cabin really reminds me of my grandparents' house in Vashon. Even after 12 years together we found this place romantic and inspirational, thus the nickname—love shack!

Wednesday afternoon while Sherry and Ashleigh fly a kite on the beach, I speak with the owners. Celia and Liz met and fell in love 11 1/2 years ago.

"We were married in July of '92," Celia says. That was when Liz took Celia's last name.

They exchange an intimate smile, looking back on their history together. They are amazed at how their lives have changed.

We are sitting in the house added for the Cavellis and for Celia's mother to live in. "Shakti is the Hindu word for the divine feminine," Celia begins, but her mom adds, "energy, feminine energy."

Over herbal tea, the mist is rising, and I can see what greets them in the morning when they look out at each new day. "Shakti Cove is a metaphor for what the world could be," Celia muses.

We all gaze out the window while Celia shares their vision. "There are people of all colors and genders but mostly women, mostly lesbians. Everybody is getting along, sharing the space, respecting each other and the land. Out this window we see gays, straights, all colors, all

Tuesday afternoon, we enter the mists of Shakti Cove, weary from what would have been a 2 1/2-hour drive from Portland but for our stops to climb the Astoria Column and to gaze at the scenery from every viewpoint along Highway 30. My partner, Sherry Bear, our 11-year-old granddaughter, Ashleigh, our elderly dog, Josie, and I already had seen numerous bald eagles, herons and deer before crossing into Washington over the Astoria Bridge.

Once on the Long Beach Peninsula, we can't help noticing the overabundance of churches and religious camps and bookstores. So, we are heartened finally to see the sign announcing the lesbian vacation cabins.

Pulling onto the land, we are welcomed by Celia and Liz Cavali. They introduce Ashleigh to Billy, Cisco, Sammy and Chloe, the resident cats. They point out Cabin 6, among the 10 weathered cedar shake buildings circling a grove of mature birch, fir, cedars and rhodies.

Celia points out some of the features of the property. Next to our cabin is a lake, heavily overgrown with native foliage.

Celia tells us the lake is home to a family of otters and is frequented by herons. Deer are a common sight and are not scared away until you get too close.

Although the women mow the grassy expanse in the middle of the cabins, they allow nature to manage the rest, encouraging wildlife. Eagle sightings are common, as are ducks, cranes and grebes.

Celia tells us that Liz saw a bear one morning three years ago. It had rambed into the nearby forest after knocking over their garbage

can. Luckily, Ashleigh doesn't hear the bear story.

We check into our cabin, happy but tired from our day's adventures. Ashleigh is eager to see the ocean.

We follow the footpath to the beach and see a vast expanse of sand and sea. The beach is clean except for a variety of seaweed and huge crabs.

I put one toe in the surf. Too cold, so I sit in the sand while Ash makes sand castles enough for a minor kingdom while Josie harasses the seagulls. At last, they tire themselves out.

Back at the cabin, I tuck Ashleigh in on the couch while Sherry showers. Josie already is snoring loudly. The cabin contains everything we need for eating and sleeping as well as cable television.

I settle back with a cup of herbal tea and

look for something to read. That's when I notice the guest books.

AUG. 16, 1998: I have to say I was instantly overcome with a surrounding spirit of love when I walked into this room. I am grateful that there is such a haven to share with my soul mate, my lover, my friend. I believe a part of you and your spirit are in the cabins.

After a good night's sleep, we spend Wednesday morning exploring. We can choose to see the wreck of the Peter Airedale, explore the lighthouses at Cape Disappointment, hike in Ledbetter State Park, visit the Cranberry Museum, go horseback riding, dig for clams or rent a boat and fish for sturgeon. We decide on a late breakfast in Long Beach and meet the Alligator Man at Marsh's Free Museum.

TOWARD GLOBAL WELLNESS...



Experience
the
Difference

Schedule a free in-home demonstration
of the LEADING magnetic technology.

Sherrie Taha
(503) 236-5910

NIKKEN

INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTOR
www.nikken.com
Distributor I.D. 794779700



Portland Lesbian Choir

A non-auditioned community choir celebrating its 15th anniversary season

**OPENS TO NEW MEMBERS
SEPTEMBER 2001**

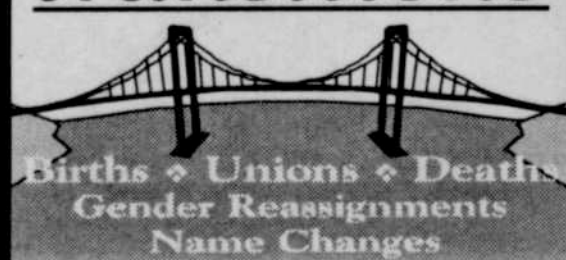
Looking for:

• Singers • Production Coordinator • Piano Accompanist
• Supportive Members/Volunteers

P.O. Box 8212
Portland, OR 97202

Rehearsals are Sunday • Evenings Info: (503) 241-8994 or membership@plchoir.org

transitions



just out proudly publishes announcements about your life transitions.

Announcements should be 200 words or less, typed and double-spaced. Please include your phone number for verification. just out reserves the right to edit for liability concerns, style and length. Photos are welcome.

PO Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293
justout@justout.com
Fax: (503) 236-1257

COX ELECTROLOGY IN NW PORTLAND

Permanent
hair removal
for all genders

Complimentary
consultation

Disposable probes

Private office
By appointment only

Brenda M. Cox, L.E., C.P.E.
(503) 916-1869
1815 NW Flanders #1103
License #04115000022

We Celebrate the Diversity of All Living Beings

Embodying the celebration of life!

The Sanctuary:
A Center for Yoga,
Dharma & Healing Arts

Anusara Yoga Classes
Private Therapeutic Yoga
Massage Therapy
Acupuncture
Chanting
OneDance

All Genders Welcome!

503-552-YOGA (9642)

4515 SW Corbett Ave • Portland, OR 97201
dharmazone@earthlink.net • visit us at www.yogajoy.net



Companion Pet Clinics

Portland \ Salem \ Vancouver

M-SAT
8am • 6pm
WEST LINN Sun 11am-4pm

WEST LINN 19343 Willamette Drive • (503) 635-3115
CLACKAMAS 16317 SE 82nd Drive • (503) 657-9225
TIGARD 13500 SW Pacific Hwy • (503) 670-9707