



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 2.22.23



A Greeting From Your Humanist Chaplain

Dear Tufts community,

For the past few months, I have been accompanying individuals, communities, and organizations as they discern what it means to be in a meaningful relationship. Time and again, three main themes emerge: meaningful relationships are predicated upon an accounting of power, grounded belonging, and the ability to wade into the complexities of difference. It is these themes that guide my work to create spaces that invite generous meaning making and dialogue. We must look to the potential in our relationships to cultivate care for self and another, especially in this world. It is only through examining the character of our relationships that we can become conspirators towards the liberatory futures we seek.

As Black Legacy Month continues, I am introspective about what it means for me to be an Afro-Caribbean humanist/freethinker. I hold within my body grounding rituals and theories of ancestors and elders who have modeled for me what is possible. Care was a central tenet in these rituals and

theories. The personal that is evoked in their practices served a way to build alternative worlds where all could flourish. For example, water is a central motif in my life. My family and ancestors would look to water or nature at large to establish a deeper connection with the vastness and the vicissitudes of life. Water symbolized for us flow and we would frequent bodies of water to remember interdependence and possibility.

Today, I invite you to consider: What stories and experiences can you conjure that both empower you towards flourishing and at the same time challenge your current state of being?

En conjunto,

Anthony Cruz Pantojas
Humanist Chaplain

Upcoming Signature Programs

An Evening with **Ofelia Zepeda**

**A Conversation on Poetry,
Language, and Justice**

**TUESDAY
MARCH 7, 2023**

**5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
BREED MEMORIAL HALL**

**This year we will welcome Tufts
Honorary Degree recipient Dr.
Ofelia Zepeda as our Russell
Lecture Speaker.**

Ofelia Zepeda (Tohono O'odham) is the director of the American Indian Language Development Institute at University of Arizona and the Regents' Professor of Linguistics and affiliate faculty in American Indian Studies at the University of Arizona. She will welcome people to a conversation on how poetry, language, and justice transform each other.

All are welcome.



RSVP for the
Lecture here:



Join Dr. Zepeda for a

Workshop on Story-Telling

Wednesday, March 8, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sign up via the same registration form

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Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life

Tuesday, March 7, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Breed Memorial Hall

The Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life is the oldest endowed lectureship at Tufts, and is meant to offer a spiritual perspective on this historical moment. This year we are honored to host Dr. Ofelia Zepeda, 2021 Tufts Honorary Degree recipient and director of the American Indian Language Development Institute at University of Arizona and the Regents' Professor of Linguistics and affiliate faculty in American Indian Studies at the University of Arizona. She teaches Tohono O'odham language courses and survey courses on American Indian languages, and her research areas include language variation, language policy, and issues of endangered languages. She is a published poet who has authored and edited numbers volumes of poetry. She will speak about how language shapes our spiritual worlds and

futures, and how poetry contributes to revitalizing Indigenous languages. Please also join for a workshop on Wednesday, March 8 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. with Dr. Zepeda, when she will share how we can learn from poetry, and how it humanizes stories, experiences, and the injustices of our time. Find more information on our [website](#), and please contact Tufts Chaplaincy with any questions and access needs. You can register for the lecture and workshop [here](#).

"Our Language, Our Strength" Open Mic Night with the Tufts Indigenous Center and University Chaplaincy

Tuesday, February 28, from 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Indigenous Center (112 Packard Ave)

Come join the Tufts Indigenous Center and the University Chaplaincy for an evening in honor of "[Our Language, Our Strength](#)" in advance of our Russell Lecture event. We invite all members of our community to share song, stories, and poetry! Please join us for a night of food, celebration, and recognition of language, our cultures and communities by registering [here](#) by Monday, Feb 27.



MLK Day of Community Action

RSVP by Wednesday, February 22, at 11:59 p.m.

Saturday, February 25, from 11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at Breed Memorial Hall

Join the Interfaith Ambassador Team of the University Chaplaincy for the 2023 MLK Day of Community Action for community building, workshops on MLK's legacy in modern activism, and direct action. Together, we will explore our own roles in the fight for change through the lens of carceral and food justice. Engage in service and advocacy opportunities with Concord Prison Outreach and Ending Hunger New England to address these issues in our very own metro Boston neighborhoods and

beyond. Locally sourced lunch and dinner meals will be provided. Registration is required and closes at 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22. If you already signed up for the original date, you don't need to re-register! But please let University Chaplain [Elyse Nelson Winger](#) know if you can no longer attend.

