

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)

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)

First Congregational United Church of Christ of Hillsboro is an open and affirming congregation explicitly welcoming everyone into its Christian community, fellowship and worship. Bible and book study groups. Sunday school and nursery care. (10:30 am Sunday, 494 E Main St. 503-648-4341. www.hillsboro-ucc.org.) (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 Reconciling 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. ucccong@netcnct.net. www.forministry.com/usoucofucccc.) (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 4-8 pm Friday, Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hybrid St. 541-884-3468.) (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)

ADVICE

Bah, humbug!

Scrooge of a boss frowns on holiday greetings

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I do not celebrate any holidays; however, when I am at work, I tend to offer holiday greetings, especially in e-mails. I also sometimes say, "I hope you had a nice weekend," or some other pleasantries.

My boss is annoyed by the mixing of professional and personal greetings in a work setting. She says,

"David, no one wants to hear your subjective views on matters not pertaining to business." I think that to wish someone a happy holiday or to note a hope for all good things in the new year helps soften things up in an already too impersonal world.

The thing she really objects to is that I wish people happiness in the belief of their choice, even though I do not believe in God, whether in celebration of Hanukkah, Christmas or Kwanzaa.

I would feel funny if I couldn't include my own friendly tone in my correspondence. But do you think I need to defer to my boss and just get right down to business?

—Not a Holiday Sell-Out

DEAR NOT A HOLIDAY SELL-OUT:

Whether or not you need to defer to your Scrooge of a boss depends on how and why she imposes her opinion on your e-mail niceties.

If the discussion has the feel of a debate and your boss is merely offering her judgment that the faithless shouldn't send holiday greetings, you probably don't have to stop your friendly e-mail chatter. (You could say that your greetings merely acknowledge that religion has become irrelevant in holiday celebrations and that for most people, at least according to television, Christmas is about iPods and new cars with bows, not devotion to Jesus Christ or the Virgin Mother.)

But if your boss feels that the hearts and daisies in your correspondence reflect poorly on the company's values or purpose, you'll need to do what she says and stick to the point. If this feels stifling, you can find another way to express yourself, maybe by buying little butterfly stickers and pasting them on all of your file folders.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I was single for a long time and thought it might always be that way, but I finally met a really cool girl a few months ago. Darlene and I have been hanging out a lot, and it's starting to get very real. I think I'm in love with her.

But, there's a new complication: A few nights ago, when I got home from work, Darlene told me she'd

watched a documentary on female-to-male transsexuals. We chatted about it for a while before bed. The next morning, she woke me up early and told me that she thinks she's a transsexual and that she wants to find a doctor who will prescribe "T" (testosterone). I tried to dismiss it because I thought Darlene was just reacting to the documentary, but she seems serious.

Now she spends all of her time at night looking at Web sites created by "transmen." She's even started a blog about her journey to manhood!

Why, after so many years of looking for the right girlfriend, do I find one who wants to become my boyfriend? I don't know if I can handle it.

Darlene isn't sure she wants to have the "bottom surgery," so she probably won't have a dick. But still...she wants to surgically remove her breasts, and her goal is to "pass" as a guy. She's planning to change her name to Derrick.

Would it be insensitive for me to break up with her if she becomes a guy? And if I stay with her, am I still a lesbian?

—Confused

DEAR CONFUSED:

This is a huge decision (or realization) for Darlene, so she'll need time to sort it out. Try not to decide what her revelation means to your relationship right away; it's a complex, emotionally charged issue that requires a lot of patient discussion and understanding from both of you.

It may be too soon to decide whether you'll want to stay together as lovers. It's not like Darlene is thinking of changing her hair color and you're just not sure if you'll find her blond highlights attractive. Sexuality and gender are such delicate and specific issues; one could hardly judge you fickle or "insensitive" if you find that you're only romantically interested in Darlene as a woman.

If you consider yourself a lesbian and you do stay with Darlene after she becomes a dude, you'll be a lesbian who's in a relationship with a dude. You won't be the first.

If, however, you and Darlene decide to break up, be sure to assert your lesbianism: Keep Derrick as a close friend forever, invite him over for every holiday, and share custody of a pet, a child or a house plant. **J**

MERYL COHN is the author of *Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette*. Signed copies are available directly from the author. Send questions or correspondence to msbehavior@aol.com.



Debra Beers' "American Brigade" is on display through Jan. 29 at Mark Woolley Gallery

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.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. 503-535-3800. 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 866-248-8368. eoocl@eoocl.org. www.eoocl.org.) (7/05)