



# Tufts

# UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 3.2.22



## A Reflection from our Catholic Chaplain

I am proud to say that for over twenty-years, we have honored Ash Wednesday at Goddard Chapel with ecumenical services. This partnership between the Protestant and Catholic Chaplaincies follows the spirit of the ecumenical movement which celebrates a spiritual union across the worldwide Christian church, and the diversity within. It is a statement of unity and connectedness, honoring the way that service and the work for justice unites us in faith as Christians. In this era of schism, polarization, and war between neighbors, our ecumenical services feel all the more meaningful.

The term Lent comes from the Latin root *Langa*, which means "to lengthen." It is a reference to the coming of spring, to longer days, to light and transformation. Personally, I am struggling to find comfort in the promise of impending new life. Intellectually I know it is upon us but my heart is heavy, breaking for the losses in Ukraine and ordinary people carrying the weight of impossible decisions. While I believe in resurrection, meaning even death does not conquer, what comfort can that bring people in the here and now, in the face of human suffering?

Last night, members of our Tufts community gathered in Goddard Chapel in the name of peace. We lit candles and lifted up our voices in song and prayer. This expression of solidarity connected us with people around the globe who are also torn asunder by the violence. My tradition teaches me that solidarity is salvific. Even if I cannot see beyond today to embrace the resurrection, I take comfort and find strength in the truth of our interconnectedness and the wave of solidarity that I see rising across land and sea.

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## Upcoming Signature Programs

RUSSELL LECTURE ON SPIRITUAL LIFE & SOLOMONT SPEAKER SERIES

# Valarie Kaur

Monday, March 28 • 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. • Breed Memorial Hall



Join Tisch College and the University Chaplaincy for a joint Solomont Speaker Series and Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life event as we welcome civil rights leader, lawyer, award-winning filmmaker, educator, Sikh American, and best-selling author Valarie Kaur on campus.

**"The revolutionary love compass is: See no stranger, tend the wound, breathe, and push. It's loving others, loving opponents, loving ourselves. At any given moment, there's a place where we are most called to be; *what is your work right now?*"**

The Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life, the oldest lectureship at Tufts, offers a spiritual perspective on the present historical moment, and Kaur's call to see no stranger is a timely one.

The Alan and Susan Solomont Speaker Series at Tisch College brings to campus civic leaders and change-makers who are working for the greater good to participate in a public forum with the Tufts community.

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### Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life & Solomont Speaker Series: Valarie Kaur

Monday, March 28, 4:30 p.m., Breed Memorial Hall

Tufts Interfaith Ambassadors Curry Brinson, A22 and Neha Ratnapuri, A23 interviewed Valarie Kaur in preparation for her forthcoming lecture at Tufts. You can [read the full interview here](#), and view her reading a portion of her book *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifest of Revolutionary Love* in the video linked at the top of the article. The event is sponsored by Tisch College and the University Chaplaincy as a joint Solomont Speaker Series and Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life event. Kaur is a civil rights leader, lawyer, award-winning filmmaker, educator, Sikh American, and best-selling author and will speak on Revolutionary Love—the way of being that allows us to be present for and fully respect others. You can [read more about the event here on our website](#), and you can [register for the event here](#).

Register for Russell Lecture

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## Religious and Philosophical Programs

# Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Services

Liturgy of the Word with Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday, March 2, 2022  
12:00pm and 5:10pm, Goddard Chapel

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.

Please contact the University Chaplaincy if you wish to receive ashes but are unable to attend one of these services.

For questions or more information, contact [chaplaincy@tufts.edu](mailto:chaplaincy@tufts.edu).



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## Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, March 2, 12:00 p.m. and 5:10 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Join the Catholic Chaplaincy and the Protestant Chaplaincy for a service and the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season to prepare for Easter. You are most welcome, and please reach out to Catholic Chaplain [Lynn Cooper](#) with any questions. If you would like to receive Lenten reflections, sign up for daily email prompts to journal your way towards a clearer sense of vocation. If you are interested, please reach out to Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](#).





