



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 02.28.24



Voices for Peace and Light Choir at In Living Memory Concert on November 2, 2023.

The Choir will be performing at this year's Russell Lecture with Dee-1!

A Reflection from your University Chaplain

Dear Tufts community and friends,

Feist. The Wailin' Jennys. Julian Lage. Ella Fitzgerald. The St. Olaf Choir and Yo Yo Ma. This is what Spotify tells me I've turned to most in these early weeks of 2024. It's a mostly reflective, even wistful, set, a soundtrack accompanying me through midwinter.

I love my own little curated world of music. I put on my headphones or turn up the volume in my car. But it is music shared in community that ultimately moves me: choral singing and congregational song, the "collective effervescence" of a live stadium concert, the thrill of a symphony performance, and the many moments of music I experience at and around Tufts.

In this year of tremendous trauma and loss, music on this campus has brought both joy and solace. I've heard students sing both psalms of lament and hymns of hope. I've delighted in the ebullient song welcoming the Sabbath and the singing chant of visiting Tibetan monks. I've listened with awe to Nasheed melodies and to Open Mic hip hop artists from campus and beyond. Music is a portal into another's identity, language, and practice and it has power to break open our hearts to the other as well. In her poem, "Music," Anne Porter evokes this moment:

*"Why is it that music
At its most beautiful
Opens a wound in us
An ache a desolation
Deep as a homesickness
For some far-off
And half-forgotten country"*

Porter's poem is a wonderful meditation on the holy longing for wholeness. What to make of that wound, that ache she describes? For her, it is about reunion with the divine. For me, it's also about remembering that we are not complete without one another, that we need one another's musical stories of resilience, healing, love, and joy. At a time when dialogue across difference can be so fraught, how might we build trust and empathy by being together in the presence of music, making music together, even sharing the soundtracks of our lives?

At next week's Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life and Solomont Speakers Series event, we will have the opportunity to do just that. I am so excited to welcome Dee-1 as he offers a lecture on joy, lyrics, prayer and spiritual repair. And I am thrilled that the University Chaplaincy's new ensemble, Voices for Peace and Light, will join Dee-1 in a performance. I hope that you will join us, and that you will be thinking about the music that is accompanying you this midwinter season.

Pax et Lux,
Elyse Nelson Winger
University Chaplaincy

Scroll down to see the February 2024 photo of the month!

Upcoming Signature Programs

MY JOY IS MY WEAPON

Lyrics, Prayer, and
Spiritual Repair

with
DEE-1

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 · 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Distler Performance Hall · 20 Talbot Ave.



We look forward to welcoming Tisch Scholar-in-Residence Dee-1 as our Russell Lecture speaker this year, with support from the Tisch College Solomont Speaker Series. A transformative lecture from Dee-1, detailing how his spiritual roots have given him the courage and confidence to become a disruptor inside the fields of entertainment and education, will also include special performances with Voices for Peace and Light, a student-led Q and A, and a fabulous reception!

Please scan the QR code to register for the event

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Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life and Solomont Speaker Series with Dee-1

Wednesday, March 6, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Distler Performance Hall (20 Talbot Ave)

We look forward to welcoming Tisch Artist and Scholar-in-Residence Dee-1 as our Russell Lecture speaker this year, with support from the Tisch College Solomont Speaker Series. A transformative lecture from Dee-1, detailing how his spiritual roots have given him the courage and confidence to become a disruptor inside the fields of entertainment and education, will also include special performances with Voices for Peace and Light, a student-led Q and A, and a fabulous reception! Save the date and register below.

[Register for the Russell Lecture](#)

Religious and Philosophical Programs

Our gatherings are open to all members of the Tufts community! Please find more information and more regular weekly programming and events [here on our website](#). If you have any questions, or would like to connect about convening a new gathering, please [reach out to the University Chaplaincy](#).



Period Palooza

Thursday, February 29, at 5:30 p.m., at the Interfaith Center (58 Winthrop St, Medford)

Fihri, an organization dedicated to ending period poverty globally, and Tufts Muslim Student Association (MSA) and the Muslim Chaplaincy have joined forces to address the urgent need for feminine hygiene products for the over 591,000 displaced women in Gaza. They are hosting a Period Palooza where participants will be packing and decorating sustainable "period packs" to send to the women and girls in Gaza. Please reach out to Muslim Chaplain [Najiba Akbar](#) with any questions.



