

## FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## NOTES FROM A TOWN MEETING

By J. Frederick (Toby) Pingree, Chair



AT THE 2002 Salt Lake Symposium, the Sunstone Board of Trustees and Sunstone staff held their second annual “town meeting.” This session allowed the Board to renew its commitment to maintaining an open forum within Mormonism,

report a stronger organization, boast about achievements of the past year, and seek feedback from interested members of the Sunstone community.

**OPEN FORUM:** The creation and maintenance of an “open forum” has always been the core reason for Sunstone’s existence, and we want to continue. We seek to carry on the tradition of balanced presentations of Mormon topics with various points of view expressed. Obtaining representative ideas from some segments of the community remains problematic because of discouragement communicated formally and informally by Church and BYU officials against publishing and presenting. We continue to strive to have those positions modified because all major sides of issues need to be heard.

**SUNSTONE STAFF:** Since Sunstone’s inception, the very real problem of having enough staff and paying them enough money to allow them to stay on has cast a shadow on its bright history. Those few wonderful souls who have run the enterprise were forced to wear many hats and carry immense administrative and creative burdens. And ultimately, each burned out to some degree. It became clear that if Sunstone were to have a hopeful future, the organization would have to take a gamble and hire additional staff at more professional wages, trusting that if efficiency, services, and subscriptions increased, Sunstone would be able to raise additional funds to match the increased overhead.

So far, this gamble has paid off. In the past two years, we have obtained the services of

three bright minds to go with the veteran mercantile director and associate editor, Carol Quist. Dan Wotherspoon, who has a Ph.D. in religion from Claremont, directs the effort as editor and executive director. William Stanford, CPA, (whom you will be able to meet better in the pages which follow) came aboard as Sunstone’s publisher and has done a great job professionalizing the organization’s financial management practices and has brought the Sunstone Education Foundation into full compliance with government regulations. John Hatch, who joined the staff this past January, provides much needed support as the magazine’s managing editor and coordinator of our symposiums.

**MAGAZINE:** We are pleased to note that the bolstered, reorganized staff has been able to return SUNSTONE to a much more regular publishing schedule with three issues in 2001 and a total of five projected for this year. This is the fourth issue this year. A fifth is scheduled for December. We continue to receive an abundance of good articles and other types of submissions that stretch our capacity to use them—a problem we encourage and appreciate. Judging from the mainly positive comments we receive, readers seem pleased by the magazine’s general format and mix of topics. We encourage even more feedback, either through letters to the editor or more informal channels.

**SYMPOSIUMS:** We have held five symposiums in 2001–02, and a sixth is scheduled in Seattle on 19 October. Judging from our updated, more-reliable information system, attendance and participation have shown moderate to strong increases during both years. Our aim to have history, current events, religious experience, humor, faith, doubt, reverence, politics, morality, controversy, and critical thinking mix in one potpourri celebrating Mormon experience appears to have been met during these events. Our experiment this year to hold

workshops in connection with the symposium drew positive reviews by the participants. Having learned several important lessons from this year’s event, we plan to try workshops again next year. We are also very much looking forward to next year’s Salt Lake Symposium scheduled for 13–16 August. 2003 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the lifting of the priesthood ban for men of African descent, as well as the tenth anniversary of the Church actions taken against several prominent LDS intellectuals. We anticipate many exciting presentations dealing with these and other topics.

**WEBSITE:** Our website, <[www.sunstoneonline.com](http://www.sunstoneonline.com)>, vastly improved this year. It now allows interested parties to buy the books we carry, renew subscriptions, register for symposiums, find out what’s going on at Sunstone, and other dot.com kinds of activities. We are committed to making it even more functional and user-friendly, especially adding more information to the database which provides the information for the site searches. If you have a computer and the inclination, please volunteer to help in categorizing and entering data regarding past magazine issues and symposiums.

**FINANCIAL STATUS:** Virtually all not-for-profit endeavors suffer from chronic financial stress. Funds received from magazine subscriptions and symposium attendance are not sufficient to cover their production costs and sustain the organization’s infrastructure. Hence, the need remains for us to ask again and again for cash and other contributions to the organization. The generosity of our supporters during the past year has provided us a better financial base than we have experienced in previous years, but we will still need more. (More complete financial details are contained in William Stanford’s report in the pages that follow.) Expanding our subscriber base by finding those Mormons with inquiring minds remains a constant priority. Help us by contacting the office with names and addresses of potential subscribers. We will send a complimentary issue to show them what we offer.

