



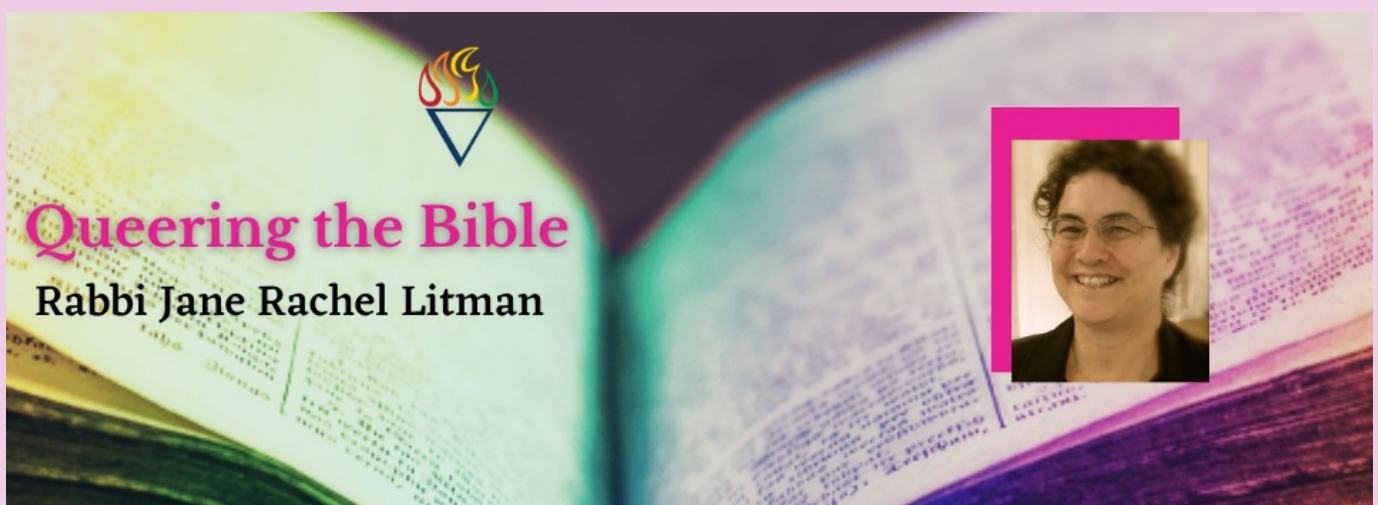
Center for
LGBTQ & GENDER STUDIES
in Religion **EST. 2000**

News & Updates | May 2023

Please Support CLGS with a Financial Contribution!

Queering the Bible

Rabbi Jane Rachel Litman



"It is really an inspiration to know that for many years now, LGBTQ people have empowered ourselves to **"queer the Bible,"** that is, to understand and interpret our holy texts through our own experience. Rather than passively accept marginalization, **we claim a sacred right to center ourselves and our voices.** In this process, we challenge heteronormativity and create space for our own holiness."

– **Rabbi Jane Rachel Litman**, Coordinator of the CLGS Jewish Roundtable

[Click here to read Rabbi Jane's Reflection](#)

For Us, By Us: HIV Prevention Organizing in Communities of Color

A CLGS Lavender Lunch

With **Kamal Fizazi**

ONLINE Tuesday, 9 May 2023, at 12:30pm (Pacific Time)

In this online CLGS Lavender Lunch our discussion will focus on **the continuing crisis of HIV infections among communities of color** and what we can do about it.

Kamal Fizazi, who has worked in the fields of HIV prevention and care for many years, will share his passion and strategy for working for BIPOC communities and invite us to turn our concern into action.



[Click Here to join this ONLINE CLGS Event via Zoom](#)

The Discomfort of Change Maij Vu Mai



"I couldn't wait for the sun to stay out for longer periods of time, for the temperatures to rise and melt away the deep cold embedded within my bones, for the flowers to bloom and blossom so that they could inspire my own blooming and blossoming at this phase of my life.

