

Jerry Joseph [Jerold Wayne Joseph] was born on April 19, 1961, in San Diego, CA, the son of Lebanese Christian parents. His knack for getting into trouble led his father to send him to a reform school in New Zealand in the late 1970s. While in New Zealand he began playing guitar with a local band. Upon returning to the United States, he moved to the Salt Lake City area, where he formed the band Little Women in June of 1982.

Little Women

Little Women was a reggae /rock jamband that ruled the Rocky Mountain club circuit between the mid-1980s and 1993. The band was formed in June of 1982 by Jerry Joseph (singer / songwriter / guitarist), Bradley Keith Rosen (drums), Stephen Derby (bass and vocals), and Eric Hellberg (keyboards and vocals) in the Salt Lake City, Utah, area. Jerry and Brad had previously met in Arcata, California. In the early years, the band's membership changed frequently (Eric Hellberg left in the fall of 1983). Meanwhile, their touring region spread into Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. By early 1985, Little Women's line-up had become fairly stable, including Louis Butts (bass), Geoff George (keyboards), Greg Williams (percussion), Brad Rosen (drums), Joseph James (sound), and often Greg Malar or others on second guitar. Also, by this time the band had re-located to Boulder, CO. In 1986, Little Women added drummer Greg Freeman, originally of Pennsylvania, which led the band to begin touring in the Northeastern USA as well.

Little Women began to build up a repertoire of original songs (mostly written by Jerry Joseph) in addition to their frequent reggae and Grateful Dead covers. In early 1987, they recorded an EP titled "Life's Just Bitchin'". In addition to the title track [an energetic reggae song inspired by a suicide], the record featured: Breakfast at Lucile's, Lick the Tears, Dead & Gone, and Freezin' to Death. At about this time, the band was joined by guitarist Steven James Wright, whom they'd met in Missoula, MT. On July 4, 1987, Little Women was playing at a party for the Montana Band at Flathead Lake, MT, which ended tragically when the Montana Band's airplane crashed into a mountain after flying over the crowd. This event was later commemorated in Little Women's song "Montana".

The band began working on their first full length studio album in Colorado in the spring of 1988 (which was to be titled "Buzzard Gods from the Promised Land"); however, the master tapes were lost by the producer. Later in 1988, Little Women began opening for Zero. As a result, Steve Kimock regularly played guitar with the band between July and November of that year, and Jerry Joseph occasionally sat in with Zero as well. Late in 1989, Little Women began work on a new full-length album, titled "Pretty Wiped Out". The record was produced by Ray Woodbury of El Rayo X, and featured guest appearances by David Lindley and Steve Kimock. Songs included: Montana, Chainsaw City, Big Lagoon, She Belongs to Me, Fishin', God Guts & Guns, Daddy Bruce, and Eat My Soul.

During the late 1980s, Little Women had met the Athens, GA, band Widespread Panic while on tour. This led to Widespread Panic opening for Little Women for a run of shows in March of 1990. Later, in September Little Women opened for Widespread Panic for several shows in their home base of Georgia and the Carolinas. When touring in the same area, Jerry began sitting in with Widespread Panic and performing songs such as Chainsaw City with them.

Late in 1990, the band re-located from Boulder, CO, to Portland, OR. Brad Rosen temporarily left the band about this time. Co-incident with the move to Portland, the band developed a harder edged sound and played fewer reggae numbers. In December, Capricorn Records encouraged Jerry Joseph to travel to Georgia to write songs with Danny Hutchens of Bloodkin. This collaboration resulted in the songs Dixie Mattress, Way Too Loud, and the anti-Gulf War anthem Yellow Ribbons. During 1991, the band added songs such as Ray of Heaven, North, and Savage Garden.

In April of 1992, Little Women recorded their first live CD in Portland and Eugene, OR, featuring Breakfast at Lucile's, Lick the Tears, Milk, Screamin' Annie, Ray of Heaven, American Standard, The World Will Turn, The Most Beautiful Day, Drive, and Hearts Gone Blind. Released later that summer, the record was titled "Live Radish Head" and promised a rise to much greater fame for the band. However, as the band seemed perched on the edge of widespread recognition, internal friction resulting from constant touring and the inevitable drug and alcohol abuse associated with being on tour began to tear the band apart. In late August of 1992, Louis Butts and Geoff George left the band, along with soundman Joseph James.

