

# GTU Dean's Newsletter

MARCH 31, 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

### **Transgender Day of Visibility 2025: A CLGS/PSR Chapel Service**

**11:10 am on Tuesday, April 1**

**Bade Museum, 1798 Scenic Ave, Berkeley, and Online**

This Community Chapel at Pacific School of Religion will provide a time to gather together for our annual celebration of Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV)! TDOV is a worldwide celebration that honors the lives and contributions of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming persons.

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

*Sponsored by the Pacific School of Religion.*

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### **Unafraid Symposium 2025**

**10:00 am on Wednesday, April 2**

**Online**

Celebrating academic excellence of PSR students, our Unafraid Symposium's theme this year is "Emerging Paths of Being, Doing & Disruption." This year's symposium explores disruption as an act of justice and transformation. It asks, "How can our being and doing embody disruption?"

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

*Sponsored by the Pacific School of Religion.*

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# **Living in Tension: Queer Identities and Navigating the Fundamentalist Church with Dr. Eric Hess | A CLGS Lavender Lunch**

**1:00 pm on Thursday, April 3**

**Online**

This workshop delves into Dr. Hess' research exploring the experiences of Queer students navigating fundamentalist Christian educational institutions. Through poignant narratives, we will have the opportunity to hear stories of hope, humor, resilience, and profound challenge.

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

*Sponsored by the Pacific School of Religion.*

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## **BST's First Friday Lunch & Learn Series:**

**Emotions & Imagination in the Context of Christian Preaching**

**12:00 pm on Friday, April 4**

**Online - Register to receive the link.**

Dr. Park's talk will consider varying traditions that either prioritize or downplay emotional appeals. He aims to promote further discussion about the connection between emotions, imagination, and Christian discourse, considering cultural differences in the process.

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

*Sponsored by the Berkeley School of Theology.*

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## **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.*

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## **Death Café**

**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](mailto:resterson@gtu.edu) or [click here](#).

*Sponsored by members of the GTU Faculty.*

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## **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.*

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## **METAMORPHOSIS: CJS Annual Conference**

**Galit Hasan-Rokem to Deliver Keynote Address at CJS Conference**

**9:00 am - 5:00 pm on Thursday, 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.*

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## **Looking Back to Look Forward: Black Pauline Interpreters of the Past Speaking to our Future**

**Berkeley Palmer Lecture - Free Student/Faculty Lunch Conversation**

**12:00 pm on Friday, May 2**

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

Many African Americans utilized scripture in their struggle for liberation and justice. Dr. Lisa Bowens of Princeton will share about the writings of black interpreters of the Apostle Paul and their significance today. Come join the dialogue over lunch!

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

*Sponsored by New College Berkeley.*

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## **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.*

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### 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!

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### Borsch-Rast Lecture by Julia Watts Belser: Recording Available

You can find a video recording of Julia Watts Belser's March 20th Borsch-Rast lecture at the GTU on YouTube. Julia shares insights from her award-winning book, *Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole*.

To listen, [click here](#).

*Sponsored by the GTU Dean's Office.*

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### 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.*

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### 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.*

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## **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.*

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## **Summer 2025 Interreligious Research Grants | Madrasa-Midrasha Program**

Each year the Madrasa-Midrasha Program offers summer research grants for students working on interreligious projects related to Judaism and Islam, funded through generous support by the **Walter & Elise Haas Fund**.

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

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## **Call for Submissions to 2025 Climate Justice and Faith Student Colloquium**

The PLTS Green Justice Seminary Initiative and JST Laudato Si' Action Committee invite MA and MDiv students at GTU-affiliated schools and centers to present at a Climate Justice and Faith Colloquium May 2, 2025. Interested students must submit a proposal for a 15-minute presentation by April 1st.

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

*Submitted by PLTS.*

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## **Chinese University of Hong Kong - Term Time Exchange**

We are pleased to announce that the application for the 2025-26 Term 1 Exchange Programme at The Chinese University of Hong Kong is now open.

We cordially invite GTU students to apply for this enriching academic experience and broaden their horizons. Application deadline is April 1, 2025.

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

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