## "Revolutionary Nonviolence: Organizing for Freedom" with Rev. James Lawson and Kent Wong

**March 7, 2022**  
**5:30 PM ET**

### VIRTUAL EVENT

To RSVP, or for more information, use the QR code or visit [tischcollege.tufts.edu/events](https://tischcollege.tufts.edu/events).

Follow the conversation: #RevolutionaryNonviolenceAtTufts

Sponsored by the Africana Center, the Civic Studies Program and the University Chaplaincy. This event series is generously supported by Susan and Alan Solomont.



Jonathan M. Tisch  
College of Civic Life

### **Tisch College Solomont Speaker Series: "Revolutionary Nonviolence: Organizing for Freedom" with Rev. James Lawson and Kent Wong**

Monday, March 7, 5:30 p.m. ET, Virtual Event

Is nonviolent resistance the most effective tool for social change? Current polling data suggests that a growing percentage of Americans believe that under certain circumstances, violence is justified in defense of democracy. Join Tisch College for a conversation on the power of nonviolence in a modern context, organizing for social justice and building a multiracial democracy with legendary activists Reverend James Lawson and Kent Wong. In their new book, *Revolutionary Nonviolence: Organizing for Freedom*, Lawson and Wong provide a crucial resource on the long history of nonviolent philosophy and how we can overcome violence and oppression through organized direct action, and chart a powerful roadmap for a new generation of activists.

Rev. James M. Lawson Jr. was one of the Civil Rights Movement's leading theoreticians and tacticians, and his work as a theologian, pastor, and social-change activist has inspired hope and liberation for more than sixty years. He is a Methodist minister who taught nonviolent theory and practice to help launch the 1960s Nashville lunch counter sit-ins, the Freedom Rides, the Memphis sanitation strike, and worker and immigrant rights

movements in Los Angeles. He continues to energize leaders and activists and inspire social change movements in the U.S. today. Kent Wong is director of the UCLA Labor Center, a union attorney, and a labor activist. He has taught a course on nonviolence with Rev. James Lawson Jr. for the past twenty years and has published books on the labor movement, immigrant rights, and the Asian American community. This event is generously cosponsored by the Africana Center, the Civic Studies Program and the University Chaplaincy. [You can register for the event here.](#)



American Sutra with  
Duncan Ryuken Williams



Join Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams as he shares his research  
on the Buddhist practices of Japanese-Americans  
at internment camps during WW II.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9TH  
7 PM ON ZOOM

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Buddhist Chaplaincy

**American Sutra with Duncan Ryuken Williams**

Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m., Virtual Event

Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams will be sharing his research on the Buddhist practices of Japanese-Americans at internment camps during World War II. *American Sutra*, the book based on his research, just won the 2022 Grawemeyer Award for Religion. Duncan is a scholar-practitioner and a Zen priest. Join us to hear his experience at the camps firsthand. [You can join the Zoom here.](#)

Muslim Chaplaincy  
Buddhist Chaplaincy  
Hindu Chaplaincy presents...

# Interweaving Wisdoms

*Finding common threads in our Sacred Texts*

**First Session: March 10, 4:00-5:00pm**

Join us on zoom for the first of a series to explore three universal themes that flow across the sacred texts of Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism.

Each session we will explore a unique theme:

- The interplay of the body, mind and spirit
- Art and expression as spirituality
- Navigating grief and joy

Participants are invited to share a text on that theme and a discussion prompt for the group.

Open to all campuses, students, staff and faculty.

Please RSVP through the QR code below and indicate if you are interested in sharing a text and a brief reflection on it (5min). Registered participants will receive a zoom link for the event.

If you have any questions, contact [najiba.akbar@tufts.edu](mailto:najiba.akbar@tufts.edu)

Artwork: "Arrival" by tapestry artist Marion Cragg

Tufts University Chaplaincy Muslim Chaplaincy Tufts University Chaplaincy Buddhist Chaplaincy Tufts University Chaplaincy Hindu Chaplaincy

## Interweaving Wisdoms: Finding common threads in our Sacred Texts

Thursday, March 10, 4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m., Virtual (First Session)

Join us on Zoom for the first of a series to explore three universal themes that flow across the sacred texts of Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Each session we will explore a unique theme and participants are invited to share a text on that theme and a discussion prompt for the group. We will spend approximately 15 minutes on each text.

