



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 3.27.24



Holi at Fletcher on March 26

A Reflection from your Hindu Chaplain

Namaste,

I have been reflecting deeply and noticing the play of colors all around me. With the increase of sunlight comes the sudden springing of purple crocus and yellow daffodils. It feels like Mother Earth is out to play as we celebrated, and continue to celebrate, Holi on campus.

This year, Holi was observed on March 25. One of the many observances of this special day includes the sacred story of a young boy, Prahalad, who kept steadfast in his eternal hope. He was deceived to sit in a fire by the seemingly unburnable Holika; however, her grasp on the material world (a cloak) was not enough to save her. Prahalad's devotion to his values stood the test of the fire of his time. This sacred story helps me ask: what are the values that will keep my hope springing eternal?

As we played with *rang* (colors) at Fletcher yesterday (see above!), we couldn't stop laughing. There is no experience like it! Mind-body-senses combine in play, and color highlights the fullness of the community experience in all its differences - mixing of orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, red. When playing, breath takes the form of laughter. When this transformation of breath to laughter happens, deep love flows through all our hearts. I value this flow, and the ever-

present possibility of connection with those around me. Breath is the ultimate reminder of that connection, and always clarifies the next action for me.

Please join us for another chance to play, to notice the colors and all they symbolize, to observe your breath and its shape and form in community on April 14 in the Residential Quad at noon, hosted by the Hindu Student Association. I leave you with this sacred verse from Bhagavad Gita 4.37:

अप्यग्निर्विध्वंसतीत्याशः कुरुतेऽप्यग्निर्विद्वान् ।
अप्यग्निर्विध्वंसतीत्याशः कुरुतेऽप्यग्निर्विद्वान् ॥

Just as blazing fire reduces wood to ashes, even so, the fire of knowledge purifies all actions.

With deep breath,
Preeeta Banerjee
Hindu Chaplain

Scroll down for the March photo of the month!



Jonathan M. Tisch
College of Civic Life

Tufts receives grant from Interfaith America

We are thrilled to share that Tufts received a grant from Interfaith America thanks to our collaborative visioning and planning with Tisch College of Civic Life on pluralistic religious leadership for our community. The grant will allow us to create a new first year experience, offer more community engagement opportunities to students, and create a new class for spring 2025! You can read more about the initiative below.

Interfaith America Grant to Tufts

Religious and Philosophical Programs

Our gatherings are open to all members of the Tufts community! Please find more information and more regular weekly programming and events [here on our website](#). If you have any questions, or would like to connect about convening a new gathering, please [reach out to the University Chaplaincy](#).

Ramadan Iftars

March/April 2024

<i>S</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>S</i>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13

Note: All iftars will be held at the Tufts Interfaith Center (IFC) located at 58 Winthrop St. with the exception of Interfaith Iftar on 4/12 which will be held in Breed Hall (51 Winthrop Street - across from IFC). On all nights, prayer space will be available at IFC for *Maghrib*.

Community Iftars on Campus

Join the Muslim community for our open iftars! See image above for exact dates and locations (marked in red on the calendar). All remaining iftars will be held at the Interfaith Center at 58 Winthrop Street. Prayer space for maghrib and Isha/Tarawih will be available at each iftar. We will not be distributing single-use water bottles so if possible please bring your own reusable water bottle to iftar. This will help us eliminate waste during Ramadan. Find more information about Ramadan at Tufts below.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER GATHERINGS

Sponsored by the Catholic and Protestant Chaplaincies.

Stations of the Cross
Friday, March 29 10:30AM
Beginning at Goddard Chapel



Good Friday Ecumenical Service
Friday, March 29, 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Goddard Chapel

Easter Catholic Mass
Sunday, March 31, 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Goddard Chapel



Easter Dinner Celebration
Sunday, March 31, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Interfaith Center (58 Winthrop)

Hallelujah Worship Night (hosted by
Daily Flame)
Tuesday, April 2, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Barnum LLO08



All are welcome to attend, regardless of faith.

