Sunstone 2015 Salt Lake Symposium
The Mormon Mind
University of Utah
Olpin Student Union
200 S. Central Campus Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84112
July 29-August 1
WELCOME
Welcome to the 2015 Salt Lake Sunstone Symposium! We’re excited to explore “The Mormon Mind” with you!

SYMPOSIUM PURPOSE
The Salt Lake Sunstone Symposium is an annual gathering of Latter-day Saints, scholars, and others interested in the diversity and richness of Mormon thought and experience and who enjoy pondering the past, present, and future of the unfolding Restoration. The Symposium is a public conference based on the principles of an “open forum,” meaning that we invite rigorous inquiry and thoughtful, respectful participation, trusting that both the cause of truth and the society of the Saints are best served by free and open exploration and discussion.

This symposium is dedicated to the idea that the truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ are better understood, and, as a result, better lived when they are freely and frankly explored within the community of Saints.

We recognize that the search for things that are, have been, and are to come is a sifting process in which much chaff must be carefully inspected and threshed before the wheat can be harvested.

FAITH. Hear words that inspire Christian living by exploring gospel truths, sharing spiritual journeys, and facing difficult challenges head on.

COMMUNITY. Meet old friends and make new ones—fellow seekers whose thoughts and experiences inform your own.

KNOWLEDGE. Gain insights that can come only from rigorous examination of Mormon doctrine and culture from insider and outsider perspectives.

FUN. Find your people at Sunstone! Enjoy a community of diverse scholars, intellectuals, and thinkers who can celebrate the wide spectrum of Mormonism. Enjoy comedy, levity, and the uniqueness of the Mormon community. This symposium will feature a photo booth, bowling, a comedy show, and a live band! Browse and purchase interesting books and Mormon crafts.

SYMPOSIUM CODE OF CONDUCT
We welcome the honest ponderings of Latter-day Saints and their friends, and expect that everyone speaking at or attending the symposium will approach every issue—no matter how difficult—with intelligence, respect, and good will. We expect speakers to engage in rigorous inquiry and thoughtful participation that is respectful of what others hold sacred.

If you express disagreement, please do so without personal attacks on the character, religious observance, or intelligence of other parties. We strongly discourage the use of profanity.

PROGRAM. Sunstone offers a diverse selection of topics, formats, and perspectives. Be excited to hear views that coincide with your own, but also prepare to hear presentations that offer a different perspective. As Elder Hugh B. Brown told BYU students in 1958, “I have mentioned freedom to express your thoughts, but I caution you that your thoughts must meet competition in the marketplace of thought, and in that competition truth will emerge triumphant. Only error needs fear freedom of expression.”

FINANCIAL SUPPORT
As a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, all contributions to the Sunstone Education Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please give generously to insure that the quality and quantity of our programs and services continue to grow.

SESSION PROCEEDINGS AND RECORDINGS
Symposium proceedings are not published in the magazine. Audio recordings of sessions (excluding film sessions and the comedy show) will be available on a Sunstone flash drive or audio disk at the registration desk. All symposium audio will be available for free at SUNSTONE.ORG six months after the symposium.

SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION
Name badges are mandatory for admission to sessions. Registration opens daily one hour before sessions begin. Full registration, one-day passes, and single-session admission are available for purchase onsite. Admission to the longer comedy show is also for sale at registration desk.

PARKING
Sunstone has reserved Lot 24 for symposium attendees. (See map on page 47.) Parking there is FREE on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Lot 24 is southeast of the Tanner Humanities Building (CTIH B) and opens onto Wasatch Drive. Take North Campus Drive or Mario Capecchi Drive to Wasatch Drive. Lot 24 has two entrances: one before you get to the McCarthy Track & Field Complex and a second entrance at Ballif Road just past the McCarthy Track & Field Complex.

On Saturday only, parking in other campus parking lots is free (see map on page 47)—except the Visitor Lot.

After 6:00 pm, parking is free in other campus permit lots near the Student Union. Attendees may pay to park in the Visitor Lot directly east of the Union Building. This lot charges by the hour with a maximum of $20 per day and is the closest lot to the Union. For those requiring handicapped parking, spaces are available in the Visitor Lot at the normal parking rate. A better option is the handicapped parking directly in
Fresh Courage Take
New Directions by Mormon Women

Jamie Zvirzdin, Editor

Carli Anderson
Rachael Decker Bailey
Erika Ball
Rachel Brown
Karen Challis Critchfield
Camille Strate Fairbanks
Ashley Mae Holland
Sylvia Lankford
Marcee Monroe
Brooke Stoneman
Colleen Whitley
Jamie Zvirzdin

Jamie Zvirzdin is a science editor and freelance writer. She has worked for Atomium Culture, A K Peters, Taylor & Francis, and other clients in the publishing industry. She is the founder of The Unbound Bookmaker Project, which publishes books written and illustrated by children in developing countries. She grew up in Sandy, Utah, and lives abroad in a US Foreign Service family.

Joanna Brooks is a Professor of English and Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs at San Diego State University. She is the award-winning author of nine books, including Transatlantic Feminisms in the Age of Revolutions and The Book of Mormon Girl: Stories from an American Faith, and has been a popular columnist at Religion Dispatches.

front of the Union Building; these spots are FREE with a handicap placard.

Attendees who are staying at the University Guest House hotel can park free in the hotel’s parking lot. Non-guests can pay $5 per day for a parking permit and walk to the Union or ride the campus bus.

DINING ON AND OFF CAMPUS

To promote their new book *Fresh Courage Take*, Signature Books is generously providing a complimentary continental breakfast Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in the Ballroom from 8:00 am to 9:00 am. Food will be available on a first come first served basis, so get there early!

The Student Union food court is located on the first floor of the Olpin Student Union building, downstairs from where most sessions will be held. It is open 7:30 am–2:30 pm Wednesday through Friday and is closed Saturday. Dining options include Rise & Shine (breakfast), Panda Express, Sonos (Mexican), The Grill, The Deli, Papa John’s, Chop’d (salads), Jamba Juice, and a convenience store.

Thursday evening dinner will be off campus. Please feel free to visit local restaurants near the Union Building. See page 47 for nearby options.

Food will be available for purchase on the patio Friday evening from 6:30 pm–8:00 pm and Saturday for lunch 12:30 pm–2:00 pm from the following food trucks: Saturday’s Waffle (breakfast), Bento Truck, Food Cartel (Asian/Mexican fusion), and Rubadue’s Saucy Skillet (gourmet sandwiches).

Sunstone is partnering with Mormon Stories to host a “linger longer” picnic and comedy show with sub sandwiches and lemonade from 6:30 pm–10:00 pm Saturday night. Cost will be $10 per person.

THURSDAY
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST: BALLROOM
LUNCH: UNION FOOD COURT
DINNER: LOCAL RESTAURANTS

FRIDAY
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST: BALLROOM
LUNCH: UNION FOOD COURT
DINNER: FOOD TRUCKS ON PATIO

SATURDAY*
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST: BALLROOM
LUNCH: FOOD TRUCKS ON PATIO
DINNER: LINGER LONGER

*THE FOOD COURT IS CLOSED ON SATURDAYS

UNION WIRELESS INTERNET LOGIN

To connect to the Student Union’s wireless network, open up your laptop’s list of available networks. Select the UNION network and press enter. The password is Union255. Scroll to the bottom, accept the terms, and click Login.

CHILDREN’S WORKSHOPS

*Feminist Mormon Housewives* is sponsoring children’s workshops that will run concurrently with this year’s Symposium. An instructor who is background-checked, along with a youth staff group, will provide this service for children ages 3–10 in the DEN room. Projects and snacks are included.

Children’s workshops will be provided Thursday–Saturday in two sessions each day: 8:30 am–12:30 pm, and 1:30 pm–6:30 pm. The cost is $1 per hour per child. Donations beyond the cost of childcare will give parents of young children the opportunity to attend future symposia. Thank you!

Contact Sabrina Bell with questions at: 801-486-3111. Walk-ins are welcome.

BOOKSTORE

Please visit the bookstore located in the ballroom and patronize the businesses and organizations that have displays there. Benchmark Books is a loyal supporter of Sunstone; show your appreciation by supporting them!

ART EXHIBIT: “THROUGH THE MIND’S EYE”

Check out self-portraits by Mormon artists in the ballroom, curated by Jeff Moulton and Whitney Moulton. Also on display: “Prominent Mormon Minds” by Joe Geisner and Lindsay Hansen-Park

SUNSTONE SERVICE PROJECT

Laurie Shipp Bush is providing quilts to benefit LGBT homeless youth. Come send a little love by tying a knot and writing a message of encouragement. Located in the ballroom.

HANDCRAFTER’S ROW

Mormon artisans from around the globe will showcase their talents at this year’s symposium. Handcrafter’s Row offers an array of unique gifts for both children and adults, featuring hand-sewn items, crafts, and beautiful art from talented artists. Come peruse the halls of the symposium and support Mormon artists.

MANY THANKS

AUDIO/VISUAL HEROES: We couldn’t manage the event without the help of GREG BRIGHTON, WADE GREENWOOD, ANDREW HAMILTON, KAI DEMANDANTE, RICHARD HOLDMAN, MICHAEL J. STEVENS, and TYLER WYNN.

PLANNING AND OFFICE VOLUNTEERS: Our thanks to those who have gone the extra mile in managing preparations for this year’s events. The Symposium couldn’t happen without them: CHRIS BENCH, CURT BENCH, JOHN DEHLIN, NICOLE FORSGREN, JOE GEISNER, TOM KIMBALL, DEREK LEE, BRANDT MALONE, NATALIE SPERRY MANDELIN, BILL MCGEE, JEFF MOULTON, COREY PHILPOT, JERILYN HASSELL POOL, WHITNEY RIDENOUR-MOULTON, ANDREW SPRIGGS, BRIAN WHITNEY, LORIE WINDER STROMBERG, and DAN WOTHERSPOON.
ON-SITE VOLUNTEERS: It takes a village to help the symposium run smoothly. We give our heartfelt thanks to all of our many volunteers for helping with registration desk duties and other tasks that keep the symposium running smoothly.

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Once again STEVE MAYFIELD and PERRY PORTER will be capturing symposium highlights on film, so smile when you see them approach! STEVE likes to snap photos of symposium attendees dozing off, so be careful when and where you nap!

MUSIC: We are pleased once again to have ALAN EASTMAN at the piano and KIM MCCALL as chorister for our evening plenary music.

VENUE: We’re pleased to be at the University of Utah where the first Sunstone Symposium was held in 1979. We’re especially thankful for the support of ANDREE BOGGESS, KAROL CONRAD, and MEGAN MAUGHN at the Student Union.

PRESENTERS: We’re excited to have both new and returning presenters on this year’s program. We hope your presentation goes well and that you enjoy being part of the conversations at Sunstone. We value your participation and hope you continue to join us as both presenters and audience members.

THANKS TO OUR DONORS & SPONSORS
Sunstone depends on generous donors to operate and develop new events and programs for the Sunstone community. To support our ongoing work, or to show your appreciation for a job well done, please set up a monthly or one-time donation with us at the registration desk or at Sunstone.org.

2016 SYMPOSIUM DATES AND THEME
27 July–30 July 2016
University of Utah Student Union
Salt Lake City, Utah

2016 Symposium Theme:
“The Mormon Movement” The restoration tradition is a large spectrum of complicated and diverse groups, theologies, cultures, and practices.
We invite proposals exploring the different traditions within and around Mormonism, celebrating a rich history and a global church. What does Mormonism mean to you? How do you claim your Mormon roots?

The deadline for proposals will be 1 March 2016. Please submit proposals by using the Call For Papers form at Sunstone.org.

THE SUNSTONE EDUCATION FOUNDATION
The mission of the Sunstone Education Foundation is to sponsor open forums of Mormon thought and experience. Under the motto, “Faith Seeking Understanding," we examine and express the rich spiritual, intellectual, social, and artistic qualities of Mormon history and contemporary life. We encourage humanitarian service, honest inquiry, and responsible interchange of ideas that is respectful of all people and what they hold sacred.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: BILL MCGEE (CHAIR), HOLLY ALDEN, CHRIS BRIGGS, ROBIN LINKHART, KIM MCCALL, JIM MURPHY (EX OFFICIO), CHELSEA SHIELDS, GEORGE ANDREW SPRIGGS, MICHAEL J. STEVENS, KAIMIPONO WENGER.

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STEPHEN CARTER (DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS)
GRACE POOL (OFFICE MANAGER)
CAITLIN MURPHY (STAFF ASSISTANT)

2015–2016 TENTATIVE SUNSTONE EVENTS CALENDAR
10/17/15 Sunstone Kirtland
11/14/15 Sunstone Northwest (Seattle)
12/12/15 Christmas Celebration
01/30/16 Sunstone West (San Francisco)
02/20/16 Sunstone Southwest (Phoenix)
03/19/16 Borderlands Conference
07/27–30/16 Salt Lake Summer Symposium
10/15/16 Sunstone Kirtland
11/19/16 Sunstone Northwest (Seattle)
12/10/16 Christmas Celebration

JOHN WHITMER HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
43RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 24–27, 2015
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<td>SALTAIR</td>
<td>Fresh Courage Take</td>
<td>111. Role of Dissent in the Christian Community</td>
<td>121. Overlooked Similarities: Mormons and Christians</td>
<td>131. Immigration: A Moral Issue for the Saints</td>
<td>LUNCH BREAK</td>
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<td>CRIMSON VIEW</td>
<td>112. Ordain Women: Where We Go from Here</td>
<td>122. The Mormon Mind on Facebook</td>
<td>132. Finding Wisdom amidst the Quest for Certainty</td>
<td>141. Lunchtime presentation: 4 letters = 4 “Views” of Faith Room: SALTAIR</td>
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<td>124. Why the Heart Is as Important as the Brain</td>
<td>133. A Gay Mormon Diaspora</td>
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<td>Fresh Courage Take Continental breakfast provided by Signature Books Room: BALLROOM</td>
<td>211. Mormon Genome Project</td>
<td>221. Why Ritual Makes Sense</td>
<td>231. The Plural Marriage Revelations of Joseph Smith</td>
<td>LUNCH BREAK</td>
<td>Lunch will be available for purchase in the Union Food Court</td>
<td>251. Why We Stay</td>
<td>261. Joseph Smith’s First Vision: Imagery, Neurology</td>
<td>271. Mormonism Beyond the Mainstream</td>
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<td>213. Living as a Mormon with Autism</td>
<td>223. Postpartum Depression and Beyond</td>
<td>233. Mormon Feminists: A New Generation</td>
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**SATURDAY 1 AUGUST**
SMITH-PETTIT LECTURE

JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN
BEST-SELLING NEW TESTAMENT SCHOLAR

“THE KINGDOM MIND”
FROM JESUS TO PAUL AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR MORMONISM

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY, 7 P.M.
SALTAIR ROOM
FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC

PANEL DISCUSSION

Julie M. Smith
David Bokovoy
Gina Colvin

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY, 7 P.M.
SALTAIR ROOM
FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC

THURSDAY EVENTS WITH JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN

SESSION III, 9 A.M. THE ROLE OF DISSENT IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
(WITH D. MICHAEL QUINN)

SESSION I52, 2 P.M. AUTHOR MEETS CRITICS: HOW TO READ THE BIBLE AND STILL BE A CHRISTIAN
WEDNESDAY 29 JULY

SMITH-PETTIT LECTURE, 7:00PM–9:00PM

091. THE KINGDOM MIND: FROM JESUS TO PAUL AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR MORONISM

MIDCBATOR MICHAEL J STEVENS
CONDUCTOR KIM MCCALL
ACCOMPANIST ALAN EASTMAN
OPENING SONG THERE IS A WIDENESS IN GOD’S MERCY
INVOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

ABSTRACT
When Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God and Paul announces the Lordship of Christ, that common vision intends the present realization of Israel’s ancient hope for a transfigured earth. They envisage a transformed world of non-violent distributive justice here below and a transformed world of justice and peace here and now. Their call is to a collaborative covenant, a participatory latter-day challenge, a transfiguration of the earth in which God does not act without us and we cannot act without God. Whence came such a startlingly counter-intuitive vision for our world, and what are its implication for Mormonism—and everyone else as well?