**THE FUTURE:** The trustees and staff are strongly committed to continuing the Sunstone venture you have known, loved, and supported for these past twenty-eight years. We are working to attract more and younger participants, increase the subscription base, build up financial resources, and find new and interesting topics for consideration. We solicit your help in all these areas. ☺

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

## A NEW CHALLENGE

By William Stanford

I WAS FORTUNATE to arrive at a time of transition for Sunstone. The Board of Trustees had many new members. A new editor was hired shortly after I was. Sunstone faced daunting financial challenges. But fortunately, it also had a hard-fought, quarter-century history of doing a lot of great and wonderful things. In other words, it was controlled chaos—my specialty. I try to identify problems, offer possible solutions, and establish priorities while also doing things on a current basis that will keep the water bailed out of the boat. In Sunstone's case, the bailing involved juggling IRS and State of Utah demands, creditors, an outdated database, an aging core of supporters, a few egos, computer viruses, declining resources, and increased costs—just to name a few.

With Board patience, help, and a unified staff, our team has established order and Sunstone is heading forward again. But because my personal mantra is "History is great, but what have we done lately?" I am looking beyond the current horizon and hoping we'll be able to establish a more permanent Sunstone future. As the Church expands, I believe Sunstone, too, must reach farther out of the comfort of the Wasatch front and our limited operations and services.

If Sunstone is to "think globally and act regionally," as corporate America trumpets today, we need fresh new ideas, the courage to take chances, and the additional resources that the future will require. One problem is that our subscription base is declining even as the Church is growing faster than all other U.S. denominations. Are fewer people asking questions? Are reflections on "scholarship, issues, and art" no longer significant? Have we lost touch with our constituency? Are our ways of presenting our forums no longer appealing to a large audience more impressed by the Internet and high-speed communication? We are asking these questions at Sunstone, and we welcome comments and suggestions from all of you.

*WILLIAM STANFORD is Sunstone's publisher and business manager. He is a CPA and has a B.A. in accounting from the University of Texas at Austin.*

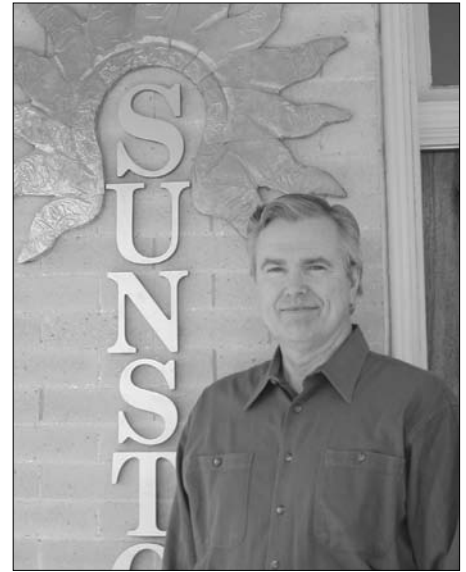
HOW'D A NICE BOY FROM TEXAS  
END UP A MORMON IN UTAH?

I AM A fifth-generation Texan with a degree in accounting from the University of Texas in Austin. I gained extensive work experience in industry, non-profit organizations, and public accounting in various capacities over the years. In 1999, I developed an interest in a startup company that sold golf products and conducted golf tournaments around the U. S. At the time, I had my own CPA practice in Austin. As the startup's chief financial officer and developer of the specialized software that tracked its activities nation-wide, competing demands on my time forced me to choose between my practice and the potential of this dot.com company. I sold my CPA practice.

Unfortunately, after we had spent a year working very hard to build this company to the break-even point, the controlling stockholder decided to sell his interest to a company in Draper, Utah, who was affiliated with Fila, a giant in the sports apparel market. I had no choice but to sell my minority interest. It then fell upon me to help the business transition to Utah and its new owner. I agreed to do this with the understanding that this process would take no more than three weeks in Utah and I would then return to Texas. Three weeks stretched to three months, and the new owners asked me to be the controller for the acquiring company. By then, I had developed a strong attachment to the mountains and an appreciation of the people I had met.

