

SPIRITUALITY

Metro: Spirituality

Ainsworth United Church of Christ is a multi-racial, multicultural, open and affirming church. Sunday worship is at 10 am; church school for children runs concurrently. (2941 NE Ainsworth St. 503-284-8767. aucc@teleport.com.) (11/02)

Anawim Community of gay men meets weekly for Christian meditation and prayer. (7:30 pm Thursday. 503-281-0722.) (11/02)

Compassionate Heart Sangha plays host to weekly sittings in the Vipassana Meditation Tradition at Flanders House. (7:30-9 pm Wednesday. 2926 NE Flanders St. Jon 503-239-5539.) (11/02)

Congregation Neveh Shalom, an open and progressive Conservative Jewish synagogue, extends a warm welcome to all sexual minorities. Shabbat services 8:15 pm Friday and 9 am Saturday. (2900 SW Peaceful Lane. 503-246-8831.) (11/02)

Congregation P'nal Or (Faces of Light) is a vibrant, egalitarian, Jewish Renewal congregation in Portland. Meets several times a month in various locations. (PO Box 42187, Portland, OR 97242-0187. 503-248-4500. www.pnaicordx.org.) (11/02)

Dignity Portland meets for Mass on Sundays. (503-262-6947.) (11/02)

Eastrose Fellowship Unitarian Universalist, a welcoming congregation, offers Sunday service and children's religious education at 10:30 am. (1133 NE 181st Ave., Gresham. 503-665-2628. eastrose@teleport.com.) (11/02)

Faith United Methodist Church is a welcoming community of Christians in Troutdale that values and encourages all people in finding a place of belonging in the family of God. Sunday worship at 10:15 am; Adult Education at 9 am; children and youth at 10:30 am. Wednesday Prayers 6-6:30 pm. (27400 SE Stark St. 503-661-4520.) (11/02)

First Unitarian Church of Portland is an open and affirming liberal religious community offering a wide range of programs to nurture spiritual growth, community and social justice. Sunday service 10 am. (1011 SW 12th Ave. 503-228-6389. www.firstunitarianportland.org.) (11/02)

First United Methodist Church of Portland, a welcoming and reconciling congregation, believes no one is left out in God's family. Sexual minority potlucks held monthly. (10:30 am Sunday. 1838 SW Jefferson St. 503-228-3195. www.fumcpdx.org.) (11/02)

Grace Space is a New Thought spiritual center dedicated to offering ways to experience Spirit. Sunday evening celebrations with Rev. Stephanie Torres, Conscious Breathing experiences, Chanting, Healing Services, Meditation classes and a miracles study group. (5 pm. Bridgeport Community Church, 621 NE 76th Ave. 503-287-3216.) (11/02)

Integrity is a group of GLBT Episcopalians and friends. Various locations throughout Oregon. (Bruce Mason, Regional Director. 503-286-9111 or brucepdxor@attbi.com. www.integrityusa.org.) (11/02)

Interfaith Spiritual Center. Spiritual directors from various world religious traditions are available for guidance, classes and retreats. (Second Floor, 3910 SE 11th Ave. 503-233-2026, ext. 3. www.interfaithspiritualcenter.com.) (11/02)

Metanoia Peace Community United Methodist Church is a "house church," bringing gay and straight together. (Daily prayer 7:20 am, Sunday gathering 5 pm. 2116 NE 18th Ave. 503-281-3697. www.tearsoup.com/metanoia.) (11/02)

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. info@mccportland.com.) (11/02)

Portland Center for Spiritual Growth in the Unity Church building invites you to celebrate your spirituality with the Revs. Casey and Berdell Moffett-Chaney. Liberal, practical; all are welcome. (5 pm Sunday service; 7:30-9 pm Monday Spiritual Principle Gab Group; 4-4:40 pm Sunday Rescuing the Bible from the Right Wing Discussion Group. 4525 SE Stark Ave. 503-777-0727.) (11/02)

Portland Church of Religious Science is a liberal, open, progressive New Thought community welcoming everyone to discover the spirit within. Change your thinking, change your life! (10 am Sunday meditation, 10:30 am service and junior church, 6:30 pm Wednesday prayer circle. 3983 NE 112th Ave. 503-261-0677.) (11/02)

