

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) (7/04)

Anawim Community of gay men meets weekly for Christian meditation and prayer. (7:30 pm Thursday. 503-281-0722.) (7/04)

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) (7/04)

City Church, Portland's "oldest gay-affirming Christian church," offers a spirit-driven church for today's diverse generations. (10 am Sunday communion and worship service. 6:30 pm Sunday worship service. 3830 SE 62nd Ave. 503-775-5024.) (7/04)

Congregation P'nai Or (Faces of Light) is a vibrant, egalitarian, Jewish Renewal congregation in Portland. Meets several times a month at Portland State University Campus Ministries. (PO Box 42187, Portland, OR 97242-0187. 503-248-4500. www.pnaiorpdx.org) (7/04)

Eastrose Fellowship Unitarian Universalist is a welcoming congregation, offers Sunday service and children's religious education. (10:30 am Sunday. 1133 NE 181st Ave., Gresham. 503-665-2628. eastrose@teleport.com. www.eastrose.org) (7/04)

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.) (7/04)

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) (7/04)

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.) (7/04)

Gay Men's Labyrinth Project meets quarterly for a walking meditation and wisdom circle on the labyrinth. (www.gaylabyrinth.com) (7/04)

Integrity is a group of sexual minority Episcopalians and friends. Various locations throughout Oregon. (Bruce 503-286-9111. brucepdxor@attbi.com. www.integrityusa.org) (7/04)

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) (7/04)

Keshet Portland is a potluck group for Jewish members of the sexual minorities community and their partners, spouses and supporters. Its purpose is to help build bridges with the larger Jewish community. Monthly social, religious and cultural events. (David or Laney 503-226-7079, ext. 14.) (7/04)

Koinonia Catholic Community is a progressive, small faith community that gathers weekly to celebrate Eucharist at Bridgeport United Church of Christ. A welcoming congregation, Catholic in tradition and Ecumenical in membership. (6 pm Sunday. 621 NE 76th Ave. 503-699-0473. www.koinoniacommunity.org) (7/04)

Longview United Methodist Church is welcoming and reconciling. (10 am Sunday. 2851 30th Ave. 360-425-4927.) (7/04)

Metanoia Peace Community United Methodist Church is a "house church" that brings gay and straight together. Daily morning prayer and Sunday evening worship. (503-281-3697. www.tearscup.com/metanoia) (7/04)

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 service. (2400 NE Broadway. 503-281-8868. info@mccportland.com. www.mccportland.com) (7/04)

Nichiren Buddhist Temple of Portland offers several weekly gatherings. Everyone welcome! (10 am Sunday, 7:30 am Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30 pm Wednesday meditation. 2025 SE Yamhill St. 503-232-8064. www.nichiren-shu.org/portland) (7/04)

Peace Church of the Brethren is a welcoming congregation. (11 am Sunday. 12727 SE Market St. 503-254-6380.) (7/04)

Want to get hitched?

Follow these directions for acquiring a license and getting married in Multnomah and Benton counties. Both parties must sign any marriage license, and you do not have to be an Oregon resident to obtain a license. Officiants may also be available at one of the churches in the *Just Out* Spirituality section.

Multnomah County

Multnomah County issues marriage licenses from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. weekdays in the Marriage License Unit of the Multnomah Building, 501 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., Portland. The application fee is \$60 cash or certified check.

Marriages are being performed through April 2 at Holocene, 1001 S.E. Morrison St. Visit www.basicrights.org for times and dates (as well as up-to-the-minute info on the legality of your marriage in Oregon).

A list of Multnomah County judges is available at the marriage license unit or at www.co.multnomah.or.us/dbs/assess_tax/judges.pdf. The fee for an in-chamber appointment is \$25.

Benton County

Benton County will begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples March 24 at 120 N.W. Fourth St., Corvallis. The application fee is \$50 for a black and white certificate or \$52 for a "designer" certificate.

Benton County judges perform ceremonies on Tuesdays only. Schedule an appointment at the county building or at 541-766-6831 (press "0"). The fee is \$25.

