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## January 2020

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CLGS: Shaping a new public discourse on religion, gender, and sexuality.

*The Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion*  
*10th Annual CLGS Georgia Harkness Lecture*

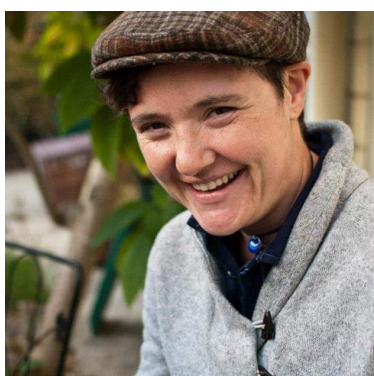
**EMBRACING EROS AS PEOPLE OF FAITH:  
CREATING AN INTIMACY-BASED THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE**

with **BISHOP YVETTE FLUNDER**  
**SUNDAY, 5 JANUARY 2020 | 5:00 PM**

**CITY OF REFUGE UCC**  
8400 ENTERPRISE WAY, OAKLAND, CA 94621  
*Reception to follow*



[Click here for Harkness 2020 Lecture Details](#)



### "What Elvis Taught a Conversion Therapy Survivor About Love"

Former CLGS Staff Member **Dev Cuny** is a storyteller, activist, and restorative justice practitioner who speaks out about the harms of conversion therapy as an ambassador for the **#BornPerfect Campaign**.

Dev has shared their story in many documentaries and media outlets including Huffington Post, The Guardian, VICE, New York Magazine's The Cut, The

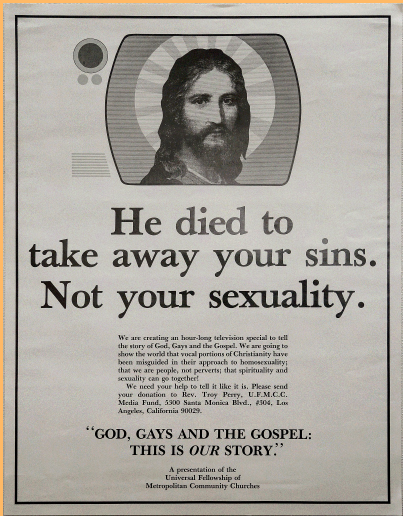
Advocate, and Mashable. Graduating with a Master of Divinity from the Starr King School for the Ministry, Dev is a person of faith working to create a world where every person feels loved and accepted for who they are.

[Click here to view Dev's TEDx Talk!](#)

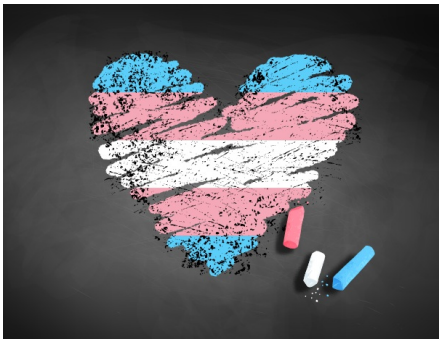
*Standing on Holy Ground: Metropolitan Community Churches and LGBTQ-Affirming Religion: A CLGS Exhibition at the GTU Library*

This exhibition includes a sampling of items from the **CLGS MCC Archives** which are currently being processed; they will eventually be housed at The Graduate Theological Union Library in Berkeley, California.

Including artwork, photographs, denominational publications, and news reports, this exhibition provides you, the viewer, with the opportunity to explore - and to celebrate! - a denomination which was one of the first to embrace and affirm lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people as beloved children of the Divine.



[For more Exhibition details, click here!](#)



**Trans Seminarian Cohort at Creating Change 2020 Conference in Dallas!**

The 2019-2020 Trans Seminarian Cohort, a joint program of CLGS, the National LGBTQ Task

Force, and the Freedom Center for Social Justice, will be offering a workshop at this annual LGBTQ Conference.

Entitled "**Queering Religious Leadership: Trans and Nonbinary Seminarians (Re)Envisioning Ministry**," this workshop will explore ministry and religious leadership in our increasingly dangerous social and political climates. Presenters will invite attendees to explore their own beliefs to help "queer" the concept of theological education and activism. Participants will gain tools to further the articulation of their own calling towards social justice within and beyond spiritual vocations.

DETAILS: Session 1, on Friday, 17 January 2020, at 9am in Stateroom 3, Convention Center 3rd Floor. **Come join us!**

[Click here for more information on the Creating Change Conference!](#)

**Queer Talmud Crash Theory Presentation**

CLGS' Jewish Roundtable and the GTU Dinner Center for Jewish Studies presents this **CLGS Jewish Queeries Series** presentation

**THURSDAY, 9 JANUARY 2020 at 7pm** in PSR's Bade Museum. Join us live or via Livestream on the CLGS Facebook page!



Every group has a Master Story and in every few generations, the Master Story crashes. Crashes happen to both individuals and communities; they are inevitable. A big crash happened to the Jewish people when the Second Temple was destroyed two thousand years ago, and another crash is happening today.

Join Deborah Newbrun in learning about Rabbi Benay Lappe's Crash Theory and how Talmud is Queerheaded. Crash Theory explains how the first rabbis created sources of truth to defend the changes they were making to traditional Judaism of their era, so that Judaism survived and thrived. Then explore how crash theory can be used today to help people find sources of truth to become "crash-flex."

FROM LGBTQ-RAN:

## Remembering Louie Crew Clay and Rev. Elder Freda Smith



Two lions of LGBTQ Christian movements in the U.S., [Louie Crew Clay](#) and [Rev. Elder Freda Smith](#), completed their earthly journeys this past month.

Crew Clay founded Integrity, the LGBTQ advocacy group in the Episcopal Church, in 1974.

Smith became a pastor in the Metropolitan Community Church in 1972 and was the first woman elected to national leadership in that organization. Interestingly, both were raised in humble, rural environs--Smith in southeastern Idaho and Crew Clay in northeast Alabama.

Remarkably, both found the inner resolve and courage to come out publicly as young adults and to advocate for justice when almost no one else would do that. And they did that in religious circles which were vehemently homophobic at that time. Finally, both had the stamina to persist year after year--for 50+ years--in leadership and thereby touch and inspire the lives of countless other persons with their passion, integrity, and love. Even as we are saddened by their deaths, we can be deeply grateful for their extraordinary lives and contributions to our history.



## Become a CLGS Monthly Donor!

The mission and work of CLGS rely on the time, energy, and financial donations of the Center's many supporters. Every gift, no matter how large or small, will support the vitally important efforts that CLGS undertakes every day to advance the well-being of LGBTQ people and to transform faith communities.

[Click here to become a Monthly Donor!](#)

**Your support matters!**

Your donations make it possible for us to continue active programming that explores the lives and faith of LGBTQ people of faith and our families. Together, we are shaping a new public discourse on religion, gender, and sexuality. Thank you!

[To make a donation, click here](#)

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Center for  
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