



# Tufts

# UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 11.4.20



## A Message for the Tufts Community Post-Election Day 2020

Lately I have been inspired by the poem entitled "[Paul Robeson](#)" by Gwendolyn Brooks. I share it with you today, and hope that its musical refrain that "we are each other's" will keep moving us forward in solidarity and hope during this tumultuous time.

*That time*

*we all heard it,*

*cool and clear,*

*cutting across the hot grit of the day.*

*The major Voice.*

*The adult Voice*

*forgoing Rolling River,*

*forgoing tearful tale of bale and barge and other symptoms of an old despond. Warning, in music-words*

*devout and large,*

*that we are each other's*

*harvest:*

*we are each other's*

*business:*

*we are each other's magnitude and bond.*

Tufts' Interfaith Council will gather on Zoom tonight. Here we will hold space to check in and listen to one another as

we each navigate the impacts of the still-unfolding results of yesterday's election. We will also continue our work exploring the history of interfaith cooperation and civil rights with [Interfaith Youth Core's We Are Each Other's curriculum](#), which was inspired by the poem above. Each week, we are introduced to people of different worldviews who have acted out of deep convictions to fight for racial justice and work toward beloved community. These people have left us their legacies, and we constantly renew our commitment to their convictions, just as they did to those who came before them. We carry on with the work of becoming anti-racist interfaith leaders in and for this moment at Tufts and the wider world.

As Tufts community members, we are always each other's. Today, I hold that close, and look forward to moving in solidarity and hope with you.

Pax et lux,

Rev. Elyse Nelson Winger  
University Chaplain

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## Check in with a Chaplain

Our chaplains and advisors are here for you, no matter where you are in the world or how you are doing in this time. Click on a chaplain's name below to schedule a time for conversation, meditation, prayer, or to check in about anything else on your heart or mind. You can go to the contact page on our [website](#) to find bios and additional information, too.

[Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain](#)  
[Preeta Banerjee, Hindu Advisor](#)  
[Rev. Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain](#)  
[Rabbi Naftali Brawer, Jewish Chaplain](#)  
[Walker Bristol, Humanist Chaplain](#)  
[Lynn Cooper, Catholic Chaplain](#)  
[Azmera Hammouri-Davis, Africana Spirituality Advisor](#)  
[Abdul-Malik Merchant, Muslim Chaplain](#)  
[Venerable Priya Sraman, Buddhist Chaplain](#)

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## Post-Election Resources

Many university resources are available to you, as you navigate this time post-election. We are holding a gathering on Thursday, November 5, and many other offices and departments are very ready to support you in groups, and one-on-one meetings, no matter how you are feeling. Tisch College of Civic Life has compiled all the offerings, and you can find details on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#). Take good care, Jumbos. We are here for you.

# At the Table: Poetry with the University Chaplaincy

Join the Chaplaincy for a night of poetry and reflection. Feel free to bring the poems and quotes that are inspiring you, helping you through, and worth sharing around our virtual table!

Thursday, November 5 | 7-8 p.m. ET

Meeting ID: 945 4685 3329

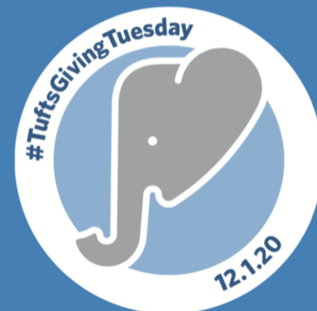
Passcode: 676932

## **At The Table: Poetry with the University Chaplaincy**

Thursday, November 5, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET

What are you bringing to your dinner table for discussion? Join the University Chaplaincy for poetry and reflection. Chaplain Elyse will read some of her favorite pieces speaking to the themes of this moment in history. You are invited to bring the poems and quotes that are inspiring you, helping you through, and worth sharing around our virtual table. You're welcome to be drinking your favorite warm beverage and enjoying a snack too. Snack packs (vegan and kosher) will be available for pick up on Thursday outside Goddard Chapel on the academic quad from 12 p.m. - 1p.m. Please email Program Manager [Nora Bond](#) with any questions, and look for more details on our [Instagram](#).

