

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.pnaiorpxd.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 you can work daily with the Divine Spirit in your own life. (10 am Sunday, 7904 SE Milwaukie Ave. 503-233-1595. www.eckankar.org.)

Elevation, a gay Christian rock band, invites you to join us for energetic, inspiring jams and powerful, spiritual messages at Metropolitan Community Church of Portland. (6 pm Sunday, 2400 NE Broadway, 503-281-8868.)

Enneagram Community of Portland offers mentoring, therapy, spiritual direction, classes, workshops and retreats. (enneagrampx@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



Los Angeles pop singer/songwriter Jay Spears performs July 2 at the dyke-owned coffee shop Haven.

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.)

Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, a member of the Community of Welcoming Congregations and the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, is a vibrant, inclusive community of faith. All God's children are welcome to join in our life and worship. (10 am Sunday, 1907 NE 45th Ave. www.rosecityparkpres.org.)

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. Brigid Celtic Anabaptist Community is a newly developing group connecting ancient traditions and future visions to manifest liberty, peace and justice. Now meeting for discussion, study and meditation. (Sarah 503-757-7545. www.stbrigidcac.com.nr.)

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.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.)

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.wy'east.pnwduua.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/usorucofucoccc.)

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.)

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

YOUTH

Metro: Youth

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.)

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.)

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.)

Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center (SMYRC) offers support, recreation, counseling and referral to gay, lesbian, bi and trans kids 23 and younger. Drop-in computer access, pool tables and an informal place to hang out. Weekly trans, leadership and art support group meetings. (4-9 pm

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. eocil@eocil.org. www.eocil.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 Hilyard 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

Baby on board

Aging dyke doesn't have time to dawdle



Ms. Behavior
by Meryl Cohn

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:
I'm nearing 42, and I'd love to have a child. The timing is not perfect, but I'm not getting any younger.

A close friend has agreed to donate sperm, with a careful legal agreement. He's a great guy who will participate as much as I allow. Money is not a problem, and I have a flexible job.

The issue is that I'm dating a woman I met less than a year ago. Leslie and I have gotten to know each other slowly, but our feelings have intensified, and I believe this could be a serious relationship.

It's not realistic for us to discuss having a baby together at this point; we don't even live together yet. But should I wait until Leslie and I could make the baby decision together? Or should I just do it?

—Rapidly Aging Lesbian

DEAR RAPIDLY AGING LESBIAN:

If you were 37 you'd have time to dawdle, but at nearly 42 you should have your sperm donor on call and your legs in the air any time you think you might ovulate. Since you're much more certain about the baby than you are about Leslie, you should hurry up and get pregnant.

Ms. Behavior doesn't mean to pressure you, but your eggs are growing older by the minute; waiting will only decrease your chances of pregnancy and increase the odds of miscarriage. You don't have the luxury of waiting to see how things turn out with Leslie to assess whether she'd be a good co-parent or even if you'd live together well. You may have some intuition about your compatibility, but given the newness of your relationship, it's wise to see how it goes and not try to force decisions artificially.

Of course you should let Leslie know what you're doing and discuss how you'll fit into each other's lives. If you're lucky and Leslie wants a child, too, you may eventually end up with a happy little pack. Hopefully, by the time your baby turns into a 2-year-old monster, you'll have a secure relationship and a loving partner who wants nothing more than to please your adorable brat.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

John, my boyfriend of two years, insists on a monogamous relationship and yet won't indulge my fantasies, even the mild ones that don't involve pain or humiliation. He says fantasies make him feel "too self-conscious." John usually likes to have sex in the same predictable position, on his stomach with one leg bent beneath him.

I love him and we're great

companions, so I've tried to be patient, but here's the final straw: Despite the fact that we're monogamous and have been repeatedly HIV-tested, he won't let me fuck him without a condom. I don't understand his position on this. I've always thought that one of the benefits of a monogamous relationship is sexual freedom within the

relationship. But no such luck. I've tried to discuss it, but we haven't gotten anywhere.

I've fooled around a bit with a guy at work, mostly just groping each other in the parking lot. Tom has expressed an interest in some of the very activities that seem to repel John, including barebacking, with me as the top. He would even do it in his car in the back of the parking lot, during work hours, which is exactly the kind of fantasy I think is hot.

Tom swears he's HIV-negative. I don't want a relationship with him, but I'm tempted by his offer. What should I do?

—Horny for More

DEAR HORNY FOR MORE:

If you've outgrown your monotonous monogamous relationship, tell John the truth: You love him, but your sexual relationship is boring, and you're considering having sex with other men.

Maybe John fears unprotected sex with you because he doesn't trust you or because he himself hasn't been faithful. Either way, it's time for an honest and thorough discussion. Tell him that you'd like to be more sexually adventurous together and that while he won't necessarily have to hang a sling over the bed or participate in your prison warden fantasy, the status quo is not working for you.

If expanding your sexual repertoire isn't an option, maybe you can change your agreement to include sex with others, either together or apart. Of course, this discussion could be a deal-breaker, but it's a far better choice than sneaking around behind John's back.

Regardless of what happens with him, barebacking with Tom isn't the way to go. His assurance that he's HIV-negative doesn't mean much; if he was infected within the past few weeks, he wouldn't know it now. And what makes you think you're the only one who's been offered Tom's ass in the parking lot? ☞

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.