If you are interested in contributing musically to one of the worship services, email University Chaplaincy Music Director Suzanne Cartreine at chaplaincymusic@tufts.edu. For other inquiries, email Catholic Lynn Cooper (lynn.cooper@tufts.edu) or Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell (daniel.bell@tufts.edu)

Holy Week and Easter gatherings are hosted by the Protestant Chaplaincy and the Catholic Chaplaincy and Daily Flame this year; events are open to all. Events include:

- Stations of the Cross, Friday, March 29 at 10:30 a.m. (Goddard Chapel)
- Good Friday Ecumenical Service, Friday, March 29 at 12:00 p.m. (Goddard Chapel)
- Easter Catholic Mass, Sunday, March 21 at 5:00 p.m. (Goddard Chapel)
- Easter Dinner Celebration, Sunday March 31, 6:30 p.m. (Interfaith Center)
- Hallelujah Worship Night, Tuesday, April 2, 7:30 p.m. (Barnum LL008)

Please email Catholic Chaplain [Lynn Cooper](#) or Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](#) with any questions about any of the gatherings above.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH


Raquel Willis
Author and Activist
The Risk it Takes to Bloom


Monroe France
Vice Provost for
Institutional Inclusive Excellence

*The Risk it Takes to Bloom: In conversation
with Raquel Willis and Monroe France*

THURSDAY | **28** | **RSVP**
6-8PM | **MAR** | **HERE** 

In honor of Women's History Month, we welcome activist and author Raquel Willis to campus for a community conversation on gender liberation. This dinner event will feature a fireside chat and Q&A with Raquel as well as table conversations facilitated by student leaders. Raquel Willis is an award-winning activist, journalist, and media strategist dedicated to collective liberation, especially for Black trans folks.

• • • **COOLIDGE ROOM, BALLOU HALL** • • •
• • • **1 THE GREEN, MEDFORD MA 02155** • • •



The Risk it Takes to Bloom

Thursday, March 28, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at Ballou Hall (1 The Green, Medford) Coolidge Room

This hybrid event will take place on the Medford Campus in the Coolidge Room, Ballou Hall on March 28th from 6-8pm and will offer our community the opportunity to think about gender liberation through a fireside chat and Q&A with

Raquel, as well as table discussions facilitated by student leaders. Please RSVP below. This event is co-sponsored by the Women's Center, the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department, and TCU. The Office of Institutional Inclusive Excellence hopes to see you there.

[RSVP for March 28 Event](#)

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Friday, March 29, 12:00 p.m.
Goddard Chapel



With many Christians all over the world, we gather on Good Friday to bear witness to Jesus' Passion. Hosted by Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell, this service is a time of prayer and song as we keep vigil and stay awake to the tombs in our world and the tombs in our hearts.

If you are interested in singing or playing an instrument, please email Suzie Cartreine, University Chaplaincy Music Director, at chaplaincymusic@tufts.edu.

Rehearsals will be scheduled soon.

*Art by Sadao Watanabe, Japan
Lindiwe Mvemve (South African, 1958-), Crucifixion, 1977.*



University Chaplaincy
Protestant Chaplaincy



University Chaplaincy
Catholic Chaplaincy

Good Friday Ecumenical Service

Friday, March 29, 12:00 p.m. to 1:10 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Join the Catholic Chaplaincy and Protestant Chaplaincy for an ecumenical Good Friday service at Goddard Chapel. All are welcome to this time of prayer and vigil. If you are interested in singing or playing an instrument, please email

Department of
Religion
**OPEN
HOUSE**

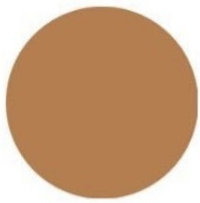
Monday, April 1 | 12:00 - 1:15pm | Lincoln Filene 201

All are welcome to join our faculty and fellow religion students for great conversation and a meal! Come to learn more about the department, upcoming fall course offerings, and majoring or minoring in religion.

Religion Department Open House

Monday, April 1, 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., at Lincoln Filene 201

Join the Department of Religion for our Spring Open House! We are excited to see new faces and familiar ones. Come hang out with us next Monday. Food will be provided as you talk with faculty and current students and learn more about the possibilities through the Department of Religion at Tufts! All are welcome to attend.



