

## CONTRIBUTORS

---

DÉBORAH ALÉXIS {jadeborah@gmail.com} is a Florida native of Haitian descent who is currently completing her undergraduate degree in sociology with minors in French and Africana Studies. She loves to speak, write, and listen to music. Her passion is creating healthy discourses about race, gender, class, and sexuality all of which inform her approach to her fictive and non-fictive writing. She describes herself as a pessimist brimming with humanist hope and a community bonding agent. She would like to thank her professors, especially Dr. Jacob Rugh, for exposing her to the language to talk about her experiences, her friend Melodie for the eloquent quotes found in her speech, and Israel for helping her do the English translation of the poem justice. She is eternally grateful for the hands from her community that make her work possible.

DAYLIN AMESIMEKU {dayf4733@gmail.com} is an Ophthalmic Technician living near Boston, MA with her husband and two children. She is also Vice President of the BYU Black Alumni Society and board member for *Dialogue*.

MICHAEL AUSTIN {ma352@evansville.edu}, who serves as chair of the Dialogue Board of Directors, is Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at the University of Evansville in Evansville, Indiana. He received his BA and MA in English from Brigham Young University and his PhD from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He is the author or editor of eleven books, including the AML-Award winning *Re-reading Job* and the recent trade book, *We Must Not Be Enemies: Restoring America's Civic Tradition*.

KIF AUGUSTINE {augustine.kif@gmail.com} is a law professor who lives in Orem, Utah. Her scholarship, teaching, and activism focus on intersections among citizenship, migration, gender and race. She takes law students to the US/Mexico border to provide front-line legal triage to individuals fleeing violence in their home countries.

A. J. BOULLY {a.bouly.j@gmail.com} graduated from Utah State University in 2017. Though he enjoys writing, he has no specific position, titles, or accolades that would set him apart in any academic or literary

community. He currently lives in Salt Lake City, Utah with his accomplished wife, Jessica, where he enjoys the fall.

MADISON BOWMAN is a travel writer based out of New York City. She and her family recently visited all sixty-one US National Parks; she writes about public lands at [www.americanfieldtrip.com](http://www.americanfieldtrip.com).

REBBIE BRASSFIELD {[rebbiebrassfield@gmail.com](mailto:rebbiebrassfield@gmail.com)} is a writer and Creative Director. In the “mormon moment” of 2012 she started the blog [Normons.com](http://Normons.com) in attempt to prove how normal Mormons are. Currently she’s exploring representation of Mormons in mainstream media at the Instagram account @MormonsInMedia. She recently moved back to Utah after eight years in Southern California and is sorely missing the beach. Her work can be found at [rebbiebrassfield.com](http://rebbiebrassfield.com).

KENT CHRISTENSEN was born in Los Angeles in 1957 and grew up in the orange, lemon, and avocado groves of Southern California, where he gained a fondness for orange crate labels, popular culture, and local fast food. Graduating from Art Center College of Design in 1986, he embarked upon a successful career as an illustrator in New York, where he lived for many years. His clients included *TIME*, *BusinessWeek*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Rolling Stone*, and many others. More recently his work has been seen in gallery and museum shows in the US and internationally, with representation since 2006 by London’s gallery Eleven. Since 2014 he has collaborated with London shoe designer Camilla Elphick. He now lives primarily at Sundance in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah. He teaches at both the University of Utah and Utah Valley University.

DENNIS CLARK is a retired librarian who lives near Rock Canyon with Valerie. When he is not riding his recumbent bike or maintaining their house, he is writing, usually poems.

TYLER CLARK {[tylercameronclark@gmail.com](mailto:tylercameronclark@gmail.com)} is a graduate student at Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, CA. His poetry has been published in *Sand and Sky: Poems from Utah*, *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, *Inspired: A Community Poetry Writing Experience*, and *Touchstones*.

LOYD ISAO ERICSON {loyde@koffordbooks.com} is the managing editor at Greg Kofford Books. He studied and assisted with the Mormon Studies programs at both Utah Valley University and Claremont Graduate University and is a coeditor of both *Discourses in Mormon Theology: Philosophical and Theological Possibilities* and *Perspectives on Mormon Theology: Apologetics*.

METTE IVIE HARRISON {ironmomm@gmail.com} is the author of the Linda Wallheim “Mormon, Utah” mystery series with national publisher Soho Crime. She holds a PhD in Germanic Languages and Literatures from Princeton, is an All-American triathlete, and mother of five. She recently started a podcast The Mormon Sabbatical about her experience stepping away from church attendance in 2019.

