Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 10.7.20

Yellow maple leaves on Medford/Somerville campus

Introductory Note from Chaplain Elyse

Hello from Goddard Chapel! I write to you in the warmth of the autumn sun streaming through my office's stained-glass windows. I gaze through the antique yellow and lavender glass at an impressionistic Tisch Roof and Boston skyline and am awed--by this beautiful campus and by the vibrant community of students, scholars, and staff who call Tufts home. I am overjoyed to join a wonderfully diverse team of chaplains, advisors, and staff and can already attest: their passion, expertise, care, wisdom, and humor abound! I hope that you will be inspired to connect with one of our chaplaincy offerings or partner programs this week.

I would also like to welcome you to join me on Fridays at 2:00 p.m. ET throughout October for "Virtual Coffee with Chaplain Elyse." I am excited to meet you and to learn about your passions, questions, and communities. Grab a cup of your favorite coffee or other warm beverage, and let's talk! The Zoom information can be found on our website, and you are most welcome.

At our virtual Illumination Ceremony this past Sunday, I reflected on the words of Tufts' first President who said that this University was founded "to be a source of illumination, as a beacon standing on a hill, where its light cannot be hidden." In the midst of these turbulent and troubled times, we need one another's light, insight, and hope so that we can continue to work together for the common good, wholeness, healing and health of all. We cannot go it alone. Now is the time to bring every question from every direction, discipline and worldview; every spiritual hunger; every

demand for justice that abides in you to bear on our life together. Light shines and reveals beauty, yes. But it also exposes brokenness. And we cannot look away. Now is the time to shine light and to tell the truth about the beauty and brokenness of our beloved world. Now is the time to learn and to unlearn, to grow and change, to repair and renew. As seekers and members within many different religious, spiritual and philosophical communities, we have myriad stories and practices to guide us along pathways of healing and justice. Let's dig deep and draw on wisdom both ancient and new to inspire and sustain us.

We are at Tufts together for such a time as this.

Pax et lux,
Chaplain Elyse

Check in with a Chaplain

Our chaplains and advisors are here for you, no matter where you are in the world or how you are doing in this time. Click on a chaplain's name below to schedule a time for conversation, meditation, prayer, or to check in about anything else on your heart or mind. You can go to the contact page on our website to find bios and additional information, too.

Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain
Preeta Banerjee, Hindu Advisor
Rev. Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain
Rabbi Naftali Brawer, Jewish Chaplain
Walker Bristol, Humanist Chaplain
Lynn Cooper, Catholic Chaplain
Azmera Hammouri-Davis, Africana Spirituality Advisor
Abdul-Malik Merchant, Muslim Chaplain
Venerable Priya Sraman, Buddhist Chaplain

Religious and Philosophical Life Programs

You can find more information about our weekly gatherings and student group meetings on our website. You can also find the Zoom links for each event there. If you have an idea for how University Chaplaincy programming can better serve you this semester, please contact program manager Nora Bond.

University Chaplaincy Offerings

Virtual Coffee with Chaplain Elyse
Fridays in October, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET

Join Chaplain Elyse for conversations about your passions, questions, and communities. Bring your favorite coffee or other warm beverage, and connect with Chaplain Elyse, Fridays in October (October 9, October 16, October 23, and October 30). For your more information, you can email University Chaplain Elyse Nelson Winger. All are welcome.

For Zoom links to any offering listed above, please visit our website.

Elyse Nelson Winger

University Chaplain

Azmera Hammouri Davis

Africana Spirituality Advisor

Africana Spirituality Chaplaincy Offerings

Speaking Facts Series with the Africana Center
Wednesday, October 8, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET

Africana Spiritual Advisor Azmera Hammouri-Davis will be joined by junior Anya Tisdale and sophomore Zainab Olushoga in a conversation that dives into what it means to build connection and community in these trying times. The topic of the conversation will be Compassion, Creativity, and Community in this moment. This event is part of a regular series with the Africana Center to provide healing space to students. You can learn more about the series on the Africana Center Instagram, and the Zoom information is here. For more information you can email Africana Spirituality Advisor Azmera Hammouri Davis.

Buddhist Chaplaincy Offerings

Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha Meditation and Reflection
Mondays and Fridays, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

This semester, Sangha will meet on Mondays for a discussion and shorter meditation, and on Fridays for a full hour of meditation. Please connect with Buddhist Chaplain The Venerable Priya Sraman for more information. All are welcome.

