

**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**, 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. (enneagramportland@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. brucepdx@aol.com. 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.)



Gay comedian James Williamson performs May 7 at Windows.



Gay singer/songwriter/multi-instrumentalist Maia Sharp performs May 19 at Aladdin Theater.

**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@pccz.com.)

**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.)

**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.)

**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.uuccw.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.pnw.d.uaa.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. ucccngl@netcnct.net. www.forministry.com/usorucocucc.)

**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.)

**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.anycc.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 866-248-8368. aocil@aol.org. www.eocil.org.)

**Washington: Youth**

**Trigle Palace** 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 Myard St. 541-684-3468.)

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Youth Group** for ages 25 and younger meets every Monday in Eugene. (5 pm, Kanana Center, 1414 Rhoad St. 541-385-1134.)

**ADVICE**

**Measure of a man**

Partner envies Mr. Right's sown oats

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I'm 34 and in an eight-year monogamous relationship with a 38-year-old man, the only person I've ever kissed or been intimate with. I was so paranoid about diseases that I'd go on dates with other guys but send them on their way when I realized our personalities did not click. I waited for Mr. Right and do think I found him. My partner is great. He is loving, extremely devoted and good-looking.

It was important to me to know my partner's past; when we first met we discussed it extensively. However, I recently learned that one of our closest friends was a former fling of my partner's. I called my partner on this, and he confessed that it was true. Soon I learned that his past was more extensive than he'd acknowledged.

I felt deceived and hurt that I wasn't given full disclosure. I'm having a hard time talking to my friends now as well as my partner. I'm questioning the relationship, and I feel as if I'm competing with his past. I feel like less of a man for not having chosen the same path; if I had "sown my oats" it would not be a big deal.

I do realize my lack of an intimate past is playing a big role in my feelings. I feel torn between the best thing that ever happened to me and my need to feel like more of a man.

I hope you have good advice. Thanks.

—G.

DEAR G.:

Come on. Do you really think you're questioning your relationship because your partner didn't fully disclose his sexual history? It sounds like you just want to parlay your feelings of betrayal into a few dozen acts of fucking and sucking so you'll feel like "more of a man."

Maybe that's ultimately what you'll need to do, but you'll be happier if you do it from a conscious place, rather than deluding yourself about why you want to be with other men. When your partner misled you about his sexual experience from the beginning, maybe he sensed that revealing his whole slutty history would scare you or make you feel inadequate.

Now, after eight years of monogamy, why does his past matter? Why does your lack of experience suddenly loom so large? Would getting a few extra blow jobs really make you feel like a man? If so, is your partner willing to allow you to experiment? And even if "Mr. Right" says it's OK to go fuck your brains out for a while, are you willing



**Ms. Behavior** by Meryl Cohn

to risk whatever may happen to your relationship?

You'd be wise to wait and do nothing for a while and see if your feelings pass or change into something else. Meanwhile, keep an open dialogue with your partner. Perhaps he can help you think of something else that will make you feel more manly: A new hat? A big truck?

A new attitude?

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

Recently my partner and I attended a (straight) baby shower for her cousin's wife. Her cousin didn't attend.

While driving home I asked my partner, who will have a baby before I do, if I can come to her baby shower. She replied that since I would serve as the "husband," I would not be invited. I asked if I would have a baby shower when I was pregnant with our second child, which would be my first. She said she thought I should have one.

I don't think it's fair to ask our families and friends to throw two showers in light of the expense and the fact that we'll have stuff from the first baby. I also want to go to her baby shower because it will be our first baby. What should I do?

—Baby Shower Blues

DEAR BABY SHOWER BLUES:

Ms. Behavior has a news flash for your partner: When lesbians create their own celebrations, they don't need to follow heterosexual traditions. Lesbians can do whatever they want. We don't have to make silly hats from wrapping paper at baby showers. We don't have to exclude men. And even if some lesbians do exclude men or husbands from their baby showers, you're not a man or a husband! If you want to attend your baby's shower, you should be able to do so.

If somehow you end up submitting to your partner's ridiculous rule that you can't attend her baby shower, then you should have your own. But Ms. Behavior senses a dangerous precedent, where one baby will be considered your partner's and one will be yours. You'll have a happier family experience if you can integrate both babies into both of your lives. Attending your partner's baby shower seems like a step in that direction. [G]

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](mailto:msbehavior@aol.com).