An Invitation from your Buddhist Chaplain

Dear Tufts community,

The Tufts Buddhist Chaplaincy and Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha are honored to invite you to share in the cultural treasures of Tibet and its diamond-point teachings on peace and wholeness, beginning next week. The Tibetan monks of Gaden Shartse Monastery will visit the Interfaith Center to celebrate Losar (Tibetan New Year), create a sand mandala, share practices, and give teaching. It is an incredibly unique opportunity to share in.

The Gaden Shartse Monastery, founded 600 years ago by the sage Je Tsongkhapa, is one of the most renowned monasteries in Tibetan Buddhist tradition. The monks’ education includes dialectic debate, Tibetan medicine,
scriptural study, meditation, and special areas of study including mandala and thankga painting. In India and Tibet, as in America, the times are politically uncertain; these monks have, through meditation, used uncertainty to deepen their compassion.

A mandala represents simultaneously both an inner landscape and a physical realm within which every element of experience is unified, balanced and complete (you can see an example pictured above). In Tibetan tradition it is considered a great blessing to see a mandala, as it conveys a deep impression of wholeness, bringing about healing and peace. Each element of the color particle sand mandala has precise symbolic meaning. The structures portrayed are the structures of human consciousness. The surrounding circle represents dynamic awareness. The square symbolizes the four directions, the physical world. At each side of the square, a gate is constructed: these represent the four immeasurables: loving-kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, and equanimity. Through these practices one enters the sacred ground. The particular mandala that will be created at Tufts is the mandala symbolizing Green Tara, the archetype of compassion-in-action.

Ultimately, the gift of the mandala is in its power to transform our own minds and the environment around us into a celestial realm, awakening us to the sacred aspect of Earth and our inseparable connection to all people and other forms of life. I do hope you can join in our celebration of Losar and our contemplation of the mandala, for yourself and your communities.

Details can be found here on the [Buddhist Chaplaincy's website](http://www.buddhistchaplaincy.com).

Metta and best wishes,

Ji Hyang Padma
Buddhist Chaplain

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**Featured Program**
Circles of Peace: a Tibetan Mandala Project
February 14 to February 20

Join us as we welcome the monks of Gaden Shartse Monastic College—to offer a mandala of Avalokitesvara and a series of healing and empowerment ceremonies. Each offering is designed to help illuminate the nature of mind and provide us with the courage and renewal needed to meet the challenges of a modern life.

Wednesday, February 14
The Interfaith Center
7:00 p.m.
Losar Celebration with Tea Ceremony

Thursday, February 15
The Interfaith Center
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Green Tara Mandala Opening Ceremony
12:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Mandala Viewing

Friday, February 16
Goudard Chapel
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Dialectic Debate: the Three Stages of the Path
The Interfaith Center
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Mandala Viewing

Saturday, February 17
The Interfaith Center
10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Mandala Viewing

Monday, February 19
The Interfaith Center
10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Mandala Viewing
8:00 p.m.
Vajrasattva Empowerment

Tuesday, February 20
The Interfaith Center
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Mandala Viewing
4:00 p.m.
Dissolution Ceremony

For more detailed information about these events, please contact Buddhist Chaplain Ji Hyang Padma at jiphyangpadma@tufts.edu and visit https://chaplaincy.tufts.edu/buddhist/circlesofpeace/.

Sponsored by the University Chaplaincy, the Buddhist Chaplaincy, the Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha, the Asian American Center, and the Office for Institutional Inclusive Excellence
Tufts University Chaplaincy, Tufts Buddhist Chaplaincy, the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Inclusive Excellence, the SMFA, Tufts Asian American Center, and the Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha welcome Tibetan Monks of the Gaden Shartse Monastic College for Circles of Peace: A Tibetan Mandala Project. Tufts University will be welcoming the monks of Gaden Shartse Monastic College to offer a mandala of Green Tara and a series of healing and empowerment ceremonies. Each offering is designed to help illuminate the nature of mind and provide us with the courage and renewal needed to meet the challenges of a modern life. Highlights also include a Vajrasattva Empowerment (associated with the purification of karma and removal of obstacles) and a dialectic debate on the three aspects of the path. All events are open to the Tufts community and the general public. Please email Buddhist Chaplain Ji Hyang Padma with any questions and find more information on the website linked below.

Circles of Peace: a Tibetan Mandala Project

MLK Day of Community Action
Saturday, February 24, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., JCC Ballroom, register by February 21
Join the Interfaith Ambassador Team for lunch, a panel with campus and community leaders on MLK’s legacy in modern activism, and opportunities to get involved in direct action. Together, we will explore our own roles in the fight for change through engagement of two learning and service tracks related to educational access and voting rights. Find more information through the link below, and register by February 21. You can find more information about the Day of Community Action (DOCA) on our website.

Register for Day of Community Action

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.
Join Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell for Bible Study. We are reflecting on stories of God calling people in the Hebrew Bible, and how those stories can help us to better hear God’s call to us today. Email Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell to learn more. All students are welcome, regardless of background, identity, or prior experience.
Field Trip to the Museum of African American History
Saturday, February 10, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Join the Africana Center, the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Inclusive Excellence, Tisch College of Civic Life, and the University Chaplaincy for a field trip to the Museum of African American History, with Director of Education & Interpretation and this year's MLK Celebration keynote speaker Christian Walkes. After the tour, there will be an optional walk to the Embrace memorial. Transportation scholarships are available. Please email the University Chaplaincy with questions and accessibility needs. Registration is limited to 50 attendees, so register today!
Nuestra primera misa en español del año será esta semana! ¡Todos son bienvenidos! Si te gustaría ayudar a planear o apoyar en cualquier forma, por favor contacta Sebastian Fernandez.
“Single Garment of Destiny” Lunch and Learns
FEBRUARY 2024

Join the Africana Center, the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Inclusive Excellence, and the University Chaplaincy for a special “Single Garment of Destiny” Lunch and Learn to celebrate the living legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Grafton Campus
Monday, February 12
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
with lunch available beginning at 11:30 a.m.
Kohnstamm Conference Room
106 Jean Mayer Admin Building

Boston Campus
Wednesday, February 14
11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
with lunch available beginning at 11:45 a.m.
Posner Hall
200 Harrison Ave.

