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Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 12.2.20

A Note from our Catholic Chaplain

Each year, the end of the first semester coincides with the Christian liturgical season of Advent. These four weeks leading up to Christmas Day are a time of preparation where Christians dwell in the darkness, readying our hearts

to welcome in the burst of light that is the newly born Jesus. It is an interesting pairing, to say the least. Two seasons overlaid – one about a culmination of effort and evaluation of progress and the other about anticipation, expectation, longing and active patience. This tension is real. It reflects the many ways that our religious and philosophical traditions dwell in paradox. That both anticipating and finishing can be true in one moment, now.

With all we have endured, this year feels all the starker. The looming threats continue: illness, death, loss of beloveds, lost jobs, violence against Black bodies. Deep uncertainty hangs in the ether. For some, this is new. For countless others, it is not. Personally, I feel like I began observing Advent in March when the lockdown began. These past nine—soon to be ten—months have been full of anticipation. While I may not have been always waiting in “active patience”—let’s be real, that is hard even in non-pandemic times—I have been holding my breath, looking towards the future with hope. Not a specific hope of this thing or that, but rather a long-view hope, a trust in something merciful, something brighter, something so much greater than myself. It is more of a posture than anything else.

In my tradition, it is no accident that God chooses to be born as a vulnerable baby in the least likely circumstances: in a barn, to an unwed teenage mother and migrant. At once, ordinary and extra-ordinary, this birth is far from what we would expect for the Messiah, the savior, the Prince of Peace. The story flips the script, bringing light into darkness and joy into the muck and mire. Advent captures this anticipation of hope in the improbable and the seemingly impossible.

Now, as the days are short and the embrace of night is long, news of COVID-19 vaccine developments and their remarkable efficacy is nothing less than stunning. These promising updates are like the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel. We are not there yet but soon and very soon. Our anticipation of hope is coming to its own season of nativity and beginning where the earth once again groans for the possibility of new life.

Wherever you are, I wish you connection to whatever brings you hope in this season.

Pax et Lux,

Lynn Cooper
Chaplaincy Team Supervisor and Catholic Chaplain

Check in with a Chaplain

Our chaplains and advisors are here for you, no matter where you are in the world or how you are doing in this time. Click on a chaplain's name below to schedule a time for conversation, meditation, prayer, or to check in about anything else on your heart or mind. You can go to the contact page on our website to find bios and additional information, too.

Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain
Preeta Banerjee, Hindu Advisor
Rev. Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain
Rabbi Naftali Brawer, Jewish Chaplain
Walker Bristol, Humanist Chaplain
Lynn Cooper, Catholic Chaplain
Azmera Hammouri-Davis, Africana Spirituality Advisor
Abdul-Malik Merchant, Muslim Chaplain
Venerable Priya Sraman, Buddhist Chaplain

Wendell Phillips
Nineteenth-century American lawyer, orator, fervent abolitionist, and advocate for women's and Native People's rights

SENIOR COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

NOMINATIONS

The Wendell Phillips Award

Each year, one graduating senior is chosen to be the class speaker at Commencement, and the speech takes place during the Baccalaureate Ceremony. Established in 1896 and named for Wendell Phillips, the speech is intended to deliver a message to inspire the graduating class and all who are gathered to reflect on how a Tufts education, and specifically the experiences of the graduating senior class, might help make the world a better place through constructive civic engagement.

Faculty, staff, and students may nominate seniors to apply to be the Wendell Phillips Speaker, and seniors may self-nominate. Nominees will be invited to apply by February 1st with a resume and a recorded speech.

Applications are reviewed by the Committee on Student Life (CSL), who will invite finalists to audition at an open forum in March before selecting the winner. This award also carries a cash prize of $900. The University Chaplaincy hosts the final audition, and coordinates the speaker's participation in the Baccalaureate Ceremony.

Nominate today and learn more:
http://chaplaincy.tufts.edu/wendellphillips

For more information, please contact:
University Chaplain Rev. Elyse Nelson Winger at chaplaincy@tufts.edu or 617-627-6024

Nomination deadline: Monday, December 14, 5 p.m. ET

Tufts UNIVERSITY | University Chaplaincy

Wendell Phillips Speaker Nominations are Open

Each year one graduating senior is chosen to be the class speaker at the Baccalaureate Ceremony during Commencement weekend. Established in 1896 and named for abolitionist Wendell Phillips, the speech is intended to deliver a message to inspire the graduating class and reflect on how a Tufts education might help make the world a better place through constructive civic engagement.

