

## GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

# THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

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NOVEMBER 2014

### SHOULD SCHOLARS OF RELIGION TAKE A STAND?

ARTHUR HOLDER ACADEMIC DEAN

The current President of the American Academy of Religion is Laurie Zoloth, who received her Ph.D. from the GTU in 1993 and was our Alum of the Year in 2005. A bioethicist who teaches at Northwestern University, Dr. Zoloth has selected a theme for the upcoming AAR meeting in San Diego: Climate Change and the Coming Global Crisis. In announcing this focus for the annual meeting, she wrote:

"As many of you know and teach, religion's texts, traditions, narratives, laws, rituals, and community practices are a rich source for response to the crisis, and provide a long history of thought about the relationship between humans and the living environment, and of the way that the poor, most especially, need to be considered in our response. It is our scholarly duty, I would argue, that we bring forward a scholarship from a wide set of traditions that may suggest a meaningful set of actions in response to an unprecedented and shared crisis." (<http://rel.as.ua.edu/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/A>

-Message-to-Program-Unit-Chairs-from-President-Elect-Laurie-Zoloth.pdf)

Zoloth's call for scholars of religion to get involved in developing a response to climate change has not gone unchallenged. Professor Russell McCutcheon of the University of Alabama has written that although he is no denier of climate change, he doesn't think that a response to it lies within the scope of his professional expertise:

"For only if we presume that (A) the object studied by scholars of religion is somehow necessarily beneficial and that (B) those who study it therefore have some special duty to spread the good news of their findings to the benefit of humankind, would a convention of scholars of religion (whether humanists, social scientists, or theologians of whatever stripe) be called upon to apply their research to help solve the climate change crisis." (<https://www.equinoxpub.com/>

[blog/2013/02/critical-thinking-begins-at-home](http://blog/2013/02/critical-thinking-begins-at-home))

I have had to reflect on Professor McCutcheon's argument. Do I really believe that (A) religious traditions are necessarily beneficial, and (B) those who study them have a duty to spread the good news of those religions for the benefit of humankind?

I certainly don't believe that every teaching or practice of every religion is a good thing, and as a scholar I don't believe that my job is to proselytize on behalf of religion in general, or any religion in particular. But I do believe that religion (in the sense of Paul Tillich's "ultimate concern") is constitutive of human life. I believe that people need to think critically and act intentionally from within their religious traditions. And I believe that as a scholar I need to help people do their thinking and acting, and do it well. So yes, I do believe that scholars of religion ought to take a stand. That is why I'm looking forward to the annual meeting of the AAR (and SBL too) in San Diego.

### ANNUAL GTU RECEPTION AT AAR/SBL

All GTU students, faculty, and alumni attending this year's annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature in San Diego are invited to attend the GTU Reception, where we will celebrate and honor our 2014 Alumna of the Year, Dr. Suzanne Holland (PhD, '97). The reception will be held on Saturday, Novem-

ber 22, from 8:00 to 11:00 pm in the Harbor Terrace at the Grand Hyatt, 1 Market Place, San Diego, CA 92101.

Members of the GTU community planning to attend the reception are encouraged to RSVP by Friday, November 14, to [alumni@gtu.edu](mailto:alumni@gtu.edu), 510-649-2431.

The GTU welcomes prospective students to join us for this evening of good food and company. If you are a prospective student, please contact us so we can connect you with faculty, students, and graduates with whom you might explore your interests. You may confirm your attendance with us at [gtuadm@gtu.edu](mailto:gtuadm@gtu.edu), or call 800-826-4488.

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## NOVEMBER PDP EVENTS

### November 5th: Interview Panel

#### GTU Student Lounge, 1pm

GTU faculty who have recently graduated from doctoral programs will speak about their experiences interviewing for academic and administrative positions.

Panel participants: Yii-Jan Lin, Katia Miles, Sharon Fennima, and Kathryn Barush. If you plan on applying for academic and administrative jobs you are strongly encouraged to attend this panel.