The 2024 theme for our MLK gatherings this year, “Single Garment of Destiny,” comes from the 1963 “Letter from Birmingham Jail” which includes this quote:

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial ‘outside agitator’ idea.”

These Lunch and Learns are available to all Tufts faculty, staff and students on both campuses. We hope that you can attend, and that you will register for either event no later than Friday, February 9th.

Please contact chaplaincy@tufts.edu with any questions.

Co-sponsored by:

Tufts University
School of Dental Medicine

Tufts University
Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

Tufts University
School of Medicine
Center for Black Maternal Health & Reproductive Justice

Tufts University
Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

"Single Garment of Destiny” Lunch and Learns
Join the Africana Center, the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Inclusive Excellence, and the University Chaplaincy for a special “Single Garment of Destiny” Lunch and Learn to celebrate the living legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Co-sponsored by the School of Dental Medicine, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Center for Black Maternal Health & Reproductive Justice and Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, these events will be held on the Boston Health Sciences and Grafton campuses, respectively. This event will feature recorded excerpts from the keynote at the January 31st MLK Day of Celebration offered by Christian Walkes, Director of Education and Interpretation Programs at the Museum of African American History, followed by an opportunity to engage in table conversation about his insights from King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” and the meaning of his message for us today. Please contact the University Chaplaincy if you have any questions.
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.
Rustin Film Screening
Thursday, February 22, 6:00 p.m., Cabot ASEAN Auditorium

As a part of Black Legacy Month, the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Excellence and co-sponsors Africana Center, LGBT Center, Tisch College, and the University Chaplaincy will be screening Rustin. Bayard Rustin was the architect of 1963’s March on Washington. He challenged authority and never apologized for who he was, but was forgotten, despite making history. Directed by George C. Wolfe and starring Oscar-nominated actor Colman Domingo, Rustin shines a long-overdue spotlight on the extraordinary man who, alongside giants like the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., Adam Clayton Powell Jr., and Ella Baker, dared to imagine a different world, and inspired a movement in a march toward freedom. Register to attend below.
Gospel Explosion Night at Harvard MemChurch
Saturday, Feb 17, at 5:00 p.m., at the Harvard Memorial Church (1 Harvard Yard Cambridge, MA 02138)

The Southern University Gospel Choir from Baton Rouge, La. will fill the Memorial Church Sanctuary on Feb. 17 with a chorus of 50 powerful voices singing traditional spiritual music in celebration of Black History Month. The choir, created more than 50 years ago, is well known in gospel music circles in the south and across the nation. The Rev. Dr.
Calvon Jones, Assistant Minister in the Memorial Church, a gospel singer who released his first album in 2021, said he discovered the choir nearly a decade ago and was excited to create this collaboration with Southern University and A&M College, a historically Black college and university. Find more details about the event below.

Burning Refuge: The inaugural Buddhism and Social-Spiritual Liberation Conference

March 7-9, 2024 at Harvard Divinity School

burningrefuge2024.site

free registration for all! submit paper proposals now!

In March 2024, an exciting and radical conference will host its inaugural offering at Harvard Divinity School to convene critical and interdisciplinary Buddhist scholarship, activism, and arts to chart a path forward into true social-spiritual liberation. We assert that the dream of ultimate social-spiritual liberation is possible and is thus our great task – we invite you to set out on this mission with us and make a vow of commitment. Will you join us? This year, we are thrilled to bring together a diverse group of scholars, practitioners, and esteemed teachers to explore the profound intersections of Buddhism and individual and collective liberation. Register here to present your research.

The Inaugural 2024 Buddhism and Social-Spiritual Liberation Conference

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.

Laylat al-Isra’wa al-Mi’raj (Mi’raj al-Nabiy)
Thu., Feb. 8, 2024
Tradition: Islam
Commemorates the ascension (al-Mi’raj) of the Prophet to heaven following his night journey (al Isra’) from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascent to heaven and return the same night. Begins at sundown.

Vasant Panchami (Sri Pancami)
Tue., Feb. 13, 2024
Tradition: Hinduism
One of many festivals to honor the advent of spring, this day is celebrated particularly in North India, where it is associated with Saraswati, the goddess of learning; however, it also retains connection with the goddess Lakshmi.

Ash Wednesday
Wed., Feb. 14, 2024
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.

Nirvana Day
Thu., Feb. 15, 2024
Tradition: Buddhism
In the northern tradition, it commemorates the parinirvana of the Buddha. In cultures of Southeast Asia, the buddha’s parinirvana is remembered during Wesak. The dates and names of Buddhist celebrations vary significantly among cultures and communities.

Laylat al-Bara’ah
Sun., Feb. 25, 2024
Tradition: Islam
Begins at sundown.
(Night of Repentance)
On this night, God approaches the Earth to call humanity and to grant forgiveness of sins. Observed on the 14th day of the lunar month of Sha’ban.

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.

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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