

2010 SALT LAKE
SUNSTONE

SYMPOSIUM *and* WORKSHOPS

*Reflecting on
Maturing Faith*

4-7 AUGUST 2010
SHERATON SALT LAKE CITY HOTEL
150 WEST 500 SOUTH, SALT LAKE

PRELIMINARY
PROGRAM



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 be is a sifting process in which much chaff will have to be carefully inspected and threshed before the wheat can be harvested.

WE WELCOME the honest ponderings of Latter-day Saints and their friends and expect that everyone in attendance will approach every issue, no matter how difficult, with intelligence, respect, and good will.

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2010 Salt Lake SUNSTONE

Symposium and Workshops



Theme: *Reflections on Maturing Faith*

WELCOME!

WORKSHOPS

We have a great selection of **SUNSTONE WORKSHOPS** this year! See pages 4-6 for details about this year's six workshop offerings, instructors, and registration information.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

THIS IS A PRELIMINARY PROGRAM. Every effort will be made to keep to this schedule of sessions, but topics, speakers, and times may change between now and the event. A final program with room assignments and a more complete list of participants will be provided to each registrant at the conference. This preliminary program will be continually updated online as speakers are added and other changes are made. Visit WWW.SUNSTONEMAGAZINE.COM to see updated versions.

SESSION PROCEEDINGS AND RECORDINGS

SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS are not published, nor does Sunstone make papers available. Electronic recordings of most sessions (excluding workshops) will be available and may even be ordered in advance. Audio pre-order forms will be available online soon at WWW.SUNSTONEMAGAZINE.COM and at the conference.

SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

ADMISSION TO ALL SESSIONS is by purchased ticket or symposium name badge only, available at the registration table. Advance registrations may be purchased by mail, via email, on the Sunstone website, or by telephone by calling 801-355-5926.

AN ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM WITH ALL THE DETAILS IS INCLUDED ON THE BACK COVER OF THIS PROGRAM.

HOTEL

SHERATON SALT LAKE CITY HOTEL
150 WEST 500 SOUTH, SALT LAKE CITY

Enjoy the convenience of staying on site at the Sheraton!

Sleeping rooms are available at a discount for Symposium attendees. Call the Sheraton 801-401-2000 and ask for IN HOUSE reservations or call toll free 1-888-627-8152 to make reservations.

Be sure to ask for the Sunstone Foundation 2010 group rate. Rates are \$110 (single), \$120 (double), \$137 (triple) and \$147 (quad) per night.

The cut-off date to book rooms at the discount rate is **5 July 2010**.

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 based on the principles of an "open forum" and the trust that both the cause of truth and the society of the Saints are best served by free and open exploration and discussion.

FAITH. Hear words that inspire Christian living by exploring gospel truths, sharing spiritual journeys, and untying knotty challenges.

COMMUNITY. Meet old friends, and make new ones whose thoughts and experiences parallel yours.

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

FUN. Wrestle with new, stimulating, and lively viewpoints. Savor well-crafted sermons. Match famous scholars' names with faces. Laugh in the humor sessions. Indulge in late-night discussions you rarely have chances for elsewhere. Browse and purchase interesting books. Wonder at the amazing diversity among God's children.

POINTS TO NOTE

PROGRAM. Sunstone offers a diverse selection of topics, formats, and perspectives. Be excited to hear views that coincide with yours, but also prepare to hear presentations that may 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."

VOLUNTEERS. Sunstone symposiums rely heavily on the efforts of many volunteers. *Please consider helping at this year's symposium, or consider presenting a paper or organizing a panel for next year!*



2010 Salt Lake SUNSTONE Workshops

WEDNESDAY 4 AUGUST

MORNING WORKSHOPS, 9:00 AM–12:30 PM

W1. Title NAVIGATING AN LDS FAITH CRISIS
with JOHN DEHLIN

Description Crises of faith are as old as faith itself, but that doesn't make them any easier to navigate, particularly since family, friends, community, and even livelihood—as well as one's view of the world and oneself—are often at stake.

John Dehlin has spent the past five years speaking with more than 1,000 LDS Church members having crises of faith. This workshop will address several components of an LDS faith crisis and explore various options available to those in such crises, including taking a break from full activity,

Instructor



leaving the Church altogether, or remaining in the Church as a non-traditional believer/participants. In addition, John will bring several friends who are in various stages of the crisis to help field questions and brainstorm options with attendees.

JOHN DEHLIN is an active member of the LDS Church and is founder or co-founder of several Mormon-themed blogs and podcasts including: Mormon Stories podcast, MORMONMATTERS.ORG, STAYLDS.COM, and MORMONSFORMARRIAGE.COM.

John worked for 15 years in the high-tech industry including seven years at Microsoft and several years at MIT. John also served as a former director and board member of Sunstone. John is currently pursuing a PhD in clinical/counseling psychology from Utah State University with a specialty in anxiety-spectrum disorders. John is happily married, and is the proud father of four wonderful kids.

W2. Title JUST WHAT IS A PERSONAL ESSAY?
with PHYLLIS BARBER

NOTE This workshop is limited to 18 students.

Description The personal essay is one of the most “natural forms” of Mormon literature, related as it is to journal-keeping and the first person. This class will explore ways to turn anecdotes and journal entries into more artistic and shapely forms of nonfiction storytelling. We will look at different

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angles of approach to the stories we need/want to tell; we'll explore what it means to be "taught by the language pooled inside of each of us" that assists us if we allow for its subliminal wisdom; we'll discuss the discretionary range of what we feel we can and cannot write; and we'll take a look at some contemporary personal essays to discover the spectrum of possibility with this literary form.



Instructor PHYLLIS BARBER is the author of seven books, the latest being *Raw Edges: A Memoir*, published by the University of Nevada Press in March, 2010. She has published both fiction and essays in many national literary magazines such as *Agni Magazine*, *Chariton Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Kenyon Review*, *Missouri Review*, *North American Review*, as well as in *Dialogue* and *SUNSTONE*. She was recently awarded a Best of *Dialogue* 2009 award in the Personal Voices category for her personal essay "At the Cannery." Her essay "Sweetgrass" (part of her *Searching for Spirit* collection and published in *upstreet* summer 2009) was chosen as a Notable Essay in the 2010 edition of *Best American Essays*.

W3. Title CLEANSE YOUR TEMPLE: INTRODUCTION TO YOGA ASANA FOR MORMONS
with BRENT CORCORAN

NOTE Part One of the workshop runs from 9:00 am - 10:30 am. Comfortable clothing recommended.

Description



During my decade teaching yoga in Salt Lake City, I have not been surprised that many members of the LDS faith have added a yoga practice to augment their Mormon spiritual life. As Benjamin Park states in a recently published *Dialogue* article, "The body is an especially apt lens through which to view theology because it so penetrates religious thought, practice, and symbolism that its significance often goes overlooked. ...Not only do many religious analogies employ the body for understanding, but the body itself serves as a metaphor for an entire religious construction." ("Salvation through a Tabernacle: Joseph Smith, Parley P. Pratt, and Early Mormon Theologies of Embodiment," *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, 43:02, Summer 2010; 3).

This session will provide not only an introduction to the practice of various yoga postures, breathing techniques, and anatomical alignment principles, but will also serve as a forum for discussing both the places of accord and discord between yogic and Mormon spiritual practices.

Please consult your doctor before attending this introductory-level session. You may not sweat, but you might glisten! Mats will be provided, or bring your own.

Instructor BRENT CORCORAN is credentialed as Anusara-Inspired (TM) Yoga teacher at Kula Yoga Studio in Salt Lake City. He is employed by *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* as production manager and by the *Journal of Mormon History* as compositor.

Title AN INTRODUCTION TO AROMATHERAPY AND ESSENTIAL OILS
with AMY CLARK

NOTE Part Two of the workshop runs from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm and will include a foot massage using scented essential oils.

Description Once I started having children, I became interested in natural home health remedies. I found that essential oils can be effective in preventing and treating illness, and can also help create a deeper bond with loved ones. They are now an integral part of our household and are easy to use! A quick starter course is all you need to help put yourself, your loved ones, and your surroundings on a healthier course. Come to this workshop if you'd like to explore an all-natural approach to healing or just want a great emotional boost.



Instructor AMY CLARK has a BS and MPA from BYU and has worked for Microsoft, Utah Valley University, United Way of the Greater Salt Lake Area, Economic Development Corporation of Utah, Johnson & Johnson, and AstraZeneca. Essential oils are a hobby she enjoys sharing with others.

LUNCH BREAK, 12:30–2:00 PM



Where to eat THE SHERATON HAS a very nice on-site restaurant, Olivo. We encourage workshop participants to dine at the hotel.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS, 2:00 PM–5:30 PM

W4. Title NAVIGATING A MARRIAGE WHEN ONE OF YOU LOSES AN LDS TESTIMONY
with JOHN DEHLIN

Description If an LDS Church member loses his/her testimony, it can significantly impact the person's marriage. Many marriages dissolve due to an inability to understand each other's perspective. From the "true believing" spouse's perspective, the unbelieving spouse has violated covenants and is no longer worthy of the union (or the children, for that matter). From the unbelieving spouse's perspective, the believing spouse has been brainwashed and is seen as naive, ignorant, and unwilling to face "reality." Can this chasm be bridged? Can (or should) the marriage be saved?

Over the past five years, John Dehlin has consulted with dozens of couples who are struggling

with these questions. Come to this workshop to explore ways to better understand and support the other's perspective. As in the morning workshop, John will bring several friends who have recently struggled with these issues to provide insight and perspective on the process.

Instructor



JOHN DEHLIN is an active member of the LDS Church and is founder or co-founder of several Mormon-themed blogs and podcasts including: Mormon Stories podcast, MORMONMATTERS.ORG, STAYLDS.COM, and MORMONSFORMARRIAGE.COM.

John worked for 15 years in the high tech industry, including seven years at Microsoft and several years at MIT. John also served as a former director and board member of Sunstone. John is currently pursuing a PhD in clinical/counseling psychology from Utah State University with a specialty in anxiety-spectrum disorders. John is happily married, and is the proud father of four wonderful kids.

- W5. Title THE ENDURING PRINCIPLES: THE PERSONALITY OF THE COMMUNITY OF CHRIST**
with SUSAN SKOOR

Description Fifty Community of Christ international leaders from around the world met for more than two years to discuss the core values of their faith. Out of that faith dialogue came the "Enduring Principles," a document as remarkable in its conclusions as it was in its creation. Enduring principles are the underlying truths and affirmations that shape the personality of the church. They guide how we live in our communities, families, workplaces, and congregations. An expression of both diversity and unity, they bind church members together across cultures, languages, and theological differences. This workshop uncovers the story behind "The Enduring Principles," explores the nature of the core values revealed, and provides insights into the widely divergent applications that still pose challenges and paradoxes for the members of the Community of Christ.

Instructor



SUSAN SKOOR, member of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles in Community of Christ, was called and ordained in 2005. Born in St. Joseph, Missouri, Susan has lived in several countries and currently is the member of the Twelve in charge of Canada and the Pacific Islands (Hawaii, Australia, French Polynesia, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand).

- W6. Title MEDITATION FOR MORMONS: PRACTICES FOR A MATURING FAITH**
with JOHN KESLER

Description Joseph Smith promised that the personal revelations and mystical experiences he received are available to each Latter-day Saint who seeks them out. However, Church members receive relatively little guidance on reflective, contemplative

and meditative practices. John Kesler has taught meditation for many years and has striven to develop a practice of meditation and awareness that correlates with the underlying patterns and principles of the restored gospel, with the goal of providing a more reflective and mystical path to Latter-day Saints. In this workshop, John will offer instructions and meditations for the beginning Mormon meditator as well as facilitate deeper meditative experiences as a taste of the growth made possible by an inward journey, personal awareness, and communion and union with the Spirit.

Instructor



JOHN KESLER was director of the official meditation center for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City and a founding teacher of the Integral Spiritual Center, a group of senior members of various Eastern and Western spiritual traditions who emphasize meditative approaches in their own traditions. John has served as a bishop and in several bishoprics and high councils and is a practicing attorney and social activist.

SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION, 6:00 PM–8:00 PM

Registration Information The Smith-Pettit Lecture is FREE and open to the public.

Admission to all other symposium sessions is by name badge or ticket only. This policy will be strictly enforced. Registration forms, badges, and single-session tickets are available at the registration table in the Canyons Lobby on the far east side of the hotel.

SMITH-PETTIT LECTURE, 8:00 PM

- 091. Lecture THE FATE OF NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS WHEN THEY ARE NO LONGER NEW: A CONVERSATION BETWEEN JON BUTLER AND JAN SHIPPS**

Speaker



JAN SHIPPS is professor emerita of history and religious studies in the School of Liberal Arts at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis. She is the author of *Mormonism: The Story of a New Religious Tradition* and *Sojourner in the Promised Land: Forty Years among the Mormons*, and, in addition to many published articles and reviews, she is the co-editor of *The Journals of William E. McLellin: 1831–1837 and Religion in the Mountain West*. Currently, she holds an Andrew W. Mellon Emeritus Fellowship that is allowing her to finish her study of *Mormonism since World War II*.

Speaker

JON BUTLER is the Howard R. Lamar professor of American history at Yale University. Professor Butler, who received his PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1972, has written *The Origins of American Denominational Order* (1978); *The Huguenots in America: A Refugee People in New World Society* (1983); *Awash in a Sea of Faith:*



Christianizing the American People (1990); *Religion in American History: A Reader* (co-editor, 1997); *Religion in Colonial America* (a book for adolescent readers; 2000); and *Becoming America: The Revolution Before 1776* (2000). He is co-author of *Religion in American Life: A Short History* (2002).

Professor Butler is writing a book about religion in modern Manhattan and teaches graduate seminars in American religious history and early American history. He has served as chair of the history department and recently stepped down as dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.

Abstract During the past several decades, sociologists and scholars in Religious Studies have created an additional category, "new religious movements," to use in the study of religion. This category is proving to be extremely useful not only in the consideration of new movements in modern times but also in the coming into being of such world traditions as Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
Professors Butler and Shipps, both senior

scholars in the field of American religion, will talk about the many religious movements that originated in America across the years. They will reflect on what occurred when such movements could no longer be described as pristine or innovative. Which ones were likely not just to survive, but to grow? Because there were many new religious movements that did not endure, the fascinating question of why some survived and some did not will be addressed. Many possibilities existed for those that lived on. What were they and what happened as they matured? How did these religious movements change if they advanced beyond the boundaries of the United States? These are the sorts of questions that will be the focus of this free-wheeling conversation that will move past the general and settle on the particular—Mormonism—before it draws to a close.

Moderator Philip Barlow, Arrington Chair of Mormon History and Culture, Utah State University

This lecture is free and open to the public. Jan Shipps's and Jon Butler's dialogue has been made possible by the generous sponsorship of the Smith-Pettit Foundation.

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THURSDAY 5 AUGUST



2010 Salt Lake
SUNSTONE
Symposium and
Workshops

REGISTRATION, 8:00 AM–7:30 PM

Registration information Admission to sessions is by symposium name badge or ticket only. This policy will be strictly enforced. Badges and tickets are available at the conference registration table in the Canyons Lobby on the far east side of the hotel.