### November 12th: Active Voice Workshop

#### GTU student lounge, 10-12pm

If you have been told that your writing is not clear, that you should use “active voice,” that your reader doesn’t understand your point, if you are concerned that your writing is dry, boring, confusing, too simple, too complicated, or not academic enough then the active voice workshop is for you.



## ART AS ACTIVISM: HUMAN RIGHTS & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

### Thursday November 20

5-7pm

#### Doug Adams Gallery, CARE

Join us for a thought-provoking panel discussion about human rights, inspired by the exhibition “Queer Santas: Holy Violence,” featuring

works by Alma López.

Guests:

Kim Thuy Seelinger is the Director of the Sexual Violence Program at the Human Rights Center, UC Berkeley School of Law. With broad field experience, she focuses on refugee law, persecution based on sexual orientation,

and health and gender-based violence.

Beverly Allen, Professor Emerita at Syracuse University and CARE instructor, is the author of *Rape Warfare: The Hidden Genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina*, as well as several award-winning screenplays on the subject.



## CENTER FOR THEOLOGY & THE NATURAL SCIENCES: UPCOMING EVENTS

### Thursday November 6, 5:00-6:30PM

PLTS and CTNS are having a book launch

Ted Peters’ *UFOs: God’s Chariots? Spirituality, Ancient Aliens, And Religious Yearnings in the Age of Extraterrestrials*

PLTS Chapel Classroom 2770  
Marin Avenue Berkeley, CA 94708

<http://www.plts.edu/peters-book.html>

### Thursday November 13, 7PM

The Swedenborgian House of Studies and The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences public lecture

David Dunér, History of Science and Ideas and the Centre for Cognitive Semiotics, Lund University, Sweden

The History and Philosophy of Astrobiology

PSR Chapel

1798 Scenic Drive, Berkeley CA

### Sunday November 23, 7PM-10PM

Coronado Ballroom A, Grand Hyatt San Diego

Science and Religion Hospitality Event – AAR/SBL Annual Meeting

This is a Joint event of the Institute for Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS), Zygon Center for Religion and Science (ZCRS), Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS), & Institute for the Bio-Cultural Study of Religion (IBCSR)



## NUFA GUKURU - MY SPIRIT DANCES

**November 5, 2014**

**6pm - 7:30pm**

Flora Lamson

Hewlett Library

Graduate Theological Union

2400 Ridge Road

Berkeley, CA

Free and Open to the Public

In celebration of "Formless Form: the Art of Sho, the Majikina Honryu Ryubu Dojo Aigen no Kai presents "Nufa

gukuru" (能羽こころ)

"My Spirit Dances." The Majikina Honryu troupe will perform a selection of dances and songs taken from kumi wudui, a form of traditional theater that dramatizes Ryūkyūan legends and folklore. The troupe continues the work of Majikina Yūkō 真境名由康 (1889-1982), who, after the four-month

Battle of Okinawa, together with his troupe, performed in villages throughout the island to uplift and fortify the spirits of a traumatized populace. In 1972 the Japanese Government recognized kumi wudui to be an Important Intangible Cultural Treasure; and in 2010 it was inscribed on the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



## WE REMEMBER YOU: 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UCA MARTYRS

Six Jesuits and their companions were executed during the Salvadoran Civil War on November 16, 1989, at the campus of Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) in San Salvador, El Salvador. Come and remember the lives of those lost, be inspired by their courage, and pray for the healing of our world.

**November 3 - 17 | Pray the Stations**

Pray the stations of the martyrs, available in JST during the first

two weeks of November.

**Tuesday, Nov. 11 | Reflect & Learn More**

Attend a special liturgy, followed by a pupusa supper and a brief speaker/video (and sharing) that connects the lives of the martyrs to our own.

