



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 9.28.22



Welcome from your Humanist Chaplain

Dear Jumbo Community,

Students, staff, faculty, and guests are moving through our various campuses as fall arrives. Many of us are settling into new or old rhythms and spaces. During the opening weeks of the academic year, it has been heartening to hear the different metaphors or stories that are keeping you grounded and hopeful. I wonder: how are you telling the story of your semester so far?

My Humanist lifestance mobilizes around storytelling to embody values that sustain meaningful and liberatory community. My credo of “storying the life you cherish the most” has provided me with different possibilities to think of relating differently, with more nuance, with more understanding. As an Afro-Boricua, my orientation and embodiment of Humanism is imbued by ancestral memory, crossing new thresholds so that knowledge and experience from the margins can flourish.

I invite you to consider the stories that have shaped your life, and the stories you will continue to write. How do you see yourself, compared to your first step on a Tufts campus? How do you think of the chapters of your life? What makes you feel most alive, and what are those stories? If you can, take some time this week to consider these questions.

Let us practice ethics of generosity and connection in how we hold our stories and others’ stories. May you cultivate and access the opportunities to life-giving narratives and meaning making processes that sustain you during your time here at Tufts.

Kosher Options at Dining Center

Tufts Dining and Tufts Hillel opened the new kosher-certified station in the Dewick-MacPhie Dining Center this month. It is the university's first supervised kosher platform in a dining center, and is also vegan, and will use compostable plates. The station will provide meals in compliance with Jewish laws, and be available to all. You can [read more about the station here on TuftsNow](#).



Photo courtesy of TuftsNow

Religious and Philosophical Programs

PROTESTANT EVENING WORSHIP
SUNDAY 10/2 @ 7PM, GODDARD CHAPEL

CLIMATE JUSTICE IS SOMETHING CHRISTIANS SHOULD CARE ABOUT

with Rev. Vernon Walker from CREW



Rev. Walker is the Program Director at Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW), a network of local leaders building grassroots climate resilience through inclusive & hands-on education, service, and planning. After graduating from Penn State University, Rev. Walker attended Boston University and earned a Master's Degree in Theological Studies with a focus on community engagement. All are welcome.



Creation Sunday with the Protestant Community

Sunday October 2, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Join Protestant Evening Worship this St. Francis Creation Sunday to hear from Rev. Vernon Walker, Program Director at Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW). Rev. Walker is a Senior Fellow at the Environmental Leadership Program and Senior Fellow at Tufts University Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life through the Institute for Nonprofit Practice. Rev. Walker is currently working towards earning a Master's Degree in Public Policy at Tufts University Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning where he is a 2022 Neighborhood Fellow. He will preach his sermon with the theme "Climate Justice is Something Christians Should Care About." All are welcome. You can [find more information about the organization and Rev. Walker on the CREW website.](#)

A SPECIAL PRESIDENT'S MENTAL
HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK EVENT

SPIRITUALITY, COMMUNITY, AND MENTAL HEALTH: A MULTIFAITH PEOPLE'S SUPPER

Thursday, October 6, 2022

5:30pm - 7:00pm

Rabb Room, Barnum Hall

Join us for a shared meal with
Tufts' chaplains in conversation about
mindfulness, resilience, and wellbeing.



University
Chaplaincy

Spirituality, Community, and Mental Health: A Multifaith People's Supper

Thursday, October 6, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Rabb Room, Barnum Hall

Join Tufts' chaplains for a meal to share stories and engage together in meaningful conversation about traditions and practices that contribute to mindfulness, resilience, and wellbeing. Please [contact the University Chaplaincy](#) with any questions and accessibility needs. If you realize you are unable to attend the event, please let us know 24 hours in advance. [Register for the event here](#) by Tuesday, October 4 at noon. You can find the [complete calendar of events for Mental Health Awareness Week here](#).

Partner Programs

Karen Kirsten

Cummings Speaker Series

September 28
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Join us for dinner with Karen Kirsten, an Australian-American writer and daughter of a Holocaust survivor, who lectures on the topics of hatred and reconciliation around the world.

