



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 4.6.22



A Reflection from our Jewish Chaplain

It is now less than two weeks to Passover and for many Jews this means serious spring cleaning.

The Bible states that it is forbidden to eat or possess any leaven during the Passover festival. Leaven is anything made from dough that has risen – that pretty much includes any kind of biscuit, cake or bread. Instead, Jews eat a special kind of unleavened bread called matzah which is thin and wafer-like. Since the Bible prohibits not just eating but even possessing leaven, many Jews will spend the next two weeks carefully cleaning out their homes to ensure that not even a crumb of it remains during Passover.

What does all this symbolize?

The puffed-up quality of leavened bread represents self-importance and self-centeredness. The flat nature of unleavened bread represents a de-centering of the self in service of others. The ritual removal of leaven from our homes is an invitation to a deeper inner cleansing. Like a spiritual detox, it invites us to attain a healthier balance in our relationship with others and with the world. Self-care is important, we cannot be of use to others if we fail to look after ourselves, but self-care taken to the extreme descends into narcissism. A healthy balance is achieved when one's self-care becomes the foundation for caring for others. When one feels good about themselves, they are in the best position to bring joy to others.

Hillel the Elder captured this balancing act succinctly when he famously said:

*If I am not for myself, who will be for me
But if I am only for myself, what am I?*

During this season of renewal and possibility, I invite you to reflect on how you might do more to center others in your life and may you experience their joy as your own.

In friendship,

Rabbi Naftali Brawer, Ph.D.
Jewish Chaplain, Tufts University
Neubauer Executive Director, Tufts Hillel

University Chaplaincy Senior Awards Nominations

Nominations due by Friday, April 22 at 12pm ET

This year, the University Chaplaincy launches a new initiative to honor and uplift the wonderful contributions of our seniors across all of our religious and philosophical communities. Our Senior Awards will provide an opportunity for our community to nominate and celebrate our graduating seniors. We encourage you to nominate a graduating student. You are welcome to submit more than one nomination, as well as nominate yourself. You can nominate a senior anonymously or share your name and email. Sharing your information ensures that you will be notified of the final awards decisions and Senior Award Celebration. **All nominees will be honored at our gathering at the Interfaith Center on Tuesday, April 26, from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Please [submit all nominations by noon on Friday, April 22 here](#). Reach out to University Chaplain [Elyse Nelson Winger](#) with any questions.



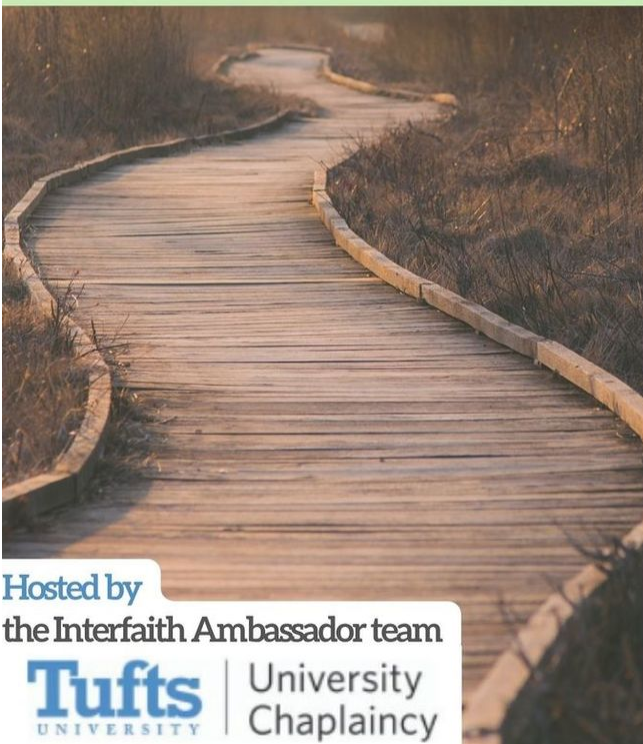
Share your hopes for the new Africana Spirituality Chaplain

This spring, the Tufts University Chaplaincy will hire a new Africana Spirituality Chaplain. The Africana Spirituality Chaplaincy, first established in 2017, seeks to create a comfortable space at Tufts for all students, staff and faculty, especially those of the African Diaspora, to grow in worship, fellowship, and community. The chaplain will be a member of the multifaith University Chaplaincy team and work in collaboration with campus partners to support and celebrate Afro-indigenous and Afro-diasporic traditions and communities. The chaplain will work with the Africana Center and offer collaborative programs and will build relationships and actively engage with the

existing communities across Tufts' campuses. You can [take the survey here](#). The [posting for the position may be found here](#).

