

Sunday 24 November, Portland, OR

Our Portland event begins at 5:30 pm at the home of Merrill and Shauna Watts, **538 SE 62nd Ave, Portland, OR 97215**.

We encourage attendees to carpool as there is limited street parking. Overflow parking is available at the United Methodist Church located at 6161 SE Stark Street.

If you can, bring an appetizer or dessert item to share after sessions conclude.

5:30 pm Mingling & noshing

6:00-6:45 pm ***"Even if ye can no more than Desire to Believe: Why there's a Place in Mormonism for Unorthodox Believers"***

KIRK CAUDLE received his MA in spiritual traditions and ethics from Marylhurst University. He teaches online religion courses at BYU-Idaho, works with the Maxwell Institute as host of The Mormon Book Review Podcast, and is co-chair of the Mormon Studies session of the Pacific Northwest Region of the American Academy of Religion.

7:00-8:00 pm **PANEL: *Perspectives on Women's Ordination***

Women's ordination has been a hot topic in 2013. This panel will discuss women's ordination in early Christianity, recent activism by the group Ordain Women, and what the path toward ordination might look like for LDS women.

FRANCES LEE MENLOVE has a PhD in psychology from the University of Michigan and a master's of divinity from Pacific School of Religion. She is author of *The Challenge of Honesty—Essays for Latter-Day Saints*, recently published by Signature Books.

MARY ELLEN ROBERTSON is Sunstone's director of outreach and symposia and earned an MA in women's studies in religion from Claremont Graduate University.

8:15 - 9:15 pm **PANEL: *The New Peculiar: LDS Gays & Lesbians in a Changing World***

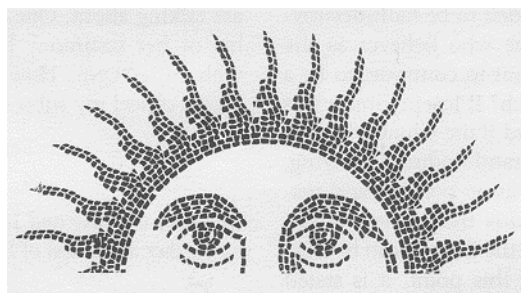
A self-professed “international church,” the LDS Church finds itself in a dilemma. While the Church continues to deny the legitimacy of same-sex marriage (even refusing to use the term), the trend internationally and in the US is clearly moving in the opposite direction. Many other churches have embraced same-sex couples—some even allowing gay clergy. The panel will review the current status of same-sex marriage in countries around the world and in the United States. It will review the evolution of official policy as well as the attitudes of members toward LGBT people within the Church up to the present.

Buckley Jeppson is a lifelong member of the Mormon Tribe. He has a BA and MA in Theater and Film Design from California State University, Long Beach. He and his husband, Mike, met in Washington, DC, 17 years ago this week and were married in Canada in 2004. They now live in Portland, where he designs and develops online learning systems. Buck served with Affirmation for many years and won the 2008 Michael Farr Award for his work with Gamofites: Gay Mormon Fathers. He and Mike have three grandchildren who are delighted to have more grandfathers than the other kids in their Provo neighborhood.

Michael Kessler is a lifelong member of a different tribe. Mike is Jewish, and a member of the tribe of Levi. He was raised in South Florida and moved to the Washington, DC, area in 1984, where, in 1996, he met Buckley. They married in 2004 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, a wedding which Mike's parents not only attended but also proudly acted as witnesses. Mike has been active in many Jewish organizations, is a past board member at his synagogue in DC, and a past volunteer at the Oregon Jewish Museum. He and the entire Kessler family have been very active in several gay rights organizations for many years.

Suzi Fei is an active, straight, Mormon mommy ally from Portland, OR. She serves on the steering committee for Mormons Building Bridges and the ally committee for Affirmation. Professionally, she's a postdoctoral researcher at OHSU working on kidney cancer genomics. Although originally driven to LDS heterodoxy by science and traditional gender roles, she feels drawn to the LDS LGBT cause because of the high degree of pain and misunderstanding. Her work through Affirmation focuses on supporting LDS LGBT folks who feel they can safely remain or return to activity in the church. She loves the church enough to want to stay and fix it and believes things will improve when every Saint knows, loves, and respects a beloved gay brother or sister.

Jon Hastings grew up in Sandy, Utah but moved to Portland 10 years ago after graduating from BYU with a bachelors in accounting. He works in accounting for a local utility and on the side is on the steering committee for Mormons Building Bridges and has assisted off and on in the production of *Far Between*, a documentary about what it means to be gay and Mormon. He has also helped in the development of *Circles of Empathy*, small group discussions specifically designed for LGBT and straight Mormons to sort through their feelings, beliefs, and experiences associated with religious/sexual conflict.



WARMEST THANKS: We're grateful to volunteers who have helped with the program, enlisted session chairs, lent us a great venue in Bellevue, opened their homes, provided delicious treats, and spread the word about the symposium.

Special thanks to AARON & STINA BROWN, KEVIN KELLY and MULVANNY G2 ARCHITECTURE, and MERRILL and SHAUNA WATTS.

Thank you to this year's presenters for having interesting and thoughtful things to say. Last, thank you to our great group of attendees in the Pacific Northwest! We appreciate your support of Sunstone Northwest, and we look forward to seeing you again soon!