**BUILDING A  
BRIGHTER  
WORLD.**



This year marks the 115th anniversary of the Tufts University Chaplaincy founding. Join us in celebrating the growth and vitality of our multifaith community through these years as we commemorate our past, celebrate our present, and creatively envision our future. On [#TuftsGivingTuesday](#), we will share stories that highlight our commitment to creating an interdependent, brighter future together--across faiths, traditions, and worldviews. Our main goal is participation and gifts of any size are most welcome! Your generosity to the Friends of Goddard Fund will enhance our dynamic, multifaith programs and increase our capacity to serve all members of the Tufts community. We would be deeply grateful to see your gift on December 1.

Please visit our [donation page](#) to give today. If you have any questions, please email University Chaplaincy program coordinator [Shelby Carpenter](#).

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## Religious and Philosophical Life Programs

You can find more information about our weekly gatherings and student group meetings on our [website](#). You can also find the Zoom links for each event there. If you have an idea for how University Chaplaincy programming can better serve you this semester, please contact program manager [Nora Bond](#).



*Azmera Hammouri-Davis  
Africana Spirituality Advisor*

### Africana Spirituality Chaplaincy

#### Rhythm and Rituals: Sound Healing

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET

African religious traditions vary by ethnic group, in custom, practice and language. Widely speaking, a common factor that weaves such heterogeneity together is a commitment to rituals that often manifest through song and dance. Join the Africana Spirituality Community for close-textual analysis of the wisdom within poems and lyrics by Black writers, artists and storytellers. We will explore the text of different authors within African religious traditions writ-large from the U.S. to South America and Africa and deep dive into the wisdom each offer up through Afro-diasporic expressive culture. All genres are welcome including music

reflected in the traditions of Hip-Hop, Funk, Jazz, Soul, Blues, Afro-Beat, Afro-futurism and any other Afro-Diasporic sounds across time and space. Please email Africana Spirituality Advisor [Azmera Hammouri-Davis](#) with any questions, or schedule a meeting with her on her [Calendly](#).

Azmera was featured in a recent article from the Interfaith Youth Core, [A Soundtrack to Liberation: How a Global Collective of Womxn in Hip Hop is Making History](#). You can read it to learn more about her and her work.

To hear about upcoming programs for the community, you can [sign up for the new Africana Spirituality elist](#). For Zoom links to any offering listed above, please visit our [website](#).

### Buddhist Chaplaincy

#### Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha Meditation and Reflection

Mondays and Fridays, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

This semester, Sangha will meet on Mondays for a discussion and shorter meditation, and on Fridays for a full hour of meditation. Please connect with Buddhist Chaplain [The Venerable Priya Sraman](#) for more information. All are welcome.

For Zoom links to any offering listed above, please visit our [website](#).



*Priya Sraman, Buddhist Chaplain*



*Lynn Cooper*  
*Catholic Chaplain*

## Catholic Chaplaincy

### Catholic Virtual Mass Gathering

Sundays, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET

The Catholic community will not be offering in-person worship this year, but will be gathering virtually at 5:00 p.m. ET each Sunday to watch and celebrate Mass together. Throughout the course of the semester, they will “visit” the parishes of different members of the Catholic Community at Tufts by watching that week’s previously recorded Mass. All are welcome.

### Confession by appointment

For more information please connect with Catholic Chaplain [Lynn Cooper](#).

### Catholic Spirituality Hour

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET

Join us as we gather mid-week to experiment with spiritual practices from the Christian tradition. We will dive into scripture, gaze upon art, write letters, and expand our understanding of what is prayer. All are welcome and as always, come as you are.

For Zoom links to any offering listed above, please visit our [website](#).

## Hindu Chaplaincy

### Amar Chitra Katha (ACK) Reading Group

Friday, November 13, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET

ACK is an Indian publisher of graphic novels based on biographies, religious figures and cultural stories, founded in 1967 by Anant Pai. Largely a response to supporting children in learning about their heritage, the series also has equally engaged older readers in important conversations about social equity and gender dynamics.

