Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 9.9.21

Some members of the Tufts University Chaplaincy team at our Meet the Chaplaincy Orientation event

A Reflection from our University Chaplain

Dear friends,

Greetings and peace to you as we begin a new semester together at Tufts.

These days, Tufts resounds with joyful refrains as students and colleagues greet one another with broad smiles or smiling eyes above masks. *It's so great to meet you...in person! What a beautiful day. Can you believe we're actually back?* Shared moments of deep appreciation abound for we get to share life together again in poignant ways. Together, we are singing at Shabbat services, Sunday Mass, at Protestant worship. Together, we are lighting candles with first-years and sophomores at their Illumination Ceremonies, setting the hill aglow with light and friendships new and old. Together, we are eating and laughing around tables in every corner of campus. Together, we are preparing the Interfaith Center for Jummah prayers and Buddhist Meditation, for Humanist and Hindu gatherings to reflect and learn. And together, we are building a community that will support and sustain us as we continue searching for deep meaning and purpose amidst the myriad challenges we continue to face on this campus and around the world.

As this new year begins,
may we all keep becoming the
friends and scholars
leaders and community
we're called to be.
May we wrestle with good questions
and expect complexity at every turn.
May we listen to one another
with generosity and wonder.
May we care for ourselves and each other with compassion.
And may we discover anew the intellectual, artistic, spiritual work we love and
that makes a difference in and for a world:
riven this moment by catastrophe and violence,
yearning for healing and justice,
ready for the creativity and innovation, peace and light
each of us is called here to cultivate and share.

We as a community are back together, and the challenges of that are real too: just last night the President issued a statement condemning an incident of antisemitism that happened right here on the Medford campus. We as a community have promised to resist the path of ignorance, the path that would keep us farther apart from another because of fear and bias. We are back together, and we have learned how much we need each other. Let us embrace the gifts of togetherness, strive to be the best community members we can, and welcome these callings together with both hope and joy.

Pax et lux,
Reverend Elyse Nelson Winger
University Chaplain

Religious and Philosophical Life Programs

Regular weekly programming has begun for Fall 2021. You can find more information on our website. If you have an idea for how the Tufts University Chaplaincy can better serve you, please connect with program manager Nora Bond.

First Fall Jummah & Lunch with Muslim Student Association
Friday, September 10, 1:15 p.m.

Join the Tufts Muslim Student Association (MSA) for Jummah at the Interfaith Center on Winthrop Street (across from Breed Memorial Hall). The MSA will welcome Abubaker Fakhry and former Tufts Muslim chaplain Celene Ibrahim for lunch and a workshop at 2:15 p.m., following Jummah.

Welcome Back Shabbat Services and Dinner
Friday, September 10, Services at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Join Hillel for student-led Shabbat services, outside under Miller Hall Tent (adjacent to the Hillel building). You can decide to come to one or both, and are most welcome. You can find more about all Hillel offerings for High Holidays and programming here.

Divided We Fall: Film Discussion with the University Chaplain
Wednesday, September 15, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

To mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the University Chaplaincy invites you to a community discussion on the documentary Divided We Fall, a film by civil rights lawyer and activist Valarie Kaur. The film documents the stories of

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anniversary of the national tragedy. University Chaplaincy staff will host a virtual discussion based on the 90 minute documentary, which you can find linked below. Kaur will be our speaker for this year's endowed Russell Spiritual Life Lecture Series; we look forward to welcoming her and her message of revolutionary love to campus in March 2022. You can find all the details, and the link to film, below. As part of the University Chaplaincy's participation in the city of Medford's 20th anniversary rememberance of 9/11 the chapel bells will toll on Saturday in honor of lives lost and all those impacted that day. Please register here and find more information, including the link to the film, on our website.

University Chaplaincy Staff Transitions

Azmera Hammouri-Davis, M.T.S.
Departing Africana Spirituality Advisor

Azmera Hammouri-Davis was appointed Africana Spirituality Advisor in Fall 2020. As Africana Spirituality Advisor, Azmera worked in partnership with the University Chaplaincy and the Africana Center, and offered her gifts to many gatherings and events in her tenure. Azmera will serve as the new Community Partnership Lead at Harvard's Academic Ventures and Engagement Department at the Radcliffe Center for Advanced Study. Azmera's spiritual wisdom, poetic offerings, joyful presence, and expansive vision for supporting students will continue to be deeply appreciated as we continue to build the Africana Spirituality Chaplaincy. Please join us on Thursday, September 9 from 12:15 p.m. - 1 p.m. on Zoom to wish Azmera well and share our gratitude; you can find the Zoom link on our website. The University Chaplaincy will embark on a search for a new Africana Spirituality Advisor this fall.

Lynn Cooper, D.Min.
Appointed Associate Director of the University Chaplaincy

Lynn Cooper was appointed Associate Director of the University Chaplaincy this summer. As Associate Director, Lynn serves on the Leadership Team of the University Chaplaincy, working to build campus partnerships, deepen and expand our programmatic offerings, and sustain the needs of our growing team. She continues to serve Catholic life at Tufts in her role as Catholic Chaplain. You can find more about Lynn on our website and connect with her via email.

