



# Tufts

# UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 12.15.21



*Performers and story-tellers from the Pax et Lux Multifatih Winter Celebration, December 9, 2021*

## A Winter Greeting from our Team

Dear members of the Tufts community,

I cannot name my favorite moment. But I do know that moment to moment, I experienced awe. Awe at the sacred stories, personal reflections and poetry shared by students and chaplains; awe at the artful movement and Chinese fusion dances by the Tufts Ballroom Team and WuZee; awe at the a cappella and ensemble singing of Shir Appeal and Public Harmony. Throughout last Thursday's Pax at Lux: A Multifath Celebration at Goddard Chapel, I was in awe of each performer's and every speaker's joyful, genuine presence.

We are a campus of many beliefs and traditions. We seek and make meaning, meditate and pray, celebrate and reflect in myriad ways. At Pax et Lux, we came together amidst all this wondrous difference because as Maya Angelou proclaims in her poem, *Human Family*, "we are more alike, my friends, then we are unlike." And our likeness came alive as we expressed and experienced the shared yearnings for peace and light in our lives that our own Tufts motto, *Pax et Lux*, proclaims.

I am grateful to the student leaders of the Interfaith Ambassador Team, to all University Chaplaincy team members, and to every student who shared stories of peace and light with us as we created this new winter celebration for the

Tufts community. I will take the awe of that night into these coming weeks, and hope that the multitude of stories and songs shared this time of year in your own lives and communities inspire us all for renewed work of healing, learning, and justice in the coming year.

Below, you will find warm wishes from our team to each of you as we head into a season of both rest and celebration. Our newsletter will resume on January 12, 2022, and we look forward to next semester with you.

May *Pax et Lux* abound in your lives and our world,

Reverend Elyse Nelson Winger  
University Chaplain

**From Najiba Akbar, Muslim Chaplain:** As we enter into the new year, I offer you this verse from the beautiful mystical poetry of Rumi: “There is a community of the spirit. Join it, and feel the delight of walking in the noisy street and being the noise...Close both eyes, to see with the other eye.” My wish for each of you for this coming year is that you experience the community of spirit and that you find moments of presence and surrender to the big and small wonders of life that surround us always.

**From Preeta Banerjee, Hindu Chaplain:** This holiday season let us focus on kind caring for ourselves and others. All it takes is one idea! As Swami Vivekenanda, a dear teacher who introduced Hinduism to the West at the 1893 Parliament of World Religions, says: “Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life — think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success.”

**From Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain:** “Do not be afraid.” This is the message of the angels we hear again and again in the scriptures surrounding Jesus’ birth. In times of great uncertainty and upheaval, whether it is in the first century or the twenty-first, their heavenly call, sent from the God of love, rings out: “Fear not!” I pray that Love will take fear, worry, and despair from your heart this season, and give you instead the best Christmas gifts of all—hope, joy, and peace.

**From Nora Bond, Program Manager:** Irish writer Nick Laird writes in a poem about his family, “There is such a shelter in each other.” I love this reminder that our treasured relationships provide us with literal and metaphorical shelter. I’m grateful to the people who give me shelter in all the ways. This season, I wish you the joy of safe reunifying, the comforts of familiar faces, and the hope of even more togetherness.

**From Rabbi Naftali Brawer, Jewish Chaplain:** As the falls semester draws to a close and you get ready to journey home or wherever else your circumstances take you during the winter break, I want to share a passage from the Hebrew bible that offers comfort and security during transitional moment in life: He will order his angels to guard you wherever you go. (Psalm 91:11) May the winter break rejuvenate you, body, mind and spirit!

**From Lynn Cooper, Catholic Chaplain:** May this threshold season be one of meaning and connectedness. May you and your beloveds have the space to pause and just be. May a spirit of gratitude guide this time, reminding you of your deep belonging to this beautiful and broken world. And in these dark December days, may flickering lights set your heart aglow, filling the in-betweens with God’s abiding peace.