Interfaith Shabbat



Interfaith Shabbat

Friday, March 1, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Granoff Family Hillel Center

Welcome to Interfaith Shabbat! Whether you're a Shabbat regular or you've never been in Hillel, this event is for you. We will be integrating readings from a variety of faith traditions into our regular Friday night services, followed by dinner and discussion of what it means to live in a religiously diverse society. Come learn, share, and eat! Sign up below and note you can request a buddy to guide you through services!

[Sign up and request a buddy](#)

True Colors

Queerness and Spirituality Group



DINNER & FILM
NIGHT
THURSDAY
MARCH 7
6:30-8:30 PM
LGBT CENTER

Join us to watch and talk about
My Name is Pauli Murray,
an inspiring film about a
pioneering non-binary activist,
writer, priest, and lawyer who
shaped landmark litigation—and
consciousness—around race and
gender equity.

All are welcome.

RSVPs appreciated.

Contact: Chaplain Dan Bell
daniel.bell@tufts.edu

True Colors: Dinner & Film Night

Thursday, March 7, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., at the LGBT Center

Join True Colors, the University Chaplaincy and LGBT Center's Queerness and Spirituality Group, to watch and talk about *My Name is Pauli Murray*, an inspiring film about a pioneering non-binary activist, writer, priest, and lawyer who shaped landmark litigation—and consciousness—around race and gender equity. All are welcome. RSVPs appreciated. Please email Chaplain [Dan Bell](mailto:daniel.bell@tufts.edu) with questions and to RSVP.

Partner Programs

Middle Eastern Studies at Tufts University

Presents:

Thinking Revolution

Lessons from Egypt for the 21st Century



**THURS, FEB 29
7:00 PM**

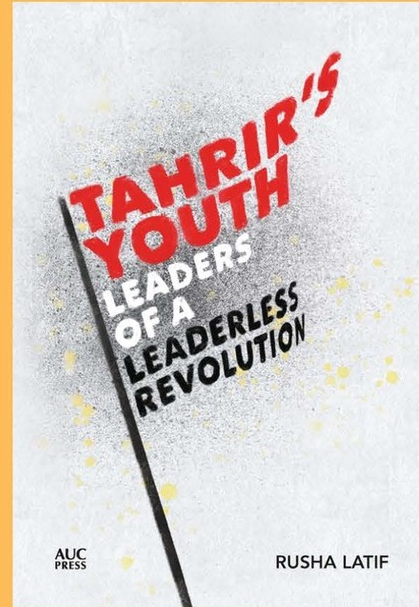


Laminan Lounge
Olin center



SCAN ME
RSVP

In this talk, Rusha Latif will discuss her new book, *Tahrir's Youth: Leaders of a Leaderless Revolution*, an activist ethnography that focuses on the themes of leadership and organization in the 2011 Egyptian revolution. Following the trajectory of the movement from the perspective of the Revolutionary Youth Coalition (RYC), the first and arguably most significant front born of the nationwide revolt, the presentation will challenge the notion that this was a purely spontaneous and leaderless uprising and highlight critical learnings from the protagonists behind this historic movement – lessons that would be missed if we accept this narrative without question.



Speaker:
RUSHA LATIF
Author

Rusha Latif is a researcher and writer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. A first generation Egyptian American, she traveled to Cairo in 2011 to conduct ethnographic research on the uprising. Her interests include social movements and revolutions; the study of class, gender, and race/ethnicity; Islamic Studies; and Middle Eastern Studies.



Discussant:
KHALED FAHMY
Edward Keller Professor of
North Africa & the Middle East,
History, Tufts University



Thinking Revolution: Lessons from Egypt for the 21st Century

Thursday, February 29, 7:00 p.m., Olin Center

In this talk, Rusha Latif will discuss her new book, *Tahrir's Youth: Leaders of a Leaderless Revolution*, an activist ethnography that focuses on the themes of leadership and organization in the 2011 Egyptian revolution. Following the trajectory of the movement from the perspective of the Revolutionary Youth Coalition (RYC), the first and arguably most significant front born of the nationwide revolt, the presentation will challenge the notion that this was a purely spontaneous and leaderless uprising and highlight critical learnings from the protagonists behind this historic movement – lessons that would be missed if we accept this narrative without question.