We will open with observances and then deeply discuss the comic of the day. We will close our space after 30 to 45 minutes to eat our meals together. For more information about the monthly readings, and to RSVP, please email Hindu Advisor [Preeta Banerjee](#).

This program is in partnership with the Tufts Hindu Students Council (HSC), a religious student organization that is built around a common interest in the Hindu faith. HSC is open to anyone and everyone who wants a safe space to discuss Hindu traditions and ideologies.



*Preeta Banerjee, Hindu Advisor*



*Walker Bristol, Humanist Chaplain*

## Humanist Chaplaincy

### Weekly Gathering

Fridays, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET

Join the Humanist Community at Tufts for their weekly moment of connection and reflection by candlelight. Each week, they explore questions of philosophy, language, art, and meaning, drawn together by a shared concern for the goodness of humanity and our shared natural world. For more information, contact Humanist Chaplain [Walker Bristol](#). All are welcome.

For the Zoom link to the offering listed above, please visit our [website](#).



## Jewish Chaplaincy

### Walk It Off: A Post-Election Tashlich

Wednesday, November 4, 1:00 p.m. ET

Get out of your room, walk down to the Mystic River, and engage in an ancient Jewish ritual of checking in and letting go - *tashlich*. Meet at Hillel Building (220 Packard Ave), and the group will walk together.

### Grace and Grit: A Resilience Toolkit

Thursday, November 5, 5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Join Interim Director of Community Building, Liz Aeschlimann for a gathering focusing on Jewish wisdom for navigating a broken and uncertain world. [Register for the event here.](#)

### Weekly Shabbat Virtual Offerings

Fridays, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. ET

Join Tufts Hillel for Shabbat Dinner To-Go meals, now with both a meat and vegan option. Pre-ordering is mandatory. If seats are available when you pick-up, you are welcome to stay and eat at Hillel. For questions please [email Hillel](#), and to find more information about Shabbat this semester visit the [Hillel Calendar](#). You can find more weekly offerings and events on the [Hillel website](#).

### Being and Becoming Podcast

New episodes on Fridays

Check out the new Tufts Hillel podcast, [Being & Becoming](#) on Spotify, featuring Rabbi Naftali Brawer. In each episode he shares Jewish spiritual inspiration for everyday living.



*Naftali Brawer*  
*Jewish Chaplain*  
*Executive Director of Tufts Hillel*



*Abdul-Malik Merchant*  
*Muslim Chaplain*

## Muslim Chaplaincy

### Islam at Sea Level: Foundational, Practical Islamic Theology

Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. ET

Exploring foundational Islamic theology through a practical lens using a short 18th century poem. Though the class will be intentionally catering to the Muslim community, attendance is completely open to everyone. For more information, contact Muslim Chaplain [Abdul-Malik Merchant](#).

### Ask Me Anything

Wednesday, November 18, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. ET

Islam, being a 1500 year old, internationally practiced tradition, has a lot that is unknown and misunderstood. Join us for some honest and vulnerable community where you can ask Imam Abdul-Malik Merchant anything. For the Zoom link to the offering listed above, please visit

our [website](#).

## Protestant Chaplaincy

### Protestant Evening Worship (PEW)

Sundays, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET

Join the Protestant student community and Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](#) for worship through prayer, song, sermon, and reflection over Zoom. While we cannot be together in person right now, Christ is still present among us and the Spirit draws us together as God's people. After the service, everyone is welcome to stay and hang out. All are welcome, no matter who you are or where you find yourself in your journey of life and faith. You can also always [email Dan](#) or visit his [Calendly](#) to set up a time to meet.



