

GTU DEAN'S NEWSLETTER



Preparing for a Visit

With a spirit of warmth, gratitude, and openness, the GTU will welcome to our campus the accreditation team members of the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). Our visitors will arrive in the Bay Area on Tuesday, October 3, and be on campus with us from Wednesday morning through Friday morning. The visiting team will have opportunities to meet with all members of our community in open sessions for staff, students, faculty, and the board of trustees. There will also be a few small-group meetings and some individual interviews. The visiting team has already pored over our Self-Study Report and engaged numerous other documents to gain a good snapshot of where the GTU is right now.

The visiting team is composed of academic administrators and faculty from our peer institutions who volunteer their time, expertise, and energy to serve as our evaluators. Likewise, the GTU voluntarily participates in accreditation. The standards we seek to hold ourselves accountable to are our standards that we affirm through our voluntary relationships of accountability with both of our accreditors.

As the GTU Dean, I am deeply appreciative of the way our community has already engaged in our reaccreditation process with interest, vigor, curiosity, and thoughtfulness. Living together through a reaccreditation is the communal equivalent of living an examined life. It is a privilege to devote our time, energy, and resources to reaccreditation because it helps us identify our strengths and challenges and encourages us to plan for continual improvement.

I'll close with an image that keeps coming to mind and making me laugh. When Doug and I were newly married in our twenties, I remember we used to go through a big cleaning flurry before our parents came to visit us—picking up piles of papers from the dining room table, running the vacuum, and tossing discarded shoes (mostly mine) back in the closet. Now, with our son in his twenties and living with his partner in Sacramento, Doug and I go through a similar flurry of cleaning before the “kids” come to visit as well!

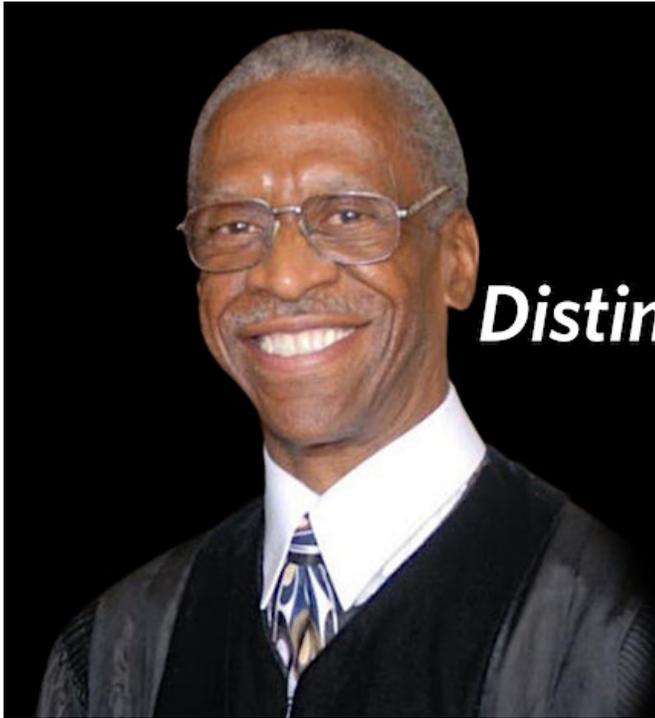
It's natural to want to put our best foot forward to make a good impression even with those who know us the best—even though they know there were piles of paper on the table just hours before they arrived. Of course, we have the same inclination when preparing for the visiting team from WSCUC. We do have a lot to be proud of and celebrate when we talk with the team. But they also already know about the piles of papers—the difficulties and challenges we face. They will want to know that we know what we are facing. And they will want to know what we are planning to do to meet our challenges. I have every confidence that we are able to speak to those things thoughtfully and with clarity. Let's do this!

Jennifer W. Davidson, PhD

Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Inside This Issue

From the Dean.....	1
Announcements.....	3
Academic Achievements/ Deadlines.....	5
Library News.....	7
Digital Learning.....	13
CARe.....	14
CDS.....	16
CIS.....	18
CJS.....	20
CTNS.....	22
BAIPP.....	23
ICP.....	24
Mormon Studies.....	26
WRS.....	28
Member Schools News	
BST.....	32
PLTS.....	33
PSR GLCS.....	34



GTU Dean Presents

48th Annual Distinguished Faculty Lecture

Presented by
Dorsey Odell Blake

November 7, 2023



Tuesday, November 7 | 5 pm (Pacific) | Hybrid Event

Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake will present the 48th Annual Distinguished Faculty Lecture titled, “Howard Thurman: Seeking, Queering, and Transcending” on November 7, 2023, at 5:00 PM PST.

Each November, the GTU faculty honors a distinguished professor who embodies the scholarly standards, teaching excellence and commitment to ecumenism that defines the GTU. Nominations are made by GTU faculty and are then considered by the Council of Deans, which selects the lecturer.

The Rev. Dr. Blake is Faculty Associate, Leadership and Social Transformation, at Pacific School of Religion, a member school of the GTU. He also served for six years as Dean of Faculty and Visiting Professor of Spirituality and Prophetic Justice at Starr King School for the Ministry, a former member school of the GTU.

