Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 1.26.22

A Reflection from our Muslim Chaplain

Salaam alaykum,

I extend greetings of peace to each one of you as we enter into this second week of the spring semester and into the depths of a cold and snowy New England winter. I hope that amidst the chill in the air you also experience the warmth of connection as we return to campus in person once again.

I have been immersing myself in the joy of reading the work of civil rights activist and author Valarie Kaur, who will be our speaker in March for our annual Russell Lecture on Spriitual Life. In her beautiful work, See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love she writes about the power of a wondrous kind of love. Kaur takes us on a journey through her childhood growing up on her family's farm in California, noting that wonder was her first orientation to everything around her – the earth, the stars, the animals, the world. Wonder comes easily, naturally, to us in childhood, as we stare at the open sky and imagine what lies beyond the clouds. As we grow up, we tend to lose sight of it as an orientation to life, in our striving to know and judge things. But what if we stayed connected to wonder? Wonder, Kaur proclaims, is our birthright, and is the wellspring for love.

As I reflect on Valarie's words, I feel inspired to rekindle my own sense of wonder towards myself, others, and to the Creator of all things. What if, instead of criticizing myself about a mistake, I gently wondered about what's in my heart just then? What if, instead of judging another's actions or beliefs, I wondered what is important to them? What if, instead of assuming I know who God is, I wonder why He made me as I am?

Winter is a season of quiet reflection, and I invite us to embrace it as a time to look both inward at ourselves and outward at the world with new eyes. Let the spirit of wonder light us up! Let it spark our curiosity, our compassion, our wholehearted love for one another. Let it be what we lead with as we enter into community, into relationships, and into spaces of dialogue and learning. Let it especially be our companion in spaces of tension, difficulty, misunderstanding, or injustice. Let it be our wellspring for love.

As the Sufi mystical writer Iraqi reminds us, "In this love spilling over and over, there are such wonders." [1] Dear friends, what a wondrous world we might create together if we invite wonder into our hearts!

Najiba Akbar
Muslim Chaplain

[1]Iraqi. *Radical Love: Teachings from the Islamic Mystical Tradition,* edited by Omid Safi, Yale University Press, 2018.

Upcoming Signature Events

Sponsored by the Africana Center, the Office of the President, The Office of the Provost, Tisch College of Civic Life, and the Tufts University Chaplaincy

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Today - The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Celebration
Wednesday, January 26, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET, held virtually

Join 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 1967 speech, "A Knock at Midnight" wherein Rev. Dr. King proclaims: "When you stop hoping, you're dying... in the midst of this hopelessness, men and women reach out for the bread of

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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 Dr. Makeeba McCreary of the New Commonwealth Racial Equity and Social Justice Fund and Imari Paris Jeffries of King Boston, as well as Tufts student leaders Amma Agyei, E22 and René LaPointe Jameson, E22 to a panel to collectively reflect on the commitment shared by the Rev. Dr. King and Coretta Scott King to each other and their community. You can find more information about the event and our panelists on our website. This is the second 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. Please email University Chaplaincy program manager Nora Bond with any questions or accessibility needs.

Register for the MLK Celebration

Join the University Chaplaincy for the 7th annual

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of COMMUNITY ACTION

Saturday, January 29, 2022 • 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Breed Memorial Hall

Register at the QR code above by Thu., January 27

Reflection, Action, and Community in the Legacy of MLK

- Engage with The Rev. Dr. King's legacy and its importance for our community today
- Support projects for On The Rise women's shelter; Black & Pink, a national prison abolitionist organization; and other local community organizations
- Explore Deepa Iyer's Social Justice Eco-System with fellow Tufts students

All program workshops and community service will happen on Tufts' campus. This program is organized by the Interfaith Ambassadors and University Chaplaincy staff. Contact Shelby.Carpenter@tufts.edu with any questions.

Sponsored by the University Chaplaincy and Arthur Vining Davis Interfaith Civic Studies Grant

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MLK Day of Community Action
Saturday, January 29, 2022, 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable…Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

Martin Luther King, Jr. in *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*
Chapter XI: Where Do We Go From Here?

How do you put your values into action? Join fellow Tufts students in reflecting and acting on this question during our annual MLK Day of Community Action on Saturday, January 29 at Breed Memorial Hall. This year, we will be partnering with local community organizations to participate in meaningful action. The day will include community building, working on action items with local community organizations, and reflection with a grab-n-go dinner provided. The resources we will create include:

- Greeting cards for folks who are incarcerated in Massachusetts, and
- Essential kits for women and transgender people who are unhoused at this time

These supplies support the work of organizations throughout the Greater Boston area, including Black and Pink MA, On the Rise, and more.

Registration is required and closes at 11:59 P.M. on Thursday, January 27. Spots are limited. For questions, please contact University Chaplaincy program coordinator Shelby Carpenter.

