Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 11.3.21

A Reflection from our Protestant Chaplain

Dear Tufts Community,

Tomorrow, the University Chaplaincy is partnering with the Latinx Center to offer, for the first time, *In Living Memory: A Concert of Stories and Songs*. The event will commemorate the many religious and spiritual holidays this time of year, including Día de los Muertos, Samhain, All Souls Day, and more.

These holidays represent different cultures and theologies, yet they have this in common: the belief that human existence continues beyond the grave. In the case of Christianity, from its earliest centuries people have venerated saints and martyrs (All Saints' Day), and honored the faithful departed (All Souls' Day). They have done so in the conviction that, in death, life is changed, not ended, through Christ's Resurrection.

Protestants do not typically venerate saints in the same ways as our Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox siblings do. Yet, I have found it deeply meaningful to learn about, and honor, exemplary people who lived and died for their faith because their stories inspire me. I wonder who are your "saints," whether living or departed, your role models for living a good, holy, or meaningful life? How might you want to honor them this week? And are there others, who are now deceased, that you want to remember this week as well, whether you consider them saints or not?

Many have lost friends and loved ones over the past year, and in the past month, including a beloved member of our student community. Finding ways to honor and remember them, be it through prayer or reflection, and even in joyful celebration of their lives and legacies, can help us move through grief and find hope for tomorrow.

No matter what your beliefs are about sainthood or the hereafter, please know that you are not alone in exploring these questions and dealing with any loss you have experienced. Resources are available, including Counseling and Mental Health Services and chaplains, who are available to support you.

May God inspire us by the examples of lives well-lived, comfort us in our sorrows over those we love but see no longer, and shine light perpetual upon us, the living and departed. And please join us tomorrow, Thursday November 4, at 9 p.m. in Goddard Chapel for our concert celebration and gathering. You can find more information about the event here.