Little Women quickly re-formed as a four piece rock band with Glen Esparza on bass joining Jerry, Steve, and drummer Greg Williams. Within days of the shake-up, Little Women were back on the road, and recorded another live CD [Live at New Georges, September 11, 1992] in San Raphael, CA. This release featured Breakfast at Lucile's, Criminals in My Closet, North, Hearts Gone Blind, Wichita Lineman, and Way Too Loud. The band added the new song "Climb to Safety", and also began putting in some time in the studio in preparation for the release of a new record. The new direction was not enough to save the band, however. Jerry Joseph had developed an addiction to heroin and things were falling apart rapidly. In early February, guitarist Steven James Wright left the band. Pete Droge, a guitarist from Seattle who had previously played with Little Women as a guest, then began playing regularly with the band. Keyboardist Robert O'Hearn also joined the band at this time. By early May, long time drummer Greg Williams also left the group, to be replaced by Danny Karbo. Pete Droge also ceased touring with the band at this time. There were a few Little Women shows during May 1993, during which time they debuted new songs including Road to Damascus. After late May there were no performances until late July, at which time the band played a show in Portland under the name "Jerry Joseph Electric Band". During the latter half of 1993, Jerry began a two year struggle to get clean that involved several changes in residence and visits to rehab centers. The band, by now without Glen Esparza, made a few appearances in late 1993 and January 1994 under the name "Welcome Hunters". The Little Women studio recordings from the fall of 1992 were released under this name in October 1993. In March of 1994, Jerry completed another studio project titled "Love and Happiness", featuring Robert O'Hearn on keys, Dave Schools on bass, and numerous guests. In August 1994, he performed with Woody Harrelson under the band name Urban Messiah. Jerry performed infrequently during 1994 and 1995.

In early 1996, he formed a new band, the Jackmormons, in Salt Lake City. The band initially included Junior Ruppel (bass), Dave Pellicciaro (keyboards), and Jim Bone (drums). Brad Rosen and Steve James, both long term Little Women members, later joined the Jackmormons.

Little Women have re-united once, in July 2000, for the Oregon Country Fair and two other local performances.

Many fans of Little Women were also Deadheads, and many were tapers; consequently, hundreds of shows were recorded and are still in circulation. Many are now available on the Live Music Archive at www.archive.org.

Jerry Joseph

Jerry's struggle with heroin addiction limited his touring during the mid-1990s, but led to a prolific songwriting phase. Late in 1993, he released the final Little Women studio recording sessions under the name "the Welcome Hunters", the name given to the band he briefly performed with during late 1993 and early 1994. He then recorded a 'solo' album (featuring many supporting musicians, including Dave Schools on bass and Robert O'Hearn on keyboards) titled "Love and Happiness" in May of 1994. He briefly formed a band called Urban Messiah with Woody Harrelson, with whom he had become acquainted as a result of their mutual admiration for the Grateful Dead. Jerry Joseph began recording demos for the "Natural Born Killers" soundtrack, but his involvement ended when Quentin Tarantino turned over production of the movie to Oliver Stone.

In early 1995, he began performing again with the Jerry Joseph Band, whose line-up sometimes included Steven James Wright and Jim Bone. By late 1995, Jerry had settled in Salt Lake City, UT, and was performing with Jim Bone, Junior Ruppel, and other musicians as "the Jethro Belt". In January 1996, the band added Dave Pellicciaro and adopted the new name "the Jackmormons".

In March 1996, the Jackmormons recorded the CD "Butte Montana 1879" in Salt Lake City. Late in 1996 they recorded another short studio CD "Cotton", after which Dave Pellicciaro left the group. Shortly thereafter, Jim Bone also left and was replaced on drums by Adam Sorensen. They continued performing as a 'power trio'. In late 1997 they released the live and mostly acoustic CD "Goodlandia". Shortly after this, Adam Sorensen was replaced by long-term Little Women drummer Brad Rosen. This version of the band recorded a few more songs, then released the compilation CD "Salt Lake City" in 1999. Jerry then began another recording project, titled "Everything was Beautiful" with Pete Droge and various other musicians, which was released in 2000. Shortly thereafter, during a brief tour of Germany in April 2000, Jerry recorded several songs with the band Dziuk's Kuiche, led by Danny Dzuik. This was eventually released on Ulftone Records as "Oil". The Jackmormons next entered the studio in Athens, Georgia, in September of 2001 to record the CD 'Conscious Contact' with Dave Schools of Widespread Panic producing.

In the fall of 2001, the Jackmormons toured Europe, then returned to Portland, OR, for a New Years run of shows, featuring opening performances by the Drive-By Truckers, with whom they had toured off and on since June of 2000. The Jackmormons toured continuously during 2002, recording a double live CD during three nights at the Irish Times Pub in Butte, MT, in August.

Betty Cantor-Jackson (of Live Dead fame) was enlisted as recording engineer for the project, which was released as "Mouthful of Copper" in 2003. The title comes from their song "Speedwater" which Jerry had written about Butte subsequent to frequent performances there during the mid-1990s. The band closed out 2002 with performances in Costa Rica, a favorite location of theirs for New Year's celebrations.

In January 2003, Jerry Joseph, Dave Schools, and Wally Ingram played an impromptu performance following a wedding in Hailey, Idaho. They referred to this collaboration as "The Stockholm Syndrome", and Jerry and Dave then toured Europe during February under this name. Jerry returned to the US and touring with the Jackmormons in March. That summer and fall, the band Dexter Grove often opened for the Jackmormons, and their drummer Steve Drizos often sat in with the Jackmormons. In early December 2003 Jerry entered Jackpot Recording Studios in Portland, OR, to record the solo acoustic project "Cherry". The year ended with a run of shows in California and Ensenada, Mexico, with Dexter Grove supporting the Jackmormons.

