

SPIRITUALITY

Metro: Spirituality

Anawim Community of gay men meets weekly for Christian meditation and prayer. (7:30 pm Thursday, 503-281-0722.) (7/05)

Atkinson Memorial Church, a Unitarian Universalist church, provides a spiritual home for those looking for a liberal-minded, supportive and caring congregation in Oregon City. (10:30 am Sunday, 710 Sixth St. 503-656-7296.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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. office@eastrose.org. www.eastrose.org.) (7/05)

Eckankar—Religion of the Light and Sound of God holds worship services and maintains a library of materials. Learn how the Divine Spirit works throughout your own life in today's world. (10 am Sunday, 7904 SE Milwaukie Ave. 503-233-1595. www.eckankar.org.) (7/05)

The **Enneagram Community of Portland** offers mentoring, therapy, spiritual direction, classes, workshops and retreats. (enneagrampdx@aol.com. www.enneagramportland.com.) (7/05)

Faith United Methodist Church is a welcoming congregation that values and affirms the sacredness of all people. We invite and encourage everyone to find a place in the family of God. (10:15 am Sunday, 27400 SE Stark St., Troutdale, 503-661-4520.) (7/05)

First Congregational United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation in the liberal Christian tradition. Church school and nursery care. (10:25 am Sunday, 1126 SW Park Ave. 503-228-7219.) (7/05)



Lawrence Gallery presents plates and prints by Pablo Picasso inspired by Carmen Nov. 12-Dec. 15

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

Integrity is a group of sexual minority Episcopalians and friends. Various locations throughout Oregon. (Steven Norcross or Bruce 503-286-9111. brucepdx@comcast.net. www.integrityusa.org.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.tearsoup.com/metanoia.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

Peace Church of the Brethren is a welcoming congregation. (11 am Sunday, 12727 SE Market St. 503-254-6380.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship is a support organization for former and current Adventists who are queer as well as their family and friends. (PO Box 49375, Sarasota, FL 34230-6375. 866-732-5677. office@sdakinship.org. www.sdakinship.org.) (7/05)

Southminster Presbyterian Church is an active member of the Community of Welcoming Congregations. Sunday school, nursery care, classes, community service activities and events for all ages and interests. (9 am Sunday chapel service, 10 am Sunday main worship service, 12250 SW Denney Road, Beaverton, 503-644-2073. staff@southmin.com. www.southmin.com.) (7/05)

St. Andrew Catholic Church invites all to join a diverse faith community for prayer and fellowship. (9:30 am Sunday; Noon Spanish language service, 806 NE Alberta St. 503-281-4429.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, a welcoming and affirming congregation, invites all to worship services and ongoing programs in spiritual development, community outreach, music and arts education. (8 am Sunday Rite I chapel service, 10 am Sunday Rite II cathedral service, 147 NW 19th Ave. 503-222-9811. www.trinity-episcopal.org.) (7/05)

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Washington County is an open and affirming liberal religious community offering a variety of enrichment programs in addition to community and social action opportunities. (9 and 11 am Sunday, 22785 NW Birch St., Hillsboro, 503-648-1720. www.uuccwc.org.) (7/05)

Waverly Heights United Church of Christ is open and affirming with worship, children's school and child care. (10 am summer, 11 am school year, 3300 SE Woodward St. 503-238-1337. pastor@waverlyucc.org. www.waverlyucc.org.) (7/05)

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.pnwd.uua.org.) (7/05)

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 [10:30 am summer], 2025 NE 23rd Ave., Gresham, 503-665-8741.) (7/05)

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 worship [9:30 am summer], 111 E Fifth St. 541-296-2909. ucccong1@netcnct.net. www.forministry.com/usorucofuccoc.) (7/05)

Washington: Spirituality

Abundant Life Center assists the community in spiritual growth. (10 am Sunday, 111 W 39th St., Vancouver. The Rev. Kathleen Verigin 360-573-2626. www.abundant-life-center.org.) (7/05)

Longview United Methodist Church is welcoming and reconciling. (10 am Sunday, 2851 30th Ave., Longview, 360-425-4927.) (7/05)

Metropolitan Church of the Gentle Shepherd in Vancouver welcomes you. (10:30 am and 6:30 pm Sunday worship. Bible study follows morning worship, 2200 Broadway St. The Rev. Harriet Barshofsky 360-695-1480.) (7/05)

Michael Servitus 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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

Washington: Youth

Triple Point offers education, support and advocacy to gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth in Vancouver. Meets every Tuesday in the basement of Youth House. (6-8 pm, 1112 Columbia St. John 360-695-1325.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

social events. Also information, referral and advocacy services in Washington County. (Molly 503-260-5792. molly@prideproject.org.) (7/05)

Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center (SMYRC) offers support and recreation to gay, lesbian, bi and trans youth 23 and younger. Drop-in computer access, pool tables and an informal place to hang out. Weekly support meetings include Trans Youth Group and the creative group Personal Deity Proxy. (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.) (7/05)

Eastern Oregon: Youth

Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living offers support and advocacy to gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth in Eastern Oregon. (1021 SW 5th Ave., Ontario, 541-889-3119 or 866-248-8369. eocil@eocil.org. www.eocil.org.) (7/05)

ADVICE

Hopelessly devoted

Straight woman seeks advice for her jaded cousin

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My gay male cousin and I were talking the other day about his difficulty in finding lasting relationships. Upon hearing his frustration, I couldn't help feeling a little out of my league.

I am a heterosexual female who can give great girl-has-trouble-with-boyfriend advice but seems to be faltering on the boy-has-trouble-with-boyfriend advice. My cousin is really the sweetest of the sweet and hopelessly romantic, which can have its pitfalls. He vents about all the problems that dating gay men can have, and I am giving him the best advice I know, and he comes back to me with, "It's just different."

So I want to know: how different? He has been dating a long time and is becoming really jaded, and I don't want him to lose hope. I do not believe that lasting relationships are a rare thing in the gay men arena (which he proclaims).

Hope you can help or lead me in a better direction.

—Irene

DEAR IRENE:

It may be true that boy-on-boy relationships are "just different" from straight ones in some crucial and subtle ways (like mating techniques and expectations), but it doesn't mean you couldn't understand the differences. That sort of statement is usually designed to be a conversation stopper, which may mean that your cousin doesn't want your help. It's nice that you're invested in your cousin's happiness, but he may not be receptive to your advice, however well-intentioned it may be.

It's true that there aren't many cultural models for lasting queer relationships, at least not in the public eye, but it doesn't mean they aren't relatively common. Right now many happily coupled men are eating Chinese food together, or taking showers, or playing Scrabble with their friends. You're not likely to find these happily coupled men out at the bars, however.

Your cousin will find his way to a lasting relationship, if that's what he really wants. Lots of gay men want the same thing. In fact, Ms. Behavior receives countless letters from men who want enduring relationships. Little by little, these men do manage to find one another.

Ms. Behavior hopes to develop a special song or scent or hair gel so that these relationship-inclined men could more easily recognize one another, but in the meantime, they'll just have to rely on ordinary verbal communication and carefully written personal ads.



Ms. Behavior® by Meryl Cohn

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

Isn't there a line between fantasy and adultery? If I'm in a committed relationship, is it wrong for me to think about someone else?

I'm a 51-year-old woman; I've been with my partner, Brenda, for the past 12 years. I've felt guilty ever since I confessed to my best friend, Ellen, that I

fantasize about Joanna, a woman from work.

Ellen says fantasies take you away from your partner. She asked if I ever masturbate while thinking about Joanna. I admitted that I do.

Ellen wants me to confess my sins to my girlfriend and promise never to do it again. I say fantasies are harmless, as long as they remain fantasies and you don't act on them. How do you say?

—Worried

DEAR WORRIED:

Your description of masturbating while fantasizing about your co-worker leaves a lot to the imagination, so it's hard to assess whether it's hurting your relationship with Brenda.

For example, does Joanna just pop into your head when you happen to be engaging in solo sex? Or do you put aside special time in your day, run a bubble bath, light candles and plan a sex date with her in your mind, knowing she's the catalyst to help you come? How long have you been fantasizing about her? Do you have any other sexual fantasies, or are they all about Joanna? Have your fantasies about Joanna affected your interactions with her (so that you're flirtatious with her, for example, or so that you're tempted to turn the fantasy into reality)? Are you still getting jiggy with Brenda? Do you superimpose Joanna's face over Brenda's when you're having sex? Are you in danger of calling out the wrong name when you come?

If you answer these questions honestly, you should be able to tell if your hot fantasy is interfering with your relationship. If it is, try telling Brenda what's going on in your head, with the hope of diffusing it. At first she'll probably have a fit and you'll be sorry you told her. But ultimately, honesty is the better choice for your relationship. ☐

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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.

YOUTH

Metro: Youth

The **Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)** strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. (12700 SW North Dakota St., Suite 180 #129, Tigard, OR 97223. 503-525-1177. glsen@glsenoregon.org. www.glsenoregon.org.) (7/05)

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. Provide transitional housing for youth 20 and younger and for those HIV-positive and younger than 23. Need volunteers of all ages. (10 am-6 pm Monday-Friday, 1132 SW 13th Ave. 503-535-3900. www.outsidein.org.) (7/05)

Pride Project brings together Washington County queer and questioning youth to plan and attend monthly