DAILY FLAME INVITES YOU TO

HALLELUJAH

WORSHIP NIGHT

TUESDAY, APRIL 2 @ 7:30PM
in Barnum Hall LL08



Hallelujah Worship Night with Daily Flame

Tuesday, April 2, 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Barnum LL008

Daily Flame is hosting our first-ever Hallelujah Worship Night to continue the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. Please join us for amazing worship and special performances, sponsored by the Protestant Chaplaincy. We can't wait to see you there and see God move in the room. Don't forget to invite your friends too! Please [email Daily Flame](#) with any questions or if you would like to participate as a musician, reader, or prayer leader.



Beyond Darkness Stories of Renewal

Hear from a panel of survivors and those impacted by the Holocaust and genocides in Darfur, Bosnia, and Cambodia. Listen to the speakers' experiences of strength, fear, and uncertainty, as well as their tireless efforts to advocate for their communities.

April 3rd, 2024
7:30pm
@The Joyce Cummings Center
177 College Ave, Medford, MA 02155



Beyond Darkness: Stories of Renewal from Cambodia, Darfur, Bosnia, and the Holocaust

Wednesday, April 3, Joyce Cummings Center

Reception: 6:30pm at the Joyce Cummings Center

Panel: 7:30pm at the Joyce Cummings Center

Hear from a panel of survivors, including Rachael Cerrotti, Jasmina Cesic, Soben Ung, and Bol Riiny, and those impacted by the Holocaust and genocides in Darfur, Bosnia, and Cambodia. Listen to the panel's experiences of strength, fear, uncertainty, and their tireless efforts to advocate for their communities. Food and refreshments will be provided at the reception, and guests will have the opportunity to meet the speakers prior to the panel.

[RSVP For Cummings/Hillel Keynote](#)



Holi with Hindu Students Association

Sunday, April 14, 12:00 p.m.

Join the Hindu Students Association for Holi on Sunday, April 14 on the Res Quad! Early arrivals get free tshirts to get colorful! You can email Hindu Chaplain [Preet Banerjee](#) with any questions.

TECH AGNOSTIC

with Greg Epstein,
Humanist Chaplain at Harvard and MIT

New York Times Bestselling Author of
Good Without God



THURSDAY, APRIL 11
12:00-1:30P
LUNCH PROVIDED

**INTERFAITH
CENTER
58 WINTHROP ST**

Today's technology has overtaken religion as the chief influence on twenty-first century life and community. In his new book, *Tech Agnostic: How Technology Became the World's Most Powerful Religion, and Why It Desperately Needs a Reformation*, Harvard and MIT's influential humanist chaplain Greg Epstein explores what it means to be a critical thinker with respect to this new faith.

Encouraging readers to reassert their common humanity beyond the seductive sheen of "tech," this book argues for tech agnosticism—not worship—as a way of life. Without suggesting we return to a mythical pre-tech past, Epstein shows why we must maintain a freethinking critical perspective toward innovation until it proves itself worthy of our faith or not.

This is an exclusive book pre-release event for the Tufts community. Tufts ID required.



TO RSVP,
SCAN THIS CODE



**REGISTRATION
CLOSES APRIL 10TH
AT 12PM**

QUESTIONS?

TUFTS.HCAT@GMAIL.COM

Tech Agnostic with Greg Epstein, hosted by the Humanist Community at Tufts

Thursday, April 11, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Interfaith Center

The Humanist Community at Tufts (HCAT) invites you to a special event featuring Greg Epstein, the Humanist Chaplain for Harvard and MIT. Join us to hear about his upcoming book: "*Tech Agnostic: How Technology Became the World's Most Powerful Religion, and Why It Desperately Needs a Reformation*." Encouraging readers to reassert their common humanity beyond the seductive sheen of "tech," the book argues for tech agnosticism - not worship - as a way of life. Without suggesting we return to a mythical pre-tech past, Epstein shows why we must maintain a freethinking critical perspective toward innovation until it proves itself worthy of our faith or not. For questions, [contact HCAT](mailto:tufts.hcat@gmail.com).