In January 2004, after participating in the first "JamCruise", Jerry renewed his work with the Stockholm Syndrome project. This time the band consisted of Jerry, Dave Schools (bass), Wally Ingram (drums), Eric McFadden (guitar) and Danny Dzuik (keyboards). They recorded at Compass Point Studios in Nassau, Bahamas, with engineer Terry Manning and produced the CD "Holy Happy Hour". This was followed by a tour of Europe during May, then tour dates in the US through October. During this time, Jackmormons' bassist Junior Ruppel joined Dexter Grove (formerly a two piece guitar/drums band) as a special guest.

The Jackmormons re-grouped and played a few shows during December 2004, followed by another New Years in Costa Rica. They resumed regular touring in February 2005, and added several new songs to their repertoire during April. In August, the band added members Steven James Wright (formerly of Little Women) and Steve Drizos (formerly of Dexter Grove) for a tour of the Northern Rocky Mountain states. These shows featured both acoustic and electric sets, and were all recorded for sale by Real Image Recordings. Steve Drizos and Steve James frequently sat in with the band through the rest of the year. Other guest artists including Wally Ingram, Eric McFadden, Danny Hutchens, and Lewi Longmire occasionally sat in as well. The Jackmormons recorded a new studio CD, "Into the Lovely", in Portland, OR, in December, followed by another New Years in Costa Rica.

During January 2006, Jerry Joseph renewed his off and on, 20 year collaboration with Steve Kimock when they performed as an acoustic duo in New Jersey. Other than that, Jerry played mostly solo shows or with Steve Drizos and/or Steven James Wright until March, when he toured with Steve Drizos, Junior Ruppel, and occasional guests under the name "Jerry Joseph Coterie". In April, Jerry played a few acoustic duo shows with Dave Schools.

The five member Jackmormons made one appearance in May, followed by several Jerry solo shows, a few duo shows with Steve Drizos, and two with Steve Kimock, Reed Mathis and John Kimock. In June, the five piece Jackmormons began touring regularly. Jerry also began performing in late June with Steve Kimock as a member of his re-formed band Zero which also included Donna Jean Godchaux. The five Jackmormons continued touring through July, then in

August there were a few shows by the traditional 'power trio' consisting of Jerry Joseph, Junior Ruppel, and Brad Rosen.

In late August, Jerry, Steve Drizos, and Steve James entered Mississippi Studios in Portland to perform several new songs and a few classics. These sessions formed the basis of the new Jerry Joseph CD "April Nineteenth" which would be released in December. The title refers to the birth date of both Jerry Joseph and Steve Drizos.

In September, Jerry performed four shows with Steve and Junior in the eastern US, followed by two in Salt Lake City as the Jackmormons with Junior, Brad, and Steve. Shortly after these shows, rumors circulated that Junior had quit the band. In October, a version of the five piece Jackmormons toured the southern US with Jason Rappaport of "Seismic" filling in on bass. During November Jerry performed a few solo shows and appeared twice with Zero. In December, the Jackmormons played in Georgia with Brad Rosen on drums and Dave Schools on bass. This was followed by several Jerry Joseph Duo shows with Steve Drizos, then by three dates in Costa Rica for New Years, featuring Lewi Longmire on bass.

Jerry performed three more times with Zero during January 2007, then returned to touring as a duo with Steve. February saw performances as "the Jerry Joseph Band" featuring Steve Drizos, Lewi Longmire, and Steve James for the April Nineteenth CD release party, followed by two benefit performances by Stockholm Syndrome in San Francisco. This re-appearance of Stockholm Syndrome was a benefit for drummer Wally Ingram who was recovering from throat cancer, and featured Danny Lewis of Gov't Mule on keyboards replacing Danny Dzuik.

Jerry spent the latter part of February 2007 on vacation in the Dominican Republic, from which he returned with several new songs including "Zombie Blues". He then toured Montana during March as the Jerry Joseph Electric Band with Lewi Longmire on bass and Steve Drizos on drums. By mid-March, Junior Ruppel had re-joined the band as bass player. Jerry continued to tour throughout most of 2007 as either a duo with Steve, or as a power trio including Junior. In late July / early August, Jerry Joseph and Steve Drizos entered a studio in Athens, GA, to record as a duo. Release of the record was delayed while they decided on a name for the new band, eventually settling on the "Denmark Veseys".

In December 2007, Jerry re-joined Stockholm Syndrome for two performances in North Carolina in association with the Warren Haynes Xmas Jam. This was followed by New Years performances by the Jerry Joseph Band in Oregon, featuring numerous guests.

The Denmark Veseys performed as a duo during January 2008, then Stockholm Syndrome played several dates during February. In March, the Denmark Veseys continued a western states tour with special guest Junior Ruppel. In April they performed in Alaska. This was followed by a break during which Jerry got married. The Denmark Veseys have resumed touring, sometimes as a duo, sometimes with guest appearances by Junior, Lewi, or others. Jerry performed a series of solo shows during September 2008 in New York City and Baltimore.