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Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 3.3.21

A note from our Humanist Chaplain

Greetings everyone,

This week, the Sun is directly overhead, the days and nights are of equal length, and we welcome the beginning of Spring.

Where I grew up, in southeastern North Carolina, spring was as much about the blooming azaleas and awakening Venus flytraps as it was about the promise of community. Spring was the reliable invitation to block parties, to flower festivals, to nights on the riverfront.

There is a different kind of compassion—or, as some might say, humanism—that comes from being in community outdoors. Through touch and sight and smell, we're reminded of the interconnectedness of all things, that our community is not just our family or our neighborhood or our town, but our ecosystem. In nature, your complexity, each of your faults and gifts, are validated. You are a product of nature and to nature you will return. That's sometimes hard to see in a closed space or behind a screen.

These days, I think back often to how we marked Spring in my hometown. I moved away more than eleven years ago, and I haven't been able to visit since 2019. This past year, for all our challenges, I've found wonderful moments of community outdoors with the people I love—but there's something special about how I'd find that in the place that raised and nurtured and challenged me through my young life.

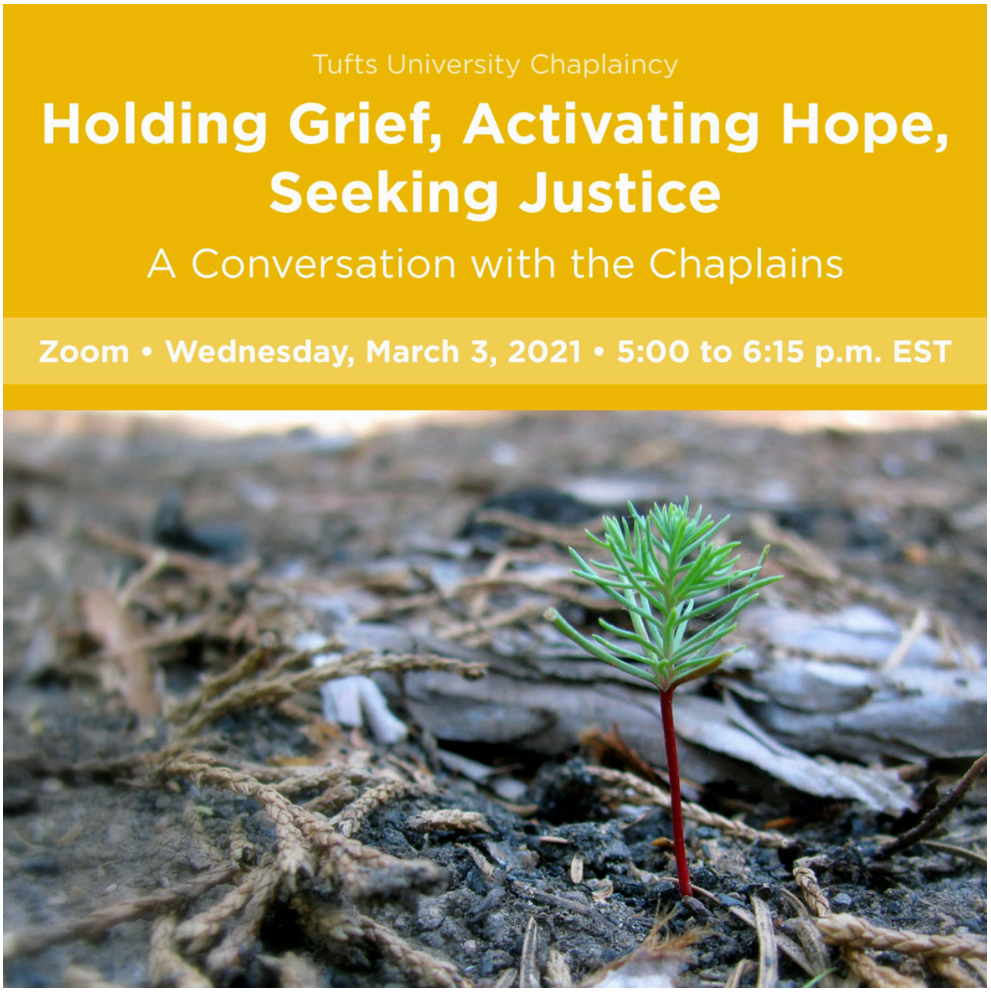
In one story in her collection *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, Doris Betts writes of her home state, and mine, of North Carolina: "it scares me, suddenly, to know that I can't remember how home sounds. Not one bird call, nor the water over rocks. There's so much you can't save by writing down."