PRESENTER JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN is widely regarded as the foremost historical Jesus scholar of our time. He is the author of several bestselling books including The Historical Jesus; Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography; The Greatest Prayer; and The Power of Parable.

THE KINGDOM MIND:

PANEL DISCUSSION

ABSTRACT
Mormon scholars will engage with John Dominic Crossan on the question of how Mormonism interacts with the Kingdom Mind. Crossan will speak to what the New Testament says about the Kingdom Mind and how it interacts with Mormon theology.

PRESENTERS JULIE M. SMITH has an MA in Biblical studies from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. She is the author of Search, Ponder, and Pray: A Guide to the Gospels.

THURSDAY 30 JULY

REGISTRATION, 8:00AM–9:00AM
Admission to sessions is by symposium name badge or ticket only. This policy will be strictly enforced. Badges and single-session tickets are available all day at the registration table on the second floor of the Olpin Student Union.

101. FRESH COURAGE TAKE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST PROVIDED BY SIGNATURE BOOKS

ROOM BALLROOM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 9:00AM–10:00AM

111. THE ROLE OF DISSENT IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

ABSTRACT
The tension between authority and personal conscience can be seen in the citizen’s relation to political authority, the scholar’s relation to academic authorities, and the believer’s relation to the church. The relationship between authority and personal conscience is dialectic: the two are neither identical nor separable, and each is constantly informing the other. Dissent sometimes grows out of this tension. What examples do we have of dissent helping to build a religious community? What examples do we have of when it failed? How do we judge success or failure in these cases?

DAVID BOKOVOY has a PhD in Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East and an MA in Judaic Studies from Brandeis University. He teaches courses in religious studies at the University of Utah.

GINA COLVIN is the host of the A Thoughtful Faith podcast and blogs at KiwiMormon. She lives in Christchurch, New Zealand where she is a lecturer at the University of Canterbury.

CLOSING REMARKS JIM MURPHY
CLOSING SONG THIS DAY IS A GOOD DAY, LORD
BENEDICTION TO BE ANNOUNCED
ROOM SALTAIR

This panel discussion is sponsored by the Smith-Pettit Foundation. It is free and open to the public.
THURSDAY 30 JULY

112. ORDAIN WOMEN: WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

Abstract
Join Ordain Women executive board members as they discuss what it takes to recognize and exhibit personal faith and sacrifice in the face of everyday obstacles and institutionalized sexism. They will be exploring topics such as ecclesiastical sexual abuse, hostility towards feminist thought in ward culture, and how defining one’s individual feminism can be your biggest asset. Come join them in understanding what “faithful agitation” means to Ordain Women.

Presenters
- DANIELLE MOONEY is a graduate of Wellesley College. She currently runs a small business and hopes to pursue graduate studies in women’s health.
- LORIE WINDER STROMBERG has written and spoken about Mormon feminism and advocated for the ordination of women for more than 30 years.
- KRISTY MONEY has a PhD from BYU in counseling psychology. She specializes in women’s mental health and infertility counseling.
- BRYNDIS ROBERTS is an adult convert to the LDS Church from the Black Baptist faith. She is an attorney and has her own firm: Jenkins & Roberts LLC.
- SEAN CARTER converted to the Church in 2011 shortly after visiting BYU to give a lecture at the law school. He is a Harvard Law grad who now makes his living as a legal humorist.
- DEBRA JENSON is a professor of communications at Utah State University where she researches social movements and the representation of marginalized groups.

Moderator
- CHRISS NAEGLE

Room
- SALTAIR

113. THE MORMON MIND THROUGH ART

Abstract
This session will address what it means to be a Mormon artist within a religious art tradition that favors realism. Several Mormon artists working in a range of media will give a brief overview of their work and discuss how it intersects with their Mormon identity.

Presenters
- JERILYN HASSELL POOL is an accomplished digital artist and comedienne, often combining the two into blog posts and social media events.
- J. KIRK RICHARDS is an artist who has been featured on the cover of BYU Studies, the Ensign, the Liahona, and Upper Room publications.
- NANCY ROSS is an assistant professor of art history at Dixie State University in St. George, Utah. She received her PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2007.

Moderator
- MICA MCGRIGGS

Room
- CRIMSON VIEW

114. WHO WAS FLADY?

Abstract
While searching for my great grandmother’s origins, I discovered my mother’s unknown ethnic heritage, learning about an obscure part of early Utah history.

Presenter
- TONYA REITER has a bachelor’s degree in history from University of Utah. She has worked in education, operated an art gallery, and been an interior designer.

Moderator
- KATRINE SHELTON JUDD

Room
- WEST BALLROOM
121. **MORMON MATTERS: OVERLOOKED SIMILARITIES BETWEEN MORMONS AND OTHER CHRISTIANS**

**ABSTRACT**
Instead of focusing on the well-known places where LDS theology diverges from Christianity at large, this presentation offers a broad overview of our common Christian heritage. Every faith community develops its own vocabulary, and that vocabulary is heavily influenced by the culture it emerges from, meaning that it develops what may seem to be contradictions at first glance, but may actually be hiding commonalities.

**PRESENTER**
FATHER TOM ROBERTS has an MDiv and PhD from Hellenic Orthodox University in Athens, Greece. He is a priest in the Old Catholic tradition, and a frequent contributor to LDS podcasts.

**MODERATOR**
LORIE WINDER STROMBERG

**ROOM**
SALTAIR

122. **THE MORMON MIND ON FACEBOOK**

**ABSTRACT**
What happens to the Mormon mind when it meets the Internet? How do major events in Mormondom affect the Internet? Learn from a group of Mormon Facebook moderators about their experiences dealing with Mormons online.

**PRESENTERS**
COREY PHILPOT is an active Mormon who was pressured into the ranks of Mormon Hub moderators by a liberal secular ruse.

JERILYN HASSELL POOL is an accomplished digital artist and comedienne, often combining the two into blog posts and social media events.

MATTHEW NOKLEBY moderates the Mormon Hub. He enjoys conciseness.

SARA BURLINGAME has worked in religious education and faith organizing for the past decade.

GEORGE ANDREW SPRIGGS moderates the Mormon Hub Facebook group and writes sporadically for the blogs Wheat & Tares and Irresistible (Dis)Grace.

NICOLE FORSGREN has a PhD in management information systems with a minor in cognitive science. She is the director of organizational performance and analytics at Chef Software.

**MODERATOR**
PAUL MALAN

**ROOM**
COLLEGIATE

123. **NEW THINKING FOR MORMONS INVOLVED WITH FOSTER CARE: A FORWARD LOOK**

**ABSTRACT**
The Church’s history with adoption and foster care is a gray area. Efforts like the Indian Placement Program and the sometimes-coercive and secretive practices of LDS Social/Family Services were guided by wrong-headed ideas about the superiority of some families—white families, wealthy families, temple-sealed families—over others. This panel will discuss best practices for foster and foster-adopt parents by sharing personal experiences and answering audience members’ questions.

**PRESENTERS**
AMANDA FARR-KNICKERBOCKER specializes in providing foster care for medically fragile, drug-exposed, and HIV-positive children.

JO OVERTON has a degree in social work. She and her husband were foster parents for many years and adopted a child out of foster care.

ANA NELSON SHAW and her husband have adopted four children—one in a private adoption, one in an LDS Family Services adoption, and two through the foster care system.

MARISA MCPECK-STRINGHAM worked as an adoption/birth parent caseworker for LDS Family Services in Ogden, Utah for almost seven years.

BRITTNI SCOTT has a BA in marriage, family, and human development from Brigham Young University. Her latest job position was with the State of Ohio as a social worker II with CPS.

HEATHER YOUNG is a former foster child.

DESIREE MILLER entered foster care at age three and had two foster families. Her second foster family adopted her when she was six.

**MODERATOR**
DEREK LEE

**ROOM**
CRIMSON VIEW

**ROOM**
SALTAIR

**ROOM**
COLLEGIATE
124. WHY THE HEART IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE BRAIN: COMBINING NEW SCIENCE WITH ANCIENT WISDOM

**ABSTRACT**
Jesus said, “As a person thinks in her heart, so is she.” Long thought to be just a metaphor, the idea of a thinking heart is now supported by scientific findings revealing that the heart has its own nervous system with an electrical field 60 times greater in amplitude than that of the brain, and sends more information to the brain than the brain sends to the heart. What are the implications of such understanding in terms of epistemology, spiritual inquiry, and revelation?

**PRESENTER**
ROBERT A. REES teaches Mormon Studies at the Graduate Theological Union and UC Berkeley. He has authored a number of articles on the importance of the heart in human experience.

**MODERATOR**
ESTHER DALE

**ROOM**
PANORAMA EAST

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125. THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON POLYGAMY

**ABSTRACT**
My husband and I didn’t just wake up one sunny morning and say, “Let’s join a polygamist cult.” Over time, a convergence of psychological and social factors ripened us for the picking. Insecurities played a part. So did classic, cultish appeals, along with having an upbringing in mainstream Mormonism. This presentation will examine those factors through my own experiences and the work of psychologists such as Frank Sulloway.

**PRESENTER**
JOANNE HANKS is the author of *It’s Not About the Sex My Ass: Confessions of an Ex-Mormon, Ex-Polygamist, Ex-Wife.*

**MODERATOR**
THAYNE FORBES

**ROOM**
PARLOR A

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126. I AM A TRANS CHILD OF GOD

**ABSTRACT**
Featuring people inhabiting different points on the gender spectrum and various levels of LDS belief, this panel will discuss the unique challenges faced by transgendered people who come from an LDS background.

**PRESENTERS**
BRIANNA CLUCK is an MTF (male-to-female) transgender woman living in Orem, UT. She has a deep and abiding interest in Mormon history and Mormon sociology.

**MODERATOR**
ARWEN TAYLOR

**ROOM**
WEST BALLROOM

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127. MORMONS AND MARIJUANA

**ABSTRACT**
In 1970, the US Congress placed marijuana in schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act because they considered it as having “no accepted medical use.” Since then, 23 of 50 US states and DC have legalized the medical use of marijuana, fueling a heated public debate. This panel will explore how the debate interacts with Mormonism, the Word of Wisdom, and the lives of Latter-day Saints.

**PRESENTERS**
TRESA EDMUNDS writes about faith and feminism under the name Reese Dixon at *Feminist Mormon Housewives.* Her work can also be found at her lifestyle blog, ReeseDixon.com.

JODY ENGLAND HANSEN is a cancer survivor and active Mormon who moved to Colorado shortly after medical marijuana was legalized.

**MODERATOR**
DELL ELLIS

**ROOM**
EAST BALLROOM

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131. IMMIGRATION: A MORAL ISSUE FOR THE SAINTS

**ABSTRACT**
Terry Read is the chair of the Community of Christ World Church’s human rights team, with members in Africa, South America, Australia, Canada, and the United States. He will discuss how the human rights team has addressed the issue of immigration.
132. FINDING WISDOM AMIDST THE QUEST FOR CERTAINTY

ABSTRACT

Being thoughtful while being faithful is a spiritual practice that has failing currency in Mormonism. As the host of A Thoughtful Faith, Gina has had the opportunity to interview people at their most spiritually troubled who are seeking a middle way that feels authentic, honest, faithful, and Mormon. In this audio/visual presentation, she will talk about what it means to be in dialogue with troubled conversation partners as they discover and share their emergent wisdom with thousands of friends listening in the wilderness.

PRESENTERS

GINA COLVIN blogs at KiwiMormon and is the host of A Thoughtful Faith podcast. She lives in Christchurch, New Zealand where she is a lecturer at the University of Canterbury.

PAUL MALAN believes in the power of ideas and hopes writing about Mormonism will help his five children make sense of the culture they will inherit.

KATIE LANGSTON is pursuing dual master’s degrees in marriage and family therapy and theology at St. Mary’s University of Minnesota and Luther Seminary in the Twin Cities.

NATHAN MCCLUSKEY has a PhD in politics from the University of Canterbury. He works for Statistics New Zealand, and is also a union organizer.

MODERATOR

ALICE FISHER ROBERTS

ROOM

CRIMSON VIEW

133. A GAY MORMON DIASPORA: EXPLORING THE ACT OF TESTIMONY AND BELIEF IN THE CASE STUDY OF YOUNG SINGLE ADULT MORMONS

ABSTRACT

Through the use of ethnographic investigation, personal interviews, and theoretical research, this paper seeks to understand the role of testimony within a community of young single adult Latter-day Saints in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. It explores the way members with same-sex attraction have voluntarily removed themselves from the LDS community by assuming a diasporic identity, as well as how those members view themselves in regards to the Church and its doctrine. This paper argues that temporality is understood as being both static and fluid, which allows Church members, through ritualized acts, to move both backward and forward in time to moments of “rupture” and “forever.”

