

Sunstone 2017 SALT LAKE SYMPOSIUM



"the least of these"

July 26-29 Olpin Student Union University of Utah

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2017 SALT LAKE SUNSTONE SYMPOSIUM

The Least of These

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2017 Salt Lake Sunstone Symposium! We're excited to explore "The Least of These" with you!

SYMPOSIUM PURPOSE

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

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

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

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

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

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

FUN. Find your people at Sunstone! Come enjoy a community of diverse scholars, intellectuals and thinkers who celebrate the wide spectrum of Mormonism in a variety of ways. Enjoy the uniqueness of the Mormon community with friends. Browse and purchase interesting books and Mormon crafts.

SYMPOSIUM CODE OF CONDUCT

We welcome the honest ponderings of all individuals and expect that everyone speaking at or attending the symposium will approach every issue—no matter how difficult—with intelligence, respect, and good will. We expect speakers to engage in rigorous inquiry and thoughtful participation that is respectful of what others hold sacred.

SUNSTONE

EVENTS

09/17
SEPTEMBER

SUNSTONE FRANKFURT

10/17
OCTOBER

SUNSTONE LANCASTER
SUNSTONE NAUVOO
SUNSTONE CALGARY

11/17
NOVEMBER

SUNSTONE SEATTLE

01/18
JANUARY

SUNSTONE MEXICO

To find out more, visit Sunstone.org

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

POINTS TO NOTE

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

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

As a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, all contributions to the Sunstone Education Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please give generously to insure that the quality and quantity of our programs and services continue to grow. Please visit the registration desk, locate a staff member, or visit Sunstone.org/ donate to make a donation to Sunstone.

SESSION PROCEEDINGS AND RECORDINGS

Symposium proceedings are not published in the magazine. Audio recordings of sessions (excluding film sessions) will be available for purchase on a Sunstone flash drive or audio disk at the audio desk. Audio can be purchased at the Sunstone table on Handcrafter’s Row.

SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

Name badges are mandatory for admission to sessions. Registration opens daily thirty minutes before sessions begin. Full registration, one-day passes, and single-session* admission are available for purchase onsite. Admission to the linger-longer barbeque with Elna Baker and Mindy Gledhill is also for sale at registration desk for \$18 per person. Sunstone cannot guarantee admission to preferred sessions.** Please plan your schedule accordingly. If the session you wish to attend fills up, you will have to choose another session on the program.

* There are a limited number of single session tickets. Please purchase your ticket early and be on location 10-15 minutes before your session starts to secure your single-session seat.

**As a courtesy to our attendees, we request that rooms be cleared immediately after each session to make room for those attending the next session.

PARKING

Sunstone has reserved the Alumni House parking lot and Lot 24 for symposium attendees (see map on page 55). Parking there is FREE on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The Alumni House is northeast of the Olpin Union and directly north of the Sill

Center. Look for Sunstone parking signs at the entrances to the reserved parking lots.

On Saturday only, parking in other campus parking lots is free except the paid Visitor Lot in front of the Olpin Student Union Building (see map on page 55).

After 6:00 pm, parking is free in other campus permit lots near the Student Union. Attendees may pay to park in the Visitor Lot directly east of the Union Building but this lot charges by the hour with a maximum of \$20 per day.* It is the closest lot to the Union. For those requiring handicapped parking, spaces are available in the Visitor Lot at the normal parking rate. A better option is the handicapped parking directly in front of the Union Building; these spots are FREE with a handicap placard.

Attendees who are staying at the Hampton Inn or at the University Guest House can park free in the hotel’s parking lot and take the free shuttle to the Student Union

*Sunstone cannot reimburse parking fees incurred by parking in the paid visitors lot, or parking tickets received by parking in any other unreserved parking lot.

DINING ON AND OFF CAMPUS

To promote their new book *Confessions of a Mormon Historian: The Diaries of Leonard J. Arrington, 1971-1999*, Signature Books is generously providing a complimentary continental breakfast Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the Ballroom from 8:00 am to 10:30 am. Food will be available on a first come first served basis, so get there early!

The food court is located on the first floor of the Olpin Student Union building, downstairs from where most sessions will be held. It is open 7:30 am–2:30 pm Wednesday through Saturday. Dining options include Rise & Shine (breakfast), Chef’s Table, Grill Nation, The Deli, Papa John’s, Crisp Salads, Au Bon Pain Soup, Einstein Brothers’ Bagels, Jamba Juice, Panda Express, and a convenience store.

Thursday evening dinner will be off campus. Please feel free to visit local restaurants.

Friday night, join Sunstone for dinner on the patio. We encourage you to support Sunstone by purchasing dinner, on the Union patio. One-man-band musician Tom Bennett will be performing from 7:00pm–7:45pm. After dinner, please join us in Saltair for our evening plenary with Fatimah Salleh.

Saturday night, Sunstone is hosting a linger longer barbeque 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm followed by performances from Elna Baker and Mindy Gledhill in the Center Ballroom. Cost is \$18 per person.

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

FRIDAY BREAKFAST: BALLROOM
LUNCH: UNION FOOD COURT
DINNER: DINNER ON THE PATIO

SATURDAY BREAKFAST: BALLROOM
LUNCH: UNION FOOD COURT
DINNER: LINGER LONGER

NEW ATTENDEES DINNER

Join Sunstone for our second annual New Attendees Dinner Wednesday, July 26th, 2017 at 5:00 pm in the Crimson View Room. This dinner is specifically for anyone attending the conference for the very first time or for people who would like a refresher. It's also a great opportunity for old attendees to meet new attendees and offer advice on how to Sunstone! Cost: \$16 per person.

UNION WIRELESS INTERNET LOGIN

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

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

The Fern Foundation is sponsoring children's workshops that will run concurrently with this year's symposium. An instructor who is background-checked, along with a youth staff group will provide this service for children ages 2–11 in the DEN room. Projects and snacks are included.

Children's workshops will be provided Thursday–Saturday in two blocks each day: 8:30 am–12:30 pm, and 1:30 pm–6:30 pm. Child care costs \$1 per hour per child.

Utah state law requires licensed childcare providers to limit the number of children per adult. The children's workshop is limited to 40 children. Please arrive early to ensure a spot for your child. Walk-ins are welcome as space permits. If childcare is something you would like to support at Sunstone conferences, please consider making a donation at the registration desk or at Sunstone.org/donate.

BOOKSTORE

Please visit the bookstore located in the ballroom and patronize the businesses and organizations that have displays there. Be sure to pick up titles from both Benchmark Books and Signature Books, who are loyal supporters of Sunstone.

HANDCRAFTER'S ROW

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

MANY THANKS

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

PLANNING AND OFFICE VOLUNTEERS: Our thanks to those who have gone the extra mile in managing

preparations for this year's events. The Symposium couldn't happen without them: HOLLY ALDEN, CHRIS BENCH, CURT BENCH, RYAN CHIDESTER, ALLAN COOK, ALAN EASTMAN, JOHN HATCH, TYSON GILL, JAZMIN HIGHT, ROY JEFFS, KENNETH LINES, BILL MCGEE, MICA MCGRIGGS, JEFF MOULTON, LESLIE OPLIN PETERSON, WHITNEY RIDENOUR-MOULTON, ANDREW SPRIGGS, JESSE STAY, and DAN WOTHERSPOON.

WEB AND TECH: JAKE SPURLOCK AND KIM MCCALL

ON-SITE VOLUNTEERS: It takes a village to help the symposium run smoothly. We give our heartfelt thanks to all of our many volunteers for helping with registration desk duties and other tasks that keep the symposium running smoothly.

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Once again STEVE MAYFIELD, KIM TURNER, and PERRY PORTER will be capturing symposium highlights on film, so smile when you see them approach!

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

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

PRESENTERS: We're excited to have both new and returning presenters on this year's program. We value their participation and hope they continue to join us as both presenters and audience members.

THANKS TO OUR DONORS & SPONSORS

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

2018 SYMPOSIUM DATES

1–4 August 2018

The calls for papers for our 2018 symposium will open on 1 September 2017, and the deadline for proposals will be 1 March 2018. Please submit proposals by using the Call For Papers form at Sunstone.org.

THE SUNSTONE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: BILL MCGEE (CHAIR), HOLLY ALDEN, KIM MCCALL,

ROOM	8:00-10:30	9:00-10:00 am	10:15-11:15 am	11:30-12:30 pm	12:30-2 pm	2:00-3:30 pm	3:45-4:45 pm	5:00-6:30 pm	6:30-8:00	7:00-9:30
SALTIR	101. Continental breakfast provided by Signature Books in Center Ballroom Doorbuster Prize for first 50 attendees	111. The Banality of Progress	121. The Wicked Son	131. It's the End of the World as We Know It	141. Lunch will be available for purchase in the Union cafeteria. See page 5 for dining options.	151. Mormon Intrafaith Marriage	161. Damned by the Courts	171. Introduction to MormonLeaks	181. Dinner off campus at nearby restaurants.	191. Mormon Mental Health Conference
CRIMSON VIEW	112. From Surviving to Thriving	122. November 2015 Policy Change	132. Rejecting Dogma	132. Rejecting Dogma	142. Mormon Food Studies in Trump's America	152. Ghost of Eternal Polygamy	162. Conversation Group: Discussions about Faith	172. Extraordinary Ordinary Women		
PANORAMA EAST		123. Mormon Ethic and Neoliberalism	123. Mormon Ethic and Neoliberalism			153. Continuity and Change in Temple Worship	163. Charmed Bird Under the Serpent's Eye	173. Transitioning with Teens		
WEST BALLROOM	111B. Overflow: The Banality of Progress	124. The Paradox of NonDuality	124. The Paradox of NonDuality	133. Old, Gay, and Mormon	Mormon Food Studies in Trump's America	154. Faith and Virtue in Resistance	164. The Wages of Sin is Death: HIV/AIDS in Utah	174. Helping the FLDS in Crisis		
EAST BALLROOM		125. Mountain Running	125. Mountain Running	134. Embracing All Genders	Saltair Room	155. Bridgewalker: Linda Sillitoe's Poetry	165. Learning to Breathe after the Death of a Child	175. Alternative Spiritual Practices		
UNION THEATER				135. The Lord's House: Isaiah 2:2		156. The Case for Cannabis	166. Teach from the Little Box	176. Spirit-Matter: Gateway to Moral Agency		
PARLOR A			126. Mormon Socialization, Women's Education	136. An Anthropropic Theodicy		157. The Witch Doctor in the Sky	167. The Kingdom Embraces All	177. Discussion: Choosing Your Family		

Come patronize the Benchmark Bookstore in the Ballroom and Handcrafter's Row in the Corridor to support Mormon art and scholarship.

THURSDAY 27 JULY

ROOM	8:30–10:30	9:00–10:00 am	10:15–11:15 am	11:30–12:30 pm	12:30–2 pm	2:00–3:30 pm	3:45–4:45 pm	5:00–6:30 pm	6:30–8:00	8:00–9:30pm
SALTAIR	201. Continental breakfast provided by Signature Books in Center Ballroom	211. Meaning for All?	221. Joseph Didn't Set Out to Start a Church	231. Joseph Smith: Entrepreneur	241. Lunch will be available for purchase in the Union cafeteria. See page 5 for dining options.	251. Why We Stay	261. Transparency for All	271. Gospel Topics Essays Book	281. Support Sunstone by purchasing dinner on the patio.	291. Embracing the Least of These
CRIMSON VIEW	Signature Books in Center Ballroom	212. Limits of Political Neutrality	222. Rise Strong After Divorce	232. The Church's Recovery Program	See page 5 for dining options.	252. (in)Active Mormon Women	262. Typical Sexual Shame Residue	272. LDS/SSA Four Options Survey	purchasing dinner on the patio.	Room: SALTAIR
COLLEGIATE	Doorbuster Prize for first 50 attendees	213. Black Mormon Women	223. Your Spiritual Journey Is Trying to Eat	233. Social Responses to Feminists	Lunchtime presentation:		263. Worth of All Persons	273. How I Became an LGBTQ Ally	Bowling and billiards in the Union game room	
PANORAMA EAST	Morning Devotional 8:15-8:45		224. The Religion of Dieting	234. Remembering Gene	242. Brother Jake Does Sunstone		264. Murder, Mayhem, Mormons	274. Mormons and Trump		
PARLOR A	201. It Was the Worst of Times; It Was the Best of Times	214. The Agency Blueprint	225. Atonement Talk in Mormonism	235. Parenting and Perfectionism	Room: SALTAIR		265. A Life Worth Living (After Mormonism)	275. Crafting as Subversive Resistance		
WEST BALLROOM	Best of Times Room: SALTAIR	215. Priestess Unto the Most High God	226. Genealogy: Melaninated Style	236. The Greatest and the Least: Parables of Jesus		251b. Overflow Livestream of Why We Stay	266. More on the Evolution of the D&C	276. Fundamentalist Millennial Mormons		291b. Overflow Livestream of session 291
EAST BALLROOM		216. Mormon Suicide Epidemic	227. They, Them, Their: Seeing God on the Spectrum	237. For Everyone Born, a Place at the Table			267. Radio Heaven and Hell	277. Sacred Resistance		
UNION THEATER		217. Epistemological Guardianship	228. The Personality of Joseph Smith	238. Anonymity and the Mormon Searcher			268. Redeeming the Fallen: Illicit Intercourse	278. Modern Freemasonry		
ROOM 312		218. Fundamentalist Missionary Work	229. Healing Polygamist Communities	239. Mormon Thinking Errors			269. Women's Rituals	279. Mormon Identity Crisis	FRIDAY 28 JULY	

ROOM	8:30–10:30	9:00–10:00 am	10:15–11:15 am	11:30–12:30 pm	12:30–2 pm	2:00–3:30 pm	3:45–4:45 pm	5:00–6:30 pm	6:30–8:00	8:00–9:30 pm
SALT AIR	301. Continental breakfast provided by Signature Books in Center Ballroom	311. Mormons, Myth, Miracles, and Magic	321. Sing a New Song: New Hymns	331. Other Sheep, Indeed	341. Lunch will be available for purchase in the Union cafeteria. See page 5 for dining options.	351. Playmate Mormons	361. From Patriarchy to Partnership	371. Countering the Alt Right	381. Linger-Longer BBQ	391. Elna Baker and Mindy Gledhill Room: SALT AIR
CRIMSON VIEW	312. BYU, Sexual Violence, and the Honor Code	322. Mormon Heavenly Mother	332. Mormon Generations	332. Mormon Generations	342. Film: Trapped by the Mormons	352. Can We Talk? Challenging Conversations	362. Without Death We Cannot Mourn	372. Mormons, Addiction, and Opioids	Ballroom \$18 per ticket	
COLLEGIATE	Doorbuster Prize for first 50 attendees	323. Health Is Our Birthright	333. Walking One Another Home	333. Walking One Another Home	Lunchtime presentation:	353. Standing at the Crossroads of Identity	363. “Jesus Service”	373. Women (Re) Entering the Workforce	(tickets must be purchased in advance)	
PANORAMA EAST	Morning Devotional 8:15-8:45	324. Revelation Through Hallucination	334. The Spiritual Brain	334. The Spiritual Brain	342. Film: Trapped by the Mormons	354. Getting Unstuck	364. 10 Things Trump Teaches about Joseph	374. George Q. Cannon Journals	Bowling and billiards in the Union game room	
PARLOR A	301. Beauty Room: SALT AIR	314. Mormons and Heroin Use	325. A Year of Faith Transition Stories	335. An Unruly Faith	Room: SALT AIR	355. Transitions: What I Learned	365. FreeBYU's Campaign	375. Reconciling Conflicts		
WEST BALLROOM	315. The Remnant Movement	326. Borderlands: Helping Newcomers	336. Nauvoo Council of Fifty Minutes	336. Nauvoo Council of Fifty Minutes	343. Mormon Food Studies in Trump's America	356. Seer Stones, Folk Magic, and Alvin's Hand	366. Paradox of Jesus in the Book of Mormon	376. Food of the Goddess: Etheogenic Theory		
EAST BALLROOM	316. Shame with No Name: “Aspirational Shame”	327. Awash in a Sea of Faith	337. Communication in Mixed-Faith Relationships	337. Communication in Mixed-Faith Relationships	Room: EAST BALLROOM	357. Bob's Mormon Cred Scale 2.0	367. Distinctions Between Gospel and Culture	377. Infants on Post-Mormon Values		
UNION THEATER	317. Trials of Our Faith	328. The Polygamist's Daughter	338. Quantifiably Stranger than Fiction	338. Quantifiably Stranger than Fiction		358. Leadershift: From Love to Power	368. Polygamy in Our DNA	378. Muslims and Mormons		
ROOM 312	318. Discussion: How to Live with Labels	329. More than a Name	339. Voice in the Wilderness	339. Voice in the Wilderness		359. Ask a Sex Therapist	369. Voice Lessons	379. Enjoying the Temple with Fresh Eyes		SAT 29 JULY

WEDNESDAY 26 JULY

SMITH-PETTIT LECTURE, 7:00-8:30 PM

091. THE LEAST OF THESE

The Smith-Pettit lecture is FREE and open to the public.

MODERATOR JAMES DABAKIS

CONDUCTOR KIM MCCALL

ACCOMPANIST ALAN EASTMAN

OPENING SONG *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

INVOCATION TAMU SMITH

PRESENTER MELISSA HARRIS-PERRY is the Maya Angelou Presidential Chair at Wake Forest University. There she is the Executive Director of the Pro Humanitate Institute and founding director of the Anna Julia Cooper Center.

Melissa hosted the award winning television show "Melissa Harris-Perry" from 2012-2016 on weekend mornings on MSNBC.

She is the author of the award-winning Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought, and Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America.

Harris-Perry received her B.A. degree in English from Wake Forest University and her Ph.D. degree in political science from Duke University. She also studied theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Harris-Perry previously served on the faculty of the University of Chicago, Princeton University, and Tulane University.

ABSTRACT *How does one interact with what Jesus once called "the least of these?" How does our interaction affect the political, religious, cultural, social, and interpersonal landscape around us? Melissa Harris-Perry will address these and similar questions.*

CLOSING SONG *Thou Gracious God, Whose Mercy Lends*

BENEDICTION MICA MCGRIGGS

ROOM SALT AIR

This lecture is FREE and open to the public. This lecture has been made possible by the generous support of the Smith-Pettit Foundation.

THURSDAY 27 JULY

REGISTRATION, 8:30 AM-9:00 PM

Admission to sessions is by Symposium name badge or ticket only. This policy will be strictly enforced. Badges and single-session tickets are available at the registration table in the lobby of the Olpin Student Union Building.

BREAKFAST

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
BY SIGNATURE BOOKS
8:00AM -10:30AM

DOORBUSTERS FOR
THE FIRST 50 ATTENDEES

ROOM BALLROOM

8:30 AM-9:00 PM

102. SUNSTONE ART SHOW:
BRIGHAM'S 56 WIVES:
AN ART EXPERIENCE

PRESENTERS LESLIE O. PETERSON painted the Forgotten Wives of Joseph Smith series, which was featured in the New York Times.

AMY RICH's work in education, editing, graphic design, and project management helped to orchestrate this exhibit, but the women of WOCA (Women of a Certain Age) brought Brigham's wives to life!

ABSTRACT Leslie O. Peterson and Amy Rich spearheaded this collaborative art project involving 56 women (non-artists) painting the 56 wives of Brigham Young. Their hope is to bring these wives out of obscurity and honor them as Leslie has done with the Forgotten Wives of Joseph Smith series.

ROOM BALLROOM

103. SUNSTONE ART SHOW:
UNTITLED: A SERIES OF FILM
PORTRAITS MADE ON THE STREET

PRESENTER RYAN TRIMBLE lives in Utah Valley with his family. He enjoys writing, photography, and riding bikes, among other things.

