

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.pnaicrpx.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. (enneagrampx@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. brucepxor@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.



Take the Blame performs March 20 at Snatch, the Doug Fir Lounge's monthly dyke night.

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)

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

University Park United Methodist Church is a small, diverse, open and progressive community of faith that extends a warm welcome to all people. (10 am Sunday. 4775 N Lombard St. 503-289-7843. www.upumc.net.) (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 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. (5 pm Sunday. 3300 SE Woodward 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. ucccongl@netcnct.net. www.forministry.com/usorucofucccc.) (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)

First Congregational United Church of Christ has been an open and affirming congregation since 1992, extending God's extravagant welcome to all people, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey. (1220 NE 68th St., Vancouver. 360-693-1476. www.vancouverucc.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)

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. ecol@ecol.org. www.ecol.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 360-695-1325.) (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 Hilgard 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)

ADVICE

Groom and doom

Fiancés fret about wedding registry

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I hope you can resolve this dilemma that my boyfriend and I are having. We're planning our wedding for this spring. We're also trying to buy a house. The wedding is already costing us a lot of money (we're fags, after all—it wouldn't do to have a tacky celebration!), but the house is a big step for us and we don't want to put it off.

I had an idea that, rather than registering for wedding gifts at Tiffany's, it would be more practical to "register" our mortgage—in other words, we'd ask the wedding guests to donate to our mortgage in lieu of wedding gifts. I think it would be fun, and we'd have something more useful than a Baccarat decanter (as much as I love fine crystal).

Bob, on the other hand, thinks my idea is tacky and déclassé. He thinks it will make us look cheap. He'd rather have fabulous, overpriced baubles than have our friends invest in our future.

Alternatively, he thinks we should register at our local sex shop and have everyone buy us new and exciting sex toys. While that would be very campy, how many inflatable butt plugs does one really need?

What do you think, Ms. Behavior? Is my idea totally trailer trash, or am I onto something here?

—Practical Pete

DEAR PRACTICAL PETE:

A mortgage contribution would indeed be a practical gift, but asking specifically for money does run the risk of seeming tasteless, as Bob suggests. On the other hand, it's really just convention that makes it OK to request china patterns but vulgar to register for help with buying a home.

Fifty years ago, it made sense to help young couples by stocking their kitchens. But housing prices have soared and people often get married when they're older, which means they own a lot of stuff before they reach the altar. Pie plates and blenders aren't always useful gifts for middle-aged people (who've been baking pies and mixing daiquiris for decades).

The big problem with your idea about registering for a mortgage is the execution. The only way around tackiness would be to ask a bossy lesbian friend to coordinate your mortgage registry. That way, you're not the ones requesting that your friends and family fork over cash.

And if it seems anything other than a brilliantly creative solution, your friends will just blame it on the brashness of your lesbian friend's request, not on your greed. (This is just one way to use lesbians as scape-

goats in social situations. Look for a chapter on this topic in Ms. Behavior's next book.)

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My best friend, Jean, has been single for six years. She's an adorable butch who makes ridiculously bad decisions about love and ends up brokenhearted every time.

After a long sabbatical and some heavy-duty therapy, she finally got ready to try again. I met Susan, this very beautiful, very down-to-earth, single lesbian at work, and set her up with Jean. They hit it off famously and have been happily dating for weeks.

The problem is a story I heard from another workmate of Susan's. She said that Susan recently attended a commitment ceremony and bumped into her ex, who was there with a new date. Apparently, the ex said something provocative and Susan hauled off and punched her repeatedly...at the reception...in front of everyone.

Ms. Behavior, this speaks of poor judgment, bad boundaries, lack of impulse control and a possible abuse issue for my dear friend Jean, who has had enough problems. Is it my duty to tell Jean about Susan's violent behavior? I hate to be the one, and I keep thinking maybe Susan will tell her, but every phone call from Jean is filled with oozing praise about how great Susan is.

Susan doesn't seem the violent type, and she does seem great, so I don't know. Jean might still want to be with Susan anyway. I feel horribly responsible for not checking her out more closely. What should I do?

—Worried About Jean

DEAR WORRIED ABOUT JEAN:

The story you've heard about Susan may be based in rumor or distortion, but you should tell Jean anyway. It's an ugly responsibility, but your role as matchmaker and friend puts you in the position of needing to protect Jean.

Otherwise, if Jean forgets to take out the garbage, and Susan gets mad and bloodies Jean's nose, you'll feel responsible (and could end up paying for her rhinoplasty). If Susan really does have a violent streak, it's better for Jean to find out now, before they move in together, start wearing matching outfits and cranking out rageful little toddlers. **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.



Ms. Behavior
by Meryl Cohn