

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'nai 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)

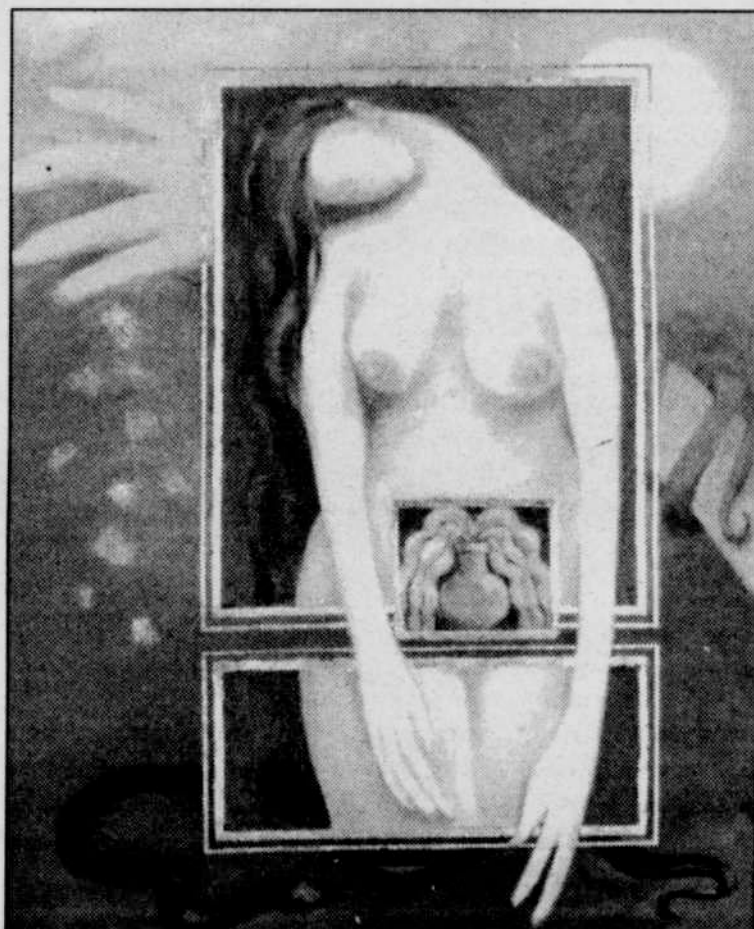
St. James Lutheran Church, a Reconciled in Christ congregation, welcomes all people for traditional, liturgical worship where we experience God's reconciling love that sets all people free. (9 and 11 am Sunday. 1315 SW Park Ave. 503-227-2439.) (11/02)

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 chil-



"Seventh Gate" is one of many beautiful paintings at Talisman Gallery through Oct. 27

dren. 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.pnwduu.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. (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. vanucc@aol.com.) (11/02)

God's Holy Territory offers a spirit-filled worship 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. glseu@glsenoregon.org. www.glseuoregon.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/expression 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 Hilyard 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

Merged

When friendship with the lesbian ex goes too far

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My girlfriend, Meg, and I have had a semi-long-distance relationship for five years. She lives 80 miles away, but I visit her every weekend. She never visits me because I still live with my ex, Jodi.

I don't have romantic feelings for Jodi, but she has always needed me to nurse her emotional health, and I didn't want to distress her by moving away. Meg has always hated this arrangement because it meant she couldn't come visit me, and I couldn't move in with her.

Now Jodi has finally met someone and is moving out. I thought this was wonderful news. As soon as I found out, I offered to move in with Meg.

Much to my surprise, she probably isn't going to let me move in with her. She says she's gotten used to having her own space. (Even when I'm there on weekends, she piles my shoes up in the corner, stuffs my suitcase under the bed and will not let me leave my makeup or toothbrush on the bathroom counter.)

Should I insist on moving in with Meg despite her protests and sudden need for space? I thought we were heading toward the perfect life. Now I'm not so sure. What should I do?

—Suitcase Under the Bed

DEAR SUITCASE UNDER THE BED:

Meg might have been happy if you'd decided you wanted to live with her based on a deepening of your feelings or commitment. But it sounds like your desire to live with her springs instead from Jodi's decision to move out, which wouldn't exactly make anyone's heart sing.

If anything, your commitment to Jodi sounds even stronger than that of the average merged lesbian ex. Inviting a former lover to holiday meals and Super Bowl parties is one thing, but never-ending devotion (like cohabiting with her until she's married off) seems way more extreme.

Your old arrangement might not have given Meg everything she wanted or needed, but it sounds like she grew comfortable with it, and it allowed her to feel her desire for more. Unfortunately, she's either gotten used to living with her long-ing or has found another way to channel it.

If Meg stuffs your shoes into a corner, she's either a supreme neatnik or she's giving you a very clear signal that she doesn't want your life (or stuff) fully integrated with hers right now. You might suggest the possibility of living in a new, larger place together where Meg wouldn't have to compromise the amount of space she has in order to live with you.



Ms. Behavior
by Meryl Cohn

But whatever you do, Florence Nightingale, don't bring your ex, even if her current relationship doesn't work out.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I was appalled when I read Ms. Behavior's last column. Her advice to the two gay men who played bridge was sexist and homophobic.

To tell the men to shave their bodies just to please a lesbian couple is ridiculous. And to say that men smell? Does that mean women don't? Have you not smelled a woman when she is menstruating? Whew! Have you not met lesbians who don't shave their legs and underarms?

Also, to say men sweat a lot because of "excessive indulgence in dancing and all of their ingestion of illicit drugs and semen" is sexist and homophobic. I am a gay man, and I do not dance, do illicit drugs or gulp semen, and I am mortified to have seen this written. How dare you stereotype gay men like that!

I think it's time we had a new "Ms. Behavior." Maybe a "Mr. Behavior" with a better head on his shoulders would be more appropriate!

—Dean Kirschmann

DEAR DEAN:

Perhaps you simply lack the funny gene that allows the rest of us to tell the difference between a mean, man-hating attack and a tongue-in-cheek response to a humorous (and likely false) concern about "man smell."

Your low tolerance for teasing about your gay brethren combined with your comments about menstruation signal to Ms. Behavior that you hate women. Misogyny is not a far leap from the true point of your letter: A man could do Ms. Behavior's job better. (Then you would never have to suffer the indignity of a female poking fun at men.)

Don't be so quick to trot out your pure lifestyle. Good taste and concerns about your health prevent Ms. Behavior from suggesting that you ingest illicit drugs (or gulp semen, for that matter), but maybe some frottage and dancing would loosen you up.

Perhaps you should also envision yourself encircled in a beautiful ball of loving white light that knows no gender or hatred. For you, Ms. Behavior will do the same. ☐

© Meryl Cohn 2002

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.