ROOM BALLROOM



- 104. SUNSTONE ART SHOW: FAITH IN OUR DIFFERENCES**
- PRESENTER** ERIK ROBINSON has been a professional photographer for about two years and focuses on capturing images that tell stories, frequently related to the human condition. Even when taking pictures of nature, architecture, or objects, he is usually looking for something resembling a character and finding a way to tell its story.
- ABSTRACT** Faith in Our Differences is an ongoing photo-interview project involving individuals who are or have been members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. More than a platform for people to openly speak, it is an invitation to openly listen. As it continues to grow, the goal is to encourage understanding, unity, and love in our diverse perspectives and experiences. Though different, we are all part of the human family and no one deserves to be put into a box. Consequently, the images have no frames.
- ROOM** BALLROOM
- These three exhibits will be on display for the duration of the symposium.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

- 111. THE BANALITY OF PROGRESS**
- PRESENTER** MEHRSA BARADARAN is the J. Alton Hosch Professor of Law at the University of Georgia, teaching contracts and banking law. Her books include *How the Other Half Banks* and *The Color of Money: A History of Black Banking*, both from Harvard University Press.
- ABSTRACT** This presentation will: 1. Think through the complex and conflicting trifecta of identity, politics, and activism. 2. Help to shed some misconceptions about identity so that we can more effectively fight against injustice.
- MODERATOR** JOANNA THORPE THOLSTROM
- ROOM** SALT AIR
- 111B. OVERFLOW BROADCAST OF SESSION 111: THE BANALITY OF PROGRESS**
- ROOM** WEST BALLROOM

- 112. FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING: LEARNING HOW TO “DO” CHURCH AS AN ADVENTUROUS MORMON**
- PRESENTERS** BOYD JAY PETERSEN is the editor of *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* and serves as the program coordinator for Mormon Studies at Utah Valley University. He is the author of *Dead Wood and Rushing Water: Essays on Mormon Faith, Culture, and Family*, as well as *Hugh Nibley: A Consecrated Life*.
- ABSTRACT** DAN WOTHERSPOON is the host of the *Mormon Matters* podcast, and the former editor and executive director of Sunstone.
- Early on in a faith shift, most of us begin to feel less comfortable at church, sure that we're the only one thinking (what seem to be) bigger thoughts about the topics at hand, or frustrated at appeals to authority instead of genuine engagement. “Where's the growth?” “Where's the curiosity?”, we wonder. Experiences like these can change, however, and church can once again become a rich experience, even enjoyable. In this session, two veterans of Mormon faith shifts share a few of their secrets to once more “thrive” at church. And they want to hear yours, too! This session will feature a vigorous discussion.
- MODERATOR** RUSSELL L. OSMOND
- ROOM** CRIMSON VIEW

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

- 121. THE WICKED SON: MY FATHER IS WARREN JEFFS**
- PRESENTER** ROY JEFFS was born into the FLDS faith and is the son of FLDS prophet Warren Jeffs. He lived for 21 years as a faithful member until he left the group in 2014. He now works as a rideshare driver in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- ABSTRACT** Roy Jeffs is the son of the infamous FLDS prophet Warren Jeffs. Join him as he shares his harrowing story of shame, escape, and resiliency.
- MODERATOR** RYAN FLAKE
- ROOM** SALT AIR

122. THE NOVEMBER 2015 POLICY CHANGE IN LIGHT OF MATTHEW 25

PRESENTERS ROBERT A. REES is the Director of Mormon Studies at Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

WILLIAM S. BRADSHAW is retired from the Department of Molecular Biology at BYU. He and his wife, Marge, are the immediate past chairs of LDS Family Fellowship, a support group for parents of LGBTQ children.

BERTA MARQUEZ has worked for several years throughout Utah with organizations that specialize in bridging the gap between the LDS faith tradition and the LGBT community, including Affirmation, Out in Zion, and Ildswalkwithyou.org. She currently serves as director of Operation Shine America, an organization which serves homeless youth.

ABSTRACT Jesus used the parable of the sheep and goats to call his followers to look upon those we consider “the least” as if they were him. This session looks at the Church’s November 2015 policy change in regard to married gay and lesbian parents and their children in light of this parable. It will include personal stories by families affected by the policy change.

MODERATOR JOANNA SMITH

ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

123. THE MORMON ETHIC AND THE SPIRIT OF NEOLIBERALISM

PRESENTER JUSTIN PACK has a PhD in philosophy from the University of Oregon where he studied thoughtlessness in academia. He is currently a lecturer at CSU Stanislaus.

ABSTRACT Why do so many Mormons seem to be attracted to neoliberalism (the idea that society should be shaped by the free market) even though it shares some fundamental similarities with the philosophy of Koriher? This presentation examines the rise and failure of economic liberalism, and how it was resuscitated in the late 20th century. That many Mormons have embraced neoliberalism, despite the clear scriptural injunctions against radical individualism, shows that it is not only a political coup, but also an ideological one.

MODERATOR MICHELLE JOHNSON

ROOM PANORAMA EAST

124. IN CHRIST: MORMONISM AND THE PARADOX OF NONDUALITY

PRESENTER PHILIP MCLEMORE is a former LDS Institute director, Air Force chaplain, and hospice chaplain. He is a meditation teacher who conducts seminars and oversees an online program at meditatewithphil.com.

ABSTRACT NonDuality is a concept used to describe the mystery of existence and being and of one’s conscious relationship with and in God. Is there a place for nondual understandings within Mormonism, which is arguably one of the most dualistic religions on the planet? Is it possible that the scriptural expressions, “I shall know . . . as . . . I am known” and “Abide in me and I in you” point to nondual realities that have the power to transform individuals into a Christlike nature and the body of Latter-day Saints into a more spiritually rich community?

MODERATOR DAN WOTHERSPOON

ROOM WEST BALLROOM

125. MOUNTAIN RUNNING, MORMONISM, AND A PATHWAY TO SPIRITUALITY

PRESENTERS JEDEDIAH ROGERS is a historian, editor, and avid mountain runner. Currently co-managing editor of the Utah Historical Quarterly, he is author of Roads in the Wilderness: Conflict in Canyon Country (University of Utah Press, 2013) and editor of a couple of documentary volumes in Mormon history.

JAY GRIFFITH is an explorer of ideas and a facilitator of dialogue and relationships through various organizations and non-profits, including the LDS Church. He often does his best meditative thinking and living while running in the mountains.

ABSTRACT Ultrarunning, especially in the mountains, often takes on spiritual and religious dimensions: sacrificing the body and pushing beyond one’s natural limits to experience transcendence. In this session, two ultra runners—one in his thirties and one in his late fifties—will share their experience of conversing with God through this sport, placing it in the context of Mormonism and its unique concepts of spirit, body, creation, and nature. The session includes a viewing of the 9-minute documentary “Holy.”

MODERATOR LAURA EVERSLED JOHNSEN

ROOM EAST BALLROOM



126.

MORMON SOCIALIZATION,
WOMEN’S EDUCATION,
AND ONLINE SUPPORT GROUPS

PRESENTER

DANIELLE BRIGGS CHRISTENSEN earned her master’s degree from Westminster College in community leadership. She previously served as the program coordinator for the Utah Women and Education Initiative.

ABSTRACT

In contrast to national trends, women in Mormon-dominated Utah attain college degrees at a much lower rate than men, reporting that they value some college experience but not necessarily graduation. This session presents findings from a study focussing on an online support group (OSG) for Mormon women pursuing a college degree. The OSG provided academic assistance, emotional support, and a sense of community—the women developing a set of cultural norms adapted to their aspirations, mitigating Mormon culture’s impact.

MODERATOR

BROOKE SCOTT

ROOM

PARLOR A

132.

REJECTING DOGMA
BY EMBRACING PARADOX

PRESENTER

JONATHAN ADERHOLD practices psychotherapy at Silver Skies Counseling in Seattle, WA. He is a member of the Mormon Mental Health Association, and an active Mormon.

ABSTRACT

Christ focused his teachings on subverting the letter of the law in order to pursue its spirit. In other words, he pointed us away from the known toward the unknown. Mormonism has evolved into a rigid and dogmatic group dominated by authority. Its members frequently focus on the importance of ideology, often leading them toward moral stagnation and a disregard of others. In this session, we’ll explore how embracing paradox and the incomprehensible can allow us to reorient our spirituality to be more in line with Christ’s teachings. This presentation was co-authored by Joshua Neal.

MODERATOR

KEVIN LABRESH

ROOM

CRIMSON VIEW

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 11:30 PM – 12:30 PM

131.

IT’S THE END OF THE WORLD
AS WE KNOW IT

PRESENTERS

JODY ENGLAND HANSEN is a mixed-media artist, occasional empty nester, Mama Dragon and LGBTQ activist, recently rematriated to Utah—on a journey to find connection in the temple as she stops grasping for it.

ABSTRACT

At a recent Mormon women’s retreat, I was asked what I felt to be the greatest problem or challenge facing the Church today. My thoughts on this go beyond policy, doctrine, and politics. In this presentation, I approach this challenge with a single question: “Is changing the way we live in the world more frightening than global destruction?” I will discuss what it might take to save the world, or the Church, or just ourselves.

MODERATOR

THOMAS B. MCAFFEE

ROOM

SALTAIR

133.

OLD GAY MORMONS

PRESENTER

DALLIN PHILLIPS is a retired university administrator and instructor, and father of eight children and 24 grandchildren. He has a law degree, and has served as a bishop twice.

ABSTRACT

This presentation is an honest, candid look at the life of a gay/bisexual man who grew up in the 60’s, and the unique pleasures and frustrations that attend being an older gay man today.

MODERATOR

AARON BOYETT

ROOM

WEST BALLROOM

134.

EMBRACING ALL GENDERS:
CLASHES BETWEEN MORMONISM
AND THE SCIENCE
OF GENDER IDENTITY

PRESENTER

EMILY MACKELPRANG received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Washington and both her master’s degree and PhD from the University of Arizona where she taught human sexuality courses and provided guest lectures, seminars, and community presentations on various topics relating to sexuality.

ABSTRACT This presentation provides information about the science of gender identity by: 1) Defining gender-relevant terminology; 2) Providing education about sex and gender—using intersexuality to illustrate the false dichotomies often associated with these terms—and, 3) Discussing what scientific research tells us about gender and gender identity. The presenter will then facilitate a conversation regarding the clash between scientific and Mormon views of sex and gender, exploring potential paths toward understanding and reconciliation.

MODERATOR BERT FULLER

ROOM EAST BALLROOM

135. THE LORD'S HOUSE IN THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAINS: THE DIVERSE MORMON READINGS OF ISAIAH 2:2

PRESENTER MARK THOMAS is widely published on the subject of Mormon scriptures and is currently coauthoring a book entitled *The Mormon Annotated Isaiah*.

ABSTRACT Isaiah 2 is one of the most famous chapters in the Hebrew Bible. The establishment of House of God in the last days, the peaceful gathering of all nations, and the beating of swords into plowshares have influenced western religion, prophecy, and art for thousands of years. The chapter is also central to the history of Mormonism. This session will examine the setting and authorial intent of the passage as well as the long and varied history and mythology of Mormon readings of the chapter.

MODERATOR WENDY DEMANDANTE

ROOM UNION THEATER

136. AN "ANTHROPIC" THEODICY: WHERE THERE IS A LOVING, ALL-POWERFUL GOD, MUST THE NATURAL WORLD BE AS VIOLENTLY DESTRUCTIVE OF LIFE AS OUR WORLD IS?

PRESENTERS LEX NEWMAN is a professor of philosophy at the University of Utah. He specializes in early modern philosophy, especially Descartes and Locke.

ABSTRACT

DAVID D. ALLRED is a professor of physics and astronomy at Brigham Young University in Provo. His PhD in physics and physical chemistry is from Princeton University.

Natural disasters such as earthquakes spread misery, especially affecting the most vulnerable. How God allows this to happen remains a major obstacle to people's faith. Could it be these are a necessary part in keeping a planet like the earth habitable?

This presentation will explore the following argument:

1. Humans with rational free agency can exist only in a law-governed universe where the behavior of physical objects is predictable.
2. In law-governed universes, only planets with plate tectonics can support advanced animal life (including humans).
3. Therefore, humans with rational free agency can exist only on planets with plate tectonics.

MODERATOR AUBRI PARMENTER

ROOM PARLOR A

LUNCH BREAK, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

See page 5 for dining options.

LUNCH PRESENTATION, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

141. MORMON FOOD STUDIES IN TRUMP'S AMERICA

PRESENTER JERILYN HASSELL POOL is a digital artist and print production specialist. She lives in Provo, Utah with her family where she works with the local LGBTQ community.

ABSTRACT In the four years of food studies at Sunstone, food trends have never been studied so vigorously and in-depth as they have in the last year. How has the election changed the food patterns of Mormons? How many more bags of Cheetos have been consumed in Utah County alone? And what about the food habits of famous Mormons? Brace yourself, the alternative facts are coming and they aren't pretty.

MODERATOR DOVIE ONICE EAGAR PETERSON

ROOM SALT AIR



CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

151. CONTEMPLATIONS ON A MORMON INTRAFaITH MARRIAGE

PRESENTERS GINA COLVIN is a research fellow at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand with an interest in cultural and post-colonial studies. She is an international editor for Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought.

NATHAN MCCLUSKEY earned a PhD from the University of Canterbury in political science. He now works as the union convener for New Zealand’s national statistics agency.

ABSTRACT In this session, Nathan McCluskey and Gina Colvin will reflect on 24 years of their Mormon marriage where some of their most persistent conflicts have been over levels of religious observance. Without any guarantees or assurances, they will discuss their past and current conflicts, negotiations, and resolutions as they decide how to manage their intrafaith future as a couple and family.

MODERATOR MELI PENFOLD

ROOM SALTAIR

152. THE GHOST OF ETERNAL POLYGAMY ONE YEAR LATER: A REPORT

PRESENTERS CAROL LYNN PEARSON’S memoir about her marriage to a gay man opened the conversation in Mormondom about LGBT issues in 1986. Others of her works include No More Goodbyes: Circling the Wagons around our Gay Loved Ones, and the play Facing East.

JANE GRIFFITH is a wife, mother, musician, and Executive Assistant at the U of U. She volunteers for Best Friends Animal Society and is an advocate for the marginalized.

JAY GRIFFITH is an explorer of ideas and a facilitator of dialogue and relationships through various organizations and non-profits, including the LDS Church.

JERALEE RENSHAW lives in Alpine, Utah and is the lead moderator of the A Thoughtful Faith support group.

ABSTRACT Author Carol Lynn Pearson and several women and men whose lives have been impacted by her book The Ghost of Eternal Polygamy take a look at the first year in the life of a book that, in the words of Greg Prince, could “cause a shift in the way the institutional church views itself.”

MODERATOR DAN WOTHERSPOON

ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

153. CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN TEMPLE WORSHIP

PRESENTERS BENJAMIN SHAFFER is a Seventy and a temple worker for Christ’s Church. He is an LDS historian, blog editor, former Seminary teacher, and historical apologist.

DAVID PATRICK is the temple president of the Paiquin Temple of Christ’s Church. He runs an insurance and financial services brokerage in St. George Utah, where he lives with his wife and four children.

ABSTRACT The history of LDS temple theology and practice has undergone three distinct phases:

1) Development. From 1836–1917 temple theology and practice evolved and became standardized.

2) Stability, Maturity, and Expansion. From 1919–1975 a consistent temple theology and practice was integrated into LDS culture worldwide.

3) Revision and Change. From 1975–Present major changes in temple practice and theology occurred every decade.

This session will explore the historical context and stated reasons for these periods of change, as well as their impact on LDS theology and culture. Perspectives will include both LDS and “fundamentalist” viewpoints.

MODERATOR ROY SCHMIDT

ROOM PANORAMA EAST

154. FINDING FAITH AND VIRTUE IN RESISTANCE

PRESENTERS BRYNDIS ROBERTS is the chair of Ordain Women’s executive board.

LORIE WINDER STROMBERG serves on the Ordain Women executive board as chair of the long-term planning committee.

MARK BARNES serves on the Ordain Women executive committee as treasurer.

ABSTRACT From its inception, members of Ordain Women have engaged in faithful agitation for gender equality. In response, some LDS Church leaders have characterized them as neither faithful nor virtuous. A few Church leaders have even imposed ecclesiastical discipline on Ordain Women supporters and board members. Despite this, Ordain Women believes that true faithfulness and virtue can be found in the questioning of and even resistance to church policies, practices, and procedures that result in inequity, marginalization, and exclusion.

MODERATOR RYAN MCKNIGHT

ROOM UNION THEATER

157. THE WITCH DOCTOR IN THE SKY: THE ACHOLI, MORMONISM, AND MENTAL HEALTH

PRESENTER MARIE BLANCHARD has a doctor of mental health degree from the University of California, San Francisco and has practiced as a licensed clinical psychologist in Fremont, California since 1982. She loves traveling, both in developing countries and with her clients in their personal, interior journeys.

MODERATOR JOANNA SMITH
ROOM WEST BALLROOM

155. BRIDGEWALKER: SPIRITUALITY IN THE POETRY OF LINDA SILLITOE

PRESENTER CYNTHIA SILLITOE is a writer, artist, daughter, and close friend of Linda Sillitoe.

ABSTRACT This session explores the role of spirituality in the poetry of the presenter's mother, Linda Sillitoe, as she moved from Mormon to non-Mormon and embraced universal themes in the culture of her birth and others. The main source for interpretation will be her collections Crazy For Living, and the forthcoming Owning The Moon.

MODERATOR MICHELLE JOHNSON
ROOM EAST BALLROOM

ABSTRACT During a one-year volunteer position with THRIVEGulu, an NGO with a mission of healing trauma in victims of the 20+ year war in Northern Uganda, this presenter lived among three cultures: the LDS culture, the Western mental health culture, and the Acholi culture. The interplay, clashes, connections, and confusions among these three cultures highlight the challenge of preserving core values in a diverse context.

MODERATOR BRYAN MCAFFEE
ROOM PARLOR A

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

161. DAMNED BY THE COURTS: THE CONFLATION OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

PRESENTER IAN THOMSON has been working as a public defender representing indigent criminal defendants since he graduated from law school fourteen years ago. He currently represents inmates who have been sentenced to death in their post-conviction litigation and appeals. He has degrees from the University of Chicago and the J. Reuben Clark Law School at BYU.

ABSTRACT Sometimes aspects of church discipline are determined not by one's religious leaders, but by the criminal court system. This can introduce inequities into a system that should

156. THE MORAL AND SPIRITUAL CASE FOR CANNABIS

PRESENTERS RYAN MCKNIGHT was born into the LDS Church and left at age thirty-two. He has a master's degree in accounting from UNLV and is a founder of MormonLeaks and the Underground Handcart Company

ANDREW JOLLEY is the CEO of the + source dispensaries, which owns and operates two licensed dispensaries, two cultivation facilities, and a production lab in Southern Nevada.

EMILIE CAMPBELL is a special needs mom and advocate for epilepsy and autism. In 2014 she worked on House Bill 105 to allow cannabis oil for the treatment of epilepsy in Utah.

ABSTRACT The legalization of marijuana and other cannabis-related substances has long been a source of moral and medical controversy.



be designed to help heal and redeem. This presentation will examine relevant differences across jurisdictions and use real-life anecdotes to show circumstances under which an overreliance on the criminal justice system can impede access to the benefits of full church participation.

MODERATOR MONICA HARWARD ENGLISH
ROOM SALTAIR

162. DISCUSSION GROUP: HAVING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT FAITH WITH THOSE YOU DISAGREE WITH

FACILITATORS LOLLY AND JOSH WEED live in the Seattle area with their four daughters. Josh is a writer as well as a marriage and family therapist in private practice. Lolly is finishing her coursework in marriage and family therapy, and will start a year-long internship in September. When she is finished, they will join forces in a combined practice.

ABSTRACT This interactive discussion group will allow attendees to discuss with one another strategies on how to have conversations about faith with people they disagree with.

ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

163. CHARMED BIRD UNDER THE SERPENT’S EYE: ANTI-MORMONISM AND FEMINISM IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICA

PRESENTER MANUEL SAINÉ has a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and education and a master’s degree in English from Weber State University.

