

the *Cybershark*

Columnist - Miki Thomas

a monthly look at the internet & web

Contrary to what Rev. Dr. Craig Benson (VT's answer to Pat Robertson) may believe, "gay" and "spirituality" are not mutually exclusive terms but often, one is as much part of the other. As what numerous web sites pay witness to, the GLBT community has within itself the capacity to find meaning within both reason, as the Gay and Lesbian Atheists and Humanists' web site advocates (<http://www.serve.com/tskindc/galah.html>), and, on the other extreme, the acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior, which gay evangelicals and Pentecostals believe (The National Gay Pentecostal Alliance, <http://www.crls.com/~NGPA>, and The Evangelical Network, <http://www.psn.net/~ten/home.html>, are example of pro-gay Christian fundamentalist groups). Of course, there are web sites for everything in between, from Judaism to Paganism. Luckily for those of us in Vermont, there are local web sites as well as national web sites with local connections that address spiritual issues.

Rev. Christine Leslie should be a familiar name for OITM readers since she writes the monthly "Faith Matters" column. However, her ministry does not end there for she is also the founder of Triangle Ministries (<http://members.aol.com/revcsi/index.htm>) which offers counseling, retreats, and workshops to help integrate both sexual and spiritual identities. The web site offers plenty of information about Triangle Ministries but lacks a full links section. The latter quibble is more than made up for because this web site is part of the Rainbow Spirituality Ring composed of related web sites linked in a "ring." Clicking on any of the rainbow colors will send you to a new site in the ring. It's fun to see what comes up next as you continue clicking on the colors.

The last issue of OITM featured an article written by John Beyer about Interweave, the group for GLBT Unitarians. The web site for the national office of Interweave (<http://www.qpd.org/www/orgs/uu/uu-1W.html>) is quite sparse. It consists mainly of two or so paragraphs and links to the national headquarters of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Anybody looking for more information on Interweave would definitely be better off reading John Beyer's article or attending a local Interweave function at the Burlington UU.

Burlington UU is not the only local church open to the GLBT community. Christ Church Presbyterian has been a More Light church for several

years. The More Light movement in the Presbyterian Church USA is composed of churches and ministries that work towards the inclusion of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and

Girls mailing list. (<http://www.zoom.com/personal/stacl/rig.htm>). The web site includes instructions on how to subscribe to the list.

Vermont's Radical Faeries

Spirituality

transsexuals. Its web site (<http://www.micn.org/>) covers everything. Recent More Light newsletters are on-line as well as updates regarding new More Light congregations. It even has a section on how to develop a More Light ministry in your church and no, you don't have to be a Presbyterian to take advantage of the site's suggestions on making your church more inclusive.

Ohavi Zedek Synagogue in Burlington is also a gay-friendly congregation. Unfortunately, the Jewish GLBT web site in the OITM links section is a dead end so to speak but I've found a few other sites of interest to Jewish gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transsexuals. The World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations is made up of over 65 groups and synagogues around the world. Its web site (<http://www.wcgljo.org/wcgljo/>) contains documents and links to its member groups. For a taste of "everything Jewish," check out Twice Blessed—Jewish GLBT Archives (<http://www.magic.ca/~faygelah/index.html>). It is a huge collection of web and Internet sites collected by Johnny Abush since 1991. Jewish lesbians should check the Nice Jewish

marked a milestone last year with the purchase of land in Grafton to create Faerie Camp Destiny. For more information on the land purchase and local Radical Faerie gatherings, check out Faerie Camp Destiny's Faerie News at <http://www.sover.net/~mattbucy/fcd.html>. The site contains pictures of recent gatherings and news and info. If you are like me and are curious to learn more about the Radical Faerie movement, read the FQA at <http://www.eskimo.com/~davidk/faerles/FQA.htm>. That's right—it's FQA as opposed to FAQ. Each question in the document, such as "What are the Radical Faeries?," is followed by two or three different answers, thus demonstrating the diversity and variety inherent in the movement.

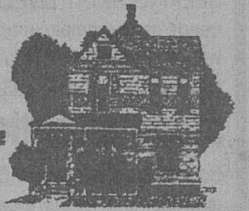
Obviously, this is only a sampler of what's available on GLBT spirituality. I've found that the best search engines to find more web sites on the topic are Yahoo (<http://www.yahoo.com>)—click on "Society and Culture" then "Cultures and Groups" and Rainbow Links (<http://www.crls.com/~rnbwlink/>). If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at gossamer@together.net.

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