



the wry new novel by
David G. Pace



"Melding the sacred and the profane, *Dream House on Golan Drive* is a haunting tale set in the 1970s that depicts the restrictive and redemptive nature of a Mormon family in Provo, Utah."
— Carys Bray, author of *A Song for Issy Bradley*


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**SUNSTONE
SOUTHWEST**

February 20, 2016

FEBRUARY 20th at the Mesa Convention Center

8:30 am REGISTRATION

9:00 – 10:00 am CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

Infants on Thrones Live Recording presented by Matt Long, Glenn Ostlund, John Hamer, Jake Frost, Scott Rowley, and Randy Snyder
Moderated by Anissa Hendrix Rasheta
Room:

Empowering and Claiming Yourself and Your Identity
presented by Christian Moore
Moderated by
Room:

10:15 – 11:15 am CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

Ordination for All – Community of Christ and Inclusion of LGBT Community presented by Stassi Cramm, Barbara Carter and Linda Booth
Room:

Re-entering Workforce as a Mormon Woman presented by Triné Thomas Nelson, Paula Baker, Jessica Steed, and Stefanie Carson-Nickolaisen
Moderated by Anissa Hendrix Rasheta
Room:

11:30 – 12:45 CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

Why We Stay presented by H. Micheal Wright, Emily Curtis, Paul Garns
Room:

How LGBT Policies Affect Membership presented by Bryce Cook, Wendy Montgomery, Brent Sherwood, Shauntel Simper, Kimberly Anderson, and Theresa Bartholemew
Moderated Amber Pechin
Room:

12:45 – 2:30 pm LUNCH BREAK

2:30 – 4:00 pm KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Parenting Beyond Belief presented by Dale McGowan and Noell Hyman
Moderated by: Micah Nickolaisen
Room:

4:15 – 5:15 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

Mormon Millenarianism and the Modern Prepper Movement
presented by Lindsay Hansen Park
Moderated by Amber Pechin
Room:

Stepping Back from the Dead-End of the Belief/Dis-belief Dichotomy and Recovering the Path to Meaningful Spirituality
presented by John Hamer
Room:

5:30 – 6:30 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

Ready to Witness presented by Debra Jenson, Sean Carter and Mark Barnes
Moderated by Anissa Hendrix Rasheta
Room:

Navigating Complex Relationships: Non-monogamy and Marriage presented by Natasha Helfer Parker
Moderated David Dixon
Room:

Dinner and Afterparty Offsite TBA

LUNCH:

There will be a 105 minute lunch break. You are welcome to grab lunch offsite and meet back at 2:30 for the keynote.

Restaurants nearby include:

Diamond's Sports Grille
161 N Centennial Way
.1 mile away

Cafe Azul
200 N. Centennial Way Phoenix Marriott
Mesa
.1 mile away

Downtown Rendezvous
20 East Main Street North side of Mesa
Plaza Building
.3 miles away

Jimmy Johns
68 E Main St
.6 miles away

AFTER-PARTY:

Sunstone Southwest attendees are invited to an after party at 6:30 pm.

Location: TBA

PRESENTER INFO

BARBARA CARTER has worked for Community of Christ for 21 years. She currently serves as the secretary of the Council of Twelve Apostles, and as Interfaith and Ecumenical Officer. Barbara is also the chair of the finance committee for the National Council of Churches.

BRENT SHERWOOD lives in Maricopa with his three children. He has been their primary caretaker for the past 12 years and recently came out as gay.

BRYCE COOK and his wife Sara live in Mesa and have six children, two of whom are gay. They are co-founders of ALL Arizona, a support group for LGBT Mormons (or former Mormons) and their families.

CHRISTIAN MOORE is an internationally renowned speaker, licensed clinical social worker, and advocate for youth. He is the author of *The Resilience Breakthrough*, a guide for accessing resilience in a world of increasing instability and narrowing opportunity.

DEBRA JENSON is an assistant professor of communication at Utah State University in Logan, Utah. She is a member of the executive board of Ordain Women and chairs the communication committee, helping craft materials for public release and private communication with LDS Church officials.

EMILY CLYDE CURTIS is a former editor of *Exponent II*, a Mormon feminist magazine, and celebrates her 10th anniversary as a blogger on *The Exponent*. She has a masters degree in theological studies from Harvard Divinity School.

GLENN OSTLUND studied Mormon folklore at Indiana University, and came half a dissertation away from finishing a PhD on Mormon humor. But he never really did anything with that, cuz really, what can you do with a PhD in folklore?

H. MICHEAL WRIGHT is a 6th-generation Mormon on both parents' side. He was born and raised in Mesa. He is a trial lawyer and senior partner at the law firm of Udall Shumway in Mesa.

JAKE FROST is the creator of the Brother Jake videos, a faith-promoting YouTube sensation. When he isn't crunching numbers at his job, Jake enjoys answering questions about why he's childless, when he'll have children, and how many he'll have. Just ask him.

JESSICA STEED discovered progressive Mormonism through feminism and began blogging at *Exponent II* in 2008. After co-founding LDS WAVE and running the Sophia Gathering MoFem retreat for six years, she transitioned out of the Mormon feminist space and into the workforce in 2014.

