

CONTRIBUTORS

C. DYLAN BASSETT {cdylanbassett@gmail.com}'s translation, *A Failed Performance: The Complete Plays of Daniil Kharms*, is forthcoming from Plays Inverse Press in 2018. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, he's currently a PhD student in Literature and Creative Writing at UC–Santa Cruz.

GARY JAMES BERGERA is the managing director of the Smith-Pettit Foundation, Salt Lake City, Utah.

R. A. (ROBERT ALAN) CHRISTMAS {rachristmas@gmail.com} has a BA from Stanford, MA from UC–Berkeley, and a PhD from USC, all in English. He joined the Church in 1957, and has been publishing poetry, fiction, and criticism in *Dialogue* since the first issue. He left college teaching in 1973 for a forty-year career in business, twenty spent selling and investing in real estate in the Provo/Salt Lake City area with his late wife and partner, Carol Dennis, with whom he served three LDS senior missions. He has published seven books of poetry, a collection of stories, and a songbook from his years as a singer-songwriter in Hollywood and he is working on his first musical, “A Carol Christmas/Musical The.” He lives in southern Utah with a daughter and six of his twenty-some grandchildren. His publications can be found at www.lulu.com/spotlight/rachristmas.

BRYCE COOK {brycecook@cox.net} is a founding member of ALL (Arizona LDS LGBT) Friends & Family and a co-director of the annual “ALL Are Alike Unto God” Conference held every April in Mesa, Arizona. He is married to Sara Spencer Cook and together they have six children, two of whom are gay. Since their oldest son came out publicly in 2012, Bryce and Sara have become public allies for LGBT people in and out of the Church. Bryce graduated from BYU with a degree in finance and from ASU with an MBA. He is an economic consultant at an international consulting firm.

ROBERT DE GROFF {degroffrobert@gmail.com} is a Spring City, Utah artist. He is a master mezzotintist, producing immaculate and stunningly complex images in open print editions.

LISA DELONG is an artist and designer who received her PhD from The Prince's School of Traditional Arts in 2007. As part of her work for the school's internationally acclaimed Outreach Programme, she has taught in Abu Dhabi, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and many other locations. Her work specializes in the principles of geometric design in Islamic and Western traditions. Her first book *Curves: Flowers, Foliates and Flourishes in the Formal Decorative Arts* was published in November 2013 and reviewed in the *New York Times*. In 2016, she presented a TEDx talk on geometry and education at Brigham Young University. Her private commissions have included patterns for a range of fine china, interior design consultation, and detailing for a bespoke Rolls Royce. Her paintings are exhibited internationally and are in several prominent collections.

JOANNA ELLSWORTH {j.ellsworth.author@gmail.com} teaches high school English and Creative Writing in Utah while working toward her MFA in Creative Writing at Brigham Young University. She's a happily married mother of two amazing little girls. Joanna loves fitness, playing guitar and singing, and playing geeky games with her closest friends. Her poetry, short stories, and literary criticisms have been published in various journals including *Touchstones*, *Essais*, *Warp and Weave*, *Five2One Magazine*, *Inscape*, *Southern Quill*, and others.

DAVID GRANDY {davegrandy49@gmail.com} recently retired from the Philosophy Department at Brigham Young University. He has long been interested in science, its philosophical underpinnings, and its larger meanings.

JOHN GUSTAV-WRATHALL {gustavwrathall@gmail.com} is Executive Director of Affirmation: LGBT Mormons, Families & Friends. He has served as a board member, senior vice president and president of Affirmation, and has written extensively about the challenges faced by LGBT Mormons and their families and friends in *Sunstone*, *Dialogue*, on his personal blog, and in other forums in the bloggernacle. Legally married to his husband of twenty-five years since July 2008, he is a believing Latter-day Saint and, for the last twelve years, has been active, though excommunicated, in his south Minneapolis ward.

MAXINE HANKS {uwim@juno.com} is an independent scholar of women's studies in religion and feminist theology who has researched women's history and theology in Mormon and Christian tradition, liturgy, and practice.

GAIL TURLEY HOUSTON {ghouston@unm.edu} is a professor of English at the University of New Mexico and avidly studies the Victorian period. She has written on Queen Victoria, Charles Dickens, Charlotte Brontë, and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, among others.

COLLEEN MCDANNELL {Colleen.McD@m.cc.utah.edu} is professor of History and Sterling M. McMurrin Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. Her current research focuses on the cultural history of Latter-day Saints with a forthcoming book on the history of Mormon women since polygamy. A specialist in American religious history, McDannell's research and teaching has been funded by a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, the Fulbright's John Adams Chair in American History, and an Indo-American Fellowship.

