

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) (7/03)

Anawim Community of gay men meets weekly for Christian meditation and prayer. (7:30 pm Thursday. 503-281-0722.) (7/03)

Atkinson Memorial Church is a Unitarian Universalist welcoming congregation in Oregon City. (710 Sixth St. 503-656-7296. www.atkinsonchurch.com) (7/03)

Bible Abuse Recovery is a spiritual growth group for healing gay, lesbian, bi and trans people hurt and abused by distorted and manipulative views of the Bible. (503-760-5791. bibleabuse@yahoo.com. www.geocities.com/bibleabuse) (7/03)

Bridgeport United Church of Christ is a community of progressive, political people exploring and celebrating the Christian faith. We are sexual minority and straight, multicultural and multiracial, and our children are valued members. (10:30 am Sunday. 621 NE 76th Ave. 503-258-0992. www.bridgeportucc.org) (7/03)

Congregation Naveh 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.) (7/03)

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.pnaiorpdx.org) (7/03)

Dignity Portland meets for Mass on Sundays. (503-262-6947.) (7/03)

Eastrose Fellowship Unitarian Universalist, a welcoming congregation, offers Sunday service and children's religious education. (10:30 am. 1133 NE 181st Ave., Gresham. 503-665-2628. eastrose@teleport.com) (7/03)

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.) (7/03)

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 9 and 11 am. (1011 SW 12th Ave. 503-228-6389. www.firstunitarianportland.org) (7/03)

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) (7/03)

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.) (7/03)

Integrity is a group of sexual minority Episcopalians and friends. Various locations throughout Oregon. (Bruce Mason 503-286-9111. brucepdxor@attbi.com. www.integrityusa.org) (7/03)

Interfaith Spiritual Center houses spiritual directors from various world religious traditions, who are available for guidance, classes and retreats. (Second Floor, 3910 SE 11th Ave. 503-233-2026, ext. 3. www.interfaithspiritualcenter.com) (7/03)

Keshet Portland is a group for Jewish members of the sexual minorities community and their partners, spouses and supporters. Monthly social, religious and cultural events. (David or Laney 503-226-7079, ext. 14.) (7/03)

Metanoia Peace Community United Methodist Church is a "house church" that brings gay and straight together. (Daily prayer 7:20 am, Sunday gathering 5 pm. 2116 NE 18th Ave. 503-281-3697. www.tearsoup.com/metanoia) (7/03)

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) (7/03)

Portland Center for Spiritual Growth is a New Thought, uplifting, refreshing and exciting place of worship. Become a minister in our ministerial program. (10 am Sunday. Call for location. 503-777-0727.) (7/03)

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.) (7/03)

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@pcez.com) (7/03)

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) (7/03)

Spirit Circle is for lesbian, bi or trans women seeking a welcoming community in the Catholic church. Meets every

third Thursday in the St. Andrew Nativity School. (7 pm. 806 NE Alberta St. lbtspirtcircle@yahoo.com) (7/03)

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) (7/03)

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.) (7/03)

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.) (7/03)

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.) (7/03)

Trinity United Methodist Church is an open Christian community where faith and life intersect. All invited! (10:30 am Sunday. 3915 SE Steele St. The Rev. Wendy Joy Woodworth 503-777-3901.) (7/03)

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) (7/03)

Wyeast Unitarian Universalist Congregation is an open and liberal religious community offering intergenerational 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.wyeast.pnw.uua.org) (7/03)

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.) (7/03)



Plenty of angst and tragedy in Portland Opera's *A View from the Bridge*

PHOTO COURTESY OF LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO

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.) (7/03)

East Vancouver United Methodist Church is reconciling and welcoming. (10 am Sunday. 5701 MacArthur Blvd. 360-693-4761. ourclarkcounty.columbian.com/273/) (7/03)

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, holds two Sunday services, traditional and "less traditional" in an open and affirming congregation. (1220 NE 68th St., Vancouver. 360-693-1476. vanucc@aol.com) (7/03)

God's Holy Territory is a charismatic, joy-filled worship experience in Vancouver where everyone is welcome: gay, lesbian, bi, trans and straight. (11 am Sunday service. Bible study 7 pm most Thursdays. 1500 NE 49th St. 360-885-9461. pastor@godsholyterritory.com) (7/03)

Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, a Welcoming Congregation, provides a home for the liberal religious spirit. (9:15 and 11 am Sunday. 4505 E 18th St., Vancouver. 360-695-1891.) (7/03)

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.) (7/03)

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.) (7/03)

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) (7/03)

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) (7/03)

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. glsen@glsenoregon.org. www.glsenoregon.org) (7/03)

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) (7/03)

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) (7/03)

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.) (7/03)

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) (7/03)

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 Desty 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) (7/03)

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.) (7/03)

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.) (7/03)

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.) (7/03)

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.) (7/03)

ADVICE

Wanderlust

How much is too much?