**“O Wisdom:” A Seven-Week Series to Prepare Our Hearts for Advent**

Thursdays, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. ET, October 8 through November 18

The season of Advent often passes us by without much notice. It arrives between Thanksgiving and Christmas, an often exhausting time. The end of the semester, finals, and the holidays loom. This may be all the more true now amid so much heightened stress and uncertainty. For these reasons and more, we are gathering to prepare our hearts for Advent well in advance of the season. All are welcome to join Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell for a study of the “O Antiphons,” ancient words traditionally sung during Advent to invoke thanks and praise, lament and longing, restoration and return. They are names for Jesus that Christians find in the Book of Isaiah and are well-known from the classic hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” A book to guide our conversations is freely available, in print and Kindle editions. Please email Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](#) to learn more.

For Zoom links to any offers listed above, please visit our [website](#).

**The Breakfast Club: Faculty/Staff bible Study and Prayer Group**

Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. ET

You are warmly invited to “The Breakfast Club,” a contemplative Bible study group for faculty and staff led by Tufts’ Protestant Chaplain, the Reverend Dan Bell. We gather every Wednesday morning over Zoom to read Scripture, check in, and pray together. All are welcome, regardless of faith background, and various Christian traditions are represented. Feel free to have your breakfast as we meet, and step away when you need to. If you have questions or would like to learn more, please email Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](#) to learn more. Zoom information is [here](#).

## Partner Programs



**TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2020**

# CALL FOR ART


Are you an artist, photographer, poet? Tufts community members are invited to submit works to the virtual art gallery titled **Trans Resistance**. Art of all mediums and artists of all experience levels are welcome!

Submissions accepted until Nov. 15.  
Selected works will be eligible to receive an award of up to \$200.

For full details and guidelines,  
please visit [go.tufts.edu/TDOR2020](https://go.tufts.edu/TDOR2020)

LGBT CENTER • SMFA AT TUFTS • UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

In honor of Trans Day of Remembrance, the LGBT Center, Tufts University Chaplaincy, and SMFA Student Affairs will be hosting a virtual community art gallery. They would like to invite Tufts community members to submit artwork that captures the theme of Trans Resistance. They encourage and welcome art of any medium: paint, sculpture, digital art, poetry, etc. For full details and guidelines, please visit [here](#).



**NOV 6, 12pm**  
**WORKSHOP**  
**We Do Not Have to Abandon Ourselves to Enter**  
Register for zoom event on [artgalleries.tufts.edu/online](https://artgalleries.tufts.edu/online)

What is the opening when we can not enter? An opening is a marker of beginning, of welcome, of exclusion, of rules both implicit and explicit, of celebration, and of movements from inside to outside, or outside to in. Through queer multiplicities of access, safety, and adaptation we will build knowledge and imaginaries together that de-climax the opening, de-linearize the opening and propose possibilities for our openings as portals for how we may still enter together and as individuals centering our collective wellbeing.

