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Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 1.20.21

A Note on Inauguration Day

Greetings from Goddard Chapel, where I am basking in the proverbial glow of today's ceremony and these truth-full, hope-full words of Inaugural Poet Amanda Gorman:

There is always light.
Only if we are brave enough to see it.
There is always light.
Only if we are brave enough to be it.

As we begin a new semester together at the University Chaplaincy and across campuses, may we each rejoice in every person's diverse gifts and talents; revere each person's unique identities and experiences; and keep finding the courage to see and be light.

Our spiritual, religious and philosophical practices, art, and literature have so much to offer us in this life together, and I am excited to be a part of the many offerings that our University Chaplaincy team and student leaders will share with us this term. I hope that you will find ways both familiar and new to join in and contribute to our community and communities, and I hope that you will reach out and connect with us as we all continue to respond to the many challenges and uncertainties of this time.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming programs, especially Venerable Priya Sraman's Goodbye Party on Friday, January 22 and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium on Wednesday, February 3. Information about both events is detailed below.

Pax et Lux,

Rev. Elyse Nelson Winger
University Chaplain

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium
Wednesday, February 3, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. ET; Registration required

Author, historian, and journalist Jelani Cobb, will give the keynote address at this year's symposium. The 2021 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium will focus on the theme of "Cashing Our Promissory Note: Race, Justice, and Reparation," based on the powerful excerpt from the Rev. Dr. King's speech at the March on Washington in 1963. Cobb is the Ira A. Lipman Professor of Journalism at Columbia University as well as staff writer for The New Yorker, where he writes about race, politics, and injustice. He is well-known for his prominently featured role in Ana Duvernay's Oscar-nominated documentary "13th" about the mass incarceration of Black Americans. You can find more information and register for the event anytime by following this link.

Pre-Symposium Lunch: What does 'Cashing our Promissory Note' mean to you?
Wednesday, January 27, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET; Registration required

Join a pre-MLK Symposium Lunch with the Africana Center, the Division for Student Diversity and Inclusion, Tisch College for Civic Engagement, and the University Chaplaincy. The hour will include remarks by Dr. Peter Levine, Associate Dean and Lincoln Filene Professor of Citizenship & Public Affairs at Tisch College of Civic Life, who is teaching the Spring 2021 course Topics In Political Thought: Political Philosophy of MLK, Jr. The lunch will also include moderated small groups and the opportunity to discuss the theme before the Symposium. Participants who register before Tuesday, January 26 at 12:00 p.m. will recieve a GrubHub gift card. Find more information and register for the luncheon here.

Religious and Philosophical Life Programs

You can find more information about our weekly gatherings and student group meetings on our website. You can also find the Zoom links for all events and gatherings. **Programs for Spring 2021 will begin the week of February 1.** If you have an idea for how University Chaplaincy programming can better serve you, please contact program manager Nora Bond.

2021 Unlearning Retreat with the Afriana Spirituality Chaplaincy and Hindu Chaplaincy
Thursday, January 21 and Friday, January 22

For students who identify with or are exploring Africana Spirituality and Hinduism, this retreat is a perfect way to spend two days in celebration of our faiths, traditions, and ancestors while contemplating our contemporary ways of being. We will be joined by guest speakers who will help us through the practices (not just the talking about practices) that can open our connections to ourselves, to each other, to the Universe and to the Divine forces that bring us together. As we reflect on the year behind us and set intentions for the year ahead, we hope to engage in practices that can assist us in unlearning that which does not serve us, so that we might activate and awaken all that does nourish the highest expressions of ourselves. Please contact Africana Spirituality Advisor, Azmera Hammouri-Davis and Hindu Advisor Preeta Banerjee with any questions. You can learn more, including a schedule and speaker profiles, and RSVP via this link. You can RSVP through January 20.

Goodbye Party for Departing Buddhist Chaplain, Priya Sraman
Friday, January 22, 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. ET

Join us to celebrate and thank Venerable Priya Sraman, departing Buddhist Chaplain, on his last day here at the Tufts University Chaplaincy. Priya has been a treasured member of the Tufts community, supporting the Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha, deepening our interfaith collaboration, and developing innovative programs. He will be the new Buddhist Chaplain at Emory University Office of Spiritual and Religious Life. Please email program manager Nora Bond with any questions about the virtual event. The Zoom information can be found on our website.

