The University Chaplaincy is a dynamic hub supporting religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life for all members of our community. Cultural and religious traditions vary significantly among cultures and communities.

**Tradition: Buddhism**
**Tuesday, 12.8.2020**
The Buddha's Enlightenment is celebrated during Wesak. The dates and names of Buddhist celebrations vary among countries and traditions.

**Tradition: Baha'i**
**Thursday, 11.26.2020**
This day commemorates the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (1621-1675), the ninth of the Ten Sikh Gurus. He is remembered for his role in protecting religious freedom and his sacrifice for the community.

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

Our chaplains and advisors are here for you, no matter where you are in the world or how you are doing in this time. Participation and gifts of any size are most welcome! Your generosity to the Friends of Goddard Fund will enhance the well-being of our community.

For more information, too.

Dhanyavaadah and best wishes, Walker Bristol, Humanist Chaplain

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**Diwali**

We might contemporize the understanding of Lord Rama's undertaking as that which any human being on the planet can and should aspire to. In this sense, Diwali is a time for all of us to contemplate our being beyond the egoic domains of existence.

We might also recall that the story of Rama provides us with a timeless opportunity to explore the power of an individual's commitment to a cause greater than himself, and to recognize that, in this way, our own spiritual journeys are never separated from the larger fabric of the human situation.

While considered a world religion, Hinduism does not have a single scriptural text nor a single religious practice and language. Widely speaking, a common factor among different authors within African religious traditions is the value placed on community. Each religious tradition maintains a unique relationship with nature, and as always, come as you are.

Every year, on the second Sunday of November, Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and members of the interfaith community celebrate Diwali, a festival of light that honors the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. It is a day to reflect on the deeper meaning of life and to reaffirm our faith in the promise of a better tomorrow.

As you read this, in our Tufts community and around the world, we have just celebrated Diwali – one of the most beautiful days in Hinduism that marks the victory of light over darkness and good over evil in the battle against darkness. In this sense, Diwali is a time for all of us to contemplate our being beyond the egoic domains of existence. I recently read the beautifully written book *The Story of Diwali: A Festival of Lights* by S.D. Sharma. Please feel free to read it as well.

We invite you to read about the many beautiful traditions and customs of Diwali, and to learn more about the fascinating history of this magnificent festival. Many of these customs and traditions are unique to the Indian subcontinent, and are practiced by millions of people around the world. Diwali is a time for Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains to come together and celebrate the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. It is a time for us to reflect on the deeper meaning of life and to reaffirm our faith in the promise of a better tomorrow.

**Hindu Advisor**

Namaste dear friends,

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**Harvard Divinity School**

To see more upcoming religious holidays and festivals, please follow the link to the multifaith calendar maintained by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at Harvard Divinity School.