



# Tufts

# UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 9.15.21



*The first Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha meditation of the semester, September 13, 2021*

## A Reflection from our Catholic Chaplain

Greetings!

At the University Chaplaincy, where so much of our work centers on gathering, we have delighted in the new reality of being together in-person. Personally, I have had the great privilege of being present in several holy moments of this transition to being together safely and moving towards an embodied WE. It was in the sound of

voices coalescing during the first Shabbat service, the warmth in the Interfaith Center when it was finally alive again with prayer and food for Jummah, and the sight of folks facing one another to lift up intentions during Protestant Evening Worship.

While we marked our moment of transition in the Catholic community, I find myself particularly moved by a spontaneous conversation I had with two students after mass. It is with permission that I share this story: Earlier in the evening, as we ate dinner together with new undergraduates and graduate students, these two junior leaders added such richness to the conversation. They answered questions and offered words of encouragement to new classmates and, as they did so, they joked with another—the kind of gentle ribbing that comes with time and trust. It was simple and beautiful and something I would have taken for granted at another moment in time. But that night, it felt miraculous. Here were these two people who met virtually last November - one an international student having just transferred to Tufts and the other a New England native - and a year later they are integrated into one another's lives. When I spoke to them afterwards, they marveled along side of me. It felt miraculous to them as well!

This dyad formed organically, but sometimes we need to be proactive about offering opportunities for deep connection. Last year, we began an interfaith friendship program called [Be-Friend](#). Students, faculty, and staff across our four campuses participated (students paired with students and faculty/staff paired with faculty/staff). They committed to gifting an hour of their time each week to another person. During this hour, they explored spiritual practices and reflections written by our multifaith chaplaincy team. In our time scarcity culture, we need to be intentional about being with people. This program is a chance to get beneath the surface, to see another and to be seen ourselves, and to learn how our diverse wisdom traditions speak to the human experience. [If you are interested in signing up or learning more please email me](#). The program will be offered this fall, starting the first week of October.

Sending warm wishes for this new week and for all the union/re-union that awaits. I don't expect to get over the novelty too soon. May it be the balm we need during this enduring hard time.

In gratitude,

Lynn Cooper

Catholic Chaplain, Associate Director of the University Chaplaincy

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## Celebrating CAFE Pre-Orientation Program 2021



*Bonfire & Cannon Painting,  
Peer Leader Training*



*Dinner with the Chaplains  
Day 3 of CAFE 2021*

A few weeks ago, our University Chaplaincy staff and student coordinators welcomed the Class of 2025 into our seventh annual Pre-Orientation Program, CAFE (Conversation, Action, Faith, and Education). CAFE is an interfaith-inspired community engagement program and took place this year over six days on campus in the Interfaith Center, on Zoom for virtual religious site visits, and in our host communities for outdoor visits and historical tours. Over 40 students participated, including first-year students and returning student peer leaders! We were particularly honored to be joined by recent alumnae, who participated in CAFE and the Catholic Community at Tufts as students, for our

virtual visit to a local Catholic church. We hope the first-year participants continue to feel the presence and support of the CAFE community, near and far, as they begin their first semester at Tufts.

*"Because I participated in CAFE, I can now better interact with people of other faiths and experiences. I can reach out to other first-year students or peer leaders if I have any questions, and I feel significantly more comfortable transitioning to college soon."*

**-First-year Participant**

## Religious and Philosophical Life Programs

Regular weekly programming has begun for Fall 2021. You can find more information on our [website](#). If you have an idea for how the Tufts University Chaplaincy can better serve you, please connect with program manager [Nora Bond](#).

# DIVIDED WE FALL

## FILM DISCUSSION WITH THE UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

Wednesday, September 15 • 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET • Held Virtually



**To mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the University Chaplaincy invites you to a community discussion on the documentary *Divided We Fall*, a film by civil rights lawyer and activist Valarie Kaur.**

The film documents the stories of people of color, especially Sikh Americans, in the aftermath of 9/11 and has been re-released this year for the anniversary of the national tragedy. We will host a virtual discussion based on the 90-minute documentary, which you can find linked on our website. Kaur will be our Russell Lecturer this spring for our annual speaker series, and we look forward to welcoming her and her message of revolutionary love to campus in March 2022.