Sing a New Song: A Zoom Mini-Retreat
Thursday January 28 and Friday January 29, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. ET

Next week, as many of you will be preparing to return to campus safely, we will pause to reflect on last semester and turn our hearts towards that which awaits. In the spirit of Psalm 96, we will look to embrace the spirit of transition and sing a new song to the Lord. What wisdom will you glean from your experience of last semester? What will you

leave behind and what will you take with you as we begin this spring term? How might your life be a song of praise to God? While this is a two-day retreat, please know that you are invited to attend either or both days. Some of you will be traveling so do not let those logistics stand in the way of attending when you are available. Any Tufts student may attend. Each day will be virtual, and comprised of both on-screen and off-screen time. We will end our gathering together with an optional lunch (GrubHub coupons will be provided). Please email Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper to sign up.

Participate in Spring Semester Be-Friend Program
Sign ups are now open

In this acute moment, building and nourishing relationships is vital to good health and wellbeing. This 9-week interfaith friendship project is designed for staff and faculty pairs or student pairs to go deep and to talk about the things that matter like our values, our sense of purpose, and our questions about life. You will hone the skill of active listening while experimenting with shared spiritual practices from different religious and philosophical traditions. Participants will be paired in dyads and will commit to spending an hour together each week (virtually) as well as an extra half hour in private reflection. Please note, faculty and staff will be paired with other faculty and staff members, and students will be paired with fellow students. Several of our multifaith chaplains have contributed to the program, offering a diverse array of spiritual practices, including nature walks (independently and/or together), meditation exercises, listening to music, deep reading—of poetry, art, the world, our lives and one another. Please email Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper to sign up.

Partner Programs

Bridging Differences Grant Opportunities

Applications due February 12

Two years ago the Bridging Differences Task Force launched a new grant program funded by the Office of the Provost to support diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts across Tufts. These grants help our campus community develop initiatives that will broadly support and develop structures, processes, and skills for students, faculty, and staff to engage constructively across differences. This year, to align with the university's larger commitment to anti-racism, the Task Force has also introduced an explicit, stronger focus on anti-racism in its selection criteria, as well as added antiracism efforts to the program's mission statement. The Bridging Differences Task Force is pleased to announce the next round of funding for projects that will be implemented in the spring, summer, and fall of 2021. Any Tufts student, faculty or staff member may apply for up to $2,000 in funding. If you have questions in anticipation of the funding deadline, please contact the Provost's Office or visit the Bridging Differences website for more information.

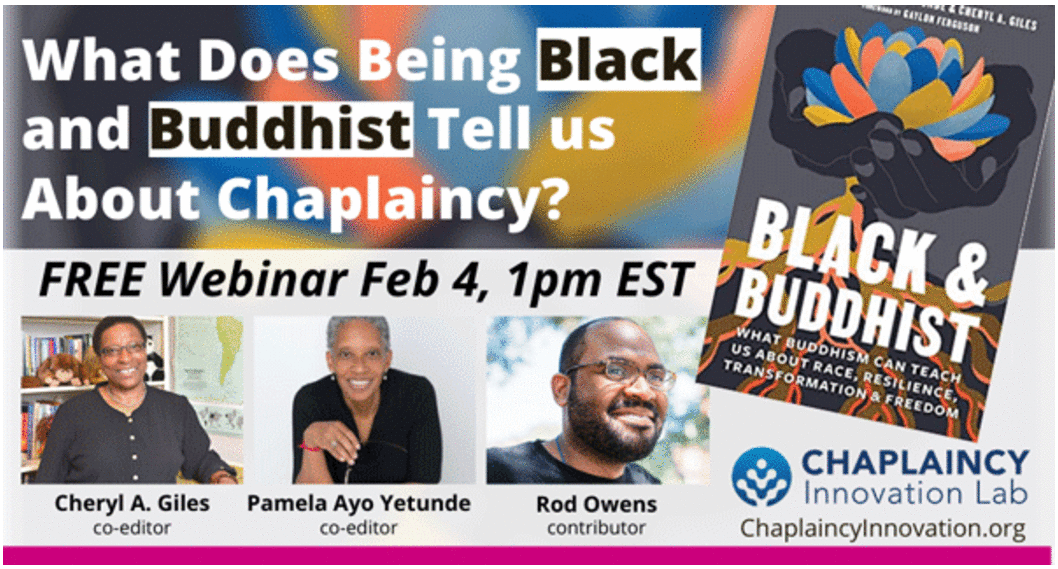
18th Annual New England Latinx/a/o Student Leadership Virtual Conference
Friday, March 19 - Saturday March 20

The University of Bridgeport is pleased to invite you to the 18th Annual New England Latinx/a/o Student Leadership Virtual Conference, taking place this spring. Tufts students can email the Latinx Center for more information and support in applying.The conference is currently accepting program proposals for the conference. Please consider submitting a proposal.

