

2007 NORTHWEST

# SUNSTONE

SYMPOSIUM

**FRIDAY, 12 OCTOBER**

**LOCATION: MOLLY AND ROY BENNION'S HOME**  
1150 22nd Ave. E and Highland Dr. on Capitol Hill  
(Driving directions are located on the back of this program.)

12–13 October  
Seattle

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6:30 PM–7:00 PM

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*Gathering* Arrive early to get a great seat, pick up your name badge and register, if you have not already done so.

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7:00 PM

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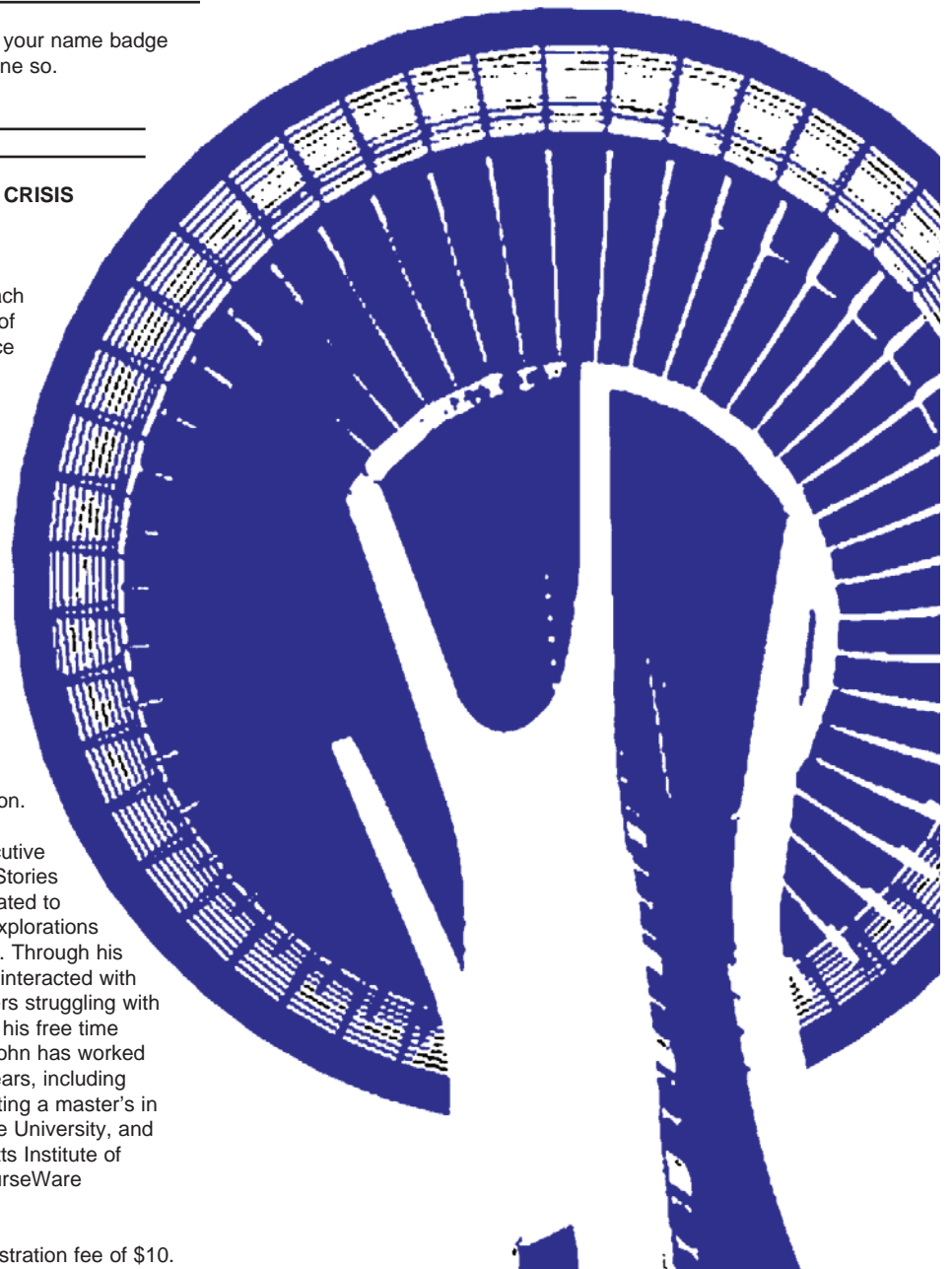
*Workshop* **STAYING IN THE CHURCH AFTER A CRISIS OF FAITH**