DEVOTIONAL, 8:00 AM–8:30 AM

101. *Devotional* **THE CALL TO PRAISE AND RESPOND**

Presenter SUSAN SKOOR, member, Quorum of Twelve Apostles, Community of Christ; was called and ordained in 2005. Susan is currently the member of the Twelve in charge of Canada and the Pacific Islands (Hawaii, Australia, French Polynesia, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand)

Abstract From childhood to maturity, we celebrate the gifts of God to us and the worth of all persons. We respond to God's challenge to be a global family working to bring forth the cause of Zion.

Using song, statements of praise, and guided meditation, we will focus on God's generous and unconditional grace, the inestimable and equal worth of all persons, our vision of Zion, and God's reign on earth.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 8:45 AM–9:45 AM

111. *Paper* **EUGENE ENGLAND'S CALCULATED RISK: THE STRUGGLE FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE**

Presenter CHARLOTTE HANSEN recently completed a BA in English at the University of Utah; president of the Latter-day Saint Student Association (LDSSA). She is a granddaughter of Charlotte and Eugene England and wrote her honors thesis about Eugene England's writings

Abstract I analyze the writings of Eugene England, an English professor and Mormon, focusing on his advocacy for dialogue and academic freedom. I analyze his works starting with his editorial in the first issue of *DIALOGUE* and ending with his last *SUNSTONE* Symposium lecture in 2000. Through doing so, I propose ways that we should

move forward from what Eugene England taught and achieve greater academic freedom today.

112. *Paper* **OUT OF CONTEXT: USING AND ABUSING QUOTATIONS**

Presenter BARRY LAGA, PhD, professor, English, Mesa State College, Grand Junction, Colorado; teaches American literature, literary theory, and cultural studies

Abstract Nearly all LDS writers and speakers quote scripture as well as passages from other writers. Whether it was Neal A. Maxwell citing C. S. Lewis, Boyd K. Packer quoting a poem from *Best-Loved Poems of the LDS People*, or President Monson invoking Abraham Lincoln, the time-honored practice helps clarify thoughts, extend arguments, and provide authority and credibility. Contemporary literary theory even reminds us that the citation is inevitable, for "grafting" another text is inherent in any use of language. Given how often LDS authors quote other writers, I will explore the effect of these literary borrowings in an LDS context, examining how citing another's text generates, expands, and multiplies meaning as well as distorts, limits, and re-interprets the original source text.

113. *Paper* **MATURING FAITHS: A COMPARISON BETWEEN MORMONISM AND ISLAM DURING THEIR FIRST TWO CENTURIES**

Presenter ANN CHAMBERLIN, author of ten historical novels and *The Veil in the Looking Glass*, a history of women in the Middle East; majored in archaeology of the Middle East at the University of Utah and spent a summer in Israel excavating Beersheva, traveling the Holy Land, and living in the old city of Jerusalem

Abstract In this paper, I explore the first two hundred years of Islam and compare and contrast with Mormonism during a similar time frame. I will delineate three foci of comparison:

First, I will explore ways Mormonism and early Islam seek to control the telling of history. Second, I will explore similarities in the rift between Sunni and Shi'a playing out today and the more peaceful schism of the Utah Saints and RLDS/Community of Christ. Finally, I focus on the differences between a movement that began in the desert and swiftly moved to take political control of older seats of power, and a movement that was forced from seats of power and sought refuge in the desert.

114. *Paper* **MONEY TROUBLES: FISCAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CRISES AT KIRTLAND**

Presenter RICHARD DELEWSKI, counselor, licensed clinical social worker, emergency departments, inpatient psychiatric units in Salt Lake County

Abstract In Kirtland, Joseph Smith began to take a greater role in managing the financial matters of the Church. His efforts were met with resistance from

some Saints and mushroomed into outright rebellion from others. When the Kirtland Safety Society began to fail, intense anger and opposition began to mount against the Prophet. Many involved asked, "How much control should a spiritual leader have over financial matters?" This presentation will examine the psychological impact of Joseph Smith's role in managing the Church's money and how this fact may have contributed to the intense opposition he experienced in 1836 and 1837.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 10:00 AM–11:00 AM

121. Paper **BELLA'S BODY: PHYSICALITY, MORTALITY, SPIRITUALITY, AND DESIRE**

Presenter HOLLY WELKER has a PhD in English literature from the University of Iowa. Her poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and scholarship have appeared in publications ranging from *The New Era*, the *New York Times*, *Best American Essays* to *Bitch*

Abstract Bella's body is what propels the action of the *Twilight* series. The lust (for both sex and violence) it arouses, the lust it feels, the way pain makes her feel alive and close to Edward and is therefore enjoyed, the human fragility she must overcome, the bloodlust she feels as a vampire—these elements of physicality drive the story. But just as the saga avoids explicit discussions of sex despite an emphasis on erotic desire, it also avoids explicit discussions of what

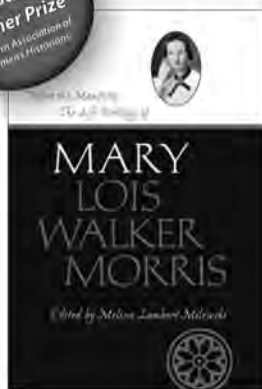
physicality means. Bella's ways of inhabiting and relating to her body reveal much about her character and about the cultures—both Mormon and western—that produced her. What do they tell us about a spiritual self?

122. Paper **AUTHORS MEET THE CRITIC**

Abstract This discussion brings together scholars and thinkers to discuss two books: Gary Topping's *Leonard J. Arrington: A Historian's Life* and Polly Aird's *Peter McAuslan, Mormon Convert, Mormon Defector: A Scottish Immigrant in the American West, 1848-1861*.

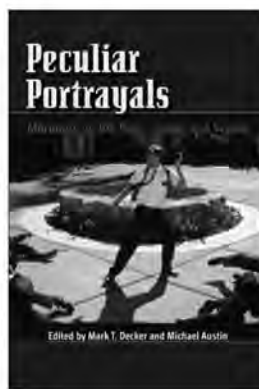
Through the publication of his groundbreaking *Great Basin Kingdom: An Economic History of the Latter-day Saints* and numerous other publications, Leonard Arrington established the dominant interpretation of the Mormon experience. Yet until now, there has been little analysis of his contribution to Western history. Gary Topping re-examines Arrington's role in founding and promoting what is known as the New Mormon History. Arrington has been criticized for relying on the assistance of staff members in the Church's history division, but Topping shows that this collaborative approach was in keeping with the cooperative spirit of Mormonism.

Polly Aird's biography describes Peter McAuslan's conversion to Mormonism in 1848



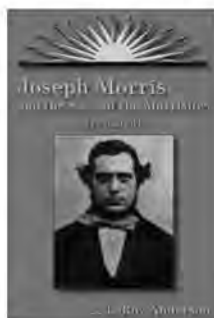
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and journey to Utah in 1854. In the next four years, the Mormons experienced natural disasters, the Mormon Reformation, the handcart disasters, the Mountain Meadows massacre, and the Utah War. These events and the insistence on absolute obedience to Church leaders tore at McAuslan's faith. In 1859, he and other members of his extended family applied for an army escort out of Utah. In spite of abandoning the faith he once loved, McAuslan never lost his regard for the Mormon people.

Moderator LAVINA FIELDING ANDERSON

Critic CURT BENCH, owner and proprietor of Benchmark Books in Salt Lake City; he buys, sells, and appraises Mormon and Utah-related rare books, documents, and artifacts; reviews and writes about books

Respondents GARY TOPPING, professor of history, Salt Lake Community College; archivist of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City; author of ten books and dozens of historical articles on Utah and Western history

POLLY AIRD, independent historian based in Seattle, Washington; member, editorial board, *Journal of Mormon History*; author of several award-winning articles published in *Utah Historical Quarterly*, *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*, the *Journal of Mormon History*, and *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*

123. Paper LOSING A FOUND LANDSCAPE: MORMON SACRED GEOGRAPHY AND LDS APOLOGETICS

Presenter TREVOR LUKE, PhD, ancient history, University of Pennsylvania; assistant professor, classics, Florida State University, with a BA in classics and MA in comparative literature from BYU

Abstract Joseph Smith's publication of the *Book of Mormon* inaugurated the unfolding of a sacred geography. The golden plates, artifacts, and subsequent revelations anchored the Nephite narrative to concrete locations. Like other sacred geographies, this early Mormon geography grounded the budding religious community in a sacred, mythic past, bestowing a powerful sense of legitimacy. Pursuing a scholarly defense of the book's antiquity, contemporary LDS apologists rely on different methods to situate the book's civilizations and reach starkly different results. This paper explores the theological and faith implications of replacing early Mormonism's sacred landscape with the limited Mesoamerican geography of LDS apologetics. What is gained in such a trade? What is lost?

124. Paper MORE STORIES FROM THE LDS BORDERLANDS

Presenter D. JEFF BURTON, author, "Braving the Borderlands" column in SUNSTONE magazine

Abstract I will give a short presentation about a few-not-yet-published Borderlanders' stories and discuss

a few issues associated with life in the LDS Borderlands today.

As in past Borderland sessions, after the main presentation is finished, we invite members of our audience to ask questions of the presenters and, for those so inclined, to share with us your own stories of how you (and/or a loved one) have coped (or failed to cope) with Borderland issues and what being a "Borderlander" has meant to you and to your family and friends. We ask that you (1) take no more than 5 minutes, (2) not share the sordid details of what drove you (or a loved one) into the Borderlands (we all know the reasons), (3) not criticize Church leaders or policy, but instead (4) share how you have coped and what you have successfully done to make your Borderland status acceptable to you and others. Using this positive, non-blaming and non-critical approach, we can learn from your experiences and better cope ourselves. It might also help those in the closet to twist the door knob and come out more fully into the warming lights of honesty and peace of mind.

125. Paper FRANCOPHONE MORMONS AND THE INTERNET: DISCOVERING SPACE FOR RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION, DIALOGUE, AND DEMOCRACY

Presenter CARTER CHARLES, BA, MA, North American Studies, Université Michel de Montaigne—Bordeaux 3. A native of Haiti, he teaches English in the French educational system and is a temporary lecturer at universities Montesquieu—Bordeaux IV (law and management), and Michel de Montaigne—Bordeaux 3 (humanities), where he is also a PhD candidate

Exponent II is Back!



Am I Not a Woman and a Sister?

Our latest issue, published in summer 2010, contains articles from Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, an 1881 article from *The Woman's Exponent*, and a tribute to our friend, Linda Sillitoe.

Also, read personal essays on finding spiritual strength through other religious traditions, being inactive and still loving the Church, and educating others about sexual abuse.

Exponent II was first published in 1974 and has been a voice for Mormon women for over 30 years. Go to www.exponentii.org for a free online copy or order your very own hard copy, and check out links on: our history, our annual retreat in New England, The Exponent Blog, request for submissions, and prior issues of the paper.

We welcome submissions to *Exponent II* on all topics relating to the diverse experiences of Mormon women. To submit your work, please send us an email at exponentiieditor@gmail.com.

Abstract While Anglophone Mormons developed a habit of media communication over the years, their Francophone counterparts lagged behind. Few could afford the printed media, nor did they have much training in discussing topics as personal as belief or as sensitive as religious history and feared criticism if they tried. Hence, Francophone Mormons remained virtually silent until the Internet became more accessible to them. This paper will explore Mormon Francophone participation in and production of websites, blogs, and virtual discussion groups to present their beliefs and engage in constructive dialogues with each other and with non-Mormons.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 11:15 AM–12:45 PM

131. *Panel* **REDISCOVERING EUGENE ENGLAND IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

Abstract The Eugene England Foundation is launching EUGENEENGLAND.ORG, a comprehensive website that makes the life and writings of one of the most influential Mormon thinkers and activists easily accessible to another generation. Panelists will discuss the new website and the collection of Eugene England's papers at the University of Utah's Marriott Library and draw on journals and correspondence to explore and give context to two key events in his life: his mission with Charlotte to Samoa and the infamous 1981 letter from Elder Bruce R. McConkie.

Moderator DAN WOTHERSPOON, PhD, former editor, SUNSTONE; project director, EUGENEENGLAND.ORG

Panelists CHARLOTTE HANSEN, president, LDSSA, University of Utah; Eugene England's granddaughter

CHARLOTTE ENGLAND, chair, Eugene England Foundation; Eugene England's wife

REBECCA ENGLAND, president, Eugene England Foundation; Eugene England's daughter

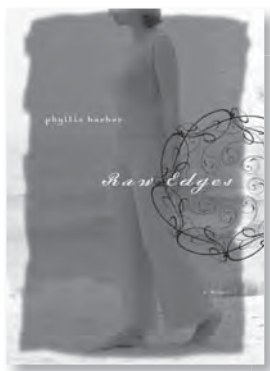
132. *Panel* **STUDIES OF TWENTIETH-CENTURY UTAH MORMON SECTS**

Abstract This panel presents three case studies documenting and analyzing the expressions of Utah Mormonism as they developed in the twentieth century. Through these case studies, the presenters will demonstrate the diverse schismatic response to well-documented theological and cultural change within the LDS Church.

Unlike Mormon Fundamentalism, (e.g. the FLDS Church, the Apostolic United Brethren), these two movements have rarely been studied by modern academics. The Order of Aaron, the subject of the first paper, has not received scholarly attention since the publication of Hans Baer's *Recreating Utopia in the Desert* in 1968. The subject of papers two and three, the Church of the Firstborn, has never been the focus of an academic study.

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This panel is arranged to take the audience through the rise, development, and disintegration of these religious communities, and each speaker will address why one expression of the Restoration may survive and thrive while others only last a few years.

Introduction PHILIP BARLOW, Leonard Arrington Chair of Mormon History and Culture, Utah State University

Panelists RYAN T. ROOS spent more than a decade in the rare book and document trade; worked for Benchmark Books in Salt Lake City; former acquisitions manager, Pioneer Book, Provo; currently attending Utah State University with a focus on Mormon history and philosophy

CHRISTOPHER BLYTHE, completing MA in history at Utah State University; earned BAs from Texas A&M in anthropology and Utah State in religious studies; editor-in-chief of the *Intermountain West Journal of Religious Studies* and co-director of “Mormonisms: An Oral History Project”

CHRISTINE MAGULA, MA student, Utah State University; associate editor, *Intermountain West Journal of Religious Studies*; serves on the executive committee of USU's religious studies student association; currently conducting research on nineteenth-century Mormonism and disabilities

133. Panel PECULIAR PORTRAYALS: MORMONS ON THE PAGE, STAGE, AND SCREEN

Abstract Published this spring by Utah State University Press, *Peculiar Portrayals* is a collection of new scholarly articles examining depictions of Mormon characters in mass market venues. The panelists, who are editors of and/or contributors to the project, will discuss the personal and professional reasons behind the book's creation.

Michael Austin will read a section of his chapter, which discusses the way the HBO series *Big Love* uses polygamy to comment on contemporary American notions of the family. Mark Decker's presentation will place *Peculiar Portrayals* in the context of broader questions about the depiction of ethnicity in American narrative. Aaron Sanders will read a section of his chapter, which explores the way blood atonement has been critiqued in novels written by Mormon authors who are attempting to reach a broader audience.