The event will be hybrid with an in-person audience located in the GTU Dinner Board Room, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library. Contact Sabrina Kennedy by October 25th by 5:00 pm at skennedy@gtu.edu if you would like to attend in person. Register on [Eventbrite](#) to attend online.

Announcements

Professional Development Program

In keeping with the tradition of providing ongoing support opportunities for our students, Student Affairs is resuming a modified schedule of fall 2023 workshops for our Professional Development Program (PDP), and we would be delighted to invite you to participate. The PDP helps doctoral students develop academic and non-academic skills that contribute to professional success. This is accomplished with a series of workshops offered throughout the year, with an emphasis on doctoral progression in the fall, and external networking in spring.

OCTOBER PDP WORKSHOPS

NEWHALL FELLOWSHIPS

FACILATED BY

DR. DIANDRA ERICKSON

Wednesday, October 4 | 2023 10-11 AM

ZOOM: [985 1875 3152](https://gtu.zoom.us/j/98518753152)

EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMIC WRITING

FACILATED BY

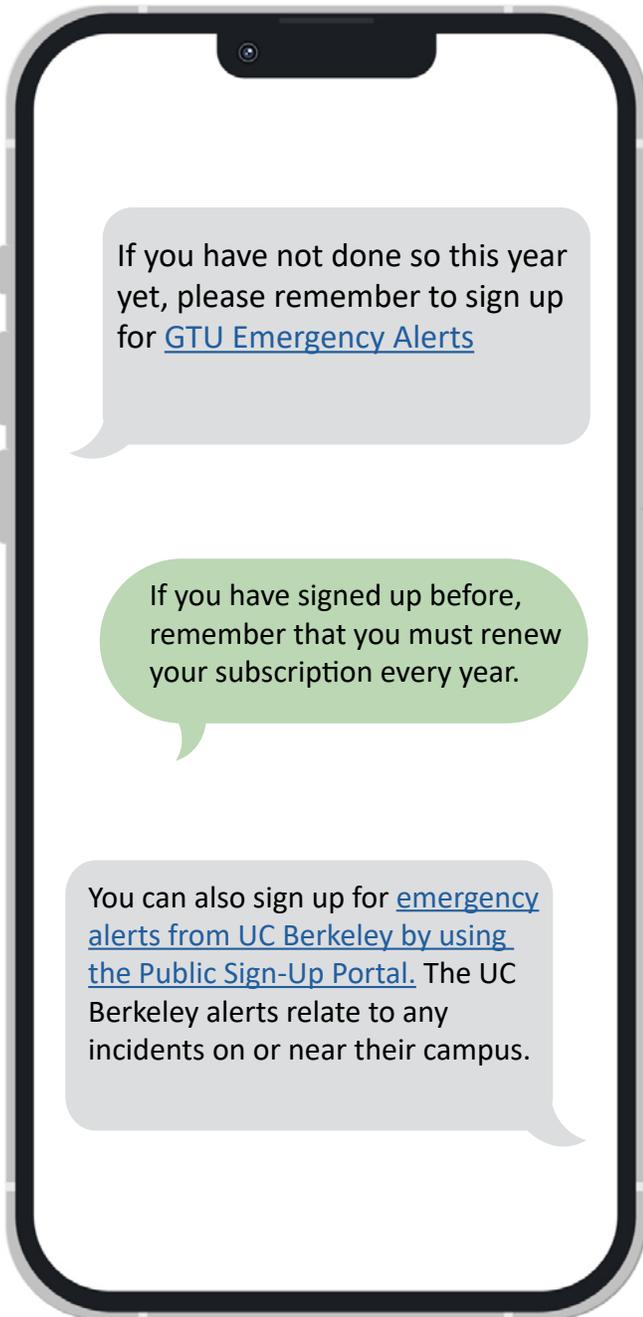
DR. ASHLEY BACCHI

Wednesday, October 18 | 2023 10-11 AM

ZOOM: [985 1875 3152](https://gtu.zoom.us/j/98518753152)

Emergency Alert Sign Up

Because of recent incidents near the GTU campus, please be extra aware of your surroundings when walking in the area.



Academic Achievements & Deadlines

MA Capstone Defense

Yusuf Mullick, SATX, Honors

Shadow (Robert) Wilf, HCSR

Steven Zepeda, HCSR, Honors

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Joby Joy, SATX

Oral Comprehensive Examination Passed

Rick Heller, HCSR



Dissertation Successfully Defended

Linna Gunawan, REPR

Matthew Hartman, THET

Clifton Huffmaster, HCSR

Leonard McMahon, THET

Wan-Ting Tsai, REPR

Deadline for submitting dissertation proposals by (Noon) for November's Doctoral Council Meeting Monday, October 23

Fall 2023 Student Awards

Newhall Fellowship

Applications due Friday, November 10 | by 5pm

Newhall Fellowships are competitive awards for GTU Doctoral students to collaboratively teach or conduct research with faculty mentors. Newhall awards offer an opportunity to work closely with professors whose interests and approaches parallel the student's on projects that often would not be possible under other circumstances. The awards are designed to support both students (through grants) and faculty (through offering assistance to their research and teaching). Applications must come from both the student and the professor for a project involving both of them. Applications for the Newhall Fellowship must be submitted to the GTU Dean's Office.