Peace,

The Reverend Dan Bell
Protestant Chaplain

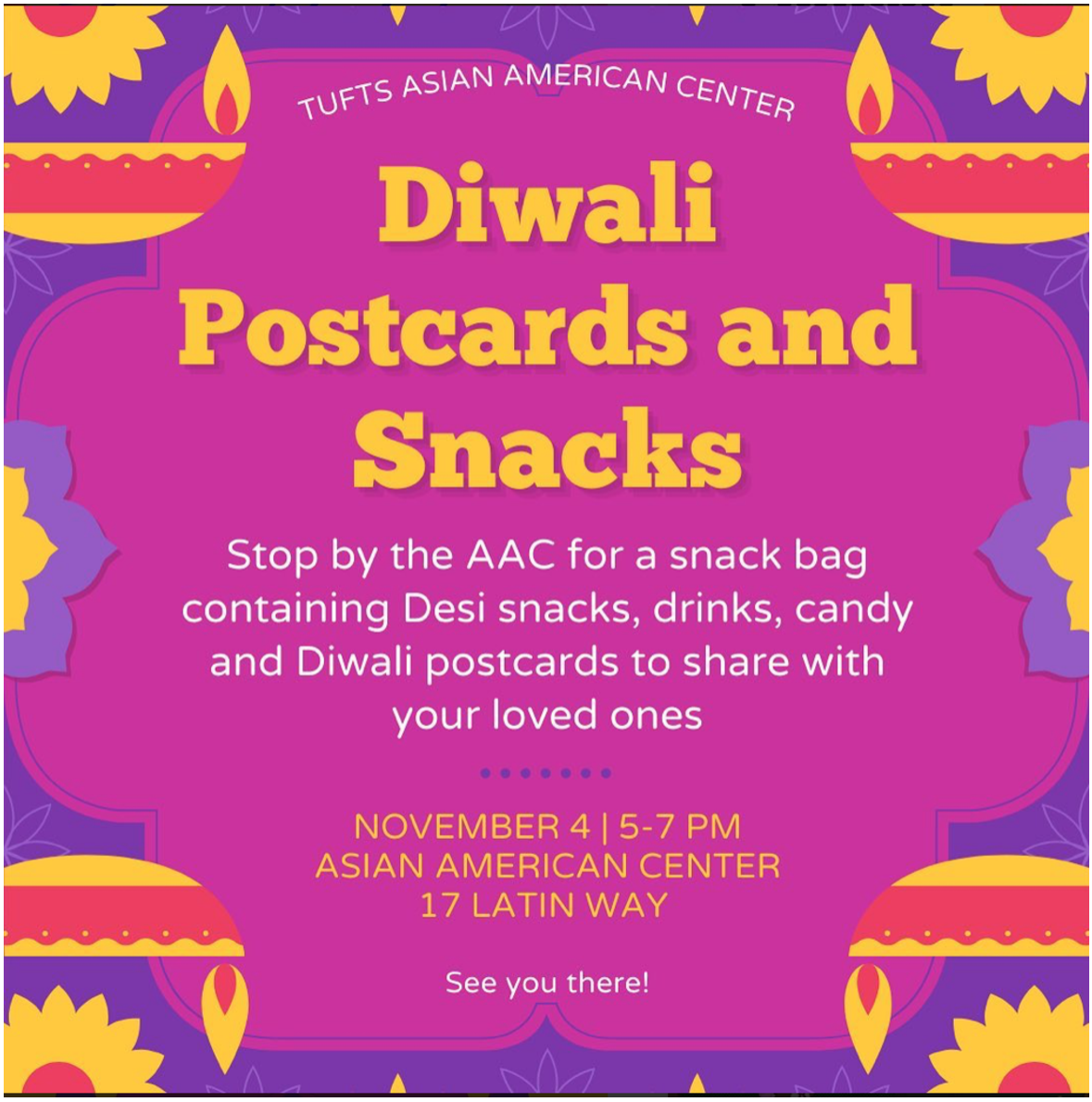
Upcoming Signature Program

In Living Memory: A Concert of Stories & Songs
Thursday, November 4, 9 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. ET

Join the University Chaplaincy and the Latinx Center for *In Living Memory: A Concert of Stories and Songs* at Goddard Chapel. The evening will feature organ music, performances by Enchanted and sQ!, and spoken word offerings on the themes of remembering those who have passed, uplifted by the many religious and spiritual holidays this time of year, including Día de los Muertos, Samhain, All Souls Day, and more. We will also be

debuting an installation of the Ofrenda Project from student artists at the SMFA. Latinx Center staff and chaplains will speak, and the event will be followed by apple cider donuts and candy outside. Please join us for a night of candlelight, meaningful festivities, and treats!

Religious and Philosophical Life Programs



Diwali Giveaway and Puja
Giveaway: Thursday, November 4, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Puja: Saturday, November 13, 5:30 p.m.

