



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 2.9.22



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A Reflection from our Hindu Advisor

Namaste dear friends,

This past Saturday, February 5, 2022, we celebrated Saraswati Puja, more widely known as Vasant Panchami, traditionally marking the beginning of preparations for the spring season in the Indian subcontinent. Many dedicate this day to the worship of Goddess Saraswati. My own family dressed in bright shades of yellow, as many Bengalis do on this day, and sang devotional songs. Yellow is the color of the Manipura chakra (wheel of energy), located in the solar plexus area. One of its many functions is imbuing our will with strength and the fire element.

During Saraswati Puja, we honor the many talents that have been bestowed upon us by Her as well all the amazing gifts that allow us to create as the Goddess does – writing, painting, playing music, drawing, singing, and any kind of learning and knowledge.

I try to remember that knowledge is the basis for wisdom in our lives and that we use our aligned will to shape it. Wisdom is defined as the ability to use your knowledge and experience to make good decisions. Without aligning our will to the Greatest Good, knowledge can create chaos, information overload, and even be destructive. But with alignment, wisdom can be a guide.

What do you do in order to nourish your wisdom? What do you need to process what you learn, and integrate your sense of self and values? For me, it's sitting in stillness to hear my inner voice at least once a day. In this light, I leave you with these words of the Saraswati Vidya Mantra, to improve our learning powers.

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ
ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ

Saraswati Namasthubhyam Varade Kamarupini
Vidyarambham Karishyami Siddhir Bavathume Sadha

Salutations to Devi Saraswati, Who is the giver of Boons and fulfiller of Wishes, O Devi, when I begin my knowledge pursuits, Please bestow on Me the capacity of Right Understanding, always.

I wish you time and space to be with your wisdom this month.

