A Reflection from our University Chaplain

Dear Tufts Community,

Last Thursday, we hosted our first concert collaboration with the Latinx Center, In Living Memory: A Concert of Stories and Songs. Aglow with candlelight and the warm hues of marigolds and pumpkins, Goddard Chapel was open for a signature program for the first time in twenty months. We heard beautiful organ music, talented a cappella singers, and moving poetry, and then enjoyed a wonderful reception of donuts, candy, and cider in the beautiful evening on the chapel steps. It was a poignant, reverent, and joyful night to remember, and I continue to be grateful to our collaborators and the student leaders who participated so fully. If you were unable to make it, I hope you can join us next year! The ofrenda, installed by a School of the Museum of Fine Arts student and pictured above, is here in Goddard Chapel until Friday, November 12, if you are able to stop in.

Feeling the chapel so full made me even more excited for our forthcoming winter concert Pax et Lux: A Multifaith Celebration on Thursday, December 9. You are invited to attend and enjoy performances by Tufts a cappella groups, dance teams, and musicians, as well as story-telling from Tufts community members. Our inaugural Interfaith Ambassadors are planning the event with the University Chaplaincy team, and more details will be available soon.

As the semester’s end approaches and intensity increases, I wish you moments of rest and restoration.
Peace,

Reverend Elyse Nelson Winger
University Chaplain

Religious and Philosophical Life Programs
Busy Person's Retreat
Friday, November 12, 3-8pm
Starting at Goddard Chapel
Ending at the Interfaith Center

All are welcome as we gather to pause and reflect mid-semester. We know that you are busy folks, but you are also hungry for connection and the opportunity to tend to your spiritual life. Come be together. Lay your burdens down and let your spirit be lifted. Our time together will include a meal. Email Lynn.Cooper@Tufts.edu to sign up or learn more.
Diwali Puja
Saturday, November 13, 5:30 p.m.

Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. Diwali, which for some also coincides with harvest and new year celebrations, is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. Join on Saturday, November 13 for Diwali Puja at 5:30 p.m. at Remis Sculpture Court, hosted by the Hindu Student Council, followed by a dinner hosted by Tufts Association of South Asians (TASA). Find more info at this Facebook event page.
Muslim Student Association Fall Dinner
Saturday, November 13, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Muslim Student Association (MSA) will host their annual Fall dinner at the Tufts Interfaith Center. Speaker Saddam Hammoudeh will share on the theme "Islam and Wellness" and dinner and dessert will be provided. The Tufts community is welcome, and please email the Tufts MSA to RSVP.
Environmentalism: A Jewish Lens
Tuesday, November 16, 7:00 p.m.

Come join in conversation with Eco Reps, Community Building Fellows, and Hillel Board members about environmentalism from a Jewish perspective, environmentalism through Torah, and ways that we can use our values to combat climate change. The gathering will be held at the Granoff Family Hillel Center. Check out the Facebook event page here. You can register for this event here.

Partner Programs
Conference on Gender and International Affairs
Friday, November 19 - Saturday, November 20

Join the Fletcher School for this year’s conference on Gender and International Affairs (CGIA). Registration for virtual and in-person is now available. This year’s theme, “Radical Optimism: Transforming Positivity into Power,” will highlight how optimism can be wielded as a formidable tool to bring about change and action on a global scale. Panels/workshops for this year include: Bringing feminism into International Relations: A Road to Optimism; Queer Perspectives in International Relations, and more. You can register for the event here, and find more information on the CGIA website.
Cherish Chinatown Challenge  
Ongoing in November

Join Tufts students, staff members, and faculty members in supporting small businesses in Boston’s Chinatown by participating in the Cherish Chinatown Challenge. To enter the challenge, order from locally owned Chinatown restaurants, bakeries, and stores in November. After you make a purchase (in-person or delivery), enter into the weekly Cherish Chinatown Challenge raffle. Twenty winners will receive $25 restaurant gift cards to restaurants in Boston’s Chinatown. You can learn more about the challenge, and see the FAQ here.

Resources, Scholarships and Opportunities

Harvard Square Homeless Shelter Volunteering with the Catholic Chaplaincy

Wednesday Breakfast Shift (leave campus 6 AM and return 9:30 AM); sign up today through email.

All are welcome as we rekindle our relationship with the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter. Starting November 3, we will send 3-4 Tufts community members to help serve breakfast at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter, located in University Lutheran Church, 66 Winthrop St. Cambridge, MA (in the middle of Harvard Square). The University Chaplaincy will provide a T Pass for transportation on the 96 bus into Harvard Square, which stops at 6:10 a.m. in front of the LGBT Center. Volunteers travel together and we will send new folks with returners to offer support and guidance. As a volunteer, you decide which weeks you are able to serve. We will have this shift through the spring semester. Please email Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper if you are interested in signing up or learning more. You do not need to be Catholic to participate.
Howard Thurman Lecture with Dr. Lerone Martin
Wednesday, November 17, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., held virtually.

Candler School of Theology's Black Church Studies program invites you to attend the 2021 Howard Thurman Lecture, "Howard Thurman and the Future of the Black Church." The lecture will be presented by Dr. Lerone Martin, associate professor of religion and politics in the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University in Saint Louis. You can register for this Zoom webinar here.
Film and Media Studies Winternships
Applications due Monday, November 22.

Tufts Film and Media Studies offers an intensive media internship program called Winternships, which takes place over winter break and is open to all Tufts students. Applications are open and are due on Monday, November 22. Participating locations include Boston, Philadelphia, New York, and Los Angeles. Please see application for dates and details. Please direct any questions to Leslie Goldberg, Internship Administrator.

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.

Guru Nanak’s Birthday
Thu., Nov. 18, 2021
Tradition: Sikhism
Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurpurab, also known as Guru Nanak's Prakash Utsav and Guru Nanak Dev Ji Jayanti, celebrates the birth of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak. One of the most celebrated Sikh gurus and the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev is highly revered by the Sikh community.

Day of the Covenant
Wed., Nov. 24, 2021
Tradition: Baha’i
Celebrates the anniversary of the appointment of 'Abdu'l-Baha, the son of Baha'u'llah, as the Center of the Covenant. Work is not suspended on this day. Begins at sundown.

Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji
Wed., Nov. 24, 2021
Tradition: Sikhism
This day commemorates the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (1621-1675), the ninth of the Ten Sikh Gurus. He is remembered not only for his defense of the Sikh faith, but also of Hinduism and of religious liberty.

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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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