



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

## News & Updates | February 2022

**Prof. Rolf Nolasco is our 2022 Boswell  
Lecturer!**

## Death Is A Drag

**A Reflection by Rev. Jakob Hero-Shaw, CLGS Transgender Roundtable Coordinator**

"Just days before, I received a call and raced to the home of this retired drag queen and beloved church member. That day, I was hopeful that the rumor mill had spun a story that was untrue. As I drove, a fantasy played in my head, in which I would show up and she would be fine. My mind worked overtime as I sped to her house. I imagined she would think it was hilarious that I'd rushed over there. We would laugh and hug, and she would tease me for being so worried.



**I bargained with God, don't let it be true, and then I remembered that's not how this works."**

**[Click Here To Read Jakob's Reflection!](#)**

## Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort 2021-2022 Cohort Spotlight

CLGS is a proud co-sponsor of the **Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort**, which is a collaborative partnership between CLGS, the



## TRANS SEMINARIAN LEADERSHIP COHORT

*Lead with Love*

**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 2022 we will highlight a different Cohort member in this, our monthly e-newsletter.

### February Cohort Spotlight: **Jay Ratcliff**

"My name is Jay Ratcliff and I currently attend Pacific School of Religion to pursue my Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree. I was born and raised in Oakland, California, where I reside now.

I love music, hiking and food, and also love learning new things. I worked as a personal trainer for 5 years because I love to help people feel good.

I found ministry as a calling because I believe in helping folx from the inside out. I am an advocate for mental health and supporting others on their journey."



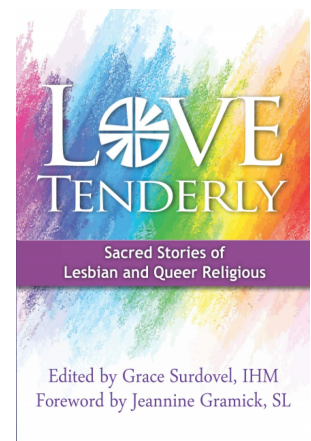
## ***Love Tenderly: Sacred Stories of Lesbian and Queer Religious***

A CLGS *Lavender Lunch* with **Sister Grace Surdovel**, IHM, and **Co-Authors**

**ONLINE Tuesday, 8 February 2022, at 12:15pm | Pacific Time**

Join us for this this Lavender Lunch to hear Roman Catholic Sisters **Grace Surdovel**, IHM, **Sue Becker**, RDC, **Jeanne Christensen**, RSM, and **Mary Kay Dobrovolsky**, RSM, discuss their recently-published anthology *Love Tenderly: Sacred Stories of Lesbian and Queer Religious* (New Ways Ministry, 2021).

In sharing stories of self discovery and acceptance, these religious sisters explore questions related to vowed life, falling in love, and advice they would give to a lesbian or queer woman considering religious life today.



**Click Here to join this ONLINE CLGS Lavender Lunch via Zoom!**



# Open Tents and Open Hearts: Jews and Polyamory

A CLGS Jewish Queeries Series Event

with Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi, Rae Antonoff, MAJE, Rabbi Erik Uriarte

**ONLINE Thursday, 17 February 2022, at 1pm | Pacific Time**



Although Jews have been practicing polyamory since the days of Hagar, Sarah, and Abraham, the practice is a cultural taboo among contemporary mainstream Jews. This is mainly due to

legitimate concerns about male privilege and women's rights. However, a new generation of queer feminist Jews are dramatically re-envisioning polyamory as a form of gender and human liberation.

Join us for this online CLGS Jewish Queeries Series event as we welcome **Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi**, **Rae Antonoff**, MAJE, and **Rabbi Erik Uriarte** as they explore with us ways to revision polyamory.

[Click Here to join this ONLINE CLGS Jewish Queeries Series event via Zoom](#)

## The Future Church for LGBTQ+ People and Their Allies

A CLGS Lavender Lunch with **Benjamin Brenkert**

**ONLINE Tuesday, 22 February 2022, at 12:15pm | Pacific Time**



In this online CLGS *Lavender Lunch*, **Benjamin Brenkert** reflects on the future church for LGBTQ+ People and their allies. As a former Jesuit, he proposes the spirituality of Saint Ignatius of Loyola as a means for people of faith to discern membership in churches that thwart their personal and group flourishing.

Benjamin is the author of *A Catechism of the Heart: A Jesuit Missioned to the Laity* (Wipf and Stock, 2020).

[Click Here to join this ONLINE CLGS Lavender Lunch via Zoom!](#)

# Exploring Seminary Life Through Queer Latinx Eyes with **Omar Rodriguez De la O**

*A CLGS Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation*

In this *CLGS Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation*, sponsored by The CLGS Latinx Roundtable | Fe, Familia, Igualdad, **Omar Rodriguez De la O**, currently a second year seminarian at Virginia Theological School, explores seminary life from his own Queer Latinx perspective.

Omar, who was ordained in a charismatic tradition and served as a church planter, is seeking ordination in the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona.



[Click Here to join this ONLINE CLGS Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation via Zoom!](#)

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Prof. Rolf Nolasco** is our 2022 Boswell Lecturer  
***Queer Bodies: Colliding, Expanding, Flourishing***  
ONLINE Thursday, 21 April 2022, at 6:30pm | Pacific Time



Professor **Rolf Nolasco**, Rueben P. Job Professor of Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Theology at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, is our **15th Annual CLGS John E. Boswell Lecturer**.

In this lecture Prof. Nolasco will explore how the queer body, which has been tagged as "intrinsically disordered, unholy, and perverse" is "good, indeed very good..

for our queer body expands as it makes room for and sacralizes creaturely difference or multiplicity."

Join us ONLINE for this, our 15th Annual CLGS Boswell Lecture!

[Click Here to register in advance for this ONLINE Lecture!](#)



## Check out these CLGS Resources!



### Catching Up with Nicole Garcia

View this recording of a recent CLGS *Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation* in which Nicole talks about her experiences as an ordained pastor in the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), including her decision to resign her call in July of 2021. A trailblazer, Nicole has experienced – and called out – racism, transphobia, and homophobia in the church.

[Click here to view the video recording!](#)



Check out the **third edition** of our popular weekly blog on **52 Ways to Expand Your Welcome to LGBTQ+ People and Our Families**.

Every week in 2022 we will post suggestions on how your faith community can become more welcoming to – and inclusive of – LGBTQ+ People and Our Families!

[Click here to view our 52 Ways blog!](#)



Email Us: [clgs@clgs.org](mailto:clgs@clgs.org)

**CLGS at Pacific School Of Religion**

1798 Scenic Avenue Berkeley, CA 94709

CLGS: Shaping A New Public Discourse On

**Thank you**

## 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.

# for your support!

**Donate Today!**

---

**[About CLGS](#) | [Our Work](#) | [Resources](#) | [News & Press](#) | [Events](#) | [Support](#)**