[Learn more and apply now!](#)

What's New at the GTU Library

Your Library, Your Space

For Prayer



Located in the library's southeast corner, the prayer space is available for drop-in use.

For Quiet Study

There are desks with outlets & built-in lighting for quiet study just past the compact shelving (the shelves with wheels) along the eastern edge of the library.





Your Library, Your Space ... For Collaboration



The library's newest reservable spaces for collaboration are the collaborative tables in the northwest corner. Pictured above is CJS holding Beit Midrash on Tuesdays during the lunch hour. Bring snacks and meet in the library! Reserve the tables, or the seminar rooms (pictured at left) on [the library website](#).

To protect the tech in the room, there is no food allowed in the seminar rooms.

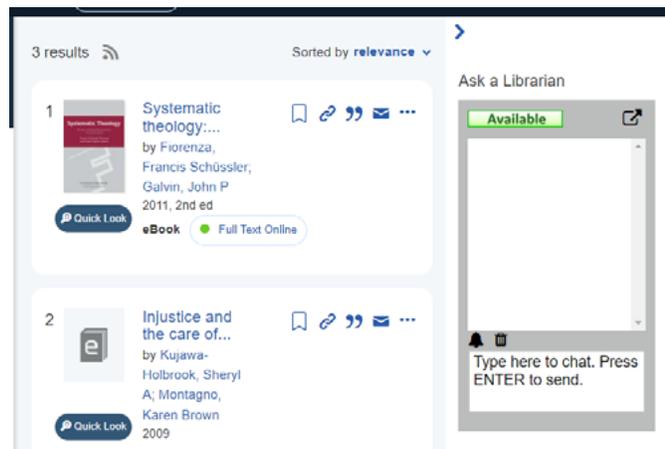






Chat With Us

No question too big or too small.
Librarians are available weekdays
9 AM to 4 PM Pacific time.



Find GTU Theses And Dissertations



Earlier in September, librarian Naw San picked up 17 boxes of freshly bound dissertations from the bindery. These items, representing the pandemic backlog from 2020-present, are being cataloged, labeled and processed. But, if you need to check out the latest in GTU scholarship, check out the [GTU's ProQuest Theses & Dissertations portal](#). Watch the short (6 min.) [Video on how to find dissertations](#).



Small Wonders On Display



An exhibit of Small Books is on display in the case by the stairwell on the first level. Featuring a selection of mostly religious works from the 19th and 20th century, the books include a Thumb Bible, a Finger Book of Common Prayer, a tiny book in Sanskrit from the Bhagavad Gita, a 19th century Christian tract (“How to Preach So As to Convert Nobody”), and a modern Robert L. Stevenson “Prayers Written at Vailima.”



For a Limited Time – Fashion Databases

Database providers let libraries try out new databases – this time Bloomsbury is letting GTU try out [Bloomsbury Fashion Central](#) which contains interdisciplinary research in fashion and dress as well as runway fashion photos and videos. [Medieval Clothing and Textiles](#) contains collections of interdisciplinary articles about medieval clothing. Popular subjects such as masculinity, the history of women, religious clothing, and the representation of clothing and textiles in literature, tapestries, and art are all well covered. **Please email library@gtu.edu with your comments about these trial databases before the end of October.**



Woman's Ceremonial Hat
(Kua...



Boy's ceremonial jacket



Woman's Headcovering or Cer...



Chasuble



Chasuble



Chasuble



Dalmatic



Chasuble



Ecclesiastical figure: Brid...

Ecclesiastical figure: Cano...

Ecclesiastical figure: Secu...

Ecclesiastical figure: Capu...





Become a Research Wizard

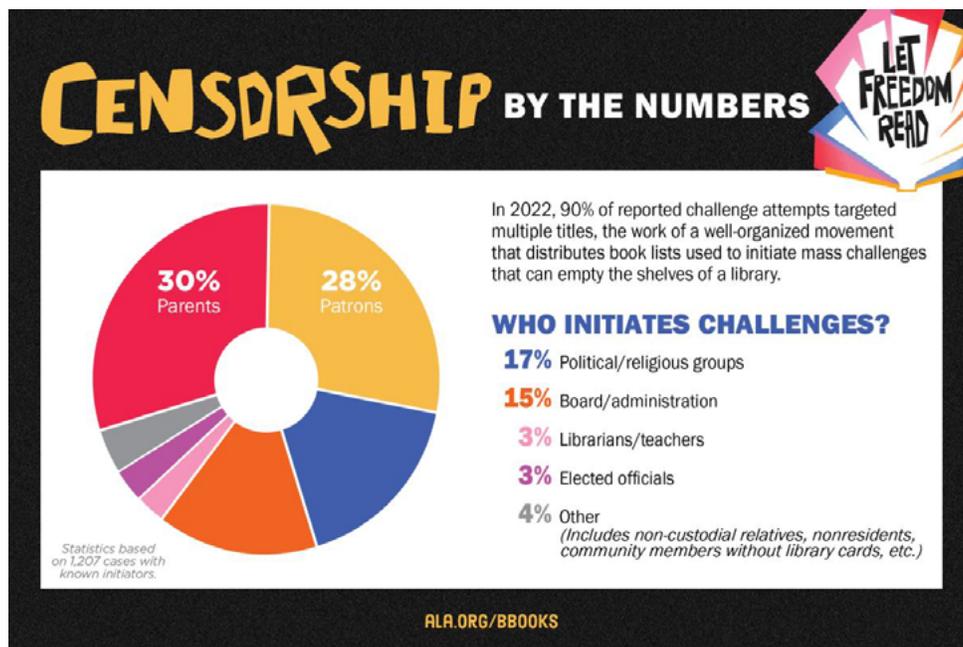
Times & dates of live, librarian-led workshops on Biblical exegesis, Zotero, literature review tools and more are [posted on the library website](#).

