

SPIRITUALITY

Metro: Spirituality

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

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.)

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.)

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.)

Eastrose Fellowship Unitarian Universalist is 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.)

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.)

Enneagram Community of Portland offers mentoring, therapy, spiritual direction, classes, workshops and retreats. (enneagramprdx@aol.com. www.enneagramportland.com.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

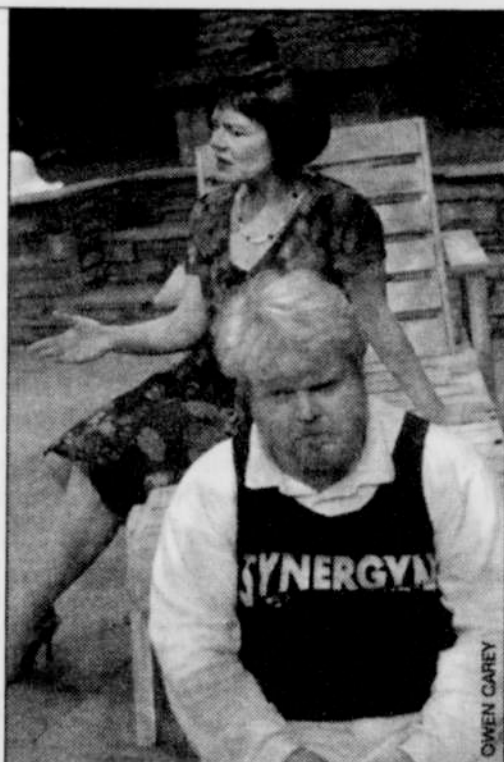
Metropolitan Community Church of Portland holds ecumenical Sunday morning worship services at 9 and 11 am. Sunday school for children is held during the 11 am service. (2400 NE Broadway, 503-281-8868. info@mccportland.com. www.mccportland.com.)

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.)

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

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.)

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@pceez.com.)



A vexed woman tries to make her hopeless son see sense in *Humble Boy* through May 1 at Artists Repertory Theatre.

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.sdkinship.org.)

Soul Quest—a men's group exploring soul, spirit, inner transformation and authentic living—will meet weekly starting this spring. (Lincoln 503-703-2347. info@soulquests.com.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

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.)

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. (5 pm Sunday, 3300 SE Woodward St. 503-777-3704. www.wyeast.prwd.uua.org.)

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.)

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. uccongl@netcnct.net. www.forministry.com/usoruccucccc.)

Washington: Spirituality

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

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.)

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

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

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.)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church has welcomed all people since 1853. Traditional but never stuffy. (English: 8 and 10:30 am Sunday. Spanish: 1 pm Sunday. Child care at 10:30 am. 426 E Fourth Plain Blvd., Vancouver. The Rev. John Allen 360-696-0181. www.stlukeschurch.info.)

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.)

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.)

4-11 pm Friday, 2100 SE Belmont St. 503-872-9664. www.smyrc.org.)

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 Fifth Ave., Ontario. 541-889-3119 or 866-248-8369. ecol@ecol.org. www.ecol.org.)

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.)

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 Hillard St. 541-684-3466.)

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.)

ADVICE

Out of control

Boyfriend bans boinking for first year; will it be worth the wait?

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I've been dating a man named Andrew for a few weeks, but we haven't had sex yet. Andrew has very specific romantic notions about sex and how he wants it to be. So far, we've only held hands and kissed.

Andrew wants to plan our first time together in bed, down to the place, the time, the city, the act. Andrew also has certain rules, like no oral sex for the first 90 days, and he also says we have to wait a year for anal sex!

I find this rigid and teenage-ish—we're in our early 30s—but Andrew is sexy, and I'm dying to get down with him anyway. Despite the weird rules, this could be a great relationship.

Should I let Andrew organize our first fuck (and the whole year) according to his plan? Or should I protest?

—Tom

DEAR TOM:

If you don't need to control everything, you may find that it's fun to give yourself over to someone else's imagination. And, really, what could be hotter than taking it slowly? External controls on sex—whether imposed by a boyfriend, an authority figure or just the thrill of being naughty in an inappropriate place—work well to fuel passion.

Andrew's "rules" will only swell your expectations; hopefully he knows this and will get it up for the creative challenge of fulfilling them. Maybe for your first try, Andrew will choose, say, a weekend at a bed and breakfast in Vermont, where dinner will be prepared and served in your bedroom by partially dressed hunky gay farmers. After the farmers tuck you in, you and Andrew will be permitted endless kissing and frottage-only sex, and you'll fall asleep sated, holding hands.

A month or two later, perhaps Andrew will blow you in a department store dressing room, while making sure not to spill a drop on the Versace suit you're trying on. If you're patient, your first anniversary might be a memorable festival of anal pleasure, hosted in a secret and fabulous vacation spot.

On the other hand, maybe you'll discover that Andrew is a total control queen who'll want to plan your meals and your outfits and organize your socks and panties by size and color. But if that's the case, you'll probably figure it out long before your anal assignation, and you can renegotiate your plans accordingly.



Ms. Behavior
by Meryl Cohn

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

When I was a freshman in high school, I met Jennifer, a somewhat troubled girl my age. I was her confidante, and she could tell me anything.

One day in the bathroom, she told me she was bi. That scared me then, because I knew very little about sexual orientation.

When I was in 11th grade, my parents took me out of private school and put me into public school. After I left, Jennifer really let herself go; she gained weight and is now living with her 40-something boyfriend.

Ever since I left, I can't get Jennifer out of my head, and I dream of her constantly. Should I tell her that I love her?

—Chaney

DEAR CHANEY:

You haven't said how long it's been since you've seen Jennifer. Did you leave private school two months ago or several years ago? Are you now 18 and still thinking about Jennifer, or are you 27? (Do you both still wear your parochial school jumpers?)

It's hard to know if love is the real reason you still think and dream of Jennifer. Is she the only bisexual woman you've ever met? If so, maybe you're imposing all your sexual fantasies on her because of her bathroom confession. This means when you think of sex with girls, you think of porcelain sinks and Jennifer. But there's a whole big world out there, with lots of delicious women who have similar longings (both inside and outside bathrooms).

There's a lot missing from your story. It's important for you to know that being intrigued or titillated by someone doesn't necessarily mean you're in love with her.

Maybe you should try to have lunch with Jennifer and see how it goes. Maybe you'll have outgrown her, or you'll be turned off by the way she chews or by stories about life with her 40-year-old boyfriend.

Or, conversely, perhaps your feelings of love for Jennifer will be confirmed. At least in person you can see if your feelings remain, and you'll be able to read whether your love confession is likely to be welcomed or whether the fact that she's still "troubled" is likely to ruin your life. ☐

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.