Dhanyavaadah and best wishes,
Preeta Banerjee
Hindu Advisor

Religious and Philosophical Programs

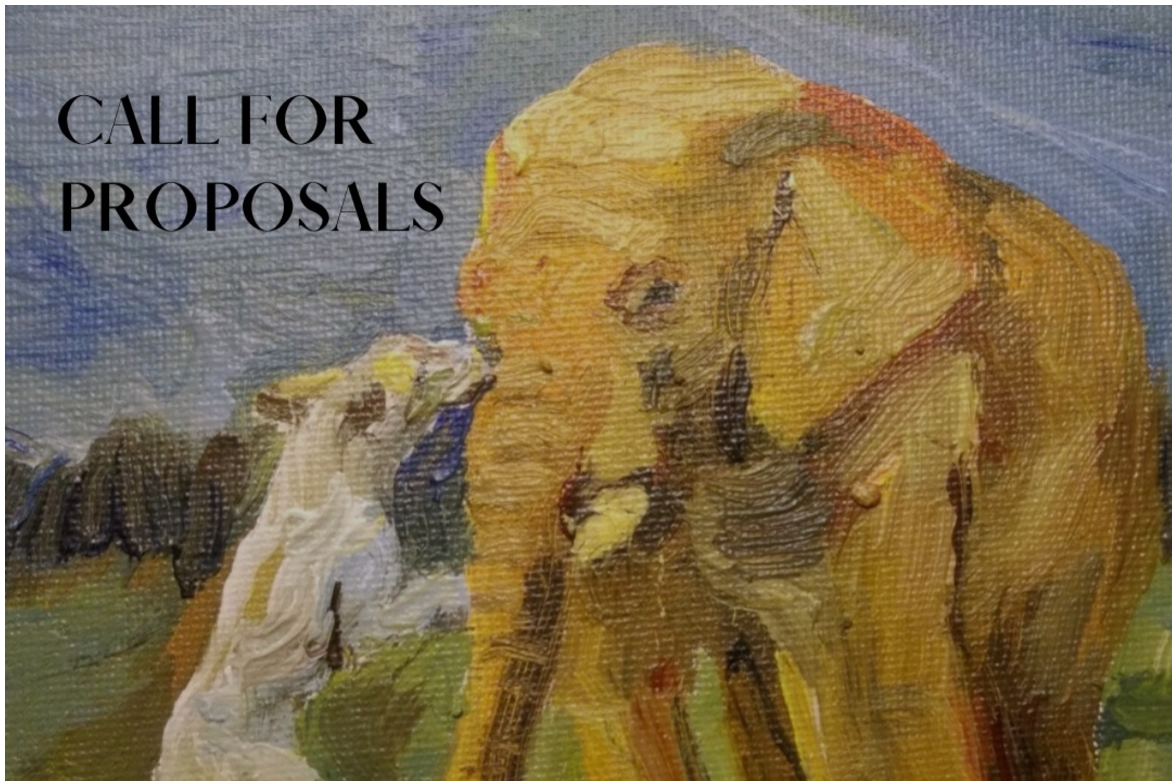


Zohar Circle

Friday, February 11, 12:00 p.m.- 1:00 p.m., Granoff Family Hillel Center

Join Rabbi Naftali Brawer for a weekly pre-Shabbat session of Zohar study. The Zohar is the foundational text of Jewish mysticism and it has inspired and intrigued readers for centuries. Full of hidden codes and concealed meanings, the Zohar takes its readers on a spiritual journey uncovering deeper dimensions of reality and

consciousness. No prior knowledge of Hebrew or mysticism is required. Just an open mind and an open heart. Contact [Rabbi Naftali Brawer](#) with any questions.



Kalyānamitta: A Good Friend

Submissions due Feb 16



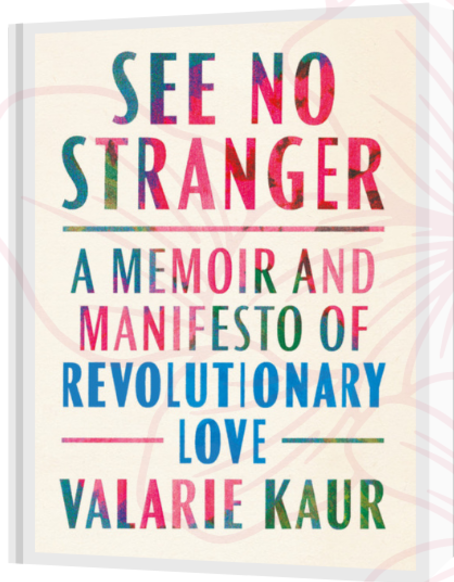
Kalyānamitta: A Good Friend Show

Proposals due Wednesday, February 16, by 11:59 p.m. ET

Friendship is the foundation for us to care more about each other. This show, hosted by the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA) and the University Chaplaincy, invites us to pay attention to our relationships with other people, animals, and the world and use art to reflect and express our friendships with other beings. This call is rooted in Four Jātaka Stories from the Theravada Buddhist tradition. Choose one that resonates with you, and respond in any art medium. Your artwork will be the centerpiece of an interfaith collaboration in March and April at SMFA and Medford campuses. We will celebrate your art-work in conversation with the stories. You can connect with Assistant Director of Student Affairs [Sarah Valente](#) with any questions, and [find the submission form here](#).

See No Stranger at Tufts

A Reading and Learning Opportunity for
the Tufts Community



Begins in late February

Join a three week group conversation about the memoir and manifesto of our 2022 Russell Lecturer, Valarie Kaur. Summaries of weekly reading will be provided.

Register by Feb 21
go.tufts.edu/nostranger

The Revolutionary Love Learning Hub, valariekaur.com/learninghub. All rights reserved.

See No Stranger at Tufts Learning Series

Sign up by Monday, February 21

You are invited to join a See No Stranger Learning Series with the University Chaplaincy, in preparation for our Russell Lecturer and Tisch College Solomont Speaker, Valarie Kaur. Facilitated groups will meet for an hour each week for three weeks in late February and early March to discuss themes and sections from Kaur's book, *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*. We will consider together what Revolutionary Love looks and feels like to us and our community. Books will be provided to students, and summaries of the week's topic will be provided. There is no expectation of finishing the book, and we welcome you as a discussion partner. Please contact University Chaplaincy program manager [Nora Bond](#) with any questions and accessibility needs. There are multiple group meeting times, and we hope you will join us. Please [sign up by Monday, February 21 via this link](#).

[Sign Up for the Learning Series](#)



Discernment Dinners


Time and Location To Be Decided

The Protestant Chaplaincy is continuing discernment dinners from last semester and looking for the right time to meet. [Please fill out the Doodle poll if interested](#). These gatherings are an opportunity to reflect together on how anyone in the Tufts community understands their callings in life based on a sense of purpose and passion. [We are using this book](#), which [Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell](#) will provide to you upon request. Just email him for a copy. Newcomers of any religious or philosophical tradition are welcome.