*Abstract* Thousands of people either leave or contemplate leaving the LDS church each year. However, many feel a great deal of ambivalence towards this decision, since leaving the Church often has very serious familial, social, occupational, and even psychological implications. Many members caught at this crossroads see only two paths: (1) stay active as a full-blown, 100 percent traditional member, or (2) cease all meaningful affiliation with the Church.

In this workshop, JOHN DEHLIN will discuss “middle way” strategies for maintaining Church involvement even when one is feeling out of the mainstream of Mormon life and belief. The workshop format will consist of a formal presentation of about an hour, followed by group sharing and discussion.

*Workshop Leader* JOHN DEHLIN is Sunstone's new executive director and is the founder of Mormon Stories podcast—an Internet radio show dedicated to open, thoughtful, and compassionate explorations of Mormonism through personal stories. Through his podcast and blog, John has personally interacted with more than two hundred Church members struggling with faith issues and spends a great deal of his free time counseling with them. Professionally, John has worked in the computer industry for fourteen years, including seven years at Microsoft. He is completing a master's in instructional technology from Utah State University, and he currently works for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as director of the OpenCourseWare Consortium.

This workshop requires a separate registration fee of \$10.



**SATURDAY, 13 OCTOBER**

**LOCATION: LAKE WASHINGTON ROWING CLUB  
910 N Northlake Way**

*(Driving directions are located on the back of this program.)*

8:00 AM–9:00 AM

*Gathering* Arrive early to get a great seat, pick up your name badge (register, if you have not already done so), visit with friends, and browse the latest and best of recent LDS books on display and for sale.

9:00 AM–10:15 AM

**Panel THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF MORMON STUDIES**

*Abstract* The last several years have seen a remarkable shift in how LDS scholars and the Church itself approach historical and contemporary topics affecting Mormons, with unparalleled access to archives, personnel, and information-sharing. At the same time, once-prominent institutions in Mormon studies are greying and fading in popularity, and formerly controversial topics no longer raise eyebrows. Join a panel of authors, scholars and bloggers from the popular website By Common Consent as they explore the major factors and characteristics of this simultaneous expansion and contraction. Is the Church really changing the way it looks at and deals with the world? Where is the next generation of Mormon scholars and authors?

*Panelists* AARON BROWN is a recovering attorney living in Seattle, where he is the Sunday School president in his ward. He is a graduate of BYU and Harvard Law School. Aaron was one of the earliest By Common Consent bloggers. He is married with one daughter. He may or may not be one of the Three Nephites.

MARK BROWN is a computer consultant who pursues Mormon Studies as a hobbyist and dilettante. The only thing he has ever published is computer code. He holds a B.A. from BYU where he studied accounting and German.

STEVE EVANS is a writer and attorney currently living in Seattle. He attended BYU, where he studied English and French, prior to obtaining law degrees from Columbia Law School and the University of Paris I. In early 2004, he helped found By Common Consent and has since been involved in a number of web-based projects involving his interests in Mormonism and the arts. He is a married father of two gorgeous kids.

KRISTINE HAGLUND lives in Boston with her three gorgeous and perfect children. In a previous life, she suffered from the delusion that advanced degrees in German Literature would be more practical than a career in music—as a result, she has had a great deal of free (unemployed) time to pursue impracticalities like publishing her half-baked reflections on practically everything at By Common Consent. She blames her lifelong interest in Mormon Studies on her father, who gave her *Mormon Sisters* to read the summer she was nine, and *The Mormon Experience* for her eleventh birthday.

TRACY MULLETT resides in Eastern Washington, where she wishes she had more time to read and paint. Instead, she blogs between changing diapers and doing mountains of laundry. Mother and Wife are her current vocations, neither of which were part of the course-offerings during

her fine- and liberal-arts education at the California Institute of the Arts and the Art Institute of Seattle.