**Tufts UNIVERSITY** | University Chaplaincy

**ZOOM MEETING ID: 979 6600 0154 • PASSCODE: 923073**  
Find more information at [chaplaincy.tufts.edu/dividedwefall](https://chaplaincy.tufts.edu/dividedwefall)

### **Divided We Fall: Film Discussion with the University Chaplain**

Wednesday, September 15, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET, held virtually

To mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the University Chaplaincy invites you to a community discussion on the documentary *Divided We Fall*, a film by civil rights lawyer and activist Valarie Kaur. The film documents the stories of people of color, especially Sikh Americans, in the aftermath of 9/11 and has been re-released for this year for the anniversary of the national tragedy. University Chaplaincy staff will host a virtual discussion based on the 90 minute documentary, which you can find linked below. Kaur will be our speaker for this year's endowed Russell Spiritual Life Lecture Series; we look forward to welcoming her and her message of revolutionary love to campus in March 2022. You can find all the details, and the link to film, below. As part of the University Chaplaincy's participation in the city of Medford's 20th anniversary remembrance of 9/11 the chapel bells will toll on Saturday

in honor of lives lost and all those impacted that day. [Please register here](#) and find more information, including the link to the film, [on our website](#).



### Yom Kippur Services and Meals

Wednesday, September 15, and Thursday, September 16, Multi-location event

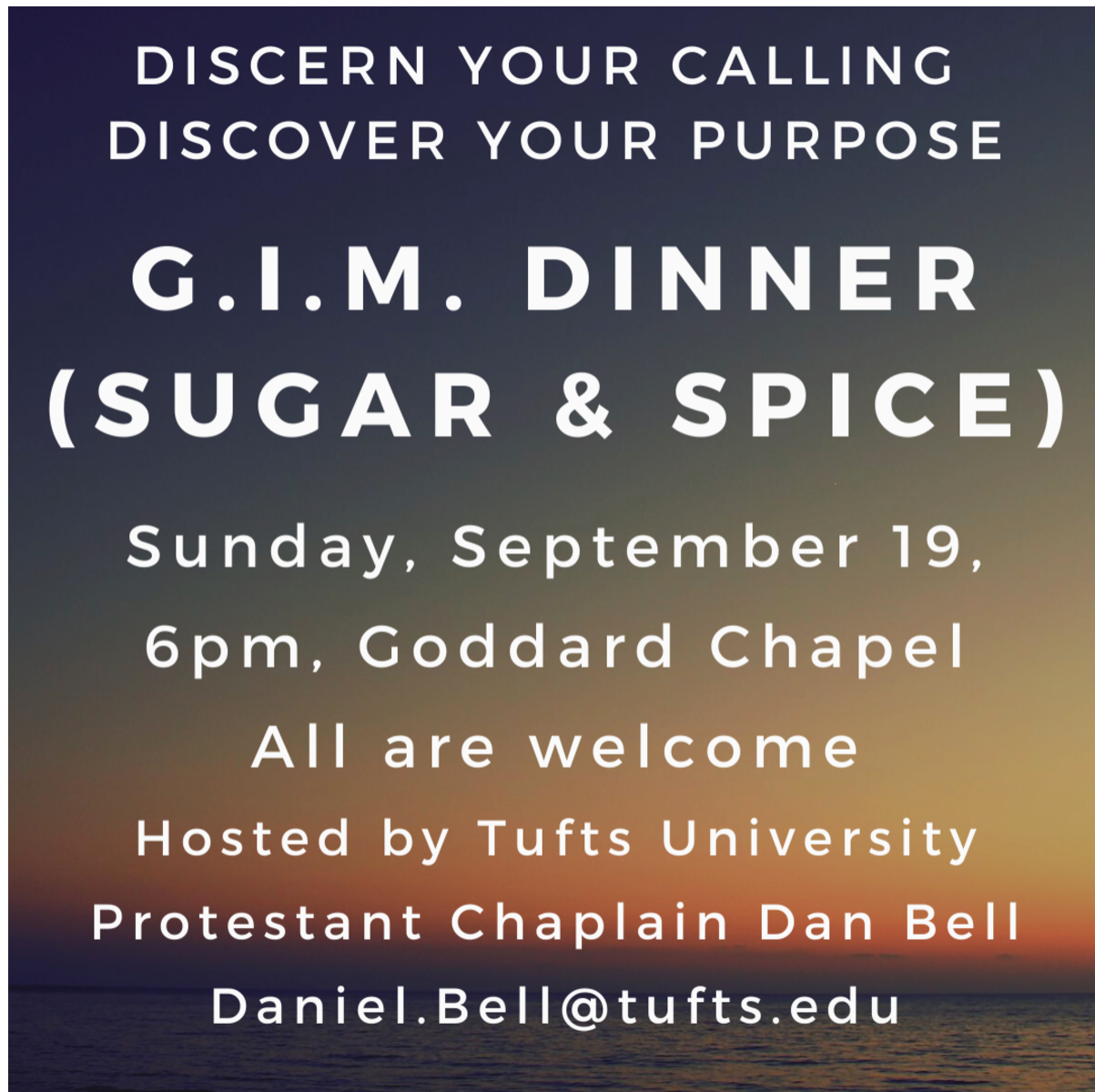
Observe and celebrate Yom Kippur with Tufts Hillel, who will be offering both a traditional-egalitarian and a reform-inspired services. [Please register for services here](#). Yom Kippur meals will be held in Miller Hall Tent outside the Tufts Hillel building. To ensure the safety of our community, only current Tufts students, faculty, staff, or employees can register, and must present their Tufts ID before entering. To learn more, [please visit the Hillel website here](#).