PRESENTER

KEVEN LEWIS is pursuing a BS in anthropology with minors in religious studies and writing. He received the MT Lambda LGBT + Scholarship in 2013.

MODERATOR

DELL ELLIS

ROOM

PANORAMA EAST

134. THE CONFLICTING IDENTITIES OF LGBT MORMONS

ABSTRACT

In 2015, Amber Whiteley was a contributing author for a book chapter for the American Psychological Association. Titled “Conflicting Identities: Sexual Minority, Transgender, and Gender Nonconforming Individuals Navigating Between Religion and Gender/Sexual Orientation Identity,” the chapter discusses various religious identities. Whiteley advocated for Mormons to be included in the chapter. This presentation will discuss the findings from the chapter, and what the implications are for both mental health workers who help the LDS community and LDS sexual minorities.

PRESENTER

AMBER WHITELEY is a doctoral student in counseling psychology at the University of Utah. She is one of the proud founders of MORMONFEMINIST.ORG.

MODERATOR

ARWEN TAYLOR

ROOM

PARLOR A
135. THE COGS OF DISSONANCE AND CONSONANCE: THE LEVERS OF CONTROL IN LDS DOCTRINE

ABSTRACT
The policies and doctrines of all groups include tendencies towards psychological manipulation. These persuasion and control techniques function through cognitive dissonance and consonance theory. This talk explores how dogma reinforces itself by boosting cognitive consonance and reducing dissonance. What forms do these “mental gymnastics” take? How do LDS teachings display these forms? This talk is likely to cause cognitive dissonance.

PRESENTER
LUNA LINDSEY writes science fiction, advocates for neurodiversity on her blog (she is diagnosed with Asperger’s), and researches group dynamics and mind control.

MODERATOR
SARA BURLINGAME

ROOM
WEST BALLROOM

136. SUPPORTING THE FAMILY: CASH-INCENTIVIZED LARCS (LONG-ACTING REVERSIBLE CONTRACEPTIVES)

ABSTRACT
Many children are being born without the benefit of married parents. The remedy? Family studies economist Isabel V. Sawhill extols highly reliable LARCs (long-acting reversible contraceptives) as being pro-children, pro-life, pro-marriage, and pro-income-equality. Accordingly, should the federal government pay female participants enough to make implanted LARCs the norm? Despite its public interest virtues, religious leaders would probably voice opposition to such a policy, construing it as a “license to fornicate.” This paper presents a secondary cash incentive that would hopefully neutralize that opposition.

PRESENTER
GEORGE R. COMPTON has a PhD from UCLA in economics. He taught economics for ten years at BYU, and now does state government work in public utility regulation.

MODERATOR
ROY SCHMIDT

ROOM
EAST BALLROOM

141. LUNCHTIME PRESENTATION: 4 LETTERS = 4 VIEWS OF FAITH

ABSTRACT
The human mind sees everything through four lenses: the WHY (purpose), the WHAT (facts), the HOW (actions), and the WHO (relationships). We sometimes find ourselves struggling with conflicts between these lenses, especially when it comes to religion. This session will provide an overview of how these lenses function in religion and suggest how we can make them work together more coherently.

PRESENTER
RUSS OSMOND has published extensively on political science, human behavior, communication, religion, and leadership. He is part of Southern Polytechnic State University.

MODERATOR
STEPHEN CARTER

ROOM
SALT AIR

151. A BIBLE! A BIBLE?: INTERACTING WITH THE BOOK OF MORMON

ABSTRACT
How one interacts with the Bible as an artifact is as illuminating as how one interprets the Bible’s concepts. The story of the printed Book of Mormon’s production and provenance does not fit the biblical model. This panel will explore the coming forth of the Book of Mormon alongside divine or magical books in extra-biblical traditions—including magic, freemasonry, and esoteric traditions—in order to consider the re-ritualization of the text as a powerful device for instilling belief and constructing religious identity.

PRESENTERS
CHERYL BRUNO is an independent scholar of Mormon history. She is co-author of Method Infinite: Freemasonry and the Mormon Restoration.

TREVOR LUKE is an associate professor of classics at Florida State University. He is the author of Ushering in a New Republic: Theologies of Arrival at Rome in the First Century BCE.

MICHAEL G. REED is a doctoral student at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley. He is the author of Banishing the Cross: The Emergence of a Mormon Taboo (John Whitmer Books, 2012).

JOE STEVE SWICK III is an independent scholar of Freemasonry and Mormon history. He is co-author of Method Infinite: Freemasonry and the Mormon Restoration.
Respondent

ANN TAVES, PhD, University of Chicago, is the Virgil Cordano OFM Endowed Chair in Catholic Studies at UC-Santa Barbara. She is the author of numerous books and articles.

Moderator

KATIE LANGSTON

Room

SALTAIR

152. AUTHOR MEETS CRITICS: HOW TO READ THE BIBLE AND STILL BE A CHRISTIAN

Abstract

This session sets out to examine the tensions of biblical Christianity and how it interacts with Mormonism, the modern age, and social justice.

Presenters

JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN is the author of several bestselling books including The Historical Jesus; Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography; The Greatest Prayer; and The Power of Parable.

JOSHUA MADSON is a practicing attorney in Alpine, Utah. He was an editor and contributor for The Mormon Worker, which addressed non-violence, social justice, and radical politics.

SHEILA TAYLOR has a PhD in systematic theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA.


R. DENNIS POTTER is an associate professor of philosophy and Associate Director of Religious Studies at Utah Valley University.

Moderator

GINA COLVIN

Room

CRIMSON VIEW

153. SUNSTONE: THE NEXT GENERATION

Abstract

Since the 1960s, unorthodox Mormons coalesced around print publications like Sunstone and Dialogue to engage in independent thought about Mormonism. Many of those people are now parents and grandparents. This panel will discuss the challenges of raising children in the Mormon faith but outside the mainstream. Parents will discuss “inoculation,” navigating the politics of church youth programs, and balancing faith and criticism. Finally, the panel will discuss the consequences of a Sunstone upbringing. Does being raised in a Sunstone home inoculate you against faith crises? What is it like growing up in an unorthodox home?

Presenters

KATIE DAVIS HENDERSON works as a research manager at the Water Research Foundation in Denver, Colorado.

MARK DAVIS’s first wife, Kira, died of breast cancer in 1997, leaving him to raise their three teenage daughters. He practices international law and lives in Orem with his wife Andi and their two kids.

ANA NELSON SHAW has an MS in technical communication from Montana Tech of the University of Montana. She works as an adjunct instructor at Montana Tech.

MICHAEL G. NELSON has participated in Sunstone symposia and Dialogue publications for many years. He served in bishoprics and other callings while raising six children.

JERILYN HASSELL POOL is an active participant in online Mormon feminist spaces and a tireless advocate for LGBT equality. She is a permablogger at Feminist Mormon Housewives.

AMANDA FARR KNICKERBOCKER has a degree in educational science. She and her husband have two biological children and are foster parents to three special-needs children.

Moderator

AARON TAYLOR

Room

CRIMSON VIEW

154. GOD’S NAME IN VAIN: USING FAITH TO HARM OTHERS

Abstract

Mormon Fundamentalism is often unfairly conflated with dangerous behavior. The reality is that Mormon Fundamentalists are a very diverse group of people with a variety of life experiences, practices, and beliefs. Using personal experiences, this panel will explore the spectrum between practicing fundamentalist tenants and becoming a religious extremist.

Presenters

LINDSAY HANSEN-PARK is the assistant director for the Sunstone Education Foundation and the founder of the Feminist Mormon Housewives Podcast.
TREVOR JEFFS was born and raised in the FLDS Church where he was brought up in a strict polygamist household. He has since left his family and the community.

KRISTYN DECKER was born in the AUB polygamist group. She left at age 50, after raising her seven children. She earned a BA and wrote a book about her experiences.

C. JANE KENDRICK has an award-winning blog CJANEKENDRICK.COM where she writes about life, religion, birthing, wifehood, motherhood, womanhood, and body acceptance.

STAN SHELPP converted to the mainstream LDS Church in 1989 and studied Mormon fundamentalism extensively before joining the Centennial Park community.

MODERATOR
MICA MCGRIGGS
ROOM
PARLOR A

155. DOES THE CONCEPT OF ZION STILL ENERGIZE MORMON HEARTS AND MINDS TODAY?

ABSTRACT
In the early Church, talk of building Zion and becoming a Zion people was everywhere. Then, twenty-five years ago, following the publishing of Hugh Nibley’s essay collection Approaching Zion and then an iconic “Plotting Zion” conference co-sponsored by Sunstone the following year, “Zion” seemed poised to once again rise up as a vital and energizing concept. But today we hear much less about it. Has Zion simply become a vague thought, something we strive to practice only “within our hearts”? Are there arenas in which it still holds relevance for how we organize our lives and communities?

PRESENTERS
BOYD PETERSEN is program coordinator for Mormon Studies at Utah Valley University and the incoming editor of Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought.

JIM SMITHSON is sociologist/anthropologist with a PhD from Cornell. He has spent 20+ years doing social science research in 30+ countries.

RACHEL WHIPPLE is working on an MA at BYU in comparative studies. She volunteers as a neighborhood chair and environmental advocate in Provo.

MODERATOR
SARA BURLINGAME
ROOM
EAST BALLROOM

RON MADSEN is an attorney at Madson & Madson, and a contributor to the Mormon Worker blog which addresses non-violence, social justice, and radical politics.

WARNER WOODWORTH is a global social entrepreneur, founding dozens of NGOs, and a researcher for 10 books and 200 papers/articles.

DAN WOTHERSPOON

156. NEW DIRECTIONS BY MORMON WOMEN: SIGNATURE PANEL DISCUSSION WITH CONTRIBUTORS TO FRESH COURAGE TAKE

ABSTRACT
Six of the twelve contributors to the new book Fresh Courage Take address issues faced by modern Mormon and formerly Mormon women. Authors will speak on ideology, language, motherhood, religious orthodoxy, and more, showing that one heart and many minds can still form Zion.

PRESENTERS
JAMIE ZVIRZDIN, editor of Fresh Courage Take, is a science editor and freelance writer in a Foreign Service family.

ASHLEY MAE HOILAND is a mom, feminist, artist, writer, and project manager (WeBraveWomen.com). She is passionate about the language used to navigate spiritual paths.

MARCEE MONROE LUDLOW is a graphic designer, a mother to four enthusiastic, clever children. She hopes to start a progressive school with her husband.

SYLVIA LANKFORD was born and raised in an all-black Baptist church, converting to the LDS Church 28 years ago. She is her ward’s Relief Society president.

CAMILLE STRATE FAIRBANKS, blogger behind Archives of Our Lives, works a day job, raises a son, loves a husband, and watches a shocking amount of Netflix.

RACHEL BROWN is a story-receiver and mental health therapist. She is an ENFP, enjoys leading support groups and healing circles, and loves playing with her three children
161. SAVING FAITH: THE RELATIONSHIP OF FAITH TO KNOWLEDGE, BELIEF, AND WORKS

**ABSTRACT**
Atheist Richard Dawkins sees faith in God as belief without evidence, while Christian theologians defend faith as both reasonable and empirically justified. Although they grant that the evidence for faith is incomplete, they also hold that knowledge of God is not attainable simply through empirical methods. Faith also plays a role in the Christian doctrine of salvation. How is the faith connected with knowledge related to the faith connected with works? Can faith be saved as an eternal principle vital to the pursuit of truth? Can faith save us for and in the kingdom of God?

**PRESENTER** JANICE ALLRED speaks and writes on theological topics. She is the author of *God the Mother and Other Theological Essays*.

**MODERATOR** PAUL MALAN

**ROOM** SALT AIR

162. SCARED SACRED: HOW THE HORRIFYING STORY OF JOSEPH SMITH’S POLYGAMY CAN HELP SAVE US

**ABSTRACT**
Most stories, especially the kind we tell in church and on television, have morals. They’re like horses that carry us to known destinations. But a few stories have the power to launch us toward the divine by invoking sheer horror: psychological, emotional, and cognitive. Joseph Smith’s polygamy is one of those stories—especially for Mormons. But in order to ride this story, which will threaten at any second to buck us into a sand pit of denial or off the cliff of apostasy, we need to dismantle everything we think we know about how we can know anything.

**PRESENTER** STEPHEN CARTER is the editor of *Sunstone*, a personal essayist, a horror writer, and a comic book author. His *Mormonism for Beginners* will be published in 2016.

**RESPONDENT** D. MICHAEL QUINN is an affiliated scholar at the University of Southern California’s Center for Feminist Research. He received Best Book awards from the American Historical Association and the MHA.

**MODERATOR** ROBIN LINKHART

**ROOM** CRIMSON VIEW

163. WOE TO THE LAND SHADOWING WITH WINGS: WILLIAM BICKERTON, THE BOOK OF MORMON, AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

**ABSTRACT**
Since 1845, William Bickerton had watched for the fulfillment of Joseph Smith’s Civil War prophecy. He believed that devastation unlike anything Americans had ever experienced would overtake the nation. It was a principal reason for dissociating himself from Sidney Rigdon and Brigham Young and starting his own church. The paper will explain why Bickerton decided to forsake Rigdon and Young, and will show how the Civil War grounded his belief in the Book of Mormon.

**PRESENTER** DANIEL STONE has a BA and MA in history. He works in a private archive in the Metro-Detroit area and teaches as an adjunct professor of history at the University of Detroit–Mercy.

**MODERATOR** HANNAH WHEELWRIGHT

**ROOM** COLLEGIATE


**ABSTRACT**
Studies show that brain stimulation, or manipulation of a participant’s sensory environment, can duplicate certain religious or mystical experiences. Some tout this as evidence that such states are indeed ontologically “real,” just not in any supernatural way—merely the consequence of a “brain hiccup” of sorts. Loosely known as “neurotheology,” this research paradigm is thought to promise a version of physicalism that is sympathetic to claims of religious epiphany, while fitting them into a comfortably materialist niche. But this solution isn’t as neat or successful as it seems.
165. MERE LATTER DAY SAINTISM

ABSTRACT
It can be argued that there is no well-defined criteria by which a group may or may not rightly be labeled a Latter Day Saint church nor whether an individual should be considered “Mormon.” This paper explores the question, “How (and by whom) should ‘Latter Day Saintism’ be defined?”

PRESENTER
JASON R. SMITH
makes his living in the technology field. His interests include the histories and beliefs of the many Latter Day Saint expressions (the lesser known, the better).

