

GTU Dean's Newsletter

APRIL 21, 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

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

6:30 pm on Thursday, April 24

2606 Dwight Way, Berkeley, and Zoom Webinar

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Nazgol Ghandnoosh, Chief Researcher with the Sentencing Project! Dr. Ghandnoosh, the author of 2024's "One in Five" report will talk about the Second Look Movement's role in ending mass incarceration.

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

Sponsored by the Berkeley School of Theology.

CAC Monthly Lecture/Forum: "Not Knowing God in Order to See God" with Dr. D.H. Williams

5:00 pm on Friday, April 25

Online

Mystery in seeking God a problem? Is distance between creature & Creator an obstacle to growth in Christian life? Modern minds are insulted at not

finding answers to fulfill knowledge. Christians need to see our relation to God within the confines of impenetrability when it comes to knowing God.

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

Sponsored by the China Academic Consortium.

Embodying Peace & Purpose: A CLGS/PSR Chapel Service with the CLGS African American Roundtable

Preacher: Dr. Pamela Ayo Yetunde

11:10 am on Tuesday, April 29

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

Here at PSR, Community Chapel is one of the ways that we “kneel and kiss the ground,” as we gather simultaneously via Zoom and in-person at the Badè Museum on the PSR campus, at 11:10 am (Pacific) on Tuesdays during the academic year.

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

Sponsored by the Pacific School of Religion.

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 Comparative Literature at UC Berkeley.

Mestizaje Confronts #AmericanFacism with

Jorge Aquino, PhD | A CLGS Latinx Roundtable Event

4:30 pm on Thursday, May 1

Online

In this CLGS Latinx Roundtable event, Professor Jorge Aquino (University of San Francisco) proposes a theo-politics response to Trumpism 2.0, folding the first-generation concept of mestizaje into a more intersectional framework.

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

Sponsored by Pacific School of Religion.

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.

CLGS Announces our 18th Annual | 2025 John E. Boswell Lecture

Professor Bryan Massingale Speaks on: James Baldwin and Black Queer Prophetic Lament (and Hope?)

4:00 pm on Thursday, May 8

Online

James Baldwin is often invoked as a seminal figure in Black queer thought, but he is still underutilized as a source for (white) queer theology and activism. This lecture aims to situate Baldwin in the tradition of African American prophetic theology.

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

Sponsored by Pacific School of Religion.

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.

Registration Open | Chinese Worldviews Seminar

8:00 am on Friday, May 30

Online

This course explores themes of traditional cultural and religious values & current dynamic developments in China through many special lectures from China scholars, insightful readings, and videos. 3 Fri-Sat sessions 5/30-31, 6/13-14 & 27-28. May be audited or for credit. Limited to 20 participants.

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

Sponsored by the China Academic Consortium.

FACULTY & STUDENT NEWS

Essay Competition: Comparative Theology and Peacemaking

All students of the Graduate Theological Union are invited to submit an essay of not more than 2000 words to be considered for a \$1000 scholarship award for the best essay in comparative religion or theology addressing some aspect of the role of comparative theology in peacemaking.

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

Submitted by GTU Academic Affairs.

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](#).

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.

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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