Nominations are now open for the 2021 Wendell Phillips Speaker auditions. Faculty, staff, and students may nominate seniors to apply, and seniors may self-nominate. The deadline for submissions is Monday, December 14 and nominees will be notified of their nomination by December 17 and invited to submit application materials before February 1, 2021. Please see the University Chaplaincy website for more details, and find the nomination form

here.

If you know a senior who embodies the Tufts value of civic engagement and who would be interested in delivering a speech to the class of 2021, please consider nominating. If you have any questions, please email the University Chaplaincy. You can download the flyer above here.

Religious and Philosophical Life Programs

You can find more information about our weekly gatherings and student group meetings on our website. You can also find the Zoom links for each event there. If you have an idea for how University Chaplaincy programming can better serve you, please contact program manager Nora Bond.

Africana Spirituality Chaplaincy

Rhythm and Rituals: Sound Healing
Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET

Azmera Hammouri-Davis
Africana Spirituality Advisor

African religious traditions vary by ethnic group, in custom, practice and language. Widely speaking, a common factor that weaves such heterogeneity together is a commitment to rituals that often manifest through song and dance. Join the Africana Spirituality Community for close-textual analysis of the wisdom within poems and lyrics by Black writers, artists and storytellers. We will explore the text of different authors within African religious traditions writ-large from the U.S. to South America and Africa and deep dive into the wisdom each offer up through Afro-diasporic expressive culture. All genres are welcome including music reflected in the traditions of Hip-Hop, Funk, Jazz, Soul, Blues, Afro-Beat, Afro-futurism and any other Afro-Diasporic sounds across time and space. Please email Africana Spirituality Advisor Azmera Hammouri-Davis with any questions, or schedule a meeting with her on her Calendly.

To hear about upcoming programs for the community, you can sign up for the new Africana Spirituality elist. For Zoom links to any offering listed above, please visit our website.

Priya Sraman, Buddhist Chaplain

Buddhist Chaplaincy

Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha Meditation and Reflection
Mondays and Fridays, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

This semester, Sangha meets on Mondays for a discussion and shorter meditation, and on Fridays for a full hour of meditation. Please connect with Buddhist Chaplain The Venerable Priya Sraman for more information. All are welcome.

For Zoom links to any offering listed above, please visit our website.

Catholic Chaplaincy

Catholic Spirituality Hour
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET

Join us as we gather mid-week to experiment with spiritual practices from the Christian tradition. We will dive into scripture, gaze upon art, write

letters, and expand our understanding of what is prayer. All are welcome and as always, come as you are.

An Evening of Catholic Social Teaching
Friday, December 4, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. ET

How does our tradition speak to the needs of our world? How are we called to work for justice? Join us for dinner and conversation as we deepen our understanding of the central social teachings of our church. We will be distributing GrubHub gift cards so you can order your dinner and then break bread together on screen. In the spirit of our evening together, I encourage you to find a local restaurant to support. For folks in Medford, please consider ordering from Noor Cafe in Powderhouse Square. They have recently been the target of harassment and anti-Armenian bias incidents. Remember, you have power in how you spend your money. Please email Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper for dinner arrangements and gift cards. A big thanks to Katie Moynihan and Katie Furie who have made this event possible with their vision and deep commitment to the work.

Lynn Cooper
Catholic Chaplain

Catholic Virtual Mass Gathering
Sundays, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET

The Catholic community will continue to meet virtually at 5:00 p.m. ET each Sunday to watch and celebrate Mass together. Throughout the course of the semester, they will “visit” the parishes of different members of the Catholic Community at Tufts by watching that week’s previously recorded Mass. All are welcome.

Confession by appointment
For more information please connect with Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper.

Advent Devotional

Tufts chaplains from the Christian tradition have partnered to create an Advent Devotional for this year. These reflections on scripture, music, and art include centering questions and prayer prompts (sent out Monday, Wednesday and Friday). If you are interested in receiving this resource, please email Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper.

For Zoom links to any offering listed above, please visit our website.

