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, and educate about spiritual and ethical issues in society and the world, and promote multifaith engagement.

Upcoming Religious Celebrations and Observances

**Maha Shivaratri**

Sun., Feb. 27, 2022

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 universe.

**Wesak**

Wed., May 4, 2022

Tradition: Buddhism

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

parinirvana is remembered during Wesak. The dates and names of Buddhist celebrations vary significantly among traditions.

**Black Legacy Month**

Feb. 15–24, 2022

This month the Latinx Center, Africana Center, Jewish Connections, and the Interreligious Advisory Board are partnering to celebrate African American and Latinx culture. The focus will be on understanding our journeys and our people's contributions.

See the Africana Center site here for more.

**See No Stranger Learning Series**

Weds., Feb. 23

You are invited to join a See No Stranger Learning Series with the University Chaplaincy, in preparation for our screening of the See No Stranger documentary at Tufts on March 25.

We will meet for a book discussion in which we'll explore themes and sections of Kaur’s book, See No Stranger. The series is open to the public, and we welcome anyone who is interested in joining us.

**Art in the Interfaith Collaboration**

Sun., Mar. 20

The Department of Visual and Performing Arts (DVPA) and the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at Tufts University are hosting an exhibition of student art and artwork in the Interfaith Collaboration space at SMFA. For those interested in having their artwork on display, please submit your proposal by February 18, 2022.

**Four Jātaka Stories**

Sun. & Mon., Mar. 27 & 28

The festival celebrates the Buddha’s teachings through multiple group meeting times, and we hope you will join us. Please contact University Chaplaincy program manager Nora Bond with any questions.

**See No Stranger at Tufts Learning Series**

Sun., Apr. 10

You are invited to join a See No Stranger Learning Series with the University Chaplaincy, in preparation for our screening of the See No Stranger documentary at Tufts on March 25.

The series is open to the public, and we welcome anyone who is interested in joining us.

**Bridging Differences Task Force Proposals**

Due Friday, February 18, by 5:00 p.m. EST

The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life is now accepting proposals to support the Bridging Differences Task Force report. Proposals will be funded by the Office of the Provost to support diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts across Tufts. Proposals are due Friday, February 18, by 5:00 p.m. EST.

**Standing Room Only Program** 2022-2023

Wed., Mar. 23

The Standing Room Only (SRO) Program is a Tufts Student Life initiative created to provide support for students who pursue creative writing and talent in the visual arts.

**Writing Fellows, Subject Tutors and On-Call Tutors**

Do you like helping your peers with academics? The StAAR Center is hiring Writing Fellows, Subject Tutors, and On-Call Tutors.

Subject Tutors receive extensive preparation and a stipend of $650 per semester. Writing Fellows, who are graduate students, receive extensive preparation and a stipend of $2,000 per semester.

Fellows must have excellent communication skills, the ability to work with a diverse group of students, and be available 10-15 hours a week.

Fellows need to be comfortable working in a collaborative, team environment and completing a short-term fellowship.

If you are interested in applying, please visit this site.

**Research Assistant**

Sarah Valente

Sarah Valente is a Research Assistant at Tufts University. She received her MFA in English from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

In her recent book, Gut and Other Knowledges in Religions of the African Diaspora, Sarah Valente examines the role of food in religious traditions and its cultural implications.

This book explores how food is used to mediate spiritual experiences and how it reflects the cultural and social values of different communities.

Valente employs a multidisciplinary approach to examine the significance of food in religious traditions, particularly in African diasporic communities.

In her research, she examines how food is used to mediate spiritual experiences and how it reflects the cultural and social values of different communities.

Valente's work highlights the importance of food as a medium of expression and communication in religious traditions.

She draws on her own experiences and observations from her research to provide insights into the cultural and social significance of food in religious practices.

**Rabbi Naftali Brawer**

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 wisdom, the Zohar is a endlessly fascinating text that we hope you will enjoy delving into.

The pre-Shabbat Zohar study offers an opportunity to explore the Zohar's teachings and engage in meaningful discussions about their relevance to our lives today.

**Saraswati Puja**

This past Saturday, February 5, 2022, we celebrated Saraswati Puja, more widely known as Vasant Panchami, the day dedicated to the Goddess Saraswati. Saraswati Puja is a celebration of the creative powers of the universe, and it is widely observed in Hindu households, educational institutions, and places of worship.

During Saraswati Puja, we honor the many talents that have been bestowed upon us by Her as well all the educators and students who have worked tirelessly to cultivate knowledge and excellence.

Offerings are made to Saraswati, and the goddess is praised in devotional songs and poems. Yellow is the color of the Manipura chakra (wheel of energy), located in the solar plexus region of the body.

Vidyarambham Karishyami Siddhir Bavathume Sadha

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What do you do in order to nourish your wisdom? What do you need to process what you learn, and integrate your knowledge, and express it fully? How do you balance learning and teaching, and how do you find fulfillment in these activities?

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