MODERATOR
CHRISTIAN LARSEN

ROOM
PARLOR A

166. THE ENVIRONMENT: A MORAL ISSUE FOR THE SAINTS

ABSTRACT
Climate change and other environmental issues are threatening the long-term survival of our planet. It is a moral issue for all Christians, yet the United States and many other governmental bodies seem incapable of coming up with solutions, mostly because there is money to be made by exploiting the environment. Latter-day Saints and all people of compassion need to confront this urgent moral issue.

PRESENTERS
CHRISTIAN ANDERSON is a genetic researcher affiliated with UC San Diego and UC Irvine. He has a BS from Stanford and an MS from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

ROBERT A. REES teaches Mormon Studies at the Graduate Theological Union and UC Berkeley.

MODERATOR
WILLIAM RUSSELL

ROOM
WEST BALLROOM

167. LIFE AFTER CHURCH DISCIPLINE

ABSTRACT
What happens after a church court? What is the fallout for the disciplined and his or her family and friends? Panelists will discuss how they came to terms with their discipline. Have they found peace?

PRESENTERS
CARLENE GEORGE worked with high-risk youth at Clearfield Job Corp Center for 21 years. She has a BS from BYU and an MS from Chapman University.

MAXINE HANKS is a theologian who researches, lectures, and writes in religious studies, particularly women's studies in religion.

DON BRADLEY is finalizing his MA in history at Utah State University. His first book, The Lost 116 Pages: Rediscovering the Book of Lehi, is forthcoming from Greg Kofford Books.

MODERATOR
CARLENE GEORGE

ROOM
EAST BALLROOM

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171. FOUR VIEWS OF JOSEPH SMITH: HISTORIANS DEBATE THE PROPHET PUZZLE

**ABSTRACT**

“The mystery of Mormonism cannot be solved until we solve the mystery of Joseph Smith,” wrote Jan Shipps. Four decades later, the prophet continues to puzzle. Was he a true prophet, sincere visionary, pious fraud, or con man? In a friendly debate, four historians will each advocate a different hypothesis. Opening statements and rebuttals will be followed by Q&A.

**PRESENTERS**

DON BRADLEY is finalizing his MA in history at Utah State University. His first book, *The Lost 116 Pages: Rediscovering the Book of Lehi*, is forthcoming from Greg Kofford Books.

ANN TAVES is a professor of religious studies at UC Santa Barbara and author of *Revelatory Events: Experiences and Appraisals in the Emergence of New Spiritual Path*.

DAN VOGEL has been publishing in the field of early Mormon history for more than thirty years, authoring eleven books and fifteen articles.

CHRISTOPHER C. SMITH is a PhD candidate at Claremont Graduate University and is completing a dissertation on early Mormon views of Native Americans.

**MODERATOR**

LINDSAY HANSEN-PARK

**ROOM**

SALTAIR

172. MORMON FOOD 2: ELECTRIC BOOGALOO

**ABSTRACT**

Last year’s popular food panel has been updated with information on Jell-O, funeral potatoes, caffeinated beverages, and more jokes.

**PRESENTER**

JERILYN HASSELL POOL is an accomplished digital artist and comedienne, often combining the two into blog posts and social media events.

**MODERATOR**

AARON TAYLOR

**ROOM**

CRIMSON VIEW

173. "SUNDAY SCHOOL PSYCHOTHERAPY": MORMON POETS ON VULNERABILITY AND MADNESS, HEALING AND HOPE

**ABSTRACT**

Brigham Young once called Joseph Smith a poet—and poets, Brigham contended, “are not like other [people]; their gaze is deeper, and reaches the roots of the soul” Such vision, he said, is akin to having “the searching eyes of angels” with which poets can “catch the swift thought of God and reveal it to us, even at the risk of forgetting their underclothes and their suspenders.” A poet sees differently than others see; and to see differently is to risk mental, emotional, social, and spiritual instability. Come and hear original poems by six Mormons that meditate on these themes.

**PRESENTERS**

ALEX CALDIERO is UVU’s Poet in Residence and author of many books of poetry including *Some Love* (Signature Books).

JESSICA DIXON is co-founder of Speak for Yourself Open Mic. She got involved with the poetry slam scene in 2010 and has never looked back.

MARIANNE HALE HARDING has been a Playwright in Residence at the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Her work has been published or produced in many venues.

ROBERT A. REES is an educator, scholar and poet. He teaches Mormon Studies at both the Graduate Theological Union and the University of California, Berkeley.

BONNIE SHIFFLER-OLSEN is co-founder of Rock Canyon Poets, has served as editor-in-chief for both Utah Valley University’s *Touchstones* and BYU-Idaho’s *Scroll*.

**MODERATOR**

SARAH COLLETT

**ROOM**

COLLEGIATE

174. FINDING THE GOD THAT CALLS TO YOU: FAITH TRANSITIONS AND HEALING

**ABSTRACT**

This workshop will feature a sermon followed by a group discussion aimed at tackling the contours of the faith journey, its inevitable transitions, and the dynamics of healing.

**PRESENTERS**

FATIMAH S. SALLEH earned a PhD in mass communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is currently earning an MDiv at Duke University.
LISA BUTTERWORTH is the founder of Feminist Mormon Housewives and is earning a master’s degree in counseling psychology.

MODERATOR: JENNIFER HUSS BASQUIAT
ROOM: PANORAMA EAST

175. OUR TWO DIFFERENT MINDS: NEUROBIOLOGICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND SPIRITUAL IMPLICATIONS

ABSTRACT: We all have two different minds neurobiologically: one driven by the fearful, judgmental amygdala, and the other centered in the wise, reasonable prefrontal cortex. When one is activated, the other is inhibited. Health problems caused by amygdala overdrive can be alleviated with spiritual practices that activate the prefrontal cortex, creating wellbeing and inhibiting fear and judgmentalism. All this correlates well with Jesus’ teachings about resilience. Awareness of the differences allows us a choice of which mind to feed.

PRESENTER: LEE SMITH, a former associate professor of clinical medicine at the University of Utah, currently works at the Center for MindBody Health in Salt Lake City.

MODERATOR: MICHELLE GEHRETT
ROOM: PARLOR A

176. BATTLE ON THE BRAIN: MORMONS AND WAR

ABSTRACT: This session compares and contrasts the Protestant “Just War” doctrine with historic Mormon attitudes. How did the Saints go from an essentially pacifist worldview to accepting wartime service in place of a mission and writing torture laws for the president?

PRESENTERS: KENNETH LINES is a data analyst and historical researcher.
BROOKE SWALLOW is a sociologist working on a PhD.

MODERATOR: BILL MCGEE
ROOM: WEST BALLROOM

177. MORMON MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION: TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT SEX IN A HOLISTIC AND HEALTHY WAY

ABSTRACT: Parents need more help than ever to understand the world their children are navigating. In this presentation, Alisha and Kristin will present strategies for continually talking to children about healthy sexuality instead trying to cram it into one dreaded “talk.” What defines comprehensive sex education for toddlers, kids, and teens?

ALISHA WORTHINGTON, BSW, SSW, graduated from Brigham Young University in social work and is a co-author of Real Intimacy: A Couple’s Guide to Healthy Genuine, Healthy Sexuality.

MODERATOR: LAURA EVERSHED JOHNSEN
ROOM: EAST BALLROOM

DINNER BREAK, 6:30PM–8:00PM
See page 5 for dining options.

PLENARY SESSION, 8:00PM–10:00PM

191. FAITH IN ACTION

ACCOMPANIST: ALAN EASTMAN
OPENING SONG: COME FOLLOW ME
INVOCATION: TO BE ANNOUNCED

ABSTRACT: “And Christ hath said: If ye will have faith in me ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me” (Moroni 7:33).

Mormonism is a gospel of faith and works. Come hear how one informs the other as speakers share the events and concepts that animate their religious lives: a little soul baring, a little spiritual journey, a little intellectual testimony bearing. This reflective night is about how faith inspires action and how that action leads us closer to Christ.
LACY BENTLEY is a survivor of exploitation and severe abuse and neglect as a child. A twenty-one-year sober alcoholic and 15 years free of anorexia, she is a suicide prevention educator, a volunteer for the Utah County Crisis line, and co-founder of A Change of Heart Foundation.

TIMOTHY BALLARD spent over a decade working as a special agent for the Department of Homeland Security assigned to the Internet Crimes against Children Task Force and deployed as an undercover operative for the U.S. Child Sex Tourism Jump Team.

ED SMART is a child safety advocate and president of the Surviving Parents Coalition. Along with other children’s safety advocates, Ed lobbied Congress and the Senate for passage of the National Amber Alert plan, the Adam Walsh Act, and the Protect our Children Act of 2008.

JERRY GOWEN is the chief operating officer (COO) at Operation Underground Railroad, responsible for development, IT, marketing, communications, donor relations, and partnerships.

REBECCA MCHOOD is the founder of International Sexual Exploitation Enemies United (ISEEUHope), a non-profit dedicated to awareness of and activism against the sex trade and sexual addiction.

EDUCATE A WOMAN

The Tracy McKay fMh Scholarship for Single Mormon Mothers provides money for tuition, books, and educational supplies for single women attempting to improve their situation through education and improved career prospects. All money raised for the scholarship goes to the scholarship recipients.

Please donate to the fund at feministmormonhousewives.org
FRIDAY 31 JULY

REGISTRATION, 8:00AM–9:00AM
Admission to sessions is by symposium name badge or ticket only. This policy will be strictly enforced. Badges and single-session tickets are available all day at the registration table on the second floor of the Olpin Student Union Building.

201. FRESH COURAGE TAKE
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
PROVIDED BY SIGNATURE BOOKS
ROOM BALLROOM

DEVOTIONAL, 8:15AM–8:45AM

202. PAUL’S WISDOM FOR OUR
RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS
ABSTRACT St. Paul’s missionary years were not easy. There was trouble among the followers of “the Way” in Corinth—squabbling, backbiting, and playing “holier than thou.” In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul examines some critical questions in a way that can help modern-day followers navigate the daunting theological and social issues facing the contemporary Church.

PRESENTER FRANCES LEE MENLOVE, PhD, MDiv, was the first manuscripts editor for Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought.
MODERATOR STEPHEN CARTER
ROOM SALTAIR

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 9:00AM–10:00AM

211. MORMON GENOME PROJECT AND
CRITIQUE OF SEXUAL POLYANDRY
APOLOGETICS
ABSTRACT The Mormon Genome Project was founded to test for Joseph Smith’s progeny through DNA analysis. Specifically, MGP is testing descendants of Josephine Rosetta Lyon to determine if she was Joseph Smith’s biological daughter. This presentation includes an analysis and critique of apologetics relating to Smith’s relationship with the Lyon family.

PRESENTERS SCOTT ROWLEY is a family law attorney from Mesa, Arizona. He is among the principal founders of Infants on Thrones, and the principal founder of the Mormon Genome Project. BRANDT MALONE MODERATOR SALT AIR ROOM

212. THE BISEXUAL MORMON MIND
ABSTRACT This panel will provide insight into the lives and experiences of those who identify as both Mormon and bisexual or biromantic. What kinds of experiences have developed from that intersection?

PRESENTERS ALAINA HENDRICKS is a BYU graduate in illustration. She has been a proud member of the board of trustees for Provo Pride since its inception in 2012 and a part of Affirmation and USGA. MICHAEL TIMOTHY has a BA in communications from BYU. He has been involved in North Star, Affirmation, USGA, and the Utah Pride Center. CAMI TRUJILLO decided one summer that she wasn’t going to kill herself before giving USGA a try. Now she is graduating from BYU and would like to remind readers that raccoons are adorable.

JAMES D. GOATES is a pre-med student at BYU studying psychology and music. In 2011, he joined the Understanding Same-Gender Attraction group at BYU.

MODERATOR RACHEL PETERSON
ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

213. LIVING AS A MORMON WITH AUTISM
ABSTRACT This panel will discuss the experience of being Mormon and autistic, as well as autism within Mormonism in general. Panel members are a mixture of those who either have autism themselves or have studied it.

PRESENTERS LAURA KIPP has two brothers with autism, which has led her to many wonderful work and volunteer opportunities, including lobbying with the National Association for Mental Illness. JAKE ZOLLINGER was a school psychologist for 36 years, working closely with many who have autism. He was also a marriage and family counselor before retiring.
RYAN KIPP is an lifelong Mormon with autism and other developmental disabilities. He volunteers at an animal shelter, the bishop’s storehouse, and a local food bank.

DANIEL KIPP has been diagnosed with high-functioning autism, attention deficit disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and clinical depression. He plans to go into the field of neurofeedback.

MODERATOR  LAURA KIPP
ROOM  COLLEGIATE

214. BEING MINDFUL IN YOUR OWN EVOLUTION: A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH WOMAN EVOLVING

ABSTRACT  This session focuses on how to build up and celebrate the evolution of women as they find meaning and express authenticity outside the orthodox foundation they were raised in, using the cues around them to guide their individualized paths.

PRESENTERS  ROSE SCHULZ-JONES is a political scientist, Asian scholar, fashion designer, former police officer, and human rights activist.

BROOKE SWALLOW is a behavioral scientist with interests in peace and justice studies. She is married with four small children and lives in Orem, Utah.

CRYSTAL SCOTT teaches biotechnology courses at the university level. She is heavily involved with LGBTQ rights, women’s issues, and living mindfully.

MODERATOR  SOPHIE DUCROCO ARCHIBALD
ROOM  PANORAMA EAST

216. THE MIDDLE WAY THAT GOES BEYOND MIDDLE GROUND

ABSTRACT  Thoughtful and faithful middle ways are found in many of the great religious traditions. After exploring the middle ways of Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, and Episcopalianism, this presentation will explore a uniquely LDS middle way identity that is distinctly not “middle ground.”

PRESENTER  MARK CREGO is the global managing director of identity research, innovation, and practice for Accenture. He is interested in interfaith dialogue and experience.

MODERATOR  COREY PHILPOT
ROOM  WEST BALLROOM

217. TWENTY YEARS OF THE PROCLAMATION ON THE FAMILY

ABSTRACT  “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” was first read to the women of the Church at the Annual Women’s Meeting in September of 1995. In the years following, the Proclamation has become a standard Mormon wall decoration, gone on to inspire Primary songs, and been referenced

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in marriage equality legal briefs. This panel discusses how the Proclamation has affected Mormon culture during the past two decades.

PRESENTERS
NADINE HANSEN is an attorney practicing in Southern Utah.