Upcoming Signature Programs

Adventuring to Advocacy: Finding our paths to environmental justice



Hosted by
the Interfaith Ambassador team



*April 10
10:30-3:30*

Interfaith Center

*Come join us for a journey
to explore our individual
paths to climate justice.*

Lunch will be provided!
All Identities welcome.

Direct questions to
chaplaincy@tufts.edu

RSVP HERE:



Adventuring to Advocacy: Finding our paths to environmental justice

Sunday, April 10, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Interfaith Center

Come join us for a journey to explore our individual paths to climate justice. Through developing our stories, connecting to local organizations, and engaging with the worldviews of your friends and neighbors, begin to imagine your role in the advocacy needed in the fight for climate justice here on Tufts campus and beyond. By working to understand the varied approaches to environmental salvation taken by activists and faith leaders alike, this workshop hopes to root us in our home and grow us into the change we wish to see. Lunch will be provided. All identities welcome. [You can RSVP here.](#)

HUNGRY FOR JUSTICE: ONE JUMBO'S JOURNEY TO OVERCOME HUNGER

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 4:30 P.M.-5:30 P.M.
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW FROM 5:30 P.M. - 6 P.M.
GODDARD CHAPEL**



From The Hill to Capitol Hill, the White House and the United Nation's, Max Finberg, A92 has spent his career working to help hungry people in the US and around the world. As CEO of Growing Hope Globally, a non-profit of farmers helping farmers, he credits Tufts with helping him embark on this calling.

**Come hear his story and learn how to
put your passion into practice!**

*Sponsored by the University Chaplaincy, the Career Center, the Institute for
Global Leadership, and the Department of Political Science*



Hungry for Justice: One Jumbo's Journey to Overcome Hunger

Wednesday, April 13, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Goddard Chapel

From The Hill to Capitol Hill, the White House and the United Nation's, Max Finberg, A92 has spent his career working to help hungry people in the US and around the world. As CEO of Growing Hope Globally, a non-profit of farmers helping farmers, he credits Tufts with helping him embark on this calling. Come hear his story and learn how to put your passion into practice. Sponsored by the University Chaplaincy, the Career Center, the Institute for Global Leadership, and the Department of Political Science. Reception to follow from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Goddard Chapel.

Religious and Philosophical Programs



The first iftar in the Interfaith Center, Sunday, April 4, 2022

Ramadan at Tufts

Saturday, April 2 - Sunday, May 1

Ramadan, the holy month of fasting for Muslims, will begin on Saturday April 2nd and continue until Sunday, May 1st this year. Ramadan is a time for introspection, devotion, and service, as well as time for communal worship and cooperation. The significance of Ramadan is highlighted in the Qur'an in Chapter 2, Verse 183: "Oh you who believe, fasting has been prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those who came before you, so that you can become conscious of God." Those observing Ramadan abstain from food and drink from dawn until sunset each day. After sunset, the fast is traditionally broken with dates and a drink, after which the evening prayer is performed. In the late evening, Muslims often gather for congregational night prayers at the mosque or in homes, sometimes offering prayers deep into the night. The pre-dawn meal is then eaten before starting a new fast the following day. The end of Ramadan is marked by the holiday of Eid-ul-Fitr, which will take place this year on May 2, 2022. Sometimes there is variation in the exact start and end dates of Ramadan, depending on how Muslims interpret the lunar calendar each year. [For more information about Ramadan at Tufts, including information about dining, iftars, prayers, and academic accommodations you can click here.](#)



COFFEE PRESENTS

*Visit
Shivalaya
Temple!*

Join COFFEE and Tufts Hindu Chaplain Preeta Banerjee to learn more about Hindu practice!

