Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 2.16.22

## A Reflection from our Humanist Chaplain

As the seasons transition and we move beyond the midway threshold of winter, change can be felt like the transition of the fall, with more energy or more layers depending on the day. We begin to ask: when will spring arrive?  I think about our diverse climates across the continents, each place with its own seasons and each of us living in our layered contexts. While we share more similarity than difference as a species, our contexts create a multiplicity of opportunities as well as challenges.

While we cannot neglect the power of context, let us not forget the millones de pisadas pressed on the surface of this Earth where we wandered, wondered, and journeyed without human-made borders. We as a species once knew a time when important transitions were mostly seasonal, our humanity was nurtured en conjunto, and we were moved in our becoming by the stories, shared experiences, and memories of our ancestors. It wasn't idyllic, but it is worth remembering. Through the many shifts and reconfigurations of our modern societies and places, let us seek a relationality that fosters collective flourishing, so that we may sustain a cycle that humanizes each other and embraces with sacred curiosity our lived experiences.

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Anthony Cruz Pantojas
Humanist Chaplain

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## Chaplain Recognition

**Our chaplains do work and ministry in many settings, and contribute to their fields and communities through service, research, publications and more. In this new section, we will uplift their accomplishments whenever they are recognized externally**

Our Muslim Chaplain Najiba Akbar presented at the Association of Muslim Chaplain's (AMC) Conference which took place virtually from February 11-13. Her session was titled: "The Enneagram and Islamic Spirituality: Using the Symbol as a Transformative Map on the Journey Home." She spoke about the significance of the Enneagram as a spiritual self-assessment tool for chaplains and how it offers a unique pathway for psychospiritual growth and for compassionate stewardship of diverse communities. In her presentation she highlighted the connection between the content of the Enneagram framework and the traditional Islamic teachings on the struggle with the inner self and the necessity of self-observation as part of the spiritual path to liberation from the egoic self.

*Najiba Akbar, M.S.W.*
*Muslim Chaplain*

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## Upcoming Signature Programs

# *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**
See link below for times and locations

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

# "To Be of Use"

## Monday, February 28, 12pm - 1:15pm

Join the Career Center and the University Chaplaincy for a meaningful conversation about purpose and professional journeys. Lunch provided.

Tufts UNIVERSITY | career center

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*Copyright 1982 Marge Piercy, "To be of use"*

**"To Be of Use"**
Monday, February 28, 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Join the Career Center and the University Chaplaincy for "To Be of Use:" Who We Are, What We're For, and Why It Matters. "To Be of Use" comes from the Marge Piercy poem with the same title, which inspired this collaboration. As a group, we will ask: what it means to live an authentic life of both joy and service? What brings deep purpose and meaning to my life and how might I connect these passions and commitments to my education and career? What if I don't really know what is meaningful to me? Chaplains and Career Center team members will be present to share their stories, some wisdom and resources, and to facilitate the conversation. Please register by Friday, February 25 at noon; all undergraduate and graduate students are welcome. You will receive an email with more information about meeting place and time. Please contact University Chaplaincy program manager Nora Bond with any questions and accessibility needs.