Portland Radical Faeries meet twice a month with potlucks and circles at the full moon and the new moon. Open to all men seeking alternative spiritual growth and community. Coffee hours start 9:30 am Saturdays at 3 Friends Coffeehouse, 201 SE 12th Ave. (503-235-0826. otter@pccz.com.) (11/02)

SisterSpirit offers women's spirituality celebrations, discussion groups, a drumming circle, workshops and classes. Schedule of events available. All women are welcome. (Suite 102, 3430 SE Belmont St. Mailing address: PO Box 9246, Portland, OR 97207. 503-736-3297. sistersp@teleport.com.) (11/02)

Southminster Presbyterian Church is a challenging, supportive community that welcomes all people. It is the first More Light Presbyterian Church in

Oregon. Sunday school and nursery care. (10 am Sunday. 12250 SW Denney Road, Beaverton. 503-644-2073. staff@southmin.com.) (11/02)

St. Andrew Catholic Church invites all to join a diverse faith community for prayer and fellowship. (9:30 am Sunday. 806 NE Alberta St. 503-281-4429.) (11/02)

St. James Lutheran Church, a Reconciled in Christ congregation, welcomes all people for traditional, liturgical worship where we experience God's reconciling love that sets all people free. (9 and 11 am Sunday. 1315 SW Park Ave. 503-227-2439.) (11/02)

Gay and Lesbian Outreach (GALO) of St. Philip Neri Catholic Church celebrates an affirming Mass followed by a social. (7:30 pm Friday. Paulist Center, 2408 SE 16th Ave. 503-231-4955.) (11/02)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church has been welcoming all people since 1863. (12:10 pm Wednesday and 7:45 and 10 am Sunday. Sunday school and child care at 10 am. Southwest 13th Avenue at Clay Street. 503-223-6424.) (11/02)

Waverly Heights Church (UCC) is open and affirming with worship, children's school and child care. (10 am Sunday. 3300 SE Woodward St. 503-238-1337. www.waverlyucc.org.) (11/02)

Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation is an open and liberal religious community offering inter-generational services and religious education for children. It welcomes gay, lesbian, bi and trans members. Nurtures spiritual growth and promotes living by Unitarian Universalist principles. (4 pm Sunday. 3915 SE Steele St. 503-777-3704. www.wy'east.pnwd.uaa.org.) (11/02)

Zion United Church of Christ, an open and affirming congregation, is open to gay, lesbian, bi, trans and heterosexual people who wish to worship in a Christ-centered, warm, caring, multiage/race/cultural faith community. (11 am Sunday. 2025 NE 23rd Ave., Gresham. 503-665-8741.) (11/02)