JOHN HAMER grew up in the LDS Church and now serves as pastor (or presiding elder) of the downtown Toronto congregation of his church. A past president of the John Whitmer Historical Association, John is co-author of *Community of Christ: An Illustrated History*.

LINDA BOOTH serves as president of the Council of Twelve Apostles and Director of communications for Community of Christ. She was one of the first two women ordained as apostle in 1998. She was the first woman set apart to serve as president of the Council in 2013.

KIMBERLY ANDERSON has a BA and an MFA from Utah State University. She has exhibited widely both nationally and internationally and has work in various collections throughout the intermountain west. She has taught as an adjunct professor at Brigham Young University, Snow College, and Utah Valley University since 2008. She was a full-time lecturer in the 2013-14 school year.

LINDSAY HANSEN PARK is a women's rights activist, feminist blogger, and advocate against gender violence. She is the assistant director for the Sunstone Education Foundation and the founder of the *Feminist Mormon Housewives Podcast*, including the acclaimed *Year of Polygamy* series. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *NPR*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and many Utah publications.

MARK BARNES is a member of the Ordain Women executive board, and serves of the boards of Mormons for ERA and the Bleeding Hearts Foundation. He graduated from the University of Utah College of Law in 1987, and is a practicing attorney.

MATT LONG is criminal defense attorney in Mesa, Arizona, previously working for 12 years as a Deputy County Attorney where he primarily prosecuted sex crimes, child crimes, and homicide cases. He continues to present at child crimes conferences throughout the country.

NATASHA HELFER PARKER, LCMFT, CST is a certified sex therapist and licensed marriage & family therapist. She has been in practice for almost 20 years, primarily working within the Mormon community. She authors *The Mormon Therapist* blog and hosts the *Mormon Mental Health* podcast. She currently serves as the president of the Mormon Mental Health Association and president of the Kansas division of the American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy.

PAUL GARNES is a law student at the University of Arizona, looking forward to a career as a trial attorney. He loves Mormonism, mountains, horses, and reading.

PAULA BAKER has degrees in sociology and administration of justice and security. While teaching university courses full-time, she's figuring out what she wants to be when she grows up.

RANDY SNYDERR is a practicing orthodontist in Colorado and a proud atheistic member of the skeptic community.

SCOTT ROWLEY is a family law attorney from Mesa, Arizona. He is among the principal founders of the Any Opposed movement & *Infants on Thrones*. He is the principal founder of the Mormon Genome Project.

SEAN CARTER is a member of the Ordain Women executive board. He converted to the LDS church in 2011 shortly after visiting BYU to give a lecture at the law school. He is a Harvard Law grad and former securities lawyer who now makes his living as a legal humorist

SHAUNTEL SIMPER lives in Mesa with her cute girlfriend and two baby turtles. She works as an editor at a small publishing company and spends her evenings practicing martial arts.

STASSI CRAM has been an ordained Community of Christ minister since 1987 and is currently a member of the Council of Twelve. She is also serving as the presiding bishop and First Presidency member designate. If approved for these roles, she will be ordained to them at the 2016 Community of Christ World Conference. Stassi has a doctorate in leadership and has served in other key church leadership roles including interim dean for Community of Christ Seminary.

STEFANIE CARON-NICKOLAISEN is a Southern California native. She's the mother of two, sister to five, self-proclaimed chef, world traveler, photographer and graphic designer.

THERESA BARTHOLEMEW was born and raised in Southern California. She served a mission in northern Spain and graduated from BYU before starting her career in education here in Arizona. She married her longtime sweetheart Rachel last spring and together they are raising their two little boys.

TRINE THOMAS NELSON has over 10 years of career counseling experience. She currently lives in the East Valley with her husband and two sons.

WENDY MONTGOMERY lives in Chandler, AZ. She and her husband have five children, the oldest of which is fabulously gay. She is one of the founders of the Mama Dragons and on the board of directors for Affirmation. She and her family are featured in the short documentary film, *Families Are Forever*. She is an active member of the LDS Church and works hard from the inside to make a place for her LGBTQ brothers and sisters who desire to be there.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



DALE MCGOWAN is an American author, speaker, and philanthropist who has written and edited several books related to atheism, particularly parenting without religion. In 2010, McGowan launched *Foundation Beyond Belief (FBB)*, a nonprofit organization designed to encourage and facilitate charitable giving and volunteering among humanists and atheists. McGowan was named 2008 Humanist of the Year by the Humanist Chaplaincy at Harvard University in recognition for his work in nonreligious parenting education.

Choose Your Own Adventure: Parenting Beyond Belief



NOELL HYMAN is the host of Paperclipping.com where she teaches scrapbooking through video tutorials. She also hosts the popular talk show, the *Paperclipping Roundtable* with well-loved regular guests like Stacy Julian, Ali Edwards, Julie Fei-Fan Balzer, and many others. She is a regular contributor for *Parenting Beyond Belief: On Raising Ethical, Caring Kids Without Religion*.



THE SUNSTONE EDUCATION FOUNDATION
Founded in 1974

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

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