Register for Luncheon

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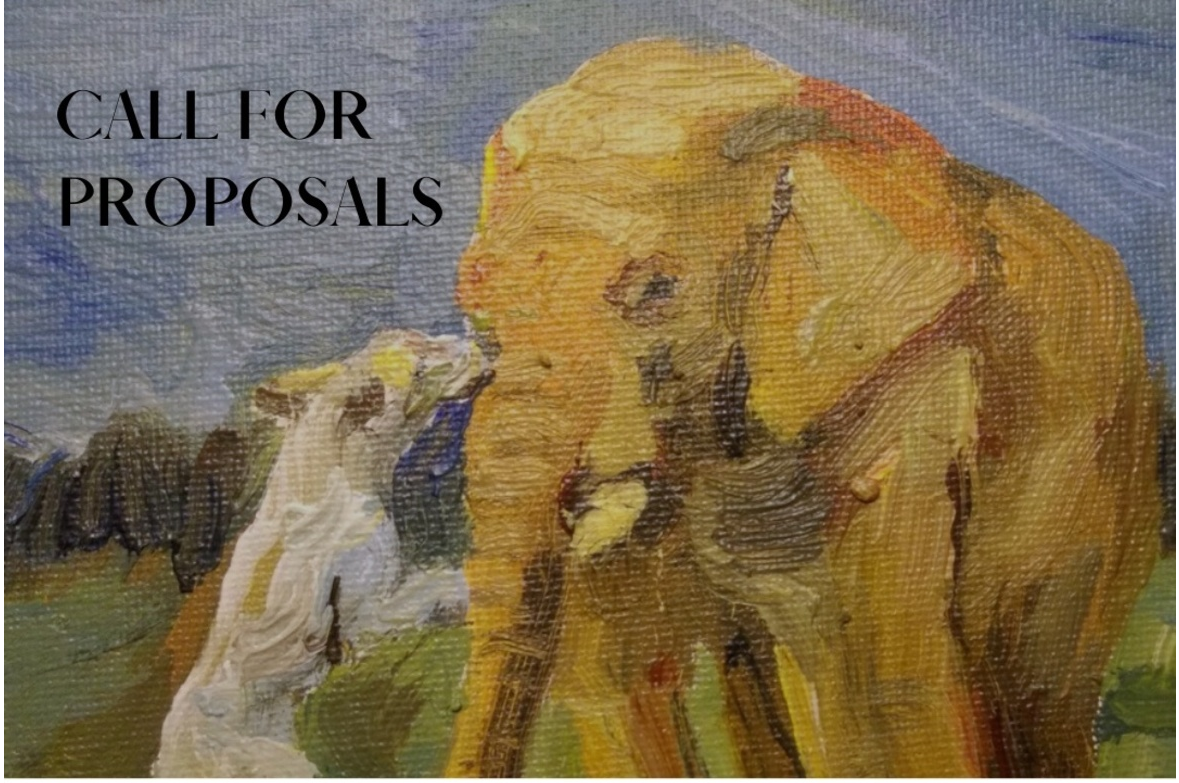
## Religious and Philosophical Programs