--5:15 pm: Liturgy in JST Chapel followed by pupusa supper

--6:30 pm: Brief speaker/video and sharing

**Wednesday, Nov. 12 | Hear the Eyewitness**

Make a pilgrimage to Santa Clara University (SCU) to hear eyewitness Lucia Cerna give her account of November 16, 1989. Sign up at the JST front desk by Friday, November 7.

--2:30 pm: Meet at JST. Transportation provided.

--4:00 - 5:15 pm: Event at SCU. Reception following.



## INTROSPECTION AND RELIGIOUS IDEAS IN THEOPHANIS'S "LADDER OF DIVINE GRACES"

**Tuesday, November 11, 2014, 7:30 pm, Board Room, Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute 2311 Hearst Avenue Berkeley, CA 94709**

What is the relationship between introspection, prayer and religious thought? We will discuss the living modes of introspection in the Hesychastic Prayer of the Heart and their connection with the ancient metaphor of the Ladder (or in some cases, staircase)

associated with the spiritual progression of the soul. From the example of the poem in the Philokalia by the 7th century Theophanis the Monk, I will demonstrate how ideas from Gnostic sects, the neo-Pythagorean legacy and possibly Mithraic influences are interlaced with exclusively Christian introspective prayer, and how historical-textual analysis combined with phenomenological analytic methods further the hermeneutic retrieval of strata of idea-formation in religious

history.

Among Prof. Louchakova-Schwartz's research interests are cognitive phenomenology of religious thought and the neurological correlates of introspective prayer, including previously unreported structure of introspective self-experience underlying the concept of the "ladder of spiritual ascent" in Christianity, as well as homologous concepts in other traditions.



Olga Louchakova-Schwartz Professor of Psychology and Comparative Religion and Director of Research at Sofia University, and Visiting Scholar at the Graduate Theological Union.

## A NOTE FROM THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

### Intercession and Spring 2015 Early Registration will be available via WebAdvisor from Monday, November 10th through Friday, November 21st 2014.

The procedures are the same as during General Registration with the following exception: during the first week of Early Registration, students planning to enroll in restricted courses should contact the relevant faculty for PIN codes. Faculty should notify you of the PIN

code no later than Tuesday, November 18th. After November 21st, WebAdvisor registration will be closed until Spring 2015 General Registration.

If you are planning to cross-register for a course at Holy Names, Mills, or UC Berkeley, or are taking a Special Reading Course, remember to enter the generic course number and the appropriate number of units in WebAdvisor, as well as submit the appropriate form for the course. The generic course number for all cross-

registration classes is UCB 9000 01, and for a Special Reading Course is SRC 9999 01. If your Special Reading Course is an upgrade, please register for SRC 8888 01.

Cross-registration forms are due in the Registrar's Office at the end of the first week of classes. Remember that UCB classes begin on January 20th. SRC forms are due at the end of the second week of classes.

When submitting an SRC form for an upgrade, please note the class being upgraded on the form!

Your Health Insurance selection remains the same as in the Fall, and you won't need to enter it again, unless you wish to change your selection.

## CENTER FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES: NEWS & EVENTS

The Center for Islamic Studies will be co-sponsoring the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California's (ICCNC) Art & Culture and Islam & Authors programs this Fall. The following are events for the month of November:

Nov. 8 -22, 5-7PM: "Freedom & Enlightenment" Art Exhibition. A group exhibition featuring outstanding works of Iranian-American and Iranian artists. Exhibition runs from Nov. 8 – 22 on Saturdays and Mondays at 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Fee: Free

Nov. 22, 4-6:30PM: Traditional Persian Painting Workshop by Maryam Vesal. Hands-on introduction workshop to arabesque and floral designs and Tazheeb (illumination) techniques. Fee: \$45 regular/ \$35 students; Space is limited, register before Nov. 20 at [www.ziyaart.com](http://www.ziyaart.com).