Register for the Day of Community Action

Religious and Philosophical Programs

Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Services

Liturgy of the Word with Imposition of Ashes

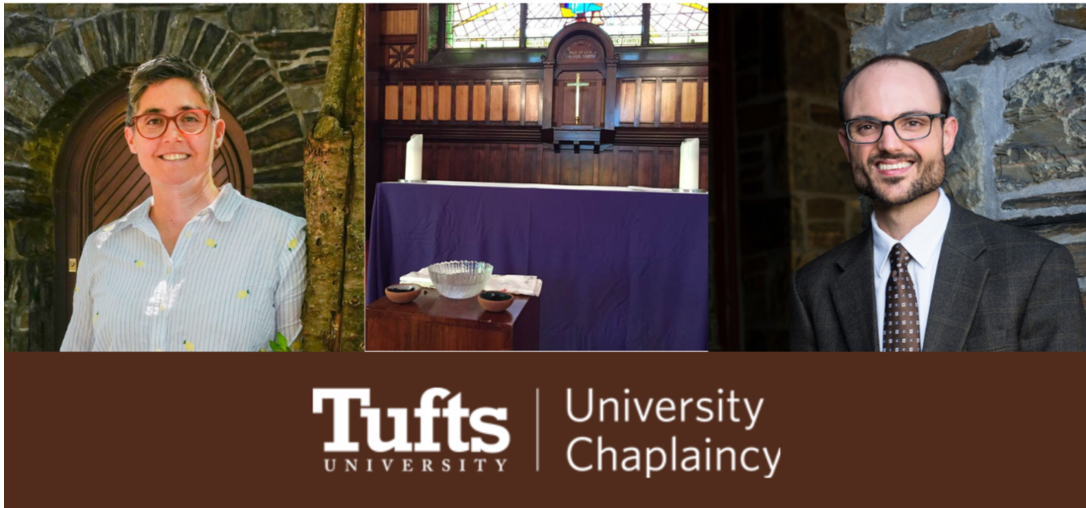
Wednesday, February 22, 2023

12:10pm and 5:10pm, Goddard Chapel

On Ash Wednesday, many mark the beginning of Lent by honoring the ancient call to be rooted in our truest selves through prayer, reflection, and acts of discipline. It is a call to journey through the wilderness as we move towards the Cross and the Empty Tomb.

All are welcome to join in this time of prayer, singing, and reflection hosted by Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell.

For questions or more information, contact
chaplaincy@tufts.edu.



Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Services

Wednesday, February 22, 12:10 p.m. and 5:10 p.m. at Goddard Chapel

Join the Tufts ecumenical Christian community for Liturgy of the Word with Imposition of Ashes, led by Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell. All are welcome. Please email Tufts Chaplaincy with any questions.