Moderator/ Panelist MICHAEL AUSTIN, PhD, provost and vice-president for academic affairs, Newman University, Wichita, Kansas; published books and articles on a variety of topics in twentieth century American and eighteenth century British literature

Panelists MARK T. DECKER, PhD, assistant professor, English, Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg,



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Pennsylvania; published essays on William Faulkner, Thomas Pynchon, Richard Wright, E. M. Forster, and Charles Brockden Brown

AARON SANDERS, PhD, American literature, University of Connecticut; MFA, fiction, University of Utah; assistant professor, English, Columbus State University, Georgia, teaching American literature and creative writing

134. Panel ARE WE MOVING TOWARD WHOLENESS? WOMEN AND THE FEMININE IN MORMONISM

Abstract Wholeness, balance, and inclusiveness characterize maturity. This panel will consider the relationship of both the masculine and the feminine and women and men in the LDS Church. Are feminine and masculine principles, values, and perspectives balanced in Church teachings and structures? Does the Church encourage and provide resources for the spiritual development of both men and women? Do men and women receive equal opportunities to develop their talents and serve in the Church? Do the governing structures of the Church reflect and work toward wholeness, balance, and inclusiveness?

Moderator/ Panelist MARGARET TOSCANO, PhD, assistant professor, classics and comparative literature, University of Utah; co-author, *Strangers in Paradox: Explorations in Mormon Theology*; published many articles on feminist theology; one of the founders of the Mormon Women's Forum

Panelists LILLY SHULTS, PhD, counseling psychology, Walden University; MA, counseling, BA, English education, Arizona State University; works as a counselor and counseling psychologist in a Phoenix school district and has a private counseling practice

ALISA BOLANDER, MA, early modern literature; blogs at THE EXPONENT; project manager in corporate training; teaches technical writing; enjoys the constant eye-opening experiences that motherhood brings

TRESA EDMUNDS, craft designer living in Modesto, California, with her husband and young son; blogs at FEMINIST MORMON HOUSEWIVES and her personal blog, REESEDEXON.COM, where she writes about motherhood and other creative endeavors

SUZANN WERNER, BA, sociology/psychology, BYU; has a particular interest in women's studies and has published articles in *Exponent II*

135. Panel A WALKING CONTRADICTION: PARTLY TRUTH AND PARTLY FICTION

Abstract Four Mormon storytellers wade into the narrative swamp, looking for flashes of light and shadow, story and allegory, doubt and belief—and emerge with tales to tell. Physical objects and details assume an almost holy importance: A bottle of vitamins (Centrum Silver for Women), a

jar of peanut butter, a container of ashes, inheritance documents, a flask of wine, plastic soldiers, frozen elk parts, a pair of shorts worn underneath a Sunday dress.

"Boss of all bosses of the universe.../Go ahead, shuffle your zeros tonight./Dip in ink the comets' tails./Staple the night with starlight." (Charles Simic)

Moderator PAUL SWENSON, poet, journalist, fiction facilitator

Panelists FAE ELLSWORTH, artist/healer/writer, lives in Virgin, Utah (pop. 400). Her life includes frequent forays into Zion National Park with her healing clients for emotional clearing work and a daily walk down the hill to pick up her mail (there is no home postal delivery)

LARRY RIGBY, author of *The Jäger Artist*, (2006). Educated at Idaho State University, BYU, the University of Kansas and Johns Hopkins University with graduate work in eighteenth century German literature and philosophy. His new novel, *The Philosopher's House*, forthcoming 2011

WHITNEY MOWER grew up Mormon in Provo, Utah. Received her bachelor's degree in English this spring from Utah Valley University and will be attending an MFA program for fiction this fall. Her goals: Write an honest novel; teach English

RICHARD TERRY LaPOINTE channels his passion for storytelling into transplanting the Moth Radio Hour tradition (stories told live on stage, sans scripts, notes, props or accompaniment) to Salt Lake City. Here, he renovates a circa-1892 pioneer house on a downtown urban farm with a dog named Salt, a mess of barn cats, 120,100 honeybees, and a rooster named LaVern

LUNCH BREAK, 12:45 PM–2:15 PM



Where to eat THE SHERATON HAS a very nice on-site restaurant, Olio. We encourage symposium attendees to dine at the hotel.

141. Book Signings

AUTHOR SIGNINGS

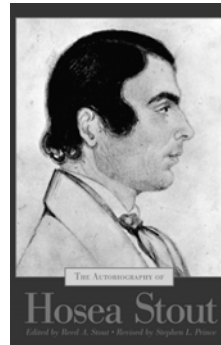
Please Note Signings will begin at 1:30 pm.

Author MICHAEL AUSTIN, co-editor, *Peculiar Portrayals: Mormons on the Page, Stage, and Screen*

Author MARK T. DECKER, co-editor, *Peculiar Portrayals: Mormons on the Page, Stage, and Screen*

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SUNSTONE343 NORTH THIRD WEST
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84103*Author* AFTON LOVELL (PETTEGREW) WILKINS,
*Warts and All: Family Memories***CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 2:15 PM–3:15 PM****151. *Paper* **LINE UPON LINE: HOW THE NEW PERSONAL
PROGRESS/DUTY TO GOD PROGRAMS ARE
DEFINING TOMORROW'S LEADERS*****Abstract* I will compare and contrast the new Personal Progress/Duty to God programs and discuss how the requirements, suggested goals, and reading assignments are similar/different for the girls and boys. I will also explore how the Proclamation on the Family has been integrated into the Primary program, discuss what seems to be the most-quoted portion of the Proclamation, and examine the possible ramifications based on the rather narrow way it is quoted/used in Primary/YM/YW.*Presenter* LAURA COMPTON has a degree in journalism from Humboldt State University and is on the SUNSTONE board of directors. She has served in several ward YW presidencies but currently spends her church service on the organ bench*Respondent* TRESA EDMUNDS has served in Young Women's in various wards for seven years and counting; writes at BEGINNINGSNEW.BLOGSPOT.COM about serving from a progressive viewpoint**152. *Paper* **A FIELD GUIDE FOR TURNING HISTORY INTO
MYTH*****Abstract* The LDS Church has released a guide for journalists titled *Approaching Mormon History*. The document acknowledges that some journalists "have questioned the miraculous aspects of the faith" and wonder "why Latter-day Saints continue to believe them as reality and not myths." The document argues for the historical reality of the Mormon foundational stories, namely the Joseph Smith story. They are of value, the document tells us, because they "actually happened," and not for any "symbolic" value. In this presentation, I will look at the mythological themes in the First Vision story and suggest that in the effort to celebrate and glamorize it, the story has become more mythological than literal history.*Presenter* H. PARKER BLOUNT is a retired school teacher who lives on the Ohoopee River in Tattnall County, Georgia**153. *Paper* **TOWARD AN LDS ACCOUNT OF PHYSICIAN-
ASSISTED SUICIDE*****Presenter* SAMUEL BROWN, MD, assistant professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine; division associate in medical ethics and the humanities at Intermountain Medical Center and the University of Utah*Abstract* Washington state recently followed Oregon's lead in legalizing physician-assisted suicide. The Netherlands and Belgium have passed still-

broader laws allowing assisted suicide and limited euthanasia. These trends reflect an evolution in medical technology and culture surrounding death, though they generate controversy over the meaning and significance of active control over the timing of one's death. In this presentation, I explore the ethical, cultural, and religious implications of this debate, attempting to formulate a distinctly Mormon approach to the problem.

154. Paper TWO SHORT PLAYS: ADAM & EVE AND PRODIGAL SON

Presenters DAVEY MORRISON DILLARD is New Play Project's workshop director and has had more than a half dozen short plays produced and performed through NPP over the past two years

BIANCA MORRISON DILLARD is an unofficial founder of New Play Project and is currently the artistic director

Abstract With two back-to-back AML awards for Best Drama and a renewed commitment to producing consistently solid scripts and productions, New Play Project will continue to play an important part in the world of Mormon arts and literature. We will share *Adam & Eve* and *Prodigal Son*—some of the best work from NPP—with SUNSTONE and open up a dialogue about emerging Mormon theater.

Additional performers to be announced.

155. Paper A CRISIS OF FAITH IN NEWTONIAN MORMONISM

Presenter MICHAEL FARNWORTH, PhD, educational psychology, BYU; retired faculty, Ricks College after thirty-one years of teaching family psychology

Abstract This paper will explore the marriage of Mormonism to the Newtonian paradigm of truth. The Newtonian worldview orients all of our cultural thinking, and the Church has fully embraced its values. In this paradigm, the ego can use the notion of truth to self-aggrandize. A compelling invitation to wake up from both the paradigm trances of our ego and cultural truth is needed. Truth and reality begin to look different when we are no longer held hostage to their spell. When we awaken, the Church's narrative of history/ideology can take on new philosophical meaning while providing alternative options of faith.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 3:30 PM–4:30 PM

161. Paper FROM SEER STONE TO TRIFOCALS: A CHURCH'S JOURNEY WITH SCRIPTURE

Presenter ROBIN LINKHART, MA, Christian ministry, Graceland University; president, sixth quorum of Seventy, Community of Christ; missionary coordinator for the Western USA mission field

Abstract What is this church birthed from the experience of a teenage boy praying in the woods? What is the role of scripture "translated" by an uneducated man sitting behind a veil with golden plates, a hat, and seer stone?

This presentation will explore eras of Restoration, Reorganization, and Community and review ten articles pertinent to understanding the Community of Christ's journey with scripture to help bring a clearer focus of scripture's role in the Community of Christ, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

162. Paper WHOSE WIFE WILL SHE BE? MARRIAGE, EMBODIMENT, AND SALVATION

Presenter JANICE ALLRED, writer and speaker on theological topics, author of *God the Mother and Other Theological Essays*

Abstract The relationship between faith and works provides the framework for much theological reflection on the Christian doctrine of salvation. Although Mormon writers address salvation from this perspective, they usually do so in dialogue with the larger Christian community. Within contemporary Mormonism, discourse about salvation tends to focus on teachings about eternal marriage and the eternal family. A Mormon is more likely to ask "Will I reach the celestial kingdom?" than "Am I saved?" Can the Mormon view of eternal marriage be harmonized with scriptural texts on salvation? Is temple marriage required for exaltation in the celestial kingdom?

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163. Paper MATURITY, MEANING, AND MORMONISM

Presenter LOWELL LEMESANY, farmer, rancher, scientist, soldier, businessman, lay minister, student of psychology

Abstract In adulthood, our priorities shift from "making our way in the world" to "making sense of our mortal journey." To aid our efforts to understand the meaning of life, Carl Jung suggests that as we mature, we should focus on becoming more conscious, more creative, and more receptive vessels. This presentation will examine the principles and doctrines of the Latter-day gospel that support and promote such a rich and spiritual experience. It will also look at today's LDS community to see what opportunities beckon us and what obstacles block us in our quest to develop these attributes.

164. Paper ADAM-ONDI-AHMAN: AN AMERICAN EDEN

Presenter BOYD J. PETERSEN, PhD, comparative literature, University of Utah; author, *Hugh Nibley: A Consecrated Life*, which won the best biography award from the Mormon History Association; program coordinator for Mormon Studies, Utah Valley University

Abstract In 1838, Joseph Smith proclaimed Spring Hill in Daviess County, Missouri, as Adam-ondi-Ahman, the place where eventually Adam "shall come to visit his people" as prophesied by Daniel (D&C 116). He had already established the idea of Adam-ondi-Ahman as the land into which Adam and Eve were exiled and where Adam gave his final blessing to his children. Tied into Book of Mormon revelations declaring this land "choice above all other lands" (Ether 2:9–10), these ideas integrated religious past with prophetic future, uniting sacred time with sacred space and bringing the natural world into a cosmic order. In this paper, I will place Joseph Smith's ideas about "spiritual creation" and the land of Zion into its historical context and explore the evolution of these ideas in Mormon thought.

165. Paper FROM C.S. LEWIS TO OWEN BARFIELD: AN EVOLUTION OF CONSCIOUSNESS, AN EVOLUTION OF FAITH

Presenter JULIE J. NICHOLS, PhD, associate professor, creative writing, Utah Valley University; member of the Barfield Society (see WWW.BARFIELDSOCIETY.ORG, DAVIDLAVERY.NET/BARFIELD, and [HTTP://OWENBARFIELDFORUM.BLOGSPOT.COM/](http://OWENBARFIELDFORUM.BLOGSPOT.COM/))

Abstract Though studies show that Mormons quote C.S. Lewis more than any other source besides scripture, few Latter-day Saints know much about Owen Barfield (1898–1997), the writer Lewis called his "second friend." Barfield's consistent project was to show that history (of language, of literature, of human events) demonstrates an evolution of human consciousness more easily traceable than Darwin's theory of the physical evolution of the species. This session will introduce Sunstone audiences to Barfield through his speculative novel *Unancestral Voice* from which a "mature LDS faith" might take a more mature—we might say a more evolutionarily consistent—comfort than even from C.S. Lewis.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 4:45 PM–6:15 PM


171. Panel "THOSE MEMBERS OF THE BODY, WHICH SEEM TO BE MORE FEEBLE . . . ARE NECESSARY": PLACING DISABILITY AT THE HEART OF ZION

Abstract The Apostle Paul compares members of Christ's church to a body and suggests that God set each member "as it hath pleased him." He adds that members of the body who are less comely or honourable are those upon whom "we bestow more abundant honour" (I Cor. 12:18, 23). How do we as Mormons include people with disabili-

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ties, mental illness, or other vulnerabilities as equal members within the body of Christ? This panel explores the maturing of Mormonism toward the ideals of a Zion community through examinations of fragility and strength, challenges to the ability of some members to act as free agents, and our tradition's history of reflection on disability.

Moderator/ Panelist DAN WOTHERSPOON, PhD, former editor, SUNSTONE; son of disabled parents

Panelists J. MARK OLSEN, PhD, instructor, Westminster College

ANNE LEAHY, American Sign Language translator for more than twenty years; directing a project on the intersection of Mormon theology and disability

172. Panel THE STORIES WE TELL: HOW AN UNPLEASANT TRUTH CAN BE MORE INSPIRATIONAL THAN A PLEASANT FICTION

Abstract The stories found in most LDS publications almost always result in a predictably happy ending, but life doesn't usually wrap up so tidily. Divorce, addiction, abuse, disability—they happen to the best of us no matter how righteous we are, and many of us feel the impulse to hide tragedy in our lives. While it can be terrifying to open up about heartbreaks and disappointments, there are surprising benefits to be found, both for those who share and those who listen. Join a panel of bloggers as they discuss why they share and what the results have been.

Moderator/ Panelist TRESA EDMUNDS compulsively overshares at FEMINIST MORMON HOUSEWIVES.ORG, and writes about motherhood and other creative endeavors at her blog, REESEDEXON.COM

Panelists TRACY MCKAY is raising her three children as a single-mama in Washington state. She writes for BYCOMMONCONSENT.COM and tells stories on her personal blog, DANDELIONMAMA.WORDPRESS.COM

KATHRYN LYNARD SOPER is the founder and editor-in-chief of *Segullah: Writings by Latter-day Saint Women*, and the author of the memoir, *The Year My Son and I Were Born: A Story of Down Syndrome, Motherhood, and Self-Discovery* (Globe Pequot Press, 2009)

JANET GARRARD-WILLIS, doctoral candidate, literature, Saint Louis University; blogger, FEMINISTMORMONHOUSEWIVES.COM

173. Panel SOME SAHD STORIES

Abstract There is no primary song that starts out, "I'm so glad that Daddy stays home," probably because both the culture and teachings of the LDS Church overwhelmingly encourage the father to earn the living and the mother to raise the family at home. But what happens when that arrangement doesn't work out? A panel of LDS men will talk about their experiences as stay-at-home dads. How has their anomalous role remolded their self-percep-

tion and worldview? What challenges have they faced at home, in church, and in the larger world? What supports have they found? What changes have they gone through having lived a role that few of their male contemporaries will ever experience?