J. STAPLEY has a doctorate in carbohydrate chemistry, works with a technology start-up firm, and is an independent scholar of Mormon History. He and a co-author recently presented a paper on ritual healing in Mormonism at the 2007 Mormon History Association Conference. He is married and has two children.

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

**Panel INTERPRETING NOAH'S FLOOD IN A SCIENTIFIC AGE**

*Abstract* As a point of departure, this panel will refer to an article published in the fall 2007 issue of *Dialogue*, "On Balancing Faith in Mormonism with Traditional Biblical Stories: The Noachian Flood Story," by BYU professors Clayton White and Mark Thomas (accessible at [HTTP://WWW.DIALOGUEJOURNAL.COM](http://www.dialoguejournal.com).) This article argues that faithful Latter-day Saints may appropriately harmonize the biblical account of the Flood with the massive scientific evidence against an inundation of global dimensions by reinterpreting the biblical account as applying to a regional flood. It calls for mutual respect between Latter-day Saints who believe in a literal interpretation and those who those who interpret the account more figuratively. It argues that all Latter-day Saints should ally themselves with science by practicing an environmentally responsible stewardship of the earth.

*Moderator/ Panelist* LEVI PETERSON, Issaquah, Washington, is an author and retired English professor, and is currently serving as the editor of *Dialogue*. He will primarily address the prospects for a mutual tolerance between those who interpret the flood differently.

*Panelists* OWEN CLARK, Seattle, Washington, is a psychiatrist, former bishop, long-time Gospel Doctrine teacher, and, by all accounts, an inspired nursery leader. In his presentation, he will focus on presenting the Flood story through the lens of Jewish scholar Friedrich Weinreb who believes numbers in language teach the essence of things more objectively than words. He writes: "Although I do not aspire to persuade others, I will attempt to explain the pleasure and illumination that this approach provides."

KATHLEEN PETTY, Bellevue, Washington, is a backpacker, gardener, visiting teacher coordinator, wife of one, mother of three, grandmother of six. She will focus on the Flood account as a model for the practice of a responsible stewardship over the earth and will ask, "Can the Church move in the direction of environmentalism with Noah as our guide?"

11:45 AM–1:00 PM

**Panel GOD LOVETH HIS CHILDREN, A NEW LDS PAMPHLET ON HOMOSEXUALITY**

*Abstract* A new pamphlet about homosexuality appeared on the church's website in late July, 2007. The pamphlet is entitled *God Loveth His Children*, and, among other things, says that the Church does not know what causes same-sex attractions but does not believe sexual abuse and sexual experimentation in childhood are responsible. It declares that same-sex attractions are not considered sinful but affirms that acting on those attractions is incompatible with God's plan for families in the afterlife. It urges same-sex

attracted LDS members to remain active in the church and asks other members to treat them with love and respect. This panel will discuss this new pamphlet and welcomes a wide-ranging and frank discussion of this important topic.

*Moderator/ Panelist* RON SCHOW, Pocatello, Idaho, is a professor of audiology at Idaho State University and is co-editor of the book, *Peculiar People: Mormons and Same Sex Orientation*. He will address progress in the Church since its 1992 statement on homosexuality: "Attractions alone do not make you unworthy."

*Panelists* CLARK PINGREE, Salt Lake City, Utah, is the Utah Pride chairman for Wells Fargo. He will address, "The Plan of Salvation as an LDS Gay Man."

DAN PINGREE, Seattle, Washington, will offer, "My Response to My Brother, a LDS Gay Man."

1:00 PM–2:00 PM  
LUNCH BREAK

*Lunch* Bring your own lunch, or order one of the five delicious lunch choices below. (To have one of these lunches, you must order and pay in advance. See registration form on back page.)



*This year's lunches are from GRETCHEN'S SHOEBOX EXPRESS. LUNCHES ARE \$12* (including tax).

**COBB SALAD.** Oven-roasted chicken breast, crisp bacon, avocado, crumbled bleu cheese, Roma tomatoes, scallions and hard-boiled egg on crisp garden greens with house vinaigrette dressing. Includes a handmade roll & butter, fresh fruit cup, Schwartz Brothers Bakery oatmeal cookie, and bottled water.