**From Anthony Cruz Pantojas, Humanist Chaplain:** Winter break is here! This break, alongside the winter solstice, serves as a notice that our bodies and psyche will enter into a process of adjustment, adaptation, and maybe even moments of discomfort including cold and earlier moments of darkness. May these times of darkness aid in the intimate process of exploring, cultivating, and having the courage to give yourself permission to enjoy who you are desiring to become.

**From Ji Hyang Padma, Buddhist Chaplain:** May you enjoy every blessing of this season of light—and this excerpt from a traditional Theravadan blessing:

*By the power of every moment of your goodness,  
may your heart’s wishes be soon fulfilled  
as completely shining as the bright full moon,  
as magically as by a wish-fulfilling gem.  
By the power of every moment of your goodness,  
may all dangers be averted and all disease be gone.*

*May no obstacle come across your way.  
May you enjoy fulfillment and long life.*

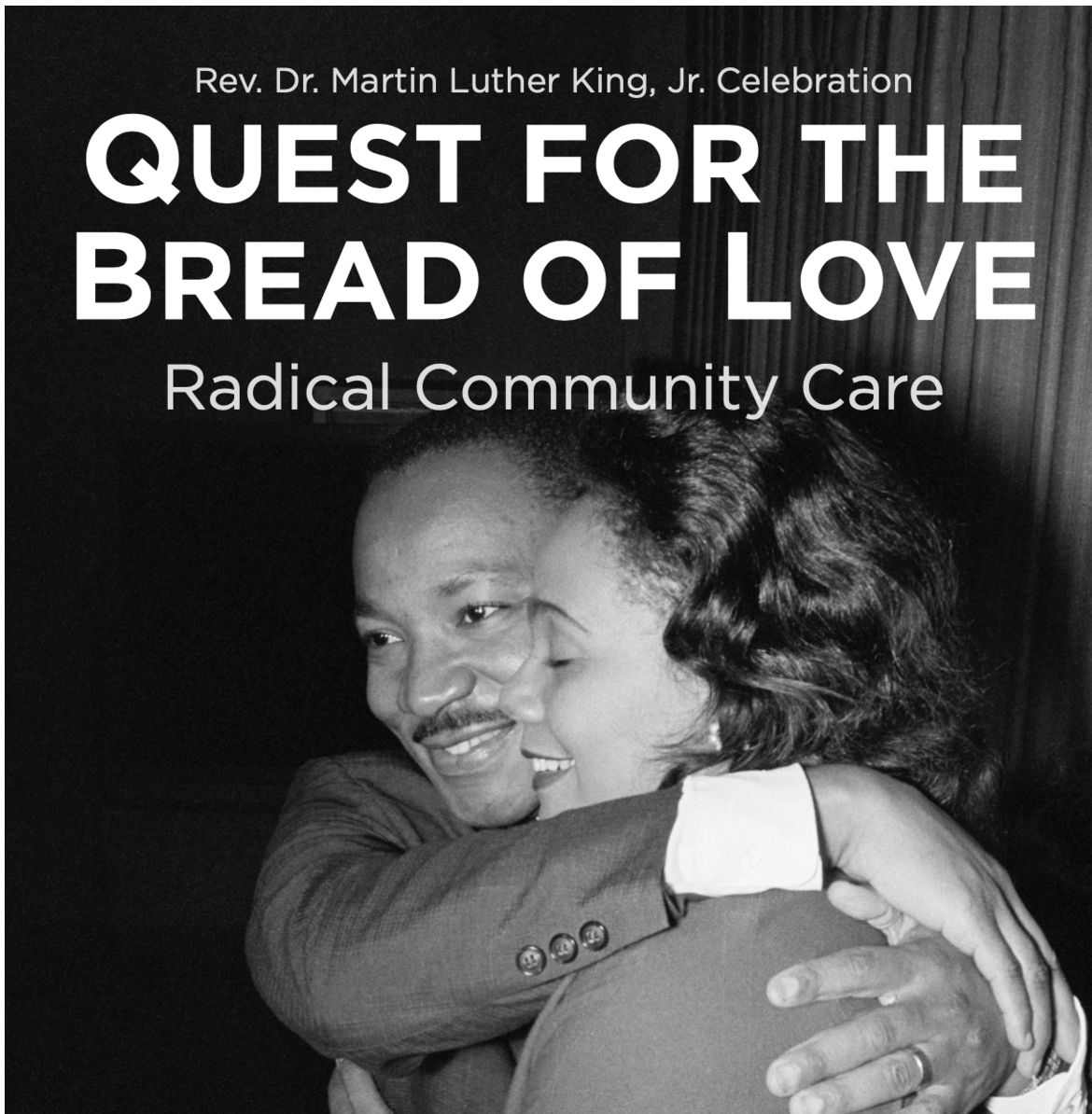


*The lit lantern in Goddard Chapel for Pax et Lux*



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## Upcoming Signature Events



### **The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Celebration**

Wednesday, January 26, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (tentatively)

Save the date for the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. This year's theme, *Quest for the Bread of Love: Radical Community Care* is based on the 1962 speech, "A Knock at Midnight" wherein Rev. Dr. King proclaims: "When you stop hoping, you're dying...in the midst of this hopeless men and women reach out for the bread of hope. Then, that is the quest for the bread of love." The event will orient the Tufts community to the commitment that both Rev. Dr. King and Coretta Scott King shared to deep care of one another, self, and community in the midst of the quest for justice and transformation. We will welcome local activists and Tufts students to a panel to consider how their labor, rest, and play connect to care and to reflect on this legacy. This is the first public event of three to bring us together as a community to deepen our understanding of the radical work of the Kings, and to continue to shape Tufts into a place of true belonging, equity, and care. The event will take place in-person on the Tufts Medford campus, and will be livestreamed. Please email University Chaplaincy program manager [Nora Bond](#) with any questions or accessibility needs.

