



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

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A Meditation on Autumn Leaves from our Jewish Chaplain

Dear Tufts Community,

On a recent trip to visit family in Canada I had the pleasure of driving through large swathes of New Hampshire and Vermont. It was a glorious day, and the autumn scenery was breathtaking. I was mesmerized by the deep, rich hues of the autumnal leaves. At one point our car was showered with a cascade of golden leaves floating on the breeze. It made my heart sing.

There is something about the fullness of autumn that elicits joy, while the fleeting nature of that fullness tinges this joy with melancholy. For me, it is this combination that makes autumn so poignantly beautiful.

Life too has its seasons. On a macro level one's adolescence and youth correspond to spring, middle years are associated with summer and old age aligns with autumn. On a micro level we cycle through the seasons on a more frequent basis. Every human initiative or project has its springtime of planning, its summer of toil and its autumn of fruition and harvest.

Even as we bask in the autumnal glow of completion, we know that the moment cannot last. That winter must come, if only to allow a new spring to follow. The Hebrew bible points to this constant state of flux when it says:

"For everything there is a season, A time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2)

Autumn invites us to celebrate moments of completion in our lives. It also invites us to let go of those moments so that we can begin the creative process all over again. So that like nature itself, our lives are of constant renewal.

I wish you a season of satisfaction with what you have completed, and hopeful anticipation for what is coming.

In friendship,

Rabbi Naftali Brawer, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Tufts Hillel and Jewish Chaplain

Upcoming Signature Program



In Living Memory: A Concert of Stories & Songs

Thursday, November 4, 9 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. ET

Join the University Chaplaincy and the Latinx Center for *In Living Memory: A Concert of Stories and Songs* at Goddard Chapel. The evening will feature organ music, performances by Enchanted and sQ!, and spoken word offerings on the themes of remembering those who have passed, uplifted by the many religious and spiritual holidays this time of year, including Día de los Muertos, Samhain, All Souls Day, and more. We will also be debuting an installation of the Ofrenda Project from student artists at the SMFA. Latinx Center staff and chaplains will speak, and the event will be followed by apple cider donuts and candy outside. Please join us for a night of candlelight, meaningful festivities, and treats!

Religious and Philosophical Life Programs



THE OFRENDA PROJECT

October 22-November 4



OCTOBER 26TH

PAPEL PICADO
@TERRACE GALLERY
1-2PM

OCTOBER 29TH

DECORATING
CALAVERAS
@TERRACE
GALLERY 1-2PM

NOVEMBER 2ND

OFRENDA RECEPTION/VIGIL
@ZOOM 7-8PM

NOVEMBER 4TH

LIVING MEMORY CONCERT
@GODDARD CHAPEL
(MEDFORD)
9-10:30PM

Submit photos of loved ones to be featured at this year's Dia de los Muertos Ofrenda altar using this website:
go.tufts.edu/ofrendaproject



The Ofrenda Project

Multiple days and locations (see above)

The student-led Ofrenda Project encompasses experiences to learn and reflect on the traditions of honoring our deceased loved ones. Opportunities to engage with the themes and traditional items of ofrendas and the ceremonies surrounding Día de los Muertos will be uplifted throughout the events listed above. Please [find the information for the virtual reception on November 2 in JumboLife](#) and you are welcome at Goddard Chapel on November 4, to experience the installation in-person.

Buddhist Theology for Authentic Transformation

With Dr. Hyun Kyung
Chung



**Wednesday,
October 27
7 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

Find more information at:
[chaplaincy.tufts.edu/
buddhist/programs/](http://chaplaincy.tufts.edu/buddhist/programs/)



Buddhist Theology for Authentic Transformation, with Dr. Hyun Kyung Chung

Wednesday, October 27, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., ET held virtually

Join the Buddhist Chaplaincy for an event with Dr. Hyun Kyung Chung, who defines herself as a “salimist” (Korean Eco-feminist) from the Korean word “salim,” which means “making things alive.” She will speak from her experience as a social activist and womanist theologian on spirituality for authentic transformation. Dr. Hyun Kyung Chung M.A., M.Div., Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Ecumenical Studies at Union Theological Seminary. Foci of her studies include: articulating the spirituality of women’s everyday work, Christian-Buddhist dialogue, interfaith peacemaking and an eco-feminist theology. Please [RSVP to Buddhist Chaplain Ji Hyang Padma](#) for the link to this virtual event.



Humanist Community at Tufts Presents: Halloween Movie Night

Friday, October 29, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Come join the Humanist Community at Tufts (HCAT) for a low-key movie night featuring *What We Do in the Shadows* (2014) this Friday evening at the Interfaith Center. There will be food and mini-pumpkin painting activities, and the movie will start at 7 p.m. Please [RSVP to this event here](#).



True Colors Community and Crafts

Sunday, November 7th, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

The University Chaplaincy is offering a queer affinity space with coloring and conversation to help build comfortable community here on campus. This event is intended for those who identify with the LGBTQ+ community. It is open to all LGBT+ folks beyond the University Chaplaincy community too, no matter their religious, philosophical, or spiritual identity. With a few guiding questions and provided materials, the space is yours to make it however you want. So come take a break from midterms to craft with your queer peers and embrace your true colors! To respect safety and confidentiality reach out to [Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell](mailto:Daniel.Bell@tufts.edu) for location details.

