

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.pnaiorpx.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 **Eneagram Community of Portland** offers mentoring, therapy, spiritual direction, classes, workshops and retreats. (eneagrampx@aol.com. www.eneagramportland.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)

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. brucepdxor@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@pccz.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 intergenerational 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.) (7/05)

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. ucccongl@netnet.net. www.forministry.com/usoucofucucc.) (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)

ADVICE

Monster-in-law

Fiancé doesn't want his family goin' to the chapel

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My boyfriend and I are planning our wedding for next spring, and we're already fighting over the guest list.

I want to invite all our friends and relatives to join in our celebration. John doesn't want to invite his mother and brother, his only remaining relatives.

He feels that inviting them would add "another whole layer of stress" and doesn't think they'll be comfortable or supportive. He's alluded to a rough childhood but won't talk about it. He just says that it's "our day" and that we should have things the way we want them to be and that he doesn't want to conform to the heterosexual model of how to have a wedding.

I feel that we should invite his family because we're making a public statement about our love and our intentions and we should share that with them. Should I insist that John invites his family? Or should I just honor his feelings and shut up?

—K

DEAR K:

Express your feelings about John's refusal to invite his mother and brother once and then shut up. Interviewing John about his childhood won't help; perhaps his mother locked him in the basement and his brother smashed his dollhouse. Or maybe they're both just distant and disapproving and John doesn't want to include them. Either way, the decision should be John's, since he's the one who'll be stressed by their presence.

The notion that a wedding is a public statement about your love and intentions is a nice one, but it's best to consider what's truly meaningful to you and your partner. Ultimately, you'll be happier if you assign your own private meaning to your vows, rather than regarding your wedding as a public relations event or proof that you love each other.

When the wedding is over and the guests have all gone home, you'll be left with each other. Whether or not that's good news depends a lot on your ability to support one another through difficult decisions.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

After nine months, my wonderful long-distance girlfriend, Terry, finally moved in. At first I felt thrilled in every way—I couldn't believe she'd actually move 2,000 miles to be with me! But now that she's been here for three months, she doesn't seem so wonderful, and I'm not sure it was the right decision.



Ms. Behavior
by Meryl Cohn

Terry thought she'd have a job when she moved here, but her company downsized and it didn't work out. She's depressed about not having work but doesn't seem to be looking for a new job. She worries about money and complains that she misses her mother and her friends. She lies on the couch and cries a lot. We're not having fun

together anymore.

I'm not sure what to do. I love Terry, but I'm afraid of what lies ahead. Terry says she's "not usually like this."

I'm worried about getting more deeply involved with someone who has a depressive personality. I don't want to end up wasting years of my life, only to realize we can't be together because of her emotional problems. Should I bail out now?

—Scared

DEAR SCARED:

It's too soon to bail out. Did Terry sleep with your personal trainer or your mother? Did she sell your car for crack money? No. She's just depressed, at least for the moment.

Is it hard for you to understand why? Hello? She moved cross-country to be with you, and she lost her job, financial security and daily contact with her friends all at once.

A bout of depression shouldn't be taken as an indication that she's not a wonderful person. How about trying a little compassion before kicking her to the curb? Would you be so cavalier about ending the relationship if she'd developed a physical illness?

Terry may need therapy or antidepressants or just a job, but in any case, she needs your support. She probably senses that she's on trial, which would add to her anxiety and depression and perhaps even contribute toward immobilizing her.

If your relationship doesn't improve in another five or six months, you can always break up. But it seems only fair to both of you to give it a chance. Apparently, that was your intention when you asked her to pack up and join you.

So, try acting supportive (even if you have to pretend). It may help her out of her funk, which will make you both happy. ☐

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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.



The "far out" musical revue *Have a Nice Day* takes you on a trip back to the Nixon era through Nov. 21 at the Chemeketa Community College auditorium in Salem

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@glsehnoregon.org. www.glsehnoregon.org.) (7/05)

Outside is an organization 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. 503-535-3800. www.outsidein.org.) (7/05)

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.) (7/05)

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)

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 360-696-1325.) (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 Hayard St. 541-684-3486.) (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)