The University Chaplaincy is a dynamic hub supporting religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life for all members of the Tufts community. The office is dedicated to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment where students, faculty, and staff can engage in meaningful conversations and activities that reflect a range of spiritual and cultural perspectives.

In this issue’s newsletter, we highlight several upcoming events and initiatives that reflect the diversity of traditions and practices on campus. These events are designed to promote dialogue, understanding, and connection among people of different backgrounds.

**Mon., Sep. 20 – Mon., Sep. 27, 2021**

**Mabon**

Begins Wed., Sept. 15, 2021

**Das Laxana Festival**

Tradition: Jainism

Wed., Sept. 8, 2021

These events are drawn from the multifaith calendar maintained by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at Tufts University. To see more upcoming religious holidays and festivals, please follow the link to chaplaincy.tufts.edu.

Tufts University will launch a new interdisciplinary curriculum track in interfaith civic studies, with the support of the Gordon Center for Religious and Spiritual Life. This track will provide opportunities for faculty professional development and course design, appoint a Resident Scholar, and work with both students and partners on campus to foster a diverse, inclusive, and engaged community. Such partnerships will help us to deepen and expand our programmatic offerings, and to create new courses and activities that reflect the unique interfaith diversity of the Tufts community.

**Appointed Buddhist Chaplain**

Ji Hyang Padma was appointed Buddhist Chaplain in July, 2021. In this role, she provides pastoral care, leads worship services, and engages in spiritual direction with students, faculty, and staff. She also develops and facilitates opportunities for all community members to participate in Buddhist practice and study.

**Appointed Humanist Chaplain**

Anthony Cruz Pantojas was appointed Humanist Chaplain in Summer 2021. As Humanist Chaplain, he provides pastoral care and spiritual support to the Tufts community, inclusive of all spiritual and religious backgrounds. He is also a member of the Multifaith Community at Tufts (HCAT), offers pastoral care, and works alongside other chaplains in the University Chaplaincy office.

Azmera Hammouri-Davis, M.T.S., was appointed Africana Spirituality Advisor in September 2021. As Africana Spirituality Advisor, she is dedicated to providing spiritual support and leadership to students, faculty, and staff from the Africana community. She leads the Africana Spiritual Life Task Force, which is designed to address the unique spiritual needs of this community.

The University Chaplaincy office works with both students and partners on campus to foster a diverse, inclusive, and engaged community. This includes working with both students and partners on campus to foster a diverse, inclusive, and engaged community. Such partnerships will help us to deepen and expand our programmatic offerings, and to create new courses and activities that reflect the unique interfaith diversity of the Tufts community.

**Multifaith Solidarity: 20 Years Since 9/11**

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the national tragedy, the University Chaplaincy staff will host a virtual discussion based on the 90-minute documentary film, “Beyond Buddha’s Leaves: The Sikh Americans of 9/11.” The film, shot in 2010 and re-released for this year, is available for streaming on the University Chaplaincy website. The discussion will feature Imam Khalid Latif, a university chaplain for New York University and executive director of the Islamic Center at NYU. Imam Latif will also present on his own experiences and the collective impact of the Sikh American community. Since its founding in 2010, the Leadership Development Program (LDP) has recruited and trained young Sikhs from all over the country, helping them chart a new course for their future. This program inspires, empowers, and challenges Sikh American youth to become leaders of change. The LDP promotes Sikhs’ unique identity and helps them to participate in the larger public sphere.

**Event Details:**

- **Multifaith Solidarity: 20 Years Since 9/11**
  - Speaker: Imam Khalid Latif
  - Date: September 2021
  - Time: To be announced
  - Location: Virtually

**ProjectConnect**

ProjectConnect is a peer-facilitated program designed to help small groups of 4-6 students get to know one another. The program provides an opportunity for students to develop connections with peers from diverse backgrounds, explore new identities, and engage in meaningful conversations. Facilitators lead participants through a series of engaging questions and fun activities.

**Apply to be a facilitator**

Apply by September 10, 2021.

**Hillel Student-Run Shabbat Services**

Join Hillel for student-led Shabbat services, outside under Miller Hall Tent (adjacent to the Hillel building). You can find more about Hillel at hillel.tufts.edu. For more information, email Hillel@tufts.edu.

- **Friday, September 10, Services at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m.**

**Multifaith Community Engagement**

This fall, the University Chaplaincy office will host a series of events designed to promote cross-cultural understanding and engagement. These events include workshops, panel discussions, and lectures that explore the diversity of religious and spiritual traditions on campus.

**Partnership Opportunities**

The University Chaplaincy office is seeking partnerships with local organizations to support community engagement initiatives. These partnerships will provide opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to connect with the wider Medford/Somerville area and to promote a sense of community and belonging.

**Contact Information**

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the University Chaplaincy office, please contact us at chaplaincy@tufts.edu or 617.627.3427. You can also visit our website at chaplaincy.tufts.edu to find more about our staff, events, and initiatives.

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