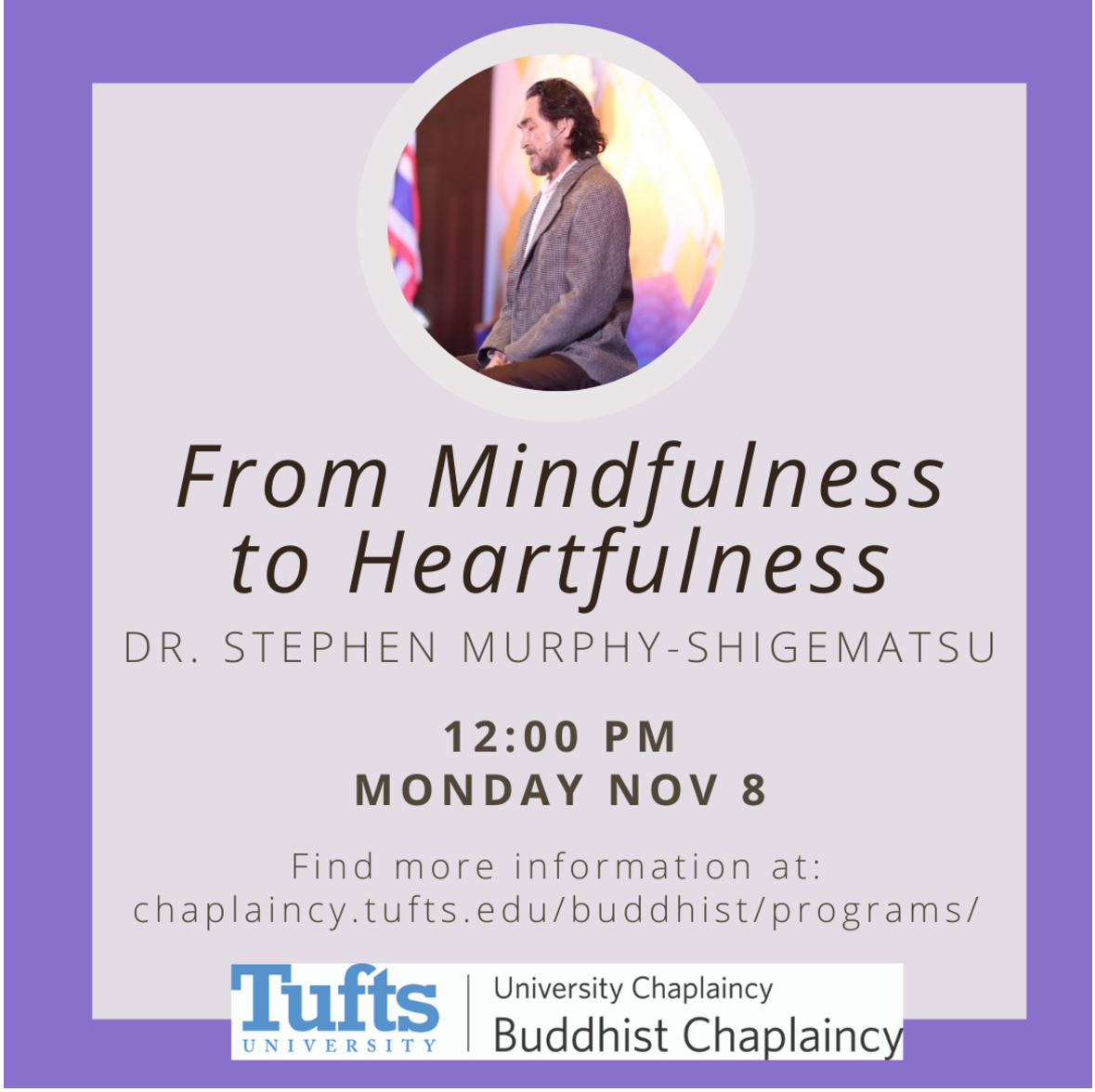
Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. Diwali, which for some also coincides with harvest and new year celebrations, is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness. Stop by the Asian American Center on Thursday, November 4 to celebrate and get some South Asian snacks, drinks, candy, and Diwali postcards and stamps to share with your loved ones. Please also hold Saturday, November 13 for Diwali Puja at 5:30 p.m. at Remis Sculpture Court, hosted by the Hindu Student Council which will be followed by a dinner hosted by Tufts Association of South Asians (TASA). Find more info at this Facebook event page.

True Colors Community and Crafts
Sunday, November 7, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

The University Chaplaincy is offering a queer affinity space with coloring and conversation to help build comfortable community here on campus. This event is intended for those who identify with the LGBTQ+ community. It is open to all LGBT+ folks beyond the University Chaplaincy community too, no matter their religious, philosophical, or spiritual identity. With a few guiding questions and provided materials, the space is yours to make it however you want. So come take a break from midterms to qraft with your queer peers and embrace your true colors! To respect safety and confidentiality reach out to Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell for location details.