BRYNDIS ROBERTS is an adult convert to the LDS Church from the Black Baptist faith. She is an attorney and has her own firm: Jenkins & Roberts LLC.

CHRISTIAN ANDERSON is a biostatistician and geneticist living near San Diego. He studied at Stanford, UCSD, and Harvard.

MODERATOR
NANCY ROSS

ROOM
EAST BALLROOM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 10:15AM–11:15AM

221. WHY RITUAL MAKES SENSE

ABSTRACT
Religious ritual is strange, but there is a method to its madness. The many forms it takes—from meditation to ecstatic dance, from the solemnity of the LDS endowment to ceremonies involving psychotropic drugs—all point toward a coherent vision of who we really are and how this secret is so easily obscured by our day-to-day experience. This session explores why ritual can lead participants to feel empowered with a greater sense of orientation and peace.

PRESENTER
DAN WOTHERSPOON has a PhD and is the host of the Mormon Matters podcast. He is also a former editor of Sunstone.

MODERATOR
BRIAN WHITNEY

ROOM
SALTAIR

222. FROM NOT-WHITE-ENOUGH TO TOO-WHITE: THE HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF A “MORMON RACE”

ABSTRACT
Drawing upon scholarship from his recent book, Religion of a Different Color: Race and the Mormon Struggle for Whiteness, Paul Reeve explores the ways in which outside observers racialized Mormons as not-white-enough in the nineteenth century. Mormons responded by trying to claim whiteness for themselves, even at the expense of their own black converts. Reeve argues that it is only in viewing Mormon whiteness as a contested variable, not an assumed fact, that a new paradigm emerges for understanding Mormonism’s tortured relationship with blackness.

PRESENTER

MODERATOR
MICA MCGREGGS

ROOM
CRIMSON VIEW

224. WHY I DON’T NEED HEAVENLY MOTHER

ABSTRACT
The Mormon theology of a Heavenly Mother has been widely discussed as a transcendent and empowering doctrine, especially among Mormon feminists. While we recognize that this can be a valuable paradigm for many, this panel will discuss some of its implications. For example, what does a heterosexual god-couple imply for same-gender couples? Would feminizing some attributes through a goddess figure impair the development of those traits in men? Does eternal gender (and associated eternal attributes) abrogate hopes for egalitarian institutions?

PRESENTERS
MARINA N. CAPELLA is a recently minted pediatrician practicing at a community clinic in San Diego. She has an MEd from Harvard, and an MD from UC San Diego.

ROOM
COLLEGIATE

223. POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION AND BEYOND: AN LDS PERSPECTIVE

ABSTRACT
Postpartum mood and anxiety disorders affect hundreds of thousands of women. In addition to providing a basic overview of PPMD, this session will explore how LDS culture currently makes it difficult for PPMD sufferers to seek help. We’ll also discuss ways Church leadership, organizations, and members can promote PPMD education, combat its stigma, recognize its symptoms, and offer support to women and families who are surviving, or have survived, PPMD.

PRESENTER
ESTHER DALE is a Mormon feminist, postpartum mood and anxiety disorder survivor, advocate, and blogger at Through the Tunnel and Postpartum Progress.

MODERATOR
ROBIN LINKHART

ROOM
CRIMSON VIEW
CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN is a genetic researcher affiliated with UC San Diego and UC Irvine. He has a BS from Stanford and an MS from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

RESPONDENT JANICE ALLRED speaks and writes on theological topics. She is the author of God the Mother and Other Theological Essays.

MODERATOR EDWARD JONES

ROOM PANORAMA EAST

225. TRIANGLES OF SHAME: ADOPTION WITHIN MORMONISM

ABSTRACT Mormonism has a unique relationship with adoption that culminates in the ordinance of sealing. While powerful in its eternal implications, many of the root ideas surrounding sealing are problematic to the psychological, emotional, and physical health of persons involved in the adoption triangle: adoptee, birth parents, and adoptive parents. This paper identifies shame cycles specific to Mormon culture that impact adoption triangle identities and relationships. It also explores current social science theories that can aid and empower individuals, couples, and families to act in wisdom and order.

PRESENTER CHRISTY CROWE HUGHES is an adult adoptee who was relinquished as an infant through LDS Family Services. She has worked as a special education instructor, publicist, and librarian.

MODERATOR STEPHEN CARTER

ROOM PARLOR A

226. TRANSMORMONS

ABSTRACT In its “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” the LDS Church declares that “Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.” What are the implications of this declaration for transgender individuals? This session seeks to bring clarity to the matter of non-conforming gender identity and its expression among Mormons, and to examine policy and practice within the Mormon community in light of science and scripture.

PRESENTERS ROBERT A. REES is a scholar, poet, essayist, and blogger. He teaches Mormon Studies at the Graduate Theological Union and the University of California, Berkeley.

NECA ALLGOOD, with Grayson (her second child), has worked with Equality Utah to extend non-discrimination protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

SARA JADE WOODHOUSE is a professional actor, director, and writer. She sits on the steering committee for Mormons Building Bridges and on the board of Affirmation.

GRAYSON MOORE is female-to-male transgender. He is a junior math major at the University of Utah and sings baritone in the Salt Lake LDS Institute Singers.

MODERATOR LAURA EVERSHED JOHNSEN

ROOM WEST BALLROOM

227. MORMON MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION: LIVING A LIFE OF PARADOX AND PERSONAL GROWTH

ABSTRACT This presentation will address the emergence of feminist consciousness and the experience of feminist women in a patriarchal religion. Within the context of human development, it will also address the challenges and personal growth arising from living a life of paradox.

PRESENTERS VERLYNE CHRISTENSEN, MSc, is a psychologist in private practice. She has written and conducted research on feminism, religion, relationships, and parenting.

NATASHA HELFER PARKER, MS, LCMFT, is president of the Kansas chapter of the American Association of Marriage & Family Therapists and founder of the Mormon Mental Health Association.

MODERATOR SARA MCCAUSSLAND

ROOM EAST BALLROOM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 11:30AM–12:30PM

231. THE PLURAL MARRIAGE REVELATIONS OF JOSEPH SMITH

ABSTRACT The recent Gospel Topics essay “Plural Marriage in Kirtland and Nauvoo” asserts that Joseph Smith received the revelation authorizing polygamy around 1831 and that “the revelation on plural marriage was not written down until 1843.” However, the 1843 version of the revelation responds to contemporary events, raising such questions as: How much
of the revelation came from 1831 and how much was given in 1843? Were other revelations given on the subject between those dates? This presentation reviews about a dozen additional revelations received by Joseph regarding plural marriage.

**PRESENTER**  
CLAIR BARRUS has presented papers on a variety of topics at diverse Mormon conferences. He manages or participates in a number of Mormon-history-themed blogs.

**MODERATOR**  
CHERYL BRUNO  
SALTAIR

### 232. HONESTY IN THE BORDERLANDS

**ABSTRACT**  
Honesty is central to the Mormon experience. But in the borderlands, the questions get harder: How should we answer temple interview and worthiness questions? What do we tell family, neighbors, friends, and church officials when they ask about our beliefs and feelings? How do we deal with the internal psychological conflicts? This session will explore these important issues and share the experiences of those who have confronted tests of honesty.

**PRESENTERS**  
D. JEFF BURTON is the author of the “Braving the Borderlands” column in Sunstone. He has served in most local callings, including two missions and two stints as a bishop’s counselor.  
DAN WOTHERSPOON is host of the Mormon Matters podcast, editor of The Challenge of Honesty: Essays for Latter-day Saints by Frances Lee Menlove, and former editor of Sunstone.

**MODERATOR**  
STEPHEN CARTER  
CRIMSON VIEW

### 233. MORMON FEMINISTS: A NEW GENERATION

**ABSTRACT**  
This session features a panel discussion by the founders and organizers of the website I’m a Mormon Feminist. They will discuss the psychological, social, familial, and communicative implications of the website and its goals while placing it in the context of Mormon feminism.

**PRESENTERS**  
AMBER WHITELEY is a doctoral student in counseling psychology at the University of Utah.

**MODERATOR**  
KATRINE SHELTON JUDD  
COLLEGIATE

### 234. INCLUSIVITY AND ALLYSHIP

**ABSTRACT**  
The session will explore tenets of minority allyship. How can one be a good ally? How can we become more inclusive and less defensive when called out? How can we be more helpful and welcoming to those who often feel unwelcome?

**PRESENTER**  
HILARY BROWN studies English at the University of Utah. She is a disability rights activist with particular interest in disability access in the activist community.

**MODERATOR**  
ANYA TINAJERO  
PANORAMA EAST

### 235. STANDING OUTSIDE THE CIRCLE: THE IMPACT ON THE SELF, COUPLE, AND FAMILY

**ABSTRACT**  
This presentation explores the impact on individuals, couples, and families as they navigate religious issues and faith transitions, finding their way into (or out of) their faith. It also discusses the challenges and benefits of this process for personal growth, relationships, and parenting. Finally, it addresses practical ways we can create the space where multi-belief relationships can flourish. Or can it be done?

**PRESENTER**  
VERLYNE CHRISTENSEN is a psychologist in private practice. She has written and conducted research on various topics including feminism, religion, relationships, and parenting.

**MODERATOR**  
BILL REEL  
PARLOR A
**236. ALL FALL SHORT: AN INTERFAITH PANEL ON SIN**

**ABSTRACT**
Few concepts are as foundational to world religions as sin. But what is sin? Is it a violation of eternal law? A heart turned in on itself? Behaviors that create negative karma? An action? A state of being? This interfaith panel will explore sin from a variety of theological perspectives and will tackle not only what sin is, but what people of faith are supposed to do about it.

**PRESENTERS**
- **KATIE LANGSTON** is pursuing dual master’s degrees in marriage and family therapy and theology at St. Mary’s University of Minnesota and Luther Seminary in the Twin Cities.
- **ROBIN LINKHART** serves in the office of Seventy for Community of Christ, assigned to the Western USA Mission Field. She is president of the Sixth Quorum of Seventy.
- **CARU DAS ADIKHARY** is the president and founder of the Krishna temples in Spanish Fork and Salt Lake City. A Hindu and Vedic priest, he performs marriages, housewarmings, and birth ceremonies.
- **FATIMAH S. SALLEH** earned a PhD in mass communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is currently earning an MDiv at Duke University.

**MODERATOR** **PAUL MALAN**

**ROOM** **WEST BALLROOM**

**237. OF ONE HEART AND MIND: UNITY AND PLURALISM IN MORMONISM**

**ABSTRACT**
This presentation draws on scripture, the teachings of Church leaders (such as President Uchtdorf’s general conference address encouraging diversity), and scholarship (such as Standing Apart: Mormon Historical Consciousness and the Concept of Apostasy) to examine the creative tension between unity and diversity within Mormonism and to propose a model for thinking about a pluralistic unity for Mormonism as it moves forward.

**PRESENTER** **CHRISTOPHER BRADFORD** has a degree in linguistics from BYU, is a co-founder and board member of the Mormon Transhumanist Association, and is VP of engineering for Ancestry.

**MODERATOR** **JENNIFER HUSS BASQUIAT**

**ROOM** **EAST BALLROOM**

**LUNCH BREAK, 12:30PM–2:00PM**
See page 5 for dining options.

**241. LUNCHTIME COMEDY: BROTHER JAKE DOES SUNSTONE**

**ABSTRACT**
Creator of the Brother Jake video series, Jake Frost turns his sardonic lens onto Sunstone. This session will debut a Brother Jake video specifically about the Sunstone organization, mixed with a few other Brother Jake classics.

**PRESENTER** **JAKE FROST** started the Brother Jake series almost two years ago, and started podcasting with Infants on Thrones a little over a year ago.

**MODERATOR** **THAYNE FORBES**

**ROOM** **SALTAIR**

**PLENARY SESSION, 2:00PM–3:30PM**

**251. WHY WE STAY**

**PRELUDE MUSIC** **ALAN EASTMAN**

**ABSTRACT**
This perennially well-received session features the stories of those who have chosen to remain active, dedicated Latter-day Saints even in the face of challenges to traditional faith.

**PRESENTERS**
- **GINA COLVIN** is a lecturer at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. She hosts the podcast A Thoughtful Faith, and blogs at KiwiMormon.
- **KEN DRIGGS** has written extensively about Mormon and legal history topics. He is the author of Evil Among Us: The Texas Mormon Missionary Murders.
- **KALANI TONGA** is a lifelong member of the Church. She is an active Mormon single mother of five children who helped found the FEMWOC blog for Mormon women of color.
- **MITCH MAYNE** is a national voice on Mormon LGBT issues, focusing especially on improving the health, mental health, and well being of Mormon LGBT youth in the context of their faith.
- **FATIMAH S. SALLEH** earned a PhD in mass communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is currently earning an MDiv at Duke University.

**MODERATOR** **JENNIFER HUSS BASQUIAT**

**ROOM** **EAST BALLROOM**
FRIDAY 31 JULY

MODERATOR  DAN WOTHERSPOON is a former editor of Sunstone magazine and host of the Mormon Matters podcast.

CLOSING REMARKS  JIM MURPHY

ROOM  SALTAIR

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 3:45PM–4:45PM

261. JOSEPH SMITH’S FIRST VISION: IMAGERY, NEUROLOGY, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF MEMORY

ABSTRACT  Many critics of Mormonism assert that Joseph Smith invented the First Vision and then deliberately altered the details in subsequent retellings over the years so as to mislead his followers. Based on textual analysis and neurology, this presentation posits an alternative explanation.

PRESENTER  ROBERT A. REES teaches Mormon Studies at the Graduate Theological Union and UC Berkeley.

MODERATOR  BILL REEL

ROOM  SALTAIR

262. FEMWOC: WOMEN OF COLOR CRASH THE BLOGGERNACLE PARTY

ABSTRACT  FEMWOC is a Mormon-themed blog founded in 2015 that highlights the voices of women of color in the church. Come learn about the women behind it all.

PRESENTERS  GINA COLVIN is a lecturer at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. She hosts the podcast A Thoughtful Faith, and blogs at KiwiMormon.

BRYNDIS ROBERTS is an adult convert to the LDS Church from the Black Baptist faith. She is an attorney and has her own firm, Jenkins & Roberts LLC.

JENNIFER GONZALEZ is an information designer, immigrant rights advocate, and founder of Torchlight Legal, a non-profit/tech startup supporting asylum seekers.

NATASHA SMITH describes herself as a Unitarian Universalist Mormon. She has a BA from the University of Chicago and works as a criminal defense paralegal.