Moderator/ Panelist STEPHEN CARTER, PhD, editor, SUNSTONE magazine; stay-at-home dad of three children

Panelists MARK ENGLAND, artist, gelato maker; was a stay-at-home dad of four children

MICHAEL STUBBS, DA, English, Idaho State University; firefighter, stay-at-home dad of three children

174. Panel THE BOOK OF JOB

Abstract The Book of Job has been labeled the ur-text of both tragedy and the practical joke; it has inspired such interpretations and responses as *Answer to Job* by Carl Jung and *A Serious Man* by the Coen Brothers. Often considered a tale of mature spirituality, it both elicits and demands thoughtful consideration. This panel will present analyses and testimonies of the comforting and uncomfortable truths found in the Book of Job.

Panelists HOLLY WELKER has a PhD in English Literature from the University of Iowa. Her poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and scholarship have appeared in publications ranging from *The New Era* to the *New York Times* to *Best American Essays* to *Bitch*

H. PARKER BLOUNT is a retired school teacher who lives on the Ohoopsee River in Tattnall County, Georgia. One of his river neighbors is a ten-foot alligator

JOANNA BROOKS is associate professor and chair of the Department of English and comparative literature at San Diego State University. Her writing on contemporary Mormonism has appeared in *The Huffington Post*, RELIGIONDISPATCHES.ORG, and has been featured in the *New York Times* and on NPR

Additional panelists to be announced.

175. Panel ETERNAL PERDITION? BUREAUCRATIC LIMBO? THE THEOLOGICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF EXCOMMUNICATION

Abstract The Church Handbook of Instructions explains in detail the mechanics of excommunication but says little about its theological import. Our panelists, several of whom have been excommunicated, will explore the theological and spiritual ramifications of this ultimate Church sanction. Why does excommunication not require a ritual? If blessings are "restored" to an excommunicated person who returns to the Church, what became of those blessings in the interim? Is it reasonable that God would give fallible human leaders the power to separate people from him or their families in eternity? How does excommunication impact a person's relationship with the Savior?

Moderator HUGO OLAIZ, news editor, SUNSTONE

Panelists JANICE ALLRED, author, *God the Mother and Other Theological Essays*; president of the Mormon Women's Forum

LAVINA FIELDING ANDERSON, editor, *Lucy's Book: A Critical Edition of Lucy Mack Smith's Family Memoir*; currently researching *Lucy's Life: A Biography of Lucy Mack Smith*

MARVIN RYTTING, retired psychology professor and university administrator; regular Sunstone columnist and presenter from 1981 to 1986

MARGARET TOSCANO, assistant professor, classics, University of Utah; co-author of *Strangers in Paradox: Explorations in Mormon Theology*

PAUL TOSCANO, author of *The Sanctity of Dissent* and *The Sacrament of Doubt*; co-author of *Strangers in Paradox: Explorations in Mormon Theology*

DINNER BREAK, 6:15 PM–8:00 PM

Where to eat THE SHERATON HAS a very nice on-site restaurant, The Olio. We encourage symposium attendees to dine at the hotel.

PLENARY SESSION, 8:00 PM

191. DOUBLE FEATURE: PERFORMANCES BY SISTER DOTTIE S. DIXON AND MR. DEITY

Abstract Had enough scholarly goodness for one day? How about an evening of lightmindedness and loud laughter? Don't miss this evening's special LOL performance double feature.

First up: Salt Lake's own **Sister Dottie S. Dixon** performing excerpts from her award-winning one-woman show, *The Passion of Sister Dottie S. Dixon*. Learn more about the story behind this powerhouse Mormon mother turned fierce activist on behalf of her gay son.

ONE NIGHT ONLY!



Mr. Deity & Sis. Dottie

TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE PRE-MORTAL LIFE!

CHARLES LYNN FROST is a Utah native, front-line LGBT activist, director, certified coach, business leader, civic volunteer, actor and playwright. His alter ego Sister Dottie S. Dixon was recently named BEST UTAHN 2010 by S.L. *City Weekly's* reader-voters, and she was the Grand Marshall for the UTAH PRIDE 2010 celebration. Frost, a member of Actor's Equity Association and the Screen Actor's Guild, was just awarded best actor by *Q-Salt Lake Magazine* and was named best theatre performance, by *Salt Lake City Weekly's* 2009 ARTYs Awards, as was *THE PASSION OF SISTER DOTTIE S. DIXON* for best original play and best production.

Charles has been active his entire life in the arts; with degrees in film and theatre directing, instructional design and adult learning, Theatre Education, and Psychology. He is in a committed relationship with Douglas Lott for the last eight years; and is the father/grandfather/daddy to four adult children, five grandchildren, and an obstinate West Highland Terrier named Deacon.

Following Sister Dottie, we'll be graced by the presence of **Mr. Deity**, of the Internet webshow/podcast [HTTP://WWW.MRDEITY.COM/](http://www.MRDEITY.COM/) which offers a humorous (and slightly irreverent) look at the day-to-day operations of the universe and the "Big Man" in charge. It's a behind-the-scenes look at how Mr. Deity (the god of this universe) and his long-suffering assistant, Larry, grapple

with the complications of their new Creation. "What kind of Evil will be allowed?" "How do you go about finding a 'Savior'?" and "Why won't these darned lights work?" are just some of the thought-provoking questions raised by this three-to-five minute series of shorts. Joining Mr. Deity is Lucy, AKA Lucifer, Mr. Deity's on/off girlfriend.

BRIAN KEITH DALTON is the creator of Mr. Deity, a web show that began as an iTunes podcast and became a YouTube sensation garnering hundreds of thousands of views and the attention of Sony Pictures Entertainment. Brian writes, directs, produces, stars in, edits, and composes music for the show.

Brian likes to say he is a "Formon"—a former Mormon. In his late teens, he got religion with a vengeance and began studying theology, philosophy, and psychology. But in his mid-twenties, he began to question his devotion to Mormonism and religion in general. This questioning led him to a life of skepticism and a deep reverence for science, the scientific method, and the value of free thought and critical thinking.

Brian has a adult daughter and lives in Southern California with his beautiful wife Amy (who plays Lucifer on the show), and her two kids.

The Mormon History Association



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46th Annual
Mormon History
Association Conference
May 26-29, 2011
St. George, Utah
Dixie Center

See mhahome.org for Call for Papers
Proposals deadline: 1 October 2010

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SUNSTONE

Symposium and
Workshops

REGISTRATION, 8:00 AM–7:30 PM

Registration information Admission to sessions is by symposium name badge or ticket only. This policy will be strictly enforced. Badges and tickets are available at the conference registration table in the Canyons Lobby on the far east side of the hotel.

DEVOTIONAL, 8:00 AM–8:30 AM

201. Devotional **WRESTLING JACOB'S ANGEL: ON TRIALS AND MATURING FAITH**

Presenter MICHAEL VINSON, MSt, Divinity School, University of Cambridge; author, SUNSTONE's Scripture Notes column

Abstract The story of Jacob's wrestling match with an angel is puzzling at best; Martin Luther famously said that all men hold this story to be the most

difficult Bible passage to understand. Here I will approach the story within the larger context of Jacob's life and suggest that the Angel may be a metaphor for your trials and engagement with God.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 8:45 AM–9:45 AM

211. Paper **THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP: THOUGHTS ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MATURE BELIEVER**

Presenter ROBERT A. REES, PhD; author of numerous studies of Mormon culture and religion; editor of *Why I Stay: The Challenges of Discipleship for Contemporary Mormons* scheduled for publication by Signature Books, December 2010

Abstract What does having a mature faith mean? This session examines the dimensions of a mature Christian/Mormon discipleship, including such issues as responsible doubt, blind obedience, institutional loyalty, thoughtful non-conformity, and loving challenge to authority. It considers the challenges, complexities, and conundra of what it means to be obedient both to the principles of Christ's gospel and the demands of a conservative faith community while seeking the sacred in a secular world. Finally, it considers the place of faith within the Christian trinity of faith, hope, and charity.

212. Paper **SACRED SECRECY IN THE TEACHINGS OF PRESIDENT BOYD K. PACKER**

Presenter HUGO OLAIZ, news editor, SUNSTONE

Abstract From "The Unwritten Order of Things," to "The Holy Temple" to "Keeping Confidences," President Boyd K. Packer has established himself as at once a revealer and keeper of secrets: an expounder of revealed truth who broaches topics not often discussed, who is at the same time emphatic about leaving certain things unspoken in the name of protecting the sacred. Using Douglas Davies's notion of sacred secrecy, I analyze four categories of "secrets" in the teachings of President Packer—the unwritten, the unsuitable, the confidential, and the sacred—and show how these categories serve to draw boundaries and reinforce apostolic charisma.

213. Paper **JOSEPH SMITH III: FROM REORGANIZATION TO COMMUNITY OF CHRIST**

Presenter LACHLAN MACKAY lives in Nauvoo, Illinois, and is the director of Community of Christ Historic Sites

Abstract An illustrated exploration of the life of Joseph Smith III, his impact on the Reorganization, and the ways in which Community of Christ members still find meaning and value in his teachings and experience. 2010 marks the sesquicentennial of the 1860 Reorganization and provides an opportunity to explore ways in which our history can be mined for stories that have been forgotten or long ago deemed unimportant. Following the presentation, we can discuss the appropriateness of

history being used as a tool to improve the world we live in today.

214. Paper MEDITATIONS ON WILLIAM H. CHAMBERLIN AND WHY ONE SHOULD REMAIN MORMON

Presenter JAMES MCLACHLAN, PhD, professor of philosophy and religion, Western Carolina University; co-chair, AAR Mormon Studies Consultation; president, Society of Mormon Philosophy and Theology

Abstract *"Even if Mormonism were not true, we could make the cause they loved true, and bend it to the service of our God."*—William H. Chamberlin.

Few people have had more reason to leave Mormonism than had William H. Chamberlin. He

was one of the first Mormons to do formal studies in philosophy and biblical criticism and ended up blacklisted from teaching for Church Education after the 1911 modernism controversy at BYU. While he was at Harvard, some of his colleagues suggested that Chamberlin seek a position outside of Utah, but he refused to consider it: "I had never thought of it; but for me it would be quite impossible. If I cannot live in the mountains and work among the people I love, it may as well be all over." Chamberlin not only stayed in the culture, he also stayed in the Church despite the opposition he faced in the Church educational system. Chamberlin's life and his idea of truth suggest ways to think about the truth of religion in general and of Mormonism in particular.



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215. Paper RACHEL ANN NUNES'S *ARIANA* SERIES: A FICTIONAL VIEW OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN MODERN-DAY FRANCE

Presenter HELYNNE HOLLSTEIN HANSEN, professor of French and English, Western State College of Colorado; former visiting professor, French, BYU; long-time member, Association for Mormon Letters

Abstract Can a Utah-bound author truly capture the spirit of modern-day Latter-day Saints in contemporary France? Rachel Ann Nunes is a Utah housewife and mother of six in tandem with her successful novel-writing career. Her four novels of the *Ariana* series from the 1990s are romantic and family sagas about LDS Church members in their native France struggling with the challenges of late twentieth century life. This study will analyze how/if a Utah author can create a realistic portrait of modern Latter-day Saints in today's French society.

Abstract It is well known that the 1835 D&C substituted ancient-sounding "code names" for the names of nineteenth century persons and institutions associated with the "United Firm." The recent publication of the original handwritten manuscripts for these revelations reveals that the code names were only the tip of the iceberg. Significant additions and deletions were made in order to make these revelations appear to be ancient documents from the time of Enoch. This new evidence of a more thoroughgoing fictionalization not only raises the theological question of "inspired fiction" but also provides a striking example of the way in which Joseph Smith blended mystical and practical concerns. He sought to maintain secrecy by mystically identifying the Firm and the Kirtland brethren with the ancient Adamic order.

223. Paper SPACESHIP EARTH

Presenter DENNIS CLARK, retired librarian living in Orem, Utah. Though an aspiring poet, he is no aspiring prophet

Abstract Shortly before our 40th anniversary, I realized that Valerie had been cleaning our toilets for 40 years—and that I had let her. I felt that I should not have, and I resolved to do it from then on. From that realization sprang the observation at the heart of this talk: one of the marks of civilization is that it cleans up after itself.

224. Paper WHY ELIJAH (OR JOHN THE BAPTIST) MUST COME BEFORE CHRIST'S RETURN

Presenter Paul Savage, Apostle in The Church of Christ and a fourth-generation Restorationist; office manager of The Church of Christ; editor of the church's periodical *The Voice of Joy*.

Abstract The scriptures outline not only the events that must happen before the Second Coming but also the order in which these milestones can be expected to occur. One of the important forerunners of the restoration is the coming of Elijah/Elias/John the Baptist. In Matthew 11 and 17, Jesus explains who Elias is and that Elias must come first and restore all things. In this presentation, I explain that our conception of the Restoration is out of order and outline the timelines and the major figures in the Restoration in order to demonstrate why Elijah must return before the second coming of Christ.

Respondent STEVE SHIELDS, author, *Divergent Paths of the Restoration*; high priest in the Community of Christ

221. Paper RELIEF SOCIETY AND THE INVISIBLE HAND OF PATRIARCHY

Presenters TAMARA TAYSOM, MS, elementary education, Indiana University; pursuing an MA in colonial history, University of Utah; interest in education, history, and feminism

ELLEN DECOO, native of Belgium; has lived in Provo, Utah for the past 11 years; BA candidate, sociology, BYU

Abstract Relief Society is the women's organization of the Church. Ironically, it is also the means by which women are reminded weekly that their own organization does not belong to them but is an auxiliary to the priesthood. Relief Society can become preoccupied with the patriarchal structure of the Church and become sidetracked from its intended purpose: to meet the spiritual, emotional, or social needs of its members.

This session will explore how patriarchy operates in any male-dominated organization and why this occurs; examine how patriarchy operates specifically in the Church, especially since the advent of Correlation; the problems this creates for Relief Society members; and pose suggestions for how Relief Society could better meet the needs of women in the Church.

