



# Tufts

# UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 3.1.23



## A Greeting From Your University Chaplain

Sunset

*She hurriedly rushes by.*

*We turn our heads,*

*catch a glimpse*

*of a multi-colored skirt*

*disappearing beyond the horizon.*

*Red, orange, yellow, toxic pink,*

*finally a glint of white.*

Dear Tufts community,

Each time I read Ofelia Zepeda's poems in *Where Clouds Are Formed*, I am reminded of the holy reality of daily life. In intimate, present tense, Ofelia takes us into her world: we peer under a bed where squash makes its winter rest; we are enveloped by sounds of ceremony and community; we feel the coolness of walls that make a home in the desert; we glimpse the beauty of the Tohono O'odham language. Dr. Zepeda writes a world attuned to the elements and the human spirit and in so doing, invites us to see these very things in our daily lives. I find myself paying renewed attention to changing light and winter skies, to children toddling on campus and elders traveling on the 96, to my own sensory memories of home and family. There is not a moment in our daily experience that is absent the holy, by which I mean the mystery and beauty and wonder of life itself.

Next Tuesday and Wednesday, the University Chaplaincy and the Indigenous Center host Dr. Zepeda on our campus for a lecture and workshop. You'll find more information and registration links in the section below. I hope that you will join us for these opportunities to be present with, and learn from, a poet and scholar deeply attuned to the power of language to evoke, heal, and transform our worlds. You need not consider yourself a poet or writer to participate in these offerings. An open mind, willing spirit, and longing for justice are all that is needed.

Pax et lux,

Elyse Nelson Winger  
University Chaplain

Zepeda, O. (2008). *Where clouds are formed: Poems*. University of Arizona Press.

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## 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 and Workshop with Dr. Zepeda**

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

Workshop: Wednesday, March 8, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 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](#).

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## Religious and Philosophical Programs



### **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.

Helena Soholm

BECOMING A  
MUDANG

MARCH 8, 7:30 - 8:45  
INTERFAITH CENTER

*MUDANG* IS THE KOREAN  
TERM FOR A RITUAL  
SPECIALIST, OR A KOREAN  
SHAMAN



HELENA WILL BE  
HOLDING A *KUT*  
CEREMONY WITH  
IMPROVISED MUSIC AND  
DANCE PERFORMANCE TO  
CALL IN HELPFUL SPIRITS

SHE WILL SHARE ABOUT  
HOW HER PERSONAL  
SPIRITUAL JOURNEY HAS  
LED HER TO THIS PATH  
OF PSYCHOLOGY AND  
INDIGENOUS WISDOM

**Becoming a Mudang with Helena Soholm**

Wednesday, March 8, from 7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. at the Interfaith Center (58 Winthrop St)

Please join the Buddhist Chaplaincy and the Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha for a Kut ceremony with Helena Soholm. Helena will share about how her personal spiritual journey has led her to this path of psychology and indigenous wisdom. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join. Please contact Buddhist Chaplain Ji Hyang Padma with any questions, or for more information about, this gathering.

# "Being Christian at Tufts"

## Small Group Conversation Series

Join the Protestant Students Association and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell for weekly conversations on the topic of what it means to be a Christian at Tufts and in our world today. We will focus on the experience of growing up evangelical, and will explore broader themes of life and faith as well. All are warmly welcome, regardless of religious or philosophical background. We will have dinner if there is interest.