## MLK Day of Community Action

Saturday, January 22, 2022, all day

Students are invited to save the date for the annual Day of Community Action, formerly called Day of Service. The Interfaith Ambassadors and University Chaplaincy are honoring the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy through full day of reflection and action with local community organizations. We will advertise more information, and please reach out to University Chaplaincy program coordinator [Shelby Carpenter](#) with any questions.

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## Religious and Philosophical Programs



### Warm Winter Night: An Hour for Stories, Food & Music

Wednesday, December 15, SoGo Multipurpose Room, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Join the Interfaith Student Council and University Chaplaincy for a moment to pause, share food and company, and hear beautiful offerings - planned and impromptu - from fellow students. This is an hour for interfaith sharing and community. The event will be an open space for anyone to share through speaking, poetry, music, text readings, spoken word, etc. Hot cocoa, cookies, and more will be provided. All are welcome! No preparation is needed; we will have time for impromptu sharing and materials available to inspire you. [We encourage everyone to RSVP here.](#) If you do know what you'd like to share, please let us know so we can accommodate any AV or other needs. Please reach out to University Chaplaincy program coordinator [Shelby Carpenter](#) with any questions or accessibility needs.

# STUDY BREAK AT MUSLIM HOUSE

176 CURTIS STREET  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16 @ 3-5PM



Stop by Muslim House for  
chai and sambosas!  
Take a tour of the house and learn more  
about the community at MHouse



University Chaplaincy  
Muslim Chaplaincy

## **Join for a Sambosas and Chai Study Break at Muslim House**

Thursday, December 16, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Always been curious about what M House is all about? Come see the space and learn about the amazing programming that happens here each semester. M House is located at 176 Curtis Street, and the event is hosted by the Muslim Chaplaincy. All students are all welcome!