Can't make it to a live workshop? Check the [library's YouTube channel](#) for recorded workshops.



Prefer learning and tinkering on your own? Peruse [the library's guides and tutorials](#).

Read a Banned Book



It's Banned Book Week Oct. 1 – 7th! Learn more about the effects and origins of censorship and book banning. Drop by the book display or browse [the online display & guide](#).



Digital Learning Department

The Digital Learning department will offer workshops for consortial faculty and Newhall Fellows this semester via Zoom. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Associate Dean Diandra Erickson (derickson@gtu.edu) to receive a Zoom link. If you cannot attend these workshops but still want to discuss hybrid and/or remote learning, please reach out to Associate Dean Erickson to schedule an appointment.

Effective Course Design in Moodle

Wednesday, September 27th, 11am (via Zoom)

Thursday, September 28th, 1pm (via Zoom)

Overview of Panopto

Wednesday, October 11th, 11am (via Zoom)

Thursday, October 12th, 1pm (via Zoom)

Pedagogical and Technical Strategies for Teaching Concurrent Hybrid Courses

Wednesday, October 18th, 11am (via Zoom)

Thursday, October 19th, 1pm (via Zoom)

Overview of VoiceThread

Wednesday, November 8th, 11am (via Zoom)

Thursday, November 9th, 1pm (via Zoom)

Overview of Assignments and Grading Methods in Moodle

Wednesday, November 29th, 11am (via Zoom)

Thursday, November 30th, at 1pm (via Zoom)

Center for the Arts and Religion

CARe Grants are open!

Deadline: Wednesday, November 1, 9am (Pacific Time)

The Center for the Arts & Religion is pleased to offer grants (up to \$2,000) in support of projects that center on religion & the arts. Projects might include travel to a conference to present a paper or to conduct research, funding to assist with an art workshop, or fees related to a theatrical performance. Student projects are more likely to receive funding if linked directly to a student's progress toward a GTU degree or certificate program.

Learn more and apply: [caregrants](#)

Doug Adams Gallery Hours: Tues-Fri, 10am-4pm



Check out the **CARe Library and Book Exchange**, outside the NEW Doug Adams Gallery on the 2nd floor of the GTU's Hewlett Building. Books on the left-hand side are to be returned but the shelf on the right is open for anyone to take and leave books!

Support CARE's fundraising effort to bring Latinx printmakers to the GTU



CARE is grateful to the [International Fine Print Dealers Association Foundation](#) for a \$3,000 grant toward our target of \$15,000 by December 31, 2023! Please help us complete our goal and bring the printmakers' collective PESARE to the GTU for a series of programs to accompany the Spring 2024 exhibition Geografias Paralelas.

As PESARE, [René Arceo](#) (Mexican), [Pepe Coronado](#) (Dominican), and [Sandra C. Fernández](#) (Ecuadorian) have collaborated creatively since 2000. Their diverse backgrounds, cultural influences, and personal interests allow for rich artistic interactions on issues relating to immigration, sociopolitics, and history.

For Geografias Paralelas, CARE will present the artists' work and prepare a bilingual catalog. Additional funding will allow us to bring these three important Latinx artists to Berkeley for a variety of enriching public programs.

Center for Dharma Studies

Welcome to New CDS PhD Students:



Wolf Clifton (Theology & Ethics Dept.)

Thomas Abbott (Historical & Cultural Studies of Religion)

CDS Is Honored to have Partnered with Women’s Studies in Religion and Sustainability 360 to have sponsored the wonderful **Conference on Women’s Spiritual Leadership: Transforming Lives, Leading Change** — September 9th. Much appreciation to Prof. Marianne Farina (DSPT) and Prof. Léocadie Lushombo (JST) for an inspiring joint Plenary Address.



CDS announces a new book under the Contemplative Studies Initiative. It is titled. **Contemplative Studies and Jainism: Meditation, Prayer, and Veneration** (edited by P. Bilimoria, C. Bohanec, Rita Sherma | Routledge 2023).

CDS is glad to announce a new GTUx Original titled **Yoga Beyond the Mat: Living Traditions of Spirituality and Ethics**. The documentary will feature eminent scholars—who are also scholar-practitioners—including Prof. Jeffery Long, Prof. Graham M. Schweig, Prof. Christopher K. Chapple, and Prof. Rita D. Sherma. We look forward to its release as a CoC for Yoga Studies.

