

# GTU Dean's Newsletter

MAY 5, 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!**

#### **Comprehensive Proposal Approved**

Yae In Min

#### **Comprehensive Examination Passed**

Sophie Callahan  
Brandon Peck

#### **Dissertation Proposal Approved**

Sami Ameri  
Joshua Garcia  
Justin Grosnick

#### **Dissertation Successfully Defended**

Sara Ivanhoe  
San Pil Yun

## EVENTS

### **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.*

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## **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.*

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## **Living Cornerstones: Sacred Stories of LGBTQ+ Employees in Catholic Institutions – A Conversation with the Authors**

**A CLGS Lavender Lunch**

**1:00 pm on Tuesday, May 15**

**Online**

At this CLGS Lavender Lunch we will explore the recently-published book *Cornerstones: Sacred Stories of LGBTQ+ Employees in Catholic Institutions*. This book offers 12 stories of faith, sacrifice, joy, and pain by LGBTQ+ people who have been employed by Catholic parishes and schools.

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

*Sponsored by Pacific School of Religion.*

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## **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.*

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## **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.*

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## **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.*

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## FACULTY & STUDENT NEWS

### **Madrasa-Midrasha Summer Institute 2025**

**July 7th through July 25th**

**Applications for Hebrew/Arabic Tuition Scholarship Due 5/10/25**

The Madrasa-Midrasha Summer Program 2025 is pleased to offer GTU students scholarship support for language study in Hebrew or Arabic this summer. The Arabic Studies component is offered to GTU students taking Arabic language courses at UCB, or any other approved course at any level. To be considered for the Hebrew/Arabic tuition scholarship, write to Mahjabeen Dhala [mdhala@gtu.edu](mailto:mdhala@gtu.edu) by May 10th, 2025.

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

For questions, please contact Dr. Aranoff at [daranoff@gtu.edu](mailto:daranoff@gtu.edu).

*Sponsored by the GTU's Madrasa-Midrasha Program.*

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### **Last Chance to Experience Eve's Eden!**

**Exhibition Closing Party and Fundraiser**

**Doug Adams Gallery, 2400 Ridge Rd, Berkeley**

Join CARE in the Doug Adams Gallery on Thursday, May 15 from 4-7pm for one last chance to experience Eve's Eden before it closes on May 23. Enjoy refreshments, mingle, and have the chance to take an original artwork home with you!

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

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

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### **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.*

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## **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.*

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## **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.*

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## **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.*

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## **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.*

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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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## 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.

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

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