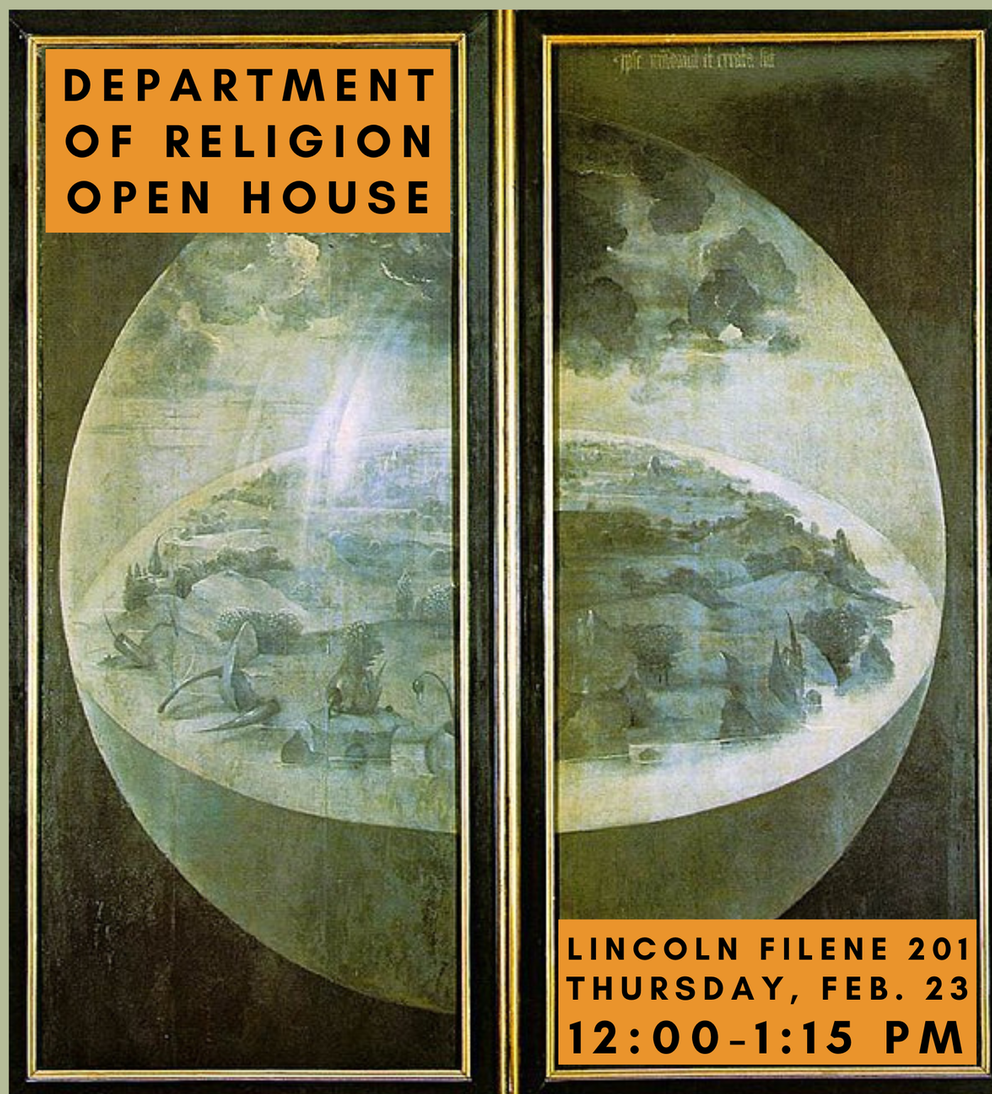


Sixth Annual Interfaith Field Trip to Downtown Boston

Friday, March 3, 12:00-4:00 p.m., meet at Tufts/Medford Green T station at 12:00 p.m. or at Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St, Boston, at 1:00 p.m.

Come experience interfaith partnership in action. [For over 15 years, St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral has hosted a Muslim congregation every Friday for Jummah Prayers.](#) Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell and Muslim Chaplain Najiba Akbar are hosting a field trip to the cathedral, located just across from the Park Street T stop. We will join the Muslim congregation for Jummah Prayers. Muslim and Christian faith leaders will then meet with us for lunch and conversation. We will return to campus no later than 4pm. (Students may leave early as necessary.) Students from all religious/philosophical backgrounds are welcome to participate. This event is being sponsored by the Protestant Chaplaincy and Muslim Chaplaincy. [Please RSVP here](#) by Wednesday, March 1. Please email Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](#) or Muslim Chaplain [Najiba Akbar](#) for more information.

Partner Programs



All are welcome to join our faculty and other religion students for conversation and a meal on **Thursday, Feb. 23, at 12:00-1:15 PM in LINCOLN FILENE 201**. You will learn more about the department, upcoming fall course offerings, and majoring or minoring in religion.

Department of Religion Open House

Thursday, February 23, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. at Lincoln Filene 201

The Department of Religion will be hosting an open house on Thursday, Feb. 23 (Tufts Monday schedule!) from 12:00-1:15 PM in Lincoln Filene 201. ALL are welcome (majors, minors, interested + associated students) to join our faculty and other religion students for conversation and a meal. You will learn more about the department, upcoming fall course offerings, and majoring or minoring in religion. Food will be served at this event!