Dinner will be served



Cummings/Hillel Program for Holocaust & Genocide Education Speaker Series: Karen Kirsten

Wednesday, September 28, 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Granoff Family Hillel Center

Join the Cummings/Hillel Program for Holocaust & Genocide Education to have dinner and hear from Karen Kirsten, an Australian-American writer who lectures on the topics of hatred and reconciliation around the world. Raised in Australia by a Holocaust survivor mother and grandparents who silenced her questions about extermination camps, Karen lived among refugees who were hiding horrible secrets to reinvent themselves. After Karen discovered the grandmother she loved was in fact her mother's aunt, she traveled the globe to uncover her family's hidden past. She found the heroes who saved her mother and then facilitated awarding them Righteous Among The Nations medals. Karen's essay, "Searching For The Nazi Who Saved My Mother's Life," was nominated for Best American Essays. She's also written for Salon, The Week, Więź in Poland, The Jerusalem Post, and Boston's NPR. As an educator for Facing History Facing Ourselves, Karen recognizes the importance of discussing students' most frequent question: "Was the SS officer who saved your mother a 'good' Nazi?" Dinner is provided, [please register here for this event](#).

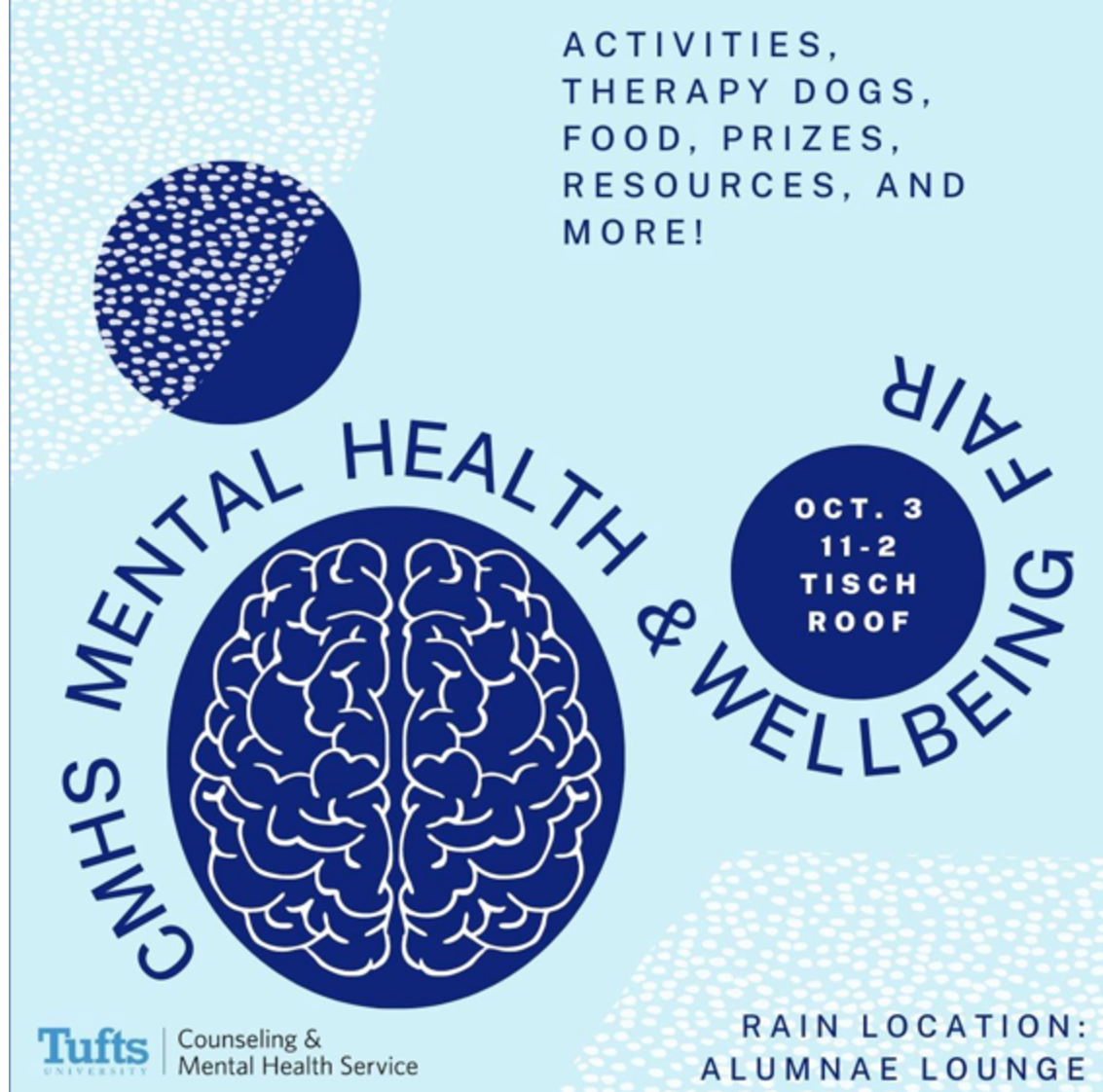
TUFTS COMMUNITY DAY

SUNDAY OCT. 2, 2022 11AM-3PM

Annual Tufts Community Day

Sunday, October 2, 2022 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the Academic Quad

The University Chaplaincy will be participating in this year's Community Day, with activities, a labyrinth, and an open house at Goddard Chapel. The day will include offerings from many Tufts departments and offices, including live performances, children's activities, free food and refreshments, research by Tufts faculty, and Medford and Somerville community groups and resource information. All activities are free and open to the public. There will be free parking from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. in any space on the main campus. The event will only be cancelled in case of extreme weather. More information can be found on the [Tufts University website](#) or by contacting the Office of Community Relations at 617-627-3780.