Salt Lake and Austin were very similar. Both were highly rated as desirable places to live, had a strong high-tech industry, were of comparable size, and had highly rated universities. And both were growing rapidly. So I invited my wife RoeSharon and my son Collin to visit Utah and decide if our family might have a future here. The decision had to be unanimous.

My family arrived in a snow storm (it snows in Austin only every ten years), and



*A man of diverse talents, William Stanford stands in front of the new sign he designed and built for the Sunstone office.*

through rain, snow, and slush, we made a 48-hour whirlwind tour of the valley—schools, housing, shopping, Temple Square, and more. At the last moment, the weather cleared and the valley glowed in the warmth of the afternoon sun. The vote was 3–0 to move to Utah.

While I continued to commute between Texas and Utah, my wife busily tried to sell our house and learn more about Utah and its people. I didn't know she had even ordered materials from the "Mormons." At first, she had requested that no missionaries were to call, but she soon after changed her mind and began taking the lessons. And during one of my return trips home, she was baptized in Cedar Park, Texas. When the missionaries began to focus on me, I ducked back to Utah.

Eventually, the family moved to the home I had bought in Sandy, a new set of missionaries and the entire neighborhood began a concentrated effort to drag me to the baptismal font, and my new employer found innumerable ways to destroy itself. Result: I found myself baptized and looking for employment in a foreign land.

While we were taking temple preparation lessons, RoeSharon and I began asking harder questions. About this same time, we heard of something called Sunstone. But no one in Sandy seemed to know much about it, or they were reluctant to share their thoughts with us. Fortunately, we found Sunstone listed in the phone directory and obtained a few back issues, which led us to the writings of Karl Sandberg, Eugene England, and D. Michael Quinn, among others—and we

## WOULD YOU PLEASE CONSIDER . . .

### . . . BEING A DESIGNATED CONTACT PERSON FOR SUNSTONE IN YOUR CITY, REGION, OR STATE?

Probably the most wistful but earnest calls to the Sunstone office are from people wanting to find other Sunstoners. Usually callers are people who feel alone, thinking they're the only one in their area who is exploring the kinds of faith questions they are--but they hope it isn't so. They crave a community of fellow seekers, even just a few friends with thoughtful and sympathetic ears.



Because we keep our database confidential, we've been able only to encourage callers to attend our symposiums and strike up conversations with other symposium enthusiasts. We tell them that perhaps they'll even see people from their ward or stake who they hadn't known were Sunstone fans.

To help facilitate inquiries (and because it's interesting), we've placed a United States map on our website, <[www.sunstoneonline.com](http://www.sunstoneonline.com)>. A web user can click on "About Sunstone," find the map and then point the mouse at a particular state to immediately see how many Sunstoner subscribers and supporters live there, and (when you respond to this request!) learn who they might contact to begin to get to know others in their area.

### . . . HOSTING A SUNSTONE GATHERING IN YOUR AREA?

Sunstone's staff and board would very much like to meet with more of you, to learn about your needs and hear your ideas for the magazine and other Sunstone forums. Please contact us if you'd be willing to host a gathering in your area. These "cottage meetings" could take many forms, from simple fireside-type meetings to more formal evenings that might include a meal. Let's plan it together. Sunstone can help underwrite some or all of the expenses.

### . . . BECOMING A DATA ENTRY VOLUNTEER?

People regularly call us to help find a past magazine article or symposium presentation, and our memories and indexes are behind the times! If you have a few hours to give, a good Internet connection, and a personal computer with Internet Explorer, we want you!

Our first projects in this area involve asking you would look through past issues of Sunstone (which we can supply!) and from an on-screen list of topics—such as Church history, world religions, marriage and family, Mormon theology—you would choose as many as apply to each magazine feature. We ultimately hope to do the same thing with all past symposiums and our bookstore inventory. Once this categorization is complete, a web user will be able to cross-reference all of Sunstone's historic information, a powerful and *free* reference tool!