For Zoom links to any offering listed above, please visit our website.

Priya Sraman, Buddhist Chaplain

Lynn Cooper
Catholic Chaplain

Catholic Chaplaincy Offerings

Catholic Virtual Mass Gathering
Sundays, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET

The Catholic community will not be offering in-person worship this year, but will be gathering virtually at 5:00 p.m. ET each Sunday to watch and celebrate Mass together. Throughout the course of the semester, they will “visit” the parishes of different members of the Catholic Community at Tufts by watching that week’s previously recorded Mass. All are welcome.

Confession by appointment

For more information please connect with Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper.

Rooting Out Racism: An Online Retreat for White Christian Folks
Author Isabel Wilkerson notes that, “This moment we’re in is not just a social crisis and not just a political crisis. It’s a spiritual crisis.” The Catholic and Protestant Chaplaincies are seeking to address this spiritual crisis by offering Rooting out Racism, a pray-at-your-own-pace online retreat consisting of streaming audio reflections and prayer prompts. It invites white Christians to search their souls, understand how Christianity has contributed to racial inequity, and to commit more deeply to uprooting racism from their hearts and from the world. Click here to register. If you would like to connect with fellow members of the Tufts community who are engaging Rooting Out

Racism, please contact Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell, who will then put you in touch with others and can help to organize small group discussion. Please note, there will be a group for students and a parallel group for faculty and staff; all are welcome.

For Zoom links to any offering listed above, please visit our website.

Humanist Chaplaincy Offerings

Walker Bristol, Humanist Chaplain

Weekly Gathering
Fridays, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET

Join the Humanist Community at Tufts for their weekly moment of connection and reflection by candlelight. Each week, they explore questions of philosophy, language, art, and meaning, drawn together by a shared concern for the goodness of humanity and our shared natural world. For more information, contact Humanist Chaplain Walker Bristol. All are welcome.

For the Zoom link to the offering listed above, please visit our website.

Naftali Brawer
Jewish Chaplain
Executive Director of Tufts Hillel

Jewish Chaplaincy Offerings

Weekly Shabbat Virtual Offerings
Fridays, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. ET

Join Tufts Hillel for Shabbat Dinner To-Go meals, now with both a meat and vegan option. Pre-ordering is mandatory. If seats are available when you pick-up, you are welcome to stay and eat at Hillel. For questions please email Hillel, and to find more information about Shabbat this semester visit the Hillel Calendar.

End of Sukkot Celebration
Friday, October 9, dinner pick up available between 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. ET

Join Tufts Hillel for Shabbat and the end of Sukkot. Enjoy traditional Ashkenazi fare and take in your last moments under the sukkah. As always, sign up to claim your meal with this link. Deadline to Order: Wednesday, October 7, 11:45 a.m. ET.

Book Discussion: So You Want To Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo
Sunday, October 11, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET

Join Tufts Hillel and A2A in an online book discussion about the book, *So You Want To Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. The one time session will be led by Cheyenne Paris, who is completing a master's at Brandeis; Tori Berlin, a junior at Tufts; and Allison Cohen, a junior at Tufts. A free e-book will be provided for the first 20 sign-ups. Sign up here to register; after registration, you will receive the Zoom link.

Let's Get to the ROOTS! Roots Young Adults Speak
Wednesday, October 14, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. ET

Friends of Roots is a local grassroots network of Palestinians and Israelis who have a mutual recognition of each other's connection to their land, a commitment to understanding and solidarity despite ideological differences, and a willingness to work as partners in ending the conflict. Join Roots young adults as they share their experiences in Roots' year-long program creating deep bonds, struggling with their identities, and living in communities on opposite sides of the conflict. You can sign up to attend virtually here, and you can find more information on the event Facebook page. The event is hosted by Visions of Peace, a network of Tufts students dedicated to learning

about and supporting grassroots peace-building efforts in Israel/Palestine in the areas of business, technology, environment, education, and beyond.

For more information about any of the offerings listed, please visit the Hillel website.

Muslim Chaplaincy Offerings

Abdul-Malik Merchant
Muslim Chaplain

Islam at Sea Level: Foundational, Practical Islamic Theology
Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. ET

Exploring foundational Islamic theology through a practical lens using a short 18th century poem. Though the class will be intentionally catering to the Muslim community, attendance is completely open to everyone. For more information, contact Muslim Chaplain Abdul-Malik Merchant.