Annual Winter Coat Drive
Now through November 8

The Tufts International Center & FIRST Resource Center are looking for donations of winter coats, jackets, scarves, and other cold weather accessories! Drop off your donations between 9am and 5pm at the FIRST Resource Center, located at 20 Professors Row.



Mindfulness to Heartfulness, a Conversation with Dr. Stephen Murphy-Shigmatsu
Monday, November 8, 12:00 p.m. ET, held virtually

Dr. Stephen Murphy- Shigematsu is an American Japanese psychologist at Stanford University. He teaches and researches human development through mindfulness, Asian wisdom, and science. He will be joining the Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha community on Monday to speak on Heartfulness, a practice of mindfulness that encompasses relationality, compassion and responsibility. Heartfulness enhances well-being and transformation. Practiced in groups, it creates a learning and healing community where people cross borders, finding genuine connection with self, others, and spirit. If, in the adaptation of mindfulness to Western culture, essential elements are sometimes omitted, Heartfulness may be the remedy. This event is cosponsored by the Tufts Mindfulness and Resilience Collaborative. This event will be held through Zoom; please register here. All are welcome.

Wednesday, November 10th
6:30 to 8:00pm in the Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room

Join Tufts LGBT Center and the COFFEE Student Interfaith Coalition for dinner and conversation about queerness and faith. Folks of all religious, non-religious, spiritual, and philosophical backgrounds are welcome to join. RSVP required.

01 INVITE A FRIEND

02 RSVP BELOW

03 SUBMIT QUESTIONS

SCAN ME

@tuftscoffee @tuftslgbtcenter

Queerness and Faith
Wednesday, November 10, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Join Tufts LGBT Center and the COFFEE Student Interfaith Coalition for dinner and conversation about queerness and faith on Wednesday, November 10 from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. in the Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room. Folks of all religious, non-religious, spiritual, and philosophical backgrounds are welcome to join. Chaplains and Counseling and Mental Health Services staff will be present to support any students who wish to debrief during or after the conversation. Dinner will be provided. Space is also available for students who may not feel comfortable eating maskless indoors. All are welcome. Please RSVP for the event here.

