

SPIRITUALITY

Metro: Spirituality

Ainsworth United Church of Christ is a multicultural, multiracial, open and affirming, just peace congregation. (2941 NE Ainsworth St. 503-284-8767.)

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.)

Community of Welcoming Congregations, an interfaith ministry of spiritual congregations in Oregon and Southwest Washington that welcome and affirm people of all sexual orientations, provides pastoral care, advocacy, education and consultation. (503-665-8741. 2025 NE 23rd St., Gresham. Mailing address: PO Box 14948, Portland, OR 97293. www.welcomingcongregations.org.)

Congregation P'nai Or (Faces of Light) is a vibrant, egalitarian, Jewish Renewal congregation in Portland. Meets several times a month at St. Mark Presbyterian Church. (9750 SW Terwilliger Blvd. 503-248-4500. www.pnaioipdx.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. (enneagramportland.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. 7400 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@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.)

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.)

Soka Gakkai International, a huge world peace Buddhist organization, holds monthly Rainbow Group meetings to talk about Buddhism and where queers can become familiar with a philosophy that has always had a place for everyone. (1805 SE Ankeny St. 503-230-1038. sgi-usa-oregon.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.co.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.)

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.pnwd.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. ucccngl@netcnct.net. www.forministry.com/usorucfuccccc.)

Washington: Spirituality

Abundant Life Center assists the community in spiritual growth. (10 am Sunday. 111 W 39th St., Vancouver. The Rev. Kathleen Venig 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 Barschovsky 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.)

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 Wednesday, 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. eoicil@eoicil.org. www.eoicil.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.)

ADVICE

Queen-size bed

Am I totally shallow for rejecting a tall hunk because he does drag?



Ms. Behavior
by Meryl Cohn

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I have a dilemma and hope you can help. I met this guy online, and we hooked up. He's about 6-foot-2, 200 pounds, solid, muscular—a total HUNK! The sex was great, and he even stuck around to chat afterward. We got along well, and he's funny, intelligent and sexy as hell.

The problem started when I asked what he does for a living. He said he is an "entertainer." It turns out he's a professional drag queen—a tall, hunky drag queen! I have nothing against drag queens—in fact, I enjoy good drag—but I never envisioned myself sleeping with a female impersonator!

Things might have been OK if I just had the abstract knowledge that he does drag, but I made the mistake of seeing his show. Now that I've seen him lip-syncing Celine Dion, I don't think I can get naked with him again. I'm serious.

He has called several times and wants to get together. He's a total catch in every respect, but the image of him in a dress is stuck in my head. Am I totally shallow for rejecting someone based on his job (even if that job involves push-up bras, stiletto heels and stockings)? Should I try to block it out of my mind? How can I get turned on when Bette Midler tries to boff me?

—What a Drag

DEAR WHAT A DRAG:

Sexual attraction is a fragile phenomenon for some people who need their partners to look, sound and even smell particular ways. Your interest may wilt if you dislike the way your man-date looks in dress—or even a business suit and tie—or if you don't like the scent he exudes during sex or when he mows the lawn. Sexual attraction (or revulsion) is primal and not readily controlled by thought processes.

If you want to try to rise above it, envision Mr. Beefcake in extra-masculine attire, and stay away from his place of business. Tell him you're aroused by him as a hunky dude, and ask him to pick you up for a date dressed like a member of the Village People, rather than Celine Dion.

For Ms. Behavior, sexual attraction has often been dashed way too late in the game—upon meeting a prospective partner's frightening and odious mother, for example. (This is why Ms. Behavior advises lesbians to interview prospective mother-in-laws before a third sexual encounter.)

If you want to toss back the intelligent, sexy hunk just because

you've seen him in a dress, feel free. But first ask yourself why you hold masculinity as a sacred ideal and why your ideal can so easily be damaged. And then chalk it up to fetish or whim or social pressure, and move on to your next hyper-masculine hunk.

But just so you know: Lots of gay men would love to

be boffed by Bette Midler.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My boyfriend and I have an issue, and we're hoping you can help. We never go to someone's house empty-handed; we always try to be polite by bringing a gift. In our case, it's always a bottle of wine—plus the wine that we'll be opening wherever we're going.

We've hosted so many nice events at our house and invited 40 to 50 guests (mostly gay)—with food, beer and many cases of wine. Most of our friends just show up and go to town. They don't seem to notice that both of our families bring bottles of wine or flowers.

We would totally love it if someone would even pick a flower from our front yard and give it to us—but showing up empty-handed is just wrong. We love our friends, but we shouldn't have to tell them. Please help educate your readers.

—Li'l Miffed

DEAR LI'L MIFFED:

It's sad that your friends haven't learned from your example, since you and your boyfriend are apparently perfect guests (or else terrified that there won't be enough wine at the party, which is a whole different issue).

Try calling prospective guests at the last minute and asking if they'd mind picking something up on their way to your house. Your request doesn't have to be pointed; try something like, "It would be great if you could pick up a bottle of wine on your way over." Feel free to substitute sparkling water, Diet Coke, Twinkies, ice, limes, garlic, household sponges or condoms and lube, as the situation dictates.

Ms. Behavior's readers probably know enough to bring a little gift to a party. She hopes that those who don't will heed Li'l Miffed's request and at least bring a flower (preferably NOT from the host's garden).

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.