Open to all campuses, students, staff and faculty. Please RSVP and indicate if you are interested in sharing a text and a brief reflection on it (this is entirely optional). If you have any questions please reach out to Muslim Chaplain [Najiba Akbar](#).



## Fifth Annual Interfaith Field Trip to Downtown Boston

Friday, March 11, 12:00-3:00 p.m., meet outside Upper Campus Center at 12:00 p.m. or at St. Paul's Cathedral,

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 Jumu'ah 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 Jumu'ah Prayers. Muslim and Christian faith leaders will then meet with us for lunch and conversation. Students from all religious/philosophical backgrounds are welcome to participate. This event is being sponsored by the Protestant Chaplaincy, Muslim Chaplaincy, and the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul. Please let us know if you plan to attend by signing up [here](#). Please email Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](#) or Muslim Chaplain [Najiba Akbar](#) for more information.

**Thank you to all those who attended "To Be of Use" this week!**

We welcomed undergraduates and graduate students to a lunch conversation *"To Be of Use: Who We Are, What We're For, and Why It Matters"*. Chaplains and Career Center staff shared their stories about career journeys and their sense of purpose in the personal and professional lives. Participants shared their insights together, and we look forward to hosting more events like this soon. Thank you to all who registered, and to our co-hosts, the Tufts Career Center.



## Partner Programs





# Project Connect

Meet new people, make meaningful connections, and build community on campus

Sponsored by CMHS

## Project Connect

Rolling sign ups are open

Project Connect is a great opportunity for students who are looking to connect with others on campus, dealing with loneliness, or just want to meet new people. Project Connect is a non-clinical, 6-week, peer led program for grad and undergrad students that helps students build connection with each other. Small groups of students meet for an hour each week with a trained peer facilitator to discuss a series of thought-provoking questions and complete a mini-connection project. This will be the third time that CMHS has offered Project Connect, and we are excited to be able to run the program again – we have an amazing group of facilitators this semester to help foster connection amongst their group's participants. [Students can sign up here](#). Space is limited and will be filled on a rolling basis. Friendships can help buffer against the daily stressors of school and life. But building a social network can be tough, and we want to help! Project Connect is designed to help Tufts students build meaningful connections.

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[Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities](#)





### **Refugees in Towns (RIT) Conference & Arts Festival**

Friday, March 4 and Saturday March 5, Breed Memorial Hall at 51 Winthrop Street, and Virtual

This year's RIT Conference and Arts Festival will explore the links between migrant and refugee integration and mental health, identifying the barriers to and opportunities for protection and improvement of mental health in different communities and cities. Drawing on nearly 50 case studies conducted by refugees across the globe, researchers and practitioners will showcase lessons and strategies that facilitate refugee integration and promote mental health. Interactive workshops led by local artists will allow attendees to understand how a variety of art forms help migrants and refugees and their hosts heal and protect and promote mental health in their communities. Tufts Hillel is a proud sponsor of this event. [More information including timing and registration details can be found here.](#)

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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](#).

### **Nineteen Day Fast**

Tue., Mar. 1 – Sat., Mar. 19, 2022

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.

### **Ash Wednesday**

Wed., Mar. 2, 2022

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.

### **Sri Ramakrishna Jayanti**

Fri., Mar. 4, 2022

Tradition: Hinduism

Celebrates the birthday of Sri Ramakrishna, teacher of Swami Vivekananda.

### **Great Lent**

Mon., Mar. 7 – Sat., Apr. 23, 2022

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.

### **Ghambar Hamaspathmaedem**

Wed., Mar. 16 – Sun., Mar. 20, 2022

Tradition: Zoroastrianism

Celebrates the creation of human beings and honors the souls of the deceased.

### **Purim (Feast of Lots)**

Wed., Mar. 16, 2022

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.

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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.

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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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