I'm invited by this not to try desperately to mark those sounds of home, to keep them from continuing to slip away, but to thank them as I do remember them, and to welcome in the new sounds I've found in the many homes beyond where I was born. The crush of the blanket of leaves in the Fells, the birds that sing with new purpose even downtown, the rhythm of an MBTA train—each of these is a vibration from an essential part of the community we share, indeed one that is itself connected in the air and water to the one where I grew up. I wonder, too, what sounds are welcoming to you where you are.

I hope the days of Spring bring you moments of compassion and connection also. Even as the windy and chilly days continue, even as barriers remain between us in the interest of safety, I hope you see new harmony in the world you share with those you love. And I hope those sounds of home, wherever they are for you and wherever you come to find them, are an offering of peace in whatever way you need it.

Peace,
Walker Bristol
Humanist Chaplain

Happening Today



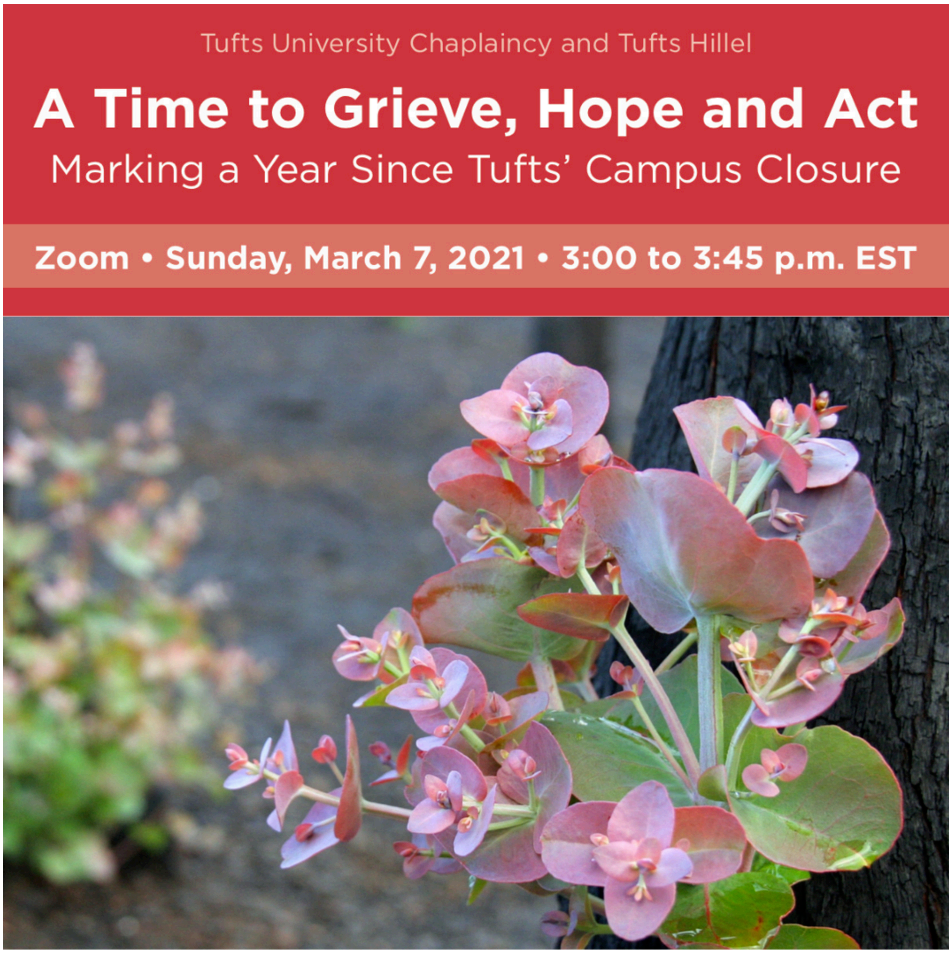
Holding Grief, Activating Hope, Seeking Justice: A Conversation with the Chaplains
Wednesday, March 3, 5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. ET

Please join the University Chaplaincy's multifaith team for a panel and small-group discussions on grief, hope, and justice. As religious and philosophical leaders, chaplains will speak to the ways genuine hope emerges out of honest lament. We will have space for small group discussions on how this process connects to the work of justice and to building resiliency, and we will share a meal together. This event is hosted by the Interfaith Student Council and University Chaplaincy and includes a meal voucher sponsored by the University Chaplaincy. You can register for the event here.

