Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 10.13.21

Durga, depicted as a multi-armed goddess

A note from our Hindu Advisor

Namaste dear friends,

Greetings during this auspicious time of Navratri or Durga Puja! Our family observes Durga Puja for ten days in the lunar Hindu calendar month of Ashvin, the months of September/October of the Roman calendar, starting with Mahalaya on Oct 6, 2021 and ending with Bijoya on Oct 15, 2021. Tufts Association of South Asians (TASA) held Navratri Garba and Dandia last week, two forms of celebratory dance, and at home we paid homage to ancestors and continue to perform daily puja with a special Pushpanjali or offering of flowers to Hindu deities. We will be visiting our local temple, the Shivalaya Temple of Greater Boston, with Tufts Hindu Chaplaincy, Hindu Student Council (HSC) and CAFE this Friday (you can sign up by midnight on Wednesday October 13 below). We will gather to celebrate the triumph of Goddess Durga over demon Mahishasura and the victory of Lord Rama over

Ravana. Both Goddess Durga and Lord Rama bring balance to forces that when left to run rampant can move from being good to being bad.

For me, this is a time of reflection. I ask myself what needs to wake up within me to find balance. It is the perfect exploration as we prepare to settle into the winter months here in Massachusetts. I will close with the words of the 8th-century Indian philosopher and theologian, Adi Shankaracharya, as written in the Mahishasura Mardini stotram which is based on the Devi Mahatmyam (the foundational scripture during this auspicious time):

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Ayi Giri-Nandini Nandita-Medini Vishva-Vinodini Nandi-Nute
Giri-Vara-Vindhya-Shiro-[A]dhi-Nivaasini Vissnnu-Vilaasini Jissnnu-Nute |
Bhagavati He Shiti-Kanttha-Kuttumbini Bhuri-Kuttumbini Bhuri-Krte
Jaya Jaya He Mahissaasura-Mardini Ramya-Kapardini Shaila-Sute || 1 ||

Salutations to You O Divine Mother, I invoke You; who is the Daughter of the Mountain; by Whose presence the whole world is filled with Joy; for Whom the whole world is a Divine Play and who is praised by Nandi, Who dwells on the summit of the Vindhyas, the best of the mountains; Who gives joy to Lord Vishnu (as His sister) and Who is praised by Lord Indra. O Goddess Bhagavati, Who is the wife of the One with Blue Throat (Lord Shiva); Who has many relations in this world (being the Cosmic Mother) and Who has created Abundance, Victory to You, Victory to You, O the Destroyer of Demon Mahishasura; Who shines with beautiful locks of hair and Who is the Daughter of the Mountain.

I wish you fruitful reflection, and a blessed awakening.

Preeta Banerjee, Ph.D.
Hindu Advisor

Sign up to visit Shivalaya Temple

Catholic Spirituality Hour
Wednesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Join Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper in Goddard Chapel for this week's Spirituality Hour. This mid-week gathering is a chance to pause and reflect. Each week, Lynn invites students to experiment with different kinds of spiritual practices. Practices have included praying the psalms, letter writing, collaging, deep breathing, contemplation, imaginative prayer, poetry, Lectio/Visio Divina. Perhaps you have a practice that has been meaningful in your life - please consider sharing it! We would be very glad to learn from and with you. Please email Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper with any questions.

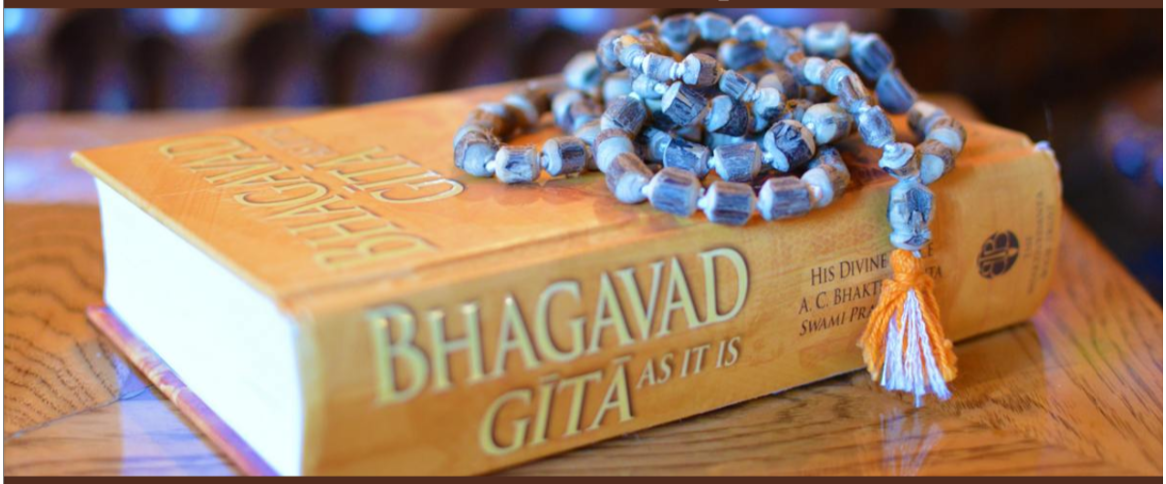
Visit Shivalaya Temple with Our Hindu Chaplaincy, Hindu Student Council, and CAFE
Friday, October 15, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Departing from the Interfaith Center

