

Silver bells, silver bells
View this email in your browser



As we approach this most joyful time of year, we want to extend our heartfelt appreciation and warmest wishes to you our beloved community. May the season bless you with peace, love, and an abundance of grace. And may the holiday spirit envelop you and your family in magic and wonder.

Joyous Feast!

**A Very Merry Filipina
Catholic and Jewish Christmas**



Silk Road Rising's 2016 World Premiere of Christine Bunuan's *Christmas at Christine's*, directed by J.R. Sullivan, with musical direction by Ryan Brewster.

In 2016, Silk Road Rising produced *Christmas at Christine's*, a festive heartfelt musical revue with a Silk Road twist. Chicago-favorite Christine Bunuan invited audiences on a polycultural journey from California to Chicago to the Philippines to her Catholic and Jewish household. Christine reminisced her way through the holiday songbook and a stocking full of yuletide lore.





The Thank You Corner

Your gift of holiday generosity drives our work and lights the path forward. Together we demonstrate that the rising tide does indeed lift all boats.

thank you
thank you
thank you



THE POLY CULTURALIST

A PUBLICATION OF POLY CULTURAL INSTITUTE

As we conclude our first chapter of *The Polyculturalist*, we're thrilled to share excerpts from essays written by two esteemed members of Silk Road Rising's Polycultural Institute Advisory Council, Velina Hasu Houston, and José Francisco Morales Torres. The full pieces will be published in the new year.

"Garments of Destiny"

Written by **Dr. Velina Hasu Houston**

Velina is an internationally celebrated playwright, essayist, poet, and screenwriter. She is a Distinguished Professor of Theatre in Dramatic Writing at the University of Southern California and an Associated Faculty Member of the USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture.



I am visible. I am polyethnic and polycultural: Japanese, African American, Native American, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, and Korean. I reject the black-white binary and any other ethnic categorization. I will not pass. I will not whiten or darken myself. I will not be labeled. I care not what others think I should be or think I am. I am unapologetically brown, sociopolitically vocal, and vitally someone who was raised by a woman she deeply loves and upholds, a native Japanese woman from the Shikoku provinces. I will not dismiss a single molecule of the culture she imprinted upon me (I note that my father also gave me cultural context, although he died when I was eleven).

People ask me the oddest things, such as do I feel more X or Y, do I dance like X or Y, do I know how to use chopsticks, have I ever been to Japan, etc. I am startled by the superficiality of the remarks and disappointed that so much of our society still is unable to grasp the reality of non-binary (or in my case non-septenary) polycultural identity.

"Polyculturalism and Our Particular, Porous Selves"

Written by **Dr. José Francisco Morales Torres**

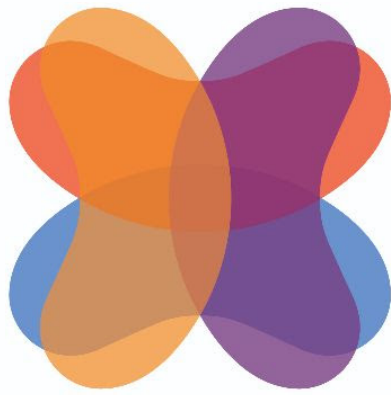
José is an Assistant Professor of Latinx Studies and Religion at Chicago Theological Seminary. His work places dominant culture voices in conversation with historically marginalized voices, within and beyond Christian traditions.



Polyculturalism creates new liberating possibilities because it embraces each particular person as irreducible, and it invites each particular, irreducible person to live fully and vulnerably into their inescapable porosity.

Every good artist is a polycolorist, for they recognize that a yellow is that yellow because it is juxtaposed to the adjacent blue. The yellow receives from the blue part of its specific yellowness. That yellow would be a different kind of yellow if it were placed next to, say, magenta or olive. Characters in a great script “feed off each other” in deeply reciprocal ways that give each character their own particular voice, agency and presence on the narrative stage. A given particularity is what it is because of its porosity. It is what it is because of what it receives from others. It is their porosity—their openness to the other—that makes them what they are.

Same is true for persons. As I have written elsewhere, to be human is not only to be open to the world, but to be agents in it. To be human is also to be opened by the world, and by the other.



Polycultural Institute

Connecting People, Cultures, and Communities

**Support a Vision of America that is
Welcoming, Polycultural, and
Connected.**

**Support a Vision of the World that is
Open, Willing, and Creative.**

**Support Silk Road Rising and
Donate Today**

Copyright © 2023 Silk Road Rising, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you are a Silk Road Rising supporter.

Our mailing address is:

Silk Road Rising
150 N Michigan Ave
Ste 1970
Chicago, IL 60601

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

If you wish to receive future enewsletters from Silk Road Rising [please subscribe!](#)