The Israel Summit
Sunday, February 7 - Thursday, February 11

The Israel Summit is a free, virtual, and international conference for people of all backgrounds to engage with the State of Israel. Join students from 100+ universities, including Tufts University, and members of 40+ organizations for this event. On Tuesday, February 9, there is a Career and Special Opportunities Fair from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. EST, that will feature dozens of travel, internship, and study abroad opportunities in Israel. You can find more information and register via this link.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities



"What Does Being Black and Buddhist Tell Us About Chaplaincy?" Webinar
Thursday, February 4, 1:00 p.m. ET

The Chaplaincy Innovcation Lab hosts Cheryl A. Giles, Lama Rod Owens, and Pamela Ayo Yetunde for a webinar discussion about the intersections of Blackness and Buddhism. Cheryl A. Giles, Psy.D., Buddhist teacher Lama Rod Owens, M.Div., and pastoral counselor Pamela Ayo Yetunde, Th.D., all contributed to Giles's and Yetunde's co-edited *Black and Buddhist: What Buddhism Can Teach Us About Race, Resilience, Transformation and Freedom*. In this webinar, speakers will offer insights from their experiences in the spiritual/pastoral care field, as well as intersectional insights from their practices in Buddhism, writing, and teaching. Register for the free event here.

2021 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) at Yale
Applications due February 1

Each summer, the Yale SURF program brings about fifteen qualified undergraduates to Yale for eight weeks to explore what a doctoral program could over them. The Religious Studies Department, among many others, welcomes students to this program. Participants will be immersed in an academic, professional setting with a faculty mentor, a post-doctoral associate, and/or an advanced graduate student. The SURF Program is intended for students with a strong desire to pursue research careers at the Ph.D. level. The program is particularly interested in identifying and providing research experience to talented underrepresented students. Preference is given to students completing their sophomore or junior years, but other students with persuasive plans for research may be considered. Participation in the summer program is restricted to US citizens and permanent residents. You can find more information, and application requirements on their website.

Interfaith Youth Core hosts A Talk with Dolores Huerta
Wednesday, February 10, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ET

An iconic labor and civil rights activist, Dolores Huerta has dedicated her life's work to advocating for workers, immigrants, and marginalized communities in America. Join the Interfaith Youth Core for a conversation led by Dr. Antonio Flores, president and CEO of Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities about how her interfaith alliances shaped her work. You can register for the event here.

The Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship
Applications due February 14

The Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship offers students of color a full scholarship to study abroad on a program that builds their leadership and intercultural communication skills. All program fees are covered, as well as airfare.This opportunity is offered by CIEE, the nation's oldest and largest international student exchange organization. This year's cohort is co-sponsored by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, who were eager to commemorate the 175th anniversary of Douglass's four-month journey around Ireland. Participants will be based in Dublin and visit other cities where Douglass

campaigned, while meeting with government leaders and social justice activists. They invite applications from 1st, 2nd or 3rd year students, with a GPA of 3.0 or above, from ethnic backgrounds typically underrepresented on study abroad programs. For more details and to start an application, please see the website.

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.

Birthday of Guru Gobind Sing Ji
Tuesday, 1.19.2021
Tradition: Sikhism
Guru Gobind Singh Ji (1666-1708), the 10th and final Sikh master, created the Khalsa, the "Brotherhood of the Pure," and declared the Scriptures, the Adi 'Granth, to be the Sikh's Guru from that time on.

Tu B'Shevat
Wednesday, 1.27.2021
Tradition: Judaism

Sadeh
Saturday, 1.30.2021
Tradition: Zoroastrianism

Imbolc
Monday, 2.1.2021
Tradition: Wicca/Paganism
The first fertility festival, celebrating the approach of spring and the growth of light in the darkness.

Support the University Chaplaincy

Supporting dynamic programs at Tufts University in religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life is easy and vital to our work. To donate, please click on the button below. Thank you for your generosity.

Give Today

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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