Anthony Cruz Pantojas, M.T.S.
Appointed Humanist Chaplain

Anthony Cruz Pantojas was appointed Humanist Chaplain in Summer 2021. As Humanist Chaplain, Anthony supports the Humanist Community at Tufts (HCAT), offers pastoral care, and works alongside the University Chaplaincy team and campus partners on various interfaith, intercultural, social justice, and anti-racism initiatives. You can read Anthony's full biography on our website, and connect with them via email.

Ji Hyang Padma, Ph.D.
Appointed Buddhist Chaplain

Ji Hyang Padma was appointed Buddhist Chaplain in July, 2021. In this role, Ji Hyang supports student leaders of the Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha, develops and facilitates opportunities for all community members interested in practicing and exploring diverse Buddhist traditions and practices on campus, offers pastoral care, and works alongside the University Chaplaincy team and campus partners on various interfaith, intercultural, social justice, and anti-racism initiatives. Ji Hyang also serves as an advisor to the forthcoming Tufts Generous Listening and Dialogue Center. You can read her full biography on our website, and connect with her via email.

Lindsey Chu
Appointed Administrative Coordinator

Lindsey joined the University Chaplaincy Team in July 2021 as Administrative Coordinator. She provides specialized support to the University Chaplain and to the Chaplaincy to assist in running programs and helping to fulfill the Chaplaincy's mission and goals. You can read Lindsey's full biography on our webiste, and connect with her via email.

Tufts Recieves Grant from Arthur Vining Davis Foundations

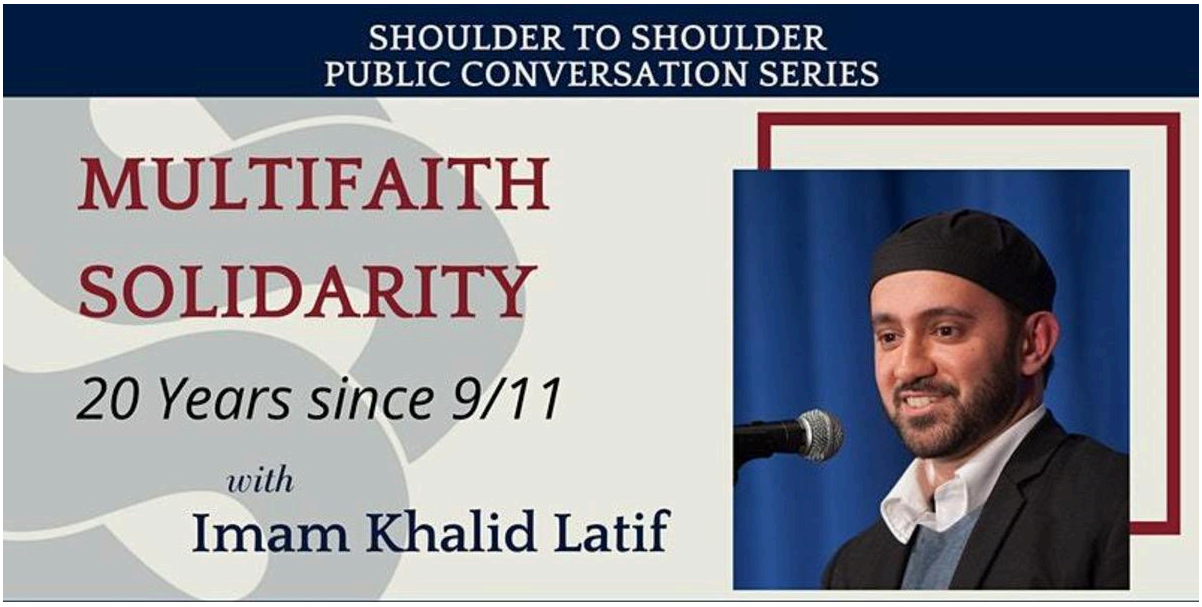
Tufts University will launch a new interdisciplinary curriculum track in interfaith civic studies, with the support of the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations (AVDF). This two-year project represents an innovative collaboration between the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts' School of Arts & Sciences Department of Religion, and the Tufts University Chaplaincy. The AVDF grant will catalyze the development of a 6-course sequence in interfaith civic studies at Tufts, provide opportunities for faculty professional development and course design, appoint a Resident Fellow, and support a cadre of new student Interfaith Ambassadors. These seven Ambassadors will work from out of the University Chaplaincy to co-create new opportunities for critical and civic interfaith engagement. You can read more about this initiative here.