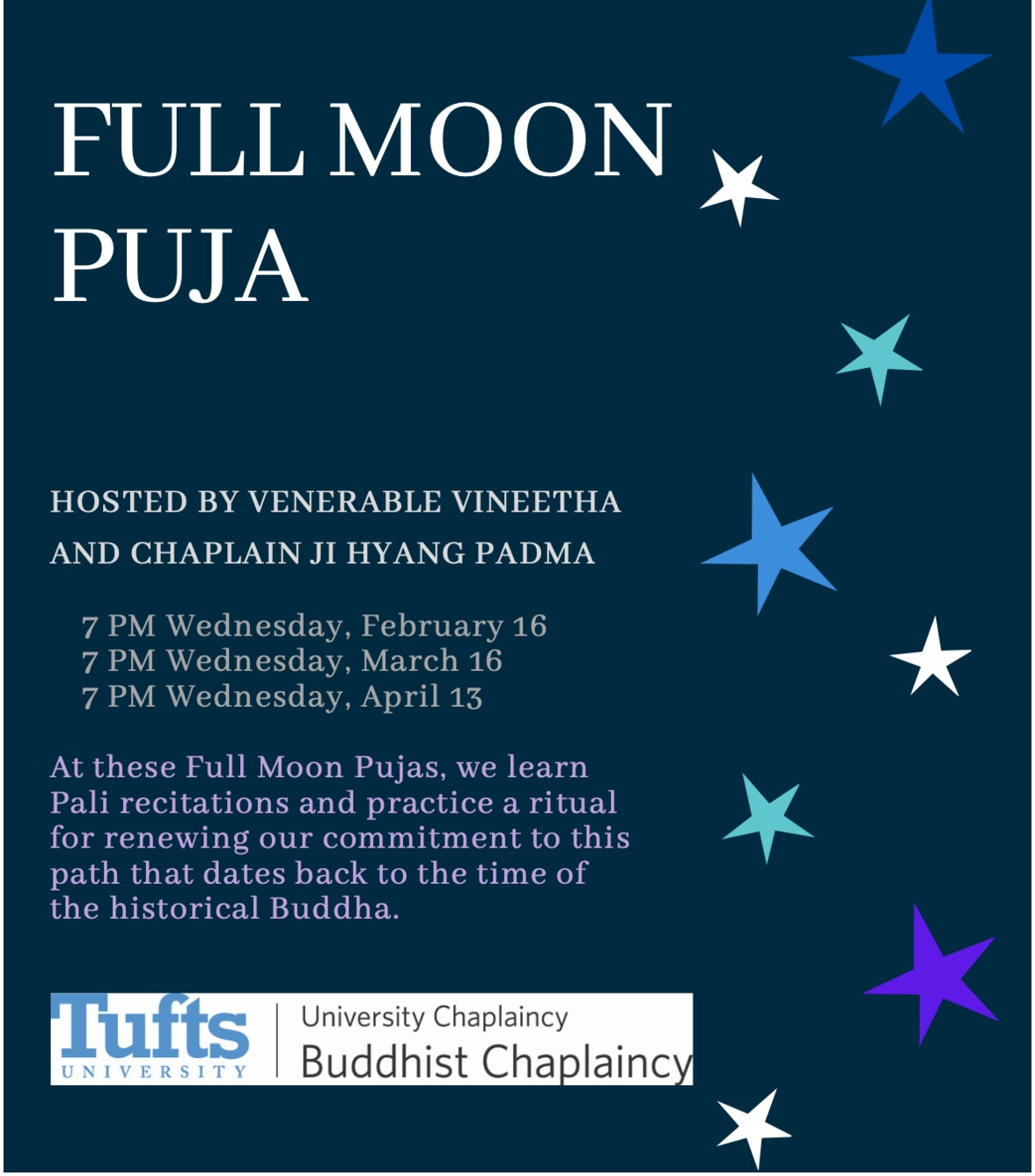



# Kalyānamitta: A Good Friend

## 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.




**Full Moon Puja Hosted by Venerable Vineetha and Chaplain Ji Hyang Padma**
Wednesday, February 16, 7:00 p.m., Interfaith Center

At these Full Moon Pujas, we learn Pali recitations and practice a ritual for renewing our commitment to this path that dates back to the time of the historical Buddha. Please connect with Buddhist Chaplain Jy Hyang Padma with any questions.

**Brujería y Bendiciones: Reflections on Black Spirituality in the African Diaspora**
Thursday, February 17, 6:00 p.m., Latinx Center

Join the Latinx Center, the Africana Center, and the University Chaplaincy, continuing Black Legacy Month with Brujería y Bendiciones: Reflections on Black Spirituality in the Diaspora. The gathering will happen in Bolles House and you can contact Humanist Chaplain Anthony Cruz Pantojas with any questions.

**Trans Day of Rememberance Gallery**
Friday, February 18, 12:30 p.m., Barnum Hall Lobby

Join the LGBT Center, the SMFA at Tufts, Tisch College of Civic Life, and the University Chaplaincy at the Medford campus opening of the Trans Day of Rememberance Gallery. There will be refreshments and art. More info on the SMFA shuttle can be found here, for those arriving from the SMFA campus. Please direct any questions to LGBT Assistant Director joel guitierrez.

**Interfaith Shabbat**
Friday, February 18, Candle Lighting at 5:02pm; Services at 6:00pm; Dinner at 7:00pm, Granoff Family Hillel Center

Please register for dinner here by noon on Wednesday, February 16. Also, for anyone interested in all things Shabbat (food, meeting up with people, services), you can join the Shabbat Groupme (Shagroupme) here.

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## Partner Programs

**Free Tibet Panel**
Thursday, February 17, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

South Asian Political Action Committee (SAPAC) is hosting Tibetan Panelists for a Q&A session event on the history and current sociopolitical issues of Tibet. Find more information on their Instagram.

**Leading While Black: A Legacy of Transformational Black Leadership at Tufts University**
Saturday, February 19, 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET, held virtually

Hosted by the Africana Center and the Department of Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora, with the support of the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost, this event offers a study of eight influential Black university executive leaders at Tufts and their legacy of transforming governance, advancing equity, traversing boundaries, and enhancing excellence for generations of students, faculty, and staff. Learn more here.

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## Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities

**Hillel and Cummings Foundation Holocaust and Genocide Education Program**
Sunday, February 20 and Monday, February 21

Interested in Holocaust and genocide education? This program will take place over Presidents' Day Weekend, with the first day being an immersive experience in Boston and surrounding towns, and the second day based at Tufts. Participants will have the opportunity to visit memorials and museums, have fun in Boston, hear from survivors and those impacted by genocides worldwide, and share ideas with like-minded peers in order to broaden their horizons and transfer lessons to the broader Tufts community. Meals will be provided and/or reimbursed. More info and sign up here.

**Campus Climate Survey on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging**
Send response between February 14 and March 4

On February 14, you received an email from Associate Provost and Chief Diversity Officers Dr. Rob Mack and Dr. Joyce Sackey requesting that you complete the Tufts University Campus Climate Survey on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging which seeks to capture actionable insights on the lived experiences of community members. Your participation is important and your anonymous responses will be used to inform action and develop

initiatives – university-wide and school-specific. Please direct any questions to Tiffany House, Associate Director for Diversity and Inclusion Education.

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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.

**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.

**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.

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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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