ABSTRACT During the second half of the nineteenth century, anti-Mormon novels became something of a sub-genre. In this paper I argue that the reasons for this abundance had to do with the rise of first-wave feminism—many of the authors using Mormon stereotypes to show the negative consequences for women when certain vices went unchecked. Mormons in these novels were portrayed as drunks, sexually immoral, and slave owners (polygamy considered equivalent to white slavery).

MODERATOR ANA NELSON SHAW
ROOM PANORAMA EAST

164. THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH: HIV/AIDS IN UTAH

PRESENTER J. SETH ANDERSON has a master’s degree in history from the University of Utah. His research examined the emergence of HIV/AIDS in the state and various responses to the disease.

ABSTRACT The Utah Department of Health confirmed the first cases of AIDS in 1983 and began compiling statistics on the disease that year. How did gay and lesbian activists in Utah respond to the new and deadly disease? What did religious communities in Utah think about the disease and what, if any, support did they offer? How did the state health department respond to its responsibility to treat those who had become infected and what did it do to prevent the spread of the disease? This presentation describes where people with AIDS in Utah sought care, and examines the “Common Law Marriage Act” passed by the Utah legislature in 1987—the first piece of legislation to address the AIDS epidemic. How does the presupposition that moral unworthiness warrants death continue to permeate contemporary political and religious cultures?

MODERATOR KIM HURST GLOVER
ROOM WEST BALLROOM

165. LEARNING TO BREATHE AFTER THE DEATH OF A CHILD

PRESENTERS DOE DAUGHTREY has a PhD in religious studies and is a full-time instructor at Arizona State University. She recently lost both her mother and a daughter.

REVABETH RULLELL taught science at Lehi High School for 32 years. Her son Brian committed suicide five years ago.

PATRICK BRYSON worked as a general news reporter for a major newspaper until a car accident ended his career as a journalist. He is currently writing a book about sexual assault on women, based on the experience of his late daughter who was sexually assaulted by a police officer.

ABSTRACT How does the LDS culture respond when the death of a child occurs? What could we do to be more helpful? Three parents will tell their stories of losing a child and the path their grief took.

MODERATOR CARLENE GEORGE
ROOM EAST BALLROOM

- 166. TEACH FROM THE LITTLE BOX: BLURRING THE LINES BETWEEN MAINSTREAM CHRISTIANITY AND MORMONISM**
- PRESENTER** IAN R. HARVEY is a nanotechnologist and patented inventor by day, a beekeeper and backyard farmer & orchardist by evening, and a Wyoming beef cattle ranch hand on weekends.
- ABSTRACT** If you ask Mormons if we should always believe God and always disbelieve Lucifer, they will say yes. However, in the story of the Fall, we are supposed to believe Lucifer and not God. This presentation examines this oddity and proposes that we've been misinterpreting this story for a long time. What happens when we decide to believe God instead?
- MODERATOR** LINDY YAM
- ROOM** UNION THEATER

- 167. THE KINGDOM EMBRACES ALL**
- PRESENTER** ROBERT KIMBALL SHINKOSKEY is a graduate of Stanford University, a 30-year employee of the Utah Department of Health, and the author of several books on biblical and U.S. history.
- ABSTRACT** The "kingdom" concept in Mormon theology has narrowed over the 170 years since pioneer settlement in Utah. The law book used by the first government in Utah, The Laws of the State of Deseret, consisted of the Ten Commandments alone. The Decalogue was understood to be a constitutional law document that embraced the hopes and aspirations of every portion of that early society. Today the Church tends to view the "kingdom" as its membership. Modern scholarship demonstrates that ancient Israel understood the Decalogue the way early Utahns did.
- MODERATOR** RYAN CHIDESTER
- ROOM** PARLOR A

ABSTRACT MormonLeaks was founded in December of 2015 by Ryan McKnight as he gathered Mormon-related leaks and assembled a team to create and operate the website. What is the process behind gathering the leaks? How does the website work? How did each team member get involved, and what are their roles?

MODERATOR ANTHONY MILLER

ROOM SALTAIR

- 172. EXTRAORDINARY ORDINARY WOMEN**
- PRESENTERS** JANICE ALLRED is an independent scholar who speaks and writes on theological topics. She is the author of *God the Mother and Other Theological Essays*.

MARGARET TOSCANO is an associate professor of classics and comparative studies at the University of Utah. She has published extensively on Mormon feminism since 1984.

GINA COLVIN is a research fellow at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand with an interest in cultural and post-colonial studies. She is an international editor for *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*.

VICKIE EASTMAN is a frequent participant on Sunstone panels dealing with Mormon culture. Professionally, she is a retired freelance executive recruiter.

ABSTRACT Laurel Thatcher Ulrich's well-known aphorism, "Well-behaved women seldom make history," was initially meant not to call attention to the importance of unconventional women's lives, but to the importance of ordinary women's lives. This panel will explore the lives of women, both ordinary and extraordinary, that help us better understand our past, give us insights into our own lives, and expand our own possibilities.

MODERATOR MARGARET TOSCANO

ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

- 171. AN INTRODUCTION TO MORMONLEAKS**
- PRESENTER** RYAN MCKNIGHT was born into the LDS Church and left at age thirty-two. He has a master's degree in accounting from UNLV and is a founder of MormonLeaks and the Underground Handcart Company.

- 173. TRANSITIONING WITH TEENS**
- PRESENTERS** SHEYENNE ALVAREZ was active and dedicated to the LDS Church for 20 years until she made a fairly sudden transition in the spring of 2016 after being alerted to historical concerns and embarking on two months of full-time research. Her adopted son Javier has chosen to remain active in the Church.

reclusive FLDS community during this time of transition, and what outsiders like you can do to help.

DEBRA JENSON

WEST BALLROOM

175.

ABSTRACT

PRESENTERS

DOE DAUGHTREY has a PhD in religious studies and is a full-time instructor at Arizona State University. Her dissertation included an analysis of the relationship of Mormonism to reincarnation and the ways in which some LDS women incorporate that concept into various hybrid spiritualities.

CRISTINA ROSETTI is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of California, Riverside. Her research focuses on the intersection of Mormonism and Spiritualism, with particular attention to alternative forms of Mormon religious practice.

DAVID CONLEY NELSON

PANORAMA EAST

174.

PRESENTER

CHRISTINE MARIE KATAS is the founder of Voices for Dignity. A feminist who moved to Short Creek last year, she was surprised to be allowed behind the FLDS walls. She now provides humanitarian and educational support as well as life coaching to active FLDS members.

ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT

In recognition of the gendered nature of spiritual authority within institutional Mormonism, many Mormon women have sought increased representation by seeking female ordination and encouraging further discussion of the divine feminine. Outside of institutional channels, many have also begun to look toward alternative practices to harness the power of God in their lives. These practices include immersion ceremonies, blessings, and devotion to Heavenly Mother. Using ethnographic methodologies, this paper seeks to understand the nature of these practices and the continued invocation of women's historic spiritual authority in the lives on contemporary Mormons.

SARAH HANCOCK JONES

EAST BALLROOM

176.

SPIRIT-MATTER: THE GATEWAY TO MORAL AGENCY

PRESENTER

DOUGLAS A. ABBOTT was a professor of child, youth & family studies at the University of Nebraska Lincoln for thirty years. He received a bachelor's degree in biology from Oregon State University, a master's in child development from Brigham Young University, and a doctorate in child & family studies from the University of Georgia.

ABSTRACT In traditional Christian theology, spirits are non-material. But if so, how could a non-material spirit communicate with a material brain? This would violate the laws of both physics and chemistry. Mormonism posits that the spirit of man is material (see D&C 131:7), which opens the gateway to moral agency. This presentation will explain how moral agency works.

MODERATOR ANDRE SPRAGUE

ROOM UNION THEATER

177. DISCUSSION GROUP: CHOOSING YOUR FAMILY: HOW TO DEAL WITH LOSING FAMILY OVER FAITH

FACILITATORS ROY JEFFS was born into the FLDS faith and is the son of FLDS prophet Warren Jeffs. He lived for 21 years as a faithful member until he left the group in 2014. He now works as a manufacturing technician and rideshare driver in Salt Lake City, Utah.

MICA MCGRIGGS is a PhD candidate in counseling psychology at Brigham Young University. Her academic research focuses primarily on multicultural competence in psychology. She contributes to several blogs including The Huffington Post.

JAZMIN HIGHT is pursuing a degree in sociology with an emphasis on gender and family organizations. She has left the LDS Church and is supporting her transgender brother through his transition.

RYAN CHIDESTER is currently the social media director and volunteer for the Sunstone Education Foundation. He lives in Salt Lake where he gardens and makes hilarious internet memes.

ABSTRACT This session is not in conference-style format; it's an interactive session where audience members will participate in a group discussion on how families function, and how those who have lost family over faith can build new family communities.

MODERATOR MICA MCGRIGGS

ROOM PARLOR A

DINNER BREAK, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

See page 5 for dining options.

FRIDAY 29 JULY

REGISTRATION, 8:30 AM – 9:00 PM

Admission to sessions is by Symposium name badge or ticket only. This policy will be strictly enforced. Badges and single-session tickets are available at the registration table by the ballrooms on the second floor of the Olpin Student Union Building.

BREAKFAST

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
BY SIGNATURE BOOKS
8:00AM - 10:30AM

DOORBUSTERS FOR
THE FIRST 50 ATTENDEES

ROOM BALLROOM

8:30 AM – 9:00 PM

SUNSTONE ART SHOW

See pages 10–11 for information.

ROOM BALLROOM

DEVOTIONAL, 8:15 AM – 8:45 AM

201. IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES; IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES: FINDING GOD IN THE WOUND

PRESENTER JODY ENGLAND HANSEN is a mixed-media artist, occasional empty nester, Mama Dragon and LGBTQ activist, repatriated Utahan, and God seeker who hasn't figured any of this out yet.

ABSTRACT This has been a terrible year. And it has been a glorious year. I want growth, wisdom, and knowledge, but I don't always like what it takes to get them. Pain and joy coexist in the extremes of personal, spiritual, and community life. Where do we find the truth Joseph promised in proving contraries? This presentation shares a journey of learning to embrace a new level of opposition.



MODERATOR KIRSTEN ARNOLDSSEN BARKSDALE
ROOM SALT AIR

MODERATOR KEVIN LABRESH
ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

211. MEANING FOR ALL?: IDENTITY THEORY AND MORMON ELASTICITY

PRESENTER ADAM J. POWELL is junior research fellow in the Department of Theology & Religion at Durham University (UK) where he was a recipient of the Durham International Fellowships for Research and Enterprise. Previously, he was an assistant professor and director of the master’s program in religious studies at Lenoir-Rhyne University in North Carolina.

ABSTRACT Drawing on my work as a non-Mormon academic in the social-scientific study of religion, this presentation offers a bio-cultural look at religious identity and the aspects of Mormonism which have supported the conferral of such an identity on its members. I will discuss the neuropsychological as well as sociological ways in which religious identity is emotion-laden and dependent on institutional elasticity for sustained salience before finally highlighting some of the challenges this poses for those involved in Mormonism’s exclusivism/inclusivism negotiations.

MODERATOR BROOKE SCOTT
ROOM SALT AIR

212. MORMONISM AND THE LIMITS OF POLITICAL NEUTRALITY

PRESENTER KELSY HILLESHEIM is a senior at the City College of New York in the Macaulay Honors College program with an interest in the influence of religion on public policy in the United States. She is studying philosophy with a minor in history.

ABSTRACT Though the LDS Church claims political neutrality, this has not necessarily been the case in practice. Taking a case study approach, this presentation argues that the institutional LDS Church did indeed influence the political sphere in the 20th and 21st centuries through its involvement with the Equal Rights Amendment, Proposition 8, and the October 2016 MormonLeaks tapes.

213. BLACK MORMON WOMEN FROM BALTIMORE: WHAT THEY HAVE TAUGHT ME ABOUT RACE AND FAITH

PRESENTER LAURA RUTTER STRICKLING has a PhD in sociocultural linguistics from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Her academic work includes developing a model of linguistic awareness in regards to urban educators and their attitude toward African American English-speaking students.

ABSTRACT While Black women have inherited the worst of racism over the decades and might be characterized as “the least of these my sisters,” Black Mormon women have also had to reconcile their membership in a historically White church that had at one time withdrawn access to spiritually emancipatory temple ordinances. This inquiry into the gendered, racialized conversion of sixteen Black Mormon women from Baltimore seeks to overturn the conceptualization that “the least of these” are somehow deficit and draws on W.E.B. Dubois, “We who are dark can see [spiritual things] in a way that White [Mormons] cannot.”

MODERATOR KIMBERLY LEWIS
ROOM COLLEGIATE

214. THE AGENCY BLUEPRINT VS. THE DOCTRINE OF PRIVATION

PRESENTER IAN R. HARVEY worked as an engineer in the Silicon Valley computer chip industry before taking an academic position in nanotechnology. He is an inventor with over 25 patents but ponders the meaning of life as a weekend hand on his father’s Wyoming cattle ranch.

ABSTRACT “As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become.” Mormons: we almost got it right: but that statement only applied in Eden prior to the Fall. Other Christians: you mostly got it right. God was/is ever righteous from eternity to eternity.

Maybe we could rewrite that couplet to say: “As man chose, God for us weeps; as God is, man may still choose to become.”

MODERATOR KIM HURST GLOVER
ROOM PARLOR A

215. PRIESTESS UNTO THE MOST HIGH GOD

PRESENTER EDWARD BAILEY is the son of a “white Lamanite” convert from Honduras who immigrated to the United States and married an electrical engineer attending BYU graduate school. He is currently serving in the bishopric of a ward in the east coast.

ABSTRACT For many women in the Church, the potential to receive an endowment of power and authority from on High is a beautiful blessing. However, the current temple blessing defers to antiquated gender positioning in which a husband rules over his wife and posterity. However, there are a number of sources, including Heber and Vilate Kimball, Phinehas Richards, John Taylor, Eliza R. Snow, and some 20th-century prophets and apostles that point toward the glory of the original promise to become hereafter priests and “priestesses unto the Most High God.”

MODERATOR BROOKE OVESON WALRATH
ROOM WEST BALLROOM

216. THE MORMON SUICIDE EPIDEMIC IN LIGHT OF MATTHEW 25

PRESENTERS JOHN GUSTAV-WRATHALL is Senior Vice President of Affirmation: Gay and Lesbian Mormons, and an adjunct professor of American Religious History at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. He is the author of the Young Stranger blog.

ROBERT A. REES is the Director of Mormon Studies at Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

TARYN AIKEN HIATT is a founding member of the Utah chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, volunteering for the past 14 years. Taryn is a certified safeTALK, CONNECT Postvention, and Mental Health First Aid Trainer, facilitating hundreds of seminars for many different groups.

ABSTRACT This panel will discuss the youth LGBT suicide epidemic and how we can look to the scriptures for guidance and solutions.

MODERATOR ROBERT A. REES
ROOM EAST BALLROOM

217. EPISTEMOLOGICAL GUARDIANSHIP: THE IMPORTANCE OF HOW WE KNOW WHAT WE KNOW

PRESENTER MITHRYN (A.K.A. KENNETH LINES) has been active in posting about Mormonism on Reddit since 2009. He has published two books: *The ABC's of Science and Mormonism* and *I Should Start a Cult*.

ABSTRACT “I know the Church is true” is a very loaded statement. With over 13 years of professional experience working with data, Mithryn is very familiar with executives who claim to “know” things that turn out not to be true. This presentation has been given professionally to discuss the concept of “how we know what we know” in a business setting and to help individuals consider what counts as “knowledge” and how to guard that precious kernal that drives business or individual action—what we “know” to be true.

MODERATOR RYAN FLAKE
ROOM UNION THEATER

218. FUNDAMENTALIST MISSIONARY WORK

PRESENTERS MICHAEL PETERSON

BETTY AMRINE

ALICE LOVASSEN

DANA PETERSON

ATRAYU PICKERING

JOSEPH WRIGHT

JONATHAN OLSEN

ETHAN PATRICK

ABSTRACT The panel will share the challenges, experiences, perspectives, and successes that fundamentalist missionaries have. Presenters will also share the experience of converts and why they accepted the message of Christ Church. They will also include a brief history of the formation of Christ's Church.



MODERATOR GEORGE ANDREW SPRIGGS
ROOM ROOM 312

MODERATOR KIRSTEN ARNOLDSEN BARKSDALE
ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

221. JOSEPH DIDN'T SET OUT
 TO START A CHURCH
 (LET ALONE A NEW RELIGION!)

PRESENTER CHRISTOPHER C. SMITH recently received
 a PhD in religion from Claremont Graduate
 University after completing a dissertation on
 the Mormon conquest of the native lands and
 peoples of Utah's Wasatch Front. In Spring 2017
 Chris took a job as a postdoctoral fellow at Utah
 State University, where he has taught American
 religious history.

ABSTRACT When Oliver Cowdery showed up in Palmyra
 with "fire in his bones" and the idea to start a
 new church, Joseph Smith initially resisted the
 idea. Even after Cowdery persuaded him, Smith
 thought he would get it started and then give
 up his leadership and pass the baton to others.
 Gradually he changed his mind. David Whitmer
 apostatized partly in reaction to Smith's growing
 sense of ownership of the movement. In addition
 to identifying how Mormonism became a church,
 this paper will identify the moment when it
 became in some meaningful sense an entirely
 new religion.

RESPONDENT JOHN HATCH is an editor for Signature Books
 and mixes a mean gimlet.

MODERATOR BERT FULLER

ROOM SALTAIR

222. RISE STRONG AFTER DIVORCE

PRESENTER ELIZABETH A. DALTON is a seasoned family
 law attorney who helped pioneer family
 mediation in Utah as an alternative to divorce
 litigation. She is the author of Healing Hearts:
 Helping Adults and Children Recover from
 Divorce.

ABSTRACT Divorce affects over 50% of families in the
 Mormon community. The resulting trauma
 quickly buries family members in a swamp of
 shame and loss. It is possible to rise strong and
 wise after divorce and learn new "mountain
 climbing" skills. How can Church members
 reach out and assist in this climb toward healing
 and growth? Family mediator Elizabeth Dalton
 will share trail wisdom gained over 25 years of
 guiding families after divorce.

223. YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY IS
 TRYING TO EAT YOU!: A NEW WAY
 TO TELL YOUR JOURNEY

PRESENTER STEPHEN CARTER is the director of
 publications for Sunstone, author of Mormonism
 for Beginners, and editor of the forthcoming
 Moth and Rust: Mormon Encounters with Death.

ABSTRACT Stories tell people; not the other way around. And
 it's the same with spiritual journeys. How much of
 your spiritual journey is you, and how much of it is
 the force of a story? This presentation will analyze
 how spiritual journeys are usually told and how
 those kinds of stories can constrain our growth.
 Then it will offer a new, more expansive way to
 tell them, complete with tips and tricks for getting
 started.

MODERATOR LAURA EVERSHED JOHNSEN

ROOM COLLEGIATE

224. THE RELIGION OF DIETING:
 HOW AN INCREASINGLY SECULAR
 SOCIETY IS EMBRACING
 DIETING DOGMA

PRESENTER PAIGE SMATHERS is a registered dietitian
 nutritionist in Salt Lake City who specializes in
 helping people heal their relationship with food.
 She hosts the Nutrition Matters Podcast

ABSTRACT Many people who are pursuing health believe
 the only way to do it is to be restrictive and rigid
 with their eating. This presentation will provide
 practical advice from a registered dietitian
 nutritionist about how to recognize dieting
 dogma in our culture and how to not let healthy
 eating become a religious, all-or-nothing pursuit.
 Learning to love your body and not trying to
 manipulate it through diets is a radical act of self-
 care.

MODERATOR MONICA HARWARD ENGLISH

ROOM PANORAMA EAST

225. ATONEMENT TALK IN MORMONISM

PRESENTERS JIM SMITHSON studied sociology and anthropology, was a professional researcher, and sincerely hopes everything really is connected.

BILLY PHILLIPS teaches English and college success at Cascadia College in Washington State. He is interested in how religion deals with darkness and suffering, and how communities deal with truth.

