Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 12.1.21

Advent wreath in Goddard Chapel on Sunday, November 28, 2021

A Reflection from our Catholic Chaplain

Blessings to you this first week of Advent.

I am truly grateful for the different seasonal cycles in my life. There are the seasons of New England which remind me that change is constant. There is the academic calendar that contains waves of energy, curiousity, and fullness. And as a Catholic, there is yet another set of seasons: the liturgical year.

The season of Advent, which began on Sunday, marks the beginning of this new liturgical year. Advent is a season of anticipation and active waiting. It is a time that invites us to sit with our inner longings—those we hold for our own lives and those we hold for our broken and beautiful world. This past weekend, we lit our first candle of the Advent

anxieties of daily life." (Luke 21:34) I love these kinds of readings. They affirm the reality of our humanness— we forget, we remember, we fall asleep, we wake up. My tradition reminds me that, for generations, people have lived with the same kind of deep longings that reside within us, longings for justice, mercy and compassion. My tradition reminds me that across time and space, human beings have wrestled with how to make sense of day-to-day stresses while staying connected to the larger picture of life and meaning.

The power of the liturgical seasons is that I am different when I encounter these readings and stories again each year. I am, after all, only who I am today because I lived through yesterday. And so, while these stories are familiar, they are also new because I am new and because the world is new.

Let us heed this call to wake up. Let us keep our hearts open, making room for others, taking time to tend to our needs. Let us nurture those moments of deep connection which remind us that we belong to something far greater than ourselves.

Sending warm wishes—for body and spirit—to you and yours as we head towards the end of this calendar year.

Lynn Cooper, D.Min.
Catholic Chaplain and Associate Director of the University Chaplaincy

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Upcoming Signature Events

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

Chanukah Candle Lighting
Daily, Sunday, November 28 - Sunday, December 5, 4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Join Tufts Hillel for candle lighting every night of Chanukah at the Granoff Family Hillel Center. You can find more information about celebrations this week on the Hillel website. We wish a light-filled holiday to all those celebrating.

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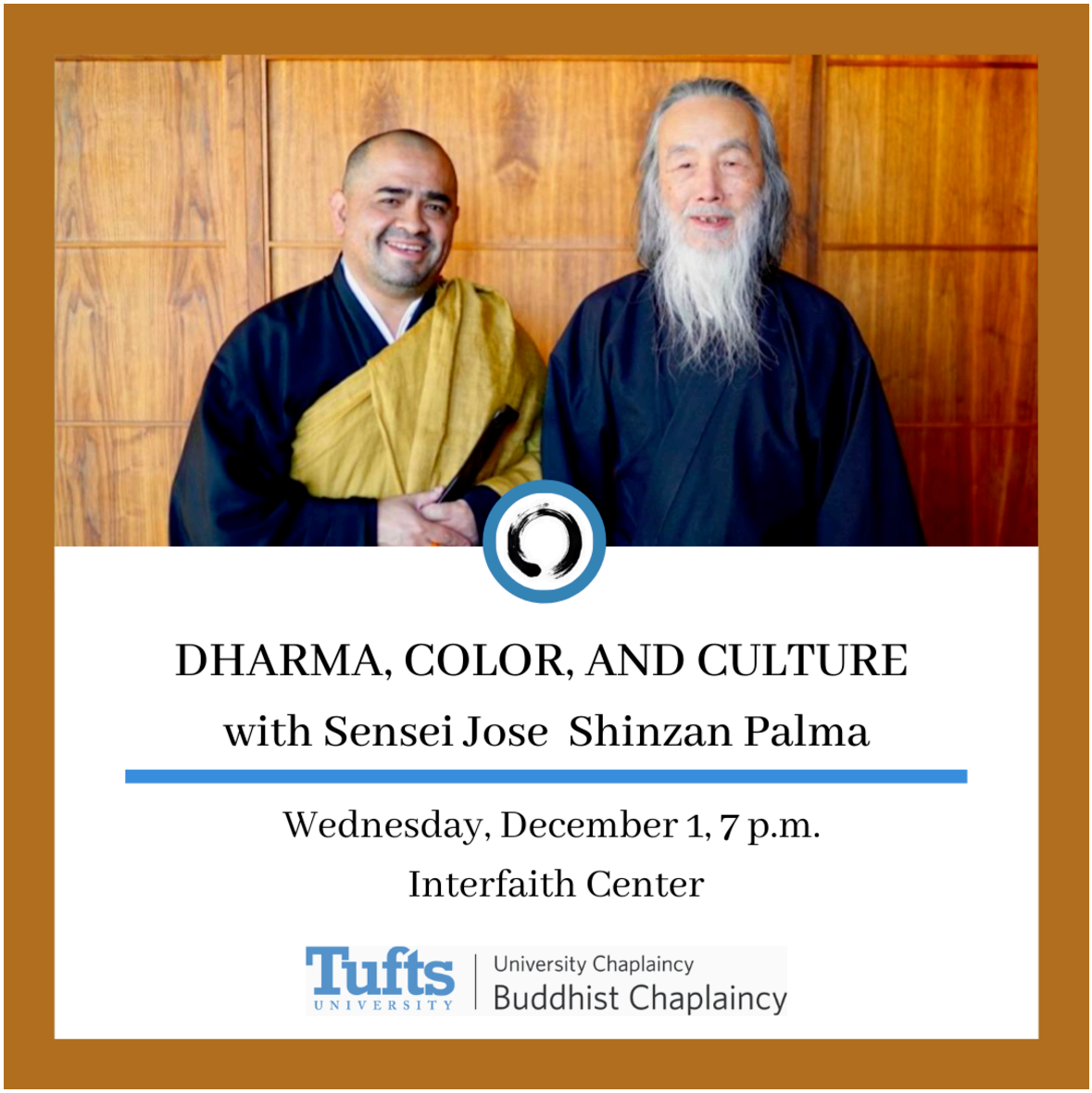

