


MAYOR JENNY WILSON'S BOOK & MEDIA CLUB



Dear Salt Lake County Residents,

I would like to invite you to join my community-wide **Book & Media Club!**

The Book & Media Club is an opportunity for our community to engage around a common theme or interest. We would love to have you participate!

This selection features the wide array of faces who make up Salt Lake County in the book **Faces of Salt Lake County**. This book is a collection of stories and photographs sharing the unique journeys of Salt Lake County residents made by our very own Office of New Americans.

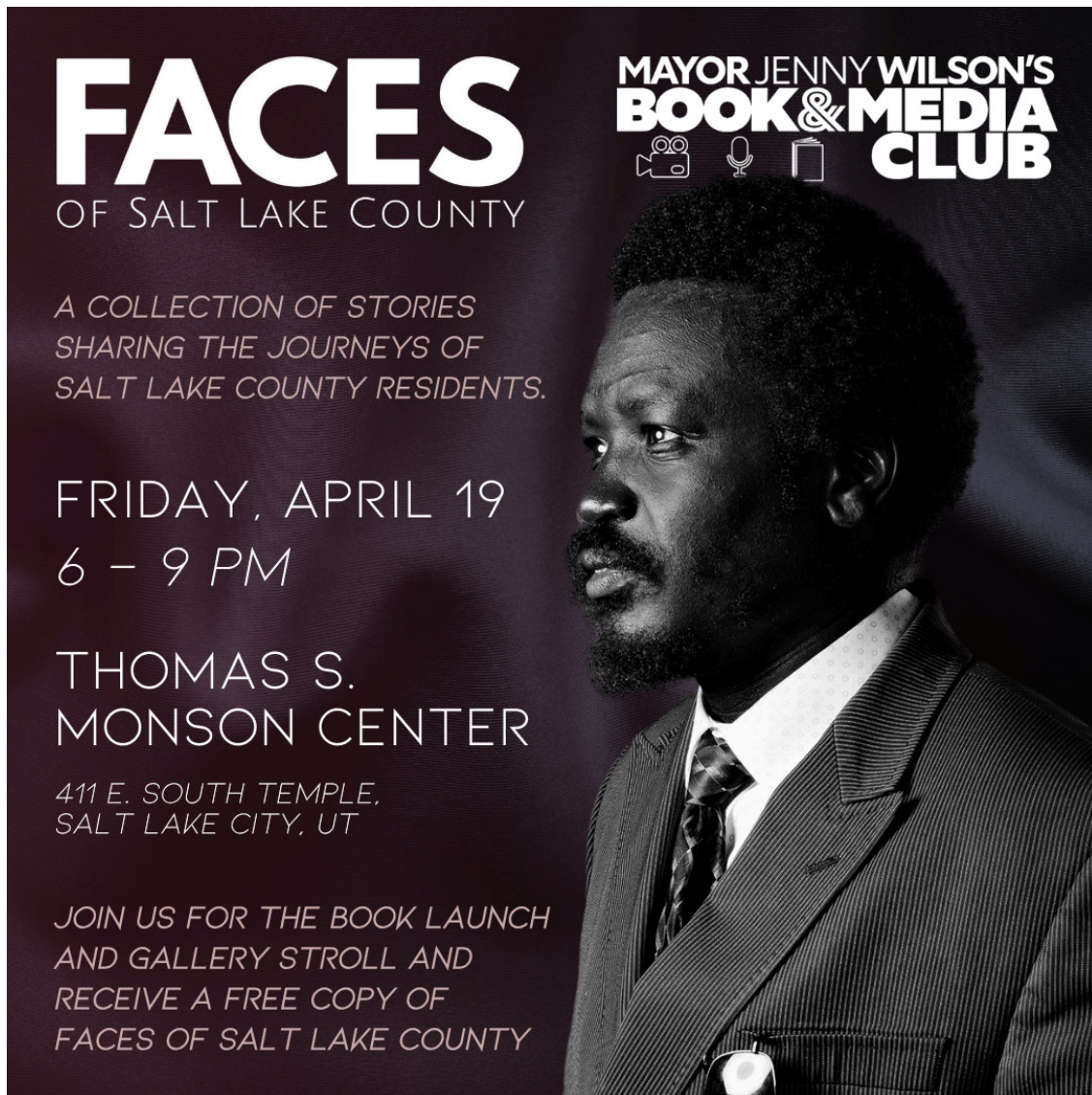
Please join me April 19th

Join me **Friday, April 19 from 6-9pm**, for a **book launch and gallery stroll** highlighting the photographs included in *Faces of Salt Lake County* at the **Thomas S. Monson Center** (411 E. South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111).