For the Zoom link to the offering listed above, please visit our website.

Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain

Protestant Chaplaincy Offerings

Protestant Evening Worship (PEW)
Sundays, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET

Join the Protestant student community and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell for worship through prayer, song, sermon, and reflection over Zoom. While we cannot be together in person right now, Christ is still present among us and the Spirit draws us together as God's people. After the service, everyone is welcome to stay and hang out. All are welcome, no matter who you are or where you find yourself in your journey of life and faith. On Sunday, October 11 the theme for worship will be "Prive in the PEW." All are very welcome to the annual celebration of LGBTQ+ Pride at Protestant Evening Worship. Wear or decorate your room with your rainbow-best as we gather for song, prayer, and reflection in honor of all of God's fabulous people. The Rev. Da Vita "Day" McCallister, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, will preach. She is a same-gender-loving, African-American Woman, who is a fierce advocate for LGBTQIA community. Her passions include Racial Justice Training and leadership development. We hope you will join us for this special event, and please invite friends. You can also always email Dan or visit his Calendly to set up a time to meet.

"O Wisdom:" A Seven-Week Series to Prepare Our Hearts for Advent
Thursdays, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. ET, October 8 through November 18

The season of Advent often passes us by without much notice. It arrives between Thanksgiving and Christmas, an often exhausting time. The end of the semester, finals, and the holidays loom. This may be all the more true now amid so much heightened stress and uncertainty. For these reasons and more, we are gathering to prepare our hearts for Advent well in advance of the season. All are welcome to join Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell for a study of the "O Antiphons," ancient words traditionally sung during Advent to invoke thanks and praise, lament and longing, restoration and return. They are names for Jesus that Christians find in the Book of Isaiah and are well-known from the classic hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." A book to guide our conversations is freely available, in print and Kindle editions. Please email Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell to learn more.

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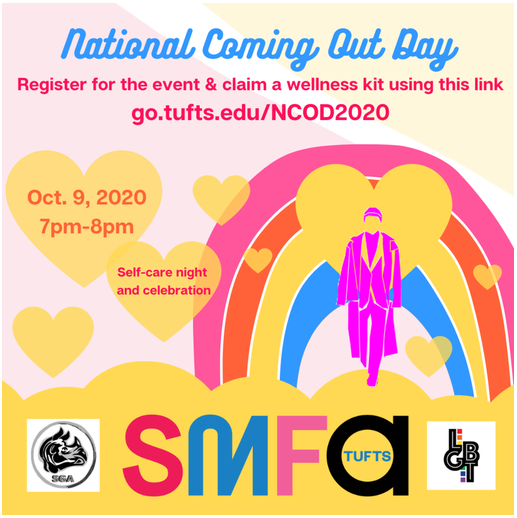
For Zoom links to any offering listed above, please visit our website.

Partner Programs

National Coming Out Day with the LGBT Center: Self Care Night and Celebration
Friday, October 9, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET

Join the Tufts LGBT Center in celebrating National Coming Out Day. Participants will be able to join small groups to create art, write poetry, discuss & journal about being/coming out, or just vibe together and listen to music while practicing self care. Find out more on the LGBT Center's Instagram.



Fletcher Initiative on Religion, Law and Diplomacy Conference: Ukraine is Not Yet Dead: Religion, Pluralism and Geopolitics in Eurasia
Friday, October 16, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET

Religion plays a critical, yet often overlooked, role in the domestic and international politics of Ukraine Understanding the religious dimension of Ukraine's challenges is crucial to clarifying the possibilities fo peace in the region. In particular, the 2018 establishment of an autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine, independent of the Russia Orthodox Church, was an event of historic magnitude. Its impact is still unfolding, with profound implications for international security, religious pluralism, and identity formation. This conference will be an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the history an significance of religion in Ukraine, as well as the ongoing issues at the intersection of religion, pluralism, and security. Click here to register for the conference. You can download the flyer here.