Busy Person's Retreat

Friday, November 12, 3-8pm

Starting at Goddard Chapel

Ending at the Interfaith Center

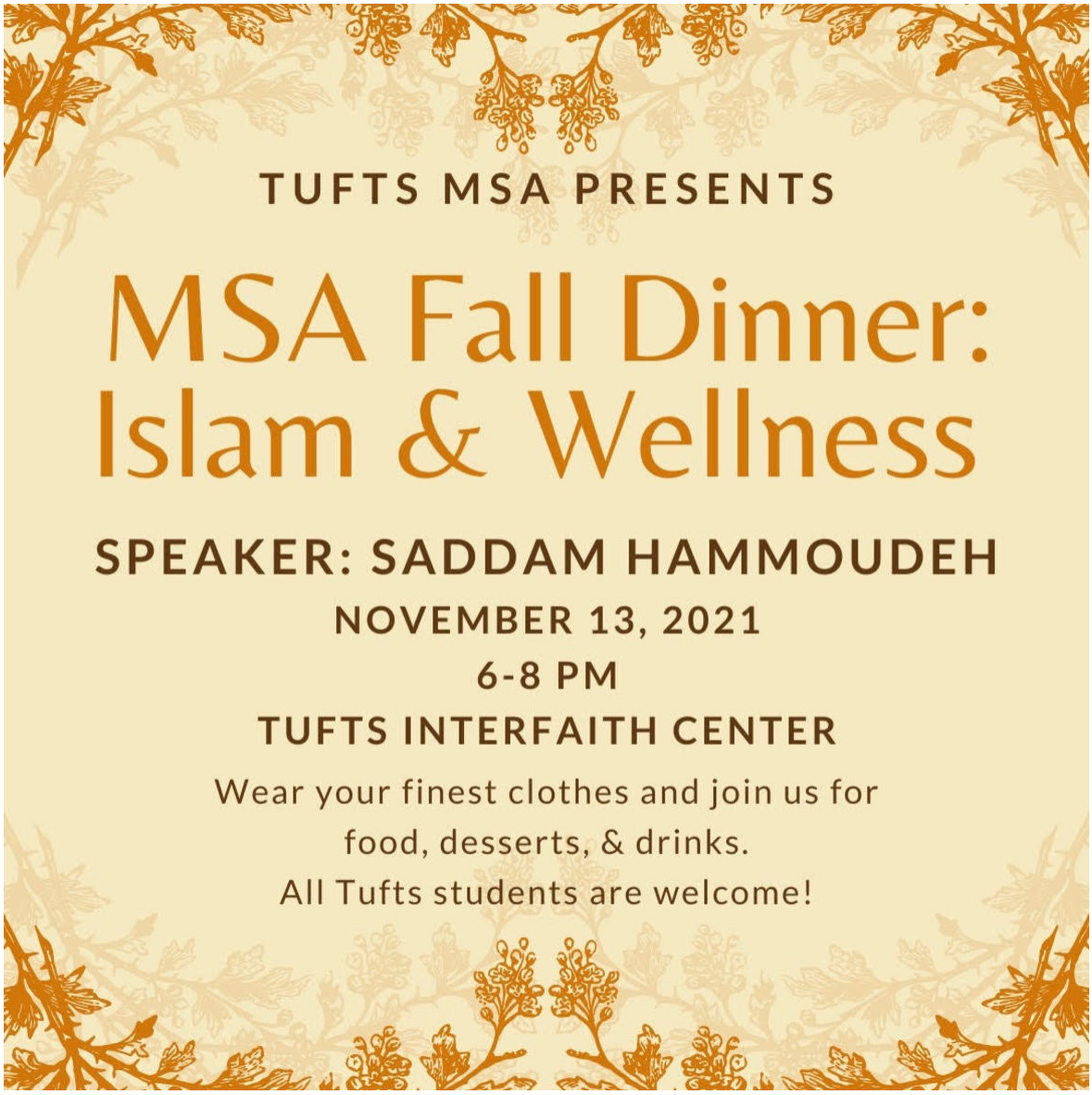
All are welcome as we gather to pause and reflect mid-semester. We know that you are busy folks, but you are also hungry for connection and the opportunity to tend to your spiritual life. Come be together. Lay your burdens down and let your spirit be lifted. Our time together will include a meal. Email **Lynn.Cooper@Tufts.edu** to sign up or learn more.

Tufts UNIVERSITY | University Chaplaincy Catholic Chaplaincy

Busy Person's Retreat

Friday, November 12, 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.