LISA TENSMEYER HANSEN is a licensed marriage and family therapist in private practice, co-editor of *Why I Don't Hide My Freckles Anymore*, and founder and former director of Utah County Men's Voices.

ABSTRACT Since there isn't an official LDS consensus on how the Atonement works, various ideas emphasizing substitution or satisfaction theories are bandied about in Sunday lessons as well as theories of how one might "qualify" for the Atonement. But can we transcend this type of discussion to speak of it in deeper, more empowering ways? Can we find better framings, better stories? This session features people who believe so, and who are excited to share some more constructive ways to think and talk about Atonement.

MODERATOR DAN WOTHERSPOON

ROOM PARLOR A

226. GENEALOGY, MELANINATED STYLE

PRESENTER BRYNDIS ROBERTS was raised in the African American Baptist faith tradition and joined the LDS Church in January 2008. She has served as a family history consultant, Relief Society teacher, Relief Society second counselor, and Relief Society president. She is an attorney and has her own firm: Jenkins & Roberts LLC.

ABSTRACT For LDS Church members who are more melaninated than others, family history can be extremely daunting: colonization, forced migration, and (for many of African descent) slavery have had a devastating impact on records about our ancestors. This session presents tips and strategies for overcoming such obstacles.

MODERATOR JOANNA THORPE THOLSTROM

ROOM WEST BALLROOM

227. THEY, THEM, THEIR: SEEING GOD ON THE SPECTRUM

PRESENTER JODY ENGLAND HANSEN is a mixed-media artist, occasional empty nester, Mama Dragon and LGBTQ activist, repatriated Utahan, and God seeker who hasn't figured any of this out yet.

ABSTRACT Much of the world has created God to fit into a binary concept of gender—either male or female. This session explores how God could present across the gender spectrum, displaying traits such as being nurturing, life-giving, strong, compassionate, weeping, and the qualities of the priesthood described in Section 121. Could focusing on the qualities we ascribe to God, rather than gender, help us to move beyond the narrow, binary gender roles that have become prevalent in Mormon discourse?

MODERATOR ROY SCHMIDT

ROOM EAST BALLROOM

228. [MY] FEELINGS . . . I SHOULD NOT DARE TO REVEAL": THE PERSONALITY OF JOSEPH SMITH

PRESENTERS RONALD O. BARNEY is the former executive director of the Mormon History Association. He worked for thirty-three years as an archivist and historian before retiring from the LDS Church History Department in 2011. He was associate editor of the Joseph Smith Papers and executive producer of the Joseph Smith Papers television series. His books on Mormon history have won several awards.

JOHN HATCH is an editor for Signature Books and mixes a mean gimlet.

ABSTRACT The groundbreaking publication of Joseph Smith's personal and institutional records by the LDS Church's Joseph Smith Papers initiative, produced over the years by dozens of scholars and staff has provoked the obvious fact that there is much of significant consequence that remains unknown. But with these resources, we are now able to move forward to a new understanding of Smith and his church. This presentation will describe some of what we now think we know about Smith.

MODERATOR ANTHONY MILLER

ROOM UNION THEATER

229. HOW COMPASSION CAN HEAL POLYGAMIST COMMUNITIES

PRESENTERS LAWRENCE BARLOW spent most of his life in



public safety at Hildale, Utah. After a forced year-and-a-half separation from his family, he returned home “uninvited” to regain his family. He has since become an activist in Hildale.

SHIRLEE DRAPER earned an associate’s degree from Mohave Community College and a BA in social work from the University of Utah. She currently runs Cherish Families, an organization that assists people from the FLDS.

ABSTRACT

Many fundamentalist communities lack access to resources to adequately deal with abuse. This is largely due to the fact that their communities are already marginalized because of their lifestyle. This panel will discuss how “outsiders” can help heal these communities by bridging the gap of understanding with compassion.

MODERATOR

JENNIFER HUSS BASQUIAT

ROOM

ROOM 312

RECOVERY PROGRAM

PRESENTERS

RYAN FLAKE is an information security professional with degrees in geospatial intelligence and Spanish from BYU.

JUSTIN PILMER is a 31-year-old post-Mormon who majored in religious studies and business management at Utah Valley University.

BRAYDEN SNOW is a career salesman who is ready to live his life.

ABSTRACT

The LDS Church has a program that deals with pornography “addiction.” This panel will discuss, from personal experience, what it is like to be in this program and what its benefits and drawbacks are.

MODERATOR

MICA MCGRIGGS

MODERATOR

CRIMSON VIEW

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 11:30AM – 12:30PM

231. JOSEPH SMITH: ENTREPRENEUR

PRESENTERS

D. MICHAEL QUINN is an affiliated scholar at the University of Southern California’s Center for Feminist Research. He has been a full-time researcher and writer, a professor of history at Brigham Young University, and a visiting professor of history (2002–03) at Yale.

DAN HILL is CEO of Awake and founder of RiSE, Electric Run, and the Ragnar Relay series.

GEORGE SMITH is president and publisher of Signature Books. He has published in Journal of Mormon History, John Whitmer Historical Journal, Sunstone, and elsewhere.

ABSTRACT

Steve Jobs was a flawed man, both personally and professionally in a lot of ways, but he was also one of the most successful CEOs in history. He and others like him have transformed the world with their visions of change and innovation. This panel will explore Joseph Smith as a religious and spiritual innovator who changed the landscape of American faith.

MODERATOR

LINDSAY HANSEN PARK

ROOM

SALTAIR

232. THE CHURCH’S SEXUAL ADDICTION

233. SOCIAL RESPONSES TO MORMON FEMINISTS: “NO ONE ELSE WAS TALKING ABOUT IT, SO IT MUST BE TABOO

PRESENTER

JENNIFER CROW is an honors fellow at Middle Tennessee State University studying sociology and the intersection of gender and religion.

ABSTRACT

This session presents a study drawing on interviews, blogs, and podcasts examining the motivations and consequences individual Mormon women have faced when engaging in feminist activities. What motivates them to engage in such activities? What happens to their persona in their religious communities? How does this shift impact their private lives? How have LDS Church leaders reacted to them? What formal or informal social controls have these women experienced?

MODERATOR

ANA NELSON SHAW

ROOM

COLLEGIATE

234. REMEMBERING GENE

PRESENTERS

ROBERT A. REES

ABSTRACT

Eugene England is recognized as one of the most influential Latter-day Saints of the latter half of the twentieth century. As teacher, writer, scholar and humanitarian, England had



an indelible influence on several generations of Latter-day Saints at a pivotal time in Church history. Graduate Theological Union is establishing an endowed chair in Mormon Studies to be named in Gene's honor. This session is designed to celebrate Gene's life and studies by giving attendees an opportunity to pay tribute to him through personal stories and remembrances.

MODERATOR

miracles. This paper will explore the theology of the parables and miracles of Jesus, showing how they give us a witness of the person and mission of Jesus Christ and his message of salvation for all people.

ROOM

THOMAS B. MCAFFEE

WEST BALLROOM

MODERATOR

ROBERT A. REES

ROOM

PANORAMA EAST

237.

FOR EVERYONE BORN, A PLACE AT THE TABLE

PRESENTERS

KARIN FRANKLIN PETER has a MA in Christian Ministry and is President of the Fifth Quorum of Seventy in Community of Christ and serves on the Council of Presidents of Seventy.

ABSTRACT

Community of Christ Sings, a hymnal / song book, published in 2013 presents a strong theology of acceptance. With titles such as "For Everyone Born," "Draw the Circle Wide," "Friend of the Streetwalker," "Is There One Who Feels Unworthy," and "Leftover People in Leftover Places," the songs challenge us to embrace the diversity of humanity. Additionally, some of the traditional hymns have minor word changes which also challenge us theologically. For example, "God's mercy falls on the just and unjust" instead of the traditional version of "God's mercy falls on the just and the right."

MODERATOR

JAZMIN HIGHT

ROOM

EAST BALLROOM

235.

PARENTING AND PERFECTIONISM IN THE LDS CONTEXT

PRESENTER

KELLY FURR is a marriage and family therapy graduate student at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

ABSTRACT

Even though many know that the biblical injunction to "be ye therefore perfect" is referring to wholeness or completion through Christ, rather than the elimination of errors, literal perfectionism continues to pervade LDS culture. Parents who strive for perfection while raising their children may unwittingly pass on perfectionistic expectations and anxieties to their children, leading to negative mental health consequences. This presentation will cover current research on perfectionism and explore how perfectionism and LDS culture are related. It will offer practical strategies for parents and discuss existing doctrines the institutional LDS Church can accentuate to de-emphasize perfectionism.

MODERATOR

MICHELLE JOHNSON

ROOM

PARLOR A

238.

ANONYMITY AND THE MORMON SEARCHER

PRESENTERS

MITHRYN (A.K.A. KENNETH LINES) has been active in posting about Mormonism on Reddit since 2009. He has published two books: *The ABC's of Science and Mormonism* and *I Should Start a Cult*.

236.

THE GREATEST AND THE LEAST: THE THEOLOGY OF THE PARABLES AND MIRACLES OF JESUS

PRESENTER

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

ABSTRACT

Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats, in which he equates himself to the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and the prisoner—"the least of these"—is not simply an isolated parable with a message encouraging inclusivity; it forms an integral part of the meaning embedded in all of his parables and

VH65 (A.K.A. VIOLET HUGHES) is a moderator of the /r/exmormon subreddit working to maintain a cordial environment, promote the sharing of information, provide help to those struggling emotionally, and to protect the now 45,000 subscribers from any real-life harm associated with their anonymous virtual contributions.

ABSTRACT

Anonymity provides the ability to protect oneself from reprisal, but it also provides trolls the ability to erode the quality and longevity of an



online forum. This online community of over 40,000 subscribers flourishes with information, support, and caring while trying to protect the identities of those just starting to dare to ask questions that go unanswered in LDS Sunday Schools worldwide.

MODERATOR AARON BOYETT
ROOM UNION THEATER

239. ADDRESSING MORMON THINKING ERRORS

PRESENTERS NATASHA HELFER PARKER has been in practice as a mental health professional for over 20 years, primarily working with issues of relational health, faith transitions and journeys, and sexuality. She writes a blog called “The Mormon Therapist,” and hosts the podcasts Mormon Mental Health, and Mormon Sex Info.

JENNIFER WHITE has worked as a therapist with a focus on treatment related to substance use disorders, mental health, and services for domestic violence offenders.

ABSTRACT Last year Jennifer and Natasha presented a popular session called “Mormon Thinking Errors” which addressed typical ways myth and overgeneralizations usually rear their heads in LDS family and ward settings. This session will take the conversation further and offer concrete strategies and ideas to combat these types of messages in our own heads or when they come at us through conversations with family and friends.

MODERATOR BRYAN MCAFFEE
ROOM ROOM 312

LUNCH BREAK, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

See page 5 for dining options.

242. BROTHER JAKE DOES SUNSTONE

PRESENTER JAKE FROST is the creator of the Brother Jake web series and a panelist on the Infants on Thrones podcast.

ABSTRACT Brother Jake is deep in the throes of new fatherhood, preventing him from attending this year. In his absence we will host a lunchtime

viewing of some Brother Jake classics and some humor.

MODERATOR MICAH NICKOLAISEN
ROOM SALTAIR

PLENARY SESSION, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

251. WHY WE STAY

PRESENTERS NATHAN MCCLUSKEY earned his PhD from the University of Canterbury in political science. He now works as the union convener for New Zealand’s national statistics agency.

ROBIN LINKHART is a member of the Council of Twelve Apostles, the lead missionary quorum of Community of Christ. She is assigned to the North Central USA Mission Field. She also oversees Restoration heritage seeker ministry.

Her previous assignments include president of the Quorum of Seventy. She also serves on the International Leaders Council, Theology Formation Team, Ecumenical and Interfaith Ministries Team, and chairs the Latter-day Seekers Ministries Team. On special assignment in Utah, Robin serves as pastor of Salt Lake City Community of Christ and supports a variety of new ministries along the Wasatch Front.

JOHN GUSTAV-WRATHALL is senior vice president of Affirmation: Gay and Lesbian Mormons and adjunct professor of American religious history at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, where he teaches future Protestant ministers about Mormonism (and other religions). He is the author of Take the Young Stranger by the Hand: Same-sex Relations and the YMCA (University of Chicago Press, 1998), has published articles in Sunstone and Dialogue on being gay and Mormon. He is the author of the Young Stranger blog.

Though excommunicated from the LDS Church, John has a testimony, and has been active in his south Minneapolis ward since 2005. He currently lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota with his husband of over twenty years, to whom he was legally married in Riverside, California in July 2008, and with whom he has foster-parented three sons.

MAXINE HANKS is a Mormon feminist theologian who compiled and edited the book Women and Authority: Re-emerging Mormon

Feminism (1992). She was excommunicated on September 19 (along with fellow contributor D. Michael Quinn). In February 2012, Hanks was rebaptized into the LDS Church.

MODERATOR JANICE JENSON

ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

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.

MODERATOR DAN WOTHERSPOON

ROOM SALTAIR

251B. OVERFLOW BROADCAST OF SESSION 251: WHY WE STAY

ROOM WEST BALLROOM

252. (IN)ACTIVE MORMON WOMEN: AN ETHNODRAMA

PRESENTERS JANICE JENSON serves as the producing director for the Salt Lake Acting Company. She has a BA in theatre studies from Brigham Young University and a MA in community leadership from Westminster College. Her play (in)active mormon women: an ethnodrama was developed and performed as part of her thesis project while at Westminster College.

CAST:

CHELSEA YEATES – LUCINDA

EMILIE STARR – PRESINDIA

LILY HYE SOO DIXON – FANNY

MARLENA EVERTS – SYLVIA

MARTA SCHAUB – AGNES

NATALIE KEEZER – ZINA

(Casting may be subject to change, based on availability)

ABSTRACT Inspired by her own faith journey, Janice created this play by interviewing fifteen inactive Mormon women through a group interview process called a story circle. The story circles were audio recorded, transcribed, and then compiled into a performance script—every word in the script comes directly from these women's experiences following their spiritual journey away from the Mormon Church. Be advised that this play contains strong language and adult content.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

261. TRANSPARENCY FOR ALL

PRESENTER RYAN MCKNIGHT was born into the LDS Church and left at age thirty-two. He has a master's degree in accounting from UNLV and is a founder of MormonLeaks and the Underground Handcart Company

ABSTRACT "Transparency is for those who carry out public duties and exercise public power. Privacy is for everyone else." – Glenn Greenwald

To one degree or another, transparency has always been an issue in the LDS Church. MormonLeaks was created to help facilitate transparency, though this effort has been criticized by some LDS Church members. It is the position of MormonLeaks that everyone (including active members) benefits from LDS Church transparency.

MODERATOR GEORGE ANDREW SPRIGGS

ROOM SALTAIR

262. TYPICAL SEXUAL SHAME RESIDUE FROM RELIGIOUS UPBRINGINGS

PRESENTERS KRISTIN MARIE BENNION is a licensed mental health therapist. She owns her own practice in Orem, Utah where she primarily treats sex and intimacy concerns. She is currently working toward her PhD in human sexuality.

NATASHA HELFER PARKER has been in practice as a mental health professional for over 20 years, primarily working with issues of relational health, faith transitions and journeys, and sexuality. She writes a blog called The Mormon Therapist, and hosts the podcasts Mormon Mental Health, and Mormon Sex Info.

ABSTRACT Although Mormonism has quite a bit of sexual positivity in its doctrine, the cultural processes in wards, stakes, and family systems teach mostly fear, shame and the "thou shalt nots." This leaves many members of our church with problems like unrealistic expectations, inadequate education, unnecessary self or partner shaming, rigid belief systems, and underdeveloped processes when it comes to our relationship with sexuality. This session will offer some reframings that can help attendees



embrace their sexuality in healthier ways.

MODERATOR NATASHA HELFER PARKER

ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

263. WORTH OF ALL PERSONS

PRESENTERS LACHLAN MACKAY is a member of Community of Christ’s Council of Twelve Apostles with responsibility for historic sites, the Church History and Sacred Story Team, and the Northeast USA Mission Field.

RUTH WILLIAMS was born in Hilldale, Utah and lived in Colorado City for 37 years before moving to Centennial Park. She has been a nurse in Southern Utah for the past 27 years.

CARLA LONG is a bishop in Community of Christ and has worked for the Church for 12 years. She has volunteered for the Church in the Philippines for five months, Australia for a year, worked as a financial officer in California for six years and as the bishop of Europe for 5 years.

DAN WOTHERSPOON is the host of the Mormon Matters podcast and former editor and executive director of the Sunstone Education Foundation.

ABSTRACT This panel includes people from many different branches of the Restoration movement who will discuss what “Embracing All, Even the Least of These” means in a faith transition. What do our books of scripture say about this topic? How we act upon those words?

MODERATOR MARY URBAN CLARKE

ROOM COLLEGIATE

264. MURDER, MAYHEM, MORMONS, AND MINERS: TALES OF DEATH AND VIOLENCE FROM UTAH’S PIONEER DIXIE

PRESENTER MELVIN C. JOHNSON is an independent historian and retired college instructor. He and his wife, Halli—a bi-lingual special educator—live in Salt Lake City, Utah.”

ABSTRACT Too often we portray 19th-century Mormon pioneers as two-dimensional stick figures against the backdrop of the Mormon

Restoration. The presentation, however, covers several accounts of deadly incidents and treachery that occurred among the Mormons in the Santa Clara and Virgin Rivers area, giving us a new look into pioneer days in Dixie.

MODERATOR BRUCE CROW

ROOM PANORAMA EAST

265. A LIFE WORTH LIVING (AFTER MORMONISM)

PRESENTERS GARY HORLACHER and ERNEST HORSTMANSHOFF both received their degrees from BYU. They enjoy studying philosophy and discovering and creating meaning in their post-Mormon life.

ABSTRACT For some Mormons, losing faith creates an existential crisis, making them ask what life’s meaning is. Why is meaning in life so important? What meanings are worth living for? This presentation explores theories and research on meaning, and shares insights toward achieving a meaningful life.

MODERATOR KIRSTEN ARNOLDSEN BARKSDALE

ROOM PARLOR A

266. MORE ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE D&C TEXT: REVELATIONS PRINTED IN MORMON NEWSPAPERS

PRESENTER BILL SPEER has BS and MS degrees in biology from Virginia Tech. He is currently employed at Salt Lake Community College.

ABSTRACT The text of Doctrine & Covenants has evolved in a manner that is comparable to organismal phylogenies. It was previously demonstrated that modern LDS and RLDS (or Community of Christ) editions represent distinct textual groups, which are also distinct from the Book of Commandments and earlier D&C editions. This study focuses on revelations printed in The Evening and the Morning Star and then reprinted in the similarly named Evening and Morning Star (without the definite articles). Differences, though sometimes small (but significant), can be found between what is printed in the former, and what is reprinted in the latter.

MODERATOR LINDY YAM

ROOM WEST BALLROOM



**267. RADIO HEAVEN AND HELL:
BEING A TALK SHOW HOST
IN A MORMON STATE**

PRESENTERS RICHARD THOMAS STEADMAN ("RICHIE T") is the Radio From Hell show fresh-faced Mormon senior executive producer and grassroots outreach coordinator. He is not a host on Radio From Hell, but he hosts "The Richie T Experience" on Saturday mornings on X96. Richie is a graduate of Southern Utah University, and was a DJ on the radio station there.

BILL ALLRED is the host of the very popular Radio From Hell show, an American radio program broadcast weekday mornings on Salt Lake City, Utah's KXRX 96.3FM. He is also the host of "The Let's Go Eat Show" podcast.

ABSTRACT This panel will discuss the experiences of two popular radio personalities in Utah. Both Mormon, each will describe their journeys into radio as well as their Mormon journey inside and outside the church.

MODERATOR MICA MCGRIGGS

ROOM EAST BALLROOM

**268. REDEEMING THE FALLEN:
LDS REACTION TO THE ILLICIT
INTERCOURSE HERESY OF 1841–1842**

PRESENTER MEG STOUT is the author of *Reluctant Polygamist: Joseph Smith*. She was the first civilian woman admitted to the Naval Postgraduate School, earning an MS in product development. She has been blogging at the Mormon-themed website *Millennial Star* since December 2013.