"Dharma, Color, and Culture" with Sensei Jose Shinzan Palma
Wednesday, December 1, 7:00 p.m. ET, held virtually.

You are invited to join the Buddhist Chaplaincy and Sensei Jose Shinzan Palma, who will give a Dharma talk on "Dharma, Color and Culture." Sensei Jose Shinzan Palma will speak to the ways that practice interconnects with culture and race in his lived experience and the experiences of his students—and how to build diverse and inclusive practice communities. Shinzan received Dharma transmission from Joan Halifax, Roshi in January 2015. He is the founder of the Open Gate Zen Collective in San Diego, California, and is a guest teacher at Upaya Zen Center, New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care, and Zen groups in Mexico City, Mexico, and Bogotá, Colombia. The event, held on Zoom, will replace the regular in-person weekly gathering. Please pre-register here. All are welcome. Please email Buddhist Chaplain Ji Hyang Padma with any questions.

Emergence: The Rhythms of the Human Condition
Saturday, December 4, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Please join the Humanist Chaplaincy at the Interfaith Center in a gathering to honor a new art piece purchased from Tufts alumna Sara-Marie Bottaro, A15. You are invited to interact with the piece, and engage with the uplifted themes through speakers, coloring activities, and conversation with the artist. Refreshments will be provided. This event is a campus gathering focusing on the personal meaning-making processes that explore the rhythms of life and the human condition. All are welcome. Please connect with Humanist Chaplain Anthony Cruz Pantojas with any questions.

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Queer Desis
Every Thursday, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Queer Desis is a space for LGBTQ+ South Asians to have meaningful conversations, explore identities, and connect with one another. The group will be meeting weekly throughout the semester at rotating locations between the three sponsoring identity centers (Asian American Center, Women's Center, and LGBT Center). For more information, please reach out to Asian American Center interns Nuha Shaikh and Edith Philip.

