

GTU Dean's Newsletter

APRIL 7, 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](#).

ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Congratulations to All!

MA Capstone Defense Approved

Andrew Ross

Oral Comprehensive Examination Passed

Wilson Ngema

Brandon Peck

Dissertation Proposal Approved

Charissa Jaeger Sanders

Joby Joy

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Scott Spitzer

Leah Macinskas-Le

Reem Kosba

Pace Warfield

Aaron Grizzell

Erika Katske

EVENTS

Arab Women & Feminist Visions for Equity and Belonging: Knowledge Production

9:00 am on Tuesday, April 8

Online

Join us for the second installment of our Arab Women & Feminist Visions for

Equity and Belonging webinar series which will focus on the role of Arab women and feminists from the region in **knowledge production**, including education, the arts, and cultural expressions.

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

Sponsored by the Othering & Belonging Institute at UCB.

Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde to Deliver Inaugural Robert N. Bellah Lecture

5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 9

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 2407 Dana Avenue

The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, will deliver the inaugural Robert N. Bellah Lecture on Religion and Public Life, hosted by the Graduate Theological Union. The title of Budde's address is: "Following Our North Star in Tumultuous Times."

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

Sponsored by the GTU.

Private Seminar with Bishop Mariann Budde

9:30 am on Thursday, April 10

GTU Dinner Boardroom, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley

The GTU is hosting a private seminar with Bishop Mariann Budde on Thursday morning, April 10th, from 9:30–11:00. This special gathering is exclusively for PhD students affiliated with the GTU and the UC Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion. Coffee, tea, & pastries will be provided. For any questions, please contact Sam Shonkoff (sshonkoff@gtu.edu).

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

Sponsored by the GTU.

Death Cafe

3:00 pm on Thursday, April 10

Online ([via Zoom](#))

All members of the GTU Community are invited to our next Death Café, facilitated by GTU faculty. The Death Café movement began in 2011 in London. At a Death Café people drink tea, eat cake and discuss death. The aim is to increase awareness of death to help people make the most of their (finite) lives. Hosts: Professors Hannan, Dhala, Abu-Shamsieh and Esterson.

For more information, email resterson@gtu.edu or [click here](#).

Sponsored by members of the GTU Faculty.

Interfaith Chaplaincy Workshop

10:00 am on Saturday, April 12

Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley

The Institute of Buddhist Studies is hosting an interfaith chaplaincy workshop in person and virtual 10am-12 pm. Come in-person and stay for lunch or join via Zoom online. RSVP by April 7. The program features three practicing chaplains.

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

Sponsored by the GTU's Interreligious Chaplaincy Program

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.

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.

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.

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

4:00 pm on Friday, April 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 the UC's Institute for Buddhist Studies and the Berkeley Center for the Study 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.

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: Student - Editorial Assistant, CTNS

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

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

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.

Sit in on a Therapy Session with Eve and Adam!

Doug Adams Gallery at the GTU

"Eve's Eden" in the Doug Adams Gallery turns the traditional Garden of Eden myth on its head. Take a seat in one of our directors' chairs and put on the headphones to join a therapy session with real life marriage counselor Marion Usher, who talks Eve and Adam through their relationship issues.

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

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

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.

Position Open: Humanities Adjunct Instructor

Diablo Valley College (DVC) is looking for an adjunct instructor to teach Humanities courses in their Art and Communication division.

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

Sponsored by the GTU Academic Affairs.



Our mailing address is:
Graduate Theological Union
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