APRIL 8TH 2022 @ 1:30PM

Sign up through the link In bio!!!

Visit Shivalaya Temple

Friday, April 8, 1:30 p.m.

Join COFFEE and our Hindu Chaplain Preeta Banerjee for a visit to the Shiva Lia Temple of Greater Boston. Learn about Hindu practices and history, and engage in interesting conversations with the interfaith community at Tufts. People of any faith background or lack thereof are welcome! Feel free to email COFFEE President and Interfaith Ambassador [Ariel Kayton](#) with any questions. [You can register here.](#)



Death Cafe 2022

Friday, April 8th, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Interfaith Center

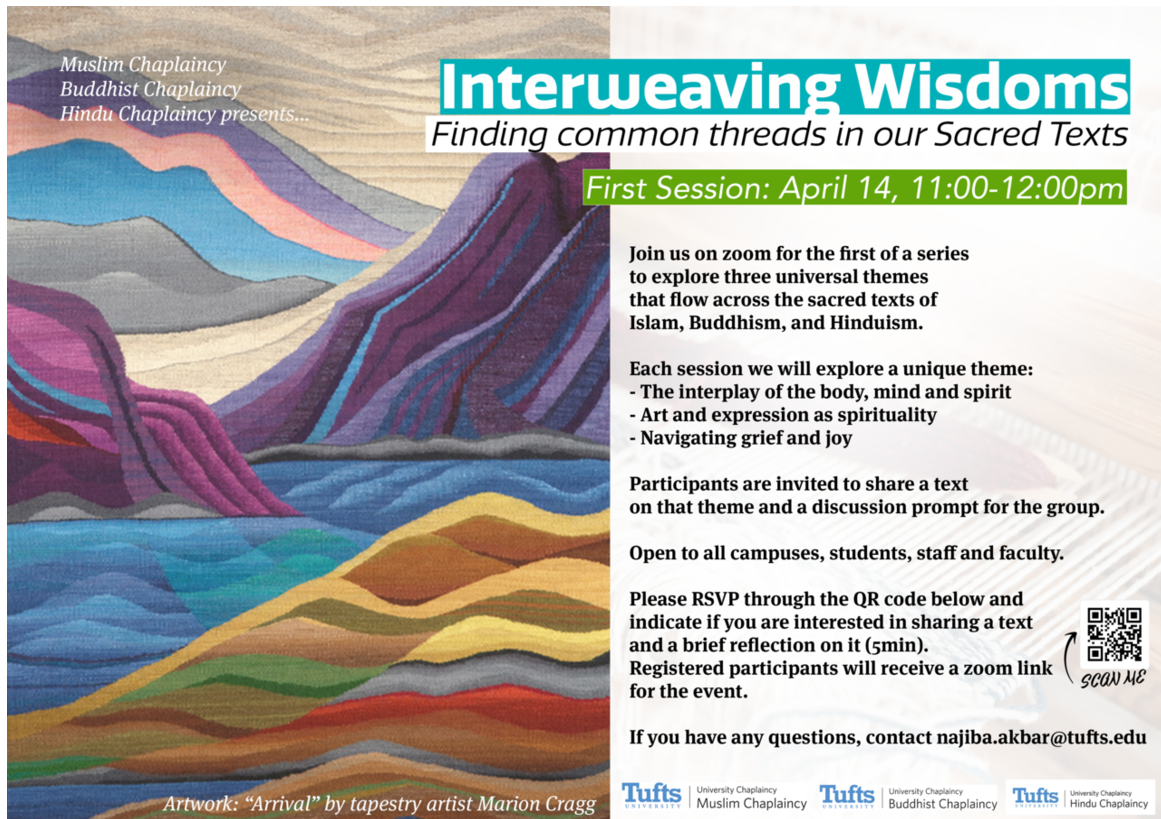
What do you believe happens after death? Does it matter? Would you want to know how/ when you're going to die? What does it mean to you to leave a legacy? If these questions spark your interest, you should come to this year's Death Cafe. Death Cafe is a space in which people, often strangers, gather to share a meal, eat cake, and discuss our different ideas surrounding death. Our goal is to increase awareness of death to help people make the most of their (finite) lives. Rather than a grief support or counseling session, these directed discussions of death have no agenda or objectives, and only hope to explore our thoughts and ideas about death and dying. [Please RSVP here](#) by Wednesday, April 6 at 12 p.m. ET.



Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Each year during Holy Week, Christians dwell in the story of the passion of Jesus. We read and reread the scriptures, but there is one practice that brings it all to life, inviting the faithful to experience this story in an embodied way--the way of the cross. Building upon our virtual gathering last year and with the inspired leadership of Sebastian Fernandez, A24, we will gather in-person for this mini-pilgrimage--together with Jesus and one another. Hosted by the Catholic Chaplaincy, and all are welcome. Please email Catholic Chaplain [Lynn Cooper](#) for more information.



Muslim Chaplaincy
Buddhist Chaplaincy
Hindu Chaplaincy presents...

Interweaving Wisdoms

Finding common threads in our Sacred Texts

First Session: April 14, 11:00-12:00pm

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

Artwork: "Arrival" by tapestry artist Marion Cragg

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

Interweaving Wisdoms: Finding common threads in our Sacred Texts

Thursday, April 14, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Held virtually

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, and 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 above and indicate if you are interested in sharing a text and a brief reflection on it (5 minutes). Registered participants will receive the Zoom link for the event. If you have any questions, contact Muslim Chaplain [Najiba Akbar](#).

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Friday, April 15, 12:10 p.m.

Goddard Chapel



Like Christians all over the world, we come together on Good Friday to witness to Jesus' passion. This service will be a time of prayer and song as we keep vigil and stay awake to the tombs in our world and the tombs in our hearts.

Hosted by Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell.



*Art by Sadao Watanabe, Japan
Lindiwe Mvemve (South African, 1958-), Crucifixion, 1977.*

Good Friday Ecumenical Service

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Partner Programs



**DEPARTMENT OF
RELIGION
OPEN HOUSE**
Monday, April 11th
12:00 - 1:15 PM
Eaton 333

All are welcome to join our faculty and other Religion students for conversation and tea. You will learn more about the department, upcoming fall course offerings, and majoring/minoring in Religion.

Religion Department Open House
Monday, April 11, 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m., Eaton 333

All are welcome to join the Religion Department faculty and students for conversation and tea. You will learn more about the department, upcoming fall course offerings, and majoring/minoring in Religion at Tufts.



MENTAL HEALTH MINI-GRANT

COUNSELING AND MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICE

Mental Health Mini-Grant with Counseling and Mental Health Services

Rolling deadline

Apply for up to \$500 to implement your own program, event, or initiative on campus to promote student mental health. Available for Tufts students, staff, and faculty. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Tufts EARTH MONTH

April 1-30,
2022



[go.tufts.edu/
EarthMonth](https://go.tufts.edu/EarthMonth)

#TuftsEarthMonth2022



Tufts
UNIVERSITY

Office of
Sustainability

Tufts Earth Month

Throughout April 2022

April is Earth Month. The Tufts Office of Sustainability is compiling events and activities happening on and off campus for Tufts community members to easily take part in this year's festivities. If your campus group is planning a sustainability event in April, email the [Sustainability Office](#) to be included in their events calendar. [More details on Earth Month can be found here.](#)

[Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities](#)



Bob Moses Conference

Saturday, April 9 and Sunday, April 10, Held virtually

In the Mississippi theater of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, Bob learned that to change the system of oppression under which African Americans lived, the demand of farmers and day workers to register to vote, was made at the risk of their lives, was the necessary ingredient. It was that understanding, and the wisdom of Ella Baker, who admonished that "...for poor and oppressed people to become a part of society, the system under which we exist has to be radically changed..." that guided Bob, fellow SNCC* workers, and local Mississippians to mount an assault on the bricks and mortar of Jim Crow. Bob carried those Mississippi lessons into The Algebra Project, and the struggle to provide children at the bottom, disproportionately of African descent, with an education required for membership in our 21st-century hi-tech society. The Bob Moses Speaker Series Conference is an effort to understand where we have been in the struggle to educate our children for first-class citizenship, so that we can chart a course and as Ella would say, "...devise means by which you change that system." Open to all. [Find more information here.](#) [You can register here.](#)