Ms. Behavior
by Meryl Cohn

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

What do you suppose is the proper amount of wanderlust in a relationship?

My girlfriend and I have been together for almost three years now. She is the first woman with whom I have been in a sexual relationship. I had come out before and dated other girls, but once she and I met, things became serious.

It seems that what I've been looking for all of my life was a committed relationship with someone wonderful who makes me happy. And now I have that.

In the past few months I have been getting restless, and I keep wishing I would have met the "right" one later on and could have dated and fooled around with a lot more wrong ones. It's not a very rational thought for me because I never was very good at just "fooling around" anyway. (Oh how I wish I was!) I find myself looking around and wondering how things would be with this woman or that woman.

Am I just experiencing a little "grass is always greener on the other side" syndrome? Or could this be indicative of a realization that I don't really want to be in this relationship? And if it is the former (which I think it is), are there any ways to deal with those feelings so they don't consume me and ruin a great relationship?

—A.

DEAR A.:

You sound like a thoughtful lesbian who doesn't want to blow a good thing.

The "proper amount of wanderlust" is the amount your partner can tolerate without dumping you on your head. Wanting more excitement than a stable relationship can provide is quite normal; what you do with those twitchy, lusty feelings will determine a large part of your future. (Just ask any middle-aged dyke who has had a series of seven or eight three-year relationships and now lives sans girlfriend with two drooly dogs.)

It's fortunate that your restlessness is generalized at this point, rather than focused on a specific woman with whom you'd like to get jiggy. When lust seems to be about an individual, and you've not yet examined what it means about you or your relationship, you're much more likely to end up with your legs wrapped around your fantasy woman in a car during your lunch break. This may be a hot way to spend an uneventful hour of your day—where your only lunchtime thrill might otherwise come from trying a new salad dressing—but it robs you of the opportunity to make clear choices.

Lustful energy is best nurtured by secrecy. You'll diffuse the strength of

your fantasies if you share your feelings with other people, like perhaps a therapist and your partner. If this notion seems unappealing it's probably because you don't want to move beyond your current position of straddling true commitment vs. what you perceive as sexual freedom.

Even if your partner feels threatened by your feelings, confessing them will

ultimately allow you to be closer because you won't have a secret from her. And then, even if you eventually feel you need more 'ho time before truly settling down, you'll at least have made a clear and conscious decision.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I dropped in on my new boyfriend, Jack, when he didn't expect me, and I saw something that surprised me: Jack was vacuuming his house while wearing women's underwear!

When he saw me—which was after I'd already seen him, since the vacuum was making a lot of noise—he quickly threw on a bathrobe. He didn't mention the underwear, but his face was red.

I feel disturbed about the whole situation but feel that it would be impolite to ask questions since I barged in on his private time. Is this an inappropriate secret for him to keep from his new boyfriend? Is it a fetish? Would he have told me eventually? Should I say anything?

—Prefer Boxers

DEAR PREFER BOXERS:

Jack clearly wasn't ready to share his panty preference with you at this point. He may have wanted to wait until, say, your six-month anniversary to break out the lacy Victoria's Secret bikini ensemble or until he felt safe enough to have determined that you wouldn't think he was a freak.

Or maybe he never would have shared this particular interest with you. It's not "inappropriate" for Jack to have something he enjoys doing privately, although vacuuming in women's lingerie is decidedly less conventional than a hobby like rollerblading or knitting.

Think about how it affected you to see your boyfriend in women's underwear. Ask questions if they'll otherwise be in the way of your relationship. Or if you'd like to watch him do it again. ☑

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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). Signed copies are available directly from the author. Send questions or correspondence to msbehavior@aol.com.