Join Tufts Hindu Chaplaincy, Hindu Student Council (HSC), and CAFE to visit our local Hindu temple, Shivalaya Temple of Greater Boston, on Friday, October 15 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. We will visit the temple on this auspicious day when we celebrate the triumph of Goddess Durga over demon Mahishasura and the victory of Lord Rama over Ravana. Whether going to Shivalaya Temple is one of many visits or your first time, your presence is welcome. We invite students, faculty, and staff from across the Tufts community to journey with us, as we deepen our understanding of ourselves, each other, and our host communities. You can find visit details, as well as registration in this form. This form closes on Wednesday, October 13 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Bhagavad Gita As It Is

Biweekly reading and discussion group

Book, workbook, and meal provided



The Bhagavad-gita is universally renowned as a jewel of India's spiritual wisdom. As a theological and philosophical classic, the Bhagavad-gita summarizes the conclusions of the Vedas, the ancient scriptures written over 5000 years ago in the Sanskrit language. In every generation, over thousands of years, it has provided unceasing inspiration to thinkers, leaders, and spiritualists alike. Deepening our understanding of the Gita benefits from the company of others where we can discuss and question what we read towards applying the practical aspects in our day-to-day life.

Oct 1, Oct 15, Oct 29, Nov 12, Dec 10
12:00 pm, Meyer Campus Center, Room 012
Contact preeta.banerjee@tufts.edu with questions

Tufts UNIVERSITY | University Chaplaincy
Hindu Chaplaincy

Bhagavad-gita As It Is
Friday, October 15, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., in-person and virtual

The Bhagavad-gita is a renowned as a jewel of India's spiritual wisdom. As a theological and philosophical classic, the Bhagavad-gita summarizes the conclusions of the Vedas, the ancient scriptures written over 5000 years ago in the Sanskrit language. In every generation, over thousands of years, it has provided unceasing inspiration to thinkers, leaders, and spiritualists alike. Deepening our understanding of the Gita benefits from the company of others where we can discuss and question what we read and consider applications for day-to-day life. Join Hindu Advisor Preeta Banerjee every other Friday this semester for conversation and learning; no prior knowledge is necessary, and you do not need to attend every session. Please RSVP by emailing Hindu Advisor Preeta Banerjee.

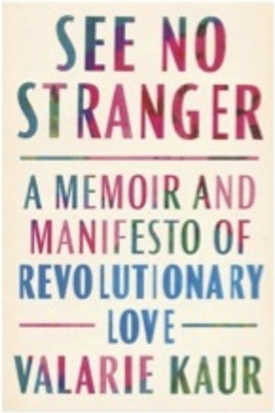
Discernment Dinner General Interest Meeting with the Protestant Chaplaincy
Sunday, October 17, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Join Protestant Chaplain Reverend Dan Bell in the Austin Conference Room at Tisch Library for a conversation about the deep curiosities in or of our lives. In our questions about what major to choose, what career to pursue, where to live, and much else, there are deeper matters of finding meaning and purpose in our lives. The language of discernment and calling can help us explore these important questions through the lens of faith. You are invited to take part in a monthly series of dinner conversations to help support each other in discerning our calls in community. Please email Protestant Chaplain Rev. Dan Bell with any questions and to RSVP.

BRIDGING DIFFERENCES TUFTS TABLE
AND THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST INVITE YOU TO

WONDER: A PRACTICE OF TRANSFORMATION FOR OUR TUFTS COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

We welcome you virtually on
Thursday, October 21, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. ET



Join University Chaplaincy staff and the student Interfaith Ambassador team for an engaging and reflective conversation about a core practice for personal and community transformation, as envisioned by activist, lawyer, and filmmaker Valarie Kaur: wonder.

Kaur writes, **"It is easy to wonder about the internal life of the people closest to us. It is harder to wonder about people who seem like strangers or outsiders. But when we choose to wonder about people we don't know, when we imagine their lives and listen for their stories, we begin to expand the circle of those who we see as part of us."** (Kaur, 2020, p. 10-11)

Kaur is the author of *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love* and will be Tufts' Russell Spiritual Life Lecture speaker on campus in March 2022.