Portland Center for Spiritual Growth is a center for worship, growth and leadership that adheres to an all-inclusive spiritual philosophy similar to 12-step, Unity and Religious Science. Impromptu wedding ceremonies available. (503-777-0727. www.portlandcenter.org) (7/04)

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) (7/04)

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship is a support organization for queer people, their families and friends. (PO Box 7320, Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-7320. 866-732-5677. office@sdakinship.org) (7/04)

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) (7/04)

Southminster Presbyterian Church is an active member of the Community of Welcoming Congregations. Sunday school and nursery care. Classes, community service activities and events for all ages and interests. (9-9:30 am Sunday chapel service, 10 am Sunday community worship service. 12250 SW Denney Road, Beaverton. 503-644-2073. staff@southmin.com. www.southmin.com) (7/04)

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.) (7/04)

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. www.stjameslutheranportland.org) (7/04)

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. 1432 SW 13th Ave. 503-223-6424.) (7/04)

University Park United Methodist Church believes in giving to the community, caring for one another and making a difference one person at a time. Come celebrate God's diversity with us! (10 am Sunday. 4775 N Lombard St. The Rev. Jeannie Knepper 503-289-7843.) (7/04)

Waverly Heights United Church of Christ 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) (7/04)

Wyeast Unitarian Universalist Congregation is an open and liberal religious community offering inter-generational services and religious education for youth and adults. We welcome gay, lesbian, bi and trans members and nurture spiritual growth living by Unitarian Universalist principles. (4 pm Sunday. 3915 SE Steele St. 503-777-3704. www.wyeast.pnw.uua.org) (7/04)

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.) (7/04)

Central Oregon: Spirituality

United Church of Christ Congregational is an open and affirming congregation in The Dalles. (9-20 am adult Sunday school, 10:30 am Sunday worship. 111 E Fifth St. 541-296-2909. ucccong@netnet.net. www.fornistry.com/usoucofuccccc) (7/04)

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. The Rev. Kathleen Verigin 360-573-2626.) (7/04)

East Vancouver United Methodist Church is reconciling and welcoming. (10 am Sunday. 5701 MacArthur Blvd. 360-693-4761.) (7/04)

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, holds services in an open and affirming congregation. (10 am Sunday worship, 11-15 am adult education. 1220 NE 68th St., Vancouver. 360-693-1476. vancouver@aol.com) (7/04)

Metropolitan Community Church of the Gentle Shepherd in Vancouver welcomes you. (10:30 am and 6:30 pm Sunday worship, 9 am Sunday Bible study. 2200 Broadway. The Rev. Harriet Barshofsky 360-695-1480.) (7/04)

Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, a Welcoming Congregation, provides a home for the liberal religious spirit. (9:30 and 11:15 am Sunday. 4505 E 18th St., Vancouver. 360-695-1891.) (7/04)

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. (9-30 am Sunday learning hour, 10:30 am worship. 700 Marion St. NE, Salem. 503-363-3660.) (7/04)

Metropolitan Community Church Two Rivers is a Christian church with primary outreach in the sexual minorities community. (6:30 pm Sunday. 1166 Oak St., Eugene.) (7/04)

(541-889-3119 or 866-248-8369. eoocl@eoocl.org. www.eoocl.org) (7/04)

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.) (7/04)

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 Hayward St. 541-664-3466.) (7/04)

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.) (7/04)

Rainbow Youth is a safe, confidential support group for young gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender, questioning and friends. (6-8 pm Wednesday. Micho Building, 690 State St., Salem. www.salemrainbowyouth.org) (7/04)

Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center (SMYRC), a program of Cascadia Behavioral HealthCare, offers support and recreation to gay, lesbian, bi and trans youth 23 and younger. Offers drop-in computer access, pool tables and an informal place to hang out. Weekly support meetings includes Trans Youth Group and the creative group Personal Daily Proxy. (4-8 pm Monday and Wednesday, 4 pm-midnight Friday and Saturday. 2100 SE Belmont St. 503-872-9864. TTY 503-231-9286 www.smyrc.org.) Other programs include: **Clellan County Sexual Minority Youth Connection (COSMYC)** provides opportunities for queer and questioning youth ages 23 and younger to get together for free, fun and supportive social activities. Offers one-on-one support, referrals and information on HIV and STD prevention and resources for adults who work with queer and questioning youth. (503-969-0080. cosmycyouth@yahoo.com.) **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) (7/04)

Eastern Oregon: Youth

Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living offers support and advocacy to gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth in Eastern Oregon.

