

**COFFEE KLATSCH**

**Let's Do Coffee & More** . 19373 S.W. Willamette Drive, West Linn; 503-635-4224  
 Hours: 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday  
**Let's Do Coffee at the Water Tower** . 5331 S.W. Macadam Ave.; 503-241-7486  
 Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays  
**The Perfect Cup and Caffe** . 1721 Willamette Falls Drive, West Linn; 503-722-1722  
 Hours: 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekends  
 Queer Quotient: ☹ Cup: ☹☹☹ Vibe: ☹☹

Coffee means a whole lot more at West Linn's gay-owned Let's Do Coffee and More and Perfect Cup and new Let's Do Coffee at the Water Tower in John's Landing.



When owners and partners Craig Shannon and Brad Davis opened their flagship shop, Let's Do Coffee and More, it was inspired by their inability to find a perfect cup in their suburban digs.

"I've got to have my coffee in the morning, and we couldn't find any that we liked," explained Shannon.

But a stop in the shop will show that coffee isn't the only offering on the menu. Overgrown sweets from La Provence in Lake

Oswego, hand-selected beans from Caffé Vita, a Seattle microroaster, and the creamiest, spiciest, most refreshing iced chai evoke grins from shoppers who browse its gift shop of kitsch-meets-homey comforts. The store offers "never knew you wish you had" specialty candles, lotions, jewelry, bedding and other novelty gifts.

While the store doesn't scream "queer mecca," the owners say the store helps people feel comfortable to be themselves.

"It's a place that's safe and inviting and friendly for people to come and hang out and enjoy themselves, without having to worry about being themselves here," said Shannon.

He describes his clientele as a mishmash of moms in the mornings, the business crowd using wireless Internet connections at the lunch hour, teens doing homework in the afternoon and couples and community meeting groups in the evenings.

The shop draws a crowd on Saturday nights with acoustic music.

It also donates 10 percent of its sales to various schools and charities, with ongoing fund-raisers and donations to auctions.



**THE GODDESS IS ALIVE AND SHE IS MAKING YOUR LATTE**  
**Touchstone Coffee House** . 7631 N.E. Glisan St.; 503-262-7613

Hours: 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday  
 Queer Quotient: ☹☹☹☹ Cup: ☹☹ Vibe: ☹

Located in a colorful hut across from the church conglomerates of upper Glisan is an outpost of community. Describing Touchstone as a "feel-good place," owner Becky Bilyeu has been in business for six years, longer than any other lesbian-owned coffee shop in the city.

"It's a place where people can come and relax, be inspired when they are feeling stressed out or creatively tapped. At Touchstone, you can get rejuvenated creatively," she notes.

The décor of Touchstone is somewhat overwhelming at first. It is obviously a well-loved space, and it is cozy but cluttered. The garden is in its midsummer glory at the moment, and there are tables outside in which to enjoy the sun.

There is definitely a new age vibe at Touchstone, which could be a bit distracting: Nearly every inch of wall space is hung with art, craft or signs proclaiming platitudes such as "Miracles happen to everybody." Although not for everyone, this aesthetic is definitely uplifting.

Bilyeu is proud that her cafe offers an alternative to the bar scene and only wishes more lesbians from the area would make the trek up Glisan to see her. There is a community resource room in the cafe where people can advertise their businesses, look for roommates or hook up with activity groups.

The regulars at Touchstone are about a third from the queer community. In addition, Touchstone does a brisk business with the church crowd from across the street. There are moms who come in, as well as a knitting

group that meets regularly. There are evening astrology and tarot readings, which have proven to be quite popular with her clientele.

"I have regulars from all over the area," comments Bilyeu. "People drive from Vancouver, Oregon City. I think that is a testament to the specialness of this place. There is really nothing else like it."

Touchstone offers the traditional cafe fare, but lacking a kitchen does not offer



much in the way of food beyond panini sandwiches and bentos. The pastries are all baked locally by small independent bakers Buddha Belly and Scone Age Pastries.

Bilyeu is adamant about her politics with respect to locally owned businesses: "It's worth it to support gay-owned and independent coffeehouses. If it wasn't for my neighborhood clientele, I wouldn't have made it the six years I have. It may be a little extra, but small places don't buy in bulk the way the big places do. But it is worth it; Walk the extra block, spend the extra quarter. People don't realize how nice small business are until they are gone." ☐

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