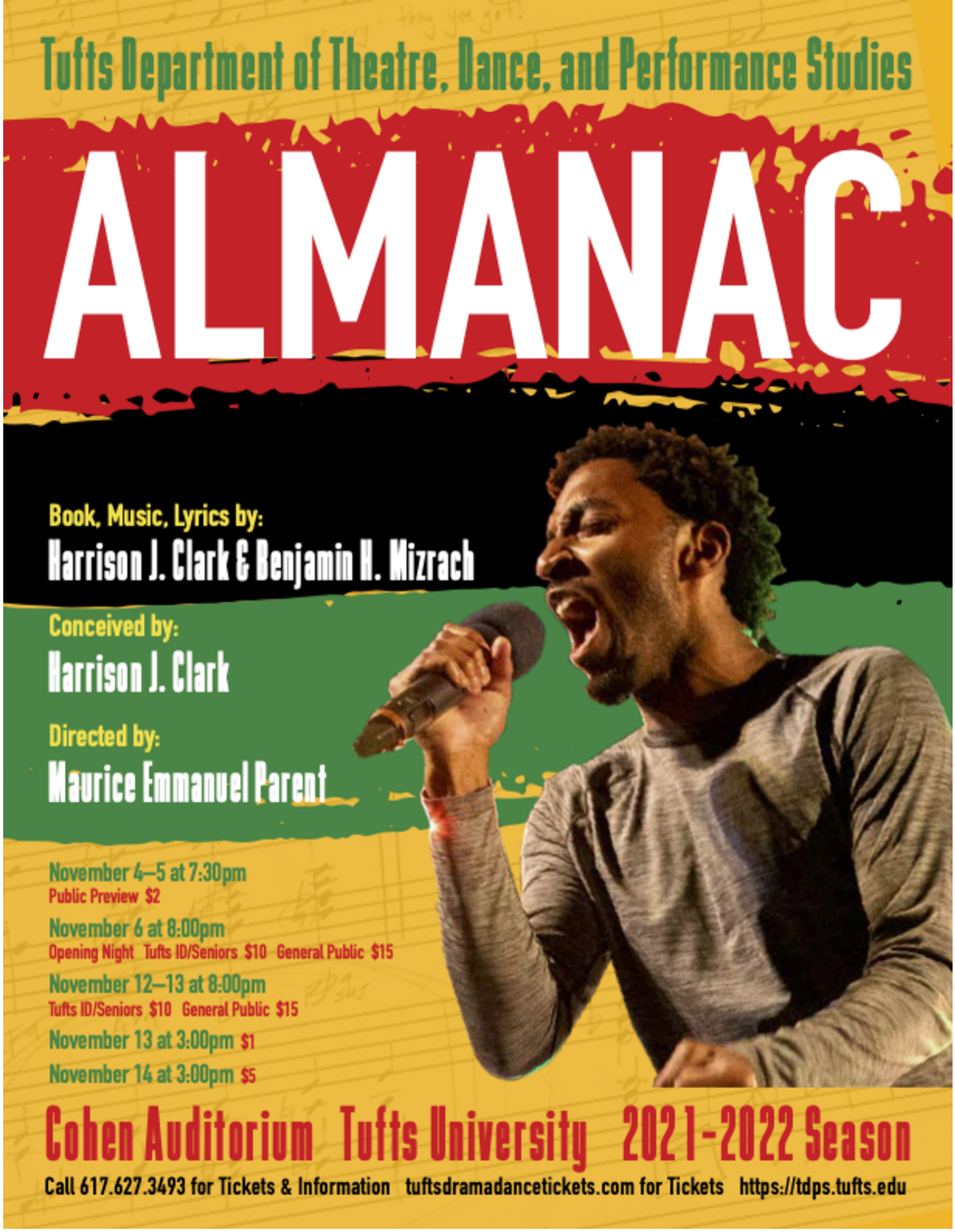
All are welcome as we gather to pause and reflect mid-semester with the Catholic Chaplaincy. You are busy folks, but you are also might be hungry for connection and the opportunity to tend to your spiritual life. Come be together. Lay your burdens down and let your spirit be lifted. Our time together will include a meal. Email Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper to sign up or learn more.



Muslim Student Association Fall Dinner
Saturday, November 13, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Muslim Student Association (MSA) will host their annual fall dinner at the Tufts Interfaith Center. Speaker Saddam Hammoudeh will share on the theme "Islam and Wellness" and dinner and dessert will be provided. The Tufts community is welcome, and please email the Tufts MSA to RSVP.