Preeta Banerjee, Hindu Advisor

Hindu Chaplaincy

Ganesh Puja and Alumni Networking
Friday, December 4, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET

Join us to close 2020 with a new Hindu Student Council and Hindu Chaplaincy tradition: a graduation alumni networking event and Ganesh puja. We will begin this online tradition with an interactive game and conclude with Ganesh puja and honoring of our graduates. We plan to continue this tradition in May 2021 (dates and times to be shared) and into subsequent years. If you are graduating in December 2020 or May 2021, please contact email Hindu Advisor Preeta Banerjee for more information. RSVP for food provisions with this link.

Amar Chitra Katha (ACK) Reading Group
Friday, January 8, 2021 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET

ACK is an Indian publisher of graphic novels based on biographies, religious figures and cultural

stories, founded in 1967 by Anant Pai. Largely a response to supporting children in learning about their heritage, the series also has equally engaged older readers in important conversations about social equity and gender dynamics. Sign up to attend here or emai Hindu Advisor Preeta Banerjee to RSVP and to get a copy of the comic as available.

Humanist Chaplaincy

Weekly Gathering
Fridays, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET

Join the Humanist Community at Tufts for their weekly moment of connection and reflection by candlelight. Each week, they explore questions of philosophy, language, art, and meaning, drawn together by a shared concern for the goodness of humanity and our shared natural world. For more information, contact Humanist Chaplain Walker Bristol. All are welcome. For the Zoom link to the offering listed above, please visit our website.

Walker Bristol, Humanist Chaplain

Humanist Winter Solstice Celebration
Friday, December 11, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

All are invited to join the Humanist Community at Tufts and the Tufts Humanist Chaplaincy in our annual program recognizing and reflecting around the coming winter solstice. We'll lift up readings and poems and join in conversation around transition, the power of darkness, and our hopes for the coming year. This will be a virtual offering by Zoom. E-mail Humanist Chaplain Walker Bristol for more information.

Naftali Brawer
Jewish Chaplain
Executive Director of Tufts Hillel

Jewish Chaplaincy

Kabbalat Shabbat Services
Friday, Decmeber 4, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. ET

Join us on zoom for a short service, followed by a chance to hang out with friends and play games. Register for services here.

Shabbat Dinner and Schmooze
Friday, December 4, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. ET

Pick up a delicious Shabbat dinner at Hillel. Pre-order your dinner by December 2 at 11:45 a.m. ET to secure your meal.

You can always find more information about events on the Hillel website and sign up for their newsletter here.

Maccabeats Virtual Concert
Thursday, December 10, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. ET

Join fellow Tufts students, plus Brandeis and Simmons students, for a virtual Maccabeats Hanukkah Concert. Additionally, there will be a Q&A with the group members afterwards. Please register with this form to reserve your spot and then you will receive an email with your personal Zoom link. We can't wait to see you there and sing along to Candlelight together!

Protestant Chaplaincy

Protestant Evening Worship (PEW)
Sundays, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET

Join the Protestant student community and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell for worship through prayer, song, sermon, and reflection over Zoom. While we cannot be together in person right now, Christ is still present among us and the Spirit draws us together as God's people. After the service, everyone is welcome to stay and hang out. All are welcome, no matter who you are or where you find yourself in your journey of life and faith. You can also always email Dan or visit his Calendly to set up a time to meet.

Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain

AWE: Advent Wednesday Evenings
Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET live;
Posted by 5 p.m. ET

"Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of God" (Psalm 96:9). Join Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell live or later for a contemplative service of Evening Prayer each Wednesday of Advent. The readings will be those assigned for the upcoming Sunday to allow us to reflect more deeply on the biblical texts throughout this holy season. Please email Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell with any questions and find the Zoom link on our website, the Facebook link here, and the Youtube link here.

Advent Devotional
Tufts chaplains from the Christian tradition have partnered to create an Advent Devotional for this year. These reflections on scripture, music, and art include centering questions and prayer prompts (sent out Monday, Wednesday and Friday). If you are interested in receiving this resource, please email Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper.