Register at go.tufts.edu/kaurtable

We will be raffling off 5 copies of Kaur's book *See No Stranger* to those present!

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Tufts Table on Wonder: A Practice of Transformation for our Tufts Community and Beyond
Thursday, October 21, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. ET, held virtually

Join Bridging Differences Tufts Table, the Office of the Provost, and the University Chaplaincy for an evening on Wonder, the first section of Valarie Kaur's book, *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*. We are excited to host you for a facilitated conversation, planned in large part by our Interfaith Ambassadors. You can register for the virtual event here.

Partner Programs

Tisch College Solomont Speaker Series: Peter Beinart on "Antisemitism, U.S.-Israel Relations, & the Moral Responsibilities of Power"
Thursday, October 14, 5:30 p.m., held virtually

Join the Center for the Humanities at Tufts (CHAT) and Tisch College for an engaging conversation with Peter Beinart, CNN political commentator, Editor-at-Large for Jewish Currents and Associate Professor of Journalism & Political Science at City University of New York. The second installment of a year-long series focused on antisemitism, this event will focus on Beinart's career, politics, foreign policy and the American-Israel relationship. The event is generously cosponsored by the Judaic Studies Program, the Middle Eastern Studies Program and the Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies. You can register to attend here.

Submit to the Trans Day of Remember 2021 Gallery
Proposals accepted until October 20

Now in its sixth year, this project is sponsored by the Tufts LGBT Center, the University Chaplaincy, and the SMFA at Tufts Student Affairs. This year, the Trans Day of Remembrance gallery will return to an in-person setting, and is welcoming proposals for site specific art installations and performances. The 2021 theme is *Trans Liberation*. Students are invited to submit proposals for installations at 230 Fenway in the Terrace Gallery (2nd Floor B-Side), LGBT Center, and/or Tisch Library. Proposals should consist of the following components: a short (~150-200 words) account of your personal interest in being a part of the project; a short proposal of your vision for the exhibition (medium, manner of display, etc.) including a rough breakdown of how you expect to use the $500 materials budget; a small portfolio consisting of up to three works that reflect your creative practice. The deadline to submit a proposal in PDF format is October 20 at 11:59pm. Artists of all skill and experience levels are invited to participate – no formal art training is necessary. The sponosrs only ask that you use your art to bring joy, hope, and your vision for our collective futures. You can find more information and the submission form here, and reach out to the LGBT Center with any questions.

Sponsored by CMHS

Project Connect

Meet new people, make meaningful connections, and build community on campus

Project Connect with Counseling and Mental Health Services
Meets throughout the Fall 2021 semester

Counseling and Mental Health Services (CMHS) hosts Project Connect to help students build meaningful connections with each other. Ninety-six percent of students who participated last semester said they would re-enroll in the program and ninety-six percent said would recommend it to a friend. CMHS is excited to be recruiting participants for this next round of Project Connect, which will begin meeting the week of October 17 and will end the week of November 15. A few details to note: the program is for both grad and undergrad students; there are several different time options for students (when you click on the link, they can choose the time slot that works best for you); and CMHS is offering both Zoom and in-person options. You can sign up for Project Connect here, and reach out to Mental Health Promotion Specialist Erica Schonman at CMHS with more questions.

Resources, Scholarships and Opportunities

Apply to the Healthy Herd
Rolling applications are now open

The Tufts Healthy Herd is an undergraduate student group dedicated to creating engaging and educational content surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic and other wellness related concerns. The team will be advised by Tim Jordan, Assistant Director of Residential Life, Ian Wong, Director of Health Promotion and Prevention, and Melissa Lee, Communications Specialist. Content Team members are current students who are creative self-starters that are interested in helping the Tufts community during the 2021-2022 academic year. The Tufts Healthy Herd will be tasked with creating videos, graphics, and outreach that help students better understand the ability to navigate life at Tufts safely. This group will manage its own social media accounts that are in coordination with the Tufts student life account. Both work study and non-work study eligible students may serve in this position. The Healthy Herd members will be employed for the 2021-2022 Academic year starting immediately and lasting until May 16. There will be additional opportunities for summer employment if desired. You can read the full job description and apply 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.

Navaratri
Ongoing through 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.

Dusserah (Vijaya Dashami)
Sat., Oct. 16, 2021
Tradition: Hinduism
A major Hindu festival celebrated at the end of Navaratri every year. It is observed on the tenth day in the Hindu calendar month of Ashvin, the seventh month of the Hindu Luni-Solar Calendar.

Mawlid an-Nabi

Mon., Oct. 18, 2021
Tradition: Islam
The birthday of the Prophet Muhammed. Begins at sundown.

Installation of Granth Sahib Ji as Guru
Wed., Oct. 20, 2021
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.

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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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