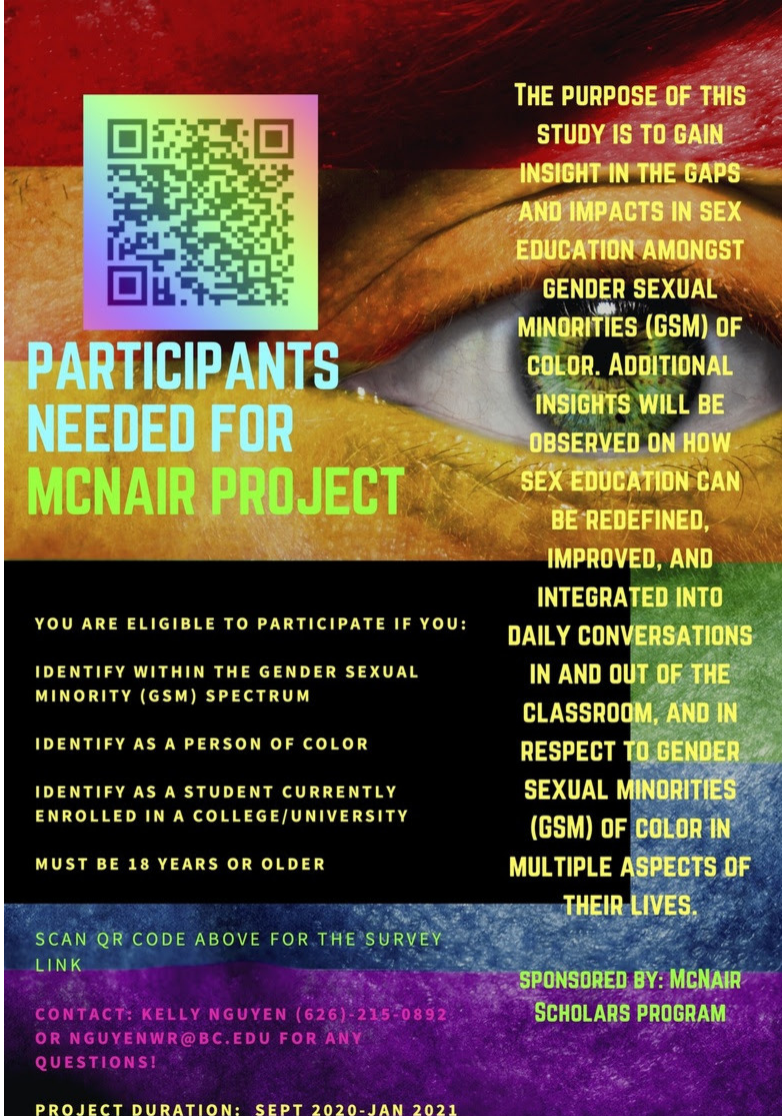
This workshop will ask questions with and of the Tufts community and reflect on expanding the binary of open and closed that has resulted from the pandemic. In conjunction with the exhibition *General Sister: SINGING WE MUST RAGE*.

**Tufts  
University  
Art  
Galleries**

**Workshop: We Do Not Have to Abandon Ourselves to Enter** Friday, November 6, 12:00 p.m. ET

An opening is a marker of beginning, of welcome, of exclusion, of rules both implicit and explicit, of celebration, and of movements from inside to outside, or outside to in. But what is the opening when we cannot enter? This discussion workshop, with artists and educators Dana Bishop-Root and Ginger Brooks Takahashi of General Sisters, will ask questions with and of the Tufts community and reflect on expanding the binary of open and closed that the pandemic has intensified. Through queer multiplicities of access, safety, and adaptation, we will build knowledge and imaginaries together that de-climax and de-linearize the opening. We will propose possibilities for openings as portals through which we may still enter, both together and individually, en route to collective wellbeing. This workshop coincides with TUAG's presentation of General Sisters' *Singing We Must Rage*, on view at in the Remis Sculpture Court and SMFA at Tufts Well Space for the 2020/2021 academic year. [Register for the zoom event here](#).



A poster for the McNair Project Survey. It features a QR code in the top left corner. The background is a close-up of a person's eye with a colorful, abstract overlay. The text is arranged in several columns. The main title is 'PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR MCNAIR PROJECT'. To the right, a large block of text explains the purpose of the study. Below the QR code, a list of eligibility criteria is provided. At the bottom, there is contact information and the project duration.

**PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR MCNAIR PROJECT**

**THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY IS TO GAIN INSIGHT IN THE GAPS AND IMPACTS IN SEX EDUCATION AMONGST GENDER SEXUAL MINORITIES (GSM) OF COLOR. ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS WILL BE OBSERVED ON HOW SEX EDUCATION CAN BE REDEFINED, IMPROVED, AND INTEGRATED INTO DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM, AND IN RESPECT TO GENDER SEXUAL MINORITIES (GSM) OF COLOR IN MULTIPLE ASPECTS OF THEIR LIVES.**

**YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IF YOU:**

- IDENTIFY WITHIN THE GENDER SEXUAL MINORITY (GSM) SPECTRUM**
- IDENTIFY AS A PERSON OF COLOR**
- IDENTIFY AS A STUDENT CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN A COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY**
- MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER**

