



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

News & Updates | January 2023

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Roland Stringfellow Named Managing Director of CLGS for 2023

CLGS is pleased to announce that **Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow**, Coordinator of the CLGS African American Roundtable, will serve as Managing Director of CLGS during 2023, while Dr. Bernard Schlager, CLGS Executive Director, is on sabbatical from Pacific School of Religion.

[Click HERE for more information](#)



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

January Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort Spotlight **Jayce Koester**

Jayce Koester (they/them) is a teacher, chaplain-in-progress, and Hebrew College rabbinical student currently living on Wampanoag and Massachusetts land. Prior to moving to Boston for rabbinical school Jayce taught kiddos, was an active street medic, and ran a program for LGBTQIA+ Jews on Dakota and Anishinaabe land in the Twin Cities, Minnesota.

Jayce loves learning Torah with all ages and is an enthusiastic singer, eager Talmud student,



Jayce Koester (they/them)

and lover of all things that grow (people included). They're always excited to talk about Jewish ritual, science fiction, what they're cooking this week... and how cute their two cats are.

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

Ministry with Queer Youth

A CLGS Lavender Lunch

with **Dr. Ish Ruiz**

ONLINE Tuesday, 14 February 2023, at 12:30pm | Pacific Time

In this online CLGS *Lavender Lunch* Dr. **Ish Ruiz** will explore how Christian ministers can engage confidently in this challenging ministry by offering:

- An overview of what queer youth are reporting in terms of **what it means to “grow up queer” today**, with particular attention to the needs of queer youth.
- A **theological framework** for understanding ministry with queer youth.
- Some **practical advice** for ministry with LGBTQ+ persons.



Dr. **Ish Ruiz** is a post-doctoral fellow of Catholic Studies at Emory University's Candler School of Theology and holds a PhD in Theology and Ethics from the Graduate Theological Union. His research interests explore the intersection between queer theology, Latinx theology, ecclesiology, sexual ethics, liberation, human rights, and Catholic education.

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

LGBTQ Advocacy in El Salvador

A CLGS Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation

with **Rev. Rhina Ramos**



LGBTQ Advocacy in El Salvador

A CLGS Queer & Latinx
Faith Conversation with

REV. RHINA RAMOS



CLICK HERE TO VIEW A
VIDEO RECORDING
OF THIS EVENT

We invite you to view a recording of this recent CLGS **Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation** with Rev. **Rhina Ramos**, who shares her experiences working with LGBTQ communities in El Salvador. Originally from El Salvador, Rhina grew up at the time of the civil war in that country. Inscribed on her heart is the voice of Saint Oscar Romero of the Americas who denounced oppression from the pulpit.

Rev. Ramos graduated from Hofstra University School of Law in 1995 and earned an MDiv degree from Pacific School of Religion in 2003. She is an experienced community organizer, having led programs and campaigns for educational equity, labor rights, human rights of the LGBTQ community, international solidarity with El Salvador, and the prevention of domestic violence.

Faith Family Equality

The Latinx Roundtable

[Click Here to view a video recording of this recent CLGS Event](#)

In the Margins: A Transgender Man's Journey with Scripture

A CLGS *Lavender Lunch*
with Shannon TL Kearns

Check out this video recording of a recent CLGS *Lavender Lunch* featuring Father **Shannon Kearns** as he explores ideas from his recently-published book ***In the Margins: A Transgender Man's Journey with Scripture***, which weaves together stories from Shannon's life into reflections on well-known biblical narratives—such as Jacob wrestling with the divine, Rahab and the Israelite spies, Ezekiel and the dry bones, and the transfiguration of Jesus.

Shannon shows how these biblical stories have helped him to make sense of his own identity, and how those same stories can unlock the transformative power of faith for those willing to listen with an open mind and stand alongside him in the in-between.



[Click Here to view a video recording of this recent CLGS Event](#)

Sublime Divinations

A Call For Submissions for the 2nd edition of CLGS' AAPI Zine!



The **CLGS Asian American Pacific Islander Roundtable** (AAPIRT) invites you to submit items for the 2nd edition of our zine! The theme for this edition is **Sublime Divinations**, which invites LGBTQ+ AAPI community members to explore and share their own unique methods and practices of sacred divination.

This particular zine understands divination as “the act of attempting to find a pattern or symbol in the natural world as a way of connecting with deities, spirits or the Universe, to gain guidance, introspection and prediction” (Vamvoukakis, 2002).

[Click Here for more information on CLGS's AAPI zine !](#)

Our Upcoming Online Spring 2023 Lavender Lunches

Join us for one – or more! – of these online Tuesday events (from **12:30pm to 1:30pm** Pacific Time) which feature religious leaders, activists, scholars, artists, and educators:

- 14 February 2023: **Ministry with Queer Youth** with Dr. **Ish Ruiz**
- 14 March 2023: **I Came Here Seeking A Person** with **Bill Glenn**
- 11 April 2023: **Transgender and Lutheran: A Journey of Self-Acceptance** with **Stephanie Dykes**



[Click HERE for more information on our Spring 2023 Lavender Lunches](#)

Check out these CLGS Resources!

The CLGS **Latinx Roundtable** (LRT) hosts its own website that offers a variety of resources (in Spanish, Portuguese, and English) for Latinx faith communities. Here are some of the topics addressed by the materials found on the LRT website, **Faith, Family, Equality**:

- A Latinx LGBTQ Curriculum for Faith Communities;
- Welcoming Your Trans Family Member: Growing As Latinx Families and Communities;
- Justice and Health: Challenges to the Latino/a Family;
- A Latinx LGBTQ Vocabulary; and



The **3rd edition** of our popular weekly blog
52 Ways to Expand Your Welcome to LGBTQ+ People and Our Families

- Gender, Sexuality, and the Bible.

[Click Here to access our LRT website!](#)

Faith Family Equality

The Latinx Roundtable

We have recently concluded our 2022 series on suggestions for 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
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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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