The Breakfast Club: Faculty/Staff Bible Study and Prayer Group
Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. ET

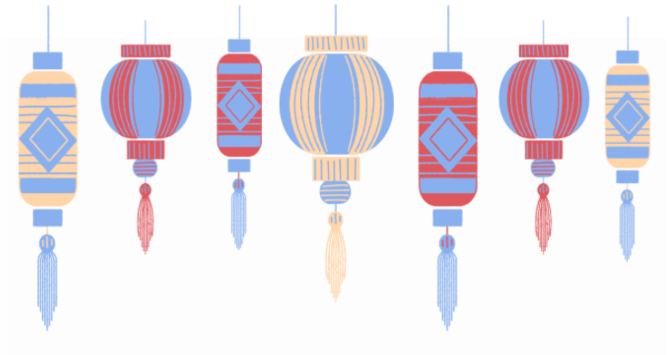
You are warmly invited to "The Breakfast Club," a contemplative Bible study group for faculty and staff led by Tufts' Protestant Chaplain, the Reverend Dan Bell. We gather every Wednesday morning over Zoom to read Scripture, check in, and pray together. All are welcome, regardless of faith background, and various Christian traditions are represented. Feel free to have your breakfast as we meet, and step away when you need to. If you have questions or would like to learn more, please email Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell to learn more.

The Carols of Christmas Book Club
Thursdays, December 3 - December 17, 8:00 p.m. ET

Curl up with a warm beverage and maybe even a sweet treat as we enjoy listening to and learning the history behind Christmas carols. This informal book club is being offered by the Protestant Students Association, Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell, and University Chaplaincy Music Director Tom Dawkins. Digital editions of *The Carols of Christmas*, by Oxford professor and composer Andrew Gant, are available for free to students. To get your copy or to learn more, please email Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell. All are most welcome to take part, no matter one's faith or philosophical background.

For Zoom links to any offers listed above, please visit our website.

Partner Programs



Voices from Chinatown: Resilience in the time of COVID-19 and Anti-Asian Racism
Friday, December 4, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

This conversation will bring together community leaders, residents, and Tufts University faculty that work closely with our Chinatown neighbors to discuss their experiences navigating anti-Asian racism and how the community is pursuing resilience, survival, and dignity in this era of COVID-19. You are most welcome. Please register for the event here.

The Trans Resistance Virtual Gallery

In honor of Trans Day of Remembrance, we are hosting a virtual community art gallery. The gallery showcases art from seven Tufts students centering on the theme of Trans Resistance. We invite everyone to see their incredible work and to honor the lives of trans and non-binary people lost to anti-trans violence this year. The gallery is now live, to see the virtual gallery, please follow this link.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities

Apply to the Washington Leadership Program
Application deadline: January 10, 2021

The Washington Leadership Program (WLP) offers a comprehensive leadership curriculum designed to help you learn to catalyze change. The program is looking for high-potential South Asian college students. There are now five South Asians elected to Congress and an ever-growing number of South Asians in the government; WLP offers you a chance to learn from them to benefit the community and your future. Interns will recieve a stipend of $2,000 and expected to write 2-3 short writing assignments per week during the internship. The internship would take place between June 12th to August 6th, 2021. The program boasts numerous famous successful alumni such as Senator Kristen Gillibrand and Representative Pramila Jayapal. Please follow this link to apply and find out more information about the Washington Leadership Program on their website.

Creating Our Future: Ritual, Race and Religion in America
Tuesday, December 8, 1:00 p.m. EST

Ritual helps us as humans mark a moment, make meaning amidst complexity and take time to express the fundamental values that anchor our lives. Join us for a rich conversation, moderated by Dr. Kanika Magee, with Dr. Monica Coleman, Donna Auston, Lisa Doi, and Rabbi Sandra Lawson to address the role of ritual in this moment. Register for the event here.

Upcoming Religious Holidays and Festivals

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.

Advent
Sunday 11.29 – Thursday 12.24
Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic
Period of four weeks in which Christians prepare for Christmas and meditate on the end of all time. In Western churches, the first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the Christian liturgical year.

Bodhi Day
Tuesday, 12.8.2020
Tradition: Buddhism
In the northern tradition, this is the anniversary of the Buddha's Enlightenment, ca. 596 BCE. In the southern tradition, the Buddha's Enlightenment is celebrated during Wesak. The dates and names of Buddhist celebrations vary significantly among cultures and communities.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Tuesday, 12.8.2020
Tradition: Christianity-Roman Catholic
A feast day that celebrates the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was born without sin.

Hanukkah
Thursday, 12.10 – Friday, 12.18.2020
Tradition: Judaism
The Feast of Lights (Feast of Dedication) is celebrated for eight days to commemorate the rededication of the Temple following the Jews' victory over occupying forces in 165 BCE, which re-established for a time their religious and political freedom.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Saturday, 12.12.2020
Tradition: Christianity-Roman Catholic

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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