PRESENTERS  GINA COLVIN

MODERATOR  ANYA TINAJERO

ROOM  CRIMSON VIEW

263. WHITE & DELIGHTSOME ON THE STRAIGHT & NARROW: THE INTERSECTION OF MORMON HETERONORMATIVITY, RACE RESPECTABILITY, AND ... GRACE?

ABSTRACT  While most white Mormons today would never think to tell a black Mormon that he or she will become “white and delightsome” in the next life if righteous enough, how many would tell their LGBT brother and sisters they can become heterosexual and/or gender-conforming in the next life? Spriggs, a fringe black Mormon, shares how he came to appreciate “white and delightsome” theology as a compassionate, grace-full (though misguided) response to the social reality of race in America. He argues that its loss is a backward step for Mormon racial understandings.

PRESENTER  GEORGE ANDREW SPRIGGS is so white and delightsome that he has more than once been called out on his straight, white male privilege. He irregularly blogs at Irresistible (Dis)Grace and Wheat & Tares.

MODERATOR  NANCY ROSS

ROOM  COLLEGIATE

264. HISTORY DERAILED: WILLIAM LAW AND HIS DETRACTORS

ABSTRACT  This paper explores stories about William Law—Joseph Smith’s one-time second counselor who became co-editor of the Nauvoo Expositor. These sometimes dubious narratives, such as those found among the descendants of Charles Stoddard, serve to elevate the family’s status by disparaging Law who quickly became a villain after the death of the Prophet

PRESENTER  TOM KIMBALL is the marketing director for Signature Books.
265. WHY SOME LEAVE AND OTHERS STAY: AN EXPLANATORY HYPOTHESIS

ABSTRACT
The question of why some people become disaffected from Mormonism while others do not is the source of frequent, heated debate. This presentation will compare the most common explanations with alternatives inspired by contemporary scientific research on relationship stability by John Gottman and others.

PRESENTER
STEVEN GARFF is a practicing attorney specializing in business litigation. He received his JD from UCLA School of Law and a BA in philosophy from the University of Utah.

MODERATOR
FLIP JOHNSON

ROOM
PARLOR A

266. TESTIMONY AND DISAGREEMENT IN MORMONISM

ABSTRACT
Clearly, testimony plays a central role in Mormonism. Does it play an epistemic role? And if so, what is it? Is this role justified? This paper will argue that the primary role for testimony in Mormonism is deference to the testimonies of the Church leadership. I will argue that this role for testimony in religious belief is not justified from a philosophical point of view. To make my case I will give a brief tour of some recent work in the epistemology of testimony.

PRESENTER
R. DENNIS POTTER is an associate professor of philosophy and Associate Director of Religious Studies at Utah Valley University.

MODERATOR
COREY PHILPOT

ROOM
WEST BALLROOM

267. RACIAL CURSES AND MARKS IN JOSEPH SMITH’S SCRIPTURAL TEXTS

ABSTRACT
LDS racial histories have mostly viewed the racial narratives in the Joseph Smith translation of the Bible and the Book of Abraham in relation to their publication and reception rather than Joseph Smith’s acts of constructing and dictating them. Joseph Smith based these narratives on his understandings of the curse of Ham myth and its Cain-theory variant, proposing his own solutions to the problems facing these racial myths, constructing them as explanations of providential history.

PRESENTER
RYAN STUART BINGHAM is a master’s student in religious studies at the University of Chicago Divinity School. He is principally interested in Joseph Smith’s scriptural texts.

MODERATOR
MICA MCGRIGGS

ROOM
EAST BALLROOM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 5:00PM–6:30PM

271. MORMONISM BEYOND THE MAINSTREAM: PRACTICING CELESTIAL MARRIAGE ON EARTH

ABSTRACT
The prevailing belief among mainstream Mormons seems to be that those who practice polygamy have been brainwashed into doing so by insular communities. But what of those whose journeys led them through the mainstream LDS Church into the practice of polygamy? This panel will address these faithful members who are “doing” Mormonism outside the confines of the mainstream church.

PRESENTERS
JENNIFER HUSS BASQUIAT is a professor of anthropology at the College of Southern Nevada. She has been conducting fieldwork in the plural community of Centennial Park.

ANNE WILDE is co-founder of Principle Voices, co-author of Voices in Harmony: Contemporary Women Celebrate Plural Marriage, and an active advocate of polygamy among consenting adults.

KEVIN KRAUT was born and raised in the mainstream LDS Church and has been an independent fundamentalist Mormon for over 20 years. He is son of the author Ogden Kraut.

MODERATOR
MICA MCGRIGGS

ROOM
EAST BALLROOM
CHRISTINE MACKLEY was born and raised in the mainstream LDS Church. She was a member of the Apostolic United Brethren for about 15 years.

STAN SHEPP converted to the mainstream LDS Church in 1989 and studied Mormon fundamentalism extensively before joining the Centennial Park community.

MODERATOR: JENNIFER HUSS BASQUIAT

ROOM: SALT AIR

AUTHOR MEETS CRITICS: MORONI AND THE SWASTIKA: MORMONS IN NAZI GERMANY

ABSTRACT:
Fifteen years ago, David Conley Nelson wrote about LDS Church collaboration in Nazi Germany, winning the Juanita Brooks Award for the best graduate student paper from the Mormon History Association. His research became his doctoral dissertation, and, this year, a monograph published by the University of Oklahoma Press. This panel, including members of the Journal of Mormon History's past executive committee, will discuss the evolution from paper to book, and how it deals with the memory of a controversial period in Church history.

PRESENTERS

DAVID CONLEY NELSON earned a PhD in history from Texas A&M in 2012. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on the LDS Church in Nazi Germany.

LAVINA FIELDING ANDERSON, PhD, was the editor of the Journal of Mormon History in 2000.

ROBERT A. REES, PhD, is the second cousin, two generations removed, of Alfred C. Rees, a controversial Mormon mission president in Berlin during the peacetime National Socialist era.

WILL BAGLEY, a 2014 Fellow of the Utah State Historical Society, is the author and editor of more than twenty books on Mormonism and Western Americana.

KEVIN JONES, JD, is a Salt Lake City attorney and a longtime participant in Sunstone and Mormon History Association conferences.

MODERATOR: LAVINA FIELDING ANDERSON

ROOM: CRIMSON VIEW

MORONI AND THE SWASTIKA
Mormons in Nazi Germany

By David Conley Nelson

$29.95 HARDCOVER · 432 PAGES · 23 B&W ILLUS.

While Adolf Hitler’s National Socialist government was persecuting Jews and Jehovah’s Witnesses and driving forty-two small German religious sects underground, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints continued to practice unhindered. Moroni and the Swastika restores a complex and difficult chapter to the history of Nazi Germany and the Mormon Church in the twentieth century.

Hear Author David Conley Nelson’s presentation Friday, July 31 at 5 p.m. in Crimson View.
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<th>Session</th>
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<td>273</td>
<td>FOUNDATIONAL MURDER: THE SLAYING OF LABAN</td>
<td>The Book of Mormon shows that real peace can only be achieved if the roots of a conflict are identified and the foundational stories and beliefs that gave rise to that conflict are rejected. These kinds of foundational narratives were at the heart of Nephite and Lamanite hatred, trapping both communities in a cycle of violence. By looking closely at the slaying of Laban, we can see how it fits into the larger Book of Mormon structure and reveals both the cause of and solution to violent conflicts.</td>
<td>JOSHUA MADSON is a practicing attorney in Alpine, Utah. He was an editor and contributor for The Mormon Worker.</td>
<td>COLLEGIATE</td>
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<td>274</td>
<td>THE WORTH OF SOULS IS GREAT: HOW THE THEORY OF AN ATHEIST SUPPORTS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IN PROMOTING PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING</td>
<td>The main assumption of rational emotive behavioral therapy is that humans have inherent value. Doctrine and Covenants 18:10 teaches that the worth of souls is great in the sight of God. But often aspects of LDS doctrine have been used to accuse and shame. This presentation will use REBT to explore how re-conceptualization can promote healing.</td>
<td>MICA MCGRIGGS is a PhD candidate in counseling psychology at BYU. Her clinical training has primarily been in rational emotive behavior therapy. TRISTIN RONEY is completing a PhD in counseling psychology at BYU. He received a master’s degree in contemplative psychology from Naropa University in 2012.</td>
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<td>275</td>
<td>APOLLO AND DIONYSUS: THE RECONCILIATION OF OUR HEAVENLY PARENTS</td>
<td>For several generations, a canonical mischaracterization of God the Father has blinded Latter-day Saints to God the Mother, altered perceptions of the relationship between the mind/spirit and body, and fostered the political conservatism ascendant in Mormonism. This paper deals with the disparity between the concept of deity currently dominating Latter-day Saint conversation and the concept presented in the Book of Mormon and Doctrine &amp; Covenants.</td>
<td>JIMMY JONES is a recent graduate of the University of Washington. He blogs at Mormon Press and is a contributor to BLACKPAST.ORG.</td>
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<td>276</td>
<td>THE RESTORATION IMPERATIVE: THE PARALLEL WORLDS OF MORMONISM AND FREEMASONRY</td>
<td>Recently, students of Mormonism have written about teachings and policies Joseph Smith introduced (beyond temple rituals and Book of Mormon themes) that have Masonic associations. This paper will discuss these concepts and how they probably reflect Joseph Smith’s “restoration imperative.”</td>
<td>MICHAEL W. HOMER practices law in Salt Lake City. He has published numerous articles in the fields of law and Mormonism. He is the editor of On the Way to Somewhere.</td>
<td>WEST BALLROOM</td>
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<td>277</td>
<td>THE STATE OF QUEER ACTIVISM IN ZION</td>
<td>During the past few years, many victories have been gained by activists for LGBT rights, but many losses have been incurred as well. In this presentation, a panel of activists and faith organizers will discuss their efforts and the results, both encouraging and otherwise.</td>
<td>SARA BURLINGAME has worked in religious education and faith organizing for the past decade.</td>
<td>PANORAMA EAST</td>
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FRIDAY/SATURDAY

TROY WILLIAMS has over a decade of experience as a community organizer for the LGBTQ community and was the community affairs director of 90.9 FM KRCL for ten years.

SHARON GROVES is a faith organizer working with groups such as Faith in Public Life and the Forum on the Military Chaplaincy.

JIM DABAKIS is a member of the Utah State Senate where he represents the state’s 2nd senate district.

MODERATOR: RACHEL PETERSON
ROOM: EAST BALLROOM

DINNER BREAK, 6:30PM–8:00PM
See page 5 for dining options.

PLENARY SESSION, 8:00PM–10:00PM

291. THE RELIGIOUS BRAIN PROJECT
ABSTRACT
Dr. Michael Adam Ferguson will present groundbreaking research on how the religious brain works. Using data from brain imaging scans, Ferguson will talk about what happens in the brain when praying, recalling spiritual experiences, or feeling a “prompting.” A Q&A session will follow.

PRESENTER: MICHAEL ADAM FERGUSON is a research fellow for the Human Neuroscience Institute at Cornell University. His neuro-medical research focuses on pattern analysis in the human brain. He is working to develop clinical markers for psychiatric diagnosis and care that are based on direct imaging of the human brain.

MODERATOR: NICOLE FORSGREN
ROOM: SALT AIR

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST

REGISTRATION, 8:00AM–9:00AM
Admission to sessions is by symposium name badge or ticket only. This policy will be strictly enforced. Badges and single-session tickets are available all day at the registration table on the second floor of the Olpin Student Union Building.

301. FRESH COURAGE TAKE
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
PROVIDED BY SIGNATURE BOOKS
ROOM: BALLROOM

MORNING DEVOTIONAL 8:15AM–8:45AM

302. GLORY
ABSTRACT
Glory is a central concept in Mormon theology. Latter-day Saints speak of God’s glory, of the glory it is possible for us to experience in mortality, and of the “degrees of glory” that will define our eternal existence. This devotional explores the nature, meaning, and dimensions of this supreme experience and state. It includes portrayals of glory in art and music.

PRESENTER: ROBERT A. REES teaches Mormonism at the Graduate Theological Union and the University of California, Berkeley. He is a former editor of Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought.

MODERATOR: STEPHEN CARTER
ROOM: SALT AIR

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 9:00AM–10:00AM

311. TURNING THE MIC ON JOHN:
A CELEBRATION OF 10 YEARS
OF MORMON STORIES
ABSTRACT
In this session, FMH podcaster Lindsay Hansen-Park will host a Mormon Stories interview with John Dehlin about his most recent Mormon story: being excommunicated from the LDS Church.

PRESENTERS: JOHN P. DEHLIN recently received his PhD in clinical/counseling psychology from USU. He is the creator of several Mormon-themed podcasts, blogs, and websites.
LINDSAY HANSEN-PARK is the assistant director for the Sunstone Education Foundation and the founder of the Feminist Mormon Housewives Podcast.

MODERATOR MICAH NICKOLAISEN

ROOM SALTAIR

312. QUEER MORMON WOMEN

ABSTRACT
This panel features queer Mormon women from various levels of church involvement and various places on the spectrum of sexual or romantic orientation. They will offer insights into the diverse experiences of people inhabiting the intersection between Mormonism, LGBTQIA+ experience, and feminism.

PRESENTERS ELLEN KOESTER serves as the event manager and conference co-chair for Affirmation. She is studying political science with the goal of becoming a civil rights lawyer.

KRISTEN CARDON is finishing an MA in English at BYU. She will be starting a PhD at UCLA in the fall, studying 20th-century British literature, queer theory, and film.

CHELSEA GIBBS is finishing a master’s degree in film studies at USC after receiving a bachelor’s degree in media arts studies from BYU.

MEGAN HOWARTH is asexual and aromantic and enjoys participating in feminist and LGBTQIA+ activism. She enjoys reading, watching Netflix, and playing with cats.

JESSICA SWENSON has served in many USGA leadership positions. As director of WUSGA, she was dedicated to creating a safe space for women and gender non-conforming students at BYU.

BRIANNA CLUCK is an MTF (male-to-female) transgender woman living in Orem, UT. She has a deep and abiding interest in Mormon history and Mormon sociology.

AVERYL DIETERING is earning a PhD in English literature. She writes about the intersection of Mormonism, queer theory, and feminism at Young Mormon Feminists and The Exponent.