## Welcome Back Picnic with the Muslim Student Association

Friday, September 17, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. on the Academic Quad

Join the Tufts Muslim Student Association (MSA) and the University Chaplaincy for a relaxing evening with catered food, games, and friends on the academic quad. [Please RSVP with this form.](#)



### General Interest Meeting for Discern Your Calling and Discover Your Purpose

Sunday, September 19, 6:00 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Protestant Chaplain Reverend Dan Bell is hosting a general interest meeting (G.I.M.) and dinner (serving Sugar & Spice, a local Thai restaurant) on Sunday, September 19 in Goddard Chapel. The group will discuss interest in exploring what our callings are in life, discerning our individual sense of vocation in community with one another, and determine future gatherings. All are welcome. Please [email Protestant Chaplain Rev. Dan Bell with any questions.](#)

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## Partner Programs

# TRANSCEND CONNECTION

Sponsored by  
the LGBT Center

An Online Support Space for Trans and/or  
Nonbinary Students at Tufts  
facilitated by:



**Nic Wildes, LMHC**  
**(they/them)**



**Emma Rawls, MSW**  
**(she/they)**

**2X/MONTH - TUESDAYS 7:00- 8:15 PM EST**

**UPCOMING DATES: 9/21, 10/5, & 10/19**

**REMOTE: ZOOM SECURE VIDEO**

**\*\*Email [nic@sayftee.com](mailto:nic@sayftee.com) by 6:30 on the day of the group for a confidential link\*\***

## **TRANScend Connection with the LGBT Center**

Tuesdays, Twice per month, 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., held virtually

Sponsored by the LGBT Center, TRANScend Connection is an online support space for trans and/or nonbinary students at Tufts, facilitated by Nic Wildes, LMHC (they/them) and Emma Rawls, MSW (she/they). The group will be held via Zoom secure video. Upcoming dates are: September 21, October 5, October 19. [Email Nic](mailto:nic@sayftee.com) by 6:30 p.m. on the day of the group for a confidential link to join.



### **Tisch College's Fall Solomont Speaker Series**

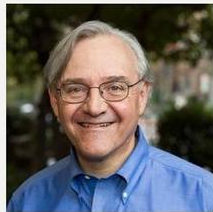
See website for dates and times, held virtually

The Susan and Alan Solomont Distinguished Speaker Series at Tisch College, or Solomont Speaker Series for short, brings to campus (virtually and in-person) a diverse group of leaders in civic life to share their perspective and expertise with the Tufts community. The Solomont Speaker Series, formerly known as the Tisch College Distinguished Speaker Series, was made possible by a generous gift from the Solomonts in the spring of 2021 to endow the Series and recognizes the many ways in which Alan and Susan Solomont have served and supported Tufts University and Tisch College. For more information about events or to register, [please visit the Tisch website](#). Speakers this semester include Sonia Raman, Peter Beinart, Isabel Wilkerson, Jan Grabowski, Imari Paris Jeffries, Senator Tammy Duckworth, John Kasich, Farah Stockman, Doug Foy, Luis Gilberto Murillo-Urrutia, Ed Morales and Annette Martínez Orabona, and Mayor Joe Curtatone. To continue to help keep our community and speakers safe and healthy, all of Tisch's events this semester will be virtual via Zoom webinar and will also be livestreamed and recorded on Tisch College's YouTube Channel. You will receive a confirmation email with a viewing link upon registration.

