Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 9.22.21

Muslim Student Association Welcome Back BBQ, Friday, September 17, 2021

A Reflection from our Humanist Chaplain

Many of us have been moving through the Tufts campuses for the past few weeks after over a year of separations. We are once again being interwoven into an ecosystem of radical relationality that is life giving.

As a freethinker, accessing wells of wisdom from multiple sources is a daily practice. One of those sources is the wisdom passed down through my ethnicity as a Puerto Rican and the diaspora experience that colors my life. This month, as many across the Latinx community celebrate their heritages, places of origin, shared cultures and languages. By doing so, they celebrate and honor who they are and are becoming.

As a new Humanist Chaplain, I am currently experiencing what it means to enter into unknown ecosystems at Tufts. In the past few weeks I've met students, administrators, staff, and visitors. I am welcoming, listening, and honoring the many perspectives I encounter. I do not ever know what will unfold in a semester, but I embrace the uncertainty because I am certain that as a community we will adapt and make new, sustaining stories of meaning.

I wonder, as you consider your ecosystems - physical, historical, and more - what unknowns are you encountering? What wisdom brings you stability in uncertainty? You are always welcome to bring your wonderings and insights to chaplains here, too, of course.

En conjunto,
Anthony Cruz Pantojas, MTS
Humanist Chaplain

Venerable Mahayaye Vineetha

Meet our new Harvard Divinity School Intern

This year, in partnership with Harvard Divinity School, we welcome Venerable Vineetha Mahayaye as an intern to our team. He is completing his Master of Divinity degree at Harvard Divinity School, with an interest in chaplaincy in higher education. Vineetha is a Theravada Buddhist monk from Sri Lanka. He has been trained in the monastic education over 12 years. He enjoys reciting and listening to Pali Suttas. He is eager to learn about diverse faith traditions and their practices. Vineetha will work most closely with Associate Director and Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper, to learn about the programs we offer at the University Chaplaincy, and will also develop and facilitate a program on Buddhism, interfaith engagement, and racial justice in the spring semester. You can read his full bio on our website.

Congratulations to our Apple Watch Winner, Katrina Aquilino, A25

Every year, we invite incoming undergraduate students to take our Spiritual Interests Survey. The survey contributes to our understanding of the interests and identities of the incoming class, and helps us track trends over time. You can see our spiritual demographics here. Of those who opted to enter

into our Apple Watch raffle, Katrina Aquillino was randomly selected! She picked up her prize at Goddard Chapel this week. We are grateful to all who participated this year!