Partner Programs




The Bridging Differences Task Force is now accepting proposals for the next round of seed grant funding. Selected proposals will be funded by the Office of the Provost to support diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts across Tufts. Any Tufts student, faculty or staff member may apply for up to \$2,000 in funding for initiatives that will be implemented in the spring, summer, and fall of the 2022 calendar year. The Bridging Differences Task Force encourages applications that are proposed by members of multiple campuses or by a cross-section of students, staff, and faculty. Projects that aim to unify multiple campuses or cross-sections of the Tufts community are highly encouraged. Final funding decisions will be made based on overall impact score, available funds, and the funding level required for project implementation with the goal of accepting proposals from a range of colleges. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission, and accepted proposals will be posted on our website. [To learn more and access the application, please visit this site.](#)



TRANSCEND CONNECTION

An Online Support Space for Trans and/or
Nonbinary Students at Tufts
facilitated by:



Nic Wildes, LMHC
(they/them)

Emma Rawls, MSW
(she/they)

2X/MONTH – TUESDAYS 7:00– 8:15 PM EST

UPCOMING DATES: 2/15, 3/1, & 3/15

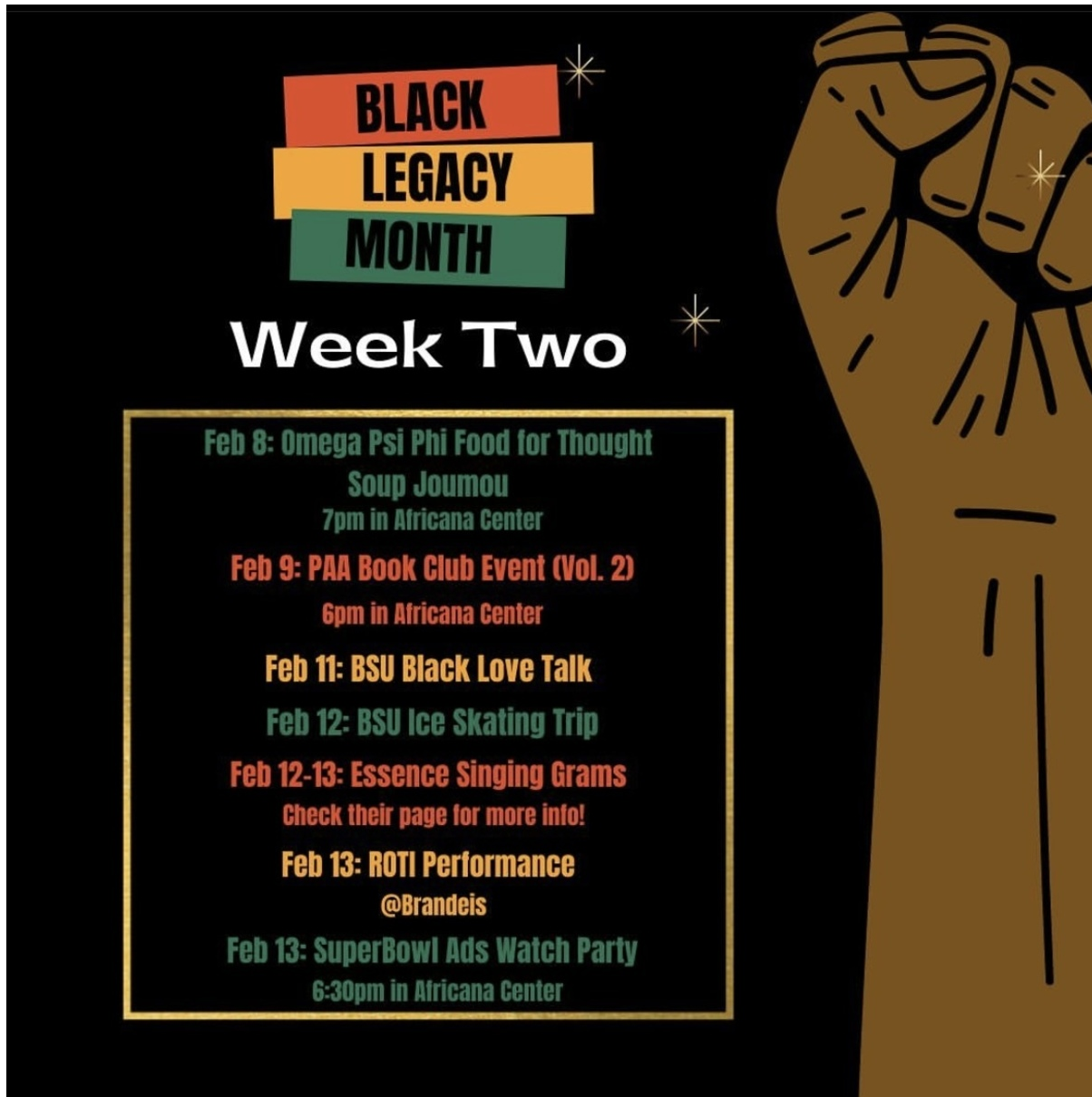
REMOTE: ZOOM SECURE VIDEO

****Email nic@sayftee.com by 6:30 on the day of the group for a confidential link****

TRANScend Connection

Every other Tuesday, February 15, March 1, March 15, 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., via Zoom

The LGBT Center is excited to share that TRANScend is continuing this year with brand new facilitators. TRANScend is a virtual support space for trans and/or non-binary students at Tufts, facilitated by mental health professionals. TRANScend will meet twice a month via Zoom, on Tuesdays from 7-8:15pm. For Zoom access, email the [group coordinator](#) any time before 6:30pm ET on the day of the meeting. For more information, please reach out to LGBT Center Assistant Center Director [joel guitterez](#).



Black Legacy Month

Month of February 2022

Take a look at some amazing upcoming programs for Black Legacy Month, brought to you by the Africana Center, Latinx Center, and their affiliated student organizations. [See the Africana Center site here](#) for more.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities

Gut & Other Knowledges in Religions of the African Diaspora



Gut and Other Knowledges in Religions of the African Diaspora

Wednesday, February 23, 1:00 p.m., via Zoom