ABSTRACT In 1841–1842 unknown numbers of faithful Mormons embraced a "new doctrine" where a man and a woman could be sexually intimate without ceremony as long as it was kept secret. Contemporary documents confirm the identities of several, with the affidavits of some published in newspapers. This presentation examines key instances where the "heretics" subsequently repented and became stalwart members of the Mormon community, along with the mechanisms used in the 1840s and later to knit the community back together.

MODERATOR NADINE MCCOMBS HANSEN

ROOM UNION THEATER

**269. REDEEMING THE FALLEN:
LDS REACTION TO THE ILLICIT
INTERCOURSE HERESY OF 1841–1842**

PRESENTER DEBRA BROWN GORDY is a relationship therapist and spiritual development mentor, beginning her career over 30 years ago as a BYU- trained marriage and family therapist.

ABSTRACT LDS women are among a growing number who find the male-defined and dominated structures of traditional religions increasingly stifling, leading them to seek a connection with the Divine that embraces Heavenly Mother and expresses their own divinity. For millennia this yearning has been satisfied through women's rituals, which were also part of the beginnings of the Restoration. Though banished and driven underground by patriarchal religions, they are not lost. Come and learn about this ancient path to connection with the Divine – the Feminine Path to God.

MODERATOR AUBRI PARMENTER

ROOM ROOM 312

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CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 5:00 PM–6:30 PM

**271. PREVIEW DISCUSSION OF A
FORTHCOMING VOLUME:
THE LDS CHURCH'S GOSPEL
TOPICS ESSAYS: THE SCHOLARLY
COMMUNITY RESPONDS**

PRESENTERS MARGARET TOSCANO is an associate professor of classics and comparative studies at the University of Utah. She has published extensively on Mormon feminism since 1984.

NEWELL G. BRINGHURST is an independent scholar and professor emeritus of history and political science at College of the Sequoias in Visalia, California, having retired after a 35 year career in the classroom. He is the editor of *Scattering of the Saints: Schism within Mormonism* (2007) (with John Hamer).

MATTHEW L. HARRIS is a professor of history at



	Colorado State University-Pueblo. With Newell Bringhurst he co-wrote and co-edited Blacks and Mormons: A Documentary History (University of Illinois Press, 2015).				both conservative and liberal members. They designed a survey which includes ten sections of questions on aspects of life and relationships. This session will present the preliminary findings from more than 1,000 respondents, focused on the four options studied: single celibate, single non-celibate, mixed orientation, and same-sex relationships.
	GARY JAMES BERGERA is managing director of the Smith-Pettit Foundation (Salt Lake City) and the author of six published studies of early Mormon polygamy. He is past publisher of Signature Books and past managing editor of Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought.		MODERATOR		MONICA HARWARD ENGLISH
			ROOM		CRIMSON VIEW
ABSTRACT	This session is a discussion of the contents of forthcoming volume entitled The LDS Church's Gospel Topics Essays: The Scholarly Community Responds to be published by the University of Utah Press in 2018. The discussion will feature four contributing scholars. The scholars and their topics are as follows: Newell G. Bringhurst, "A Brief Overview of the Volume—Why the Gospel Topics Essays?" Matthew L. Harris, "Reflections on the 'Race and Priesthood' essay—Its Strengths and Weakness" Gary James Bergera, "Through a Glass Darkly': Joseph Smith and the Beginnings of Plural Marriage' essay." Margaret Toscano, "Deconstructing the 'Joseph Smith's Teachings about Priesthood, Temple and Women' essay."	273.			HOW I BECAME AN LGBTQ ALLY WHILE SERVING AS A YSA BISHOP AND HOW WE CAN BETTER SUPPORT OUR LGBTQ MEMBERS
			PRESENTER		RICHARD OSTLER and his wife, Sheila Juergens, live in Salt Lake City. They are the parents of six children and two grandchildren. Richard's education focused on business. He is the owner of The Ostler Group. In addition to his LGBT ministry, he serves as a Salt Lake Temple ordinance worker.
			ABSTRACT		Ostler will recount his journey to becoming a LGBTQ ally while serving as a YSA bishop. Between hearing the stories of his LGBTQ ward members and the Church's recent policy statements, Ostler rebuilt his LGBT beliefs/ attitudes/conclusions from scratch. He now sees his LGBT friends as some of his Heavenly Parent's finest sons and daughters, equal members of society, and worthy. After his release as a YSA Bishop (serving the normal three years, released in the fall of 2016), he continues to minister to the LDS LGBTQ community, using his baptism and temple covenants as 'fuel' for this calling. He will present ways that Latter-day Saints can be more supportive of their LGBTQ brothers and sisters.
MODERATOR	NEWELL G. BRINGHURST				
ROOM	SALTAIR				
272.	LDS/SSA MORMONS: PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE FOUR OPTIONS SURVEY				
PRESENTERS	MARYBETH RAYNES maintains a private psychotherapy practice with Crossroads Psychotherapy. She works with individuals, couples, and families on a variety of mental health concerns, including religious and/or spiritual dilemmas.				
	LEE BECKSTEAD is a licensed psychologist in private practice in Salt Lake City. He conducted two studies investigating Mormons who tried to change their sexual orientation.		MODERATOR		JERALEE HENDERSON RENSHAW
	RON SCHOW is a professor emeritus at Idaho State University where he has taught since 1975.		ROOM		COLLEGIATE
		274.			MORMONS AND TRUMP: AN UNHOLY ALLIANCE?
ABSTRACT	LGB or SSA Mormons are faced with challenging choices about how to integrate faith and sexuality. Unfortunately none of the available choices are widely approved or easy to make. In order to be inclusive and better understand these choices, a research team has been formed with				



PRESENTERS	<p>ROBERT A. REES is the Director of Mormon Studies at Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.</p> <p>CLIFTON HOLT JOLLEY is known in Utah as a newspaper columnist and host of PBS Civic Dialogue; he has been published in the New York Times, Dialogue, Sunstone, Western Folklore, and others. His two PBS documentaries were nominated for Emmys.</p> <p>MISTY KATHRINE SNOW was Utah's Democratic candidate in the 2016 United States Senate election.</p>	<p>of engaged creativity, especially regarding political or social causes." Some feminists are using traditionally identified "feminine" crafts to reclaim their art and empower women. By using their creativity to make the world a better place, craftivists help bring change via personalized activism. Craftivism also gives women access to working on important social and political causes using domestic crafts. Yet, these same crafts can limit the intended audience when one person's reality erases another. This panel will explore what adaptations craftivists must make if they are to become intersectional and truly effect social change.</p>
ABSTRACT	<p>Mormons have an ambivalent attitude toward Donald Trump. That ambivalence is most clearly seen through the lens of Mitt Romney. Romney was dissed by Trump who called the former candidate for president a "choke artist," and a "failed candidate." Then Trump humiliated Romney by pretending to consider him as Secretary of State. Trump seems to stand for everything Mormons are against and against everything they are for, and yet he won a majority of Utah voters. This panel explores the complex attitudes toward Trump and poses questions as to the future of Mormon-Trump relationship.</p>	<p>MODERATOR SARAH HANCOCK JONES</p> <p>ROOM PARLOR A</p>
MODERATOR	ROBERT A. REES	276.
ROOM	PANORAMA EAST	MILLENNIAL MORMONS: A FUNDAMENTALIST PERSPECTIVE
		PRESENTERS
		ALIA PETERSON
		KATHERINE HORNER
		DANA PETERSON
		CALEB HORNER
		JOSHUA HORNER
		JONATHAN OLSEN
		JOSEPH WRIGHT
		BENJAMIN JENSON
		DERREK PETERSON
275.	<p>CRAFTING AS SUBVERSIVE RESISTANCE AND PROBLEMATIC MYOPIA: THE STRUGGLE FOR INTERSECTIONALITY</p>	
PRESENTERS	<p>ANALYN GOURLEY is a nerdy craft girl with a love of Mormon culture. She has a master's degree in economics from UNLV and a bachelor's degree in political economy from the College of Idaho. While she has a full-time job so she can eat and pay student loans, her spare time is spent working on social justice causes, running D&D nights, and crafting.</p> <p>NANCY ROSS is a professor at Dixie State University and needs a vacation.</p> <p>JENNIFER HUSS BASQUIAT is an anthropology professor at the College of Southern Nevada. She is an ethnographer who believes field work and social justice should go hand in hand. She lives in Las Vegas with her two children while prepping for the inevitable zombie apocalypse.</p>	<p>ABSTRACT Studies show that more and more youth are leaving religion, so what keeps young adults in a fundamentalist faith? This panel will discuss personal experiences of youth from Christ Church Inc., a break-off group from the Apostolic United Brethren (AUB).</p> <p>MODERATOR MICA MCGRIGGS</p> <p>ROOM WEST BALLROOM</p>
		277.
		SACRED RESISTANCE: MORMON WOMEN MARCHING
		PRESENTERS
		NATASHA HELFER PARKER has been in
ABSTRACT	Craftivism has been defined as "the practice	



practice as a mental health professional for over 20 years, primarily working with issues of relational health, faith transitions and journeys, and sexuality. She writes a blog called The Mormon Therapist, and hosts the podcasts Mormon Mental Health, and Mormon Sex Info.

GINA COLVIN is a research fellow at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand with an interest in cultural and post-colonial studies. She is an international editor for Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought.

JODY ENGLAND HANSEN is a mixed-media artist and loves to combine the visual and spiritual aspects of language. She recently returned to Utah residence, and enjoys seeing the view of Mt. Olympus from both her kitchen and chapel windows.

ABSTRACT The Women's March on Washington inspired many Mormon women together in sisterhood. Some of us carried the names of those who could not gather physically, sharing a vicarious experience. In Washington D.C., Natasha Helfer Parker and Gina Colvin led a retreat for Mormon feminists who had come to the march. In this panel, we will share the sacred nature of this gathering and of the power of resistance inspired by the spirit of divine sisterhood.

MODERATOR ANA NELSON SHAW
ROOM EAST BALLROOM

278. MODERN FREEMASONRY AND ALTERNATIVE CHRISTIANITY OF THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD

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

RESPONDENT D. MICHAEL QUINN is an Affiliated Scholar at the University of Southern California's Center for Feminist Research. He has been a full-time researcher and writer, a professor of history at Brigham Young University, and a visiting professor of history (2002–03) at Yale.

ABSTRACT This presentation offers a comparative study of the gold plates of the New World, and the lead plates of Granada, Spain. Both metallic records (brought forth in the modern period) were said to be buried in the ground, connected by rings, found by treasurer-seekers in a sacred hills, and deposited with other relics. Both artifacts

claimed that indigenous people were anciently introduced to Christianity, These artifacts served similar needs, emerged in times of political/religious turmoil, and were defended by believing apologists in strikingly similar ways.

MODERATOR BROOKE OVESON WALRATH
ROOM UNION THEATER

279. MORMON IDENTITY IN CRISIS: EMBRACING THE LEAST OF THESE

PRESENTER MARK CREGO recently retired as managing director responsible for identity at Accenture where he led the development of the National ID of India and other prominent identity programs around the world.

ABSTRACT Our Mormon Identity is often conferred upon us by parents and a high-demand religious culture, leaving little room for exploration and mature identity development. As a result, the Mormon identity is often child-like in its magical worldview, as well as vulnerable to delayed identity crises in adulthood when challenges to beliefs arise. Additionally, Mormon institutions often foster a kind of identity politics, leveraging “worthiness” to control Mormon identity. This presentation demonstrates how what is usually termed a “faith crisis” is actually more of an “identity crisis,” and presents an approach toward an inclusive and open Mormon identity going beyond faith crisis.

MODERATOR JERILYN HASSELL POOL
ROOM ROOM 312

DINNER BREAK, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Support Sunstone by purchasing dinner on the patio where Tom Bennett will give a musical performance.

See page 5 for other dining options.

281. TOM BENNETT, ONE MAN BAND

PRESENTER TOM BENNETT is an authentic folk blues one-man-band. Born and raised in the rural North Georgia countryside, Tom was given his first harmonica at 9 years old by an old lady from West Virginia. Many long hours were spent on the hayfields of Eagle Crest ranch learning the blues. Tom left the South and headed

west seeking religion at age 19. He fell in with Mormon polygamists, studied Tibetan Buddhism and eventually became a cocaine dealer in Salt Lake City. He was arrested at 26 years old and, after going through rehabilitation and the legal system, decided to make things right and began working for the Boys and Girls Club. He was a club director when, on 7 April 2013 at age 32, he began playing the guitar. He was discovered by a nationally touring blues band and invited to join them on the road as the opening act. Tom has stayed on the road since completing many national tours after having recorded his debut album *The Man Who Shook The Trail of The Devil's Hounds* on Sweet Salt Records. When he is not on tour he rests in the Southern Utah desert near the town of St. George.

ROOM PATIO

PLENARY SESSION, 8:00 PM–9:30 PM

291. EMBRACING THE LEAST OF THESE

OPENING "Sinners, Are You Woke?" written and composed by MICHAEL ADAM FERGUSON.

PRESENTERS REV. DR. FATIMAH SALLEH began life as Muslim; converted as a teenager to the LDS Church; served a mission; taught LDS Institute, and then, responding to a call, attended Duke Divinity School. Following a period of discernment, she was recently ordained a Baptist minister.

LISA BUTTERWORTH is a licensed professional counselor specializing in concerns about faith, trauma, body image, anxiety and depression, and sexuality in Boise, Idaho and online at Symmetry Solutions. As founder of Feminist Mormon Housewives she has been working with people in liminal Mormon spaces for more than a dozen years.

MICHAEL ADAM FERGUSON is a postdoctoral research fellow at Cornell University specializing in cognitive neuroscience.

ABSTRACT Following several religious traditions, Dr. Salleh will preach a sermon on what it means to embrace "the least of these" in a tumultuous world. After the sermon, Lisa Butterworth will

host an interactive Q&A.

MODERATOR LISA BUTTERWORTH

ROOM SALTAIR

291B. OVERFLOW BROADCAST OF SESSION 291: EMBRACING THE LEAST OF THESE

ROOM WEST BALLROOM

SATURDAY 30 JULY

REGISTRATION, 8:30 AM–9:00 PM

Admission to sessions is by Symposium name badge or ticket only. This policy will be strictly enforced. Badges and single-session tickets are available at the registration table by the ballrooms on the second floor of the Olpin Student Union Building.

BREAKFAST

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
BY SIGNATURE BOOKS
8:00AM -10:30AM

DOORBUSTERS FOR
THE FIRST 50 ATTENDEES

ROOM BALLROOM

8:30 AM–9:00 PM

302. SUNSTONE ART SHOW

See pages 10–11 for information.

ROOM BALLROOM

DEVOTIONAL, 8:15 AM–8:45 AM

301. BEAUTY

PRESENTER ROBERT A. REES is the Director of Mormon Studies at Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

ABSTRACT Beauty may not, as Dostoevsky claimed, "save the world," but without it, neither salvation nor the world is complete. Why has God planted in the human soul a need for beauty? One reason is that, as Emerson said, "beauty is God's



handwriting—a wayside sacrament.” As such, it deepens and refreshes us, making it possible for us to endure the ugly, the grotesque, and the unseemly. There is so much of the world that is unbeautiful that we should never “lose an opportunity of seeing anything that is beautiful.” This devotional focuses on beauty and explores its relationship to other virtues.

MODERATOR JOSH KIM
ROOM SALTAIR

the university. Several months later a specially convened advisory council recommended that BYU institute an amnesty policy for victims of sexual violence, along with a number of other changes to provide more comprehensive support on campus. The presentation will consider this controversy and contextualize it with similar events at other religious universities.

MODERATOR MARY URBAN CLARKE
ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 9:00AM–10:00AM

311. MORMONS, MYTH, MIRACLES, & MAGIC

PRESENTER ROBERT A. REES is the Director of Mormon Studies at Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

ABSTRACT On any given Sunday, but especially on the first Sunday of the month, it is not uncommon to hear Latter-day Saints speak of miracles in their lives. To an objective viewer, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between some event that might qualify as a miracle and others that seem more within the realm of magic or myth. What is the difference between myth, magic, and miracles? Is it important to make such distinctions? What are the dangers of seeing every positive event as a miracle? This session examines the extraordinary and seeming-extraordinary through the lens of the natural, supernatural, and cultural.

MODERATOR LAURA EVERSHED JOHNSEN
ROOM SALTAIR

312. BYU, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, AND THE HONOR CODE

PRESENTER JENNY MCCOMB is an adult convert to the LDS Church, and works as a student affairs professional at Durham University, England. She was awarded a 2017 Churchill Memorial Travelling Fellowship, giving her the opportunity to spend six weeks in the USA and Canada researching best practice responses to sexual violence in higher education.

ABSTRACT In 2016, BYU’s honor code made headlines around the world after media reports that student victims were being investigated for honor code violations after reporting sexual assaults to

313. BEYOND SAVANNAH

PRESENTERS JERILYN HASSELL POOL is a digital artist and print production specialist. She lives in Provo, Utah with her family, where she works with the local LGBTQ community.

SAVANNAH is a thirteen-year-old girl who recently made headlines when she “came out” to her ward during fast and testimony meeting.

LOWELL ACORDA considers himself less-active, cultural Mormon. He is a recovery co-worker at IKEA Edmonton, a part-time student, and full-time Queer initiative volunteer in Edmonton, Alberta.

WESLEY GREEN was born and raised in the LDS Church. He is an artist who strongly believes that church beliefs and complex issues shouldn’t hinder fellowship and testimony.

JACK STEELE is a mild-mannered paralegal by day, and a social vigilante by night. Living in Eagle Mountain with his wife and four kitties, Jack spends his free time attempting to dismantle Mormon heterosupremacy.

SARAH is a convert from Michigan. She attended BYU-I, works as a web designer, and lives in Nebraska with her partner and their cats.

KRIS lives in Bluffdale, Utah and is a lifelong member of the LDS Church. Kris is a spouse, parent, BYU student, and a cat wrangler.

BRITT JOHNS is a US diplomat living in China and the host of the I Like To Look For Rainbows podcast.

ABSTRACT In June, 12-year-old Savannah bore her testimony in her ward, but when she said that she knew God loves her and made her gay, the microphone was shut off and she was told to sit down. This incident,

later witnessed over the Internet by millions, is symptomatic of a larger problem within the Mormon church of silencing LGBTQ voices. A panel of LGBTQ Mormons will relate stories of the many ways they have been silenced within Mormonism and what allies can do to amplify and lift up their voices.

MODERATOR JERILYN HASSELL POOL

ROOM PANORAMA EAST

314. MORMONS AND HEROIN USE

PRESENTER ELIZABETH SNYDER is an undergraduate student at UVU majoring in behavioral science with an emphasis in psychology and religious studies. Her studies have been informed by Buddhist psychoanalysis and other psychoanalytic theories centered around phenomenology, existentialism, and continental philosophy.

ABSTRACT For some, religion is a balm of relief; for others it is a barbed wire of entrapment. How have some people sought relief from religious pain in narcotics? How can narcotic abuse and cultural Mormonism lead people into an ongoing state of suffering? How can one more constructively live in relation to and within Mormonism, even when it's painful?

MODERATOR BROOKE SCOTT

ROOM PARLOR A

315. THE REMNANT MOVEMENT: SEEKING TO RECOVER AND CONTINUE THE RESTORATION

PRESENTERS TAUSHA LARSEN was raised in rural Idaho, attended BYU, and was excommunicated for apostasy with her husband, in 2014. She has a passion for piano, healing with herbal medicine, and mothering her seven children.

ADRIAN LARSEN was raised LDS in St. Louis, Missouri. He was a lifelong, active Mormon, until he was excommunicated in 2014 for apostasy over his blog, To The Remnant. He has two bachelor's degrees and a doctorate, and works in healthcare technology.

