

GTU Dean's Newsletter

APRIL 14, 2025 · PUBLISHED WEEKLY

Welcome to the GTU Dean's Newsletter. This newsletter is published every Monday when fall and spring semesters are in session. To submit events or news, please use this [online form](#).

EVENTS

Fight Like Jesus, with Jason Porterfield:

An Author Event by NCB's Radix Live

5:00 pm on Monday, April 14

Online

Join us for a conversation with the author of *Fight Like Jesus* (2022). In this interactive event, Jason Porterfield will explore how Jesus waged peace throughout Holy Week, offering interesting insight into the events leading to the cross—and what they mean for peacemaking today.

For more information, [click here](#).

Sponsored by New College Berkeley.

Geometry in Islamic Art

A Lecture by Carol Bier

9:00 am on Tuesday, April 15

Virtual

Free lecture. Registration required. Virtual Islamic Art History Seminar Series with Carol Bier, "Geometry in Islamic Art: Number, Shape, and the Nature of Space."

For more information, [click here](#), and to register, [click here](#).

Sponsored by GTU's Center for Islamic Studies.

What Am I Missing?

Celebrate the Release of Percy Hamilton's New Song!

5:00 pm on Tuesday, April 15

Doug Adams Gallery, 2400 Ridge Rd, Berkeley

Enjoy a live performance of original songs, some of which tie in to the themes of CARE's current exhibition "Eve's Eden," and hear more about Percy's creative process. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, [click here](#).

Sponsored by the GTU's Center for Arts in Religion.

Queering Easter to Pentecost | A CLGS Sacred Texts Workshop with Revs. Lauren Bennett and Jakob Hero-Shaw

Celebrate the Release of Percy Hamilton's New Song!

1:00 pm on Tuesday, April 15

Online

Join us as we explore methods of queering texts for Holy Week, Easter, Eastertide, and Pentecost! Our presenters are Revs. Lauren Bennett and Jakob Hero-Shaw, pastors of MCC (Metropolitan Community Churches) congregations.

For more information, [click here](#).

Sponsored by the Pacific School of Religion.

Migration, Borderlands, and Social Boundaries in Antiquity: Lecture 6 with Dr. Jana Mokrišová

"Shifting Boundaries, Moving People? Investigating Change in Archaic Western Anatolia"

9:30 am on Thursday, April 17

Online

This lecture series, presented by the Badè Museum of Biblical Archaeology

and co-sponsored by the Archaeological Research Facility at UC Berkeley begins September 26, 2024 through May 15, 2025. Watch live on the ARF YouTube Channel or view later on the ARF & Badè YouTube channels.

For more information, [click here](#).

Sponsored by the Pacific School of Religion.

Explore California's History!

Creatives' Cove trip to the Oakland Museum

11:00 am on Wednesday, April 23

Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94607

Join the Creatives' Cove for a trip to the Oakland Museum of California! We'll be getting a private tour of this fabulous local museum and free entry. Don't miss the opportunity to check out the museum's vibrant exhibitions featuring its multidisciplinary collections.

For more information, [click here](#).

Sponsored by the GTU's Center for Arts in Religion.

METAMORPHOSIS: CJS Annual Conference

Galit Hasan-Rokem to Deliver Keynote Address at CJS Conference

9:00 am - 5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 23

GTU's Dinner Board Room, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA

Please join us for a day of exploration on the theme of metamorphosis in Jewish thought and history. This conference will host a variety of papers that consider the dynamics of metamorphosis in Jewish history, culture, and thought.

For more information, [click here](#).

Sponsored by the GTU Center for Jewish Studies.

Honoring and Celebrating the Life of Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake

4:00 pm on Thursday, April 24

The Badè Museum of Biblical Archeology, 1798 Scenic Ave, Berkeley

Please join us as we celebrate the profound impact and enduring legacy of Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake. Let us come together in remembrance, reflection, and gratitude for a life well lived in service, faith, and justice. All are welcome. Additional information will be shared soon.

For more information, [click here](#).

Sponsored by the Pacific School of Religion.

Spring Lecture of the Center for Truth, Racial Healing, & Restorative Justice

The Second Look Movement: Ending Mass Incarceration Requires Ending Life Imprisonment

6:00 pm on Thursday, April 24

BST Campus Karpe Hall, 2606 Dwight Way, or Zoom Webinar

Dr. Nazgol Ghandnoosh is the primary researcher and author of the 4-part “One in Five” report that examines racial inequities in America’s criminal legal system and highlights promising reforms. Her lecture will focus on the Second Look Movement as a means of effectively ending mass incarceration.

For more information, [click here](#).

Sponsored by the Berkeley School of Theology.

When the Horrors of War Meet the Power of Literature: Reactions and Transformations

12:30 - 2:00 pm on Wednesday, April 30

4125A Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley

Poet, writer, and literary editor Sarai Shavit (Tel Aviv University) joins us to talk about her collaborative project with fellow writer and literary editor Dr. Rawya Burbara. A vegetarian lunch will be provided for all registrants beginning at noon. Hosted by the Helen Diller Institute.