Religious and Philosophical Life Programs

You can find more information about our many weekly gatherings and student group meetings on our website. You can also find the Zoom links for all events and gatherings there. In this section, we feature a weekly gathering hosted by one of our chaplaincies or religious and philosophical student groups, and highlight events and offerings from our chaplaincies. You can always reach out to the chaplain listed for more information, or find details on our website. If you have an idea for how University Chaplaincy programming can better serve you, please contact program manager Nora Bond.

See weekly gatherings



A Time to Grieve, Hope, and Act: Marking a Year Since Tufts' Campus Closure
Sunday, March 7, 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. ET

The Tufts community is invited to come together for "A Time to Grieve, Hope, and Act," as we mark a year since Tufts' campus closure last March. Through reflections by students and chaplains, music and candle lighting, this program will feature the opportunity:

- To name the loss of family and friends, the impact of systematic violence on multiple communities, the realities of loneliness and uncertainty, and so much more
- To uplift our hopes, our sources of grounding, strength and resilience, and
- To renew our commitments to healing and justice for ourselves and this community

This multifaith, inter-generational community gathering is hosted by students, chaplains, and staff from the University Chaplaincy and Hillel and will include welcoming words by President Monaco. You can register for the event here.

Healing and Self-Care for the Asian American Community
Thursday, March 4, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET

Join the Asian American Center, Counseling and Mental Health Services, and the University Chaplaincy as we come together to focus on healing and self-care as liberation. We will hear from Andrew Yuen, Asian American community Counseling and Mental Health Services liaison, and Preeta Banerjee, Hindu Advisor as they provide tips to think about community care and mental wellness while processing what has happened in the community in the last year. You can register for the event here.

“Me, About Me”: DJ Mixer and Celebration
Friday, March 5, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Please join the Humanist Community at Tufts for a virtual mixer and spring party open to all. We’re bringing the guest DJ and game host, Amir Kinara, to set the mood with music and host Wrong Answers Only, and we encourage you to enter this energizing space and feel a renewed aliveness with others. Put on your dancing shoes, grab some snacks, and invite your friends to celebrate something definitely worth celebrating this spring: you! Find more information and the link to join on the Facebook event page.

Protestant Evening Worship hosts Rev. Jen Bailey
Sunday, March 7, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET

The Protestant Chaplaincy and Protestant Students Association are excited to welcome the Rev. Jennifer Bailey, A09, as our guest preacher at Protestant Evening Worship. Named one of 15 Faith Leaders to Watch by the Center for American Progress, Reverend Jennifer Bailey is an ordained minister, public theologian, and a national leader in the multi-faith movement for justice. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Faith Matters Network and Co-Founder of the People's Supper, a project that aims to repair the breach in our interpersonal relationships across political, ideological, and identity difference over shared meals. Rev. Bailey is ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Follow her at @revjenbailey. We are thrilled to welcome her home to Tufts. Following the service, please join us for informal conversation with Rev. Bailey.

Wendell Phillips Speaker Audition

Subscribe to our email list.