Dr. Elizabeth Pérez discusses practices of embodied knowledge production and transmission in such Afro-Diasporic religions as Cuban Lucumí, Haitian Vodou, and Brazilian Candomblé. In conversation with CSWR Research Associate Dr. Giovanna Parmigiani, she connects the insights from her first book on sacred food preparation with current scholarship on gut feelings, knowing, and beings in Black Atlantic traditions. Distinguishing between intellectual comprehension and the types of understanding that practitioners derive from ritual experience, Dr. Pérez explains that the connections between the belly and the brain have only begun to be explored in Black Atlantic traditions. Elizabeth Pérez is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. [You can register for the talk here.](#)



stAAR Center Writing Fellow, Subject Tutor, and On-Call Tutor Applications

Applications due February 13

Do you like helping your peers with academics? The StAAR Center is hiring Writing Fellows, Subject Tutors, and On-Call Tutors for the 2022-2023 academic year. All majors are welcome, and there are no GPA or letter grade requirements to apply. Writing Fellows are peer writing tutors assigned to work with specific Tufts classes. All fellows receive extensive preparation and a stipend of \$650 per semester. Both Subject Tutors and On-Call Tutors conduct one-on-one and drop-in tutoring sessions in sciences, math, economics, engineering, languages, and more. [You can learn more, find info session times, and application details through 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](#).

Nirvana Day

Tue., Feb. 15, 2022 or Tue., Feb 8, 2022

Tradition: Buddhism

In the northern tradition, it commemorates the parinirvana of the Buddha. In cultures of Southeast Asia, the buddha's parinirvana is remembered during Wesak. The dates and names of Buddhist celebrations vary significantly among cultures and communities.

Laylat al-Isra'wa al-Mi'raj (Mi'raj al-Nabiy)

Sun., Feb. 27, 2022

Tradition: Islam

Commemorates the ascension (al-Mi'raj) of the Prophet to heaven following his night journey (al Isra') from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascent to heaven and return the same night. Begins at sundown.

Maha Shivaratri

Mon., Feb. 28, 2022

Tradition: Hinduism

A feast dedicated to the Hindu deity Shiva. The night before the feast fasting is observed, texts are recited, songs are sung, and stories told in honor of this God whose cosmic dance creates, preserves, destroys, and recreates the world.

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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