QUINTINA BEARCHIEF ADOLPHO, PhD is of Blackfoot descent and was raised on the Siksika Nation reservation in Alberta, Canada. She grew up competing in her culture's traditional dances

and learned many traditional stories from her father. She served as a tribal leader of her nation on Chief & Council. She's been married to Rob for over 22 years, and they commonly go by Bobby-Q.

ROBERT WK ADOLPHO was raised in Hauula, Hawaii. He is a civil engineer and actively home schools five of his six children as a stay-at-home dad. He enjoys participating in his and his wife's rich cultural traditions.

ABSTRACT

The current, so-called "Remnant" movement is a mystery to many. Originating with the works of Denver Snuffer, this grass-roots movement has captured the attention of all types of Mormons, as well as the ire of many LDS Church leaders. It seeks to reclaim what's been lost since the days of Joseph Smith, and continue the work he started; it also rejects polygamy and church hierarchy. In this panel presentation and Q&A, four active participants in the movement will present the facts, dispel the myths, and outline the ideas driving this unique approach to the gospel.

MODERATOR

RYAN FLAKE

ROOM

WEST BALLROOM

316. SHAME WITH NO NAME: IDENTIFYING AND HEALING "ASPIRATIONAL SHAME" IN MORMON WOMEN

PRESENTER

JULIE DE AZEVEDO HANKS is a seasoned psychotherapist, owner of Wasatch Family Therapy, author of The Burnout Cure and The Assertiveness Guide for Women, media contributor, performing songwriter, blogger on Mormon cultural issues and mental health, and is passionate about cultural transformation through partnership.

ABSTRACT

The term, "aspirational shame," names a common experience among Mormon women: the feeling of shame for having aspirations outside of the Church's emphasis on women's roles in the home. In this session, I will share case examples that define and illustrate the concept and will suggest ways to resolve this shame and to challenge the prevailing either/or paradigm for the lives of adult women.

MODERATOR

ANDRE SPRAGUE

ROOM

EAST BALLROOM



317. TRIALS OF OUR FAITH:
ON NAVIGATING A FAITH CRISIS

PRESENTER DANIEL ROLLÖ is studying religious anthropology at UVU, and joined the Utah Valley Interfaith Association in 2015. He currently resides in Provo, UT as a “less active” non-literal Mormon, called as one of his ward’s Sunday School teachers.

ABSTRACT Many LDS members are experiencing tension in their relationship with the LDS Church similar to the tension people in couple’s therapy have. The best solutions to such tensions aren’t in having a satisfying answer to each unique concern, but in understanding the tension itself.

MODERATOR COREY HOWARD

ROOM UNION THEATER

FRED VOROS began writing hymns in 2009 and later founded the Western Hymn Writers Workshop. The Workshop has produced over 70 hymns, Fred having written or co-written more than thirty of them.

ABSTRACT Come and sing new, relevant hymns with us! These hymns address topics such as the lifting of the priesthood race ban, reverence for the earth, Heavenly Mother, the Atonement, evolution, the homeless, refugees, women’s prophetic role, the devil, death, faith, and doubt. The session will consist almost entirely of singing new hymns by Fred Voros, Alan Eastman, and other members of the Western Hymn Writers Workshop. All are welcome, regardless of singing ability.

MODERATOR VICKIE EASTMAN

ROOM SALTAIR

318. DISCUSSION GROUP:
LEAVING AND NOT LEAVING ALONE:
HOW TO LIVE WITH THE LABELS

PRESENTERS TANNER GILLILAND is a professional writer best known for his video poem, “Mormonism and Me” and his contributions to the website Zelfh On The Shelf, where he goes by the pseudonym Richard R. Lyman.

SAMANTHA LOUISE SHELLEY is a really professional writer from Essex, England. She is a firm believer in the four-hour work week, vegan pizza, and not a lot else. Anything you don’t like about her is the result of her strict British upbringing.

ABSTRACT This session is an interactive discussion where participants will discuss how it feels to be labeled by their family and friends once they move away from orthodox participation.

ROOM ROOM 312

322. THE MORMON HEAVENLY MOTHER:
HELPER OF THE OPPRESSED

PRESENTER MARGARET TOSCANO is an associate professor of comparative studies at the University of Utah. Her research centers on myth, gender, and religion. She has published extensively on Mormon feminism for the past thirty years.

ABSTRACT The Heavenly Mother, though acknowledged as legitimate by LDS leaders, nonetheless has been marginalized in practice, referred to mostly as one of the “heavenly parents.” Recently, she also has been challenged by liberal writers who question her value, seeing her as a representative of heteronormative marriage. This paper will contest both views, arguing that the Mormon Mother God is a vital symbol of the oppressed and outcast, whether they face discrimination for their race, their LGBTQ identity, their immigrant status, or as one of the poor and needy.

MODERATOR THOMAS B. MCAFFEE

ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

321. SING A NEW SONG: HYMNS OF
DEVOTION, INCLUSION, AND FAITH

PRESENTERS ALAN EASTMAN has 35 years of experience in energy research, and is a co-founder of GreenFire Energy, a start-up geothermal power company. He has been playing the piano since age 10, studying the organ with Dr. Robert Cundick at the Tabernacle. He had a jazz trio for 30 years, and currently plays with two local swing bands.

323. HEALTH IS OUR BIRTHRIGHT

PRESENTER SARAH E. FIRMAGE has a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Utah and a master’s degree in traditional Chinese medicine from Five Branches University in Santa Cruz, CA. She teaches Eastern and Western health



sciences at Myotherapy College of Utah.

ABSTRACT How we care for our individual bodies is a private, sacred choice. The relationship between a healer and a client is also sacred—very similar to that of a priest and parishoner. It must remain free of government, religious, or corporate intrusions. It must be available to all people, including those on the LGBT spectrum. We are seeing healthcare rights threatened and removed one by one. To ignore these intrusions is to give our power away, lay down our freedom of choice, and lay down our God-given intelligence to find new ways to heal.

MODERATOR ANA NELSON SHAW

ROOM COLLEGIATE

324. REVELATION THROUGH HALLUCINATION

PRESENTERS CODY NOCONI is a certified permaculture designer specializing in micoremediation and plant medicines. He is the researcher/host/producer of the Psilly Rabbits podcast which investigates the history of entheogen use and the current medical science surrounding the field.

BRYCE BLANKENAGEL is full-time researcher, host, and producer of the Naked Mormonism podcast. In its first year of production, Naked Mormonism won three Brodie awards.

ABSTRACT Given the unique psychoactive effects and abundant availability of myriad entheogens, there exists evidence that Joseph Smith used plant medicines to incite visions and personal revelations for himself and his parishioners. This model provides a much-needed naturalistic explanation for multiple instances of visionary experiences in Mormon history which have previously been explained with group-hallucination psychology or attributed to the power of God.

MODERATOR KIM HURST GLOVER

ROOM PANORAMA EAST

325. A YEAR OF FAITH TRANSITION STORIES: A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF EMERGENT THEMES

PRESENTERS ROB VOX is a seventh generation Mormon. He served a mission, married in the temple, and has four children and a PhD in sociology.

NANCY ROSS is an art historian who moonlights as a sociologist of religion.

ABSTRACT This session explores emergent themes generated across a year of faith transition interviews from the Faith Transitions Podcast. The data includes 28 Mormon transitions and seven transitions occurring outside of the Mormon tradition. Commonalities and differences between stories will be explored, concluding with a Q & A regarding the transition process with suggestions for navigating a faith transition.

MODERATOR SARAH HANCOCK JONES

ROOM PARLOR A

326. BORDERLANDS: HELPING NEWCOMERS AND THOSE EXPERIENCING A CRISIS OF BELIEF

PRESENTERS D. JEFF BURTON is the author of the book For Those Who Wonder and the long-running "Braving the Borderlands" column in Sunstone. He is also a former member of the Sunstone board of directors.

JON OGDEN is the author of When Mormons Doubt: A Way to Save Relationships and Seek a Quality Life, which proposes methods of dealing with religious doubts. He writes at WhenMormonsDoubt.com.

ABSTRACT Almost every member of the LDS Church has a time when some cherished belief or understanding is challenged and doubt begins to be part of their traditional Mormon "knowing" testimony experience. We in the Borderlands can help those struggling by sharing ten simple approaches and perspectives. These can help struggling members see their difficult experiences in a more positive light and help them return to emotional stability, personal growth, and continued Church activity or affiliation (suitable to their needs and wants).

MODERATOR JERILYN HASSELL POOL

ROOM WEST BALLROOM

327. AWASH IN A SEA OF FAITH: IS MORMON POLITICAL HISTORY



REPEATING ITSELF?

PRESENTER RANDY SNYDER is a practicing orthodontist in Colorado who got his start in podcasting on Mormon Stories where, along with Tyson Jacobsen, he was interviewed by Dan Wotherspoon regarding atheism after Mormonism (episodes 222-227). After that he appeared multiple times as a panelist on Mormon Expression which led to him become a founding member of the Infants on Thrones podcast in 2012.

ABSTRACT As an homage to Awash in a Sea of Faith: Christianizing the American People, by Jon Butler, this session explores how Mormons managed to overwhelmingly vote for a candidate that is decidedly against all their sensibilities and values. It will also explore why a minority of Mormons conscientiously didn't, drawing parallels to Mormon political history. Included will be research on the impact fabricated news played in the election by Jeff Green.

MODERATOR ANDRE SPRAGUE

ROOM EAST BALLROOM

328. THE POLYGAMIST’S DAUGHTER: HEALING IN THE AFTERMATH OF TRAUMA AND ABUSE

PRESENTER ANNA LEBARON is one of more than fifty children of infamous polygamist cult leader Ervil LeBaron. She endured abandonment, horrific living conditions, and child labor. At age thirteen, she escaped and began a new life. A gifted communicator and personal growth activist, she’s passionate about helping others walk in freedom. Anna lives in the DFW Metroplex and loves being Mom to five grown children.

ABSTRACT This presentation will address the issue of “Healing in the Aftermath of Trauma and Abuse,” including the hidden abuses which leave marks and scars not just on the body, but on the heart, soul, and spirit.

MODERATOR LISA PATTERSON BUTTERWORTH

ROOM UNION THEATER

329. MORE THAN A NAME: HOW GENEALOGY CONNECTS US

PRESENTERS COREY HOWARD lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Her life’s goal is to bring the hidden into the light.

KATHY CARLSTON is a multimedia artist with a passion for storytelling. She and her wife live in Layton, Utah.

ABSTRACT This presentation proposes that the true purpose of genealogy is to help us get to know our ancestors. To illustrate this concept, the presenter will use stories from her own history that helped her understand her contemporary family dynamic.

MODERATOR COREY HOWARD

ROOM ROOM 312

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 11:30AM – 12:30AM

331. OTHER SHEEP, INDEED

PRESENTER DENVER C. SNUFFER, JR. was an active member of the LDS church for 40 years until he was excommunicated in September 2013 on the 40th anniversary of his original baptism date.

ABSTRACT Christ’s “other sheep” are mentioned in the New Testament and Book of Mormon, but remain unidentified. There are important things known to the “other sheep” but still unknown to Mormons. “The least of these” may not be our inferiors, but may be needed to complete Mormonism. Mormonism welcomes all truth, wherever it is found, and cannot allow itself to become self-satisfied or unwelcoming to new and important ideas from outside. No Mormon should be willing to ignore scripture to conform to orthodoxy. This paper will defend taking a much broader view of the unfinished “restoration of all things.”

MODERATOR MICAH NICKOLAISEN

ROOM SALTAIR

332. MORMON GENERATIONS: WHAT NEW RESEARCH TELLS US ABOUT FOUR GENERATIONS OF CURRENT AND FORMER LATTER-DAY SAINTS

PRESENTER JANA RIESS is a senior columnist for Religion News Service and the author or co-author of numerous books, including Flunking Sainthood, Mormonism and American Politics, Mormonism for Dummies, and the Twible. She is currently writing The Next Mormons: The Rising Generation

of Latter-day Saints in America, based on social science research on four generations of Mormons and former Mormons.

ABSTRACT Millennials, GenXers, Baby Boomers, and the Silent Generation. What do they have in common, and where do they diverge?

This session looks at research findings from the nationally representative Next Mormons survey, conducted in late 2016. Which generation of Latter-day Saints has the largest number of children? Which has the strongest belief in God and in Mormon teaching? And which is the most likely generation to leave the Church? A significant portion of the session will be devoted to Q&A, and there will be age-appropriate door prizes for lucky members of each generation.

MODERATOR DEBRA JENSON

ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

333. WALKING ONE ANOTHER HOME: WHY I CONTINUE TO STAY

PRESENTER ROBERT A. REES is the Director of Mormon Studies at Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

ABSTRACT This session will explore the value and beauty of faith found within communing with the Divine and with one another.

MODERATOR ROY SCHMIDT

ROOM COLLEGIATE

334. THE SPIRITUAL BRAIN

PRESENTER MICHAEL ADAM FERGUSON is a Harvard and Cornell-trained neuroscientist, publishing groundbreaking empirical and theoretical research on spirituality across peer-reviewed disciplines. He leads the Mystagogy & Science Society in Boston, Massachusetts, where he lives with his husband J. Seth Anderson.

ABSTRACT Brain science has matured to the point where it is beginning to subsume the philosophical discipline of religious phenomenology. In this session, Dr. Michael Ferguson will lead attendees through an exciting spiral of divine ascent, complete with detailed mechanisms for the cognitive and neural dynamics of theosis (i.e., divine imitation). The best of contemporary science and the highest expression of Christian theology are fused in an extraordinary presentation you will not want to miss.

MODERATOR JAZMIN HIGHT

ROOM PANORAMA EAST

335. AN UNRULY FAITH: THE MAKING OF A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT KATE KELLY AND GENDER EQUITY IN THE MORMON CHURCH

PRESENTER CINDY MADSEN REID has a B.A. in English from Brigham Young University and an M.Ed from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She taught high school, was an adjunct professor of English at the College of Southern Nevada for over a decade, and served as a member of the Nevada State Board of Education. Cindy then decided to make art her primary focus. Her first film project, Through Eden, explored a group of devout Mormon women questioning their beliefs. She is also a producer for the short film Ma: A Story of Us. An Unruly Faith is her first feature documentary. She and her husband have three children.

ABSTRACT Three years ago, Cindy Madsen Reid, a first-time documentarian, read about Kate Kelly and the Ordain Women movement. Thinking it might make an interesting story and wanting to explore a career in film, she called Kate and asked her if she could follow her with a camera. Three years later, the story continues. Come get a sneak peek at the trailer, hear about a budding filmmaker, and catch key moments in an activist's journey.

MODERATOR BRYAN MCAFFEE

ROOM PARLOR A

336. THE NAUVOO COUNCIL OF FIFTY MINUTES

PRESENTER H. MICHAEL MARQUARDT is an independent historian and research consultant. He is the compiler of Early Patriarchal Blessings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Smith-Pettit Foundation, 2007) and co-author with William Shepard of Lost Apostles: Forgotten Members of Mormonism's Original Quorum of Twelve (Signature Books, 2014).

ABSTRACT In September 2016 the LDS Church Historian's Press made available in print the early minutes of the Council of Fifty. These minutes were kept from church members and the public for well over one hundred and fifty years. This paper will explore some of the events and topics discussed in these meetings, including Joseph Smith and



Brigham Young being accepted as kings, the gentiles rejecting the gospel, and being shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

MODERATOR CLAIR BARRUS
ROOM WEST BALLROOM

337. **HEALTHY COMMUNICATION AND
NEGOTIATION IN MIXED-FAITH
RELATIONSHIPS**

PRESENTER TOM PERRY has been involved in podcasting since 2009 (Mormon Expression & Infants on Thrones) and has been facilitating a Utah Country support group for mixed-faith couples for almost two years. He and his wife have been in a mixed-faith marriage for over 8 years.

ABSTRACT Conflict and disagreements in mixed faith relationships are very common; finding healthy, two-way communication and negotiation can often mitigate these disagreements and issues.

MODERATOR AARON BOYETT
ROOM EAST BALLROOM

338. **QUANTIFIABLY STRANGER
THAN FICTION**

PRESENTER CHRISTIAN N. K. ANDERSON is a quantitative biologist in southern California who has published numerous scientific articles on ecosystem theory and statistical genetics. He has been attending Sunstone Symposia since the age of one.

CHERYL BRUNO is an independent scholar of Mormon history. She has published articles, spoken at conferences, and is co-author of Method Infinite: Freemasonry and the Mormon Restoration, forthcoming from Greg Kofford Books.

ABSTRACT In the gerentocracy of the LDS Church, actuarial tables can be (and have been) used to forecast leadership a few decades in the future. Though these predictions are generally quite accurate, surprises happen. Using historic actuarial tables, this presentation demonstrates four time periods where reality deviated most from the statistically most likely path, then presents four corresponding alternative history vignettes with particular emphasis on humanitarian ramifications.

MODERATOR JOSH KIM
ROOM UNION THEATER

339. **VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS**

PRESENTER MARGARET OLSEN HEMMING is the editor-in-chief of Exponent II. She received an MA in international peace and conflict resolution from American University and worked for International Rescue Committee doing refugee resettlement.

PANDORA BREWER is a quilter, editor, mother, and wife from Mount Prospect, Illinois.

ABSTRACT The ancient practice of midrash inserts fictional narrative where actual scripture is silent, giving details to characters that are otherwise footnotes. This presentation explores the historical context and current spiritual relevance of midrash. We will examine criticism of its practice, from accusations of cultural appropriation to the hubris of trying to add to scriptural record, and then discuss the power of focusing on female characters and stories. We will look at examples of midrash, including the process of publishing the midrash issue of Exponent II and how the experience helped us think differently about women in the scriptures.

MODERATOR LINDY YAM
ROOM ROOM 312

LUNCH BREAK, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

See page 5 for dining options.

342. **TRAPPED BY THE MORMONS**

PRESENTERS BRIAN WHITNEY graduated with a BA in history from Weber State University, has interned with the LDS Church History Department, and was awarded a research fellowship in Nauvoo, IL. He currently works as a historical editor and publicist for Greg Kofford Books and is co-editing the David O. McKay office diaries.

MICHAEL AUSTIN received his BA and MA in English from Brigham Young University and his PhD in English Literature from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He is the author or editor of seven books and more than 50 articles, book chapters, and reviews. He is currently the series co-editor for the Mormon Image in Literature series published by Greg Kofford Books.

ABSTRACT This session will be a viewing of the 1922 silent era film Trapped by the Mormons, one

of the earliest commerical depictions of Mormons on film. The film was based on tropes established by the “dime novel” genre popular during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century—the primary lens through which the nation viewed Mormons. This film presentation will be accompanied by discussion of the genre and its impact on the popular conception of Mormonism.

MODERATOR BRIAN WHITNEY
ROOM SALTAIR

343. ENCORE PRESENTATION: LUNCH PRESENTATION: MORMON FOOD STUDIES IN TRUMP’S AMERICA

PRESENTER JERILYN HASSELL POOL is a digital artist and print production specialist. She lives in Provo, Utah with her family, where she works with the local LGBTQ community.

ABSTRACT In the four years of food studies at Sunstone, food trends have never been studied so vigorously and in-depth as they have in the last year. How has the election changed the food patterns of Mormons? How many more bags of Cheetos have been consumed in Utah County alone? And what about the food habits of famous Mormons? Brace yourself, the alternative facts are coming and they aren’t pretty.

MODERATOR DOVIE ONICE EAGAR PETERSON
ROOM EAST BALLROOM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

351. PLAYMATE MORMONS: FAITH AND SEX WORK

PRESENTERS KYLIE JOHNSON is a model probably best known for her appearance in Playboy as a Playmate of the Month for February 2011. She speaks publicly about sex shame and sex work.

SASHA EARL currently serves in her Arizona ward as a Gospel Principles teacher. She is also a professional stripper and dancer.

KRISTIN HODSON is founder and executive director of The Healing Group and co-author of Real Intimacy: A Couples’ Guide to Healthy, Genuine Sexuality (Cedar Fort).