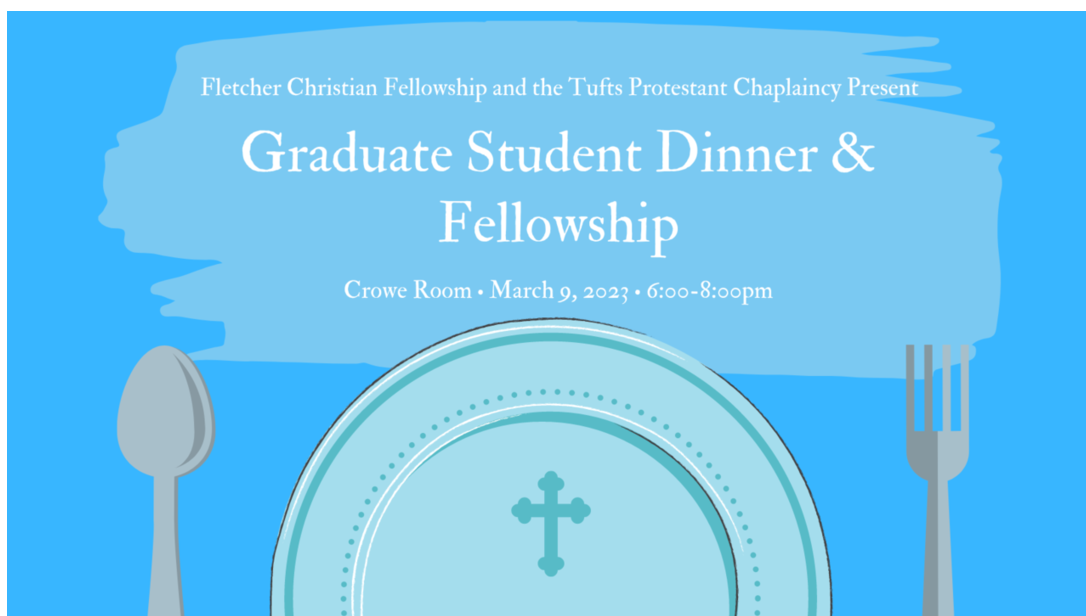
**Sundays, 6:00-6:45pm, March 5 -- April 16, Goddard Chapel**  
**Meetings begin March 5 and continue through April 16**  
**(except March 19 due to spring break).**

If you have any questions, please email [Daniel.Bell@tufts.edu](mailto:Daniel.Bell@tufts.edu).

### **"Being Christian at Tufts" Small Group Conversations with PSA**

Sundays beginning March 5, from 6:00 p.m to 6:45 p.m. at Goddard Chapel

Join the Protestant Students Association and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell for weekly conversations on the topic of what it means to be a Christian at Tufts and in our world today. Meetings begin March 5 and continue through April 16 (except March 19 due to spring break). We will focus on the experience of growing up evangelical but will explore broader themes of life and faith as well. All are warmly welcome, regardless of religious or philosophical background. We will have dinner if there is enough interest. If you have any questions, please email [Daniel.Bell@tufts.edu](mailto:Daniel.Bell@tufts.edu).



### **Graduate Student Dinner Hosted by Protestant Chaplaincy**

Thursday, March 9, 6-8pm, Crowe Room, Goddard Hall, Rm 310, Fletcher School

All Tufts graduate students, and their spouses/partners and children, are welcome to a dinner hosted by Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell and the Fletcher Christian Fellowship. We hope to strengthen

relationships within the graduate community among those who identify as Christian and/or are interested in spiritual life on campus. If have dietary restrictions or any questions, please email [Daniel.Bell@tufts.edu](mailto:Daniel.Bell@tufts.edu).

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## Partner Programs

**3/6-3/12 Global Tufts Month Highlights**

Global Views, Common Security

EPIIC Symposium - "Power and Prejudice: Race and International Relations"

Ukraine: Connected Histories and Vibrant Cultures at the Crossroads

International Women's Day Celebration with Dr. Sima Samar -  
Making it Count: Documenting Human Rights Abuses in Afghanistan

Parade of Nations 2023

World Sleep Day Celebration

Host an event! [go.tufts.edu/globaltuftsmoath](http://go.tufts.edu/globaltuftsmoath)

### Global Tufts Month

Begins Wednesday, March 1

March is Global Tufts Month! This year's theme is *Confronting Global Challenges to Human Well-being —Together*. Tufts students, faculty, staff, and alumni seek to understand and address complex global challenges to human well-being related to many interconnected factors at home and in a global setting. Global Tufts Month events will explore and showcase work that is being done to relieve the global burden these challenges pose to well-being in all facets of life—from health, psychology, and politics, to development, education, science and technology, culture, and the arts. [Learn more about hosting your own event here.](#) #GlobalTuftsMonth.