**SCAN QR CODE ABOVE FOR THE SURVEY LINK**

**CONTACT: KELLY NGUYEN (626)-215-0892 OR NGUYENWR@BC.EDU FOR ANY QUESTIONS!**

**SPONSORED BY: MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

**PROJECT DURATION: SEPT 2020-JAN 2021**

### **Participate in McNair Project Survey**

September 2020 - January 2021

The purpose of this study is to explore and analyze the experiences of current gender sexual minorities (GSM) of color (who are 18 or over) with sex education in order to gain additional insight on what needs to be improved in reintroducing sex education in spaces within and beyond the classroom. If you choose to participate, you will be asked to fill out an online survey which will take approximately 5 minutes. Please note that participation is completely voluntary and participants can stop at any time without penalty.

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## **Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities**

### **Women in Rabbinic Literature with Rabbi Dina Brawer**

Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. ET

Spanning an intellectual history of almost two millennia, this course will explore the role of women in rabbinic thought. It will examine perceptions of gender and sexuality, postures of power and passivity, and the paradox of elevating women while circumscribing their legal status. It will also highlight recent developments in postmodern Rabbinic thought in response to feminism. For more details contact

[Dina.Brawer@tufts.edu](mailto:Dina.Brawer@tufts.edu).

Women in Rabbinic Litterature  
with Rabbi Dina Brawer  
Thursdays 9:00am -11:30pm  
JS 92-01 / REL 10-01 hybrid




*Spanning an intellectual history of almost two millennia, this course will explore the role of women in rabbinic thought. It will examine perceptions of gender and sexuality, postures of power and passivity, and the paradox of elevating women while circumscribing their legal status. It will also highlight recent developments in postmodern Rabbinic thought in response to feminism.*

For more details contact: [dina.brawer@tufts.edu](mailto:dina.brawer@tufts.edu)

Tufts University, School of Arts & Sciences  
Department of International Literary and Cultural Studies

Introduction to Zohar  
(The Book of Radiance)  
With Rabbi Naftali Brawer PhD  
Tuesdays 9:30am -12:00pm

JS 92-02 REL 10-02



The Zohar, written in Castile, Spain in the late thirteenth century, is the foundational text of Kabbalah and may be considered the highest expression of Jewish literary imagination in the Middle Ages. Brimming with rich mythology and symbolic language it has been described by scholars of Jewish mysticism as a 'mystical novel' or a 'sacred fantasy'. This course serves as a broad overview of the Zohar. It will explore the Zohar and its enduring influence on Jewish thought and life, through various lenses; literary, theological, mystical, and artistic. For more information about the course email [Naftali.brawer@tufts.edu](mailto:Naftali.brawer@tufts.edu)

**Introduction to Zohar (The Book of Radiance) with Rabbi Naftali Brawer PhD**

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m ET

The Zohar, written in Castile, Spain in the late thirteenth century, is the foundational text of Kabbalah and may be considered the highest expression of Jewish literary imagination in the Middle Ages. Brimming with rich mythology and symbolic language it has been described by scholars of Jewish mysticism as a 'mystical novel' or a 'sacred fantasy'. This course serves as a broad overview of the Zohar. It will explore the Zohar and its enduring influence on Jewish thought and life, through various lenses; literary, theological, mystical, and artistic. For more information about the course, email [Naftali.Brawer@tufts.edu](mailto:Naftali.Brawer@tufts.edu).

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## Upcoming Religious Holidays and Festivals

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](#).

### Diwali (Dipavali)

Saturday, November 14

Tradition: Hinduism

Perhaps the most popular of all Hindu festivals, also known as the Festival of Lights, it is dedicated to the goddess Kali in Bengal and to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, in the rest of India. As with several other festivals, Diwali is associated with one of the stories about the destruction of evil by Vishnu in one of his many manifestations.

### Advent

Sunday, November 29 – Thursday, December 24

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

Period of four weeks in which Christians prepare for Christmas and meditate on the end of all time. In Western churches, the first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the Christian liturgical year.

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.

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chaplaincy.tufts.edu | chaplaincy@tufts.edu | 617.627.3427



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