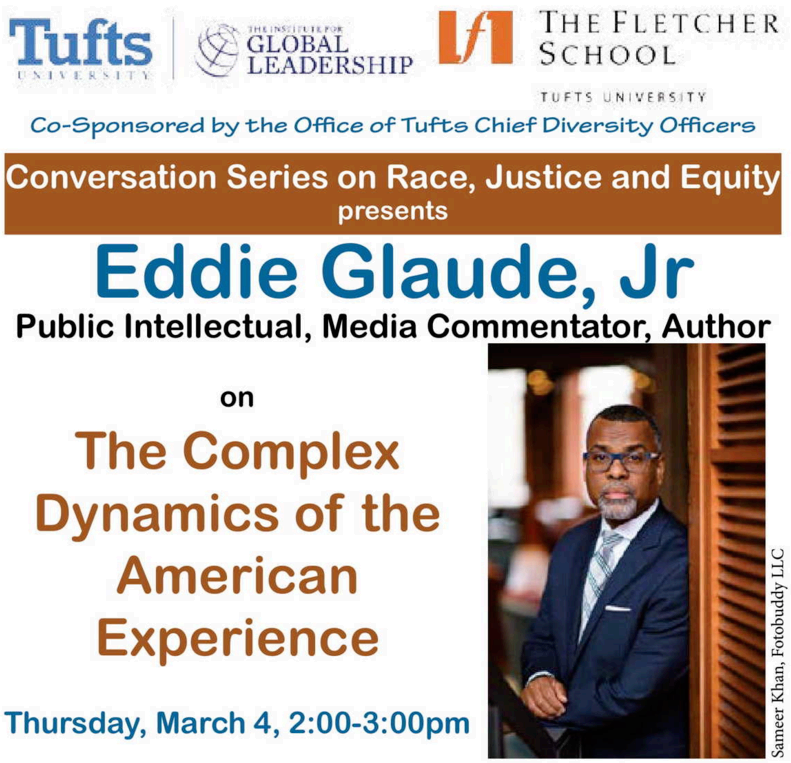
The Wendell Phillips Award was established in 1896. The award is given annually to a senior who demonstrates both marked ability as a speaker and a high sense of public responsibility. Selected by the Committee on Student Life, the winner is the one graduating senior invited to offer a speech as part of Commencement, and the speech takes place during the Baccalaureate Ceremony. The speech is intended to deliver a message about civic engagement in our time. This year, the Wendell Phillips Speaker Audition will take place virtually. Our four finalists will share their ten minute speeches with the Tufts community, and the Committee on Student Life will choose one speaker to give the Wendell Phillips Address for the 2021 Baccalaureate Ceremony. Please see the University Chaplaincy website for more information, and register to be an audience member for the auditions.

Save the Date: Annual Russell Lecture
Wednesday, April 7, 4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. ET

The Russell Lecture is the oldest lectureship at Tufts, and each year brings a distinguished lecturer to speak on a topic relating to spiritual life. This spring, we will host Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, president of Sojourners magazine and author of *Mobilizing Hope: Faith-Inspired Activism for a Post Civil Rights Generation*. Taylor also serves on the Global Advisory Board of Tearfund UK and is a member of the inaugural class of the Aspen Institute Civil Society Fellowship. We are glad and honored to host him virtually this spring. You will soon be able to register for the event on our website.