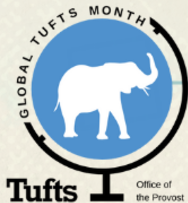
Register for Thinking Revolution

Global Tufts Month

Humanitarian Aid: Working Together in Times of Conflict

Celebrate the breadth and depth of
global engagement at Tufts by hosting
your own event!

March 2024



go.tufts.edu/globaltuftsmmonth

Global Health Month hosted by the Office of the Provost

March 2024

March is Global Tufts Month! The Office of the Provost invites the entire Tufts community to host and attend events related to this year's Global Tufts Month theme: Humanitarian Aid: Working Together in Times of Conflict. These events will showcase Tufts' breadth and depth of global engagement and can range from lectures, film showings, cultural events, social programs, and more. Learn more about upcoming events or host your own event. More details can be found below.

[Global Health Month Information](#)



Mental Health Rep

Apply by Monday March 11

Apply today to be a Mental Health Rep! Mental Health Reps (MHRs) are paid, peer health educators who work with CMHS and the student body to promote mental health and wellbeing. You'll learn about mental health, get to lead mental health programming and outreach, meet new people, and earn a stipend. Applications are due March 11 at 10:00 a.m., and you can find the application through the link below.

[Mental Health Rep Application](#)

Resources, Scholarships and Opportunities

BURNING REFUGE

the inaugural
Buddhism and
Social-Spiritual
Liberation
Conference

March 7-9, 2024
at Harvard Divinity School

burningrefuge2024.site

free registration for all!
submit paper proposals now!

Buddhism and Social-Spiritual Liberation

Thursday to Saturday, March 7 to March 8, at Harvard Divinity School

In March 2024, an exciting and radical conference will host its inaugural offering at Harvard Divinity School to convene critical and interdisciplinary Buddhist scholarship, activism, and arts to chart a path forward into true social-spiritual liberation. We assert that the dream of ultimate social-spiritual liberation is possible and is thus our great task – we invite you to set out on this mission with us and make a vow of commitment. Will you join us?

[Buddhism and Social-Spiritual Liberation Registration](#)



StAAR Center Graduate Positions

Apply by March 8 at 12:00 p.m.

The StAAR Center seeks motivated graduate students to work collaboratively with undergraduate and graduate students at Tufts. Graduate Writing Consultants work with students on writing across disciplines, while Graduate Academic Mentors work with students on foundational academic and executive functioning skills. Compensation is \$21/hour to start, and training is paid. Positions are for academic year 2024 - 2025. Info sessions will be held on Friday, March 8 at 12 p.m. on Zoom.

[Learn more about StAAR Center Graduate Positions](#)



February 2024 Photo of the Month: Mandala in progress!

Last week we were honored to host the Tibetan Monks of the Gaden Shartse Monastic College for Circles of Peace: A Tibetan Mandala Project. You can find more pictures on our Instagram, including the monks careful distribution of sand, sacred chanting, and the progress from the center outwards. The final image is what they completed over five days. Thank you to the Buddhist Chaplaincy, the Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha, the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Inclusive Excellence, and the Asian American Center as co-hosts for this incredible event!

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

Thu., Feb. 29 – Tue., Mar. 19, 2024

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.

Maha Shivaratri

Fri., Mar. 8, 2024

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.

Ramadan

Mon., Mar. 11 – Wed., Apr. 10, 2024

Tradition: Islam

The Holy Month of Ramadan is the month of fasting during which Muslims who are physically able do not eat or drink from the first sign of dawn until sunset in honor of the first revelations to the Prophet Muhammad. The evening meal is celebrated with family.

Sri Ramakrishna Jayanti

Mon., Mar. 11, 2024

Tradition: Hinduism

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

Ghambar Hamaspathmaedem

Sat., Mar. 16 – Wed., Mar. 20, 2024

Tradition: Zoroastrianism

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

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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