Everything in my body was aching for that extra ray of sunshine to rejuvenate my spirit again after what felt like a long and arduous winter of hibernation. When you're in the cold and dark for that long – anything different can feel like an improvement to the spirit."

–**Maij Vu Mai**, Coordinator of the CLGS AAPI Roundtable

[Click here to read Maij's Reflection](#)

Our Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort

CLGS is a proud co-sponsor of the **Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort**, which is a collaborative partnership between CLGS, the Freedom Center for Social Justice, and the National LGBTQ Task Force.

The Cohort, launched in 2012, is a year-long learning experience for transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming students and is open to students of all faith traditions who are studying in a seminary setting, CPE residency, or similar training for religious leadership.

Throughout 2023 we are highlighting a different Cohort member in our monthly e-newsletter.

May Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort Spotlight **LaTayna Purnell**

LaTayna Purnell (she/they) lives in Houston, Texas, with their wife and two sons. Before moving to Houston, they called Massachusetts home for over a decade. After over 25 years of working in education and nonprofits, they are



LaTayna Purnell (she/they)

currently pursuing their Doctorate of Ministry degree at Pacific School of Religion. They are a graduate of the University of Texas with a Kinesiology and Health degree.

LaTayna also received a master's degree from the University of Maine in counseling education (with a concentration in student personnel administration) and a doctorate from Indiana University in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, with a concentration in Gender and African American studies. They are passionate about addressing racial injustice, systemic racism, and LGBTQ+ issues.

[Click Here for more information on our Trans Seminarians Leadership Cohort](#)

Queering Shavuot

with **Rabbi Denise Eger**

A CLGS Jewish Queeries Series Event

ONLINE Thursday, 11 May 2023, at 1pm | Pacific Time



The Jewish holy day of ***Shavuot*** – beginning on 24 May this year – raises profound issues of how queer people understand Scripture. As we empower ourselves as Torah interpreters and center our own experiences and visions, the Torah becomes a living revelation rather than a relic of a past time and place.

Join the brilliant and thought-provoking LGBTQ pioneer **Rabbi Denise Eger** as she offers guidance and insights in Queering Shavuot.

[Click Here to Join this online CLGS Event via Zoom!](#)

A Deacon's Life of Service

A CLGS Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation

with **Rev. Deacon Pedro Rodriguez**

ONLINE Thursday, 18 May 2023, at 12:30pm | Pacific Time



A Deacon's Life of Service

A CLGS Queer & Latinx
Faith Conversation with

REV. DEACON PEDRO RODRIGUEZ, JR.



THURSDAY
18 MAY 2023
12:30PM (PACIFIC TIME)
ONLINE

Join us for this Online CLGS *Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation* with **Rev. Deacon Pedro Rodriguez, Jr.**, a deacon in the Episcopal Church USA and social worker in New York City.

Rev. Rodriguez will share his experiences of providing medical care access to people living with HIV/AIDS and advocating for the health and wellness of people in Latinx and LGBTQI communities.

