

**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 joyful community working for justice, nurturing peace and exploring and celebrating our progressive Christian faith. We are queer and straight, multicultural and multiracial, and our children are valued members. Good coffee, cool people, hot church! (11 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.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.koinoniacomunity.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.)

**Open Spirit**, a New Thought community, welcomes you to remember our divinity, celebrate our humanity and honor our oneness. (10:30 am Sunday. 6536 SE Duke St. 503-788-0085.)

**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@pcecc.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 inter-generational 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/usorucofuccoc.)

**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 Servitius 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.)

**Sweet Spirit Metropolitan Community Church** holds services at the American Legion Building in Salem. (11 am Sunday. 4774 Lilac Lane NE. Ken Kerr 503-315-7923. salemssweetspirit@aol.com.)

**YOUTH**

**Metro: Youth**

**Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE)** is the only international organization specifically supporting young people with sexual minority parents. (colage@imfamily.org. www.colage.org.)

**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. (Austin 503-260-5792. austin@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 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. 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.)

**ADVICE**

**Be my guest**

Anti-social partner complains about "constant stream of visitors"



**Ms. Behavior**  
by Meryl Cohn

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I love my extended family more than anything: ex-girlfriends, college buddies and their children, my god-daughter and my adopted nephew, not to mention a whole coterie of other loved ones and dear friends. My ideal is to have them visit as often and to stay as long as possible, sometimes four or five people at a time, so that we really feel like a family. I especially adore having them near for the summer.

The problem is that my partner, Sylvie, objects to what she stingily refers to as "my constant stream of visitors." We just bought a new house and had a studio cottage built in the back yard for her painting. All she does is complain about how she never gets to use it. I'm not stopping her. We only needed to use her studio for guests a few times this summer when we had a full house; it's not like we slept people in there every week! Still, she complains about her personal space and her need for privacy, which makes me really resent her anti-social streak.

Sometimes I think we are totally incompatible. How can I get Sylvie to lighten up and enjoy having company?

—Happy Hostess

DEAR HAPPY HOSTESS:

One person's beloved guest is often another person's flesh-eating irritant. Since you view your friends as indispensable and your girlfriend apparently views them as annoying, you must find ways to compromise on the issue.

The only way Sylvie will "lighten up and enjoy company" is if she gets some quiet time and privacy, too. It's difficult to enjoy visitors if you're not guaranteed some time without them, particularly if you're engaged in a creative endeavor that requires solitude.

If you want to keep Sylvie happy while you still get to enjoy visits from friends and family, you need to impose the same rule that airlines use to confound passengers who want to cash in their frequent flyer miles: blackout dates. You and Sylvie should arrange a schedule that satisfies each of you. This means that visitor-free weeks and weekends should be at least equal in number to those that are guest-infested. This may seem harsh to you, but it will help protect Sylvie's mental health and the

health of your relationship.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

What is the etiquette for a bachelorette party for two lesbians having a commitment ceremony? Do you include both women? Do you have separate parties? This has been a long-distance relationship from the beginning, so the

out-of-town bride only knows people here through her girlfriend (my friend).

The other issue is whom to invite to the bachelorette party. It's shaping up to be very much like a traditional straight wedding for about 50, with close friends and family. There are also a number of other friends who I know won't be invited to the wedding. Is it in poor taste to invite them to a bachelorette party if they aren't invited to the wedding? I was never good at following those traditional wedding rules (mostly because I didn't understand most of them), so I need all the help I can get.

The wedding is coming up very soon. Help!

—Marilyn

DEAR MARILYN:

The ideal situation would be to host a bachelorette party in both cities, so each bride could celebrate with her own close friends. A joint party may seem practical but would more likely be a drag, since the out-of-town bride would be a stranger to most of the guests. Bride A would be stuck making sure her future wife is comfortable, defeating the purpose of a last hurrah with her friends. Bride B would be in the awkward position of meeting everyone—a strange role for one's own bachelorette party—and would likely feel like a geek. More importantly, her presence would probably discourage any potential lap dances, which would be a downer for Bride A and her friends.

As for inviting friends who aren't invited to the wedding, don't do it: A bachelorette party is meant to be for the bride's closest friends, not random people who aren't worthy of an invitation to the wedding. ☐

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).