Partner Programs



***Almanac*: Book, Music, Lyrics by: Harrison J. Clark & Benjamin H. Mizrach**
Show dates: November 4-6, 2021 and November 12-14, 2021

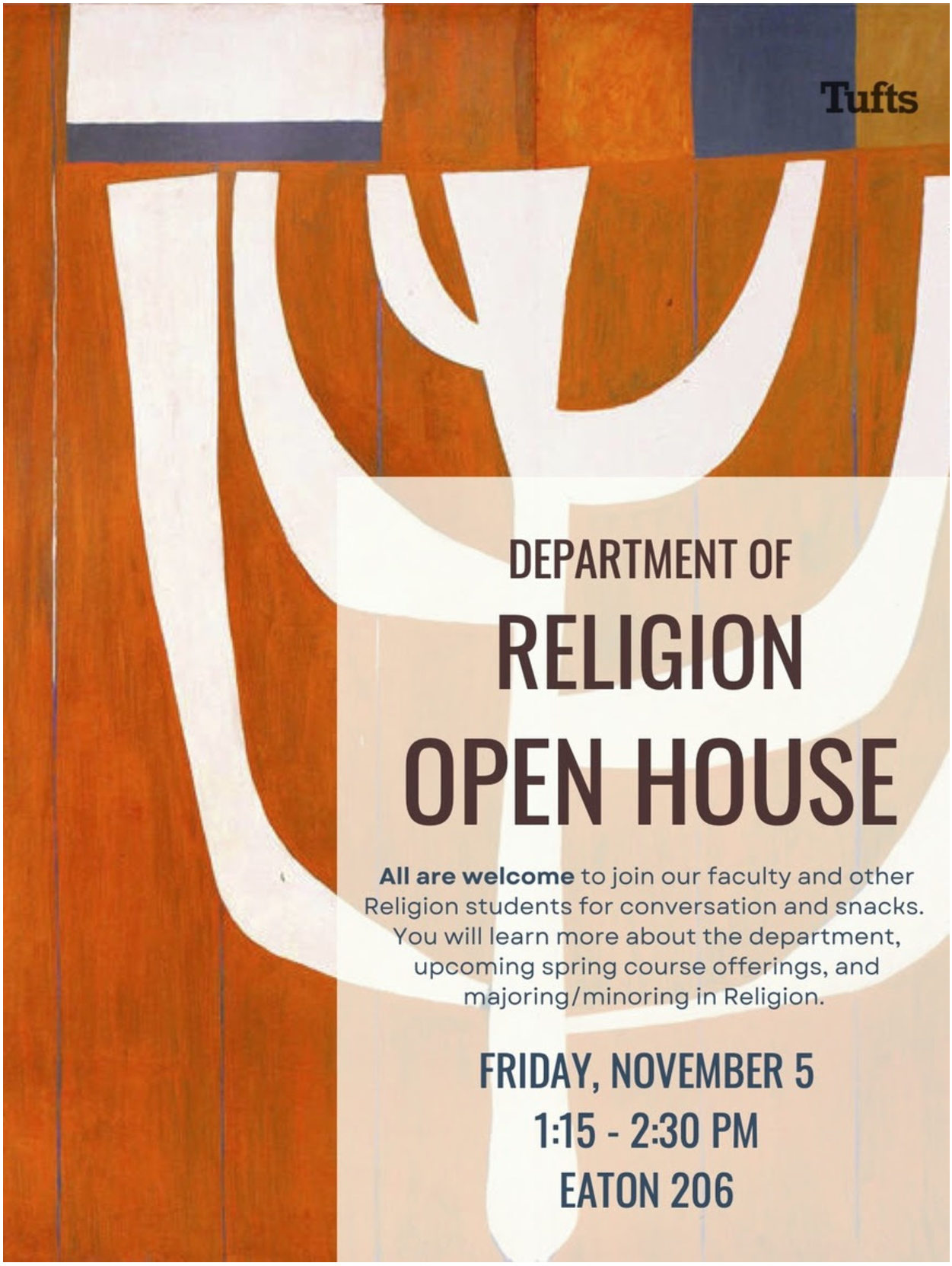
Conceived by Harrison J. Clark and directed by Maurice Parent, *Almanac* asks: "What is the true price of cultural and artistic agency for the Black American Artist?" and "How can we define 'Black Art'?" Now more than ever, the artistic universe is seeking to build a more just, equitable, and inclusive arts industry. *Almanac* is a project that stands on the shoulders of decades worth of Black scholars who dedicated their lives and careers to devising their own definitions of "Black Art." With a vibrant, electrifying score by composer / lyricist team Harrison Clark and Ben Mizrach and direction by Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies Professor of the Practice Maurice Emmanuel Parent, *Almanac* sits at the intersection of two equally pressing issues facing modern American artists: it provides an opportunity to dissect and make sense of the past, while simultaneously looking forward to a reimagined future. You can purchase tickets here. The show will be performed at Cohen Auditorium on the Tufts University Medford campus.