ABSTRACT Mormonism has a complicated relationship with bodies and sex. Sasha Earl, a faithful, active

Mormon stripper will join Playboy Playmate Kylie Johnson to discuss sex work, bodies, and faith.

MODERATOR KRISTIN B. HODSON
ROOM SALTAIR

352. CAN WE TALK? HOW TO FACILITATE CHALLENGING CONVERSATIONS WITH THOSE YOU LOVE (AND THOSE YOU DON’T)

PRESENTERS JAY GRIFFITH is an explorer of ideas and a facilitator of dialogue and relationships through various organizations and non-profits, including the LDS Church.

JACOB HESS is co-founder of Village Square Utah and blogs at MindfullyMormon.org and FlirtingwithCuriosity.org. He is the author of You’re Not as Crazy as I Thought, But You’re Still Wrong; Once Upon a Time...He Wasn’t Feeling It Anymore; and A Third Space: Proposing Another Way Forward in the LGBT/Religious Conservative Impasse.

ABSTRACT Family dinners, church, Facebook, work—all are rife with opportunities to have conversations about sometimes painful and divisive topics. And yet we usually avoid these subjects because we don’t know how to feel safe sharing what we really think. In this workshop, Jacob and Jay will teach proven methods to help bridge these troublesome waters while staying anchored to the essence of Christian ethics. Time will also be spent in small groups practicing with these tools.

MODERATOR JOANNA THORPE THOLSTROM
ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

353. STANDING AT THE CROSSROADS OF IDENTITY AND FAITH

PRESENTERS BRYNDIS ROBERTS was raised in the African American Baptist faith tradition and joined the LDS Church in January 2008. She is an attorney with her own firm – Jenkins & Roberts LLC – where her law partner is her ex-husband, who also happens to be her best friend.

KALANI TONGA is biracial, and often says that her life has been characterized by lots of seemingly opposite “halves”: she is a liberal feminist, but also an active Mormon; she is half Swedish, and half Tongan; she started her



collegiate career at the University of Utah, but graduated from BYU.

GINA COLVIN is a research fellow at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand with an interest in cultural and post-colonial studies. She is an international editor for Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought.

ABSTRACT

The LDS Church professes to be a worldwide church, proclaiming that all are welcome. However, the Church tends to become mired in issues that are primarily of concern to those who live in the “Mormon Corridor” in the United States, taking political positions that are alienating rather than welcoming to those outside that culture. As women of color, we struggle constantly with navigating paths in a church that often does not hear or see us. Many of us are now standing at a crossroads in our relationship with the LDS Church.

MODERATOR

GINA COLVIN

ROOM

COLLEGIATE

354.

GETTING UNSTUCK:
HEALING FROM COMMUNITY
REJECTION AND SPIRITUAL WOUNDS

PRESENTERS

LISA BUTTERWORTH is a licenced professional counselor specializing in concerns about faith, trauma, body image, anxiety and depression, and sexuality in Boise, Idaho and online at Symmetry Solutions. As founder of Feminist Mormon Housewives she has been working with people in liminal Mormon spaces for more than a dozen years.

JANA SPANGLER is a transformational life coach who specializes in faith transitions and relationships. She sees clients in the greater Salt Lake City area and online with Symmetry Solutions.

ABSTRACT

Out of the dark night of the soul can come great growth. Using the principles of trauma recovery and the pillars of meaning, we will outline the process for healing the deep wounds that some experience during faith transition and suggest resources for rebuilding a life with new depths of kindness, strength, and resilience. This session will include experiential and processing components.

MODERATOR

ANTHONY MILLER

ROOM

PANORAMA EAST

355.

TRANSITIONS: WHAT I LEARNED

PRESENTERS

ALEX PEDERSEN received a BA in Latin American studies from BYU in April 2016 and left the Church in July 2016.

NICHOLAS R STEWART earned a BA from San Francisco State University in American diplomatic history and international relations. Though raised in the LDS Church, he is currently inactive.

SAMUEL YAMAMOTO graduated from BYU with a bachelor of music education, and Boston University with a master of music education. He teaches instrumental band in Alberta, Canada.

ABSTRACT

This session will focus on the personal experiences of people who have transitioned out of the LDS Church, focusing on lessons learned in the process and aftermath of transition.

MODERATOR

NICHOLAS R. STEWART

ROOM

PARLOR A

356.

SEER STONES, FOLK MAGIC,
AND ALVIN'S HAND

PRESENTER

BILL REEL is the host of the Mormon Discussion podcast, which deals with the complexities of Mormonism while helping Latter-day Saints lead with faith.

ABSTRACT

Mormonism's beginnings are deeply connected with the folk magic practice of the Smith family and Joseph Smith himself. This session will expound on the Chase family, water witching, magic circles, guardian spirits, throat slit Spaniards, Obadiah Dogberry, Joseph's seer stones, and, of course, Alvin's hand. Once we understand these narratives, Mormonism's beginnings look quite different.

MODERATOR

CHRIS BLOXHAM

ROOM

WEST BALLROOM

357.

BOB'S MORMON CRED SCALE 2.0

PRESENTERS

TOM PERRY has been podcasting for more than six years. He was one of the founding members of Mormon Expression and is also one of the

founding members of Infants on Thrones.

MATT LONG is a lawyer by trade and an infant by choice. He's an aspiring vegetarian and hippy and strives to love fiercely and experience life . . . because this all ends.

JOHN HAMER is pastor of the downtown Toronto congregation of Community of Christ. A past president of the John Whitmer Historical Association, he is co-editor of *Scattering of the Saints: Schism within Mormonism*.

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

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?

HEATHER CRAW is the newest addition to Infants on Thrones where she offers a point of view steeped in social psychology, behavioral economics, and Russian literature.

BOB CASWELL served a one-year sentence at Brigham Young University before escaping and graduating from Utah Valley University magna cum laude with a degree in business management followed by receiving an MBA from Purdue University.

RANDY SNYDER is a practicing orthodontist in Colorado who got his start in podcasting on Mormon Stories. After that he appeared multiple times as a panelist on Mormon Expression which led to him become a founding member of the Infants on Thrones podcast in 2012.

ABSTRACT

How much Mormon cred do you have? That is, how much of the end-to-end Mormon experience have you participated in? Bob Caswell, of the Infants on Thrones podcast, created a Mormon cred scale back in 2014 through which he attempted to quantify anyone's Mormon credibility by having them answer a series of questions. Thousands of responses later, the infamous cred scale lives on as a point of reference. But now, Bob will join his fellow Infants in hosting a panel discussion to reveal and discuss the new and improved version of the cred scale for all to love . . . or hate.

MODERATOR

JOSH KIM

ROOM

EAST BALLROOM

358.

LEADERSHIFT: THE SLURGE FROM LOVE TO POWER

PRESENTER

PAUL TOSCANO is a consumer bankruptcy lawyer practicing in Salt Lake City. His books available through Amazon include *The Serpent and the Dove: Messianic Mysteries of the Mormon Temple* (2014); *The Sabbath of Death* (2014); *The Sacrament of Doubt* (2007) and many more.

ABSTRACT

Leadershift is the final essay in my "Shift Happens" series.

In part 1, I revisit the theme of my 1989 Sunstone speech "A Plea to the Leadership of the Church: Choose Love Not Power" and examine why church and state leaders tend to shift steadily from compassion to control, from ethics to self-preservation, from love to power.

In part 2, I discuss how this shift illuminates God's perceived failure to exercise divine leadership to intervene to prevent pain and evil, which is perhaps the most potent reason for the individual abandonment of theism for atheism.

MODERATOR

AUBRI PARMENTER

ROOM

UNION THEATER

359.

ASK A SEX THERAPIST

PRESENTERS

NATASHA HELFER PARKER has been in practice as a mental health professional for over 20 years, primarily working with an LDS clientele around issues of relational health, faith transitions and journeys, and sexuality. She writes a blog called *The Mormon Therapist*, and hosts the podcasts *Mormon Mental Health*, and *Mormon Sex Info*.

KRISTIN MARIE BENNION is an AASECT certified sex therapist and the owner of *Intimate Connections Counseling* in Orem, Utah. She has been practicing as a licensed therapist for eight years and works full-time helping clients with sexuality concerns. She is working toward a PhD in human sexuality.

ABSTRACT

Sexuality is commonly a taboo subject and is often relegated to secret or non-existent spaces, especially in religious cultures that have roots in Puritanism. This session will offer an open, safe space for attendees to ask trained professionals questions about sexuality.

MODERATOR

GEORGE ANDREW SPRIGGS



ROOM ROOM 312

CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

361. HELPING MORMONISM MOVE FROM PATRIARCHY TOWARD PARTNERSHIP

PRESENTERS CAROL LYNN PEARSON's memoir about her marriage to a gay man opened the conversation in Mormondom about LGBT issues in 1986. Others of her works include No More Goodbyes: Circling the Wagons around our Gay Loved Ones, and the play Facing East.

JULIE DE AZEVEDO HANKS is a seasoned psychotherapist, owner of Wasatch Family Therapy, author of The Burnout Cure and The Assertiveness Guide for Women, media contributor, and performing songwriter. She earned her MSW in clinical social work and PhD in marriage and family therapy with an emphasis in creative systemic studies.

ABSTRACT Carol Lynn Pearson and therapist Julie deAzevedo Hanks relate their experiences in discovering that patriarchy is not a given, but is a historical construct, and one that is in process of giving way to a much more sustainable and enlightened paradigm: partnership. How can this shift be accomplished in the solid patriarchy we know as Mormonism?

MODERATOR DAN WOTHERSPOON

ROOM SALTAIR

362. WITHOUT DEATH WE CANNOT MOURN, WITHOUT MOURNING WE CANNOT BE SAVED: ON MORMONISM'S CONFRONTATION WITH ITS HAUNTED, INVISIBLE BODY

PRESENTER JACOB BAKER is a doctoral candidate in philosophy of religion and theology at Claremont Graduate University. He teaches ethics at Utah Valley University and is a freelance writer.

ABSTRACT In this paper I will argue that Jesus's historical context provided a framework for what he meant about those who were "the least of these" within his community, but who "the least of these" are

within modern communities will differ according to modern contexts and concerns. I will argue for a specific interpretation and what this might mean for moral obligations regarding "the least of these," and how Mormonism's natural universalism has become obscured by other concerns, hiding "the least of these" from us while in plain sight, making its body invisible to itself. I argue that a proper understanding of mourning as individual confrontation with death and the collective building of solidarity is the only long-term, redemptive solution the moral obligations we have toward those in a community who qualify as "the least of these," and that the collective salvation or damnation of a community hinges on how these are seen and responded to.

MODERATOR STEPHEN CARTER

ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

363. "JESUS SERVICE": THE WORK CHURCH CALLINGS NEVER ALLOWED TIME FOR

PRESENTER DOREE BURT is a court appointed special advocate for children, a Democrat county and state delegate, and an advocate for LGBTQ causes and issues, especially when they intersect with Mormonism. After speaking out against the November 2015 exclusion policy on UPR, her temple recommend and church calling, as co-president of a multi-stake mutual for special needs adults, were rescinded.

ABSTRACT During my longer-than-planned Mormon sabbatical, I have discovered a different type of service. Not a check-list service. Not an assigned good-deed service. But the soul-charging, spirit-changing service that comes when not trying to rescue anyone. I call this "Jesus service." This presentation explores what "Jesus service" means and how the LDS organization might hinder or help its pursuit.

MODERATOR JOANNA SMITH

ROOM COLLEGIATE

364. THE 10 THINGS DONALD TRUMP CAN TEACH US ABOUT JOSEPH SMITH

PRESENTER JOHN LARSEN has a BA in linguistics from BYU and an MBA from WSU. He is the former host of the Mormon Expression Podcast. Employed at the University of Utah, John writes and occasionally podcasts at JohnLarsen.org.

ABSTRACT Trump's rise from outside pariah to the presidency of the United States gives us insight into the phenomenon of charismatic leaders such as Joseph Smith. A comparison of the two men can shed light on the nature of revolutionary leaders and what characteristics it takes (or doesn't take) to stage an inside revolution. Looking at Trump, we can re-examine some of the assumptions about the motivation, skills, and character of Joseph Smith.

MODERATOR KEVIN LABRESH

ROOM PANORAMA EAST

365. FREEBYU'S CAMPAIGN FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AT THE Y

PRESENTER BRAD LEVIN has presented at Sunstone in a session titled "Why Mormonism Can Abide Gay Marriage." In 2011 he nearly got kicked out of BYU for publishing Homosexuality: A Straight BYU Student's Perspective and selling it in the BYU Bookstore.

ABSTRACT This session gives an overview of FreeBYU's activism over the preceding year, detailing what they've achieved, and highlighting what they hope to accomplish in the coming year. They are one of the few Mormon activist groups with a track record of both eliciting statements from LDS PR officials and achieving policy reform.

MODERATOR AARON BOYETT

ROOM PARLOR A

366. THE PARADOX OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF MORMON

PRESENTER BRIAN W. KASSEN BROCK has a PhD in German literature and taught in New York until his retirement.

ABSTRACT Jesus is the Christ of the New Testament, however, his persona is surrounded by Hermetic themes such as light and darkness. These paradoxes relate to others such as the role of Ancient Egyptian language and culture in the context of Hebraic beliefs and give us insight as to why another set of scriptures was needed.

MODERATOR RYAN FLAKE

ROOM WEST BALLROOM

367. THE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN GOSPEL AND CULTURE IN A PRE-POST-MORMON MIND

PRESENTER GLENN OSTLUND has spent much of his adult life both formally and informally exploring the intersect between Mormon and popular culture. He received a master's degree and PhD (abd) in the study of folklore from Indiana University. Known among his friends as "the TBM Whisperer," Glenn has been an active voice in post-Mormon podcasting since 2010.

ABSTRACT Many members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints see a distinction between church culture and gospel doctrines. But where is that line? When does doctrine seep into culture? And when does culture seep into doctrine? How does a person's shift in faith impact these distinctions? This audience-interactive presentation will explore these questions. Bring your smart phones. You'll be using them.

MODERATOR MATT LONG

ROOM EAST BALLROOM

368. POLYGAMY IN OUR DNA: IS THIS "DEAD" PRACTICE PREVENTING DIVINE UNION IN OUR MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES?

PRESENTER LIZZA JACOBS NELSON has curated art, taught yoga, instructed teenagers, picked cherries, and nannied Italian babies. She loves traveling (but hates plane rides), being in nature (but hates bug bites), and asking lots of questions (but usually hates the answers).

ABSTRACT Even though Mormons currently don't practice polygamy outside the temple, this practice has dramatically shaped our identities and relationships, affecting marriages, families and community interactions. If God is the divine union of the masculine and feminine in perfect harmony, polygamy has thrown that balance off, causing emotional and spiritual dysfunction, which we often perpetuate without knowing it. This session will recognize polygamy's threads of influence and talk about how to transform conflict and pain through meditation, awareness, and receiving wholeness from the divine.

MODERATOR JERILYN HASSELL POOL

ROOM UNION THEATER



CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 5:00PM – 6:30PM

368. POLYGAMY IN OUR DNA: IS THIS “DEAD” PRACTICE PREVENTING DIVINE UNION IN OUR MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES?

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MODERATOR JERILYN HASSELL POOL

ROOM UNION THEATER

369. VOICE LESSONS: FINDING MY WAY BACK TO THE SONGS OF MY FAITH

PRESENTER JOHN BONNER is a licensed clinical social worker in Salt Lake City specializing in trauma, grief & loss, faith transitions, and navigating LGBTQ identities. He is singing his eighth season with the Utah Chamber Artists and second season with Brevitas.

ABSTRACT An important part of my faith journey started with my singing in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, continued through my leaving the Church (after coming out as gay), and ended with rediscovering my Mormon voice through writing. This session will tell the story of how I began the process of mending my divided heart, particularly in the wake of the November 2015 exclusion policy. I will be reading selections from the various personal essays I’ve published since 5 November 2015.

MODERATOR ROY SCHMIDT

ROOM ROOM 312

371. ORGANIZING TO COUNTER THE MORMON ALT RIGHT: A COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND WORKING SESSION

PRESENTER JOANNA BROOKS is Associate Dean of Graduate and Research Affairs at San Diego University and the author or editor of six scholarly books on religion, gender, race and American culture including *The Book of Mormon Girl: A Memoir of an American Faith* (2012). She is the editor with Hannah Wheelwright and Rachel Hunt Steenblik of *Mormon Feminism: Forty Years of Essential Writings*, and, with Gina Colvin, of *Decolonizing Mormonism*.

ABSTRACT This session will provide space and resources for learning how to stand up against racism and alt right extremism in Mormon spaces. We will first learn from the perspectives and writings of Mormon activists of color and then move to discussion of the role white Mormons can play in taking responsibility for the toxicity of historic and present day racism and political extremism in Mormon contexts.

MODERATOR MICA MCGRIGGS

ROOM SALT AIR

372. MORMONS, ADDICTION, AND OPIOIDS: PERSPECTIVES FROM EXPERTS AND INDIVIDUALS

PRESENTERS JEFF JOHNSON is a pharmacist with extensive experience in acute care, community, and long-term care arenas. He currently practices as a financial and supply chain consultant. He’s dealt with the realities of substance abuse and addiction in both his professional and personal life.

CATANIA JOHNSON is a dedicated student of the social sciences, and will soon complete her master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling. She plans to practice as a therapist in the field of addiction recovery.

DEVIN EDWARDS started his 15-year career at DCFS (Division of Child and Family Services) working on the CPS team investigating child abuse.

ELIZABETH PORTER attended Ricks College and Utah State University. She is a volunteer with a

non-profit that supplies clean needles to active addicts, and a long-time member of a 12-step recovery program.

RYAN WATKINS is a physician in recovery who has experienced addiction from both sides of the physician-patient relationship. He currently works at a local treatment center helping others who face similar challenges.

JAMES OTT is a licensed therapist and family interventionist with a private practice in downtown Salt Lake City. He works with addiction from various frameworks—trauma, family dynamics, mental health, brain chemistry, etc. He believes everyone should work a daily program of recovery.

ABSTRACT Utah has one of the highest prescription drug abuse rates in the country. How does this affect the Mormon community? Experts and those who have experience with addiction will share their observations and stories.

MODERATOR JAME OTT

ROOM CRIMSON VIEW

373. PERSPECTIVES OF MORMON WOMEN (RE)ENTERING THE WORKFORCE

PRESENTER NAOMI WATKINS is the co-founder of Aspiring Mormon Women, an organization that encourages and supports LDS women's educational and professional pursuits. She has a PhD from the University of Utah.

DANIELLE BRIGGS CHRISTENSEN earned a master's degree from Westminster College in community leadership. Her thesis focused on Mormon culture's impact on women's aspirations. Danielle previously served as the program coordinator for the Utah Women and Education Initiative.

MANDEE GRANT is the Chief Operating Officer of Better Days 2020, works as an internal business partner for FranklinCovey, and has a bachelor's degree from BYU Idaho.

CRISTALL HARPER graduated from BYU with a BFA in painting and is living her dream as a full-time artist. She has been married to her college sweetheart for 18 years. They survived infertility and hope to inspire others who want joy and acceptance in childlessness.

LISA BAKER HEATON is a full-time real estate

agent, former advertising copywriter, and the mother of three children. She has an AA degree from Snow College, and attended Utah State University.

CECILIA WILBUR graduated from BYU with a BA in English. After attempting to write creatively for a few years, she realized she never wanted to write a novel anyway and started working as a technical writer.

ABSTRACT

The narrative of LDS women forgoing educational and professional pursuits to marry and rear children is well told, but what of the stories of LDS women who want to (re)enter the workforce or complete degrees? This panel conversation will focus on women's paths of persistence in (re)entering the workforce, highlighting the pressures, expectations, obstacles and challenges these Mormon women face.

MODERATOR

NAOMI WATKINS

ROOM

COLLEGIATE

374.