Nov. 14, 8PM: Muslim Writers Collective's Open Mic Events. A monthly Open Mic event (on 2nd Fridays) to share writings, stories, and spoken word. For more information, sign up to participate, and check each month's theme please

email [mwc.bayarea.ca@gmail.com](mailto:mwc.bayarea.ca@gmail.com). Fee: Free

The ICCNC is located at 1433 Madison Street., Oakland Ca 94612. For more information, please see <http://www.iccnc.org/new-season-art-culture-events/>.

The Center for Islamic Studies will be co-sponsoring the Annual Conference of the Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society (MIAS). This year's conference theme will be Symbols of Transformation: Jesus & Mary in the Teachings of Ibn 'Arabi. The conference will explore Ibn 'Arabi's profound insights into the spiritual realities of Jesus and Mary, offering a fresh perspective of their place in the prophetic lineage stretching from Adam to Mohammad, as well as the powerful message of personal transformation that their spiritual meanings embody.

The conference will take place on Friday, Nov. 14, 6:45-9PM and Saturday, Nov. 15, 8:45-5PM at Zaytuna College, 2401 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709. For more information and

registration, please see <http://www.ibnarabisociety.org/events/berkeley2014/index.html>.

CIS Visiting Scholar Carol Bier will be giving a paper (to be published in the conference proceedings) titled "Inscribed Cotton Ikat from Yemen in the Tenth Century CE" at the International Shibori Symposium in Hangzhou, China, Nov. 2-4. More information about the Symposium is available at <http://9iss.wordpress.com/about-2/>.

The Center for Islamic Studies will be co-sponsoring a lecture with Mohammed Rustom titled "English as an Islamic Language," Thursday, Nov. 13, 6-7:30PM, at Zaytuna College, 2401 Le Conte Ave, Berkeley CA 94709. Taking as our point of departure the ways in which Islam has historically been naturalized into variegated linguistic contexts, we will attempt to outline some of the challenges and possibilities inherent in any meaningful articulation of an English-language Islam. As a case

study, an Islamic philosophical and theological work (written in English) will then be presented. The explicit goal here will be to mold the English language so as to articulate the fundamentals of Islamic metaphysics in an indigenous manner. Not only will this exercise prove to be useful for pointing up the continued contemporary relevance of philosophical and theological thinking, but it will also afford us a window into how an English-language Islamic intellectual project can be crafted today.

Friday, Nov. 21, 7:30PM: "When Might Makes Right: Strategies of Resistance," a conversation with Shaykh Hamza Yusuf and Chris Hedg-es. Topics to be covered will include the ISIS crisis, the broader Middle East, to Wall Street and state militarism. The program will be held right at Zaytuna College, 2401 Le Conte Ave., Berkeley CA 94709, and is co-sponsored by the Center for Islamic Studies.



## PACIFIC COAST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING NOVEMBER 7-8

"Then and Now: 75 Years of Pushing Theological Boundaries"

You are cordially invited to attend the Fall Meeting of the Pacific Coast Theological Society (PCTS) on Friday, November 7 from 1:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 8 from 9 a.m.–noon in the Tucson Room at Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

As PCTS celebrates 75 years as a society the theme is "Then and Now: 75 Years of Pushing Theological Boundaries" with papers relating to the first PCTS Meeting held in October 1939. The Friday afternoon session begins with a paper by Ted Peters (PLTS) entitled "What is essential in the Christian religion? Is Protestantism a positive principle?" with a response by Jack Crossley (USC). This is followed by the paper, "Christianity in History, Then and Now?" by Andrew Porter (GTU) and respondent Doug McGaughey (Willamette). Saturday

morning, the paper entitled, "If That Was Then, What is Now? James Muilenburg, Ourselves and Religious Discourse" by Barbara Green (DSPT) is discussed—Gina Hens-Piazza (JST) will respond. Lastly, Herman Waetjen (SFTS Emeritus) closes the Meeting with his paper, "A Look at 'The Jesus of History and the Church' by Randolph Crump Miller" with respondent Jack Crossley (USC). As is the custom of the Society, reading links are posted on the PCTS website ([www.pcts.org/meetings/2014/Fall.html](http://www.pcts.org/meetings/2014/Fall.html)) and texts should be read ahead of time.