SCOTT RUSSELL MORRIS {skoticus@gmail.com} is a PhD candidate at Texas Tech University, where he studies and teaches literature and creative writing. He has an MFA from Brigham Young University. His

essays have previously appeared in *Brevity*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, *Assay*, and elsewhere.

ERIKA MUNSON {erika.munson@gmail.com} holds a Fine Arts degree from Harvard College and is a Dean, English teacher, and librarian at Waterford School in Sandy, Utah. She is the co-founder of Mormons Building Bridges.

HEIDI NAYLOR {heidinaylor@boisestate.edu} teaches English at Boise State University. Her fiction and features have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Sunstone*, *Portland* (magazine of the University of Portland), the *Jewish Journal*, and other magazines. She embraces the legacy of her Mormon heritage but doesn't expect to understand faith anytime soon. Good thing progression is eternal.

BRITTANY LONG OLSEN {brytning@gmail.com} is an LDS cartoonist and the author of *DENDO*, the world's first sister missionary graphic novel, which won an Association for Mormon Letters award in 2015.

ELIZABETH OSTLER {liz@lifesechoes.com} is an adjunct professor of English at CUNY Lehman College and of English and Public Speaking at LIM College. She is a managing editor of the Mormon Women Project. Liz is a working theater-maker, specializing in directing and puppetry, in Brooklyn, N.Y. and the founder and CEO of Life's Echoes.

STEVEN L. PECK {Steven_Peck@byu.edu} is a professor of evolutionary ecology at Brigham Young University. He has published award-winning fiction and poetry in a variety of places. He is the author of the novel *A Short Stay in Hell*. His novel *The Scholar of Moab*, was the Association of Mormon Letters best novel of 2011. A collection of his short stories called *Wandering Realities* was recently published by Zarahemla Books (which includes his AML Best Short Story of 2014, "Two-dog Dose" which was also published in *Dialogue*). His most recent work is a collection of essays

on science and religion called *Evolving Faith*, and is part of the Neal A. Maxwell's Living Faith series. He lives in Pleasant Grove, Utah with his wife, Lori Peck. They have five children.

JULIE M. SMITH {juliemariesmith@yahoo.com} graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a BA in English and from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, with an MA in Biblical Studies. She is on the executive board of the Mormon Theology Seminar and the steering committee for the BYU New Testament Commentary, for which she is writing a commentary on the Gospel of Mark. She is the author of *Search, Ponder, and Pray: A Guide to the Gospels* and the editor of and contributor to *As Iron Sharpens Iron: Listening to the Various Voices of Scripture* and *Apocalypse: Reading Revelation 21–22*. Julie is married to Derrick Smith; they live near Austin, Texas, where she homeschools their children. She also blogs for *Times & Seasons*, where she is the book review editor.

RONALD WILCOX {iamron2@verizon.net} was born in Holladay, Utah, in 1934. Educated at Brigham Young University, he later received a Masters Degree of Arts from Baylor University, where he studied experimental drama with theatrical innovator Paul Baker. He played the lead role in Thomas Wolfe's *Of Time and the River*. This ground-breaking, mixed-media rendition of the novel became the premiere production of the Frank Lloyd Wright–designed Dallas Theater Center. As a Resident Artist in the Professional Repertory Company for twenty-three years, Ron appeared in over sixty plays. Four of his own plays were produced in Dallas, San Antonio, New York City, Hollywood, and Los Angeles. He designed and directed the premiere of his multi-media poetic drama, *The Tragedy of Thomas Andros*. He has published a novel, *The Rig*. He has contributed to *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* since 1967. His latest poetic narrative, *Mormon Epic*, tells the story of Joseph Smith and

the Restoration of the gospel. At eighty-three years of age, Ron continues to write lyric poetry, concentrating on the sonnet form.

DARLENE YOUNG {youngbookshelf@gmail.com} is the poetry editor for *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*. She teaches creative writing at Brigham Young University, and has published in various journals and anthologies. She lives in South Jordan, Utah with her husband and sons.

LON YOUNG {LonYoung1973@gmail.com} and his family lived among the leprosy-affected in southern India in 2014–15, working to improve conditions for impoverished and stigmatized communities. He is the co-founder of Awakening Valley Sangha, a mindfulness community based in Utah County. Lon's essays, poetry, and short fiction explore the tensions of wholeness and belonging within Mormonism.