RSVP For Tech Agnostic hosted by HCAT

Resources and Scholarships



Frontiers of Democracy Conference

Thursday June 13 through Saturday June 15, Tufts University Medford Campus

Proposals due April 16

This year's special theme is "Violence, Nonviolence, and Robust Democracy." We anticipate robust conversations (and disagreements) about what defines and causes political violence and about the potential and limitations of nonviolent strategies. This year's plenary speakers on the nonviolence theme will include Damien Conners, Heather Cronk, Jalene Schmidt, Maria Stephan, and Thupten Tendhar. Jessie Landerman and Keisha E. McKenzie from Everyday Democracy will lead an interactive plenary session on "Prime Time Propaganda: Using Narrative, Dialogue, and Facilitation Techniques to Confront Violent Forms of Communication."

The nonviolence theme is not exclusive; we welcome sessions on other topics related to Tisch College's "North Star": building robust, inclusive democracy for an increasingly multiracial society. In particular, we are eager to continue last year's rich conversations about religious pluralism and democracy and would welcome proposals in that area, whether or not they relate to violence and nonviolence. Although we will consider proposals for presentations or panels of presentations, we generally prefer proposals for other formats, such as moderated discussions, meetings devoted to strategy or design, trainings and workshops, case study discussions, debates, and other creative formats. Learn more about the conference register or propose a session below.

[Find out more about Frontiers of Democracy](#)

March photo of the month!

The Interfaith Ifar on March 12 was a full house at Breed Memorial Hall. Thank you to the Muslim Chaplaincy and the Muslim Student Association for hosting so many for break fast.



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](#).

Ramadan

Mon., Mar. 11 – Wed., Apr. 10, 2024

Tradition: Islam

The Holy Month of Ramadan is the month of fasting during which Muslims who are physically able do not eat or drink from the first sign of dawn until sunset in honor of the first revelations to the Prophet Muhammad. The evening meal is celebrated with family.

Great Lent

Mon., Mar. 18 – Sat., May 4, 2024

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.

Holy Thursday/Maundy Thursday

Thu., Mar. 28, 2024

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

Commemorates the institution of the Lord's Supper/the Eucharist by Jesus prior to his arrest and execution.

"Maundy" is derived from the Latin text of John 13:34, in which Jesus gives a mandatum novum ("new commandment"). The date observed by Protestants and Roman Catholics differs from the date observed by Orthodox Christians.

Good Friday

Fri., Mar. 29, 2024

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

Commemorates the Passion of Jesus Christ, i.e., his death by crucifixion. Observed as Holy Friday by Orthodox Christians on a different date from the one observed by Protestants and Roman Catholics.

Easter Sunday

Sun., Mar. 31, 2024

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

Celebrates the resurrection from death of Jesus Christ. It is the oldest and most important festival in the Christian year and initiates the 50-day period culminating in Pentecost. Protestant and Roman Catholic Christians often observe Easter on a different date than Orthodox Christians.

Hydesville Day

Sun., Mar. 31, 2024

Tradition: Spiritualism

On this date in 1848, the discarnate soul of Charles B. Rosna communicated via the mediumship of the Fox sisters heralding the advent of Modern Spiritualism.

Great Lent

Ongoing through Sat., May 4, 2024

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.

Anniversary of the Founding of the Church

Sat., Apr. 6, 2024

Tradition: Latter Day Saints

Annual World General Conference of the Church held on Saturday and Sunday closest to this date each year.

Laylat al-Qadr

Sat., Apr. 6, 2024

Tradition: Islam

The Night of Power or Destiny commemorates the first revelation of the Qur'an (the Islamic scriptures) to Prophet Muhammad in 610 CE.

Eid al-Fitr ('Id al-Fitr)

Tue., Apr. 9 – Fri., Apr. 12, 2024

Tradition: Islam

Also known as the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast. One of the two main Islamic festivals (the other is Eid al-Adha), this day celebrates the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting. It comes on the first day of the next lunar month, Shawal.

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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