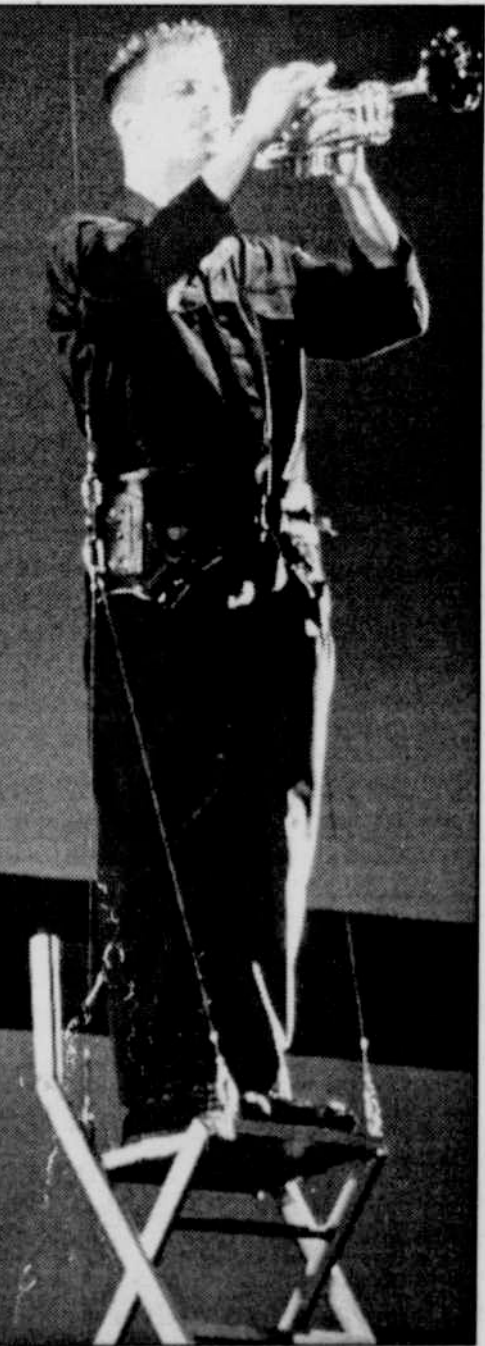
Washington: Spirituality

Abundant Life Center is A New Thought Community for spiritual awakening and transforming lives through love. A safe place where children learn to embody spiritual principles. September's theme: "Healing & Transformation." (10 am Sunday. 10006 NE Ninth Ave., Vancouver. 360-573-2626.) (11/02)

East Vancouver United Methodist Church. Reconciling, welcoming. (10 am Sunday. 5701 MacArthur Blvd. 360-693-4761. ourclarkcounty.columbian.com/273/.) (11/02)

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. vaucc@aol.com.) (11/02)

God's Holy Territory offers a spirit-filled worship



Blast! stands, blows, pounds, marches and whirls into Keller Auditorium Oct. 1-5

experience, seeking God for holiness and wholeness. For gay, lesbian, bi, trans and straight. Everyone welcome! (11 am Sunday, 7 pm Thursday Bible study and prayer. 1500 NE 49th St., Vancouver. 360-885-9461. gmbear68@netzero.net.) (11/02)

Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, a home for the liberal religious spirit. (10 am Sunday. 4505 E 18th St., Vancouver. 360-695-1891.) (11/02)

Willamette Valley: Spirituality

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation offering worship and church school. Child care provided and wheelchair accessible. (9 am Sunday learning hour, 10 am worship. 700 Marion St. NE, Salem. 503-363-3660.) (11/02)

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 Sunday. 3674 12th St. SE, Salem. 503-364-5013.) (11/02)

Sacred Souls honors all sacred paths, promotes peace and strives to create an environment that supports and promotes interfaith dialogue. Meets at the Oregon School of Massage. (6:30-8 pm Sunday. 440 Ferry St. SE, Salem. wholth@aol.com. www.sacredsouls.org.) (11/02)

YOUTH

Metro: Youth

Flavors, a program of MultiQueer and Brother to Brother, is a social support group for sexual minority youth of color 24 and younger. Meets every other Sunday for food and socializing. Regular events and activities. (Des 503-228-3892 or des@lmfamily.org. Stephan 503-417-7991 or hey_stephan@hotmail.com.) (11/02)

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) fights to end anti-gay bias in K-12 schools. (12700 SW North Dakota St., Suite 180, #129, Tigard, OR 97223. 503-525-1177. glse@glseoregon.org. www.glseoregon.org.) (11/02)

MultiQueer, a program of Love Makes a Family, provides advocacy to sexual minority youth. Offers resources and support in the community and the school systems, with a focus on support for youth of color. (Des 503-228-3892. des@lmfamily.org.) (11/02)

Outside In operates a clinic for anyone who can't qualify for the Oregon Health Plan as well as needle exchange services that include those who inject hormones. Can provide transitional housing for youth 20 and younger as well as for those HIV+ and younger than 23. Also plays host to **VOICES** (Voices of Individual and Community Empowerment from the Streets), a self-support group for queer youth. Needs volunteers of all ages. (10 am-6 pm Monday-Friday. 1132 SW 13th Ave. 503-535-3800. www.outsidein.org.) (11/02)

Vanguard Youth Services, a program of Cascadia Behavioral HealthCare, offers support and recreation to gay, lesbian, bi and trans kids 23 and younger. Programs include: **Clackamas County Sexual Minority Youth Connection (COSMYC)** provides opportunities for queer and questioning kids to get together for free, fun and supportive social activities. Also one-on-one support and referrals to Clackamas County service providers. (503-969-0060. cosmycyouth@yahoo.com.) **Expression** is a free art/creative support group in Gresham for queer youth. Hang out and have fun every Friday! (Jonathan 503-872-9664, ext. 28.) **Pride Project** brings together Washington County queer and questioning youth to plan and attend monthly social events. Also information, referral and advocacy services in Washington County. (Molly 503-260-5792. molly@prideproject.org.) **Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center (SMYRC)** offers drop-in computer access, pool tables and an informal place to hang out. Weekly youth support groups includes Trans Youth Group and Personal Deity Proxy (a creative group). (4-8 pm Monday and Wednesday, 4 pm-midnight Friday and Saturday. 2100 SE Belmont St. 503-872-9664. TTY 503-231-9286. www.smyrc.org.) **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.) (11/02)