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Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study & Human Development

Department of Philosophy

Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life

TUPIT

Welcome

MARC J GWAMAKA

from the Aegis Trust, Kigali, Rwanda
for a conversation on restorative justice
and forgiveness

Thursday, March 2nd, 3:30-5:00 PM
The Alumnae Lounge of the Aidekman Arts Center
Light refreshments provided

Forgiveness: A Step to Reconciliation

A Case Study
of Rwanda

Forgiveness: A Step to Reconciliation

Thursday, March 2, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at The Alumnae Lounge of the Aidekman Arts Center

Join our guest speaker, Marc J Gwamaka, for a conversation on restorative justice and forgiveness. Marc founded the Aegis Youth Champion Leadership Program ten years ago in Rwanda, where children of survivors and perpetrators of the genocide live together. He has worked with over 2,300 individuals, including those in active conflict, enabling them to become role models and powerful voices of humanity in their communities. Marc currently leads the training and education program at the Aegis Trust, where he trains various members of the local and international community about peace and values education.

Reclaiming Obligation

Is obligation always a burden?

Can obligation be a source of meaning, even joy?

Jewish religious traditions center the idea, and the daily experience, of obligation, yet we live in a society that prizes liberty. How can we understand Jewish accounts of obligation as a constituent part of the human condition while also valuing freedom?

Dr. Mara Benjamin



Mara H. Benjamin is Irene Kaplan Leiwant Professor and Chair of Jewish Studies at Mount Holyoke College. Her 2018 book, **The Obligated Self: Maternal Subjectivity and Jewish Thought** (Indiana) received the 2019 American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion.

Feigenbaum, J76 Lecture

Thursday March 2nd
7:30pm
At Tufts Hillel
220 Packard Ave
Medford MA 02155



Click or Scan
to Sign up



Reclaiming Obligation

Thursday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. at Tufts Hillel (220 Packard Ave)

Can obligation be a source of meaning, even joy? Or does obligation always convey a sense of burden? Jewish religious traditions center the idea, and the daily experience, of obligation, yet we live in a society that prizes liberty. How can we understand Jewish accounts of obligation as a constituent part of the human condition while also valuing freedom? Mara H. Benjamin is Irene Kaplan Leiwant Professor and Chair of Jewish Studies at Mount Holyoke College. She holds a Ph.D. in modern Jewish thought and religious studies from Stanford University. Her 2018 book, *The Obligated Self: Maternal Subjectivity and Jewish Thought* (Indiana) received the 2019 American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion, Constructive-Reflective category, and was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award in 2018. She is also the author of *Rosenzweig's Bible: Reinventing Scripture for Jewish Modernity* (Cambridge, 2009). [Sign up here.](#)

Blood Drive

American Red Cross
Give blood. Help save lives.



Thursday, Feb. 23* & Wednesday, Mar. 1

12:00pm-5:00pm

*Tufts Monday Schedule

12:00pm-5:00pm



Schedule an appointment
Click or Scan



@Tufts Hillel
220 Packard Ave.



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, February 23 & Wednesday, March 1, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Tufts Hillel (220 Packard Ave)

Give blood and help save lives! Come to Tufts Hillel on Thursday, Feb. 23 (Tufts Monday schedule) or Wednesday, March 1 from 12-5 pm to donate blood through the American Red Cross. [Sign up to donate here](#). Please reach out to [Mariel Priven](#) with any questions.

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](#).

Ash Wednesday

Wed., Feb. 22, 2023

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

A special day of repentance observed by Protestant and Roman Catholic Christians to mark the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period (excluding Sundays) of prayer, repentance, and self-denial preceding Easter. The name derives from the practice of marking of the faithful with ashes to signify penitence.

Great Lent

Mon., Feb. 27 – Sat., Apr. 15, 2023

Tradition: Christianity-Orthodox

In Orthodox churches, the first day of Lent marks the beginning of the Great Fast, the final six weeks of a 10-week period leading up to Holy Week and Easter (Pascha). In the churches that follow the Gregorian calendar, Lent is a six-week observance (40 days excluding Sundays) beginning with Ash Wednesday and culminating in Holy Week. It is a time of repentance and sacrifice in preparation for Easter

Nineteen Day Fast

Wed., Mar. 1 – Sun., Mar. 19, 2023

Tradition: Baha'i

A designated 19-day period of fasting each year immediately before the Bahá'í New Year. The fasting is seen as a period of spiritual preparation and regeneration for the new year ahead.

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.

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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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