Student Registration for Day of Community Action

Chaplain Recognition

Our chaplains do work and ministry in many settings, and contribute to their fields and communities through service, research, publications and more. In this new section, we will uplift their accomplishments whenever they are recognized externally.

Humanist Chaplain Anthony Cruz Pantojas was received an American Humanist Association 2021 Empowering Action grant award for their Humanist Literacy Project. Anthony's project, in their own words, will "provide humanist literature to BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, People of Color] that are exploring humanism and/or a non-theist lifestance" here at Tufts. The selection committee notes that Anthony's project addressed the goals of the grant well by aiming to build local community and advance Humanist values. Congratulations Anthony!

Anthony Cruz Pantojas, M.T.S.
Humanist Chaplain

Religious and Philosophical Programs

Praying for Peace
Friday, January 28, 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

This past Sunday, Pope Francis called for prayers of peace. Drop by Goddard Chapel for to pray in community as we orient our hearts towards connection, dignity, and mercy.

Kalyānamitta: A Good Friend Show
Proposals due Wednesday, February 16, by 11:59 p.m. ET

Friendship is the foundation for us to care more about each other. This show, hosted by the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA) and the University Chaplaincy, invites us to pay attention to our relationships with other people, animals, and the world and use art to reflect and express our friendships with other beings. This call is rooted in Four Jātaka Stories from the Theravada Buddhist tradition. Choose one that resonates with you, and respond in any art medium. Your artwork will be the centerpiece of an interfaith collaboration in March and April at SMFA and Medford campuses. We will celebrate your art-work in conversation with the stories. You can connect with Assistant Director of Student Affairs Sarah Valente with any questions, and find the submission form here.

Weekly Gatherings Posted on Instagram

Did you know you can follow us on Instagram for a weekly calendar of our gatherings and events? Our regular weekly programming includes meditations, worship, communal prayer, and group gatherings. You can find more information on our website, or follow us on Instagram for the latest updates.

Partner Programs

Genocide Education and Awareness Experience
Apply by Thursday, February 3, at 11:59 p.m. ET

This program will take place over Presidents' Day Weekend (Sunday February 20 and Monday February 21), with the first day as an immersive experience in Boston and surrounding towns, and the second day based at the Tufts Medford campus. The goals of this program are: education on genocide and mass atrocity, skill-building, and empowering participants to become advocates against injustice. Participants will visit the New England Holocaust

past to the present and future through discussions and workshops. Meals will be provided and/or reimbursed. Please complete this form if interested. Contact Rebecca Kraus with any questions.

Pan Asian Council
Rolling applications accepted

Are you a student leader in an Asian cultural organization? Sign up for your group to be a part of the Asian American Center's Pan Asian Council (PAC)! PAC is a collaborative group of student organizations that intentionally serve Asian & Asian American students. Representatives meet monthly. Benefits of being a PAC organization include: a closer connection to Asian American Center staff and additional resources. This is a rolling deadline, but you are encouraged to apply as soon as possible; you can find the application here.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities

Today - Apply for CAFE Pre-Orientation 2022 Coordinators Position

Applications due by Wednesday, January 26, 11:59 p.m. ET

We invite you to consider applying for one of two Coordinator positions for CAFE 2022. This Pre-Orientation program is a highlight of our interfaith programming each year and welcomes a new class into our community each September. The position description and application are available here. Please note that this year we are launching a new student coordinator model and will be hiring two students who will work together with the University Chaplaincy team throughout the summer to lead and launch CAFE. All returning students and graduating seniors, with past experience in CAFE or none at all, are encouraged to apply! Please reach out to University Chaplaincy program coordinator Shelby Carpenter with any questions.

Reimagining Religious Diversity in the Academy: A Series of Charrettes

Monday, February 7 - Wednesday, March 9, various times, held virtually

In the spring of 2021, Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) and Heterodox Academy (HxA) invited over 100 scholars and thought leaders across the North American academy to reflect on the following question: How might we effectively and meaningfully center religious diversity in higher education — academically, programmatically, and operationally We received scores of responses that demonstrated the richness and breadth of ideation and we now are pleased to engage a wider audience in this important conversation through a series of public discussions. You can find more information and register here.

Upcoming Religious Celebrations and Observances

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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.

Imbolc
Tue., Feb. 1, 2022
Tradition: Wicca/Paganism
The first fertility festival, celebrating the approach of spring and the growth of light in the darkness.

Vasant Panchami (Sri Pancami)
Sat., Feb. 5, 2022
Tradition: Hinduism
One of many festivals to honor the advent of spring, this day is celebrated particularly in North India, where it is associated with Saraswati, the goddess of learning; however, it also retains connection with the goddess Lakshmi.

Nirvana Day
Tue., Feb. 15, 2022 or Tue., Feb 8, 2022
Tradition: Buddhism
In the northern tradition, it commemorates the parinirvana of the Buddha. In cultures of Southeast Asia, the buddha's parinirvana is remembered during Wesak. The dates and names of Buddhist celebrations vary significantly among cultures and communities.

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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