Madrasa-Midrasha Program

Introducing the 2023-2024 Haas Student Research Grant Recipients



Please join the GTU's Madrasa-Midrasha Program on **October 18** for an event featuring presentations of the 2023 Haas Student Grant. The event will take place at 11:30am in the Multiuse Room on the second floor of the GTU Library. [Please visit the event page](#) for more information, including a registration link for those who plan to attend online. A light lunch will be served for those who attend in-person.

Haas Student Research Grants are awarded each Spring semester for research to be conducted in the summer, and are for GTU students working on interreligious projects related to Judaism and/or Islam. The grants range from \$250 to \$500 for individual projects and \$500 to \$1000 for joint projects. This year's recipients and their project titles are:

Amy Shoemaker - *The Tales We Tell: What Islamic and Jewish Stories Reveal about Our Religions and Ourselves*

Jibreel Delgado - *Anxieties of Authenticity, Resurgence/Re-Existence, Border Thinking, and Muslim-Jewish Conditions of Modernity*

Katy Dickinson - *The Same and Different: Supporting Muslim and Jewish Inmates*

Omar Naisan - *The Anointed One: A Comparative Textual Inquiry of Messianism in the Hebrew Bible and Qur'an*

Zeinab Vessal - *The Symbolism of Khamsa in Shi'i Tradition*

Morey Lipsett - *Khamsa and Hamsa: An Inter-Religious Object in Islamic and Jewish Societies*

Carey Averbook - *Menstruation in Judaism and Islam: Feminist and Queer Approaches*

Center for Islamic Studies



Congratulations to Omar Naisan, GTU doctoral student, whose SBL paper presented at the Global Virtual Meeting in March 2023, “She Who Was Chosen: A Comparative Survey of the Role of Mary in the Qur’an and New Testament,” was reviewed in “Biblical Scholarship: A Report on the First Global Virtual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature.” <https://www.wisdomwordspdf.org/2023/07/28/biblical-scholarship-a-report-on-the-first-global-virtual-meeting-of-the-society-of-biblical-literature/>

Congratulations to Omar also for his review published in Reading Religion (AAR) of Reyhan Durmuz’s book, *Stories Between Christianity and Islam: Saints, Memory, and Cultural Exchange in Late Antiquity and Beyond*. <https://readingreligion.org/9780520386464/stories-between-christianity-and-islam/>



Congratulations to Sarah Mohr, CIS/GTU visiting scholar, for her participation in the University of York, UK, Ventana Conference Oct 4-6, 2023: Navigating Uncomfortable Contradictions: Decolonial Routes Towards Pluriversality. Her paper is titled, “*Liberation Psychology and Islamic Feminism: Navigating the Tension Between Liberatory Non-hierarchical Approaches and Islamic Tradition*.” Notably, the renowned decolonial scholar Dr. Catherine Walsh is a keynote speaker. The conference is hybrid and free, but registration is required: <https://www.conferenciaventana.org/home>

Congratulations to Sarah also for her participation in a group art exhibit, *Serenity: Nature and Nurture*. San Francisco Women Artists (SFWA) is the curator for the art exhibitions for the UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health. The exhibit runs Sept 18, 2023 – Jan 13, 2024 from floors 3-7 at UCSF Women’s Health Center, 2356 Sutter Street. For more info: <https://womenshealth.ucsf.edu/coe/serenity-nature-and-nurture>



Congratulations to Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala, Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of the Madrasa-Midrasha Program, for her upcoming presentations:

“Qadi Nurullah Shustari and Muslim Knowledge Production in Mughal India: Polemics, Persecution, and the Paradox of Liberty.” Conference on Muslim Intellectual History in Mughal South Asia, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley, Oct 6-7, 2023.

“The Power of Giving in Shaping a Just Society: Khadija’s Legacy and Contemporary Female Muslim Philanthropes.” 7th Annual Symposium on Muslim Philanthropy and Civil Society 2023. Oct 30-Nov 3 (virtual).



Congratulations and gratitude to Sr. Marianne Farina, CSC, Interim President and Professor of Philosophy & Theology at the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology, GTU Core Doctoral Faculty and Faculty at the Center for Islamic Studies, who has been appointed as a member of the National Catholic-Muslim Dialogue (NCMD) of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. This organization engages in study and dialogue discussing issues related to theology as well as common pastoral and societal concerns. The wide variety of topics include discussions of revelation, poverty, sacred texts, extremism, marriage, and religious prejudice.



The CIS is delighted to host Dr. Todd Lawson for a presentation titled, “Divine Attributes and Human Emotions in the Quran,” to be held in the GTU Dinner Board Room on Thursday October 19, 12-2pm. There may be additional programs with Dr. Lawson during his visit, so please check the CIS/GTU webpages for updates.



CIS Director, Dr. Munir Jiwa, is delighted to share that the CIS has received a one-year grant to support a project on Muslims in the Bay Area: Leading, Bridging and Belonging. The CIS/GTU is deeply grateful for the support and funding from the Institute for Diversity and Civic Life, made possible by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation. This grant is part of the larger IDCL’s Grounded Knowledge Project: <https://diversityandcivicle.org/2023/09/11/announcing-the-grounded-knowledge-project-micro-grant-awardees/>

As part of this project, the CIS will be collaborating on programs that advance academic and community partnerships, sharing stories and creative expressions of Muslims in the Bay Area focusing on race, justice and belonging, offering grants for CIS student working groups, and creating a CIS alums network advancing leadership and mentorship.