222. Paper INSTRUMENTAL MYSTICISM: THE INSPIRED FICTIONALIZATION OF THE UNITED FIRM REVELATIONS

Presenter CHRISTOPHER C. SMITH, MA, Christian history, Wheaton College; PhD candidate in religions in North America, Claremont Graduate University. He has an article forthcoming in the September issue of *SUNSTONE*

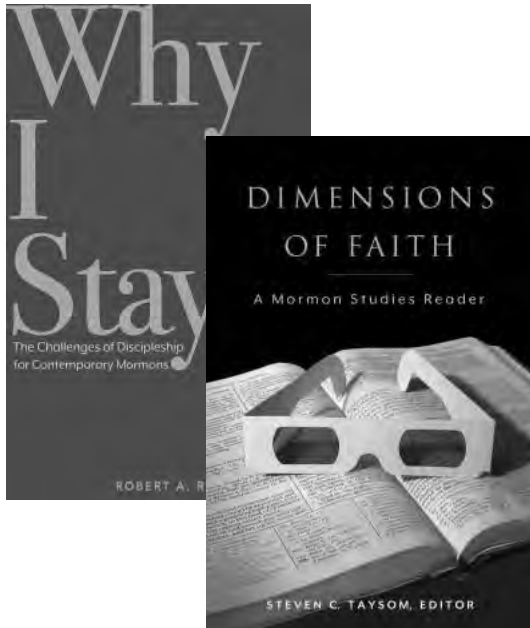
225. Paper SAME-GENDER MARRIAGE & RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: A CALL TO QUIET CONVERSATIONS AND PUBLIC DEBATES

Presenter REV. DR. C. WELTON GADDY leads the national Interfaith Alliance, dedicated to promoting religion as a positive and healing force in the life of the nation. Pastor for preaching and worship at Northminster (Baptist) Church in Monroe, Louisiana

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 10:00 AM–11:00 AM

WHAT IS MATURE FAITH?

Consider a multi-generational Latter-day Saint entering college, who has been raised to believe that the world is thousands, rather than billions, of years old. She takes an entry-level class on evolution and finds the science to be as beautiful as the story of Adam and Eve. She decides to accept both. A young history student discovers unfamiliar theology in Brigham Young's public speeches and decides it is misguided but that he still admires Young's attempt to make sense of the world ...



Available now: Trent D. Stephens and D. Jeffrey Meldrum, *Evolution and Mormonism: A Quest for Understanding* | Gary James Bergera, editor, *Line upon Line: Essays on Mormon Doctrine* | Paul James Toscano, *The Sacrament of Doubt*

Forthcoming, fall 2010: Stephen C. Taysom, editor, *Dimensions of Faith: A Mormon Studies Reader* | Robert A. Rees, editor, *Why I Stay: The Challenges of Discipleship for Contemporary Mormons*



Take a jaded historian who holds to his tradition against all odds or a lonely widower waiting to die, who is unsure of an afterlife. Navigation through faith, like life, is complicated, personal, and changes with time.

Some of us periodically reevaluate what our tradition means to us—those who are great in faith and those who may no longer have any belief at all. A few put their thoughts to paper; their stories of struggling with reason and doubt will resonate with some readers and perplex others. The solution for each person will be different. We hope you find answers that work for you.

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Abstract While many faith traditions, including Mormonism, have grappled with issues of equality, such as same-gender marriage, much of that work has been viewed through a traditional or scriptural lens. Our goal is to shift the perspective of LGBT equality from a place of "problem" to "solution," from a scriptural argument to a religious liberty agreement, and to address the issue of equality as informed by the US Constitution.

PLENARY SESSION, 11:15 AM–12:45 PM

231. Panel **WHY WE STAY**

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. How have these members wrestled with their faith and yet emerged more determined than ever to be a part of the Latter-day Saint community?

Moderator J. FREDERICK (TOBY) PINGREE

Panelists ALAN EASTMAN; PhD, chemistry, University of Utah. Worked for Phillips 66 in Oklahoma for 28 years, mostly in research related to refining, earning 35 patents along the way. He will discuss "how to keep several contradictory things in your head simultaneously without going nuts"

CAROL B. QUIST, associate editor and office manager, SUNSTONE; BA Stanford, radio-TV production; MA, University of Utah, women's history and literature; taught at LDS Business College and Salt Lake Community College; has traveled all seven continents and learned where the promised land is

MARK D. THOMAS, board member, SUNSTONE; best known in Mormon circles for interpretive scholarship on the Book of Mormon; works professionally work in public finance and has taught in MBA programs at BYU and USU; primary church calling: tenor in the Valley View 9th Ward choir

SUZANN WERNER, BA and EBA from BYU, sociology/psychology; primary teacher, stake young women's leader, Relief Society instructor, ward and stake primary president, education counselor

RON FREDERICKSON, actor in a few early BYU films; now a retired professor of theatre at Emporia State University in Kansas, having directed more than 80 plays and musicals, most recently for the University of Utah, College of Eastern Utah, Westminster College, and Pinnacle Acting Company

LUNCH BREAK, 12:45 PM–2:15 PM



Where to eat THE SHERATON HAS a very nice on-site restaurant, The Olio. We encourage symposium attendees to dine at the hotel.

241. *Book Signings* **AUTHOR SIGNINGS**

Please Note The signings will begin at 1:30 pm.

Authors TO BE ANNOUNCED

242. *Lunchtime comedy* Clips from coverage of Mormonism and politics from Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* and *The Colbert Report*. Clips assembled by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 2:15 PM–3:15 PM

251. *Paper* **RESPONSES TO THE DOCUMENTARY 8: THE MORMON PROPOSITION**

Abstract Billed as a documentary but made in a style that some have found reminiscent of anti-Mormon exposés, 8: *The Mormon Proposition* documents the crucial role that the LDS Church played in the campaign to ban same-sex marriage in California. After seeing a clip from the film, panelists will address the following questions: Can the film be classified as anti-Mormon propaganda? What are the film's strengths and weaknesses? What is its likely impact on the same-sex marriage debate and the LDS Church's treatment of gays and lesbians? What is the likely effect of the film on the Church's public image? Will it influence the Church's involvement in future political campaigns in favor of same-sex marriages?

Moderator HUGO OLAIZ, news editor, SUNSTONE

Presenters LAURA COMPTON, same-sex marriage supporter whose views were featured by the Associated Press and KUED; blogger with MORMONSFORMARRIAGE.COM; organizer of a vigil marking the 10th anniversary of Stuart Matis's suicide

ROBERT A. REES, author, *No More Strangers and Foreigners: A Christian Mormon Response to Homosexuality*; co-author of *A Guide for LDS Families Dealing with Homosexuality* (Deseret Book, 2005)

252. *Paper* **IN MEMORIAM: LINDA SILLITOE**

Abstract Writer and poet Linda Sillitoe's passing in April 2010 left a hole in the heart of SUNSTONE. Join us for remembrances shared by family and friends and share how Linda's work touched your life during the open mic period.

Presenters JOHN SILLITO

Other speakers to be announced.

253. Paper WHAT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WILLIE AND MARTIN HANDCART DISASTER? ONE SMALL COW

Presenter TRENT D. STEPHENS, PhD, professor of anatomy and embryology, Idaho State University; bishop of the Pocatello University 18th Ward (a married student ward)

Abstract When any disaster occurs, people look somewhere to place blame. In a maturing society, the better approach is to examine the data objectively. When this approach is applied to the Willie and Martin handcart disaster, two major problems emerge for the companies: one was the late start, and the other was inadequate food supplies. The former problem seems to have been exacerbated by the ending of the Crimean War, and the latter problem was exacerbated by more military mouths to feed at Fort Laramie because of an incident that had occurred a year earlier involving one small cow.

Respondent KEVIN HOLDSWORTH is a fiction writer and a writing instructor at Western Wyoming College. In his memoir *Big Wonderful: Notes from Wyoming* (Colorado, 2006), he describes the ill-fated 1856 handcart trek of his great-great grandmother and illuminates the recent controversy at Martin's Cove

254. Paper TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL VS TREE OF LIFE

Presenter RICHARD C. RUSSELL, M Ed; retired instructor, Church Education System; vice-president of a business training and consulting firm

Abstract The two trees from the Garden of Eden are figurative representations. Lehi's dream tells us that the Tree of Life represents the Love of God. What the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil represents is less clear. What is in opposition to Love of God? A clue comes from Adam's behavior and feelings once he had tasted it. He experienced guilt, fear, and shame. Since Adam did not "sin," but only "transgressed," what caused him to fear God?

255. Paper LIFE AFTER: THE JOURNEY FROM ACTIVE MORMON TO REFLECTIVE UNITARIAN

Presenter MARVIN RYTTING, retired psychology professor and university administrator living in Indiana; regular Sunstone columnist and presenter from 1981 to 1986

Abstract Rytting recounts his spiritual path from being congenitally and incorrigibly Mormon to struggling with the paradoxes and perplexities of his Mormon faith in the pages and symposia of SUNSTONE to his excommunication to life after Mormonism and finally to his chosen faith of Unitarian-Universalist.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 3:30 PM–4:30 PM

261. Paper MORE PRECIOUS THINGS: EVIDENCE FOR WOMEN'S PRIESTHOOD IN THE EARLIEST CHRISTIANITY

Presenter BRIDGET JACK JEFFRIES, MA candidate, history of Christianity in America, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; BA, classical studies, BYU; member of the Evangelical Covenant Church

Abstract Mormon feminists have centered their arguments for women's priesthood on data from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, contending that the Church's founding leaders granted women a form of priesthood that was subsequently choked out. Through an exploration of texts, inscriptions, and frescoes from the earliest Christianity, the author reaches back even deeper into history to show that women once served as apostles, elders, deacons, and bishops in addition to performing baptisms and administering the Eucharist.

262. Paper IS THE AFGHANISTAN WAR JUST?: A BOOK OF MORMON APPROACH

Presenters JOSHUA MADSON, BA, JD, BYU; an attorney practicing in Alpine, Utah; editor and contributor for the *Mormon Worker*

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WILLIAM VAN WAGENEN, BA, German, BYU; MA, theological studies, Harvard; worked in Iraq for seven months for a small human rights organization in 2005-06; regular contributor to the *Mormon Worker*

Abstract At the 2010 BYU Studies Symposium, two presentations attacked Hugh Nibley's argument that the *Book of Mormon* advocates pacifism and declared that the war in Afghanistan is a just and noble war. In response, Madson outlines a framework for analyzing when, if ever, war is justified, suggesting that the *Book of Mormon* not only allows for, but in fact strongly promotes pacifism. Van Wagenen outlines evidence that the *Book of Mormon* does allow for war, but only under well-prescribed conditions, namely in self-defense against aggressors or in rebellion against a government/ruler that requires its subjects to engage in acts of aggression. Both authors contend that the Afghanistan war does not meet the requirements of either a pacifist or defensive war and therefore should not be supported.

263. Paper IN MEMORIAM

Abstract SUNSTONE lost a number of dear friends in the past year. Join us as we pay tribute to their lives and contributions to the SUNSTONE community.

Presenters ANNE WILDE pays tribute to the life and work of C. JESS GROESBECK

A family member to be announced remembers author SUSAN BUHLER TABER

BEVERLY HOPPE describes the life of KARL SCHNNIBBE, who was Helmuth Hubener's compatriot in distributing anti-Nazi propaganda

For more than 40 years, KAREN ROSENBAUM felt fortunate to be a friend of former SUNSTONE board member REED HUNTER

264. Paper THE BIG FAN: JOSEPH SMITH AND THE DANITES IN MISSOURI

Presenter TODD COMPTON, author of *In Sacred Loneliness: the Plural Wives of Joseph Smith* (Signature Books 1997) and *Victim of the Muses: Poet as Scapegoat, Warrior, and Hero* (Harvard University Press 2006)

Abstract In 1838 Missouri, Mormons organized in a secret paramilitary organization called the Danites, led by Sampson Avar, who later left the Church. Many Mormons then disavowed the Danite movement, portraying it as lies concocted by Avar. When Leland Gentry wrote his groundbreaking 1965 thesis on the 1838 Mormon War, however, he reported that irrefutable evidence showed loyal Mormons had been involved in the group. One crucial issue at stake is the question of whether Joseph Smith was involved in the Danite movement. He certainly attended Danite meetings and possibly knew Danite passwords, though the evidence for this from the diary of Luman Shurtliff is ambiguous.

265. Paper THE WILL TO POWER AND EXALTATION: AN EXPLORATION OF MORMON AND NIETZSCHEAN CONCEPTIONS OF POWER

Presenter RACHEL MORRIS, BS, physics; MA, comparative religion, University of Washington

Abstract In the modern world, humans are often conceived of as biological automatons, or in religious contexts as dependent, derivative, contingent beings utterly dependent on a necessary God. Both Nietzsche and Mormonism have strong replies to these limitations and exalt the potential for human growth. By comparing and contrasting Nietzsche's concept of the will to power and Mormonism's exaltation, we gain insight into the nature of power and its relation to individuals. While Nietzsche emphasizes the unbounded individual, Mormonism argues the greatest human potential is cultivated by persons bonded through covenant to God and family.

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CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 4:45 PM–6:15 PM

271. *Film* **SCREENING *THE SONOSOPHER*, AN EXPERIMENTAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE MIND OF SOUND WIZARD AND POET, ALEX CALDIERO**

Abstract *The Sonosopher* is an experiential voyage into the peculiar life and art of Alex Caldiero. Born and raised in rural Sicily, Caldiero came of age as a poet in New York City, then is found living in conservative Utah years after his conversion to and subsequent separation from Mormonism. The film explores Caldiero's lifelong artistic investigation into 'sonosophy,' a unique hybrid of sound, poetry, and philosophy. Borrowing techniques from such diverse genres as avant-garde film and cinéma vérité, 'The Sonosopher' portrays Caldiero's life and work at its most traditional and most bizarre.

There will be a question and answer period with Alex and the filmmakers following the screening.

272. *Panel* **OUR VOICES, OUR VISIONS: A MORMON WOMEN'S LITERARY TOUR ENCORE PERFORMANCE**

Abstract The Mormon Women's Literary Tour returns to Utah for a repeat performance at SUNSTONE! If you missed readings in California, Arizona, and Utah this spring, here is your chance to hear established and new Mormon women writers share their work.

Readers will include:

JULIE J. NICHOLS, WHITNEY MOWER, ELISA PULIDO, ELIZABETH PINBOROUGH, HOLLY WELKER, and JOANNA BROOKS.

273. *Panel* **PERSISTENCE OF POLYGAMY: A MORMON ANTHOLOGY**

Abstract This session will discuss the forthcoming volume *Persistence of Polygamy: A Mormon Anthology* edited by Newell G. Bringham and Craig L. Foster. The book contains 20 essays exploring various aspects of Mormon polygamy from its beginnings in the nineteenth century to the present. The contributing authors will present on their respective chapters and take questions from the audience.

Moderator JOHN HAMER

Presenters NEWELL G. BRINGHURST, PhD, professor emeritus, College of the Sequoias, co-editor, *Persistence of Polygamy: A Mormon Anthology*

JEFFERY O. JOHNSON, retired archivist, Salt Lake City; served as State Archivist for 14 years; also worked at the LDS Church Archives for 21 years, including five years on the Joseph Smith Papers Project; published articles about women's history and social history, including a history of single Mormon men

PATRICIA SCOTT, Mormon History Association

CHRISTOPHER BLYTHE, MA candidate, history, at Utah State University; earned BAs from Texas A&M in anthropology and Utah State in religious studies; editor-in-chief of the *Intermountain West Journal of Religious Studies*

274. *Panel* **MORMONISM, POLITICS, AND IDEOLOGY***Paper 1* **A QUALITATIVE COMPARISON OF REACTIONS TO JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MITT ROMNEY**

Presenter ADAM STOUT, DA candidate, Idaho State University; Rexburg City Councilman

Abstract JFK, the first Catholic president, shared several statistical characteristics with Mormon candidate for president, Mitt Romney. Multiple sources in the media have ventured some sort of comparison, but almost entirely in a qualitative way. My paper quantifies the issue with public opinion data and discusses the similarities and differences of the two candidates and their circumstances. The statistics are strikingly similar, yet their parties and times (and thus, successes) are quite different.