MODERATOR JERILYN HASSELL POOL

ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

313. CHURCH FOR THE UNCHURCHED: THE CASE FOR NON-DOGMATIC RELIGION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

ABSTRACT
As traditional Christian denominations fail to offer relevance to an increasing number of young people, the proportion of the unchurched “nones”—those who answer “none” in surveys of religious affiliation—continues to rise within the developed world. Nevertheless, studies of Millennials show a generation far more concerned with purpose-driven actions and a desire for meaning-filled lives than its predecessors. Can any organized religion appeal to a generation that increasingly identifies as “spiritual but not religious”? And, if so, what might Millennials stand to lose and to gain by participating?

PRESENTER JOHN C. HAMER serves as pastor of the downtown Toronto congregation of his church. A past president of the John Whitmer Historical Association, John is co-author of Community of Christ: An Illustrated History.

MODERATOR BRIAN WHITNEY

ROOM COLLEGIATE

314. LDS SEXUAL ABUSE SURVIVORS: A LOOK INTO THE HEALING PROCESS

ABSTRACT
This presentation will review some studies about how religious communities can both help and hinder healing from sexual abuse. It will focus on aspects specific to LDS survivors, and what the Church has done to address sexual assault victims. We will also discuss the LDS community’s unique culture and how it may impact the healing process.

PRESENTER AMBER WHITELEY is a doctoral student in counseling psychology at the University of Utah. She is one of the proud founders of MormonFeminist.org.

MODERATOR

ROOM PANORAMA EAST

315. THIS SESSION HAS BEEN CANCELLED
316. IMMIGRATION & MORMON HUMANITARIAN PERSPECTIVES

**ABSTRACT**
The panel will raise questions about the LDS community’s engagement with immigration debates and share personal narratives from the front lines of the political, legal, and humanitarian battlefront. The founders of Torchlight Legal will discuss how they are applying Silicon Valley innovation to the legal needs of asylum seekers. A leader in the immigrant youth movement will share how they are training young people in the U.S. and Mexico to lead the fight for legal reform.

**PRESENTERS**
- **JENNIFER GONZALEZ** is an information designer, immigrant rights advocate, social entrepreneur and a founder of Torchlight Legal, a non-profit/tech startup.
- **CARLOS SAAVEDRA** joined the immigrant rights movement as a teenager after migrating from Peru to Boston, eventually playing a major role in Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.
- **JOSEPH WHEELER** is co-founder and CEO of Torchlight Legal. He received his BA in history and Spanish language and literature from the University of Maryland at College Park.

**MODERATOR**
**JEN BLAIR**
**ROOM**
**WEST BALLROOM**

317. IN DEFENSE OF REV. JEREMIAH WRIGHT

**ABSTRACT**
During the 2008 presidential campaign, Barack Obama’s pastor, Jeremiah Wright, was “exposed” as a radical and “un-American” when Fox News broadcast his statement: “It’s not God bless America, it’s God damn America!” For some Americans, that statement was enough to disqualify Obama for the presidency. However, this paper will defend Rev. Wright as a spokesman in the tradition of the Hebrew prophets, and contend that Latter-day Saints, and all Christians, can learn from him.

**PRESENTER**

**MODERATOR**
**KATRINE SHELTON JUDD**
**ROOM**
**EAST BALLROOM**

**321. BEYOND AN AMERICAN CHURCH: MORMON FEMINISM IN MEXICO**

**ABSTRACT**
Violence against women in Mexico is an everyday reality; they suffer from it beginning at a very young age. There is great need for a conversation about Mormon feminism in Mexico, how it affects the women there, and how we as Saints can broaden the discussion to include our brothers and sisters around the world. This presentation takes a closer look at intersectional feminism and the Mormon Church in Mexico.

**PRESENTER**
**ANYA TINAJERO** is co-founder of Mormonas Feministas. She has an MD in population development and a BA in international relations.

**MODERATOR**
**SARAH COLLETT**
**ROOM**
**SALT AIR**

**322. MORMON MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION: THE OTHER POLY: NAVIGATING CONSENSUAL NON-MONOGAMY**

**ABSTRACT**
This session will present research on various types of consensual non-monogamy, including a recent survey by the two presenters. Ideas for making ethical decisions along the way will be explored. Note: The session will also be of interest to monogamous individuals who simply want to better understand consensual non-monogamy.

**PRESENTERS**
- **ADAM FISHER** will soon graduate with a PhD. in counseling psychology. He is training to become certified in sex therapy and emotionally focused therapy for couples.
- **MARY FISHER**, CMHC, is a psychotherapist specializing in attachment issues, infant-parent bonding, sexuality, and couples in faith transitions.

**MODERATOR**
**MICHELLE GEHRETT**
**ROOM**
**CRIMSON VIEW**
323. “SOME LOVE”: A PLUNGE DEEP INTO THE SCRAMBLE OF HUMAN EMOTIONS WITH A POET-SONOSOPHER

ABSTRACT
From his childhood in Sicily as a Catholic altar boy through his latter days as a Mormon “saint,” Caldiero recalls his passion for performance and for the sensual liturgical marriage of physical space—the church or temple proper—with bodily space. This ritualized confluence of architectural structure, human bodies, images, movements, smells, and sounds affects him as much today as it did in the past. It is this visceral memory of religious ritual that keeps him striving for a poetic creation and richness that achieves a depth of meaning.

PRESENTER  ALEX CALDIERO  is Poet in Residence at Utah Valley University. He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as the Utah Performing Arts Tour.

MODOIRATOR  ESTHER DALE
ROOM  COLLEGIATE

324. THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN IN THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

ABSTRACT
The sixth article of faith reads, “We believe in the same organization that existed in the primitive church...” History shows that women held a variety of ecclesiastical offices in the early Christian church—such as deacon, priest, and bishop—and that these women were ordained to such offices. This paper will examine the role of women in the early Christian church, the leadership roles they held, and the movements that eventually drove them from office.

PRESENTER  BILL MCGEE  studied education and English literature at BYU, Kennesaw State University, and Clemson University. He serves as chair of the Sunstone Education Foundation.

RESPONDENT  MURIEL SCHMID  received her PhD in Protestant theology from the University of Neuchatel/Switzerland in 1998. She is an ordained minister from the Swiss Reformed Church.

MODOIRATOR  CHRISTA BAXTER DRAKE
ROOM  PANORAMA EAST

325. DATA ANALYSIS OF 30+ YEARS OF SUNSTONE TALKS

ABSTRACT
After migrating all the Sunstone Symposium audio to WordPress and creating the podcast feed, Jake was struck at how many themes had been recycled over the years. This presentation will discuss how the Mormon Studies playing field has been discussing similar issues for over 30 years.

PRESENTER  JAKE SPURLOCK  is a geek, designer, engineer, and HTML+CSS lover. He is a taker of photos, and a rider of skis and bikes. He is also a software engineer at Wired.

MODOIRATOR  JOHN LARSEN
ROOM  PARLOR A

326. WHICH GOD IS MINE? MODIFYING FRAMEWORKS, ANIMATING FAITH

ABSTRACT
With our stories and experiences, we create frameworks through which we filter everything we see, hear, and do. Understanding how our mind develops and processes “frameworks” can help us understand and navigate changing faith. It can also help us understand how our foundational stories of God, church, prophets, and what it means to be a “good person” can produce such different Mormon experiences.

PRESENTER  VICTOR WALKER  has studied artificial intelligence, human factors, and computational systems for over 20 years. He has a master’s degree from NTU.

MODOIRATOR  HANNAH WHEELWRIGHT
ROOM  WEST BALLROOM

327. MOVIE: FREETOWN

ABSTRACT
Caught in the middle of a brutal civil war, six Liberian missionaries in Monrovia flee the widespread violence of their native country. Their destination: Freetown, Sierra Leone. With the help of local church leader Phillip Abubakar (Henry Adofo), the missionaries make the difficult journey, only to have their troubles compounded by a rebel fighter bent on killing one of their own. (2015, Directed by Garrett Batty.)

MODOIRATOR  JIM MURPHY
ROOM  UNION THEATER
331. MORMONS AND THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Abstract: This is a panel discussion on the history of Mormons and the Equal Rights Amendment. It will feature discussion on the current state of the ERA, and how some Mormons are planning to push toward its enactment.

Presenters:
- S. Mark Barnes is on the Ordain Women executive board, serving as male ally chair and treasurer. He is also on the Mormons for ERA board of directors.
- Chelsea Shields is a PhD candidate at Boston University. She is a TED Fellow and speaks regularly on evolution, religion, and gender.
- Anissa Rasheta is on the Mormons for ERA board of directors. She is also a leader in the AZ WAVE group and Arizona chair for CARE advocacy, an international non-profit.

Moderator: Kalani Tonga

Room: Saltair

332. JOSEPH AS READER: BIBLE STORIES AND MORMON RELIGION

Abstract: This presentation explores the narrative strategies that characterize Joseph Smith’s readings, or “translations,” of Bible stories (the Book of Mormon, a New Translation, the Book of Abraham, temple rituals, enroning revelations). Characters evolve and change in these transformed stories, and Joseph himself becomes a character, re-enacting the plot as his friends follow. Understanding how theology is belatedly spun from these dramas is a first step in any approach to the Mormon story.

Presenter: Susan Staker did editorial work for Adobe Systems, Signature Books, and Sunstone. She studied narrative theory at the University of Utah.

Moderator: Corey Philpot

Room: Panorama East

333. EXPECTATIONS, LIFE EVENTS, AND EFFICACY: THE UTAH WOMEN’S EDUCATION GAP

Abstract: This presentation will examine Utah women’s declining graduation rates and analyze how LDS culture impacts both the decisions women make and their ability to make them. Beginning with a historical context, the presentation will focus on 1) how this dynamic translates into the lived experiences of women, 2) the barriers and social support Utah women face, and 3) an asset-based approach that can empower women.

Presenter: Danielle Christensen is the coordinator of the Utah Women Education Initiative. She is interested in how gender inequality plays out in conservative communities.

Moderator: Julia Hamilton

Room: Collegiate

334. BEYOND PASSIVE-AGGRESSION: CREATING A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION

Abstract: Recent research has demonstrated that the Latter-day Saint community (especially along the Wasatch Front) has developed an unhealthy culture of passive-aggression. What can be done about this? Rather than focusing on the dysfunction, this paper will present a variety of concrete steps, learnable skills, and case studies that show us ways to develop healthy collaborative norms in LDS culture.

Presenter: Michael J. Stevens is a management professor and department chair at Weber State University. He serves on the Sunstone board of directors.

Moderator: Corey Philpot

Room: Panorama East

335. BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY: THE INTERSECTION OF FAITH AND FOUNDATIONAL BELIEF

Abstract: Latter-day Saints are frequently taught that the first commandment God gave to Adam and Eve was to “be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth” (Genesis 1:28). Psalm 127:3 declares, “Children are a heritage of the Lord.” Many Church leaders have taught that those who are...
physically able have the sacred responsibility to bear and raise children. However, many Mormons still practice birth control. This presentation will examine conventional and alternative birth control methods.

PRESENTERS

BROOKE SWALLOW is a behavioral scientist with a focus on peace and justice studies. She enjoys talking about interfaith dialogue, sustainable development, and Mormon Studies.

CRYSTAL SCOTT teaches biotechnology courses at the university level. She is heavily involved with LGBTQ rights, women’s issues, and living mindfully.

JOSEPH B. STANFORD, MD, MSPH, is director of the Office of Cooperative Reproductive Health, and an adjunct professor at the University of Utah School of Medicine.

moderator

THAYNE FORBES

ROOM

PARLOR A

336. OLD HABITS DIE HARD: MORMON PARADIGMS POST-BELIEF

ABSTRACT

While those leaving the Church may reject the truth claims of their erstwhile faith, some of their thought patterns remain. This session will discuss the most common “Mormon” paradigms that ex-Mormons tend to retain and how those patterns impact their worldview.

PRESENTER

JOHN LARSEN is the former host of the Mormon Expression podcast and the executive director of the White Fields Educational Foundation.

MODERATOR

JAKE SPURLOCK

ROOM

WEST BALLROOM

LUNCH BREAK, 12:30PM–2:00PM

See page 5 for dining options.

LUNCHETIME PRESENTATION, 12:45PM–1:45PM

341. MORMON FOOD 2: ELECTRIC BOOGALOO ENCORE

ABSTRACT

Lunchtime entertainment provided by Jerilyn Hassell Pool: an encore presentation of session 171.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2:00PM–3:30PM

351. WOMEN AND THE CHURCH: ADDRESSING LDS FEMINIST CONCERNS

ABSTRACT

The possibility of increasing equality in the Church through ordaining women has been dealt a serious blow by the excommunication of Kate Kelly of Ordain Women. Neylan McBaine’s recent book, Women At Church: Magnifying LDS Women’s Local Impact, explores ways the Church can better use the talents of women and include them more fully in local congregations without ordaining them to priesthood offices or changing anything in the structure of Church governance. This panel will discuss the ideas in McBaine’s book, exploring the question, “Can feminist concerns be met without priesthood ordination?”

PRESENTERS

JANICE ALLRED is the author of God the Mother and Other Theological Essays.

MARGARET TOSCANO is an associate professor of classics and comparative studies at the University of Utah

CYNTHIA ROBBINS NEWMAN is a feminist who serves as her ward’s Relief Society president.

APRIL YOUNG BENNETT is a permablogger with Exponent and communications director at Voices for Utah Children.

MODERATOR

JENNIFER GONZALEZ

ROOM

SALT AIR

Sponsored by the Mormon Women’s Forum.

352. INFANTS ON THRONES: AN INTERACTIVE JOURNEY THROUGH THE NETHER REGIONS OF THE MORMON MIND

ABSTRACT

The healing power of mingling humor with the philosophies of men, and occasionally some women: an interactive journey through the nether regions of the Mormon mind, if such a
thing actually exists, which we will most likely discuss and probably debate. Live. Maybe, 101. Please bring a smart phone or tablet to participate.

**PRESENTERS**

SCOTT ROWLEY is a family law attorney from Mesa, Arizona. He is among the principal founders of Any Opposed and the principal founder of the Mormon Genome Project.

GLENN OSLUND studied Mormon folklore at Indiana University focusing on Mormon humor. But he never finished his dissertation, cuz, really, what can you do with a PhD in folklore?

JOHN HAMER is no stranger to podcasting and blogging in the Mormon borderlands—which is a nice way of saying that he's the oldest (albeit the newest) of the Infants.

MATT LONG is criminal defense attorney in Mesa, Arizona, previously working as Deputy County Attorney where he primarily prosecuted sex crimes, child crimes, and homicide cases.

