Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 11.17.21

A Reflection from our Buddhist Chaplain

Dear Tufts Community,

When I was a college student, the first Dharma talk (Buddhist teaching) which really held my mind was a talk by Venerable Maha Ghosananda, the leader of the Khmer Buddhist community, and an occasional visitor to Cambridge Zen Center, where I had begun practicing meditation. The Dharma Room was crowded. He spoke so softly that I could barely hear the words, and yet, at the same time, his presence filled the room. He was speaking about compassion. I could not hear every word he spoke, but I could feel his words. His presence was a lovingkindness that slowly suffused my consciousness as gentle rain. This quality of unconditional love is with me even now, as I rediscover this picture of Maha Ghosananda with Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia of Chiapas, Mexico.

Maha Ghosananda taught me to express gratitude to the six directions, thanking all of our relations: parents, siblings, teachers, friends, the government and the Earth. He affirmed, "Especially the Earth, mum," with such humility and sincere love shining forth, that the tenderness, even now, transposes me to another place and time.

When I ask myself what quality we can offer the world to navigate these transformative times, this image comes to mind. A moment in which the mind is brought within the heart, with a quality of love which is so powerful and deep it reaches everywhere-- without attachment, with gratitude and with pure joy.

With best wishes,

Ji Hyang Padma, Ph.D.
Buddhist Chaplain

Pax et Lux: A Multifaith Celebration
Thursday, December 9, 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Join the University Chaplaincy and the Interfaith Ambassadors for this evening of warm celebration uplifting the themes of peace and light. Dancing, singing, and story-telling will light up Goddard Chapel. We will welcome WuZee, Shir Appeal, Public Harmony, Ballroom Dance Team, and stories from chaplains and students about their rituals and traditions at this time of year. A reception of cocoa and treats will follow on the Goddard Chapel steps. We welcome you to join us! Please email program manager Nora Bond with any questions or accessibility needs.

Religious and Philosophical Programs

Trans Day of Remembrance Gallery Opening
Thursday, November 18, 1:00 p.m.

Join the LGBT Center, the SMFA at Tufts, and the University Chaplaincy for our community-wide observance of Trans Day of Rememberance. The gallery features art submitted by students, and will be open on the Terrace Gallery on the SMFA campus. You can follow the LGBT Center on Instagram for more information.

Hiking in Medford with the Interfaith Student Council
Saturday, November 20, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Explore our connection to nature by hiking and maintaining our community with new friends and good food. Hosted by the Interfaith Student Council (ISC), participants will walk along the Mystic River and clean up along Alewife Brook Parkway Bike Path, all while considering, alone and together, our relationship to the environment. After the hike through our local landscape, we will share lunch and conversation in the Interfaith Center. All are welcome with any or no religious affiliation. This program is sponsored by the Interfaith Student Council and the University Chaplaincy. If you are interested in taking part, please sign up here.

Shir Appeal Presents: Avengshirs
Saturday, November 20, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

You are invited to enjoy Shir Appeal at the Granoff Family Hillel Center for a night of adventure-themed song. Tufts' Jewish a cappella group will perform for two hours, and you are warmly invited. You can RSVP to the event here.

Partner Programs

Jotería - Queer Lotería and a Drag Performance at Hotung
Friday, November 19, 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Join the LGBT Center and the Latinx Center for a night of Millennial Loteria at Hotung Cafe! The event will be hosted and led by esteemed local drag queen, La Patrona. There will be prizes, Mexican snacks and drinks, as well as some queer sex health resources. Please join the community this week. No RSVP or registration is necessary.

Cherish Chinatown Challenge
Ongoing in November

Join Tufts students, staff members, and faculty members in supporting small businesses in Boston's Chinatown by participating in the Cherish Chinatown Challenge. To enter the challenge, order from locally owned Chinatown restaurants, bakeries, and stores in November. After you make a purchase (in-person or delivery), enter into the weekly Cherish Chinatown Challenge raffle. Twenty winners will receive $25 restaurant gift cards to restaurants in Boston's Chinatown. You can learn more about the challenge, and see the FAQ here.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities

Harvard Square Homeless Shelter Volunteering with the Catholic Chaplaincy
Wednesday Breakfast Shift (leave campus 6 AM and return 9:30 AM); sign up today through email.

All are welcome as we rekindle our relationship with the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter. Starting November 3, we will send 3-4 Tufts community members to help serve breakfast at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter, located in University Lutheran Church, 66 Winthrop St. Cambridge, MA (in the middle of Harvard Square). The University Chaplaincy will provide a T Pass for transportation on the 96 bus into Harvard Square, which stops at 6:10 a.m. in front of the LGBT Center. Volunteers travel together and we will send new folks with returners to offer support and guidance. As a volunteer, you decide which weeks you are able to serve. We will have this shift through the spring semester. Please email Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper if you are interested in signing up or learning more. You do not need to be Catholic to participate.

Temple Shalom
William & Charlotte Bloomberg
Jewish Community Center

Temple Shalom Religious School Seeks Tutors, and Teachers

Temple Shalom Religious School is a small and friendly Conservative-Movement-affiliated organization, currently hiring for a few positions that Tufts undergraduate students would be welcome to apply to. The school is in Medford, and about a 30-minute walk from Tufts University. You can learn more about becoming a tutor or substitute teacher here. You can learn about becoming a shirah (singing) teacher here. All inquiries can be made to the school's director here.

Upcoming Religious Celebrations and Observances

These events are drawn from the multifaith calendar maintained by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at Harvard Divinity School. To see more upcoming religious holidays and festivals, please follow the link to the Harvard Divinity School calendar.

Guru Nanak's Birthday
Thu., Nov. 18, 2021
Tradition: Sikhism
Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurpurab, also known as Guru Nanak's Prakash Utsav and Guru Nanak Dev Ji Jayanti, celebrates the birth of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak. One of the most celebrated Sikh gurus and the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev is highly revered by the Sikh community.

Day of the Covenant
Wed., Nov. 24, 2021
Tradition: Baha'i
Celebrates the anniversary of the appointment of 'Abdu'l-Baha, the son of Baha'u'llah, as the Center of the Covenant. Work is not suspended on this day. Begins at sundown.

Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji
Wed., Nov. 24, 2021
Tradition: Sikhism
This day commemorates the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (1621-1675), the ninth of the Ten Sikh Gurus. He is remembered not only for his defense of the Sikh faith, but also of Hinduism and of religious liberty.

Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Baha
Fri., Nov. 26, 2021
Tradition: Baha'i
Commemorates 'Abdu'l-Baha's death. Begins at sundown.

Advent
Sun., Nov. 28 – Fri., Dec. 24, 2021
Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic
Period of four weeks in which Christians prepare for Christmas and meditate on the end of all time. In Western churches, the first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the Christian liturgical year.

Hanukkah
Sun., Nov. 28 – Mon., Dec. 6, 2021
Tradition: Judaism
The Feast of Lights (Feast of Dedication) is celebrated for eight days to commemorate the rededication of the Temple

following the Jews' victory over occupying forces in 165 BCE, which re-established for a time their religious and political freedom.

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ABOUT US

The University Chaplaincy is a dynamic hub supporting religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life for all members of the Tufts community. We provide pastoral care, support religious and philosophical communities, educate about spiritual and ethical issues in society and the world, and promote multifaith engagement.

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