Meet the participants and learn their stories, stroll through the portrait display, donate to a good cause, and take home a FREE copy of the book!

While you can **reserve your FREE book** to pick up during this event only, we **highly encourage you to make a donation** at the event as **all proceeds from the sale of this book go towards green card and citizenship fees for New Americans in Salt Lake County.**

Reserve your book!

A promotional poster for the book launch of 'Faces of Salt Lake County'. The poster features a black and white profile photograph of a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a pinstriped suit jacket, white shirt, and patterned tie. The background is dark. Text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

FACES
OF SALT LAKE COUNTY

MAYOR JENNY WILSON'S
BOOK & MEDIA CLUB

*A COLLECTION OF STORIES
SHARING THE JOURNEYS OF
SALT LAKE COUNTY RESIDENTS.*

FRIDAY, APRIL 19
6 - 9 PM

THOMAS S.
MONSON CENTER

411 E. SOUTH TEMPLE,
SALT LAKE CITY, UT

*JOIN US FOR THE BOOK LAUNCH
AND GALLERY STROLL AND
RECEIVE A FREE COPY OF
FACES OF SALT LAKE COUNTY*

Faces of Salt Lake County

Salt Lake County has long been a light for New Americans welcoming them into its communities and neighborhoods. While Salt Lake County has experienced overall population growth, the surge in the number of people born in other countries is noteworthy, with an increase of over 9%. This County is where more than half of the state's two hundred fifty thousand New Americans reside. Recently the County warmly received hundreds of Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, with a considerable majority settling in the County's western regions. Their presence continues to transform Salt Lake County into a vibrant mosaic of cultures, languages, and stories. Students in the

County's school districts alone speak an astonishing 125 languages, a testament to the diverse heritage they bring.

The mission of the Salt Lake County Office of New Americans (ONA) is to improve the lives of new American residents by maximizing civic, social, and economic potential. In a continued effort to bridge all gaps in our community, ONA hopes this book, *Faces of Salt Lake County*, will foster an environment of inclusivity and belonging. ONA asked youth groups, including the Salt Lake County Youth Government and Salt Lake County 4-H Teen Council, to interview Salt Lake County residents. These young participants underwent training sessions, workshops, and other activities aimed at strengthening the county's social cohesion. These teens learned about the collective experiences of those with whom they spoke. In these pages, you will learn their stories, and see their faces as photographed by award-winning Utah photographer Bry Cox. This book illuminates the rich histories, unique cultures, and significant contributions of Salt Lake County's immigrant, non-immigrant, and refugee residents.

This project is more than just a compilation of stories. It is a tangible representation of integration, collaboration, and community spirit. All proceeds from the sale of this book will assist immigrants with citizenship application fees and green card expenses. In essence, the *Faces of Salt Lake County* project is a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together. As you delve into the stories within, you will discover not just individual tales of perseverance and hope, but a collective narrative of a county that seeks to uplift, include, and celebrate every one of its residents.

During a time of extreme division, this book aims to unite all residents of Salt Lake County


Salt Lake County is a rich tapestry of diverse cultures, traditions, and histories. All Salt Lake County residents- whether sixth-generation Utahns, refugees, or immigrants- are an essential thread in that fabric, helping our County thrive.

This book is more than a collection of photographs. Each face tells a story of the undeniable spirit of Salt Lake County residents. You will see that many of the residents featured in this book are immigrants and refugees from countries across the world. In September 2023, I had the distinct honor of witnessing the deeply moving ceremony of over 80 new Americans, hailing from 37 different countries, taking the oath of citizenship. The emotion, the pride, and the sheer joy of that moment encapsulate the essence of this book. This book seeks to convey the unwavering message that every

Salt Lake County resident belongs here, is embraced wholeheartedly, and plays an integral part in our collective identity.

It is my hope, as the mayor of Salt Lake County, that you look upon these faces, not just as individuals, but as portraits of our collective strength, shared dreams, and the undying spirit that makes Salt Lake County truly special. We welcome all, we value all, and we are pleased to know these individuals as our friends, co-workers, and neighbors.

MAYOR JENNY WILSON'S



**BOOK
& MEDIA
CLUB**

**“Faces of
Salt Lake County”**

Sincerely,



Jenny Wilson
Mayor of Salt Lake County





CONTACT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

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