

# GTU Dean's Newsletter

APRIL 28, 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

### **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 Barbara. 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.*

---

## **Take an Afternoon Break and Join this Conversation!**

**Berkeley Palmer Lecture Student/Faculty Coffee with Dr. Lisa Bowens (Princeton)**

**3:00 pm on Friday, May 2 (Free Admission)**

**First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 2407 Dana Street, Berkeley**

NT Scholar Dr. Lisa Bowens will lead a conversation on Black Pauline interpreters of the past and their significance for American history and the church today.

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

*Sponsored by New College Berkeley.*

---

## **Gain Ideas, Inspiration, and Knowledge to Incorporate Climate Justice into your Work and**

## Life

**2025 Student Colloquium on Climate Justice and Faith**

**9:00 am on Friday, May 2**

**Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, 2000 Center St, Suite 200**

Join the PLTS Green Justice Initiative and JST Laudato Si' Action Committee for a morning of presentations on faith and climate justice, creation care, and environmental justice from students at GTU-affiliated schools and centers.

Stay after for an Asian-style plant-based lunch and conversation.

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

*Sponsored by Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.*

---

## **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 (Free Admission)**

**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.*

---

## **CTNS Public Forum with Dr. Hyung-Joo Lee**

**A New Hope for Eschatology in Cosmic Perspective: Beyond the Prediction of Standard Big Bang Cosmology**

**4:00 pm on Friday, May 16**

**Online**

Dr. Hyung-Joo Lee, a cosmologist theologian, discusses the conflict between the predictions of Big Bang cosmology and those of Christian eschatology. He proposes that the quantum nature embedded in our universe allows us to retrieve eschatological hope by opening up a new possibility.

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

*Sponsored by the GTU's Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences.*

---

## **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**

**Summer Language Courses at the GTU**

Register today for summer language courses at the GTU. The Spanish and French courses will run from July 7th to August 1st, Monday to Friday. The German course will run from July 7th- August 8th Monday-Thursday. Registration deadline is June 15th.

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

*Submitted by GTU Academic Affairs.*

---

**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.*

---

## **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.*

---

## **A New Book from CLGS: Mapping New Terrain in Queer Religious Scholarship: Essays in Honor of John Eastburn Boswell**

CLGS is proud to announce the publication of *Mapping New Terrain in Queer Religious Scholarship: Essays in Honor of John Eastburn Boswell*. Edited by Bernard Schlager, Executive Director of the Center, this book contains 11 essays based upon lectures given in our annual Boswell Lecture series.

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

*Submitted by the Pacific School of Religion.*

---

## **This I Believe – Rev. Christine Haider-Winnett (MDiv '15)**

The PSR Alumnx Council of meets bi-monthly. As a practice, they take turns sharing a personal "This I Believe." Rev. Christine Haider-Winnett shared this

reflection.

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

*Submitted by the Pacific School of Religion.*

---

## **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](mailto:errc@errchina.com).

*Submitted by China Academic Consortium.*

---

## **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

[View Online](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)