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## **Resources, Scholarships and Opportunities**

**A LIVESTREAMED BOOK EVENT WITH  
EJ DIONNE AND REV. ADAM TAYLOR**



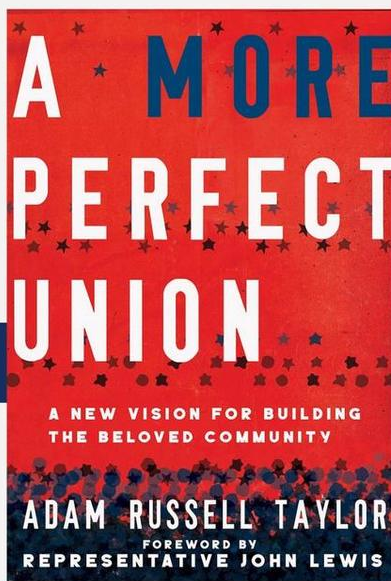
EJ Dionne  
Author and Journalist



Rev. Adam Taylor  
President, Sojourners

Tune in at [facebook.com/SojournersMagazine](https://facebook.com/SojournersMagazine)  
or [twitter.com/SojoAction](https://twitter.com/SojoAction)

WED. SEPT. 15  
4 - 5 PM ET



**Featuring**



Whitney Parnell  
CEO, Service Never Sleeps



Joseph Tomás McKellar  
Executive Director, PICOD  
California



Dr. Eboo Patel  
Founder and President,  
Interfaith Youth Core

**A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community Book Discussion**

Wednesday, September 15, 4:00 p.m. ET, held virtually

Join Sojourners magazine for a special conversation with award-winning journalist EJ Dionne and Sojourners' President Rev. Adam Taylor as they discuss Adam's new book, *A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community*. Special guests Eboo Patel, Whitney Parnell and Joseph Tomás McKellar will join. Rev. Taylor was our 2021 Russell Lecture speaker at the University Chaplaincy's annual endowed lectureship this past spring.



**7 Divinity Schools. 1 Main Event.**

Thursday, September 23, 7:00 p.m. ET, held virtually

Interested in divinity school? Curious about which divinity school would be the best match for you? Thinking about non-profit leadership, parish ministry, the academic study of religion, teaching, movement leadership, or chaplaincy? Join seven divinity school to hear about what to expect at divinity school, learn what makes each



school distinct, and have small group conversations with admissions officers at each school. Schools represented will include Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Duke Divinity School, Harvard Divinity School, Union Theological Seminary (New York), University of Chicago Divinity School, Vanderbilt Divinity School, and Yale Divinity School. [You can register for the event here.](#)

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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](#).

### **Das Laxana Festival**

Sat., Sep. 11 – Mon., Sep. 20, 2021

Tradition: Jainism

(The Paryusana Festival of Jain Digambar Sect): A 10-day festival that is considered to be a holy convocation. During these days, Jains impose some restraints on their daily activities by fasting, meditation and prayer. The last day of Paryusana is the most solemn occasion of forgiveness and the examination of one's own thoughts and feelings. On this day, Jains ask for forgiveness from their relatives and friends for any offense they may have committed by deed, word or thought.

### **Ghambar Paitishem**

Sun., Sep. 12 – Thu., Sep. 16, 2021

Tradition: Zoroastrianism

Celebrates the creation of plants, the sowing of the winter crop and the return of herds from pasture.

### **Yom Kippur**

Begins Wed., Sept. 15, 2021

Tradition: Judaism

The conclusion of the Ten Days of Awe, Yom Kippur is the holiest and most solemn of all days in the Jewish year. It is characterized by repentance, fasting, and forgiveness. Begins at sundown.

### **Mabon**

Mon., Sep. 20, 2021

Tradition: Wicca/Paganism

Autumnal equinox and the second harvest festival, celebrating the equivalence of light and dark, the arrival of Autumn, and thanksgiving for the Earth's bounty. (Begins at sundown)

### **Sukkot**

Mon., Sep. 20 – Mon., Sep. 27, 2021

Tradition: Judaism

Also known as Feast of Booths. An eight-day Jewish festival of booths (or tabernacles) and the fall harvest. The name refers to the booths (sukkot) used by Israelites during desert wanderings and constructed in the fields during the harvest season. It is a time of thanksgiving for God's presence in creation and among the Jewish people. The Eighth Day (Shmini 'Atzeret) is considered both the end of Sukkot and a distinct festival.

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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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