RUTH OZEKI  Jan. 12  |  7:30-9 p.m.  |  Moraga Room, Soda Center
A Tale for the Time Being
Ruth Ozeki's novel, *A Tale for the Time Being*, chronicles a novelist's obsession with the fate of a Tokyo schoolgirl whose diary washes up on the Pacific coast of Canada after the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami.

FR. BRYAN HEHIR  Jan. 13  |  7-9 p.m.  |  Moraga Room, Soda Center
Pope Francis, the Church and the World
J. Bryan Hehir, the Parker Gilbert Montgomery Professor of the Practice of Religion and Public Life at Harvard University, focuses his research on ethics and foreign policy and the role of religion in world politics and in American society.

JESSE SAPERSTEIN  Jan. 14  |  1-2:30 p.m.  |  Hagerty Lounge
Getting a Life with Asperger’s
Best-selling author Jesse Saperstein will share his personal story of growing up with Asperger's and what having a life well lived means. He’ll talk about his life of advocacy and hiking the Appalachian Trail after college, skydiving and other passions and hobbies, most in service to autism awareness.

ALAN AND KAREN JABBOUR  Jan. 20  |  7 p.m.  |  Moraga Room, Soda Center
Life-Changing Encounters with Appalachian Culture
In this immersive musical and photographic presentation, Alan Jabbour and Karen Singer Jabbour offer a grand tour through their amazing experiences with Appalachian tradition that changed their cultural understanding and reoriented their intellectual and artistic lives.

MATTHEW BOGER, TIM ZAAL and JASON COHEN  Jan. 21  |  1-2:30 p.m.  |  Hagerty Lounge
Facing Fear: A Path to Forgiveness
Matthew Boger was thrown out of his home at age 13 for being gay and, while living on the streets in Hollywood, was savagely beaten by a group of neo-Nazi skinheads. Twenty-five years later Boger met Tim Zaal, one of his attackers. Their tragic encounter and their road to forgiveness was chronicled in *Facing Fear* by Berkeley filmmaker Jason Cohen.

TOBIAS BUCKELL  Jan. 26  |  7 p.m.  |  Moraga Room, Soda Center
The Future You Don’t See
New York Times Bestselling author Tobias S. Buckell's work has been nominated for the Hugo, Nebula and Prometheus awards and the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Science Fiction Author. His novels and more than 50 stories have been influenced by the Caribbean, where he grew up, and have been translated into 17 different languages, earning international acclaim.

THERESA SPARKS  Jan. 28  |  1-2:30 p.m.  |  Moraga Room, Soda Center
The Emerging TGNC (Trans-Gender-Non-Conforming) Community: Challenges and Opportunities
Theresa Sparks, executive director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, addresses advocacy for basic human rights for the transgender community in areas ranging from health care to identity, safety and employment. Sparks will speak about remaining challenges and the evolving understanding of gender today.

For more info, contact Paul Ebenkamp: pe1@stmarys-ca.edu or (925) 631-4771.