Paper 2 **LOCKEAN IDEOLOGY AND D&C SECTION 134: THE ADOPTION OF AMERICAN POLITICAL IDEOLOGY AS SCRIPTURE**

Presenter CHRIS HENRICHSEN, doctoral candidate, political science, Idaho State University; visiting instructor of political science at BYU; adjunct instructor of philosophy at Utah Valley University

Abstract Whether it is in the principles or argument of the Declaration of Independence or in the unique American obsession with property rights, the political philosophy of John Locke permeates American political thought and American political culture. The political ideas of Locke, or at least the American version of the philosophy, are found in the political principles endorsed in *Doctrine and Covenant* Section 134. In my essay, I will look at the implications of elevating the political ideology of the day to scriptural status. I also look at whether we should even consider this scripture as scripture at all given that it was written by Oliver Cowdery and is clearly not revelation.

275. *Panel* **FAITH AND NARRATIVE**

Abstract Recent decades have witnessed a rising interest in what has been dubbed "narrative theology." The Christian message, many theologians have pointed out, is not an argument but a story, and it is stories instead of propositional truth claims that rest at the heart of the tradition. An engagement with these narratives has the potential to transform not only the way we see the world but our very identity. This panel will look at the power of such stories as seen in the interplay between our personal life narratives and those of our religious traditions.

Moderator SHEILA TAYLOR, PhD candidate, systematic theology, Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California

Panelists SARA BURLINGAME, feminist, blogger, atheist, advocate for greater understanding of Mormons and Mormon Feminists in particular in the broader secular world

Other panelists to be announced.

DINNER BREAK, 6:15 PM–8:00 PM



281. Reception The Community of Christ is hosting a reception for Sunstone attendees. Please join Community of Christ friends, leaders, scholars, and members for an informal mixer and light refreshments during the dinner break.

The reception will begin at 6:15 pm. The reception room will be announced in the final program.

PLENARY SESSION, 8:00 PM

291. PILLARS OF MY FAITH

Abstract This is SUNSTONE'S perennially best-attended session. Hear 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 self-reflective night is about the things that matter most, plus spirited congregational hymn-singing.

Speaker **ERIC SAMUELSEN** is a playwright, a theatre director and historian, and a teacher. He joined the BYU faculty in 1992 after earning a PhD at Indiana University. Several of his plays have been published in SUNSTONE including *Gadanton*, *Accommodations*, *Family*, *Peculiarities*, and *The Plan*.



Eric is a former president of the Association for Mormon Letters and has published in SUNSTONE, *BYU Studies*, and *Dialogue*. His play, *Amerigo*, was recently performed at Plan B Theatre Company in Salt Lake City, and his play *Borderlands* will be produced there next season. He's also adjunct religion faculty at BYU, teaching the Doctrine and Covenants. He is married and has four children.



Speaker **TRACY MCKAY** is raising her three children as a single-mama in Washington state, but she misses her native California coast with a palpable ache. Tracy is currently finishing her BAE in education and starting an MA in special education; in another life, she had a career as a professional artist,

world traveller, and Germanophile. Tracy loves thrift stores, old books, wooden toys, crisp linen, grapefruit, and her Macbook. She writes for BYCOMMONCONSENT.COM. Her personal blog is DANDELIONMAMA.WORDPRESS.COM.

SATURDAY 7 AUGUST



2009 Salt Lake

SUNSTONE

Symposium and Workshops

REGISTRATION, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM

Registration information Admission to sessions is by symposium name badge or ticket only. This policy will be strictly enforced. Badges and tickets are available at the conference registration table in the Canyons Lobby on the far east side of the hotel.

DEVOTIONAL, 8:00 AM–8:30 AM

301. Devotional GRATITUDE: A CONTAGIOUS CHOICE

Presenter FRANCES LEE MENLOVE, MDiv, PhD, psychology; one of the founders and first manuscript editor of *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*

Abstract "It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."
Albus Dumbledore, Headmaster
Hogwarts School for Wizards

Gratitude is one of the traditional virtues, deeply rooted in the monotheistic religions as well as eastern forms of spirituality. Cicero said, "Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others." Through story and a smidgin of contemporary social science research, we will explore the notion that gratitude is not only a choice, but may also be contagious. Gratitude should have a place at the table when "Reflecting on Maturing Faith."

Chair CAROL B. QUIST

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 8:45 AM–9:45 AM

311. Film TROUBLE IN ZION, A DOCUMENTARY

NOTE This session will begin at 8:45 am and continue into the next concurrent session beginning at 10:00 am.

Abstract *Trouble in Zion* is an hour-long documentary offering a unique look at the 1838 Mormon / Missouri War. The film retells a tragic piece of American history through spoken word, folk music, and even the vibrant pages of a comic

book. It features intriguing interviews with notable scholars from the realms of history, religion, and sociology (such as Richard Bushman, Alexander Baugh, Richard Turley, and Armand Mauss) as well as fascinating encounters with contemporary Missourians who still carry strong feelings about what happened 170 years ago.

KENNETH BALLENTINE, the documentary's director, will discuss the film and answer questions from the audience following the screening.

312. Panel THE DESCENT OF DISSENT: OR ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIOUSNESS

Paper 1 IN THE OLDEN DAYS BEFORE BLOGS: A MESSAGE TO MAGGIE

Presenter PAUL TOSCANO, bankruptcy lawyer, long-time Sunstone participant, author of many books including *Sanctity of Dissent* (1994); *Strangers in Paradox: Explorations in Mormon Theology* (1990) with Margaret Toscano; and *Music and the Broken Word* (1992) with Calvin Grondahl

Abstract This paper will explore some of the developments in dissent over the past two decades including what constituted dissent then and now. Is dissent praying privately to Mother in Heaven? Is it not putting up a lawn sign supporting Prop 8? Is it splitting your Boy Scout donation so that the Young Women get half of it? What role has dissent played in the Church in the last twenty years? Has it been good for the Church? Good for the dissenters? Two bookends for this discussion will be the speculative theology represented by *Strangers in Paradox*, published twenty years ago, and the Gospel Essentials manual, now curriculum for Relief Societies and Melchizedek Priesthood quorums.

Paper 2 TWENTY QUESTIONS: A GAME? A CONFESSION? A NEGOTIATION?

Presenter VICKIE STEWART EASTMAN, BA, English, Stanford University; frequent participant on SUNSTONE panels dealing with Mormon culture; ward music chair; freelance executive recruiter

Abstract Based on my most recent temple recommend interview, I will examine some of the areas of tension, shared expectations, and teaching/learning moments that move the interview experience from hostile interrogation, ritual compliance, or personal soul-searching into community-building between leader and member. In a setting where the handbook assumes that one person has all the questions and the other person has all the answers, what happens to areas of dissent? I will share some of the approaches I have taken over thirty-plus years of temple recommend interviews.

313. Panel CHURCH, PRIESTHOOD, AND THE GAY/LESBIAN JOURNEY TOWARD SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Presenter JOHN D. GUSTAV-WRATHALL, PhD, American history, University of Minnesota; adjunct professor

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of American religious history at United Theological Seminary; author, *Take the Young Stranger by the Hand: Same-Sex Relations and the YMCA* (University of Chicago Press 1998)

Abstract The gay Mormon population is bifurcated between a majority who have left the Church via inactivity, excommunication, or suicide and a minority who have subordinated their need for satisfying relational intimacy to Church law. This bifurcation persists because of the intensity of the tension gay and lesbian Mormons experience between Church authority and personal experience seemingly at odds with that authority. Though difficult, the path to spiritual maturity lies in learning to embrace this and related tensions.

314. Paper DATING FANNY ALGER: THE NATURE, TIMING, AND CONSEQUENCES OF AN EARLY POLYGAMOUS RELATIONSHIP

Presenter DON BRADLEY, MA candidate, history, Utah State University; writer and researcher specializing in Mormon origins

Abstract This paper pinpoints Emma's discovery of her husband's relationship with Fanny Alger and identifies how things "went down" from there. The timing is significant for a few reasons. First, it's well after Joseph has begun claiming authority to perform marriage ceremonies, increasing the chances that he had had a ceremony performed in this case. Second, it's well after the statement on marriage in the D&C which indicates there had been a polygamy incident in the Church already—meaning there had been at least one before Fanny Alger. And, third, when we identify exactly when Emma discovered this relationship, we can see how it connects to—and explains—some other cryptic incidents that puzzle historians to this day.

315. Paper TOWARD A MORMON THEOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM

Presenter ROGER D. HANSEN, PhD, civil and environmental engineering; chief, planning group, federal resource management agency, Provo, Utah

Abstract The creation of the earth was not a static event but is very much a dynamic process. According to LDS doctrine at least through the 1960s, we are not only stewards of the earth but co-creators with God. Brigham Young taught that the role God gives human beings is designed to test them, enabling them to show to themselves, to their fellow human beings, and to God just how they would act if entrusted with God's power. We are here to work in conjunction with God on the continuing creation of a living earth.

316. Paper THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC-MORMON DIALOGUE: BRIDGES BETWEEN ROME AND SALT LAKE CITY

Presenter DONALD WESTBROOK, PhD student, Claremont Graduate University, focusing on American religious history and Mormon Studies;

MA, theology, Fuller Theological Seminary; BA in philosophy from UC Berkeley

Abstract Dialogue between the LDS and Roman Catholic churches might be improved by evaluating the extent to which we both depend on extra-Biblical sources for doctrine. One fruitful entry point for dialogue might be to jointly consider the dynamic between scripture and tradition. How comparable is the Catholic dynamic between scripture and tradition to the Mormon dynamic between scripture and "continuing revelation" through prophetic guidance?

Respondents To be announced.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 10:00 AM–11:00 AM

321. Film Screening TROUBLE IN ZION, A DOCUMENTARY
Continued

NOTE This session is a continuation of the film screening that started in session # 311 and will conclude at 11:00 am.

322. Paper GENDER DIFFERENCES IN THE EARLY PATRIARCHAL BLESSINGS OF THE LDS CHURCH, 1834-1845

Presenters GORDON SHEPHERD, PhD, State University of New York at Stony Brook; professor of sociology at the University of Central Arkansas

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STOP BY OUR TABLE IN THE BOOK
ROOM AND PERUSE THE
VOLUMES ON DISPLAY

GARY SHEPHERD, PhD, Michigan State University; professor of sociology and former chair of the department of sociology and anthropology at Oakland University

NATALIE SHEPHERD, BA, social work, BYU-Hawaii; she is Gordon Shepherd's daughter

Gary and Gordon have co-authored two books on Mormonism: *A Kingdom Transformed: Themes in the Development of Mormonism* (University of Utah Press 1984); and *Mormon Passage: A Missionary Chronicle* (University of Illinois Press 1997). They recently co-authored a third book entitled *Talking with the Children of God: Prophecy and Transformation in a Radical Religious Group* (University of Illinois Press 2010)

Abstract Based on a random sample of 90 patriarchal blessings from Michael Marquardt's compilation, *Early Patriarchal Blessing of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, this study uses content analysis to determine the most frequent blessing themes pronounced by the first three LDS patriarchs, Joseph Smith Sr., Hyrum Smith, and William Smith. In particular, the sample was divided between male and female blessings to determine to what extent there were gender differences in the length and content of these early blessings. Analysis of the sample results leads to a discussion of gender distinctions in the early LDS Church.

323. Panel GETTING IT RIGHT: CHANGES IN THE GOSPEL PRINCIPLES MANUAL FROM 1979 TO 2009

Panelists STEVE WARREN, author, *Drat! Mythed Again, Second Thoughts on Utah and Beyond the Finish Line*; former copy editor for the *Deseret News* 1988-2008; freelance writer; current Gospel Principles teacher

Abstract This paper examines teachings in the 1979 Gospel Principles manual that have been eliminated, revised, or downplayed in the manual currently used in Sunday classes. Included are teachings about abortion, fasting, following the prophet, the responsibility of women to keep a "clean" house, the Word of Wisdom, rape, the roles of men and women, and even the need to bathe often in "fresh water."

Respondent LAURA COMPTON has a degree in journalism from Humboldt State University and is on the SUNSTONE board of directors

324. Paper FROM "SYSTEM OF BELIEFS" TO "WAY OF LIFE": FIFTY YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION IN COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

Presenter STEVE SHIELDS, author, *Divergent Paths of the Restoration*; high priest in the Community of Christ; served the church full-time in California and Asia since 1987; convert to Community of Christ from the LDS Church

Abstract The Community of Christ struggled with issues of identity from the earliest years of the



Where do you want your membership records sent?
—Ward Clerk

JONATHAN DAVID CLARK

Reorganization. Although claiming succession from Joseph Smith, Jr., as the "only legitimate" priesthood and church organization, the early Reorganization based its mission on reclaiming "lost" members of the Church who had followed Brigham Young to Utah and the West. The identity of the denomination was based on "right belief," and this approach changed very little over the first century of the Reorganization (1850s to 1950s).

I will show why the Community of Christ no longer concerns itself with concepts of "only," "legitimate," or "true." Seeing God's power active in all places, with all people, at all times, the denomination now identifies with discipleship as a way of life modeled on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

325. Paper MORMON WOMEN HAD THE PRIESTHOOD IN 1843

Presenter JOSHUA GILLON, PhD student, philosophy, Princeton University; BA, philosophy and classical studies, BYU, with minors in logic and psychology

Abstract What does it mean to say that Mormon women "had the priesthood since 1843," as D. Michael Quinn has claimed? In this paper, I argue that there is no coherent notion of priesthood widely accepted among the LDS. Consequently, it is less than clear what the question of whether Mormon women hold priesthood (in the contemporary sense) even amounts to.

326. Paper JOSEPH SMITH'S MEDITATION ON POWER—CLEAR EVIDENCE OF A MATURING FAITH

Presenter DENNIS CLARK is a retired librarian and aspiring poet living in Orem, Utah

Abstract Brigham Young said "Joseph Smith was a poet, and poets are not like other men.... they catch the swift thought of God and reveal it to us." Joseph's place as a nineteenth century writer is just beginning to be appreciated. This session will look at one aspect of one of the dictations in

which he generates texts remarkably like poems, especially poems on the model of Biblical verse, and in the rhythms of Whitman's American speech. This paper presents a close examination of Joseph Smith caught in the act of committing poetry.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 11:15 AM–12:45 PM

331. Panel **GLENN BECK: LIKELY MORMON OR UNLIKELY MORMON?**

Abstract Glenn Beck is presently the most famous—and possibly the most infamous—Mormon in America. He is better known than President Monson or Steve Young and is more popular than Harry Reid or Mitt Romney. Some see Beck as a populist prophet of the coming apocalypse while others consider him the most dangerous man in America. This session looks at Beck's identification with Cleon Skousen, the John Birch Society, and the Tea Party; his meteoric rise as a right-wing media maven; his role in American media and politics; and his representation of Mormon principles and values. It considers Beck's impact on the Church and on Mitt Romney's potential bid for the presidency of the United States.