Partner Programs

ProjectConnect with Counseling and Mental Health Services
Apply to be a facilitator by September 10

ProjectConnect is a peer-facilitated program model designed to help small groups of 4-6 students get to know each other and develop friendships. Facilitators lead participants through a series of engaging questions and fun activities that have been shown to build closeness and connection. We will have both virtual and in-person ProjectConnect groups (pending Tufts Covid guidelines).You can learn more on the Counseling and Mental Health Services website and apply to be a facilitator here.

Resources, Scholarships and Opportunities



Multifaith Solidarity: 20 Years Since 9/11 Public Conversation

Join for a public conversation *Multifaith Solidarity: 20 Years Since 9/11* with Imam Khalid Latif who serves as University Chaplain for New York University and Executive Director of the Islamic Center at NYU. Imam Latif will share stories and insights from his ongoing work "to carve out a much-needed space for young American Muslims to celebrate their unique identity and have their voices heard in the larger public sphere." Imam Latif will also highlight his experiences and perspectives on building multifaith solidarity, working alongside folks of different faith and cultural backgrounds in order to advance justice and inclusion here in the U.S. The conversation will explore what brings us hope, what connects us to one another across differences, and what motivates us to continue on in this work of building a society where all are treated with dignity. You can register for this virtual event here. You also can find other faith-inspired and community resources for commemorating September 11 through the Aspen Institute.

SALDEF
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund Leadership Development Program
Apply by Saturday, September 18

The Leadership Development Program (LDP) is a transformational virtual program that empowers Sikh American youth to become effective leaders committed to exploring and realizing both their personal potential and that of the Sikh American community. Since its founding in 2010, the Leadership Development Program (LDP) has recruited young Sikhs from all over the country and helped them chart a new course for their future. This program inspires, trains, and supports a diverse, motivated, and entrepreneurial group of young Sikh leaders as they prepare for a lifetime of community engagement and leadership. You can learn more on the website, and apply via this link.

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.

Paryusana Festival
Fri., Sep. 3 – Fri., Sep. 10, 2021
Tradition: Jainism
Considered the holiest period of the year, these eight days are marked for Jains by fasting, meditation, prayer and public readings of the life story of Lord Mahavira. Observed especially by the followers of the Shvetambara sect, Paryusana concludes on Samvatsari, the most solemn occasion of self-scrutiny and forgiveness. On this day, Jains ask for forgiveness from their relatives and friends for any offense they may have committed by deed, word or thought.

Rosh Hashanah
Mon., Sep. 6 – Wed., Sep. 8, 2021
Tradition: Judaism
The Jewish New Year and the anniversary of the creation of the world, Rosh Hashanah is the first of the Ten Days of Awe (also known as the Ten Days of Repentance) that conclude on Yom Kippur. It marks the beginning of the holiest time of the year for Jews.

Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
Wed., Sept. 8, 2021
Tradition: Christianity-Orthodox
Celebrates the birth of Mary, mother of Jesus Christ.

Ganesh Chaturthi
Fri., Sept. 10, 2021
Tradition: Hinduism
A celebration of Ganesh's birthday, one of the major Hindu deities. Ganesh, the elephant-headed son of Shiva and Parvati, is the Remover and Obstacles and is invoked at the beginning of all new undertakings. The ten-day festival begins on Shukla Chaturthi which is the fourth day of the waxing moon period and ends on the 14th day of the waxing moon period known as Anant Chaturdashi.

Das Laxana Festival
Sat., Sep. 11 – Mon., Sep. 20, 2021
Tradition: Jainism
(The Paryusana Festival of Jain Digumbar Sect): A 10-day festival that is considered to be a holy convocation. During these days, Jains impose some restraints on their daily activities by fasting, meditation and prayer. The last day of Paryusana is the most solemn occasion of forgiveness and the examination of one's own thoughts and feelings. On this day, Jains ask for forgiveness from their relatives and friends for any offense they may have committed by deed, word or thought.

Ghambar Paitishem
Sun., Sep. 12 – Thu., Sep. 16, 2021
Tradition: Zoroastrianism
Celebrates the creation of plants, the sowing of the winter crop and the return of herds from pasture.

Yom Kippur
Begins Wed., Sept. 15, 2021
Tradition: Judaism
The conclusion of the Ten Days of Awe, Yom Kippur is the holiest and most solemn of all days in the Jewish year. It is characterized by repentance, fasting, and forgiveness. Begins at sundown.

Mabon
Mon., Sep. 20, 2021
Tradition: Wicca/Paganism
Autumnal equinox and the second harvest festival, celebrating the equivalence of light and dark, the arrival of Autumn, and thanksgiving for the Earth's bounty. (Begins at sundown)

Sukkot
Mon., Sep. 20 – Mon., Sep. 27, 2021
Tradition: Judaism
Also known as Feast of Booths. An eight-day Jewish festival of booths (or tabernacles) and the fall harvest. The name refers to the booths (sukkot) used by Israelites during desert wanderings and constructed in the fields during the harvest season. It is a time of thanksgiving for God's presence in creation and among the Jewish people. The Eighth Day (Shmini 'Atzeret) is considered both the end of Sukkot and a distinct festival.

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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