For more information/registration, [click here](#).

Co-sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies and the Department of

Looking Back to Look Forward: Black Pauline Interpreters of the Past Speaking to Our Future

Berkeley Palmer Lecture 2025 with Dr. Lisa Bowens

7:00 pm on Saturday, May 3

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 2407 Dana St, Berkeley

Dr. Lisa Bowens (Princeton Theological Seminary) will explore the writings of black interpreters of the Apostle Paul from the 1700s to the mid-twentieth century and discuss their significance for American history, the church, and the present. Join for insightful biblical scholarship and fellowship!

For more information, [click here](#).

Sponsored by New College Berkeley.

Liberative Ways of Being in an Uncertain World – Circle Time with WSR

12:30 pm on Wednesday, May 7

GTU Dinner Boardroom, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley

This sharing circle will invite participants to explore remaining grounded, connected, and inspired in uncertain times. We'll engage in reflection, dialogue, and the sharing of collective wisdom. Lunch will be provided, and WSR certificate awards will also be presented.

For more information, [click here](#).

Sponsored by the GTU's Women's Studies in Religion Program.

Religion and Public Scholarship in 2025: Opportunities and Challenges

5:00 - 7:30 pm on Wednesday, May 7

554 Social Sciences Building, UC Berkeley

In this two-hour seminar, Dr. Bradley Onishi will provide insight into the challenges and impact of various forms of public scholarship, including:

- Writing for Public Audiences
- Audio and Video Media
- Research Preparation
- Content Creation Strategies
- Networking and Career Development

The workshop is two hours, followed by a casual dinner. Limited to 12 students. RSVP by emailing Patty Dunlap at pattydunlap@berkeley.edu by April 17, 2025.

Sponsored by the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion (BCSR).

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Sponsored by the GTU's Women's Studies in Religion Program.

To Study the Self: Zen, Autofiction, and the True Dharma "I" by Ruth Ozeki

4:00 pm on Friday, May 25

Alumni House on the UC Campus

Ruth Ozeki is a novelist, filmmaker and Zen Buddhist priest, whose novels have been translated and published in over thirty countries, garnering international critical acclaim for its ability to integrate issues of science, technology, religion,

environmental politics, and global pop culture into unique, hybrid, narrative forms.

For more information, [click here](#).

Sponsored by UCB's Institute of Buddhist Studies and the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion.

FACULTY & STUDENT NEWS

Save the Date! GTU Community Lunch Sponsored by President Uriah Kim

Members of the GTU community are invited to gather for a community lunch on Wednesday, April 16th from 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm (before department colloquia begin). Stay tuned for more details!

Position Available: Annual Fundraising Gala Coordinator

Responsible for all logistics of ERRChina/CAC's two fundraising events in September. This is a charitable annual paid job from May 1 to October 30. The busiest time will be August and September. If interested or know someone who is please email ASAP.

For more information, email errc@errchina.com.

Submitted by China Academic Consortium.

BJRT Release of the Latest Issue

The GTU Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology is pleased to announce the release of our latest issue.

For more information, [click here](#).

Submitted by GTU Academic Affairs.

CTNS Townes Graduate Student Fellowship Application

CTNS is accepting applications for the 2025 Charles H. Townes Graduate

Student Fellowship. Eligibility: GTU PhD student doing research in theology and science, comps proposal approved by Department. Submit a CV and a description of research to bmolhoek@gtu.edu by 5PM Monday, April 28.

For more information, [click here](#).

Submitted by GTU's Center for Theology & the Natural Sciences.

Position Available: Student - Editorial Assistant, CTNS

The focus of this position is to assist with proofreading, editing and formatting CTNS publications.

For more information, [click here](#).

Submitted by GTU's Center for Theology & the Natural Sciences.

Summer Modern Hebrew Intensive

The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies at the Graduate Theological Union is thrilled to offer the Modern Hebrew language intensive at the GTU again this summer. The course will meet from July 7th through July 25th and will be taught by Aviv Peretz.

For more information, [click here](#).

Sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies.

Spirit of Cinema: Miracles and Wonder in Biblical Epics

Open through the spring semester at the Jesuit School of Theology's Manresa Gallery

A joint exhibition with Blackfriars Gallery highlighting vintage movie posters featuring scenes from biblical epics.

Taste an "Unforbidden Fruit"!

Doug Adams Gallery, 2400 Ridge Rd, Berkeley

As part of Eve's Eden, we've been fortunate enough to receive a donation of fresh, organic fruit every couple of weeks from the Berkeley Student Cooperative. Come by the Gallery to see what "unforbidden fruit" is available to enjoy this month!

For more information, [click here](#).

Sponsored by the GTU's Center for Arts and Religion.



Our mailing address is:
Graduate Theological Union
2400 Ridge Rd, Berkeley, CA 94709

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