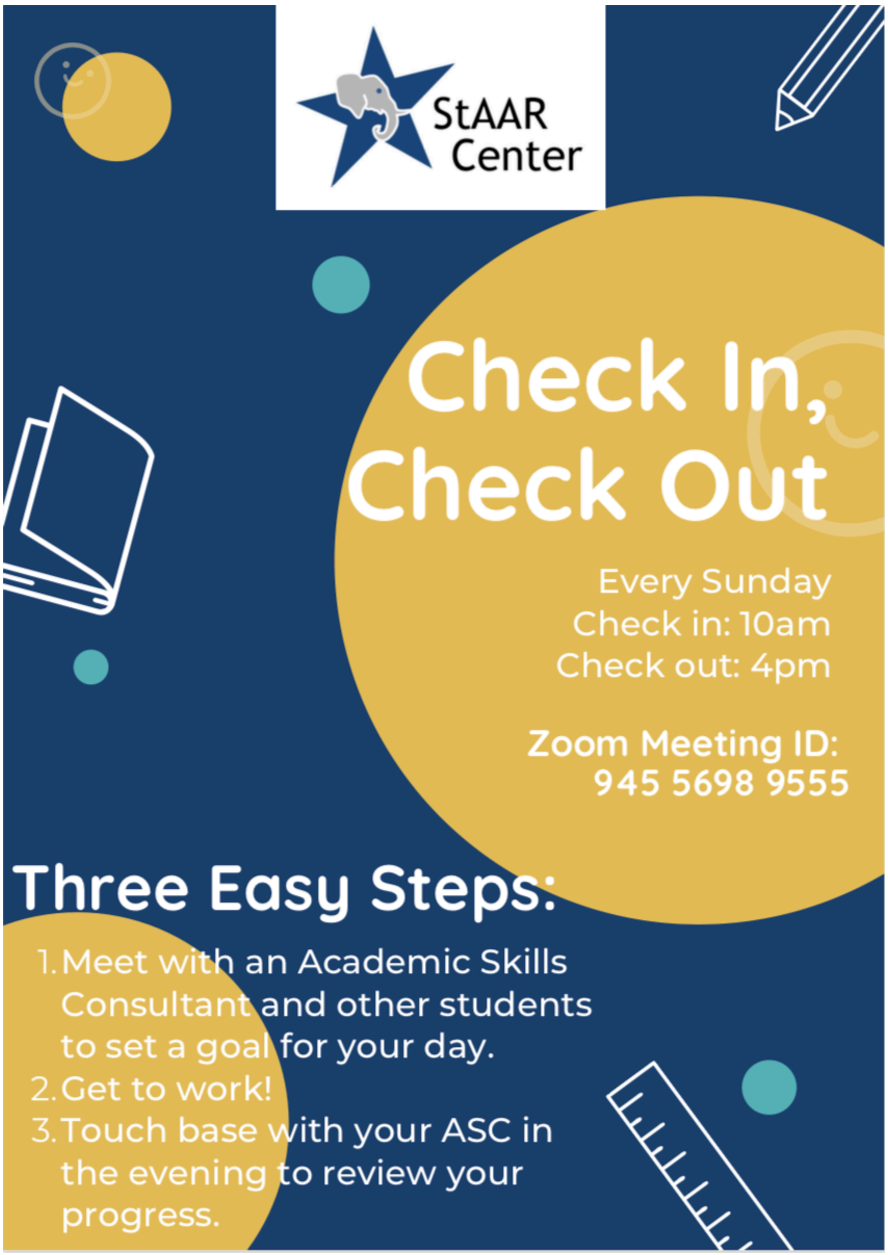
Rev. Adam Russell Taylor

Partner Programs



Global Perspectives on Race, Justice and Equity with Professor Eddie Glaude, Jr
Thursday, March 4, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET

The IGL-Fletcher Conversation Series on Race, Justice and Equity will feature Professor Eddie Glaude, Jr. to lead a discussion on The Complex Dynamics of the American Experience. Professor Glaude is the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor and Chair of African American Studies at Princeton University. His most well-known books, *Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul*, and I*n a Shade of Blue: Pragmatism and the Politics of Black America*, take a wide look at Black communities, the difficulties of race in the United States, and the challenges U.S. democracy faces. In light of the university's new initiative to make Tufts an antiracist Institution, Professor Eddie Glaude's theme is of particular relevance. If you intend to participate, please register here.



Check In, Check Out with StAAR Center Coaches
Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET

Join Academic Coaches and Skills Consultants on Sundays for a full day of goal-setting and independent work. “Check-In” with a Coach at the start of the day to set intentional goals and troubleshoot getting started. “Check-Out” via email at day’s end by reporting on your successes and challenges. Register on Tutor Finder.

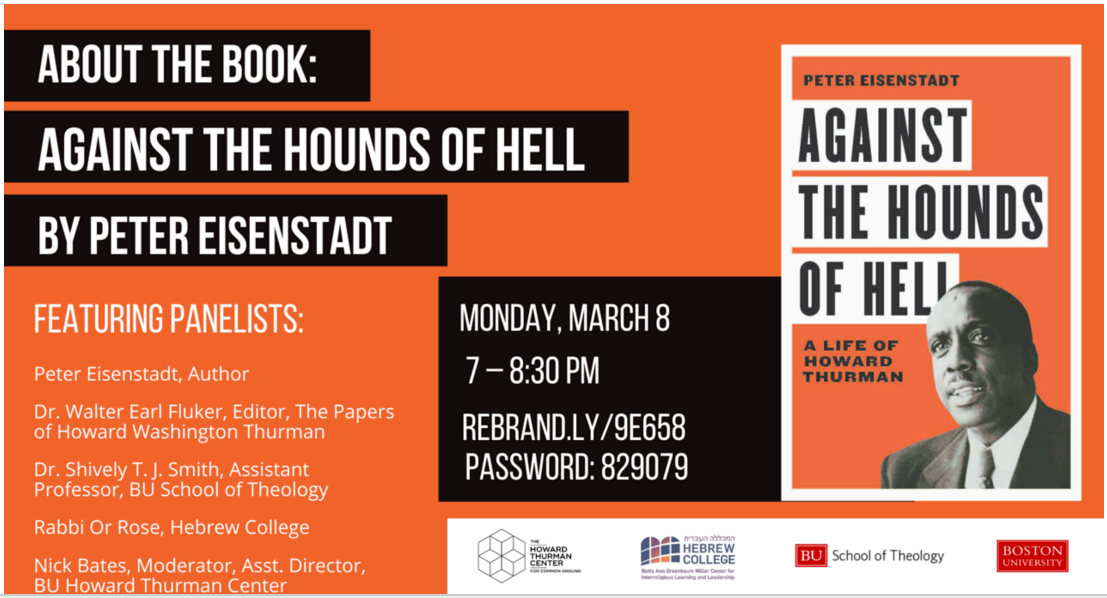
Zooming While Black
Friday, March 5, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

Hosted by Counseling and Mental Health Services, this workshop is focused on identifying, managing, and reducing the stressors of using Zoom as a Black person. It is open to all Black-identified undergraduate and graduate students at Tufts (on and off-campus). To ask any questions, please contact facilitators Dr. Candyce Burke-Auguste and Dr. Damon Pryor. Please register for the workshop here.