Katrina in Goddard Chapel, September 20, 2021

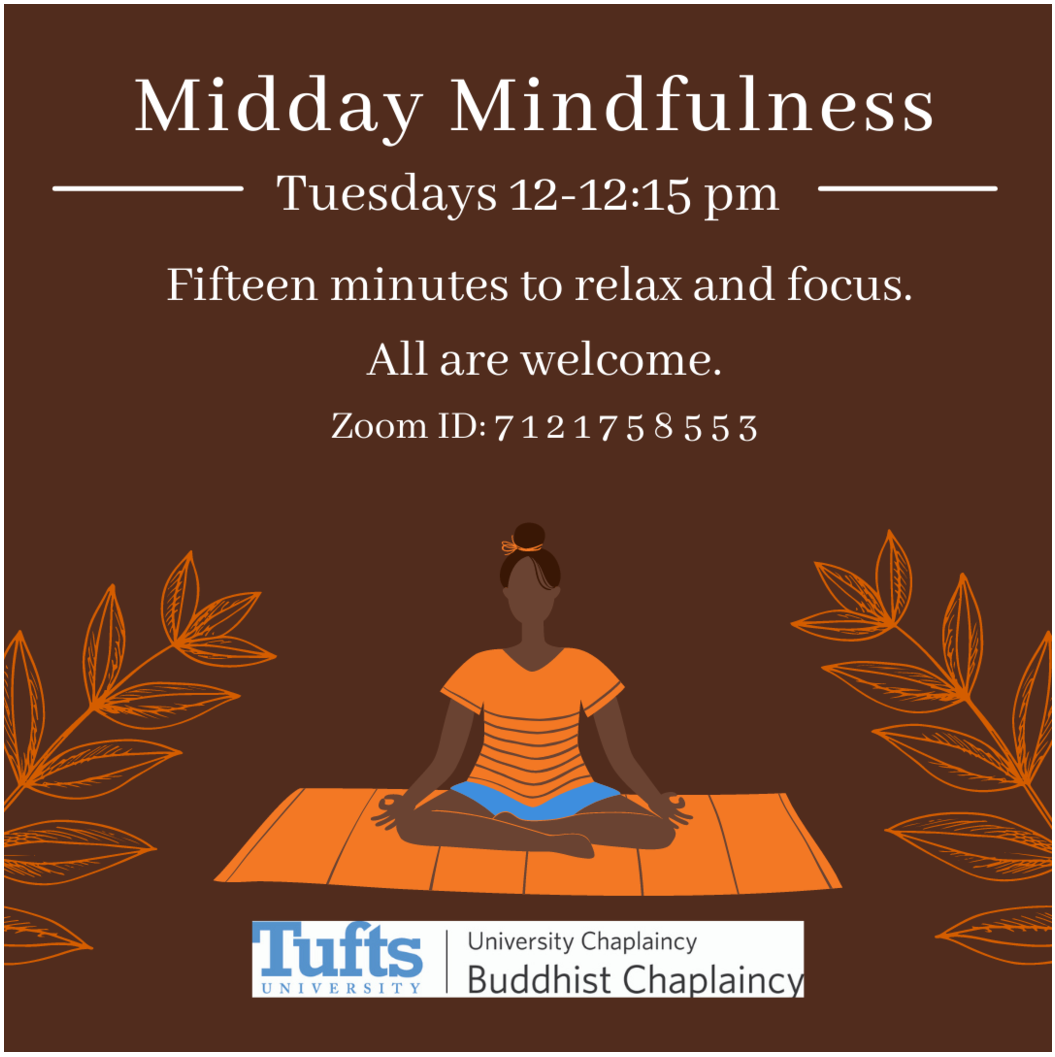
Religious and Philosophical Life Programs

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.

Be-Friend Interfaith Friendship Program Begins in October

This semester-long interfaith friendship project is designed for participants to go deep and to talk about the things that matter: our values, our sense of purpose, and our questions about life. You will learn the skill of active listening while experimenting with shared spiritual practices from different religious and philosophical traditions. Participating students, staff, and faculty will be paired in dyads and will commit to spending an hour together each week as well as an extra half hour in private reflection. Students will be placed with other students, and the same for staff and faculty. Several of our multifaith chaplains have contributed to the program by offering a diverse array of spiritual practices, including nature walks, meditation exercises, listening to music, and deep reading—of poetry,

art, the world, our lives and one another. Contact Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper if you are interested or have any questions. The program will begin the first week of October and you can learn more here on our website.



Midday Mindfulness with the Buddhist Chaplain
Tuesdays, 12:00 p.m. - 12:15 p.m. ET, held virtually

Please join Ji Hyang Padma, Buddhist Chaplain, for this oasis of clarity and peace in the middle of the day on Tuesdays. You can find more information and the Zoom link online. You can join on Tuesdays via this link.

Hybrid Night Prayer with Protestant Community
Wednesday, September 22, 8:45 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. ET, held in-person and virtually

Join the Protestant Student Association and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell for a hybrid event. You can join via Zoom here, and find more information on our website. The in-person group will meet in the Austin Room in Tisch Library, and if you have any questions you can email Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell.

Zohar Circle with Jewish Chaplain Rabbi Naftali Brawer
Friday, September 24, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Join Rabbi Naftali Brawer for a weekly pre-Shabbat session of Zohar study. The Zohar is the foundational text of Jewish mysticism and it has inspired and intrigued readers for centuries. Full of hidden codes and concealed meanings, the Zohar takes its readers on a spiritual journey uncovering deeper dimensions of reality and

consciousness. No prior knowledge of Hebrew or mysticism is required - just an open mind and an open heart. Join Rabbi Naftali at Tufts Hillel, 220 Packard Ave.