### . . . COMPLETING THE SURVEY INSERTED IN THIS ISSUE?

It will cost you a 37-cent stamp (or more, if you feel inspired to enclose a check, too!), but we'd very much like to learn more about you and the reasons for your interest in Sunstone. The survey itself has only a few short questions, but we encourage you comment at any length you prefer and send them along in the same envelope!

found their approaches to Mormonism to be very positive.

I volunteered to help at the 2000 Salt Lake Symposium, where I also had the opportunity to interview with members of the Board of Trustees for the publisher and business manager position. My accounting, management, Internet, and computer background fit nicely with Sunstone's needs. A month later, I was hired.

#### OF BUDGETS AND BUILDING FOR A PERMANENT FUTURE

**F**OR ITS ENTIRE existence, the Sunstone Foundation and its successor, the Sunstone Education Foundation,<sup>1</sup> has depended upon the generosity of friends and believers in its mission

to carry out its activities and services. To view a brief history of the level of this dependence, visit <[www.sunstoneonline.com](http://www.sunstoneonline.com)>, click on "About Sunstone" and then on "Financial history" which gives a five-year overview. This summary shows that about 59% of Sunstone's gross revenue is derived from donations. Further, most of Sunstone's revenue-generating activities, such as the magazine, symposiums, and bookstore, cover only their direct and indirect costs, which exclude staff salaries, office expenses, and related costs. In short, donations primarily cover Sunstone's overhead costs.

For the past year, Sunstone has successfully operated within the constraints of an annual budget, and we fully intend to continue to do so. With limited funds and a small staff, we must concentrate our efforts in

those areas which will best serve our constituency, and since we are also committed to providing only high quality products and services, the number of activities we can properly manage is limited. But we have requests for additional services that are both worthy and needed if we are to meet the demands of a changing Mormon world. We are growing in controlled steps to meet these requests only as we have the funds and staff to deliver them. Simply put, we won't encumber Sunstone with debt that risks its future in any way.

We are trying to prepare for a strong Sunstone future in several ways. We believe a logical first step is to build a separate "insurance" fund equivalent to one year's normal overhead costs. Monies in this fund would be invested and maintained by the Board, not

the staff. It could be used for normal operations only should an emergency arise, such as a sudden drop in the normal level of donations, and only then with Board approval. We will be soliciting for this fund on a direct appeal basis. Through our successes in controlling costs and increasing income this year, we have already deposited \$20,000 into this separate bank account.

A second step involves "planned giving." The focus of this approach is to ask loyal supporters to consider including Sunstone in their financial and estate planning. Under current U. S. Treasury law and regulations, planned giving often yields many potential immediate and future financial and tax benefits for both the individual and recipient organization. In no way is Sunstone in the business of giving financial or tax advice. We are simply pointing out that options such as specific bequests in a will, the establishment of a trust, various life income arrangements (such as charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts), and gifts other than cash (such as real estate, life insurance, appreciated securities, or retirement funds) are being recognized by many as wonderful ways to

support non-profit organizations while also accruing benefits to themselves.

Since funds received from the planned giving arena are unpredictable and may at times be quite sizeable, they are being placed into what will become a permanent endowment fund. As the endowment grows, earnings from conservative investments will begin to cover more and more of Sunstone's overhead costs without impacting the principal.

The Sunstone staff consists of only four employees, and there are only so many hours in a workday—we can accomplish only so much. We could use an extra hand or two. Fortunately, we have a loyal group of local volunteers who help us with recurring and special projects, such as stuffing and stamping, mailings, filling special orders, and staffing registration tables at symposiums. However, we have several more needs for help. And we have set up ways you may help both at the Sunstone office and around the county. Please see the sidebar on page 6, or contact us if you are interesting in volunteering in some way. I look forward to working with you! ☺

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## A CALL FOR EDITORS TO EDIT

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**DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Experience as an editor or reviewer for scholarly or literary journals, magazines or books; familiarity with the literature of Mormon and religious studies; commitment to balance, fairness, relevance and to spending the effort needed to publish the journal on time and within budget while maintaining the journal's high level of quality.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

## INNOCENCE LOST

By Dan Wotherspoon

I BEGAN AT Sunstone in January 2001 and enjoyed a whirlwind few months apprenticing with Elbert Peck. We worked on the mechanics of putting together a magazine, talking about everything from serif and non-serif fonts to layout to how to tweak boxes and paragraphs to make everything fit in the space we've allowed. I listened, watched, practiced, remembered, and have kept Elbert's voice and insights in mind even as we've become more confident in our own experimentations with different looks and features. But mostly, Elbert and I talked about Sunstone—what it is, what it isn't, where it had been, and what challenges lay ahead. Anyone who has ever heard Elbert reflect on such things knows what a wonderful experience this was!

