A Greeting From Your Humanist Chaplain

Dear Tufts Community,

Our bodies are once again adjusting to the cycle of life in the spring. Perhaps we feel more energized, enjoying longer days of sunlight, and afternoons of the Prez Lawn with friends. And yet, as spring begins, we are simultaneously already preparing for next semester – choosing classes, planning events and programs, deciding about what comes next. In this way, we continue to experience both times of pause and orientation to what’s to come.

I recall In Living Memory: A Concert of Stories and Songs that occurred this past fall. This offering emerged in 2021 as an act of love towards greater inclusion, celebration, and representation of stories, songs, and altares shared by students from the SMFA, Latinx Center, and the University Chaplaincy. Planning for this event starts in the summer, a seed planted under the warm sun that doesn’t flourish until late fall.

What new things would you like to discover, deepen, or even challenge within yourself during this summer? What seeds are you planting now that will flourish later, and how can you give those seeds the best ecosystem possible?

For me, I will write most of my dissertation chapters on Afro-Caribbean subjectivities and spiritualities, as well as prepare to be a visiting lecturer at the ExCollege with the class "Humanism for Everyday Life." I know I will need time and space to write, as well as catch up on some of the books that I have acquired over this past year and actually read them for pleasure.
Sometime this spring, consider your fall self and when making decisions and/or choosing what to allow into your life. Think about how you want to water, soil, nurture, pruning, or even replanting the seeds that will soon be the garden of your life.

In growth and opportunities,

Anthony Cruz Pantojas  
Humanist Chaplain

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Apply to be an Interfaith Ambassador

**BY FRIDAY APRIL 28**

Interfaith Ambassador with the University Chaplaincy

Apply by Friday, April 28

In Fall 2021, the Tufts University Chaplaincy piloted a new Interfaith Ambassador Program for undergraduate students. This team of Interfaith Ambassadors works in collaboration with University Chaplaincy staff, campus student leaders and organizations, and community groups to create more inclusive multifaith spaces on campus. Ambassadors offer opportunities to bring people of diverse backgrounds and beliefs together for reflection, community-building, advocacy, and service. To learn more about the role click here.

Apply now
Senior and Young Alumni Awards Night
Wednesday, April 26, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Interfaith Center (58 Winthrop St)

This year, the University Chaplaincy hosts its second annual celebration to honor and uplift the wonderful contributions of our seniors and young alumni across all of our religious and philosophical communities. Our Senior & Young Alumni Awards will provide an opportunity for our community to nominate and celebrate our graduating seniors. Delicious food and mocktails will be served. All nominees will be honored at our gathering, and guests are welcome. You can RSVP here for Awards Night.
How does white Christian nationalism impact a multifaith and multiracial democracy? The Interfaith Ambassador team, University Chaplaincy, and the Tufts Department of Religion invite you to an event series featuring bestselling author and renowned public scholar, Dr. Anthea Butler. Dr. Butler will deliver a lecture on her book *White Evangelical Racism: The Politics of Morality in America* and join us for dinner and a discussion on Thursday, April 27. The book asks individuals to consider their role in this larger history, and in Friday’s session, we will explore together the contours of American and global nationalisms in the major justice issues of our day.

Register at go.tufts.edu/unpacking or scan the QR code

Anthea Butler is Geraldine R. Segal Professor in American Social Thought, and chair of the department of Religious Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. A historian of African American and American religions, Professor Butler’s research and writing spans African American religion and history, race, politics, Evangelicalism, gender and sexuality, media, and popular culture. You can find more of her writing and public engagement at AntheaButler.com.

This series is made possible thanks to grant funding from The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations
The first 25 students to visit the Chaplaincy Office at Goddard Chapel after registering will receive a copy of *White Evangelical Racism: The Politics of Morality in America* prior to the event. This event is funded by the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations and is a part of Tufts University's Religious Diversity and Civic Life Initiative.

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**Religious and Philosophical Programs**

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**TENZIN TSUNDUE**

*Renowned writer, poet, and Tibetan refugee and activist*

**Wednesday, April 19**
**7 PM, Barnum 104**

**A discussion on activism and the struggle for Tibetan freedom**

Tenzin Tsundue is a prolific writer and speaker on the Tibetan freedom struggle, with four major works published that explore resistance, culture, and identity. His work has inspired books, movies, and plays. As a protest activist, he has been arrested 16 times.

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**Presented by**

*Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha*

*Tufts South Asian Political Action Community*

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**Free momo dumplings provided!**

**More info and RSVP below:**

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**Tibetan refugee, activist, writer, and poet Tenzin Tsundue**

**Wednesday, April 19, 7:00 p.m. at Barnum Hall Room 104**

With the South Asian Political Action Community, the Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha (TBMS) will be hosting Tibetan refugee, activist, writer, and poet Tenzin Tsundue. Tenzin will be speaking about his life, his new book, and answering audience questions. Please fill out this [Google Form to](#)
RSVP! Finally, if you haven’t already, make sure to join the TBMS Discord community and follow us on Instagram for more updates.

Interfaith Iftaar
Wednesday, April 19, 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Breed Hall (51 Winthrop St)

Join the Muslim Community at Tufts for their annual Interfaith Iftar during Ramadan. Learn more about Ramadan and engage with the Muslim community at Tufts with prayers and a shared meal. All are welcome!
Reproductive Justice and Spirituality

Thursday, April 20, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Women's Center (55 Talbot Ave)

Join for a discussion about reproductive justice and spirituality co-hosted by the Tufts University Interfaith Ambassadors, the Women's Center, and Advocates for Youth. This is a space affirming reproductive rights. All are welcome.
Vespers with the Orthodox Christian Fellowship
Thursday, April 20, 6:30 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Join the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) for Vespers with Fr. Anthony Tandilyan. There will be an evening service and a short sermon from Fr. Anthony! Celebrate and learn about Bright Week and the Resurrection of Christ!