For more information, contact mjiwa@gtu.edu

Center for Jewish Studies

The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies

CJS invites you to join us for these upcoming events:



Rabbi Maya Zinkow, Senior Jewish Educator at Berkeley Hillel

Beit Midrash with Rabbi Maya Zinkow

Please join us on **Tuesday, October 3rd at 12:45pm** in the CJS Sukkah on the West side landing in front of the GTU Library for a special Beit Midrash program with Rabbi Maya Zinkow, Senior Jewish Educator at Berkeley Hillel. Rabbi Zinkow’s talk is titled “Dwelling in Vulnerability.”

[Visit the event page for more info.](#) A pizza lunch will be provided.

Help us Take Down the CJS Sukkah

Join us **Tuesday, October 10th at 12:45pm** on the West Side Landing of the GTU Library (on Scenic Rd.) as we take down the CJS Sukkah. A pizza lunch will be provided.



The Wolf Hunt: Book Talk with Ayelet Gundar-Goshen in Conversation with Deena Aranoff

Please join us on **Monday, October 23rd** for a book talk hosted by the Helen Diller Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies at UC Berkeley featuring author Ayelet Gundar-Goshen in conversation with CJS Director Deena Aranoff. Gundar-Goshen is an award-winning Israeli author and will be talking about her new novel, *The Wolf Hunt*, which explores the fault lines in a community, a school, and a family, as a mother begins to suspect her teenage son of committing a terrible crime. There will be a light reception at 4pm in the Steinhart Courtyard on Cal's campus, followed by the conversation at 4:30pm in the Goldberg Room of the Berkeley School of Law.

[Visit the event page for more info and registration link.](#) The event is co-sponsored by CJS.



Israeli author Ayelet Gundar-Goshen, Pordenone, 15 September 2022. (Photo by Leonardo Cendamo/Getty Images)

The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences

The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences are co-sponsoring the following event with New College Berkeley and other organizations:



Wednesday, November 8 | 2023 7:00 - 8:30 pm (Pacific)

[For more information visit New College Berkeley Events](#)

CTNS' Annual Russell Family Fellowship (RFF)

CTNS' Annual Russell Family Fellowship (RFF) will take place on November 9-10. the 2023-2024 Fellow is Dr. Brian Patrick Green. Brian is a alum of the GTU and is Director of Technology Ethics at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, Santa Clara University.

There will be an online public forum with Brian Green the evening of November 9 (time TBD). The RFF Research Conference will be from Noon to 5PM on Friday November 10, in the Dinner Boardroom More information will be forthcoming on the [CTNS website.](#)

BAIPP NEWS

News from the Berkeley Art & Interreligious Pilgrimage Project

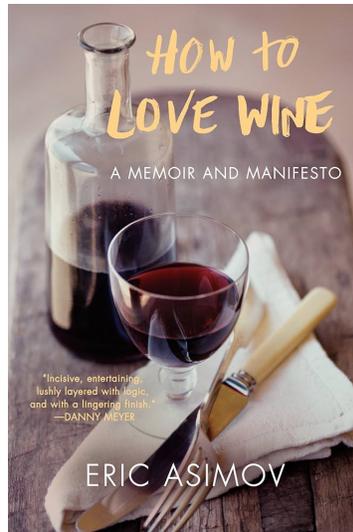
Coming Soon!

Our New Pilgrimage Guides!

Postcard Pilgrimages: A guide for people ministering to folks who are incarcerated, to help accompany them through prison-yard pilgrimages. This project is a collaboration with Steve Rindahl of *Warriors on the Way*, a pilgrimage along the Camino De Santiago designed to facilitate a combat veteran's healing from PTSD and moral injury.

From Molecule to Spirit: A guide to pilgrimages of healing for folks dealing with cancer and terminal illness. "Whether one starts from the context of molecules (i.e., medical care) or from a religious or spiritual context (i.e., pilgrimage), the ultimate aim is to come to a deeper understanding of and access to spirit and transcendent sacred space, regardless of the vehicle through which such profound potential is realized."

A collaboration with David S. Zucker, MD, PhD, FAAPMR, is founding Medical Director and Program Leader of Cancer Rehabilitation Services at Swedish Cancer Institute in Seattle.



Don't miss our next event, **A PILGRIMAGE THROUGH THE SENSES!** Oct. 13, 2023 at the Jesuit School of Theology

Eric Asimov, chief wine critic for the *New York Times*, will join Kathryn Barush and Chris Hadley, SJ to co-host a fundraiser in the form of an immersive journey through the regional wines, food, and artwork found along the Camino Ignaciano (Way of St. Ignatius) in Spain. The fundraiser will support student immersion programming and the joint GTU-JST initiative, the Berkeley

Art & Interreligious Pilgrimage Project.