Free Public Lecture Friday Evening: Richard Payne, Dean and Yehan Numata Professor of Japanese Buddhist Studies (Institute of Buddhist Studies) will bring insight into the challenges of pluralism, particularly as encountered by Christian theologians in response to Buddhist thought. According to Payne, the tendency of Christian theologians to

use their own familiar categories is "a fundamentally Procrustean interpretive strategy [that] impedes the apprehension of pluralism." Please join us Friday evening, November 7 at 7 p.m. in the Tucson Room at CDSP, when Dean Payne shares an alternative dialectic in his public lecture entitled "Crossing Streams in the Dark: Orthogonal Wanderings."

Registration fees are located on the PCTS website ([www.pcts.org/register.html](http://www.pcts.org/register.html)) and may also be paid at the Meeting.

PCTS is a professional society dedicated to the exchange of views on topics germane to the theological endeavor. Membership is open to scholars and students interested in the theological endeavor broadly defined. Dues are \$45 per academic year and \$22.50 for students. Go to [www.pcts.org](http://www.pcts.org) for further information.



Richard K. Payne,  
Dean and  
Yehan Numata  
Professor of Japanese  
Buddhist Studies  
Institute of Buddhist  
Studies

## DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE: NOVEMBER 6, 2014, 7PM

Dr. Christopher Ocker, Professor of Church History at San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS) will deliver the 2014 Distinguished Faculty Lecture on Thursday, November 6, 2014, 7:00pm at the PSR Chapel. The Distinguished Faculty Lecture is entitled "Reformations that Matter (and Some that Don't)." Does the Reformation matter? Protestant traditionalists, evangelical activists, Catholic conciliarists, and European and Ameri-

can secularists have all claimed ownership. Pundits say: Islam needs one, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews have had their own, and Christianity is cycling into another Reformation right now. Historians, meanwhile, have broadened, qualified, and relativized the historical concept of the Reformation into a fine powder. So, what must an historian of religion or a theologian tell us about a half-millennium ago that helps us understand the riddle of

right now? What are the Reformations that matter, and why? The response will be given by Dr. Augustine Thompson, Professor of History at the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology (DSPT). Immediately following the lecture, there will be a reception in the Doug Adams Gallery across the courtyard from the PSR Chapel.



Dr. Christopher Ocker  
Professor of Church  
History at San  
Francisco Theological  
Seminary

## GTU GRADUATE FAIR, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

All are welcome to attend the GTU Graduate Fair on Sunday, November 9, 2014, from 2:00-4:30pm in the Dinner Board Room at the Flora Lamson Hewett Library, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA 94709. Invite friends, family, and coworkers to explore the oppor-

tunities for master's level study at the GTU and our member schools.

Plan to stay for the whole event! There will be faculty and student panels, refreshments, and time for conversation with admissions representatives from the various

schools within the GTU consortium. Please feel free to contact our admissions staff at [gtuadm@gtu.edu](mailto:gtuadm@gtu.edu) or 510-649-2460 with any questions and to RSVP.

GTU LIBRARY  
HOURS FOR  
THANKSGIVING  
WED. NOV. 26-  
CLOSE 2PM  
THURS. & FRI.  
NOV. 27 AND  
28TH CLOSED  
SAT. & SUN.  
NOV. 29 &  
30 NORMAL  
WEEKEND HOURS

## NEWHALL APPLICATIONS DUE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2014

The 2015-2016 Newhall Awards (competitive awards for GTU doctoral students engaged in collaborative teaching or research with GTU Faculty mentors) proposals are due in the GTU Dean's Office by 5pm, Friday, November 14. Complete proposals include the Newhall Award Application form available on the GTU webpage and must come from the stu-

dent, and the professor and student for a project involving both. The form contains all guidelines and criteria the Dean and Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee use to select award recipients. If you have questions, please contact the GTU Dean's Office (amunoz@gtu.edu or 649-2440).