All are welcome!
Holi with Tufts Hindu Students Association
Saturday, April 22, 12:00 p.m. on the Residential Quad

Join the Tufts Hindu Students Association on Saturday (rain or shine) for Holi! Please email Hindu Chaplain Preeta Banerjee with any questions, and come dressed in clothes you can get covered in color! All are welcome.
True Colors Presents: Queer Spiritual Advisors Panel
Tuesday, April 25, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., LGBT Center

Please join True Colors for a dinner and panel discussion with queer spiritual advisors and chaplains from the Tufts community. Panelists include Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, and Protestant chaplains that work at Tufts and in our surrounding communities. Our chaplains will discuss how queerness shapes their religious, spiritual, and philosophical practices, as well as how they found their calling as spiritual advisors and chaplains. Students of all spiritual or philosophical backgrounds, including none at all, are welcome, and can RSVP and submit questions here! Sugar and Spice dinner will be provided. We can’t wait to see you there! You can contact Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell with any questions.
In the age of neoliberal hustle, constant credentialing demands, and endemic flux, how might we make “the art of living” more meaningful and sustainable?

Join Dr. Justin Jiménez, StAAR Center Academic Coach and Faculty Affiliate in the Department of Education, and Anthony Cruz Pantojas, Humanist Chaplain to explore how your academic journey at Tufts can be better aligned with your core values and aspirations. Together, we will center personal stories and clarify the big questions that make us move.

Partner Programs

Living A Meaningful Life: Academics and What Matters To You
Wednesday, April 26, 12:00 p.m. at the Interfaith Center

In the age of neoliberal hustle, constant credentialing demands, and endemic flux, how might we make “the art of living” more meaningful and sustainable? Join Dr. Justin Jiménez, StAAR Center Academic Couch and Humanist Chaplain Anthony Cruz Pantojas to explore how your academic journey at Tufts can be better aligned with your core values and aspirations. Together, we will center personal stories and clarify the big questions that make us move. Pizza will be provided. Please email Humanist Chaplain Anthony Cruz Pantojas with any questions.
These Violent Delights
Saturday, April 22, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Join this forum of Humanist organizers, thinkers, and practitioners to explore and assess collective needs of secular communities in the United States and abroad in this season of growing global toxic polarization and threat. Click here for more information.

GLADC Listening and Dialogue Dinner
Monday, April 24, 5:30 p.m. in the Coolidge Room, Ballou Hall 210.

What are the dialogue skills needed for polarizing conversations? How do we restore community after a difficult experience? This Listening and Dialogue with Dinner (LADD) event, hosted by the Tufts’ Generous Listening and Dialogue Center (GLADC), seeks to help us reflect on these questions while practicing our generous listening and dialogue skills. The GLADC’s Dialogue Ambassadors, Tufts
graduate and undergraduate students, will facilitate listening and dialogue exercises over a community dinner. You can RSVP for the dinner here.

Neurodiversity Button Making!
Friday, April 28, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Tisch Library Room 204

Come to Tisch Library Room 204 to make a neurodiversity-themed button! We will have many designs to choose from, and/or you can send us a personalized design through the RSVP form. You can contact the Crehan Lab with any questions.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities
Fall 2023 Course Live Now

This week Fall 2023 registration begins this week. Follow this link to see our full course guide of Fall 2023 religion courses and their descriptions! Don't miss out on these great additions to your schedule, such as Nicholas Andersen's new gateway course REL 02-09: African American Religions and Brian Hatcher's long-awaited REL 32: Gurus, Cults, and Utopias.
**SustainableCORE Fellow**
Apply by Tuesday April 25 at 12:00 p.m.

SustainableCORE Fellows work to foster a culture of sustainability at Tufts. They engage in inclusive community building that emphasizes sustainable action, equity, and celebration. This paid position requires about three to five hours of work per week. Applications are open from now through April 25. Click here to apply. Contact Office of Sustainability with any questions.

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**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.

**Ramadan**
Wed., Mar. 22 – Fri., Apr. 21, 2023
Tradition: Islam
The Holy Month of Ramadan is the month of fasting during which Muslims who are physically able do not eat or drink from the first sign of dawn until sunset in honor of the first revelations to the Prophet Muhammad. The evening meal is celebrated with family and in community.

**Eid al-Fitr ('Id al-Fitr)**
Thu., Apr. 20 – Sun., Apr. 23, 2023
Tradition: Islam
Also known as the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast. One of the two main Islamic festivals (the other is Eid al-
Adha), this day celebrates the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting. It comes on the first day of the next lunar month, Shawal.

**Ridvan**
Thu., Apr. 20 – Tue., May 2, 2023
Tradition: Baha'i
Commemorates the 12 days that Baha'u'llah spent in the Garden of Ridvan in the last days of his exile in Baghdad, during which time he proclaimed himself as the one announced by Bab. Work is suspended for the first, ninth, and twelfth days.

**Beltane**
Sun., Apr. 30, 2023
Tradition: Wicca/Paganism
The final fertility festival, celebrating the Earth's fecundity and anticipating the power of the sun and the Earth in summer.

**Ghambar Maidyozarem**
Sun., Apr. 30 – Thu., May 4, 2023
Tradition: Zoroastrianism
Celebrates the creation of the sky and harvesting of the winter crop.

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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.

[Give Today](#)

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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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