THE **BIG QUESTION** PROJECT

The Big Question Project

Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies invites you to participate in The ICJS Big Question Project. With this project we want to hear from you: What is one of your "big questions" around religion? We have two purposes for this project. First, we know that the act of articulating your own truth—especially your own truthful questions—is an important step in bringing that truth into sharper focus. We believe that you can bring your own thoughts and values into definition by sharing them with us. Second, we are curious to know what you think

about. At ICJS, we thrive on curiosity. We won't hear what you think until we ask. And we won't know your questions until you tell us. We'll share some responses (anonymously) in future correspondence and on social media. We'll also consider your questions as we develop new programs and materials that help build an interreligious society.

Don't expect ICJS to answer your big questions. We are about creating spaces for exploration, discovery, interpretation—even misinterpretation sometimes. [You can find out more here.](#)

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](#).

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.

Ramadan

Fri., Apr. 1 – Sun., May 1, 2022

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.

Anniversary of the Founding of the Church

Wed., Apr. 6, 2022

Tradition: Latter Day Saints

Annual World General Conference of the Church held on Saturday and Sunday closest to this date each year.

Palm Sunday

Sun., Apr. 10, 2022

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

Celebrates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, marking the beginning of Holy Week that culminates in Easter or Pascha. In some churches, Palm Sunday is combined with the anticipation of Christ's death and so is also known as "Passion Sunday." Orthodox Christians often observe this Sunday on a date different from the date on which Protestant and Roman Catholics observe it.

Ramanavami

Sun., Apr. 10, 2022

Tradition: Hinduism

Celebrates the birthday of Rama, the seventh incarnation of the God Vishnu. The Ramayana, one of the Hindu epics that tells the story of Rama, is read during the previous eight days.

Vaisakhi

Wed., Apr. 13, 2022

Tradition: Sikhism

Occurs on the first day of the solar year. It is primarily an agricultural festival, celebrating the harvest, and is especially important in North India. It is named after the month Vaisakh. For Sikhs, it is also the anniversary of the creation of the Khalsa (the "Brotherhood of the Pure") in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh.

Holy Thursday/Maundy Thursday

Thu., Apr. 14, 2022

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

Commemorates the institution of the Lord's Supper/the Eucharist by Jesus prior to his arrest and execution.

"Maundy" is derived from the Latin text of John 13:34, in which Jesus gives a mandatum novum ("new commandment"). The date observed by Protestants and Roman Catholics differs from the date observed by Orthodox Christians.

Mahavir Jayanti

Thu., Apr. 14, 2022

Tradition: Jainism

Celebrates the birthday of Lord Mahavira. Born with the name Vardhamana in ca. 599 BCE, he was later given the titles of honor, Mahavira ("Great Hero") and Jina ("Conqueror" or "Victor"), a title applied also to the other Tirthankaras.

Vaisakhi (Baisakhi)

Thu., Apr. 14, 2022

Tradition: Hinduism

Occurs on the first day of the solar year. It is primarily an agricultural festival, celebrating the harvest, and is especially important in North India. It is named after the month Vaisakh. For Sikhs, it is also the anniversary of the creation of the Khalsa (the "Brotherhood of the Pure") in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh.

Good Friday

Fri., Apr. 15, 2022

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

Commemorates the Passion of Jesus Christ, i.e., his death by crucifixion. Observed as Holy Friday by Orthodox Christians on a different date from the one observed by Protestants and Roman Catholics.

Passover (Pesach)

Fri., Apr. 15 – Sat., Apr. 23, 2022

Tradition: Judaism

Passover commemorates the deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. It is celebrated for eight days with special prayers and symbolic foods at home, starting with the Seder, a ritual meal that re-enacts that ancient deliverance and emphasizes the freedom of the Jews under the guidance of God. The first two and the last two days are holidays.

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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