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Salt Lake City Mormon Stories Community invites Claudia Bushman, Jana Riess, Benji Scwhimmer, and Peter Breinholt to Regional Conference

Salt Lake City, UT – June 8th, 2012 –The upcoming [Salt Lake City Mormon Stories regional conference](#) will feature Claudia Bushman and Jana Riess addressing the theme of *Mormon Crossroads - Traversing New Paths*. A premier screening of an original choreographic work by *So You Think You Can Dance* champion Benji Schwimmer as well as live performances by musician Peter Breinholt and comedian Bengt Washburn will also be featured. The conference will be held on Saturday, June 16th at the Wasatch Presbyterian Church on 1626 South 1700 East in Salt Lake City between 12:00 noon and 5:30 pm. Online registration is available at www.MormonStories.org. All are welcome to attend regardless of ability to pay. Please see website for details.

Mormon Stories [regional Facebook and in-person communities](#) grew out of the popular Mormon Stories podcast hosted by John Dehlin. In 2005, Dehlin started the podcast to explore, challenge and celebrate Mormon culture through personal life stories. His one-time individual pursuit has grown into a network of over 55 regional communities of listeners across the United States and world. Listeners develop friendships on Facebook, online forums and blogs then meet together in the real world to discuss the podcasts and share their own Mormon stories. Conferences are recorded and podcasted for the worldwide community of listeners. Podcasts may be played from MormonStories.org and free subscriptions are available on iTunes.

In addition to holding in-person social events, community leaders plan conferences in their home cities and invite authors, podcast hosts, community figures, and other persons of interest to keynote. Previous Mormon Stories conferences have been held in New York City, Salt Lake City, San Diego, Atlanta, Washington D.C., Houston, Phoenix, Boise, Boston and Stockholm.

The most popular aspect of Mormon Stories conferences are the closing *Story Telling Meetings* conducted in the tradition of Mormon testimony meetings. In Salt Lake City (as in all regions) the microphone will be open to all attendees for the sharing of their thoughts, feelings and beliefs. Traditional believers, atheists, agnostics, fundamentalists, apologists, those who adhere to other religions and all who have ever self-identified as Mormon are welcome to attend and are encouraged to share authentically regardless of level of belief or activity. Stories will be recorded and podcasted. All who share stories are reminded to speak concisely in order to preserve time for others.

Bushman is a professor of American Studies at Columbia University. Her most recent book is *Contemporary Mormonism: Latter-day Saints in Modern America*. She is married to Richard Bushman, author of the popular Joseph Smith biography *Rough Stone Rolling*. Riess is a Religion and American Studies professor at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She is a popular religion blogger and the author of *Flunking Sainthood: A Year of Breaking the Sabbath, Forgetting to Pray, and Still Loving my Neighbor*. She studied under Bushman at Columbia.

About [Mormon Stories](#)

Mormon Stories is a nonprofit organization that strives to support individuals in Mormon-related crises, and to celebrate, challenge, and advance Mormon culture in healthy ways. Mormon Stories podcasts and communities seek to allow for safe, authentic discussion of Mormonism and the Mormon experience. The podcast has explored many aspects of Mormonism, featuring voices from leading scholars like Richard Bushman, Daniel Peterson, and Terryl Givens, as well as psychologists, filmmakers, artists and everyday Mormons offering their own experiences. The Mormon Stories podcast audience has now grown to 10,000 – 70,000 downloads per episode. Over 50 Mormon Stories communities across the United States meet together for safe, authentic discussions of Mormonism. International communities include Germany, Sweden, the U.K., the Netherlands, Japan, Latin America, and Brazil.