CMHS Mental Health & Wellbeing Fair

Monday, October 3, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tisch Roof

The Tufts University Chaplaincy will have a booth at this year's Mental Health and Wellbeing Fair. Our host, Counseling and Mental Health Services (CMHS) will also welcome many other representatives from Tufts centers/clubs/groups to engage with mental health resources, learn coping strategies, and have fun. There will be interactive booths, each with a mental health activity and theme, meant to help promote a community of caring and awareness around mental health. There will be therapy dogs, free food, and some great raffle prizes. Graduate and undergraduate students are welcome. Planned location is the Tisch Library Rooftop. Rain location is Alumnae Lounge. [Follow CMHS on Instagram](#) for more updates and info.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities

SAVE THE DATE NEW SURVEY RELEASE

The Role of Religion in Creating More Inclusive Public Spaces

Findings from the 2022 PRRI-EPU Religion and Inclusive Public Spaces Survey exploring American attitudes on reckoning with Confederate memorials

FEATURING

- **Robert P. Jones**, President and Founder, Public Religion Research Institute
- **Otis Pickett**, Eminent Scholar, E Pluribus Unum; University Historian, Clemson University
- **Lecia Brooks**, Chief of Staff and Culture, Southern Poverty Law Center
- **Becky Meriwether**, Former Board President, St. Charles Center for Faith and Action

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 28
6PM - 7:30PM (CDT)

St. Charles Center for Faith and Action,
at St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans
and Simulcast Live

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/PRRI-EUNUM>



Role of Religion in Creating More Inclusive Public Spaces Survey Release

Wednesday, September 28, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. CT

Public Religious Research Institute (PRRI) and E Pluribus Unum will present findings from a major new national public opinion survey, with oversamples of attitudes in 13 southern states, that explore American attitudes on reckoning with Confederate memorials and creating more inclusive public spaces. A panel discussion will address the development of strategies, based on the survey's findings, to foster dialogue and conversation among faith and community leaders toward building more inclusive spaces in the future. [Register here for this event virtually](#). Please note the event time is listed in Central Time.



Your First Heart is Not in Your Chest: An African Indigenous Interrogation of the 'Divine Feminine'

Recording now available

The resurgence of the "divine feminine" as a discursive concept and framework in religious studies and in popular practice in Europe and the United States, raises the question of the salience of the concept in African Religions. Although the presence of female deities in several African religious pantheons including Ifá in Nigeria and the understudied Luba of the Democratic Republic of Congo would indicate potential resonance with Western understandings of the "divine feminine," African indigenous ontologies and epistemologies resist framing the divine as feminine. Drawing from ethnographic research with Luba women whose religious practice

informs their positionality in war, Georgette Mulunda Ledgister demonstrates the African indigenous orientation towards un-gendered expressions of religion that allow practitioners to transcend the strictures and the structures of gender. The recording is linked above, and the event was hosted by Harvard Divinity School.

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

Mon., Sep. 26 – Tue., Oct. 4, 2022

Tradition: Hinduism

A nine-night (nav-rat) celebration of nine auspicious forms of Shakti/Devi (feminine divine power/the Goddess).

Dusserah (Vijaya Dashami)

Tue., Oct. 4, 2022

Tradition: Hinduism

Yom Kippur

Tue., Oct. 4 – Wed., Oct. 5, 2022

Tradition: Judaism

(Or Day of Atonement.) The conclusion of the Ten Days of Awe, Yom Kippur is the holiest and most solemn of all days in the Jewish year. It is characterized by repentance, fasting, and forgiveness. Begins at sundown.

Mawlid an-Nabi

Fri., Oct. 7, 2022

Tradition: Islam

The birthday of the Prophet Muhammed. Begins at sundown.

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.

Tufts University Chaplaincy | Goddard Chapel, 3 The Green | Medford, MA 02155 US
chaplaincy.tufts.edu | chaplaincy@tufts.edu | 617.627.3427



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