**VEGETARIAN WRAP.** Cucumbers, tomatoes, fresh red peppers, vegetable coleslaw, fresh spinach with traditional hummus wrapped inside a whole wheat tortilla. Includes Tim's Cascade potato chips, fresh fruit cup, Schwartz Brothers Bakery VEGAN molasses cookie, and bottled water.

**TUNA SANDWICH.** Salad made with tuna, dill pickle, red onion, celery, lemon & mayonnaise with Tillamook cheddar, lettuce & tomato on honey wheat bread. Includes mayonnaise on the side, Tim's Cascade potato chips, fresh fruit cup, Schwartz Brothers Bakery chocolate chip cookie, and bottled water.

**TURKEY HAVARTI SANDWICH.** Oven-roasted turkey breast, Havarti, lettuce & tomato on light wheat bread. Includes mayonnaise & mustard on the side, Tim's Cascade potato chips, fresh fruit cup, Schwartz Brothers Bakery chocolate chip cookie, and bottled water.

**HAM AND SWISS SANDWICH.** Bavarian ham, Swiss, lettuce & tomato on marble rye bread. Includes mayonnaise & mustard on the side, Tim's Cascade potato chips, fresh fruit cup, Schwartz Brothers Bakery chocolate chip cookie, and bottled water.

2:00 PM–2:45 PM

*Title* **THE FUTURE OF SUNSTONE and MUSIC BY SKYE PIXTON**

*Presenter* JOHN DEHLIN, Logan, Utah, is Sunstone's new executive director.

*Abstract* Sunstone is at an important crossroads, resulting in a new, board-approved strategic plan. We're very pleased to share this vision with you and to have you join with us in creating Sunstone's future.

*Music* Following John's presentation, we are very pleased to hear several songs by SKYE PIXTON, an award-winning Portland, Oregon, singer and songwriter.

3:00 PM–4:15 PM

*Title* **HOW TO BE PEACEMAKERS IN A WORLD IN CONFLICT**

*Presenter* J. BONNER RITCHIE is professor emeritus of organizational behavior from BYU and a member of the Sunstone board of directors.

*Abstract* *Back by popular demand!* Picking up where he left off at last year's symposium and drawing from vast experiences, J. BONNER RITCHIE, a long-time teacher, consultant, and bridge builder between groups in the Middle East, will lead a guided conversation about ways of thinking and practical strategies we can all employ in becoming more effective peacemakers in our homes and communities.

4:30 PM–5:30 PM

*Panel* **"THIS I BELIEVE," MORMON STYLE**

*Abstract* NPR's syndicated show "This I Believe" features short essays by people from all walks of life sharing and discussing the beliefs and core values that ground their lives. In this session, we've invited several Sunstone friends to utilize this basic format to speak about ideas within Mormonism or the wider spiritual world that animate their faith journey and help them feel oriented or at home in the universe. Those who we've asked to pre-prepare an essay for this session will take approximately the first thirty minutes. *We very much hope that many of the rest of you attending will decide to prepare and contribute your own reflection as well!*

*Panelists* TOBY PINGREE, Salt Lake City, Utah, is a former LDS mission president and member of the Sunstone board of directors

SKYE PIXTON, Portland, Oregon, is a singer and songwriter, wife and mother of one

RORY SWENSEN, Stansbury Park, Utah, is a technology and software development manager and co-chair of the Sunstone board of directors

ANN ROMISH, Seattle, Washington, has a masters in special education and is presently a Relief Society president and community volunteer

*Additional panelists to be announced*

*Music* Following this sharing, and to send us home with musical refrains rolling around in our heads, SKYE PIXTON will close the symposium by performing a couple more songs.

## DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS

### FOR FRIDAY NIGHT'S WORKSHOP

The Home of Molly Bennion is located at 1150 22nd Ave. E and Highland Dr. on Capitol Hill

From 1-90, exit at Rainier N, go NORTH to Madison, turn RIGHT to 19th, LEFT on 19th to Highland, RIGHT to 22nd. The Bennion home will be on your right.

On I-5 Northbound, take the Madison exit and follow the above directions from Madison.