Here's more information, and a link to register: <https://events.scu.edu/jesuit-school-of-theology/event/320446-pilgrimage-through-the-senses>



Want to stay in the loop? To stay updated or support our project, subscribe [here!](#)

Interreligious Chaplaincy Program

ICP Announces the ICP-CJS Taube Fellows

The Interreligious Chaplaincy Program and The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies (CJS) announced the recipients of the ICP-CJS Taube fellowships. Sophia Zohar Wilson, Bindu Gupta, Kristine Bell, Jagjiwan Gossai, Carmen Mandic, Josefina Gabuya, and Sudhanshu Himanshu Shukla. Congratulations!

CPE Day @ the GTU / Wednesday, October 18

The ICP invites all GTU students and field educators to the annual Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Day and meet chaplaincy educators from California and beyond.

The CPE GTU Day is an annual program sponsored by the Pacific Community of Practice of the ACPE in partnership with the Graduate Theological Union and its member schools' field and contextual education programs.

Wednesday, October 18, 2022, 3:00 - 5:00 pm (Pacific Time)

Join the virtual Zoom program: Meeting ID: 967 0389 0167 (Passcode: 083011)

Chaplaincy Hour / Thursdays @12:30 pm

The GTU Interreligious Chaplaincy Program welcomes faculty and current and prospective students to its weekly virtual Chaplaincy Hour. We discuss personal, professional, or academic issues--and strengthen bonds and friendships.

Join the Chaplaincy Hour every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. PST.

<https://gtu.zoom.us/j/93737590763>

Bridging Secularism & Religion: Disabled Muslims in Majority Non-Muslim Societies

Sultan Program in Arab Studies: Scholarly Initiatives

UC, Berkeley Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Thursday, November 9, 2023 / 8:30 AM- 12:15 PM

Goldberg Room / UC Berkeley School of Law

A half-day symposium addresses the Islamic approach to disability, the Qur'an and the practice of Prophet Muhammad, the secular legal construction of disability laws in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and other human rights treaties and national and local legislation that shape it.

Schedule Conference [Tentative]:

9:00-10:30 Panel 1: Mental Disabilities: Comparative perspectives of Islam and international and national secular law

10:45-12:15 Panel 2: Experience of Muslims with mental disabilities in Arab-Muslim-minority countries in customary and social service practices

Cosponsors (partial list)

Interreligious Chaplaincy Program at the GTU

UC, Berkeley Diller Institute for Jewish Law & Israel Studies

Iman Network, Inc.

For more information visit [CMES](#)

Mormon Studies

The BAY AREA COUNCIL *for* LATTER-DAY SAINT STUDIES

invites you to a fireside with

Peggy Fletcher Stack

***Discovering a World of Faith: Commonalities
and Distinctions***

SUNDAY, OCTOBER, 8 | 7:00 PM | BERKELEY 1ST WARD CHAPEL
1501 WALNUT ST BERKELEY



Peggy Fletcher Stack, senior religion reporter for the *Salt Lake Tribune*, formerly studied at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and is the co-author of *A World of Faith*, which introduces to children and adults the remarkable diversity of faiths around the world.

You can find more information and register [here](#)

Call for Proposals

Latter-day Saint Theology & Divine Finitude: Scripture, Revelation, The Problem of Evil & Social Justice

Please submit a proposal of 700-1000 words to
divinefinitude@gmail.com by December 1, 2023



Utah State University
Leonard J. Arrington Chair of Mormon
History and Culture

On April 26-27, 2024 the Latter-day Saint/Mormon Studies program at GTU will host a conference entitled "Latter-day Saint Theology & Divine Finitude." Proposals are currently being accepted until December 1, 2023. Please find more information about the conference and read the call for proposals [here](#)

Women's Studies in Religion



The Women's Studies in Religion (WSR) works to sustain, promote, and advance the commitment to the study of women, gender and religion, emphasizing conversations across differences of race, sexual and gender orientation, ethnicity, class, culture, nationality, and religious orientation,

Ways to be involved:

- Sign up to be on the WSR email list
- Attend events sponsored by the WSR Certificate program
- Take the WSR Seminar
- Pursue the WSR Certificate
- WSR Suggested Courses
- Become a member of the Advisory Committee

Need more info:

To explore more on the opportunities available through the WSR Program go to the website at <https://www.gtu.edu/projects/wsr>.

For any questions or to express interest to be involved email Diane Saunders, WSR Program Coordinator at wsr@ses.gtu.edu.

OCTOBER EVENTS! REGISTER BELOW FOR OUR ANNUAL FALL EVENT- MENTORING CIRCLES!



Friday, October 20 | 3 - 5pm

Multi-Use Room, Hewlett Building, 2400 Ridge Rd. Berkeley

The evening will be a celebration of the Women's Studies in Religion (WSR) program. Open to students, staff, and faculty. All are welcome, regardless of gender identity or expression. Join us for exciting conversations, refreshments, and amazing giveaways of WSR swag!

Facilitated discussions will consider topics such as:

- preparing for the job market
- publishing
- finding your voice
- preparing for conferences
- navigating unwelcome spaces
- life after Ph.D.

Participants can choose which conversations to take part in.

Come to learn more about the WSR certificate program and celebrate the women that contribute to the GTU.

Register at events.gtu.edu/event/416880

Registration is limited - first come first serve.