As I listened to Elbert recount stories of Sunstone's founding and the struggles and triumphs of its youthful early leaders—and without Elbert's ever saying so—I began to understand that although my name would now be forever linked with his and Scott's, Peggy's, Allen's, and Daniel's, I really wasn't of that generation of Sunstone leaders. Oh, I'm close enough in age to fit comfortably with them that way, but generations are really defined by experiential touchstones, and, Sunstone-wise, our experiences will always be too different. We'll always be together on the masthead, and I'll always consider them prized friends and mentors, but they'll always be the "Sunbeams" (a name given them at a recent symposium), and our current gang and our successors will never be.

As many readers know, the world lost one of its happiest and most compassionate sons, and Sunstone lost one of its Sunbeams, with the sudden, tragic passing of Daniel Hartman Rector. And, like everyone else who felt a connection with him, I've been mourning and trying to come to terms with his loss. I've been greatly blessed to be able to work with his family and some of his closest friends in readying the tributes and reflections that follow. As you read them, I hope you, too, will scream against his death most unfair but will also be moved, like those who knew him in life were, to be more graceful and forgiving towards yourself and others.

In addition to their falling directly in front of Daniel's In Memoriam section, my reflections here are also influenced by their immediately following a "State of the Foundation" report from Toby Pingree, chair of Sunstone's board of trustees, and a sort of "stepping out of the shadows" introduction to and reflection from our talented publisher, William Stanford. The stories on those pages also evidence a generational change: today's Sunstone is not yesterday's Sunstone.

SUNSTONE was founded by bright and energetic students eager to bring insights from their studies and their excitement about ideas, contemporary issues, art, and everything else into conversation with their faith. They had expansive views about human potential and trusted fully that the gospel and church they loved could stand up to and even grow in response to their questions and insights. They had an innocence and shared a consciousness with many other Latter-day Saints, then found those folks and invited them to write for the magazine and speak at the conferences they organized. And within a short time, SUNSTONE became an exciting place to publish, and Sunstone symposiums the best place for scholars, professionals, and free-lance thinkers from every place along the theological spectrum to introduce their studies and test their hypotheses before an intelligent, engaged, and good-hearted audience.

Intellect, energy, creativity, and faith do not always translate into a sound financial base, so Sunstone was almost always in the red. Even as they put on great symposiums and produced thoughtful publications, those staff members lived lives of near-complete consecration. Still, they worked and dreamed and moved valiantly ahead until their families grew so large or the pain and scars from years of fighting the good fight became so great that, given their poverty and Sunstone's uncertain future, they just couldn't answer another bell. It is their sacrifices—of comfort, of security, of innocence about how organizations like churches work—that will always keep them the Sunbeams and will forever keep us of the next generation from

being full-fledged members of their cohort.

But that's OK. The world never stays the same, and neither can organizations. As Toby's and William's reports describe, Sunstone has begun writing a new chapter and is fiscally off to a very sound start. Our staff wages are those of a new generation, providing greater stability for the organization and allowing us to support our families. We have good production equipment. We're budgeting wisely. And we *are* new in another way, for we've begun operating under a different name, the Sunstone Education Foundation, Inc. This change was initiated by the discovery of an incorporation mistake made years ago that, if not dealt with, could have threatened the deductibility of donations made to Sunstone. But through William's and Toby's good CPA minds and wonderful (and free!) guidance by a local tax attorney (who prefers to keep his good works private), tax-deductibility has been protected and we've been reborn under this new imprimatur debt-free and fully certified as a section 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Now that's turning lemons into lemonade!