Tisch College Election 2020 Initiatives

JumboVote is a nonpartisan, student-led organization at Tufts University dedicated to promoting civic engagement and voter turnout. JumboVote wants to ensure all our Tufts community members are ready to participate in democracy this fall, wherever they are and however they plan to vote. JumboVote has an updated website and up-to-date resources to help students make a voting plan, check their registration status, and know state-by-state absentee voting deadlines and processes. Through Tufts TurboVote, all member of the Tufts community—students, staff, and faculty—can register to vote, receive election reminders, and more. Remember, students can register to vote in Massachusetts or in their home state, and the Massachusetts deadline to register to vote is Saturday, October 24. The Massachusetts deadline to request an absentee ballot is Wednesday, October 28, but

the state is encouraging voters to submit applications no later than October 20. Early voting runs Saturday, October 17 through Friday, October 30. Find more election-related news, research, and resources on the new Tufts Votes 2020 website.

Covid-19 Emergency Fund - Available to Undergraduate and Graduate Students

You may be eligible to receive a one-time emergency grant from the Tufts University COVID-19 Emergency Fund. If you are you a currently enrolled, degree- or certificate-seeking student who has incurred expenses directly related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, childcare expenses, and travel, you may be eligible to apply. The maximum award available to dependent students is $1,000. Independent students may request up to $1,800. Please review the limitations and eligibility requirements, as well as examples of expenses that can be covered. Applying for emergency funds is simple and is open to all undergraduate and graduate students at Tufts who meet the eligibility requirements. If eligible, you are encouraged to apply as soon as possible with this form. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until funds are expended. Once your application is received, it will be reviewed by the Tufts University COVID-19 Emergency Fund Committee, and you will receive notification of a decision within 2 weeks. Please email if you have questions.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunies

Liberation Lunches with NYU Global Spiritual Life
First Wednesdays of the month, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET, October - December 2020

This virtual event is free to and open to the public. Join NYU Global Spiritual life on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:00 p.m. ET for a 45-minute discussion exploring spiritual hygiene, community care, our current world climate, and being of service. Each session is led every month by Black spiritual teachers from different faith/spiritual traditions; the sessions will include a short teaching and meditation practice. Liberation Lunches are scheduled for October 7, November 5, and December 2, all for 12:00 p.m. ET for an hour. Please follow this link to register.

A Saint for All Saints: A Conversation on the Life and Legacy of the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray
Sunday, November 1, 4:00 p.m. ET

The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray fiercely challenged social, political, and religious powers in the quest for equality for people of color, women, and the LGBTQ community. She was also the first Black woman ordained in The Episcopal Church. Pauli Murray's legacy continues to speak to us in healing our broken world today. Join Emmanuel Church Boston in lifting up Pauli Murray as one of the foremost voices today in racial, gender, and social justice. This virtual conversation will include a moderated panel and reflections on the enduring relevance of Pauli Murray. Learn more on the Emmanuel Church website and register here today.

Wisdom Dharma Chats

Each Wisdom Dharma Chat takes you on a fascinating exploration of Buddhism and meditation as guests share stories and discuss life-changing practices, timeless philosophies, and new ways to think and live. The Chats are a live video version of the Wisdom Podcast, and are followed by a Q&A session in which you can ask your own questions. On Wednesday, October 14 at 7 p.m. ET, special guest Guy Armstrong will join. Guy Armstrong has been leading insight meditation retreats since 1984 in the U.S., Europe, and Australia. He is the author of the Wisdom book Emptiness: A Practical Guide for Meditators, and the Wisdom Academy online course based on the book. You can register for the event here.

Upcoming Religious Holidays and Festivals

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
Friday, October 2 – Friday, October 9
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.

Simchat Torah
Saturday, October 10
Tradition: Judaism
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.

Ghambar Ayathrem
Monday, October 12 – Friday, October 16
Tradition: Zoroastrianism
Celebrates the creation of plants, the sowing of the winter crop, and the return of herds from pasture.

Birth of the Bab
Saturday, October 17
Tradition: Baha'i
The anniversary of the birth of the Bab, the herald of the new age for Baha'is. the Shrine of the Bab in Haifa, Israel, is part of the World Center of the Baha'i faith.

Navaratri
Saturday, October 17 – Monday, October 26
Tradition: Hinduism
A nine-night (nav-rat) celebration of nine auspicious forms of Shakti/Devi (feminine divine power/the Goddess).

Birth of Baha'u'llah
Sunday, October 18
Tradition: Baha'i
The anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith. Work is suspended on this day.

Installation of Granth Sahib Ji as Guru
Tuesday, October 20
Tradition: Sikhism
This day celebrates Gobind Singh Ji's passing on guruship to Scripture, henceforth known as the Guru Granth Sahib.

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.

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