Moderator/Panelist ROBERT A. REES lives, writes, and works in the Santa Cruz Mountains. He is the editor of *Why I Stay: The Challenges of Discipleship for Contemporary Mormons* (forthcoming in December from Signature Books)

Panelists ERIC SAMUELSEN is head of the playwriting program at BYU, author of many plays including the politically-themed *Amerigo* recently produced by Plan-B Theatre Company

JOANNA BROOKS chairs the department of English and comparative literature at San Diego State University and blogs about Mormonism at RELIGIONDISPATCHES.ORG

DAVID KING LANDRITH lives in Boston with his wife and five children. He's a successful technology entrepreneur with an academic background in philosophy. He blogs as DKL on Mormonism, politics, and culture at MORMONMENTALITY.ORG

332. Panel **THE GAY MORMON LITERATURE PROJECT**

Paper 1 **THE CHOSEN FAMILY IN GAY MORMON LITERATURE**

Moderator JEFF LAVER, author of *Just Call Me Greg*

Presenter JOHNNY TOWNSEND has published in the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Humanist*, the *Progressive*, *Glimmer Train*, the *Massachusetts Review*, *SUNSTONE*, *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, and in the anthology *In Our Lovely Deseret: Mormon Fictions*

Abstract Too often LDS families fail their gay relatives, leaving gay Mormons to create "chosen families" to fill this necessary function.

Paper 2 **TWO PARADIGMS FOR "GAY"**

Presenter ALAN MICHAEL WILLIAMS recently completed a master's degree in cultural studies at the University of Washington, Bothell. He is the author of *Ockham's Razor*

Abstract This paper compares the themes and reception of two very different gay Mormon novels published in 2009, *No Going Back* by Jonathan Langford and *Ockham's Razor* by Alan Michael Williams.

Paper 3 **THE FAMILY IN LATTER DAYS**

Presenter GERALD S. ARGETSINGER, founder of the Gay Mormon Literature Project; associate professor, department of cultural and creative studies, NTID, Rochester Institute of Technology

Abstract The motion picture *Latter Days* written and directed by C. Jay Cox is one of the most popular gay-themed movies of the past decade, consistently ranking in the top five of LOGO Channel's "Fifty Most Gay/Lesbian Movies." It tells the story of a Mormon missionary who is sent home in disgrace when he is discovered to be gay. The impact of his excommunication on his family is compared to the impact on those he left behind in the mission field.

333. Panel **TOWARD SOME NEW MORMON FICTION**

Abstract A discussion of the potential of Mormon fiction with a focus on Eugene England's observation "that everyone wants literature that is uniquely Mormon, even 'orthodox'—but also good, that is skillful and artful; the problem is that focusing on either quality seems to destroy the other."



Food storage saved us, brothers and sisters. If it weren't for our homeowners storing wheat in their basements, we'd all be dead by now.

Led by moderator Elbert Peck, members of the panel will present short responses to Jane Barnes's paper, "Notes Toward a New Mormon Fiction." Peck will introduce the panel and speculate briefly on why an earlier period of Mormon-American authors did not fulfill their potential. "With Virginia Sorenson and Maureen Whipple, Mormonism seemed really on the verge of being part of the national conversation, but then that blossoming died."

Moderator ELBERT EUGENE PECK, former editor of *SUNSTONE Magazine*

Panelists JANE BARNES, co-writer with Helen Whitney of PBS 2007 series *The Mormons*

KAREN ROSENBAUM, retired college instructor in creative writing, author of many short stories with Mormon themes

ELLEN FAGG WEIST, arts and entertainment editor, *The Salt Lake Tribune*

STEVE WILLIAMS, Utah filmmaker, instructor at Salt Lake Community College and University of Utah

334. Panel THE PROS AND CONS OF WRITING CONFESSIONAL MEMOIR IN THE MORMON MILIEU

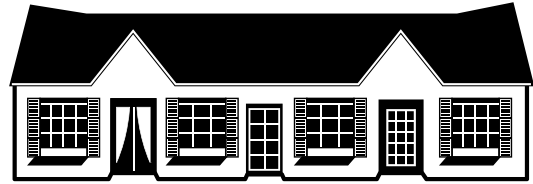
Abstract This panel will focus on the pros and cons of writing and publishing a tell-all, "confessional" memoir in the Mormon milieu—this culture of "truth-telling." What are the ramifications of making private thoughts and actions into a subject of public record? How does this follow D&C 42:88: "And if thy brother or sister offend thee, thou shalt take him or her between him or her and thee alone"? Beginning with the premise that the memoirist/ personal essayist is an artist attempting to find the essential "core within the core" of his or her own humanness, the panel will explore the subject of "truth-telling" in its various incarnations—both public and private—and the individual experience of its panelists.

Moderator/ Panelist PHYLLIS BARBER is the author of seven books, most recently *Raw Edges: A Memoir*, a no-holds-barred, frankly told story of the dissolution of her 33-year LDS temple marriage, her personal falling apart, and her putting the pieces of her own puzzle back together again

Panelists HOLLY WELKER, PhD, English literature, University of Iowa. Her poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and scholarship have appeared in publications ranging from *The New Era*, the *New York Times*, and *Best American Essays* to *Bitch*

KEVIN HOLDSWORTH, author, *Big Wonderful: Notes from Wyoming*

STEPHEN CARTER, PhD, narrative studies, University of Alaska-Fairbanks; author, *What of the Night*; editor of *SUNSTONE*



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BRUCE JORGENSEN teaches literature and writing at BYU; has published poems, short fiction, literary criticism, and literary interviews; recently published a short story, "Measures of Music" in *Dispensation: Latter-day Fiction*, Zarahemla Books 2010

335. Panel MORMONISM AND RADICAL POLITICS

Moderator JASON BROWN, master of forestry, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies; master of art and religion, 2011 Yale Divinity School

Paper 1 THE RELEVANCE OF TOLSTOYANS ON CONTEMPORARY LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Presenter CORY BUSHMAN, BA, history, University of Utah with an emphasis on Eastern Europe; one of the founders of the Mormon Worker Collective

Abstract Tolstoyans, also known as free Christians, were devout followers of the Russian literary genius Leo Tolstoy. They lived to follow Tolstoy's philosophy of truth and brotherly love, based on complete non-violence, vegetarianism, communal living, and a code of ethics that included abstaining from alcohol, tobacco, and foul language. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and

Tolstoyans are similar in that both groups have histories of oppression, resilience, and a love for peace, music, and community.

Paper 2 THE MORMON MOTHER AND SUBSISTENCE ECO-FEMINISM

Presenter KATY SAVAGE is a recent graduate of the University of Utah's environmental humanities MA program

Abstract For many women, the tension between Mormonism and feminism feels like a battle between a paycheck and a family: feminists tell us to take our place as equals with men in the economic, political, and religious sphere, while Mormon leaders instruct us to be wives and mothers, contending that 'career women' lead unfulfilling lives, repressing their ability to nurture and overlooking meaningful relationships. Instead of rejecting the romanticization of motherhood and nurturing associated with Mormon anti-feminism, I believe Mormonism's emphasis on traditional woman's roles is useful in a radical critique of patriarchy. A true focus on maternal nurture demands a rejection of exploitative and alienating capitalism, warfare, environmental destruction, and our obedience to male, high-status leaders. We find our true leaders instead in the actual "servants of all": the women of the global south involved in the service of child-rearing, community cohesion, and the subsistence production of daily food and materials.

Paper 3 KINSHIP STRUCTURES

Presenter TRISTAN CALL is a cultural anthropologist trying to plant a second foot in biological anthropology (agroecology). He graduated from BYU in 2008 and is doing ethnographic fieldwork in Guatemala and political work in Utah

Abstract The tradition of universal kinship in Mormon thought constitutes a powerful and relatively untapped form of transnational 'Alternative Civil Society' that can resist state efforts to separate us by ethnicity, class, or nationality. This is not automatic: it requires a re-shaping and an elaboration (a 'magnification') of Mormon doctrines of genealogy, universal divine descent, and fundamental human equality. Though the concept of genealogy initially might suggest an exclusivity of family ties, understanding it in the context of Mormon doctrines of universal siblinghood allows for an exceptionally useful and flexible toolbox of concepts for egalitarian revolution.

Paper 4 PLOTINO CONSTANTINO RHODAKANATY: ANARCHISM MEETS MORMONISM IN PRE-REVOLUTIONARY MEXICO

Presenter FERNANDO R. GÓMEZ is an amateur writer and an avid Mormon historian. He was born in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. For the past twenty years, he has operated a nonprofit museum of Mexican Mormon history across the street from the Mexico City LDS Temple and recently

opened an extension of the museum in Provo, Utah, where he now resides

Abstract This presentation will introduce Plotino Constantino Rhodakanaty and discuss his life, his relationship to Mexican radical politics, his conversion to Mormonism and what prompted this avowed anarchist-socialist to be baptized, and his later disillusionment with the LDS Church.

336. Panel NO MORE FELLOW CITIZENS BUT STILL STRANGERS: TWENTY YEARS OF STRANGERS IN PARADOX: EXPLORATIONS IN MORMON THEOLOGY

Abstract Twenty years ago, Margaret and Paul Toscano published *Strangers in Paradox: Explorations in Mormon Theology*. Fascinated by the richness of Mormon texts and ritual, they had been working out a complex theology for twenty years and were eager to share their insights. The book immediately became a feminist sensation and an official scandal, resulting—at least indirectly—in the authors' excommunications in 1993 and 2000. On the anniversary of its publication, it seems appropriate to take a retrospective and prospective look at *Strangers in Paradox*. The panelists will explore: What contributions does this book make to Mormon theology? Does its unifying theme of paradox illuminate and unify disparate aspects of Mormon thought? How effective is its rhetorical stance and style in conveying its meaning? How has it been received? What influence will it have in the future?

Moderator LAVINA FIELDING ANDERSON, editor, *By Common Consent*, the newsletter of the Mormon Alliance; co-editor with Janice Merrill Allred, *Case Reports of the Mormon Alliance*

Panelists JANICE ALLRED, president of the Mormon Women's Forum; author of *God the Mother and Other Theological Essays*

Other panelists to be announced.

Respondents MARGARET TOSCANO, PhD, assistant professor, classics and comparative literature, University of Utah; long-time contributor to the Sunstone Symposium and magazine on Mormon feminism and theology; co-author, *Strangers in Paradox: Explorations in Mormon Theology* (1990)

PAUL TOSCANO, bankruptcy lawyer, long-time Sunstone participant, author of many books including *Sanctity of Dissent* (1994); co-author, *Strangers in Paradox: Explorations in Mormon Theology* (1990); and *Music and the Broken Word*, with Calvin Grondahl (1992)

LUNCH BREAK, 12:45 PM–2:15 PM



Where to eat THE SHERATON HAS a very nice on-site restaurant, The Olio. We encourage symposium attendees to dine at the hotel.

341. Book Signings **AUTHOR SIGNINGS**

Please Note The signings will begin at 1:30 pm.

Author STEPHEN CARTER, author, *What of the Night?*, Zarahemla Books

342. Lunchtime comedy Clips from coverage of Mormonism and politics from Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* and *The Colbert Report*. Clips assembled by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 2:15 PM–3:15 PM

351. Panel THE ROLE OF FEMINISTMORMONHOUSEWIVES.ORG IN THE "MATURING" OF MORMON FEMINISM

Abstract The Salt Lake Tribune religion reporter Peggy Fletcher Stack asked, "Where have the Mormon feminists gone?" The answer came back: to the Internet. But does online feminism translate to change in the real world? What strides have we made, and how far do we still have to go? Is discussing gender concerns in a public forum causing more harm than good? What does Mormon feminism look like today? A panel of women from the Feminist Mormon Housewives blog share their stories and take your questions.

Panelists LISA BUTTERWORTH, founder FEMINISTMORMONHOUSEWIVES.ORG, blogs between wiping bums, refereeing fights, and cooking potatoes for her family of five in Boise, Idaho

MELANIE FRANTI, a not-so-good Mormon housewife; bachelor's degree student in environmental studies and geography; mother to one daughter, a partner to one great man, and FMH blogger

SHELAH MINER, BA, English teaching and French; MA, American culture studies, Washington University in St. Louis; stays at home with her four children, blogs on FMH, and edits the feature section of *Segullah*

TRESA EDMUNDS blogs about mothering and creative projects at FEMINISTMORMONHOUSEWIVES.ORG and REESEEDIXON.COM

352. Paper THE EPISTLE OF PAUL: HOMOSEXUAL SPIRITUALITY AND THE REDEMPTION OF PLEASURE

Presenter PAUL TOSCANO, bankruptcy lawyer, long-time Sunstone participant, author of many books including *Sanctity of Dissent* (1994); co-author, *Strangers in Paradox: Explorations in Mormon Theology* (1990); and *Music and the Broken Word*, with Calvin Grondahl (1992)

Abstract Christians often use a single passage from Paul's epistle to the Romans to scripturally justify their condemnation of same sex orientation, attraction, and marriage. I critique a recent speech by Elder Bruce Hafen to Evergreen International, an organization that allegedly reclaims Church members from their same-sex orientation, and argue that Paul's epistle can be read to support instead of oppose homosexuality.

Respondent MICHAEL J. STEVENS, PhD, organizational psychology, Purdue; management professor, Weber State University

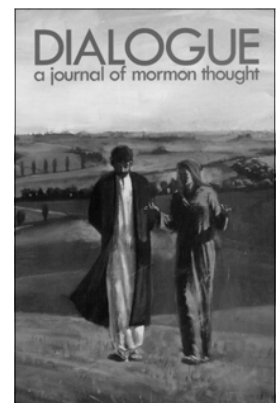
353. Paper FAITH IN THE MIDST OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF LIFE

Presenter SUSAN SKOOR, member of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles in Community of Christ, called and ordained in 2005

Abstract Faith is a journey that never ends. We extol child-like faith, but for most people, faith continually seeks deeper understanding, wisdom, and application. Mature faith comes through both loss and

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gain, often at a high cost that can either build or destroy. From desert places of doubt to mountain top experiences with the Divine, this testimony of maturing faith and deepening relationship with God explores the nature of faith, trust, and "peace in the midst of the difficult questions and struggles of life."

354. Paper JOSEPH SMITH'S PERSONAL POLYGAMY

Presenter BRIAN HALES, author of the forthcoming *Joseph Smith's Polygamy: History and Theology* from Greg Kofford Books

Abstract How did Joseph Smith practice plural marriage? This presentation will review how Joseph Smith recognized the difficulties associated with plural marriage, especially for women; how he did not marry every woman he could have wedded; how he exercised great patience when teaching the principle; how, when spurned, he quietly moved on but vigorously defended himself against charges that he considered false; how, on one occasion, he allowed a plural wife to divorce him; how motives other than libido empowered his plural marrying; and how, when Emma, his legal wife, demanded that he stop marrying new plural wives, he complied.

355. Papers THE MORMON BIBLES

Presenters WILLIAM D. RUSSELL, retired professor, American history and government, Graceland University; working on a book about the schism in the RLDS Church that surfaced after the ordination of women in 1984

KIM MCCALL, member of the SUNSTONE board of directors; long-time gospel doctrine teacher

Abstract The King James Version of the Bible (1611) is the official Bible for the LDS Church while the RLDS Church has adopted the Joseph Smith Translation, published by the Reorganization in 1867, as its official Bible. Kim McCall will present a paper on the King James Version, and William D. Russell will present a paper evaluating the JST, which later came to be commonly called "The Inspired Version" by the RLDS Church (which in 2001 became the Community of Christ). Both papers will consider whether these Bibles are adequate for scripture study in the twenty-first century.

to Jesus, not only did this prevent the leaders themselves from entering the kingdom but it also "hindered" those who were close to entering!