The events of the past decade have also made us a much more sober organization. Now, I don't mean we've quit laughing (just order a few symposium tapes, and you'll find out that's not true!), nor have we changed our mission to help foster a welcome and affirming environment for Latter-day Saints of all varieties to share their best thinking and authentic experiences. Like the Sunbeams, we're still idealistic, but perhaps our resolve to fight for an open forum within Mormonism is a quieter one than that of past years. We know it is time to build a secure foundation that will allow Sunstone to exist as long as there are Latter-day Saints who are striving to bring deep loving and deep thinking together in their spiritual lives but who aren't finding the support or community needed within their home wards and stakes. We're an organization that still needs its hares, of course, but now, more than ever, needs steady and solid tortoises.

I hope we're growing in other ways, as well. We as individuals and an organization know even more fully the pain that comes from others not seeing us as we see ourselves. But I think we're beginning to understand better that when the day comes that Sunstone's gifts to our beloved tradition become known, it will be through acclamation—they will be apparent to all!—not proclamation. We're sobered, understanding better that the magic or Spirit that transforms worthy ideas into powerful agents that strike hearts and inspire life more abundantly.

dant is something *holy* that operates only in an environment of love and respect. We still know the importance of keeping eyes open to irony and incongruity, and we still want to say something about the things we spot, but we've learned that sarcasm is usually best left outside the door. I also think we've caught on better to what Elbert, especially, had been working very hard to help us see: that Sunstone must be marked by true inclusiveness and a willingness to hear and truly listen to the insights and experiences from all quarters of the Church and not by perpetuating some image or the other as the "typical Sunstoner."

**W**E cry out from hearts broken by Daniel's death, and a part of us wants to stay angry, to remain uncomforted. But find healing we must. Many among us are crying out from injustices of other kinds, from the unimaginable pain of abuse, the deep sadness that comes when we're misunderstood, the loneliness of not having someone with whom we can share all of ourselves, all parts of our faith journeys. But live on we must. Our innocence may be lost, but our resolve is not. ☹

## SUNSTONE CHRISTMAS PARTY THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 2002, 6-8 PM

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*IF YOU CAN, PLEASE BRING AN  
UNWRAPPED TOYS FOR TOTS GIFT*



OF THE FOUR subjects listed on SUNSTONE covers as primary areas of focus—Mormon experience, scholarship, issues, and art—the one listed last is, too often, the least covered, especially the visual arts. We're trying to rectify this somewhat by this issue that features a cover story about Lane Twitchell, a young LDS artist whose work is beginning to make a splash on the national and international scene, and also that celebrates through a portrait and short biographical sketch, Kathy Wilson, Sunstone's favorite gallery owner and tireless organizer of many of the benefit art sales and auctions held in connection with Salt Lake symposiums.

In keeping with this theme, I'm pleased to introduce a young artist, Jonathan Coombs, whose talents and help we've grown to appreciate very much this past year. We first met Jonathan when he answered a flyer we placed with the University of Utah art department advertising our need for illustrators and cartoonists who would be interested in "building their portfolio" (read: working for very little money). We were excited by the work Jonathan showed us at our first meeting and were even more pleased by the first piece he produced for us, a painting for Susan Palmer's short story, "Breakthrough" (SUNSTONE, Apr. 2002). At the time he delivered that painting to us, we had been brainstorming what we might do for the Salt Lake Winter Olympics-themed cover we were planning for our April issue. So we asked him if he wanted to develop a few concepts for us. He did, and we ended up working with him in a splendid collaboration that ultimately led to the "Moroni with the torch" image on that cover.

Since then, we've used Jonathan for two other projects many of you have already seen: our Sunstone Workshops logo (top left) and the design for this year's symposium T-shirt (Jonathan's modeling it above). He's also produced something you haven't seen until now, a billboard concept (see below), we hope to use for the next several years to advertise our Salt Lake symposiums and workshops. (The design allows for changing the dates from year to year.)



Celebrating the diversity of Mormon culture & experience

# SUNSTONE

## SYMPOSIUM & WORKSHOPS

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13-16 AUGUST

Jonathan is in his final semester before graduating with a B.F.A. in illustration, and he is just now starting his own graphics design company. And for good measure, he just recently married. We're excited for him!

If you are interested in contacting Jonathan about design work, please use: (801)-486-1833 or <visuallfunction@hotmail.com>.

—DAN WOTHERSPOON