Therapy Animals at the Women's Center
Friday, December 3, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

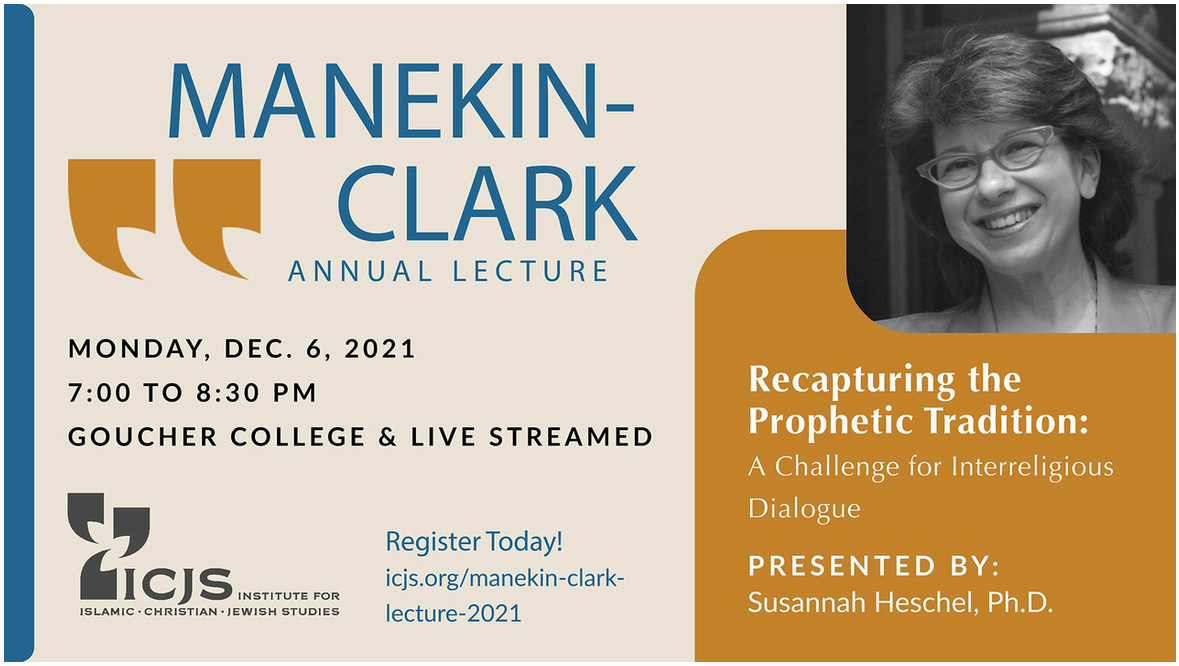
Need some stress relief before finals time starts? This Friday, the Women's Center will be hosting three therapy animals in partnership with the Tufts Institute for Human-Animal Interactions and Paws for People. If you would like to attend, please fill out this registration form. Space is limited. Please email Assistant Center Director, Jessica Mitzner Scully with any questions.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities

HARVARD SQUARE
HOMELESS SHELTER

Harvard Square Homeless Shelter Volunteering with the Catholic Chaplaincy

All are welcome as we rekindle our relationship with the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter. Since November 3, we have been sending 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. 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.



Recapturing the Prophetic Tradition: A Challenge for Interreligious Dialogue
December 6, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. ET, held virtually.

Over the last half century, interreligious dialogue has made tremendous strides and compiled a laudable record of achievements. What was once considered extraordinary is now in many circles commonplace: we read and study one another's scriptures, learn our respective histories and engage one another on a deep, personal level. But has our dialogue grown stale and repetitive? Dr. Susannah Heschel offers a friendly critique and challenge, drawing on the legacy of her father, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, whose work and writings on the prophetic tradition offer a model to sharpen future dialogue and inspire us to move beyond the comfort of our own traditions, viewpoints, and assumptions. This event is hosted by the Institute for Islamic, Chrstian, Jewish Studies and Goucher College. 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.

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.

Bodhi Day
Wed., Dec. 8, 2021
Tradition: Buddhism
In the northern tradition, this is the anniversary of the Buddha's Enlightenment, ca. 596 BCE. In the southern tradition, the Buddha's Enlightenment is celebrated during Wesak. The dates and names of Buddhist celebrations vary significantly among cultures and communities.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Wed., Dec. 8, 2021
Tradition: Christianity-Roman Catholic
A feast day that celebrates the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, gave birth without sin.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sun., Dec. 12, 2021
Tradition: Christianity-Roman Catholic

Yule
Mon., Dec. 20, 2021
Tradition: Wicca/Paganism
Winter Solstice, celebrating the longest night and the blessings of darkness as well as the rebirth of the sun god. Begins at sundown.

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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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