### **Final(s) Shabbat**

Friday, December 17, 5:00 p.m.

Join Tufts Hillel at the Granoff Family Hillel Center for the final Shabbat service of the semester. The evening will include candle lighting and a reflection with Rabbi Brawer, and at 6:00pm, sushi appetizers, Motzi, Kiddush. [Please RSVP here](#), and [find more information about Hillel events on their website](#).

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## **Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities**



### **Harvard Square Homeless Shelter Volunteering with the Catholic Chaplaincy**

Wednesday Breakfast Shift (leave campus 6 AM and return 9:30 AM); sign up today through email.

All are welcome as we rekindle our relationship with the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter. Since November 3, we have been sending 3-4 Tufts community members to help serve breakfast at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter, located in University Lutheran Church, 66 Winthrop St. Cambridge, MA (in the middle of Harvard Square). The University Chaplaincy will provide a T Pass for transportation on the 96 bus into Harvard Square, which stops at 6:10 a.m. in front of the LGBT Center. Volunteers travel together. As a volunteer, you decide which weeks you are able to serve. We will have this shift through the spring semester. Please [email Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper if you are interested in signing up or learning more](#). You do not need to be Catholic to participate.



### **Apply to Be a Resident Assistant**

Applications will be open December 2 to February 1.

The Office of Residential Life and Learning is currently recruiting for student leadership positions for the 2022-23 academic year. Student staff members gain invaluable leadership experience, incredible opportunities to support their peers and others on campus, and excellent skills that are transferrable to life at Tufts and beyond. [Follow this link to read more about the position and apply.](#) If interested in learning more, check out an information session led by a Residential Life Coordinator (RLC) or a virtual one at 7 p.m. on December 14, January 19, or January 25; you can find the links for the information sessions in the link above.

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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](#).

### **Advent**

Ongoing through Fri., Dec. 24, 2021

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.

### **Yule**

Mon., Dec. 20, 2021

Tradition: Wicca/Paganism

Winter Solstice, celebrating the longest night and the blessings of darkness as well as the rebirth of the sun god. Begins at sundown.

### **Christmas**

Sat., Dec. 25, 2021

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

Celebrates the anniversary of the birth of Jesus.

### **Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ**

Sat., Dec. 25, 2021

Tradition: Christianity-Orthodox

Celebrates the anniversary of the birth (nativity) of Jesus. December 25 is the date of this observance for Roman Catholic, Protestant, and many Orthodox Christian churches.

### **Death of Prophet Zarathustra**

Sun., Dec. 26, 2021

Tradition: Zoroastrianism

The anniversary of the death of the founder of the Zoroastrian faith.



### **Ghambar Maidyarem**

Fri., Dec. 31, 2021 – Tue., Jan. 4, 2022

Tradition: Zoroastrianism

Celebrates the creation of animals. Zoroastrians are encouraged to remember their practice of the equitable sharing of food during this observance.

### **Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji**

Mon., Jan. 3, 2022

Tradition: Sikhism

Guru Gobind Singh Ji (1666-1708), the 10th and final Sikh master, created the Khalsa, the "Brotherhood of the Pure," and declared the Scriptures, the Adi Granth, to be the Sikh's Guru from that time on.

### **Epiphany**

Thu., Jan. 6, 2022

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

Signifying the end of the 12 days of Christmas, Epiphany celebrates the visit of the Three Kings to the infant Jesus as the occasion of the manifestation of the Christ to the gentiles. The day is especially important in Latino/a cultures and in Orthodox churches.

### **Theophany**

Thu., Jan. 6, 2022

Tradition: Christianity-Orthodox

Commemorates the baptism of Jesus and the manifestation of the Trinity. The day is especially important in Latino/a cultures and in Orthodox churches. The Armenian Orthodox Church celebrates the nativity and theophany together.

### **Tu B'Shevat**

Sun., Jan. 16, 2022

Tradition: Judaism

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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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