Harvard Square Homeless Shelter Volunteering with the Catholic Chaplaincy
Wednesday Breakfast Shift (leave campus 6 AM and return 9:30 AM); sign up today through email

All are welcome as we rekindle our relationship with the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter. Starting November 3, we will send 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 and we will send new folks with returners to offer support and guidance. 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.

An Evening with Medhin Paolos
Thursday, November 4, 6:30 pm ET, held virtually

Asmarina is a documentary film about the Habesha (Eritrean and Ethiopian) community in Italy that bridges the present life of this community to the historical legacies of Italian colonialism in the Horn of Africa. The film makers' approach to the Habesha life is not as outsiders but rather, as involved and invested members of this community. The research and the filming of *Asmarina* directly engaged people and their accounts while connecting those stories to printed and audiovisual material found in institutional archives. *Asmarina* is thus the result of a meticulous collective research project that tells a more complete story of the colonial relationship between Italy and Eritrea/Ethiopia, bringing to light the postcoloniality of Habesha diaspora in Italy that has been little scrutinized up to now: the everyday life stories of those who have lived in Italy for years, those who were born in Italy and the day-to-day experiences of the refugees who have just arrived. The goal of the film is to bring attention to the collective memories of this community, piecing together peoples' stories: their immigrant and transnational experiences, their memories of colonialism, their multiple and intersectional identities, as well as their hopes and dreams. You can register for this virtual event here.



Department of Religion Open House
Friday, November 5, 1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Please join Religion Department Fall Open House. The gathering will be held in-person in Eaton 206, and offer conversation, connection, and grab-and-go snacks. Covid safety protocols will be observed. All Religion majors, minors, students, and friends of the department are cordially invited. We will hear from faculty about their course offerings for Spring 2022, as well as from current Religion majors and minors about their experiences. You are warmly invited.

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.

Diwali (Dipavali)
Wed., Nov. 3, 2021
Tradition: Hinduism
Known as the Festival of Lights, it is dedicated to the goddess Kali in Bengal and to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, in the rest of India. As with several other festivals, Diwali is associated with one of the stories about the destruction of evil by Vishnu in one of his many manifestations.

Diwali/Mahavir Nirvana
Wed., Nov. 3, 2021
Tradition: Jainism
This Festival of Lamps celebrates the attainment of Moksa by Lord Mahavira. A burning lamp symbolizes the "light of knowledge," which dispels the darkness of delusion and ignorance.

Birth of the Bab
Sat., Nov. 6, 2021
Tradition: Baha'i
The anniversary of the birth of the Bab, the herald of the new age for Baha'is. The Shrine of the Bab in Haifa, Israel, is part of the World Center of the Baha'i faith.

Birth of Baha'u'llah
Sun., Nov. 7, 2021
Tradition: Baha'i
The anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith. Work is suspended on this day.

Guru Nanak's Birthday
Thu., Nov. 18, 2021
Tradition: Sikhism
Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurpurab, also known as Guru Nanak's Prakash Utsav and Guru Nanak Dev Ji Jayanti, celebrates the birth of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak. One of the most celebrated Sikh gurus and the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev is highly revered by the Sikh community.

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.

Tufts University Chaplaincy | Goddard Chapel, 3 The Green | Medford, MA 02155 US
chaplaincy.tufts.edu | chaplaincy@tufts.edu | **617.627.3427**

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