On I-5 Southbound, go onto 520 and exit at Montlake, turn RIGHT onto 24th, go to the 3rd light, Crescent, turn RIGHT to 22nd Ave E and LEFT to Highland.

From 520 Westbound, exit Montlake and continue on 24th as above.

### FOR SATURDAY'S SYMPOSIUM

The Lake Washington Rowing Club is located at 910 N Northlake Way

From I-5, exit 45th, go LEFT on Stoneway to Northlake Way and go RIGHT on Northlake to the boathouse just on the other side of Fremont St. Northlake jogs to the LEFT at Fremont just a fraction.

## 2007 NORTHWEST SUNSTONE SYMPOSIUM, ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-registration is needed for an accurate headcount before the symposium. Even if you are a student and are not ordering a lunch, please still send in a pre-registration form.

Pre-registration must be received by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, 9 OCTOBER  
Please send form and payment to:  
SUNSTONE SYMPOSIUM NORTHWEST, ATTN: MOLLY BENNION  
1150 22nd Ave E • Seattle, WA 98112

#### REGISTRATION:

FRIDAY WORKSHOP REGISTRATION . . . No. tickets\_\_ x \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_  
FULL SATURDAY REGISTRATION . . . . . No. tickets\_\_ x \$25.00 = \_\_\_\_  
STUDENT SATURDAY REGISTRATION with I.D. (does not include lunch or Friday workshop). . . . . No. tickets\_\_ x FREE! = \_\_\_\_  
LUNCH (Please note selections below). . . No. lunches\_\_ x \$12.00 = \_\_\_\_

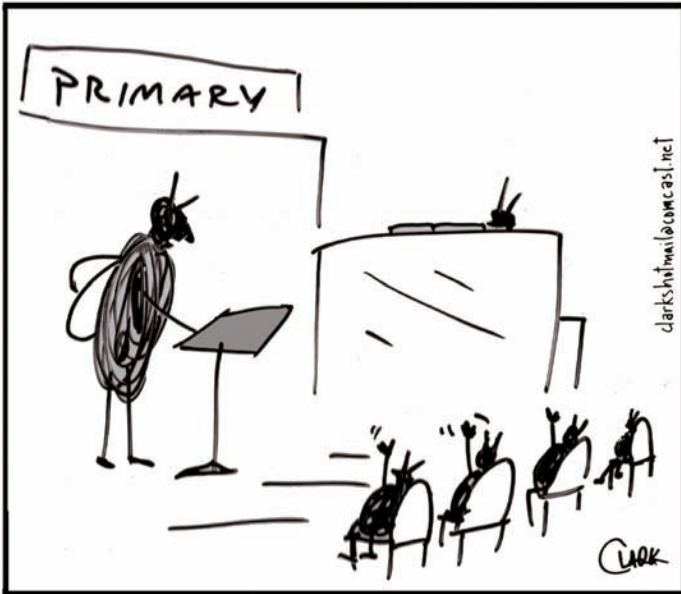
- No. \_\_ Cobb Salad
- No. \_\_ Vegetarian Wrap
- No. \_\_ Tuna Sandwich
- No. \_\_ Turkey Havarti Sandwich
- No. \_\_ Ham and Swiss Sandwich



Please see schedule for full lunch descriptions

SUBSCRIPTION OFFER! *Subscribe or renew at the regular 6-issue SUNSTONE rate and receive an extra issue!* . . . . . \_\_renew \_\_new \$42.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_  
ADDITIONAL DONATION TO SUNSTONE . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_  
TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_

## HONEST JON by Jonathan David Clark



"Who would like to sing, I'm not a Child of God?"

#### PAYMENT:

Please make checks payable to SUNSTONE. You can also register for the symposium by calling (801) 355-5926, faxing (801) 355-4043, or clicking "register" at [www.SUNSTONEONLINE.COM](http://www.SUNSTONEONLINE.COM)

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### NAMES & CITIES OF THOSE REGISTERED WITH THIS FORM:

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**SUNSTONE SYMPOSIUM NORTHWEST**  
Attn: MOLLY BENNION 1150 22nd Ave. E Seattle, WA 98112