MARGARET OLSEN HEMMING {olsen.margaret@gmail.com} is the editor in chief of *Exponent II*. She previously worked as the *Exponent II* art editor and designer. She sits on the advisory board of the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts and spoke about Mormon women’s art at the Center’s festival in June 2019. Margaret is currently co-writing *Reading the Book of Mormon From the Margins* with the Reverend Dr. Fatimah Salleh. She is also guest-editing an issue of *Dialogue*, which will appear in the spring of 2020. She lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina with her spouse, three children, and a large vegetable garden.

MICHAEL HICKS {www.michaelhicks.org} is a Professor of Music at Brigham Young University. A former editor of the journal *American Music* (2007–2010), he is also the author of five books in University of Illinois Press’s Music in American Life series, including *The Mormon Tabernacle Choir: A Biography* (2015). His poetry has appeared in various Mormon journals and in anthologies such as *New Poets of the American West* (2010), and *Fire in the Pasture* (2011).

CLIFTON H. JOLLEY {clifton@adventcommunications.com} has published essays and poems in *Dialogue*, the *New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, *Ensign*, *Sunstone*, and elsewhere. His documentaries have appeared on PBS and been nominated for the Emmy. He was a columnist for the *Deseret News*, writer of *The Spoken Word* for the then Mormon Tabernacle

Choir, and recently has published dozens of opposition politics Op-Eds as co-author with Bob Rees. His family arrived in Utah pulling handcarts over the Mormon Trail. He is founder of Advent Communicatiins and lives with his wife Gail Weinflash in Ogden, Utah. They have six children and eleven grandchildren.

JAMES C. JONES {jamcjon@gmail.com} is the producer and co-host of Beyond the Block, a new podcast centering marginalized voices in gospel conversations. He's a musician, voice over artist, and aspiring self-defense instructor based in Boston, Massachusetts where he serves as his ward's interfaith specialist as well as a temple ordinance worker.

JACKIE LEISHMAN grew up in Georgia, moving to the Los Angeles area after completing her Masters of Fine Arts degree from the Academy of Art in San Francisco. Originally trained as a photographer, she now works in collage. Using both traditional and non-traditional materials, including fragments of old projects, Leishman explores the dichotomies she witnesses. It is the push and pull between two ideas that intrigues her most, the animating tensions between destruction and creation, expansion and contraction, explosion and implosion She has shown her work nationally, won awards, and taught fine art at universities in Utah and California. Her work is beloved by designers such as Leanne Ford and Emily Henderson. She recently exhibited in Downtown LA and currently has a solo show at Granary Arts, titled "Heaving into Mountains." She continues to participate in the ever-evolving art collaboration, The Fourth Artist, which focuses on women's issues and the lives of women artists. She recently began a collaboration with evolutionary biologist Steven Peck on a body of work investigating the loss we will continue to experience with climate change.

ALLISON HONG MERRILL {allison.merrill@vcfa.edu} writes in Chinese and English. Her work appears in the *Life Story Anthology* (Taipei, Taiwan), the *Ensign Magazine*, the *Liahona Magazine*, *Flying South Literary Magazine*, and *Pigeon Pages Literary Journal*. Her book, *Ninety-Nine Fire Hoops*, is forthcoming through Magnolia Press.

HENRY LANDON MILES {hlmiles@gmail.com} received his MA in economics from American U in 1968, became a Foreign Service Officer, served in US embassies in Bolivia, Vietnam, Ecuador, Paraguay, and El Salvador. He ended his career as Officer in Charge of Indonesia and South Pacific Affairs and retired into BYU's MA program in creative nonfiction writing and learned what he wanted to be when he grew up, a writer of family history. His books *From Silk Hat to Survival* and *Wilderness to Community* cover three generations of his family's history. His essay, "My Mission Decision," won *Dialogue's* Eugene England Memorial Essay Award in 2007.

STEVEN L. PECK {Steven\_Peck@byu.edu} is an evolutionary ecologist and writer. He has won many awards for his creative writing including being the two-time winner of the Association of Mormon Letters Novel Award (*The Scholar of Moab*, 2011; *Gilda Trillim*, 2017), and once for short story (*Two-Dog Dose*, 2014). His novel (2019) *King Leere: Goatherd of the La Sals* was a semi-finalist in Black Lawrence Press's Big Moose Prize and received a starred-review from Publishers Weekly. In addition to his poetry collection, *Incorrect Astronomy*, he has published two short stories collections. His work has appeared in numerous venues including, *Nature Futures*, *New Myths*, *Pedestal Magazine*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Red Rock Review*, and other places. He also has two nonfiction books exploring issues of faith and science (*Evolving Faith* and *Science the Key to Theology*).