TO REDACT, OR NOT TO REDACT? THAT IS THE QUESTION: THE GEORGE Q CANNON JOURNALS

PRESENTERS

JOHN S. DINGER has a juris doctorate and degrees in political science and history from the University of Utah. His book *The Nauvoo High Council and City Council Minutes* (Signature Books, 2011) won the Best Documentary Book Award from the Mormon History Association and the Best Book Award from the John Whitmer Historical Association.

JOSEPH GEISNER and his wife provide residential services for developmentally disabled adults. He has published in *Sunstone*, the *John Whitmer Historical Journal*, the *Journal of Mormon History*, and *Irreantum*.

GARY JAMES BERGERA is managing director of the Smith-Pettit Foundation (Salt Lake City) and the author of six published studies of early Mormon polygamy. He is past publisher of *Signature Books* and past managing editor of *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*.

ABSTRACT

This panel will discuss the release of the George Q. Cannon Journals and the redactions made by the Church Historian's Press when publishing the journals online. A press release stated in part:



“some passages of the original journal will be withheld in accordance with policies of the Church History Library to redact sacred, private, and confidential information.” What were some of the redacted passages? What can we learn from these redactions?

MODERATOR

BROOKE OVESON WALRATH

ROOM

PANORAMA EAST

375.

RECONCILING CONFLICTS: CREATING ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR HELPING FAITH-BASED LGBT PEOPLE

PRESENTERS

MARYBETH RAYNES maintains a private psychotherapy practice with Crossroads Psychotherapy. She works with individuals, couples, and families with a variety of mental health concerns, including religious and/or spiritual dilemmas.

JERRY BUIE teaches at the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Utah where one of his specialties is diversity training. He owns and operates Pride Counseling, a LGBTQ mental health practice.

LISA TENSMEYER HANSEN is a PhD candidate at Brigham Young University in marriage and family therapy. She specializes in adolescent-family relations, including addressing LGBTQ issues and stressors in family contexts with respect to the LDS community.

DAVID MATHESON has advocated for the well-being of individuals experiencing unwanted same-sex attraction. He co-founded Brother’s Road and Journey Into Manhood and Journey Beyond experiential weekends. He authored Becoming a Whole Man: Principles and Archetypes.

LEE BECKSTEAD is a licensed psychologist in private practice in Salt Lake City. He conducted two studies investigating Mormons who tried to change their sexual orientation.

ABSTRACT

Intense inner conflict and strained relationships often occur for LGBT/SSA Mormons who are trying to reconcile their sexuality and/or gender identity with their faith. Policies and practices for understanding their concerns have been deeply polarized for decades. The Reconciliation and Growth Project (RGP), a group of 11 mental-health professionals and academics from across the political spectrum, has developed a

set of ethical guidelines for helping therapists, faith-based LGBT people, their families, and communities. The presenters will discuss these guidelines and model elements of our Peacemaking Protocol.

MODERATOR

MARYBETH RAYNES

ROOM

PARLOR A

376.

FOOD OF THE GODDESS: THE ENTHEOGENIC THEORY OF RELIGION

PRESENTERS

MICAH NICKOLAISEN has spent the past five years in the progressive/post-Mormon community as a blogger, podcaster, activist, and community organizer. He was the original host of the A Thoughtful Faith Podcast, as well as one of the organizers of the Any Opposed demonstration.

ABSTRACT

This presentation will begin by discussing psychedelic plants (psilocybic mushrooms, mescaline cacti, ergot extract, ayahuasca, cannabis, etc.), how they affect the human brain, what psychedelic experiences are like, and the effects they can have on people. The second half will explain the entheogenic theory of religion, a somewhat speculative explanation of how we changed from shamanic, egalitarian, peaceful goddess worshippers to patriarchal, warmongering, religious dogmatists after the development of agriculture.

MODERATOR

FLIP JOHNSON

ROOM

WEST BALLROOM

377.

INFANTS ON POST-MORMON VALUES

PRESENTERS

GLENN OSTLUND received a masters degree and PhD (abd) in folklore from Indiana University. Glenn was contributor to the Mormon Expression podcast and a founding member of Infants on Thrones.

MATT LONG is a lawyer by trade and an infant by choice. He’s an aspiring vegetarian and hippy who strives to love fiercely and experience life . . . because this all ends.

BOB CASWELL served a one-year sentence at Brigham Young University before escaping and graduating from Utah Valley University magna cum laude with a degree in business management followed by receiving an MBA from Purdue University.



TOM PERRY has been podcasting for more than six years. He was one of the founding members of Mormon Expression and is also one of the founding members of Infants on Thrones.

HEATHER CRAW is the newest addition to Infants on Thrones where she offers a point of view steeped in social psychology, behavioral economics, and Russian literature.

RANDY SNYDER is a practicing orthodontist in Colorado who got his start in podcasting on Mormon Stories. After that he appeared multiple times as a panelist on Mormon Expression which led to him become a founding member of the Infants on Thrones podcast in 2012.

JOHN HAMER is pastor of the downtown Toronto Congregation of Community of Christ. A past president of the John Whitmer Historical Association, he is co-editor of *Scattering of the Saints: Schism within Mormonism*.

ABSTRACT

What do values look like after a faith crisis? Without scriptures or prophets or belief in divinity, who is to say what is right and wrong? When the Liahona disappears, what becomes your moral compass? What is the baby? What is the bathwater? The members of the Infants on Thrones podcast will explore these questions with their trademark fearless introspection, unexpected thoughtfulness, and manly humor.

MODERATOR

GLENN OSTLUND

ROOM

EAST BALLROOM

378. MUSLIMS AND MORMONS

PRESENTERS

ZAHRAA ALBAGHDADY is married and mother of 3 boys. She was a math teacher in Iraq before moving to America 8 years ago. Her family has been happy since living in Utah, but Zahraa is worried that if her husband doesn't find a good job they will have to move.

CASSIE HARD grew up in Sumner WA and moved to Utah in August 2006. Cassie married John Hard in 2000 and has 4 rowdy and wonderful boys. Cassie loves learning about other cultures and serving in her community.

NADA AL-AMIN is from Iraq. Her husband worked with the American base in Iraq where she and her family were attacked by armed forces. They have since come to America where they and their three boys feel safe in Utah."

ABSTRACT

?This panel will discuss the personal experiences of Muslim immigrants who have moved to a predominantly Mormon state.

MODERATOR

COREY HOWARD

ROOM

UNION THEATER

379. ENJOYING THE TEMPLE WITH FRESH EYES

PRESENTERS

JODY ENGLAND HANSEN is a mixed-media artist, occasional empty nester, Mama Dragon and LGBTQ activist, repatriated Utahian, and God seeker who hasn't figured any of this out yet.

SONJA FARNSWORTH is the mother of four daughters and has been a Mormon feminist since the 1980s. She has an M.A. in communication studies and has taught college-level communication theory and academic writing for the past 15 years.

DAN WOTHERSPOON is the host of the Mormon Matters podcast, and the former editor and executive director of Sunstone.

ABSTRACT

For many, the Mormon temple experience is first jarring, then inspiring, and eventually repetitive, dull, and monotonous. How might we enliven temple worship and service? Are there ways of approaching it that can add life, personal and communal empowerment, and richer views and experiences? Meet three people for whom the answer is a resounding yes.

MODERATOR

JAZMIN HIGHT

ROOM

ROOM 312

.....
DINNER BREAK AND LINGER LONGER
PRESENTATION, 7:00-9:30 PM
.....

381. LINGER LONGER BARBEQUE

The linger longer requires a separate registration fee of \$18, either pre-purchased online or on-site, to cover the cost of the meal. This will also cover admission into the session.



If you didn't purchase a linger longer ticket in advance, ask about availability at the Symposium registration desk.

ROOM CENTER BALLROOM

391. AN EVENING WITH ELNA BAKER
AND MINDY GLEDHILL

PRESENTERS ELNA BAKER is a writer and performer of humorous stories. Her stories have been featured on radio programs such as This American Life, The Moth, BBC Radio 4, and Studio 360. In October 2009, Penguin Books published her book The New York Regional Mormon Singles Halloween Dance, which chronicles her experience as a young, single Mormon living in New York City.

MINDY GLEDHILL is a popular singer and a member of the LDS Church) Her album The Sum of All Grace resulted in two Pearl Awards (Best Inspirational Album, New Recording Artist) in 2005, followed by another Pearl Award (Best Inspirational Song) in 2006 for her contribution on a compilation album. In 2012, she was nominated for a Grammy Award for "Best Dance/ Electronics Album" on Kaskade's Fire & Ice. Her songs debuted on primetime TV on So You Think You Can Dance, Bones, and 20/20. Her song "All the Pennies" was featured on an episode of Jane by Design on ABC.

ABSTRACT Every year, the Sunstone symposium ends with a closing banquet called a "linger-longer." We invite participants to join us for this event to hear Elna and Mindy perform. Tickets are \$18 per person (in addition to a regular conference ticket).

Space is limited. You can purchase Linger-Longer tickets here: <https://www.sunstonemagazine.com/registration/>

MODERATOR GINA COLVIN

ROOM SALT AIR

SUNDAY 30 JULY

Confessions of a Mormon Historian

The Diaries of Leonard J. Arrington, 1971-1999

"Our history needs to be told honestly so that our people will have confidence in reading it. We must allow for the human equation."

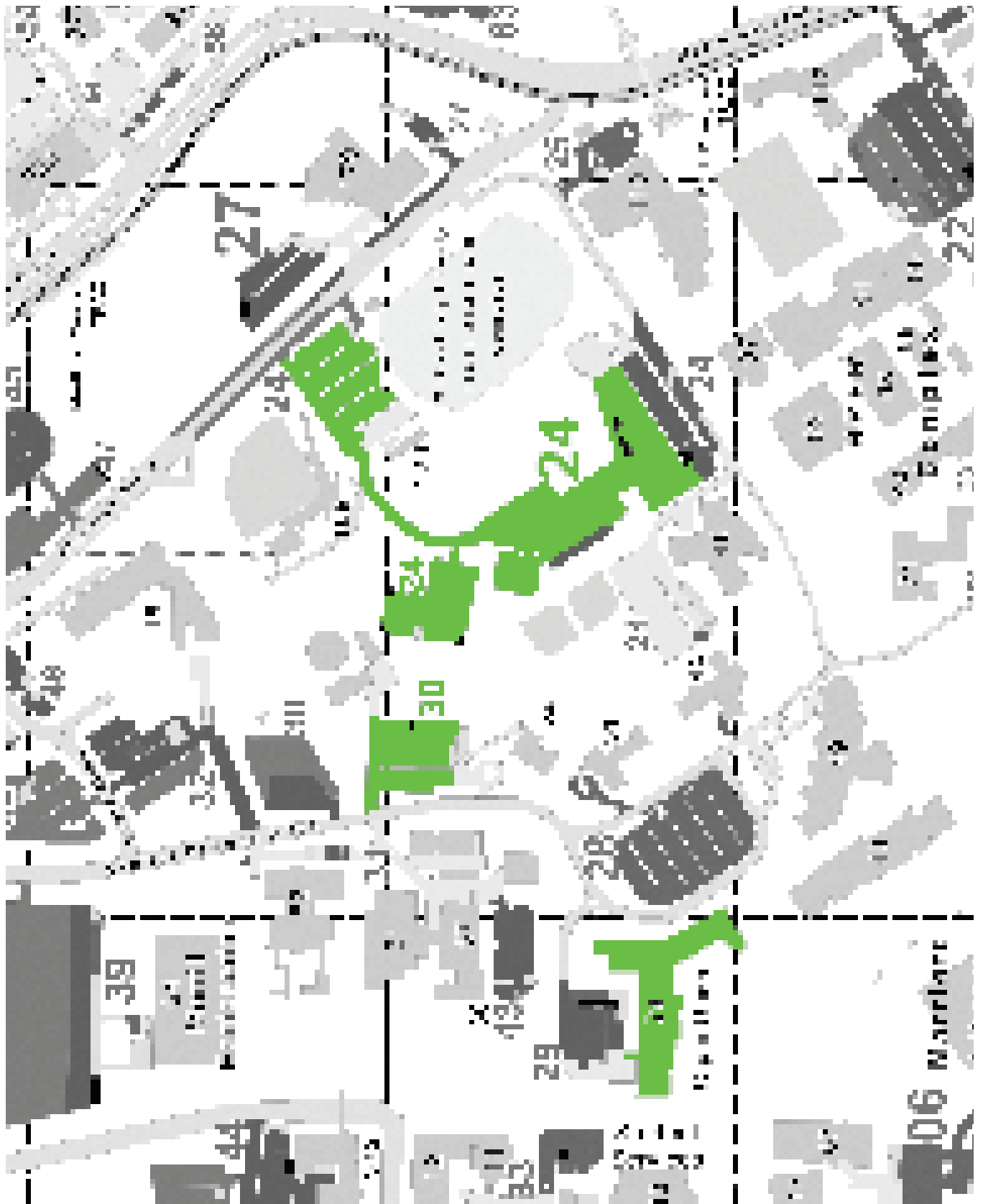
-Leonard J. Arrington,
May 22, 1974

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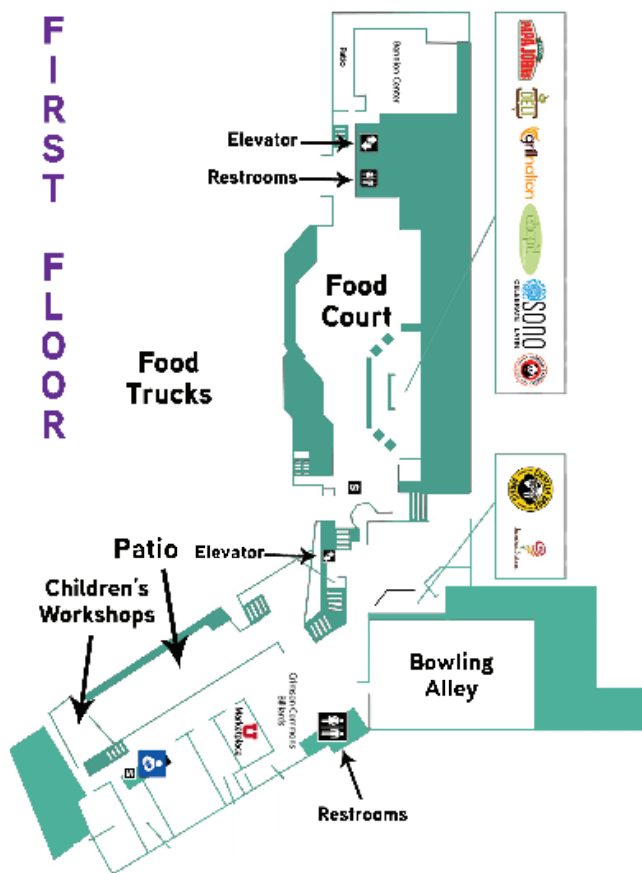


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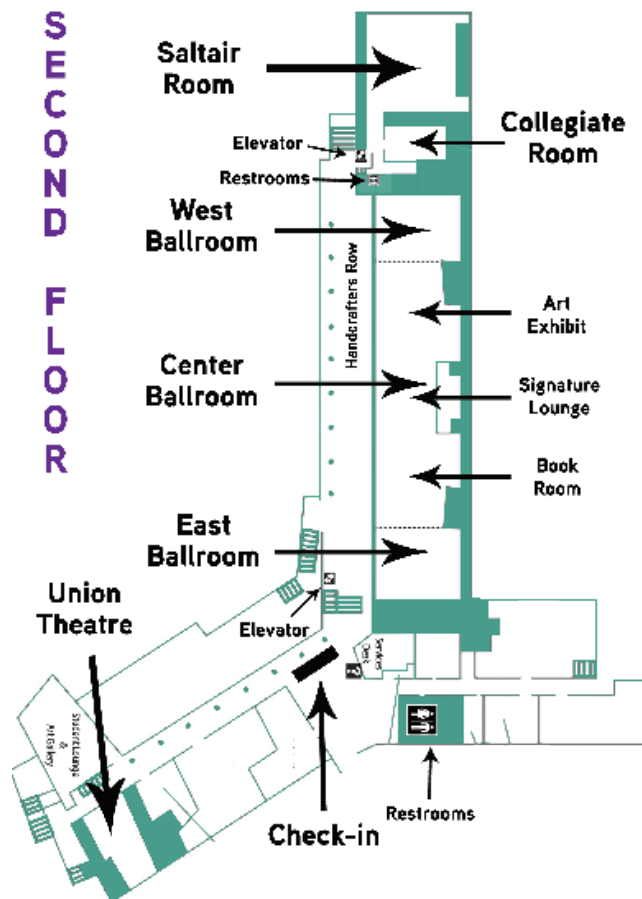




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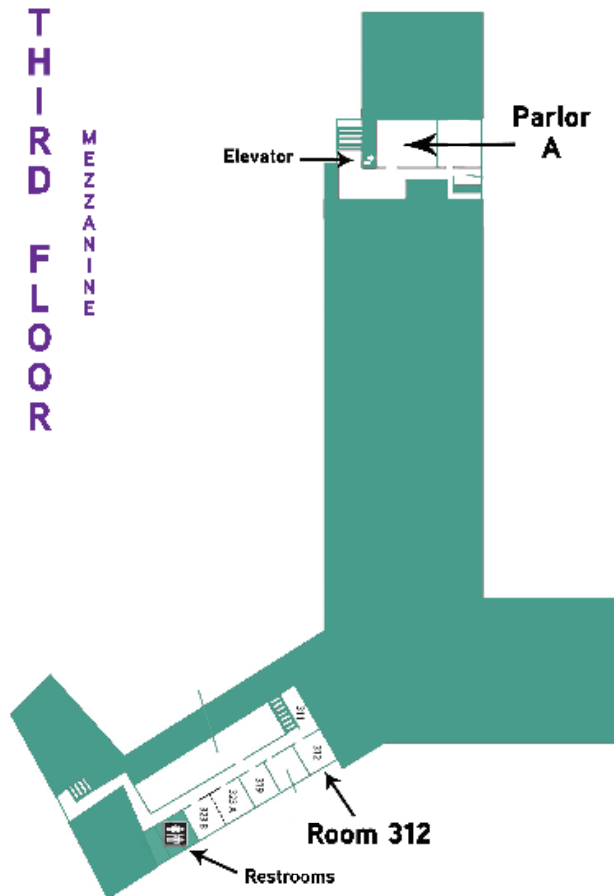


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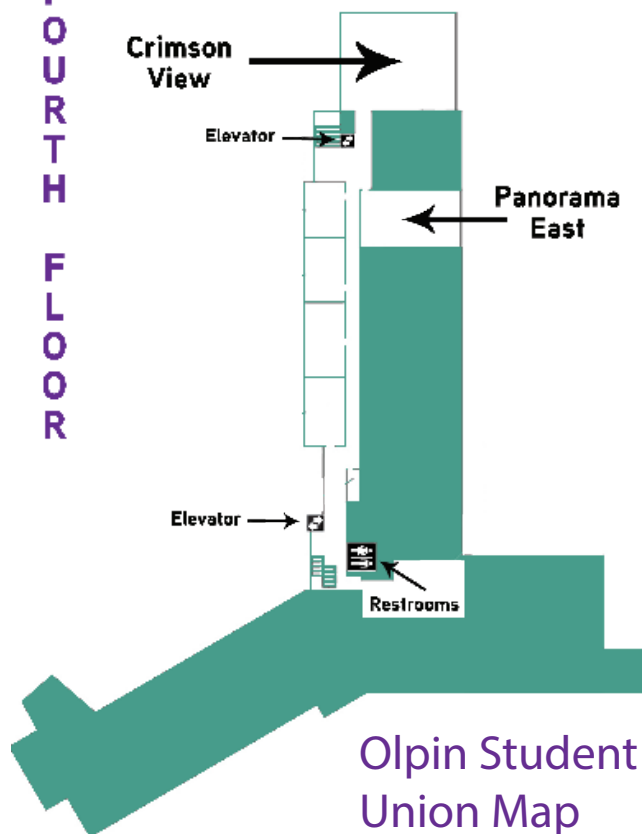


THIRD FLOOR

MEZZANINE



FOURTH FLOOR



Olpin Student Union Map