RANDY SNYDER is a practicing orthodontist in Colorado and a proud atheistic member of the skeptic community who is both proud and an atheist.

JAKE FROST is the whipper-snapper of the group. His Brother Jake videos are a faith-promoting YouTube sensation.

**MODERATOR**

BILL MCGEE

**ROOM**

CRIMSON VIEW

353. HYPER-VIGILANCE IN POST-MORMON COMMUNITIES

**ABSTRACT**
A common symptom of post-traumatic stress disorder is hyper-vigilance. The act of leaving one's faith can cause emotional trauma and sometimes PTSD. In this session, we will discuss how hyper-vigilance in particular is manifest as a characteristic of the communities themselves and how this impacts the individuals and the communities at large.

**PRESENTER**

JOHN LARSEN is the former host of the Mormon Expression podcast and the executive director of the White Fields Educational Foundation.

**MODERATOR**

RICHIE WILCOX

**ROOM**

COLLEGIANE

354. MORMON AS A CHILD OF WAR, HIS ULTIMATE GIFT OF PEACE, AND TEACHING PEACE THROUGH MUSIC IN WARZONES

**ABSTRACT**
Liz Shropshire will share the story of how a three-week volunteer trip to help Kosovo refugees ignited her passion to teach war-affected children and teenagers that the path of peace is the path to happiness. She will share stories of teenagers in various countries who teach peace through music to the children in their communities. Liz will also discuss the prophet Mormon, himself a child of war, and what he teaches us about forgiveness, love, and the atonement.

**PRESENTER**

LIZ SHROPSHIRE is the founder of the Shropshire Music Foundation, which has brought free instruments and music classes to more than 15,000 war-impacted children.

**MODERATOR**

MAXINE HANKS

**ROOM**

PANORAMA EAST

355. TRANSGENDER AND THE RESTORATION: A STUDY IN ETHNOGRAPHY, THEOLOGY, AND HISTORY

**ABSTRACT**
It is difficult to respond to transgender identities from within a Mormon framework since Mormonism imbues gender with eternal significance and often conflates emerging transgender identities with sexual deviance. This presentation will illuminate the lived religion of transgender Restoration members against the backdrop of typical institutional and cultural responses. How do transgender persons generate and contest meaning and identity within the unique cultural-historical-theological matrices of the LDS Church and Community of Christ? How might Restoration churches faithfully respond?

**PRESENTERS**

SETH L. BRYANT is the associate pastor of Salt Lake City Community of Christ and a former US Navy Chaplain. He has graduate degrees from the University of Florida and Vanderbilt University.

MILES FULLER is a poet, essayist, and visual artist who teaches creative writing and literature at the University of Louisville.

**MODERATOR**

ALICE FISHER ROBERTS

**ROOM**

PARLOR A
356. OUT OF THE BEST BOOKS: A LOOK AT SOME IMPORTANT BOOKS AND THEIR IMPACT ON MORMONISM

ABSTRACT Books have had an enormous influence on the development of Mormon history, theology, and literature. This presentation will discuss some of the most significant of them. The books will come from Mormon history, biography, doctrine, and theology and will include works by sympathetic non-Mormon and anti-Mormon authors.

PRESENTER CURT BENCH owns and operates Benchmark Books, now in its 28th year. He is the author of “Fifty Important Mormon Books” (SUNSTONE 79, October 1990).

RESPONDENT GREG KOFFORD is an MIT graduate and Wall Street investor, the former president and CEO of Seagull Books, and current president and CEO of Kofford Books.

MODERATOR NADINE HANSEN

ROOM WEST BALLROOM

357. MOVIE: LIAHONA 2:00PM–4:00PM

ABSTRACT Using found media such as old Mormon record albums and stylized footage shot on 16mm film from pageants, parades, and temple visitors centers, this experimental documentary explores the post-Mormon mind, where nostalgia and disillusionment live in tension. (2013, Directed by Talena Sanders.)

MODERATOR PAUL MALAN

ROOM UNION THEATER

361. LEAVING THE CHURCH BUT REMAINING A MORMON: THE RISE OF UNCORRELATED MORMONISM

ABSTRACT Call them what you will: “Maverick Mormons,” “Uncorrelated Mormons,” “The Remnant,” “Saints in the Wilderness,” “Neo-Restorationists,” or even “LDS Anarchists;” most Saints who find their spiritual nourishment outside the structure of the LDS Church have two common characteristics: 1. A devotion to Christ and the principles of the Restoration, and 2. A belief that contemporary Church leaders no longer receive revelation and are therefore spiritually irrelevant to the Church. As their ranks swell, how might these unfaithful faithful affect the future of the Church?

PRESENTER ALAN ROCK WATERMAN is the proprietor of the blog Pure Mormonism and author of What to Expect When You’re Excommunicated: The Believing Mormon’s Guide to the Coming Purge.

MODERATOR ROBIN LINKHART

ROOM SALT AIR
364. **YOUTUBE MORMONISM**

**Abstract**
Jake Frost, the creator of the *Brother Jake* video series, will give an in-depth presentation about his motivations for creating the series, followed by a Q&A.

**Presenter** JAKE FROST started the *Brother Jake* series almost two years ago, and recently started podcasting with *Infants on Thrones*.

**Moderator** JAKE SPURLOCK

**Room** PANORAMA EAST

**Presenters** GINA COLVIN hosts the *A Thoughtful Faith* podcast and blogs at *KiwiMormon*. She lives in Christchurch, New Zealand where she is a lecturer at the University of Canterbury.

JOANNA BROOKS is Associate Dean of Graduate and Research Affairs at San Diego University and the author or editor of six scholarly books.

**Moderator** LINDSAY HANSEN-PARK

**Room** WEST BALLROOM

365. **THE IMPACT OF INFERTILITY ON THE MORMON MIND**

**Abstract**
In spite of the growing body of literature focusing on medical, psychological, social, and cultural consequences of infertility, its religious and spiritual dimensions have received little attention. This panel will discuss the ways that Mormon doctrines on and culture around family affect the lives of Church members who live with infertility.

**Presenters** KRISTINE MILLER ANDERSON blogs at *Confessions of a Moderate Mormon Feminist* and *Wheat & Tares*. She has been diagnosed with infertility and has a 10-year-old daughter via IVF.

TRESA EDMUNDS writes about faith and feminism under the name Reese Dixon at *Feminist Mormon Housewives*, and on her lifestyle blog, *reeSedixon.com*.

JEFF AND AMY GRUBBS have been married for 22 years and have one 14-year-old daughter. Jeff works at Adobe. Amy works at UVU.

**Moderator** BROOKE SCOTT

**Room** PARLOR A

**Presenters** DAVID READ is an assistant professor of law and ethics at Weber State University. David has law review articles forthcoming on the LDS Church's legal involvements.

DENVER C. SNUFFER, JR. is a practicing attorney in Sandy, Utah and the author of thirteen volumes on Mormon doctrine and history.

DAYMON M. SMITH has a doctoral degree in anthropology and is author of *The Book of Mammon: A Book about the Corporation that Owns the Mormons*.

BRYNDIS ROBERTS is an LDS convert from the Black Baptist faith. She is an attorney and has her own firm, Jenkins & Roberts LLC.

**Moderator** BRAD KRAMER

**Room** SALTAIR

371. **THE MORMON LEGAL MIND**

**Abstract**
Jesus said, “And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.” This passage raises a number of questions for Latter-day Saints. Does Jesus oppose lawsuits? If so, why does the LDS Church engage in litigation? Would Jesus encourage his church to structure its mission through numerous legal entities, and to operate with limited liability? What impact does LDS legal corporatism have on Mormon culture? This panel discusses research and analysis of all the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint’s Utah incorporating documents.

**Presenters** DAVID READ is an assistant professor of law and ethics at Weber State University. David has law review articles forthcoming on the LDS Church’s legal involvements.

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BRYNDIS ROBERTS is an LDS convert from the Black Baptist faith. She is an attorney and has her own firm, Jenkins & Roberts LLC.

**Moderator** BRAD KRAMER

**Room** SALTAIR
372. THE MAMA DRAGONS ROUNDTABLE

ABSTRACT

“They fought for their children; like dragons did they fight.”

In 2013 a group of Mormon mothers with LGBT children organized a support group. One felt that the term “Mama Bear” did not come close to describing the ferocious love and fierce protection they felt for their children, so she named the group Mama Dragons. Since then, the group has grown significantly and has been featured in a number of news stories, blogs, radio shows, and live interviews. This panel includes several of the Mama Dragons sharing their individual stories about what inspires the fire they breathe for their children.

PRESENTERS

JODY ENGLAND HANSEN is a writer, mixed-media artist, and mother of three, for whom she would breathe fire. One child happens to be gay.

DIANE OVIATT is a Mormon married mother of three, one of whom is gay. She has been a pediatric oncology nurse for 35 years.

BROOKE CALDWELL is a designer, wife, and friend, but her most prestigious title is mother. She has a family of six beautiful children that includes a transgender son.

DEBRA OAKS COE is a mother of five, a BYU grad, an army wife, and a business owner. She and her husband are proud allies of the LGBTQ community in Utah County.

JILL HAZARD ROWE graduated from San Jose University and is the mother of six children and grandma to a beautiful baby girl.

MODERATOR

JODY ENGLAND HANSEN

ROOM

CRIMSON VIEW

373. RESURGENT MORMON FEMINISM: ORDAIN WOMEN, THE MORMON GENDER ISSUES SURVEY, AND CONTEMPORARY LDS WOMEN

ABSTRACT

In order to analyze recent developments in contemporary Mormon feminism, a number of Mormon feminist writers, scholars, and activists have collaborated in producing Voices for Equality: Ordain Women and Resurgent Mormon Feminism, published by Kofford Books. Contributing authors will speak about Kate Kelly’s excommunication, current Ordain Women strategic planning, historical and theological underpinnings of female ordination arguments, and a recent, large-scale survey of Mormons’ attitudes regarding priesthood ordination, and the long-term ecclesiastical implications for LDS women as a result of new eligibility criteria for sister missionaries.

PRESENTERS

GARY SHEPHERD is the former department chair of sociology and anthropology and professor emeritus at Oakland University.

LAVINA FIELDING ANDERSON is an independent feminist scholar and copy editor for the Journal of Mormon History.

NADINE HANSEN founded MindsFor8.com and acted as Kate Kelly’s defense attorney, appealing Kelly’s 2014 excommunication from the LDS Church.

DEBRA E. JENSON is an assistant professor of communication at Utah State University. She is on the executive board of Ordain Women.

GINA COLVIN hosts the A Thoughtful Faith podcast and blogs at KiwiMormon. She lives in Christchurch, New Zealand where she is a lecturer at the University of Canterbury.

NANCY ROSS is an assistant professor of art history at Dixie State University and a contributing editor for medieval art with Smarthistory at Khan Academy.

COURTNEY RABADA has a master’s degree in religious studies from Claremont Graduate University. Her research includes the study of women and gender in the LDS Church.

MODERATOR

LAVINA FIELDING ANDERSON

ROOM

PANORAMA EAST

374. MORMON MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION: NAVIGATING SEXUALITY AS A SINGLE MORMON

ABSTRACT

This session will focus on helping single members of the LDS Church normalize the challenges they face from the often rigid messaging and constructs they receive in the current Church. Strategies that are sex-positive and self-affirming will be presented in order to create spaces that allow for healthy boundaries and ownership of individualized sexual decision-making.

PRESENTERS

NATASHA HELFER PARKER is president of the Kansas chapter of the American Association of Marriage & Family Therapists, and founder of the Mormon Mental Health Association.
KRISTIN BENNION, LCSW, has a bachelor’s degree in social work from BYU–Hawaii, and a master’s degree in clinical social work from BYU. She owns her own practice in Orem, Utah.

MODERATOR
KATHY CARLSTON

ROOM
PARLOR A

375. MEET THE EX-MORMONS

ABSTRACT
During 2014–2015, several prominent Mormons were excommunicated from the LDS Church. This panel will discuss how their experiences of the last year have affected them.

PRESENTERS
JOHN P. DEHLIN has a PhD in clinical/counseling psychology from Utah State University. He is the creator of the Mormon Stories podcast.

KATE KELLY served an LDS mission in Barcelona, Spain, graduated from BYU and was married in the Salt Lake Temple. She founded Ordain Women in 2013.

CARSON CALDERWOOD is a dentist with an undergraduate degree in evolutionary biology.

MARISA POND CALDERWOOD studied molecular biology at BYU. In May 2015 she and Carson were excommunicated by the Maple Valley, WA stake for apostasy.

ALAN ROCK WATERMAN is the proprietor of the blog Pure Mormonism, and author of What to Expect When You’re Excommunicated: The Believing Mormon’s Guide to the Coming Purge.

ROOM
WEST BALLROOM

381. MORMON STORIES AND SUNSTONE PRESENT THE LINGER LONGER PICNIC DINNER AND COMEDY SHOW 6:30PM–10:00PM

ABSTRACT
Eat, drink and be merry with sub sandwiches, lemonade, and a live comedy show sponsored by Mormon Stories!

COMEDIANS
CHELSEA SHIELDS is a PhD candidate at Boston University in both cultural and biological anthropology. She is a TED fellow and also very funny.

LANDON BENCH won spelling bees in the 5th and 6th grades, fueling his desire to someday be a stand-up comedian. He performs at Wise Guys comedy club.

AMBER PECHIN hangs out in sketchy bars and comedy clubs in Phoenix, telling stories and feeding off her drug of choice—loud laughter. By day she is a public relations professional.

PETER KERN was an active member of Humor U, BYU’s stand-up comedy club, for three years, performing for thousands of students in nearly 100 shows. He now runs a solo law practice.

MIKE GROVER was recently featured on KSL TV’s “InDepth.” He has done shows with Tim Meadows, Chris Hardwick, Hannibal Buress, Arj Barker, and Jimmy Pardo.

DAVID CHRISTIANSEN became a standup comedian while at college in Utah. After several films and TV appearances, Christiansen still prefers the live audience.

MC
FLIP JOHNSON

ROOM
BALLROOM

Content Advisory: This show may be irreverent.

SUNDAY 2 AUGUST

The Community of Christ will hold a post-Symposium Sunday service at its Salt Lake City chapel, 2747 Craig Drive (2747 East 3640 South).

10:00 AM: Sunday School
11:00 AM: Sacrament service
12:00 PM: Community lunch. All are welcome.
HONORING OUR PAST, ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE

ordainwomen.org
some love

alex caldiero

new poetry anthology
signaturebooks.com