

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.pnaiorpxd.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. (enneagrampxd@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. brucepxd-or@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)

Soul Quest—a men's group exploring soul, spirit, inner transformation and authentic living—will meet weekly starting this spring. (Lincoln 503-730-2347. soulntes@yahoo.com.) (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@southminp.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.uucwc.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)

Wy'east 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. (5 pm Sunday, 3300 SE Woodward St. 503-777-3704. www.wy'east.pnw.d.uaa.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/sonorocofcucc.) (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)

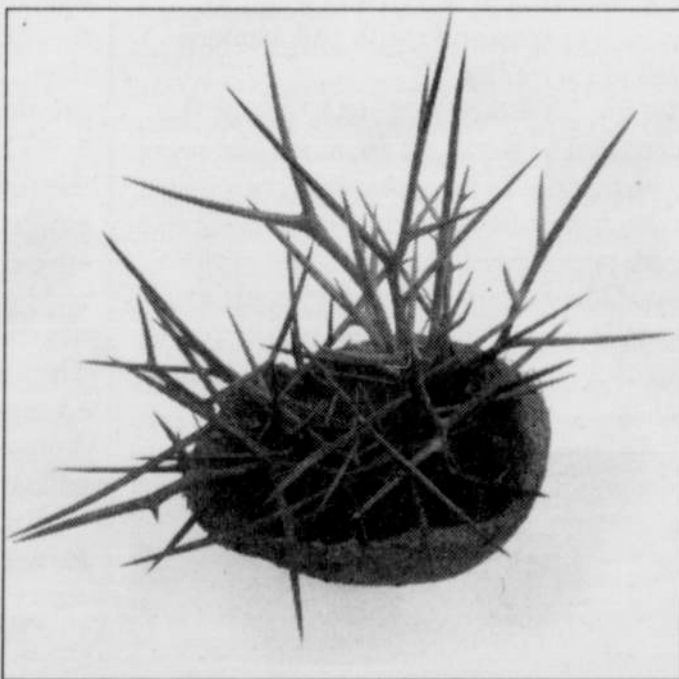
Metropolitan Church of the Gentle Shepherd in Vancouver welcomes you. (10:30 am and 6:30 pm Sunday worship. Bible study follows morning worship, 2200 Broadway St. The Rev. Harriet Barshofsky 360-695-1480.) (7/05)

Michael Servitius 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)



Portland gay fiber artist Leroy Klausmeyer uses barbed wire and deadly thorns to voice his feelings about the 2004 election Feb. 1-26 at Ogle

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 Hilliard 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 Dasty 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@eocal.org. www.eocal.org.) (7/05)

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. 503-535-3800. www.outsidein.org.) (7/05)

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

ADVICE

Homocoming queen

Ex-cheerleader expects to relive her glory days at high school reunion

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I am a lesbian looking forward with nervous excitement to attending my 15-year high school reunion. Unlike many of my gay friends, I had a great time in high school. I was a cheerleader, had boyfriends, played sports and was even homecoming queen.

My girlfriend, Margo, refuses to go to the reunion with me. She is a bit older and went to her reunion a long time ago and hated it. She says my so-called friends will not be as perky and happy to see me as I am to see them. She says they are straight and suburban and "not very imaginative."

I expect to connect with them intellectually and emotionally, even though many years have passed. But Margo says I need to prepare myself for disappointment, and she seems judgmental that I want to go.

Margo was a bit of a stoner/outcast in high school, and I think she still takes it all too personally. She seems to want me to be hurt and angry like she is. She's told me straight out that she'd prefer I stay home with her because I'm in for a sorry awakening.

What do you think, Ms. Behavior? Should I press Margo to go with me? Should I expect a warm welcome...or should I stay home with Margo and stew in my sour lesbian juices?

—Queen in 1989

DEAR QUEEN IN 1989:

If you feel compelled to attend your high school reunion, dust off your pompoms and go, but don't drag your recovering-outcast girlfriend with you. Let Margo stay home and relive her unhappy high school memories, perhaps after smoking some weed and eating a few fluffernutters.

Don't expect your reunion to feel like a homecoming. You may have fond memories of wearing your tiara and presiding over the prom, but if you were doing the nasty with boys back then, you probably weren't quite the same person you are now. Despite your fantasy, reunions are not typically a place where people connect at a deep level. (For this experience, you must enroll in yoga camp or a tantric sex workshop.)

Your old friends will probably squeal a bit and then comment on everyone's hair and weight and children, but you probably won't get much intellectual or spiritual camaraderie from your old pals. Try not to be crushed if people don't remember you, perhaps because you used to pluck your eyebrows and don't anymore.

If you do have a lousy time, you can praise Margo for being right. Then, as a healing exercise, you can



Ms. Behavior by Meryl Cohn

write a little essay in your blog about visiting the foreign land of your somber adolescent past. Aching disappointment and hazy adolescent memories are the stuff that blogs and memoirs are made of.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My girlfriend Andrea left me a few months ago because I'm ready to have a baby and she's not. It

wasn't an impulsive decision; we've discussed it endlessly, and we're just in different places. I'm sad about losing Andrea, but I understand how she feels. We ended it well, for what that's worth.

Now I've lined up a sperm donor (through a sperm bank), and I've changed my job enough to accommodate child care. I'm a little apprehensive about doing it alone—this isn't exactly what I'd imagined—but I'm basically ready.

The problem is that I'm suddenly meeting all kinds of resistance from my mother and my friends, who are begging me not to rush—as if I am 25 and haven't spent the past 10 years talking about having a baby—and warning me that a baby will put the kibosh on any romantic possibility I might have for the future. I hope that's not true. But if I were pushed to make a choice, I'd probably choose the baby over some theoretical girlfriend.

Am I crazy? Should I listen to my mother and wait a few months?

—Nervous

DEAR NERVOUS:

Don't let your mother's spinster fears influence your decision. Your plan hardly sounds impulsive, and you can't exactly put your life on hold while waiting for a new partner to ring your buzzer.

Besides, a baby isn't quite the scourge on a relationship that some people like to imagine. Many of your luscious lesbian dates will actually find your bouncy, drooly infant rather alluring. Some even welcome the idea of a ready-made family.

Of course, having a baby does reduce your mean number of relationship prospects, but that's not necessarily a bad thing because you wouldn't have wanted to be with someone who loathes little ones, anyway. The trick will be finding someone sane and lovely and crazy about babies, who'd be delighted with the package deal of you and your spawn. ☑

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.