Although I don't believe that modern LDS leaders are guilty of the egregious hypocrisy detailed by Jesus, I am concerned they have established a similar system of status and worthiness along with external religious practices that impede Latter-day Saints from the spiritual understandings and disciplines that lead to spiritual rebirth and open the kingdom of heaven. This presentation will explore whether modern LDS culture and religious practices reflect the spiritual leadership that Jesus embodied or the leadership of those he criticized for hindering.

362. Panel THE MORMON FEMINIST COMMUNITY OF EXPONENT II: ITS HISTORY, ITS LEGACY, ITS FUTURE

Abstract This panel will discuss what *Exponent II* has meant to Mormon women over the years, what it has achieved, and how it has evolved and changed since it published its first issue in the early 1970s. Panelists will also discuss their vision of the organization's future as it works to reach out to a new generation of Mormon feminists.

Panelists BARBARA TAYLOR, BA, business management, president of *Exponent II*

AIMEE EVANS HICKMAN, BA English, University of Utah; president *Exponent II* 2004-2007; co-editor *Exponent II* 2009-present

363. Film TWO LOVES: DOCUMENTING GAY MORMONS' STORIES

Presenter MICHELLE RIPLINGER, currently studying English literature and film/video production at Princeton University

Abstract *Two Loves* is a twenty-five-minute documentary film exploring the personal stories of gay Mormons, including an openly gay, born-and-raised Mormon who has left the Church; an openly gay, practicing Mormon; a same-gender attracted celibate, practicing Mormon; Carol Lynn Pearson who is the ex-wife of a gay Mormon man and who has written extensively about the need for greater acceptance in the Mormon community; and a gay LDS teenager currently in the throes of decision-making. *Two Loves* screened at the 2009 Queens International Film Festival and in the Youth Channel's Open Transmission showcase. It was nominated as "Best Utah Short Film of the Year" at the 2008 Utah Arts Fear No Film Festival.

364. Paper OLIVER COWDERY'S ROD OF NATURE

Presenter CLAIR BARRUS, systems engineer; manages several blogs including TODAY-IN-CHURCH-HISTORY.BLOGSPOT.COM and MORMON-CHURCH-HISTORY.BLOGSPOT.COM; writes news articles about Mormon history for EXAMINER.COM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 3:30 PM-4:30 PM

361. Paper HINDERING THE SAINTS: TAKING AWAY THE KEY OF KNOWLEDGE

Presenter PHILIP G. MCLEMORE, former LDS Institute director; hospice chaplain; meditation instructor; representative of The Center for Spiritual Awareness in Lakemont, Georgia

Abstract In Matthew 23 and Luke 11, Jesus lambasted the religious leaders of his day for their blatant hypocrisy and a style of spiritual leadership that took away "the key of knowledge" which "shut up the kingdom of heaven against men." According

Abstract When the Joseph Smith Papers project published *The Book of Commandments & Revelations*, earlier versions of Joseph Smith's revelations came to light. Included were two previously unavailable versions of an already heavily edited revelation, giving us a rich history of four significantly different versions of one revelation. The subject of the revelation was a mysterious "rod of nature," an instrument commonly used to divine for buried treasure, which Oliver Cowdery was to use to translate ancient texts. The historical background coupled with the textual history of the revelation tells a compelling story demonstrating shifting perceptions of the rod, as well as suggesting the agendas of the editors, with the last revision leaving modern-day readers unaware of the rod.

365. Paper REASONS FOR TECHNOLOGICAL INTERPRETATIONS OF MORMONISM

Presenter LINCOLN CANNON, MBA, BYU; BA, philosophy, BYU; fourteen years of professional experience in general management, software engineering, and information technology; president, Mormon Transhumanist Association

Abstract When it comes to technology and spirituality, who decided that hope, faith, and heaven must be supernatural? How were so many of us persuaded that we can experience the spiritual but not measure it, or that we can promote such experience but not manage it with greater precision? When did we convince ourselves that machines must be cold metal and hollow plastic, forever in contrast to the warmth and beauty of the human soul? Can technology and spirit be brought together?

366. Paper BASH: MORMONIZING EURIPIDES

Presenter DAI NEWMAN holds degrees in linguistics and library science and has worked professionally as a librarian. Currently, he studies religion and culture at the University of Utah; presents and writes about intellectual freedom as applied to religion and intersections between popular culture and religion

Abstract Neil LaBute is known for writing plays and films tracing the questionable actions of ethically dubious characters in shockingly fresh narratives. However, for his trilogy *bash*, he relied on stories written centuries earlier by the ancient dramatist Euripides. He updated the stories, placing them in roughly contemporary time and in a Mormon setting. This paper explores the ways in which the Mormon context both deepens the impact of these plays and helps keep the tone of the ancient Greek works applicable to the modern world.

Paper 1 MORMON MOTHERS AS DEVICES (KEY CHANGE-AGENTS) USED TO REDUCE THE TOXICITY OF LDS LGBT INERTIA

Presenter CHARLES LYNN FROST's alter ego Sister Dottie S. Dixon was recently named BEST UTAHN 2010 by *S.L. City Weekly's* reader/voters, and she was Grand Marshall for the UTAH PRIDE 2010 celebration

Abstract Charles Lynn Frost presents insights he gained while creating his popular character, Sister Dottie S. Dixon, exploring the role of "mother" as the transforming agent for positive change within the Mormon family.

Paper 2 COMING OUT MORMON STYLE: THREE RECENT PLAYS, ONE BY ME

Presenter ERIC SAMUELSEN, head of the playwriting program at BYU, has published several plays and articles with SUNSTONE

Abstract The 'coming out' play is a staple of contemporary gay theatre. Three recent "coming out" plays, however, put a uniquely Mormon twist on a familiar subject.

Paper 3 HOW THE LDS CHURCH IS DEPICTED IN PLAYS AND MOVIES CREATED BY NON-MORMONS

Presenter GERALD S. ARGETSINGER most recently directed a multi-media African-American version of Carol Lynn Pearson's play *Facing East*

Abstract Non-Mormon playwrights and screenwriters have progressed from depicting "Mormons-in-name-only," to well-researched Mormon culture, doctrine, and characters. There are also descriptions of puzzling encounters with gay Mormons who are difficult to understand by the broader gay community. The presenter will discuss six popular plays and films that portray gay Mormon characters and/or themes.

372. Panel SEEING AS BELIEVING

Abstract The eclectic visions of three diverse and discerning poets emerge as concrete images, scenes, shapes and shadow—screened in a sensuous slide show and read and performed live. Poetry in voice, in paint, in photos, and in ink, all of which remains on the retina and stretches the imagination.

Panelists ALEX CALDIERO, poet, polyartist, sonosopher and scholar of humanities, and then again—as the shape of your own mind. He is artist in residence at Utah Valley University

CHERYL L. BRUNO. This woman's a mother of eight/Whose poems are fabulously great/A blogger renowned/She moves all around/And has feminist, pacifist traits./From Vernal, to Vegas, to Saudi/(where women cannot drive an Audi)/She swims, sews, sings tunes/Quote her scripture, she swoons!/But sometimes, she's just a bit naughty!

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 4:45 PM–6:15 PM

371. Panel GAY AND MORMON ON THE STAGE AND SCREEN

Moderator RON SCHOW, co-editor/contributor of *A Peculiar People*

PAUL SWENSON, journalist who morphed into a poet under the influence of a genius sister and a long-running polymorphous writing group, now takes pleasure in playing the performance game with people of similar bent

373. Panel MEN AND THE PRIESTHOOD: TAKING ON THE FEMININE

Abstract Some feminists insist that they want equality in the priesthood while others just want to have a say in their culture. Before we firebrand an all-male priesthood as inherently bad, let's step back and take a second look at some possible positive aspects of an all-male priesthood—as well as some of the drawbacks of such a system.

Moderator TOM KIMBALL, marketing director, Signature Books, outgoing book review editor, *Journal of Mormon History*

Panelists HOLLY WELKER has a PhD in English literature from the University of Iowa. Her poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and scholarship have appeared in publications ranging from *The New Era*, the *New York Times*, *Best American Essays* to *Bitch*

ROBIN LINKHART MA, Christian Ministry; Seventy; Field Missionary Coordinator for the West Central USA mission field

Other panelists to be announced.

374. Panel EXIT, VOICE, AND LOYALTY IN THE MORMON COMMUNITY

Abstract The work of political economist Albert Hirschman suggests a nuanced approach to public dissatisfaction with an organization. Dissatisfied members of an organization, business, or nation have a variety of choices available, including both exit (simply leaving) and voice (discussing their dissatisfaction). As Hirschman notes, greater loyalty to the organization can correspond to greater use of voice. Contradicting traditional Mormon views, dissent may actually be an indicator of greater loyalty to the organization.

Panelists will discuss loyalty, voice, exit, and dissent from a variety of angles, ultimately suggesting that the Mormon community's understanding of public disagreement may be underdeveloped and sketching ways in which legitimate dissent could take on a broader role in the community.

Moderator KAIMIPONO WENGER, JD, assistant professor, Thomas Jefferson Law School, San Diego

Panelists KRISTINE HAGLUND, editor, *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*

BRIDGET JACK JEFFRIES, MA candidate, history of Christianity in America, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

JOHN DEHLIN, PhD student, clinical/counseling psychology, Utah State University, founder, Mormon Stories podcast, STAYLDS.COM

375. Panel GROWTH AND DISPERSION OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN "ZION" AND "BABYLON": THE CONSEQUENCES OF MORMON DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION

Paper 1 Demographic Change in Utah: Consequences for Latter-day Saint Religious Behavior and Member Retention in the Mormon Culture Region

Presenter RICK PHILLIPS specializes in the sociology of Mormonism. His book *Conservative Christian Identity and Same-Sex Orientation: The Case of Gay Mormons* explored the nexus of sexuality and religiosity among Latter-day Saints. His work on Mormonism has been published in *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Sociology of Religion*, and *Nova Religio*

Abstract This paper looks at demographic data from Utah and various national censuses throughout the world to analyze the trends and consequences of Mormon growth and dispersion. Rick Phillips' paper combines several data sources to show how recent shifts in Utah's demography may have important implications for the activity and retention of Latter-day Saints in their Great Basin stronghold.

Paper 2 Comparing the Global Growth and Distributions of Mormons, Adventists, and Witnesses, and Testing the Reliability of the Membership Data

Presenter RONALD LAWSON, PhD, professor emeritus, of sociology and urban studies

Abstract Ronald Lawson's paper presents a demographic portrait of Mormon converts worldwide with a focus on Latin America. It compares the characteristics of LDS converts with those of Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh-Day Adventists (groups that social scientists often group with Mormons) to show how each denomination has a unique strategy for finding converts in a competitive religious marketplace.

376. Paper 1 FINALLY, DECENTRALIZATION . . . I THINK: THE COMMUNITY OF CHRIST WORLD CONFERENCE OF 2010

Presenter WILLIAM D. RUSSELL, retired professor, American history and government, Graceland University; working on a book about the schism in the RLDS Church that surfaced after the ordination of women in 1984

Abstract The revelations of Joseph Smith established a hierarchical church organization (i.e. revelations come only through the prophet, a hierarchical priesthood structure). Members of Latter-day Saint church organizations in democratic countries often feel frustrated at the lack of democracy in their church, with legislative, executive, and

judicial powers concentrated at the top. In the RLDS Church (since 2001 the Community of Christ) in time of tension, there has been the natural tendency to centralize power. In 1966, the Council of Twelve announced five objectives for the church, one of which was to decentralize. But the church is more centralized today than it was at that time. At the April World Conference 2010, the vexing issue of homosexuality (same sex marriage, priesthood availability) led President Veazey to decentralize decision making (Doctrine and Covenants 164, 2010). Time will tell whether decentralization will actually occur.

Paper 2 **TRANSFORMING HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IN A DIVIDED WORLD: A HISTORIAN'S VIEW OF COMMUNITY OF CHRIST'S SECTION 164**

Presenter MARK SCHERER is World Church Historian for the Community of Christ

Abstract President Stephen M. Veazey's inspired document was approved by delegates at the Community of Christ's April 2010 World Conference and became Section 164 in the *Book of Doctrine and Covenants*. Historians in the future may see the impact of this prophetic message on today's church as similar to how Sections 17 (LDS 20) and 104 (LDS 107) shaped the Restoration church. Absent the poetic language in previous Words of Counsel, Section 164 established administrative guidelines that will frame church polity and discourse for generations to come. In the future, the Conference of 2010 may well be seen as the Community of Christ's Vatican II moment. This paper discusses the impact of Section 164 in three components—past, present, and future.

Mormon Studies students are the result of analyzing information on specific subjects from different women's interviews.

Introduction CLAUDIA L. BUSHMAN

Claudia is project director and adjunct professor of Mormon Studies at Claremont Graduate University with degrees in literature and American studies from Wellesley College, Brigham Young University, and Boston University. Her twelfth book, *Pansy's Family History*, will be published this summer.

Panelists LISA T. CLAYTON, "Sisters and the Egg: Fertility Attitudes in Transition"

A resident of Newport Beach, California, Lisa has a BA in English from the University of Utah and is an MA candidate in religion at CGU. She manages the Newport Beach Oral History Collaborative.

LAUREN KENNARD, "Defining the Relationship: DTRs in Dating, Marriage, and Singlehood"

From Midvale, Utah, Lauren is a graduate of Southern Virginia University and is currently an MA candidate at CGU. She hopes to study abroad in the near future.

CAROLINE KLINE, "LDS Women Navigating a Patriarchal Church"

A resident of Irvine, California, Caroline is a graduate of Scripps College with an MA in classics from UC Santa Barbara. She is the co-founder of *The Exponent* blog and plans to begin the PhD program in women's studies in religion at CGU in fall 2010.

BANQUET 7:30 PM

The banquet session requires a separate registration fee of \$40 to cover the cost of the dinner.

As Sunstone must guarantee the hotel a specific number of plates even before the symposium begins, banquet tickets are available primarily through pre-registration. However, a few dinners may be available for purchase at the symposium.

There is no "lecture only" admission to the banquet session.

391. Banquet LDS WOMEN IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: WITNESSES TO A CHANGING CHURCH

Abstract This session features excerpts from Claremont Oral History Program interviews begun in 2009 to record and preserve the voices of Mormon women. Sponsored by the Singer Foundation, the project aims for 100 extensive transcribed interviews that deal with personal biography, attitudes toward LDS women's issues, and Church experience. The interviews are conducted by Mormon Studies students and by women of the community. Interviewees have been chosen by group and individual nominations. Tonight's presentations by

SUNDAY 8 AUGUST 10:00 AM

The Community of Christ will be holding a communion service at the Salt Lake Congregation on 8 August, the Sunday morning following the symposium. All are invited to attend.

Services will be held at 2747 East 3640 South, Salt Lake City UT 84109

10:00 AM—Sunday School

Lachlan Mackay, director of historic sites for Community of Christ will teach a class on the early history of the reorganization.

11:00 AM—Communion Service

Elder Susan Skoor of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles will speak at the sacrament service. Sacrament of the Bread & Wine, Open Communion (all may partake)

12:00 PM—Lunch

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