JENNA RAKUITA {jennarakuita@gmail.com} graduated from BYU with a bachelor's in Sociology and minors in International Development and Women's Studies. She currently works with families in their home in order to promote child safety and improve family functioning.

FATIMAH S. SALLEH was born in Brooklyn, NY to a Puerto-Rican and Malaysian mother and an African American father. She is the eldest of seven. Dr. Salleh received her PhD in Mass Communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She also earned a Master's degree from Syracuse University in Public Communication and a second Master's in Divinity from Duke University. She served a mission in Campinas, Brazil. She is married to Eric Sorensen and they have four

children. She is the founder of A Certain Work, an organization dedicated to educating on issues of faith, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

REBECCA DE SCHWEINITZ {rld@byu.edu} is an Associate Professor of History at Brigham Young University. The author of, *If We Could Change the World: America's Long Struggle for Racial Equality*, her research and teaching centers on African American history, women's history, and the history of childhood and youth. She lives with her husband, Peter, and three children by the mountains in Provo, Utah.

STEVEN L. SHIELDS {slshields@gmail.com} was president of John Whitmer Historical Association, 2011–2012. He is best known as the author of *Divergent Paths of the Restoration*; a fifth edition is forthcoming from Greg Kofford Books. He has lived or worked in several countries in Asia, including Korea where he was a missionary, pastor, and founding president of the Community of Christ East Asia Mission Center. Retired from full-time church service, he is vice president of the Royal Asiatic Society-Korea Branch and a columnist for the *Korea Times*.

CASEY JEX SMITH received a BFA in Painting from Brigham Young University and an MFA in Painting from the San Francisco Art Institute. He currently resides in Provo, Utah with his wife and fellow artist Amanda Smith and their two children and works as a UX Designer. His art has been exhibited at The Drawing Center, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, José Bienvenu Gallery, Yancey Richardson Gallery, Roberts & Tilton, Galerie Polaris, and Allegra LaViola Gallery. Casey uses the structures of role-play-gaming and religious ritual to create allegorical drawings. Leveling up, isometric perspective, character creation, quest items, mythical beasts, and battles are used to mirror real life scenarios where the individual butts up against institutional power structures. He contrasts the reward system in gaming that is finely tuned to balance work with pleasure to the unequal reward system of global capitalism. His visual style draws largely from the study of master etchings, Dungeons & Dragons manuals, Biblical narratives, Minimalism, and underground comics.

PEGGY FLETCHER STACK has been senior religion reporter at The Salt Lake Tribune since November 1991.

ANITA TANNER {anitatanner6@gmail.com} reads and writes insatiably in Boise, Idaho. She is a member of the Osher Institute for continued learning at Boise State University. She has had poetry published in numerous periodicals and magazines and had a book of poetry published in 1999 titled *Where Fields Have Been Planted*.

KALANI TONGA is an artist, activist and writer who spends her energy keeping her adorable but adventurous five runts alive. She has been featured in “A Book of Mormons: Latter-day Saints on a Modern-Day Zion” and the blog FeministMormonHousewives.org.

KYLIE NIELSON TURLEY {kylie\_turley@byu.edu} (MA in American Studies) has taught various writing and literature courses at UVU and BYU-Provo since 1995. She currently teaches BYU’s “Literature of the LDS People” course.

JENNY WEBB {jennywebb37@gmail.com} lives in Woodinville, Washington, where she works as an academic editor in the fields of comparative literature and religion. She is a past president for Mormon Scholars in the Humanities and also serves on the Executive Board for the Mormon Theology Seminar.

RONALD WILCOX {iamron2@verizon.net} has contributed to *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, since 1967. At eighty-five years of age, he continues to write essays and lyric poetry, concentrating upon the sonnet form.

TINESHA CAPRI ZANDAMELA {tineshacapri@gmail.com} is a BYU Honors graduate with a BS in sociology and a BA in French. Her Honors thesis focused on half-Black women’s experiences in the United States. Throughout her life, community involvement has been deeply important to her, irrespective of where she lived. Zandamela is especially committed to working with and learning from marginalized community members. She enjoys traveling, tutoring, and spending quality time with her friends and family.