## CHAN PRIZE RECIPIENT

Congratulations to second year Ph.D. student in the Systematic and Philosophical Theology area, Henry Kuo whose paper entitled, "Virtue, Law, and the Ethics of Economic Rescue Litigation: Distributive Justice, Civil Law, and the Troubled Asset Relief Program" was

selected for the 2014 Chan Prize. Since 1989, the Chan competition's purpose is to reward the thoughtful, creative work of students who are seeking authentically to bring together theological (including ethical, Biblical, constructive) reflection on the year's topic (which alter-

nates). The topic for 2014 was Religion and Economics. (Next year the topic will be Identity and Practice Across Boundaries: exploring a particular concept, theme, or practice in two or more religions, e.g. Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, etc.).

## PSR: CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

**November 12, 2014**

**Johana Rocha: "People, Profits and the Planet: Prospects in the Face of Corporate Supremacy"**  
**Pacific School of Religion, Badè Museum, 1798 Scenic Avenue in Berkeley**  
**Reception 6:15**  
**Lecture 7:00pm**

Human rights defender Johana Rocha will be traveling throughout the Northeast and Bay Area between October

24th and November 16th to talk to audiences about environmental extractivism and human rights.  
<http://transformationpsr.wordpress.com/welcome/events/november-12-2014-johana-rocha/>

Sponsored by the Center for Spiritual and Social Transformation, FOR Peace Presence Tierra Digna, PSR Contextual Learning

**December 11, 2014**

**Andrea Smith: "Decolonizing Spirituality"**  
**Pacific School of Religion, Badè Museum, 1798 Scenic Avenue in Berkeley**  
**Reception 6:00 pm, Lecture 7:00pm**

Andrea Smith is Assistant Professor of Media and Cultural Studies at UC Riverside. She is the award-winning author and/or editor of several books, including Native Americans

and the Christian Right: The Gendered Politics of Unlikely Alliances; Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide; The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: Beyond the Nonprofit Industrial Complex; and Color of Violence: The INCITE! Anthology.

Sponsored by the Center for Spiritual and Social Transformation and the PSR Change-maker Fellowship

2014-2015 CYCLE #1 STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS

The following GTU doctoral students will be presenting at the 2014 AAR/SBL Conferences in San Diego, CA, and other comparable national conferences (listed in that order). Each has received a Student Travel Grant Award from the GTU Dean's Office.

Wendy Arce "Curanderas, Hechiceras, and Paranormal Activities: A comparison of the Cultural and religious Portrayals of Latinas/os in Bless me Ultima and Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones" and "Fierceness and Four-inch Heels: Exploring the Experiences of Young, Women of Color Professors in the Undergraduate College Classroom";

Peter Doebler "Seeing the Things You Cannot See: (Dis)-solving the Sublime in Interreligious Aesthetics through the Paintings of Hiroshi Senju";

Sean Gross "Let Your Conscience Be Your Guide: A Catholic Approach to Practical Theology Methodology";

Leigh Ann Hildebrand "High Shine, Heart and Soul/Sole Care: Bootblacking, Families of Choice, and Women's Leather Community" and "Born this Way? Keshet, AhavaRaba, Gefilte Fetish and Jewish Conversion";

Eunjoo Kim "A Reinterpretation of North Korean Refugee Women's Spaces in a Perspective of Postcolonial Feminist Theory";

Henry Kuo "An Asian American Theological Awakening: Mondialization and the Church";

Michelle Mueller "Embracing the Ordeal Path: Sacred BDSM among Contemporary Pagans";