Apply for the Israeli Arts Fellowship
Applications due March 7

The Israeli Arts Fellowship (IAF) is a nine-week porgram designed to introduce you to various Israeli artists and art movements while building community around visual and performing art. The fellowship will meet Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for interactive creative workshops with Israeli artists, peer-lead learning, and collaborative artmaking spanning across the performing and visual arts. Fellows receive funding for project materials, free dinners and snacks, creative mentorship, and exhibition space. This program is open to all Tufts undergraduate students, regardless of artistic experience/discipline, academic field, or religious background. All students with interests in visual or performing arts, Israel, or community building are encouraged to apply here.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities



Against the Hounds of Hell: A Life of Howard Thurman
Monday, March 8, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. ET

Peter Eisenstadt's *Against the Hounds of Hell* offers a rich biographical exploration of the life and legacy of Howard Thurman. The Howard Thurman Center is proud to host Eisenstadt in conversation with fellow Thurman scholars to discuss the book and the man himself. Moderated by Nick Bates, the panel will include Peter Eisenstadt, Dr. Walter Earl Fluker, Dr. Shively T. J. Smith, and Rabbi Or Rose. Please join the conversation here.

Immigrant Faith Communities as Anti-Racist Allies
Thursday, March 11, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ET

Systemic racism and white supremacy have long deployed "divide and conquer" tactics, pitting racial and ethnic communities against one another. Yet, anti-racist work is growing from and within immigrant faith communities. Join field leaders for this conversation, hosted by the Interfaith Youth Core. Click here to register.

Islamic Scholarship Fund
Apply by Sunday, March 21

The Islamic Scholarship Fund (ISF) is now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year. Every year, the ISF awards up tp $10,000 in scholarships to up and coming changemakers in media, policy, and film, to advance the representation, interests, and portrayal of Muslims and Muslim life. Please find more information, including eligibility requirements and frequently asked questions on the ISF website.

Durham University
Institute for Medical Humanities

Institute for Faith and Resilience

Share your experience with the Spriituality, Covid-19, and Resilience Survey

The Spirituality, Covid-19, and Resilience Survey (SCARS) is a study supported by the Institute for Medical Humanities at Durham University in the UK and the Institute for Faith and Resilience in the US. The survey addresses the relationship between spirituality/religion/non-religion and coping with stress during the pandemic in

will help us to understand the role of religion and spirituality in times of personal, social, and national crisis. To participate, click 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. See below for a Tufts community member's personal excperience of an observance listed here.

Nineteen Day Fast
Sunday, 2.28 – Friday, 3.19.2021
Tradition: Baha'i
A designated 19-day period of fasting each year immediately before the Bahá'í New Year. The fasting is seen as a period of spiritual preparation and regeneration for the new year ahead.

Laylat al-Isra'wa al-Mi'raj (Mi'raj al-Nabiy)
Wednesday, 3.10.2021
Tradition: Islam
Commemorates the ascension (al-Mi'raj) of the Prophet to heaven following his night journey (al Isra') from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascent to heaven and return the same night. Begins at sundown.

Maha Shivaratri
Thursday, 3.11.2021
Tradition: Hinduism
A feast dedicated to the Hindu deity Shiva. The night before the feast fasting is observed, texts are recited, songs are sung, and stories told in honor of this God whose cosmic dance creates, preserves, destroys, and recreates the world.

Spotlight On: Lent

"After what happened during this past year, I am observing Lent as a period of deep reflection. I really want to use this time to think about everything I learned with the pandemic and to be thankful for all the beautiful moments that brought light to my life. Also, I want to think about everything Jesus had to endure in order to save us, as there is no better demonstration of how much we all are loved and worthy." - Carolina Lopes, A23, member of the Catholic Community at Tufts

Purple is the color associated with the Christian liturgical season of Lent

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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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