Partner Programs



Beckwith Lecture: Paula Wilson & Faith Wilding

Thursday, October 28, 6 p.m. ET, held virtually

Join Tufts University Art Galleries for their Fall 2021 Beckwith guest lecturers, Paula Wilson and Faith Wilding. This lecture series was founded in 1978 by Leo and Betty Beckwith to bring luminaries from the arts to our School of the Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA) and Tufts student community. These artists are featured in conversation in the Grossman Gallery at SMFA in Boston, moderated by Angelina Gualdoni, painting faculty at the SMFA. Wilson and Wilding both draw from the physical environment to engage with cultural and natural histories. Their works are part of the multiveneue exhibition *Staying with the Trouble*, also on view at the Aidekman Arts Center in Medford. The exhibition proposes strategies and coping mechanisms for navigating the current political and socioeconomic climate, which seems to be simultaneously slipping backward into the archaic and forward into the apocalyptic. You can [register for the virtual event here](#).

Resources, Scholarships and Opportunities



Harvard Square Homeless Shelter Volunteering with Catholic Chaplaincy

Wednesday Breakfast Shift (leave campus 6 AM and return 9 AM); sign up today through email

Starting November 3, the Catholic Chaplaincy and the Catholic Community at Tufts (CCT) will send 3-5 students 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. 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.



Hillel Community Action Partners (HCAP) Volunteer/Internship Opportunity

Sign up today by contacting Hillel

Hillel Community Action Partners (HCAP) is a new Tufts Hillel-based initiative focused on direct action in the Medford and Somerville communities. Through partnerships with community organizations and other on-campus groups, HCAP engages in community-informed service and advocacy. This year, HCAP is thrilled to be partnering with the WMCC (West Medford Community Center). Through this program, Tufts students will get the opportunity to volunteer at the WMCC and intern in the center's office. Learn about their [Administrative and Marketing position here](#). [Click here for the full HCAP mission](#). To learn more about this opportunity, [please contact Hillel](#).



**NYU STEINHARDT AND THE
NYU OF MANY INSTITUTE FOR MULTIFAITH LEADERSHIP**

Passover Seders and Projects of Interfaith Encounter Dr. Jessica Cooperman

October 28, 2021



Fall 2021 installment of the Luce Lectures on the Changing Role
of Chaplains in American Higher Education

Dr. Jessica Cooperman, Associate Professor of Religion Studies & Director of Jewish Studies at Muhlenberg College will deliver the final installment of the Luce Lectures on the Changing Role of Chaplains in American Higher Education. Dr. Cooperman will speak to the evolution of Christian Passover seders and projects of interfaith encounter. This lecture will take place online, and you can [register for this virtual event here](#).



The Center for the Humanities
New Books & Projects Series



YONATAN Y. BRAFMAN

Assistant Professor of Modern Judaism
Neubauer Faculty Fellow
Dept. of Religion & Program in Judaic Studies

CRITIQUE OF HALAKHIC REASON: RELIGIOUS NORMS AND HUMAN REASONING IN JEWISH TRADITION

Norms are a central component of many religious traditions. However, in philosophy of religion, they have been underemphasized relative to belief, experience, and even the related category of ritual as an object of critical reflection. More surprisingly, despite the centrality of mitzvah (commandment) in Judaism, halakhah (Jewish law) has only recently become a major topic in modern Jewish thought. This talk introduces some of the arguments of *Critique of Halakhic Reason* (Indiana University Press, forthcoming). It clarifies both the object and method of this study through an example of Jewish religious practice. It also describes the contested relation between philosophical and legal reasoning about the commandments, before showing how even recent work in Jewish thought has missed the normative claim, deliberative context, and diversity of reasons in reflection about the commandments.

Friday, October 29 | 1:30 PM



Register for Zoom link: bit.ly/3BevcC8

Critique of Halakhic Reason: Religious Norms and Human Reasoning in Jewish Tradition

Friday, October 29, 1:30 pm. - 3:00 p.m. ET, held virtually

This Friday, Yonatan Y. Brafman, Assistant Professor of Modern Judaism and Neubauer Faculty Fellow in the Department of Religion and Program in Judaic Studies at Tufts, will discuss his latest research, *Critique of*

Halakhic Reason: Religious Norms and Human Reasoning in Jewish Tradition. This event is virtual and is a part of the New Books and Projects Series at Center for the Humanities at Tufts. You can [register for the virtual event 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](#).

Reformation Day

Sun., Oct. 31, 2021

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant

Commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation of Christianity with Martin Luther's challenge to the Roman church in the sixteenth century C.E.

Samhain

Sun., Oct. 31, 2021

Tradition: Wicca/Paganism

The New Year and the final harvest festival, celebrating the last gifts of the Earth before winter and the return of the spirits of the dead.

All Saints Day

Mon., Nov. 1, 2021

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

Christian celebration of the lives of all the saints, especially those not having a special day; Orthodox churches observe the day in mid-summer.

All Souls Day

Tue., Nov. 2, 2021

Tradition: Christianity-Roman Catholic

Catholic Christian observance in memory of all the faithful who are deceased. In some Latin cultures, this day is known as "The Day of the Dead."

Diwali (Dipavali)

Wed., Nov. 3, 2021

Tradition: Hinduism

Known as the Festival of Lights, it is dedicated to the goddess Kali in Bengal and to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, in the rest of India. As with several other festivals, Diwali is associated with one of the stories about the destruction of evil by Vishnu in one of his many manifestations.

Diwali/Mahavir Nirvana

Wed., Nov. 3, 2021

Tradition: Jainism

This Festival of Lamps celebrates the attainment of Moksha by Lord Mahavira. A burning lamp symbolizes the "light of knowledge," which dispels the darkness of delusion and ignorance.

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