Faith Family Equality

The Latinx Roundtable

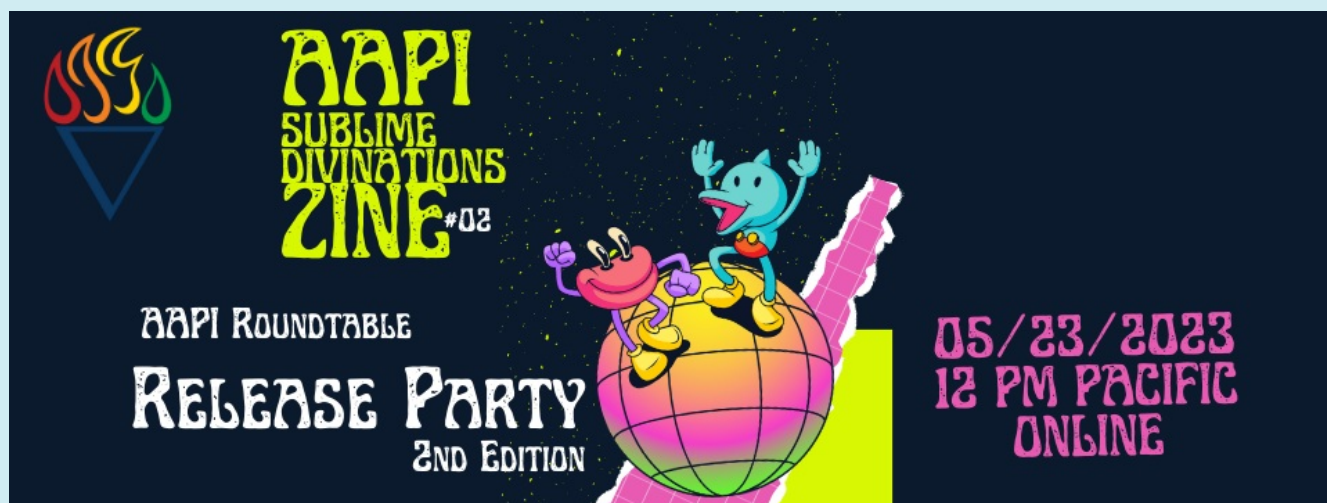
[Click Here to join this ONLINE CLGS Event via Zoom](#)

Sublime Divinations

The Second Edition of CLGS' AAPI zine

Release Party!

ONLINE Tuesday, 23 May 2023, at 12pm | Pacific Time



Join the CLGS **Asian American Pacific Islander Roundtable** (AAPIRT) as we celebrate the release of our 2nd Zine Edition, **Sublime Divinations**, which includes the contributions of five LGBTQ+ AAPI community members who were invited to explore and share their own unique methods and practices of sacred divination.

This particular zine, which understands divination as "how one makes sacred meaning out of the world around them and within them," was edited by AAPIRT Coordinator **Maij Vue Mai**.

[Click here to join this CLGS's AAPI Event!](#)

Healthcare Chaplaincy and the Transgender Community

with **Rev. Jakob Hero-Shaw**

A CLGS Trans Roundtable Event

ONLINE Tuesday, 31 May 2023, at 12pm | Pacific Time



Join **Rev. Jakob Hero-Shaw**, Coordinator of the CLGS Transgender Roundtable, for this interactive webinar for chaplains, CPE students, and anyone with an interest in providing quality care to transgender and nonbinary people in healthcare settings.

We will explore the added stressors that trans people face in healthcare settings and how the chaplain encounter can be transformative for trans patients and the care teams providing treatment.

[Click Here to Join this CLGS Event via Zoom](#)

Check out these CLGS Resources!



View a video recording of this recent **CLGS Lavender Lunch**: **Bill Glenn** reads from – and comments upon – his recently-published book ***I Came Here Seeking a Person*** (Paulist Press, 2022).

Bill's book is a spiritually-focused memoir that explores his childhood in a Midwestern Irish Catholic family in the 50's and 60's; through a decade of membership in the Jesuit Order; to his subsequent life as a sober and out gay man – detailing his complex journey of faith over the span of 74 years.

[Click here to view this resource!](#)



A Charge to Keep 20 Years of Black Queer Theology at CLGS

Rev. **Cedric Harmon**, Rev. **Gwen Thomas**, and Rev. Dr. **Roland Stringfellow** engage in conversation about their work as organizers of the CLGS ***Souls A'Fire Conferences*** and the Center's contributions to Black Queer Theology.

[Click here to view this resource!](#)





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CLGS at Pacific School Of Religion

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CLGS: Shaping A New Public Discourse On Religion, Gender, and Sexuality

Your financial support makes it possible for us to offer innovative programming that explores and supports LGBTQ people of faith, our families, and our spiritual communities. Together, we are shaping a new and progressive public discourse on religion, gender, and sexuality.

Thank you for your support!

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