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in Youth Development

Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study & Human Development

Department of Philosophy

Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life **TUJIT**

Welcome

## MARC J GWAMAKA

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

Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

# UKRAINE

## Connected Histories and Vibrant Cultures

### Exhibition



The territory of modern Ukraine was once part of the largest kingdom of medieval Europe, known as Kyivan Rus. The heart of that early medieval kingdom – the city of Kyiv – is today the capital of Ukraine. It features impressive monuments, as well as remarkable collections and archives that are endangered by Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine. This exhibition highlights aspects of the early history and cultural heritage of Kyivan Rus, demonstrating how expansive, well-connected, and diverse this region of Eastern Europe was during the medieval and early modern periods. Moreover, the exhibition addresses later transformations and manipulations of the historical and material record in order to advance certain narratives, especially during the Soviet era, and current efforts to document, study, and preserve the history and heritage of Ukraine.

#### Opening and Reception

March 6, 2023 at 5 p.m.

#### Location

Tisch Library Main Lobby



#### For more details and to register visit

[go.tufts.edu/ukraine\\_exhibit](https://go.tufts.edu/ukraine_exhibit)

Co-organizers: Alice Isabella Sullivan (History of Art and Architecture), Anna Kijas (Lilly Music Library), Francesca Bisi (MA 2023), Rileigh K. Clarke (MA 2023), Emmi Farrell (MA 2023), Jillian Lepek (MA 2023), Artem Dinh (2023), Charles Kong (2024), Defne Ulusoy (2024), Kate Shymkiv (2026), W. Miles Donovan (Tisch Library)



# Tufts

Co-sponsors: Office of the Deans, Tisch Library, Lilly Music Library, Department of the History of Art and Architecture, Department of English, Department of History, Department of Political Science, International Relations Program, Global Tufts Month

#### Exhibition opening of Ukraine: Connected Histories and Vibrant Cultures

Monday, March 6, from 5:00 p.m at Tisch Library Lobby

All are welcome for the exhibition opening of *Ukraine: Connected Histories and Vibrant Cultures* co-organized by Alice Sullivan, Anna Kijas, and Tufts students! [Find more details and RSVP here.](#)

Tufts University Department of History of Art and Architecture Presents

# MEDIATING MYTH

Image and Object as Critical Intercessor



Keynote Speaker:

**Art Historian/ Scholar Jennie Hirsh**

Please join our hybrid Graduate Symposium at the Tufts Alumnae Lounge or via Zoom on March 10th, 2023

For registration and further scheduling information, visit our website [sites.tufts.edu/mediatingmyth](https://sites.tufts.edu/mediatingmyth)

## **Mediating Myth: Image and Object as Critical Intercessor**

Friday, March 10, from 9:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. at Alumni Lounge or via Zoom

The 2023 Graduate Student Symposium of the Department of the History of Art and Architecture at Tufts University will convene to examine and broaden the concept of “myth,” and analyze how art and material culture inflect, perpetuate, and materialize myths. This is an expansive topic, as it includes traditional notions of storytelling and world-building, power plays like propaganda and/or ideology, and the ways in which marginalized or subversive groups can generate community strength through shared histories. To register, please visit [sites.tufts.edu/mediatingmyth](https://sites.tufts.edu/mediatingmyth).

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## **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](#).

## 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.

## Laylat al-Bara'ah (Night of Repentance)

Mon., Mar. 6, 2023

Tradition: Islam

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. Begins at sundown.

## Purim (Feast of Lots)

Mon., Mar. 6, 2023

Tradition: Judaism

Celebrates the rescue of the Jews of ancient Persia from a plot to destroy them as related in the Book of Esther, which is read at this time. Purim is a joyous holiday, celebrated by wearing of costumes, giving gifts to friends, giving to the poor, and socializing. Preceded by the Fast of Esther, Purim is a day of feasting. Begins at sundown.

## Holi

Tue., Mar. 7, 2023

Tradition: Hinduism

A joyous spring Hindu festival that is dedicated to Krishna in some parts of India; in other parts of India, it is dedicated to Kama, the God of Pleasure. People throw colored water or colored powder in celebration.

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## 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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chaplaincy.tufts.edu | chaplaincy@tufts.edu | 617.627.3427



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