Partner Programs

LGBT Center Open House
Friday, September 24, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Come by Bolles House (226 College Ave) to meet LGBT Center staff, enjoy a snack, and get to know the Center and their resources and programs. You can find more on the JumboLife event, and always learn about the LGBT Center on their website.

Virtual Groups and Workshops with Counseling and Mental Health Services
Meets throughout the Fall 2021 semester

Counseling and Mental Health Services (CMHS) groups and workshops aim to enhance coping strategies and foster connection among students. Counseling Groups, which require that members be located in Massachusetts, typically meet weekly for up to eight weeks. As members share and process concerns, relationships and conversations deepen. Workshops and Discussion Groups offer a more informal opportunity to connect with others or build skills, and students can join from any location. All events will take place over a secure Zoom platform. Please see below for group details and how to participate in groups and workshops. Counseling groups this semester include Oasis (for Black-identifying students), Coping with Loss in a Remote World, Growing up with Family Mental Illness or Addiction, and Body Image and Me. Discussion groups this semester include Connection Matters: Conversation with International Students for Adjustment, and ReST & Renew: Tools for Uncertain Times--for Undergraduates. You can find more resources and information on the Counseling and Mental Health website.

Resources, Scholarships and Opportunities

Weaving the Waves of Awe: Indigenous Cosmologies for Ecological Belonging Webinar
Friday, September 24, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET, held virtually

Dr. Yuria Celidwen will host a conversation with the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society, in their Contemplative Practice Series. Dr. Celidwen will share what she calls "ethics of belonging and an ecology of compassion," and how contemplative practices are transformative in one's ability to be more caring, responsive, and engaged members of our planet. Dr. Yuria Celidwen is of Indigenous Nahua and Maya descent from the highlands of Chiapas, Mexico. As a scholar, she works on the intersection of Indigenous studies, cultural psychology, and contemplative science. You can register for the webinar here and scholarships are available to cover the $25 registration fee.

North American Hindu Chaplains Association 2021 Conference
Saturday, September 25 - Sunday, September 26, held virtually

The North American Hindu Chaplains Association (NAHCA) will hold its annual conference virtually this year. The theme is “Presence and Possibility." In the past months we have overcome numerous challenges and endured much heartbreak. Yet we have also been witness to great creativity, resilience and a ground swelling of combined efforts for the common good. Spiritual care has been at the forefront of reimagining a better world. Let’s take our experiences from this past year and talk about how we are doing, what we are doing, and what is possible in the field of Hindu chaplaincy. Conference registration includes access to video recordings of the conference sessions at no additional fee. Conference recordings will also be available for purchase separately. You can register for the conference here.

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.

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.

Shemini Atzeret
Mon., Sep. 27 – Wed., Sep. 29, 2021
Tradition: Judaism
The Eighth Day (Shemini 'Atzeret) is considered both the end of Sukkot and a distinct festival.

Simchat Torah
Tue., Sep. 28, 2021
Tradition: Judaism
(Rejoicing of the Law) Joyous festival in which the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah in the synagogue is completed and its first book begun again. The celebration typically includes singing, dancing, and marching with Torah scrolls.

Navaratri
Thu., Oct. 7 – Fri., Oct. 15, 2021
Tradition: Hinduism
A nine-night (nav-rat) celebration of nine auspicious forms of Shakti/Devi (feminine divine power/the Goddess).

Ghambar Ayathrem
Tue., Oct. 12 – Sat., Oct. 16, 2021
Tradition: Zoroastrianism
Celebrates the creation of plants, the sowing of the winter crop, and the return of herds from pasture.

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.

Tufts University Chaplaincy | Goddard Chapel, 3 The Green | Medford, MA 02155 US
chaplaincy.tufts.edu | chaplaincy@tufts.edu | **617.627.3427**

emma

Subscribe to our email list.