YOUTH

Metro: Youth

Flavors, a social support group for sexual minority youth of color 21 and younger, meets on weekends for food and socializing. Regular events and activities. Flavors is a project of Love Makes a Family's MultiQueer program and is supported by Brother to Brother. (Jaye 503-228-3892. jaye@lmafamly.org) (7/04)

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) fights to end anti-gay bias in K-12 schools. (Suite 180, 12700 SW North Dakota St. #129, Tigard, OR 97223. 503-525-1177. glsen@glsenoregon.org) (7/04)

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 queer and questioning youth of color. (Jaye 503-228-3892. jaye@lmafamly.org) (7/04)

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. Needs volunteers of all ages. (10 am-6 pm Monday-Friday, 1132 SW 13th Ave. 503-535-3800. www.outsidein.org) (7/04)

ADVICE

The big bang

Straight dope on anal sex



Ms. Behavior
by Meryl Cohn

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I'll get right to the point. I am not homophobic or gay, but I like nothing better than a big, juicy dildo up my ass now and then.

I was once married, and my wife never knew, due to my own personal shame and feeling sinful over my private extremes of lust.

Am I a bit too weird wanting a woman in my life who would love to bang me senseless up the wazoo?

I'm also very religious, and this forces me to deal with my insecurities about my closet behavior. It seems to me that a woman would not find this tantalizing. Are most women possibly into this with a very male guy like me? I am very good-looking and, believe me, seem to have no problem with women finding me attractive.

But I'm afraid I'll fall in love yet want to be honest with her about my "dildo affection," and she will then bolt and tell me to see a psychologist and repent. Help! Am I destined to be the only guy on the block who thinks this way?

—Kbay

DEAR KBAY:

Lots of straight men like to be penetrated, and, luckily, plenty of straight women are willing to penetrate them. (Here's a news flash: Some women like anal sex, too—both

giving and receiving it—and wouldn't find your desire the least bit odd.) Perhaps even your ex-wife wouldn't have minded "banging you senseless," but you never gave her the chance because you never told her what you wanted.

If a big, juicy dildo is important to you, don't make the mistake of starting another serious relationship with someone who doesn't know it. In fact, you'd have little to lose by mentioning it on a second or third date because any woman who'd reject you for wanting a dildo up your ass is clearly not the right woman for you.

As for being religious, it's hard to understand your feelings of shame and conflict. Where does it say, "Thou shalt not have a woman shove a giant dildo up your ass"?

You very quickly deny you're gay, but it does seem you found Ms. Behavior's column in a gay newspaper. Perhaps in your next letter, you can tell Ms. Behavior what you really think about when your sweet new girlfriend penetrates you with her big latex dick.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

This year I turned 50, and my partner for the past 12 years told me our relationship was over.

I've had three wonderful relationships in my life, and all three are now close friends. But romance no longer interests me. Do you have any advice on growing old alone?

—P.

DEAR P.:

Ms. Behavior won't suggest that you need to sit on a mountain and chant in order to enjoy your partner-free life. Perhaps ironically, most of the things that would help you grow old alone more happily would also help you be happier in a relationship. So you don't need to commit to a solitary life to try them out.

Here are a few ideas to help you become a happy übersingle:

1. Cultivate stronger relationships with your friends.
2. Have as much sex as you want, with yourself or others.
3. Keep lists of things you'd like to do or see (art exhibits, movies, travel, etc.) and make sure you go.
4. Dress like you're going on a date sometimes even though you're not. Don't wear sweat pants unless you're engaging in an athletic activity or you have a fever of more than 101 degrees.

5. Start or keep a commitment to stay physically fit.

6. Get involved with a group that interests you: a community organization, a book club, a theater company, whatever.

7. Remain open-minded and try not to become bitter.

8. Be good to yourself: Moisturize. Get nice haircuts. Take vitamins. Eat well.

Ms. Behavior knows lots of people who, after a breakup, have spent a year or two plotting their remaining lonely years. Many of those people are now happily coupled. Finding a partner doesn't need to be your ultimate goal, but don't be so jaded that you don't allow for the possibility of love. ☑

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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.

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