Graduate
Theological
Union

Women's Studies in Religion



You're invited to a celebration welcoming the GTU community to experience the reimagined Hewlett Building on Holy Hill. This community block party will take place on Saturday, October 14th, from 1-4pm PT, featuring an exciting lineup of events and activities for attendees of all ages, including an official ribbon cutting, food and drink, live music, and a live dance performance.

Join the Celebration!

- 1-1:30 PM: Welcome and Mingle
- 1:30 PM: GTU Presentations
 - Welcome from Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer W. Davidson
 - Interreligious Prayer
 - Remarks from GTU Board of Trustees Chair William Glenn
 - Remarks from GTU President Uriah Kim
- 1:50 PM: Official Ribbon Cutting
- 2:00 PM: Live Dance Performance
- 2:15-4:00 PM: Live Music
- Ongoing tours of the Hewlett Building begin after 1:50 PM
- Explore the grand opening of the Doug Adams Gallery

Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology

The Journal of the Graduate Theological Union

The BJRT has various openings on its Executive Editorial roster. These roles come with a small stipend. If interested, please send an email to bjrt@ses.gtu.edu.

The BJRT offers a great opportunity for students to gain experience with an academic journal and convert a term paper or writing project into a published article, as well as contribute to the discourse of current scholarship by writing a book review.

Berkeley School of Theology



NEW PARADIGMS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

**FEATURED SPEAKER:
THE HONORABLE GAIL BREWSTER BEREOLA,
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, RETIRED**

Thursday October 19, 2023

**Berkeley School of Theology Campus
Karpe Hall**

6pm Light Refreshments

7pm Program



REGISTER TODAY



Or visit www.bst.edu





In November 2023, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary's Center for Climate Justice and Faith will begin accepting applications for the 2024 cohort of the Community Organizing for Faithful Climate Resiliency course. This one-semester, online course prepares faith leaders with the skills, community, and spiritual grounding to address the climate crisis in ways that build racial and economic equity. Applications will be available here: <https://centerforclimatejusticeandfaith.org/programs/community-organizing-for-climate-justice-as-faith-active-in-love/>

The Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS) at Pacific School of Religion

An Online CLGS Lavender Lunch with Stephanie Dykes Transgender and Lutheran: A Journey of Self-Acceptance.

Wednesday, October 10 | at 12:30pm PT/3:30pm ET)

In this CLGS Lavender Lunch, Dr. Stephanie Dykes provides an introduction to what it means to be transgender, with an emphasis on current anti – transgender legislation. Dr. Dykes then describes the pivotal role played by her own experiences of reconciling her faith as a Lutheran Christian with her gender identity. This event closes with some recommendations on how cisgender persons can be allies to transgender and gender-diverse communities.

[Event Details](#)

LGBTQ Ministries in Cuba Today: Two Perspectives.

Thursday, October 26 | at 1:00pm PT/4:00pm ET)

CLGS' Latinx Roundtable is proud to present two clergy who are working for LGBTQ equality through the Metropolitan Community Church in Cuba. Rev. Elaine Saralegui Caraballo and Pastor Yivi Cruz Suárez will share their stories about how they came to the MCC Churches and how their ministry impacts their community. They will share their challenges and joys of organizing LGBTQ Christian communities. Latinx Roundtable member Lenia Salas will be the moderator.

[Event Details](#)

Queer & Trans Embodied Altar Making

Thursday, October 19 | at 1:00pm PT/4:00pm ET)

How would our sense of spiritual liberation for LGBTQIA+ folks transform if we understood our embodied existence as sacred altars to the Divine? How can we tend to, nurture, and care for LGBTQIA+ bodies, in the words of trans theologian Liam Hooper, like a “sacred grove?” What daily rituals and offerings can you make to honor the queer divinity in you? Join the AAPIRT in an interactive workshop, where we will be deconstructing and reconstructing new formations of gender and sexuality as a sacred form of embodied altar making.

[Event Details](#)



New College Berkeley



**Speaking Peace in a
Climate of Conflict**

*Writing and Communication Workshops
for Challenging Times*

**Instructor:
Marilyn McEntyre**



NEW COLLEGE Berkeley

New College Berkeley, a GTU affiliate, will offer *Speaking Peace in a Climate of Conflict*, a six-part workshop series taught by Dr. Marilyn McEntyre, author and longtime professor of literature and medical humanities. This series will be an opportunity to reinvigorate language habits and equip each other with words that will help us navigate the confusions and challenges of this historical moment. Each session will draw on examples from contemporary writers and speakers and include brief writing exercises.

The workshops will be offered online on Tuesdays, 5-6:30pm PST, beginning October 17th.

More information and registration is available here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/newcollegeberkeley/982086>

To explore more of the opportunities available through New College Berkeley this fall, please check out our website <https://www.newcollegeberkeley.org/>.



The Dean's Newsletter

The Dean's Newsletter is for official notices from the Graduate Theological Union Dean's Office regarding academic affairs and for announcements of educational events focusing on academic research and thus of particular interest to faculty and MA and PhD students.

Send submissions by the second-to-last Friday of the month to skennedy@gtu.edu
Sabrina Kennedy, Executive Assistant to the Dean

Graduate Theological Union Office of the Dean

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