Sheri Prud'homme "Naturalizing Whiteness: Thomas Starr King's Theology of Nature and the Project of Nation Building";

Ikani Fakasiieiki "Fakaeve: An Island reading of 1 Kings 17:7-24";

Cesar Melgar "Surviving Words: A Dialogical Reading of Jeremiah 36";

Mary Wong Cheng "This is Your Brain on Wesley's Music";

Elizabeth Ingenthron "(Un)making Violence Against Racialized Women through Critical Religious Pedagogies: Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Feminist Perspectives";

Reem Javed ""(Un)making Violence Against Racialized Women through Critical Religious Pedagogies: Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Feminist Perspectives";

Amanda Kaminski "Scandalous Prayer: Lament as Protest in an Intertextual Reading of Lamentations 1-2 and Pray the Devil Back to Hell";

Katia Moles "Enfolding Spirituality into the Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education Curriculum";

Mauricio Najarro "Ora et labora: Orientation and Apprenticeship in the Writings of Edith Stein and Simone Weil";

Khalia Jelks Williams "Finding Grace: A Womanist Understanding of Liturgy, Spirituality and the Body";



**PRAYING A LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT**  
 A DAY LONG WORKSHOP BY JEFF GAINES. THROUGH IMAGINATION, DISCUSSION, LECTURE AND HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE THIS WORKSHOP WILL EXPLORE CREATING A LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT FOR THE SEASON OF LENT.  
 SATURDAY  
 NOVEMBER 8, 2014  
 FROM 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM PST  
 ADD TO CALENDAR  
 SAN FRANCISCO  
 THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
 107 SEMINARY ROAD  
 GENEVA HALL - ROOM 100  
 SAN ANSELMO, CA  
 CONTACT  
 LUCAS WALKER  
 415-451-2840  
 EVENTS@SFTS.EDU

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES: NEWS & EVENTS



**How Palestinians Read the Bible with Niveen Sarras**

**Monday November 17  
 12:30PM Hedco Room 2465  
 LeConte  
 Berkeley, CA**

All GTU Students and Faculty Welcome  
 Lunch will be served

**Hasidism Reconsidered  
 November 13th, 2014 at the  
 GTU Library Board Room**

From its inception, the phenomenon of Hasidim has provoked a series of still unsettled questions. What accounts for the astounding popularity of the movement? What role did women play in the newly formed Hasidic social formations? How does Hasidim relate to earlier Jewish mystical trends? Was Hasidim a radical or conservative

movement? How did Hasidim leave its mark on the Hebrew and Yiddish literature of the modern period?

Join us as we consider these and other themes at a conference hosted by the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies at the Graduate Theological Union. Additional support for Marcin Wodzinski's visit provided by the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture.



# HONORABLE MENTION

## PHD STUDENTS

**\*Correction from the October GTU Dean's Newsletter, these students passed their Hebrew Language Exams**

Conrad Bayor, BIBL  
Tae Woong Lee, BIBL  
Yoon Kyung Kim, BIBL

## Comprehensive Exam Proposal Approved

Diandra Chretain, BIBL  
Jeannette Henriquez, IDS  
Seung Hyun Yoo, THEO  
Justin Tanis, IDS  
Mohammad Waqas Sajjad, CHSR

## Oral Comprehensive Exam Passed

Luke Devine, SPRT  
Nathan Bjorge, THEO

## Advanced to Candidacy

Kyoung-Hee Lee, SPRT  
Austin Leininger, ETHC  
Daniel DeForest London, SPRT  
Abdul Hamid Robinson-Royal, CHSR

# GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

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## THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

The Dean's Newsletter is for official notices from the GTU Dean's Office regarding academic affairs and for announcements of educational events (lectures, conferences) focusing on academic research and thus of particular interest to faculty and MA and PhD students. Send submissions to Angela Muñoz, [amunoz@gtu.edu](mailto:amunoz@gtu.edu).