Washington: Youth

Triple Point offers education, support and advocacy to gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth in Vancouver, Wash. Meets 6-8 pm Tuesdays in the basement of Youth House, 1112 Columbia St. in Vancouver. (John 360-695-1325.) (11/02)

Willamette Valley: Youth

Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Transgender and Questioning Youth Group for ages 13 to 18 offers support, information and fun in Eugene. Free, confidential, adult-facilitated. (Drop in 4-6 pm Friday. Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hiway St. 541-684-3466.) (11/02)

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Youth Group for ages 25 and younger meets every Monday in Eugene. (5 pm. Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St. 541-346-1134.) (11/02)

ADVICE

Sperm ≠ "Dad"

Mom fantasizes pregnant daughter is straight

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My partner, Sheila, and I are going to have a baby. I'm in my sixth month, and we're delighted.

We used our friend Howard's sperm. He wants to be a distant "uncle," visiting the baby once or twice a year but without any regular involvement. We're very happy about the arrangement and both love Howard dearly.

The problem is that my mother, who lives nearby, has been telling people that Howard and I are having a baby, as if we're a couple! Anyone who knows Howard would never believe it: He's gay as a goose.

But every time I run into an old acquaintance at the health club or the supermarket, they congratulate me (and not Sheila) and seem to hint at the notion that I'm not a lesbian anymore.

The larger issue is that it makes Sheila feel excluded. We want everyone, including our daughter, to understand that we're both her mothers and that Howard is a dear friend but merely the sperm donor, not the father. We've tried telling my mother to stop, but she won't. Any other ideas?

—Mommy Dearest's Daughter

DEAR MOMMY

DEAREST'S DAUGHTER:

It sounds like you might have to come up with a very creative birth announcement and send it far and wide.

Besides the usual text in which you and Sheila announce the birth of your daughter, perhaps you'll need a photograph of the two of you and a vial of sperm. Most people are visually oriented, and a picture will probably stick with them, particularly if you label it "SPERM" in large letters. Your mother might need a poster-size photo to help her remember.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My partner and I, both males, met a charming lesbian couple during the winter. They are about our age, maybe a bit older, and we spent several evenings playing bridge together at our house.

They promised to invite us to their house this summer to play, but they haven't. I once heard that lesbians don't like the "man smell" in their apartments. Do you suppose that is



Ms. Behavior
by Meryl Cohn

why we haven't been invited?

Come to think of it, the more attractive one said that if we did come, we would have to sit outside on the deck and play. What do you think?

—Ben

DEAR BEN:

You and your partner are clearly astute homosexuals and sensitive to the

needs of your new lesbian friends. (This will work in your favor, as lesbians particularly appreciate men who are sensitive to women, animals and the environment.)

"Man smell" is of serious concern to dykes. Men harbor odors in their body hair; they can't help it. If you're seriously interested in pursuing a friendship with this charming

lesbian couple, you might consider shaving your bodies (and facial hair, if you happen to have any).

If shaving feels cumbersome, you might try perusing the depilatory aisle in your local beauty aid store to find a suitable alternative. Or, if money and pain don't concern you much, you might consider electrolysis or laser hair removal.

If the lesbians do ultimately invite you, don't be alarmed or insulted

if they'd prefer to have you sit on the deck. It's an additional reasonable precaution, particularly since odors sometimes cling to sweaty skin. (As you know, gay men sweat a lot because of excessive indulgence in dancing and all of their ingestion of illicit drugs and semen.)

Do not, however, attempt to cover your God-given scent with cologne. You will only seem like a smelly stereotype to lesbians, who are frequently intolerant of chemical odors.

Try not to refer to one of the lesbians as "the more attractive one," as lesbians are eager to maintain equality and balance (and the uglier one won't invite you back). ☐

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MERYL COHN is the author of *Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette* (Houghton Mifflin). Her Internet site is www.msbehavior.com. Send questions or correspondence to msbehavior@aol.com.