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

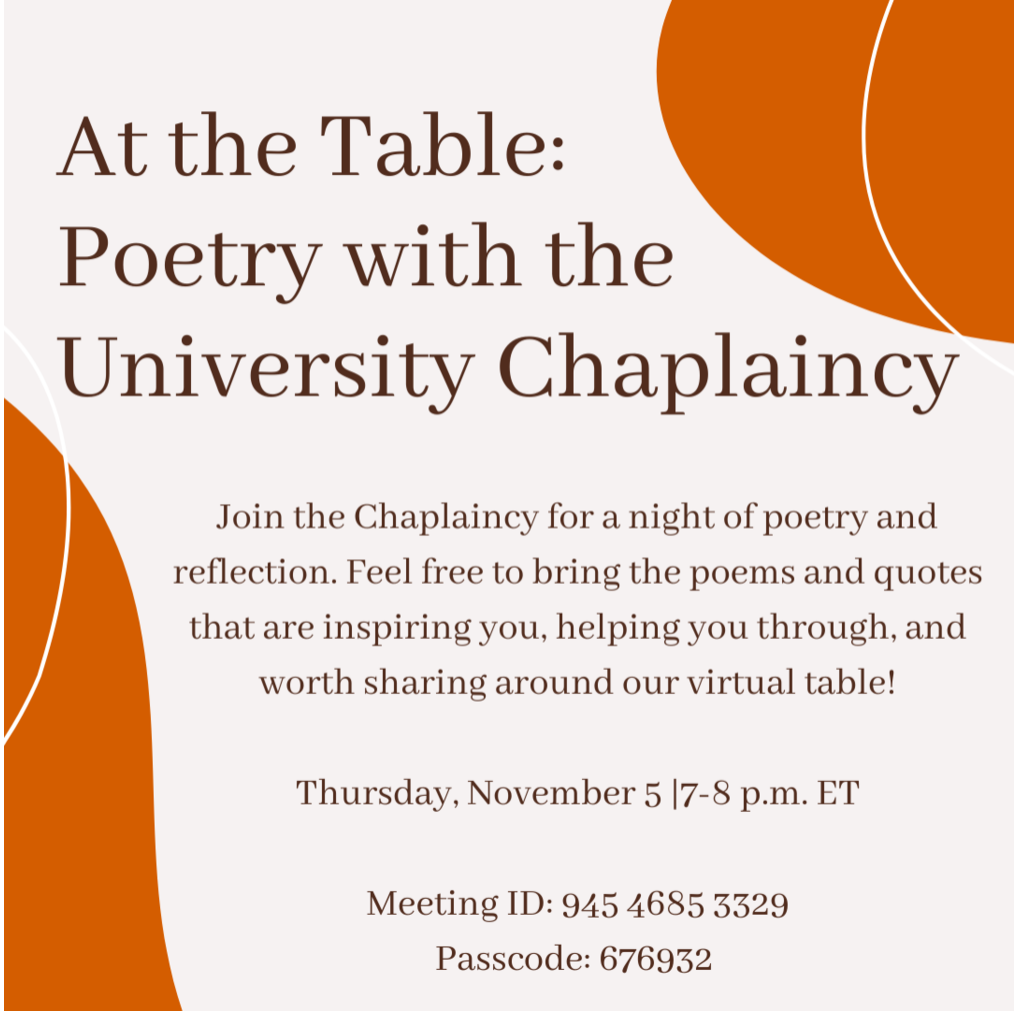
Check in with a Chaplain

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

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
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.

#TuftsGivingTuesday: Help Us Build a Brighter World on December 1

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.

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.

Preeta Banerjee, Hindu Advisor

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.

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

Naftali Brawer
Jewish Chaplain
Executive Director of Tufts Hillel

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 Buidling, 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.

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.

Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain

"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.

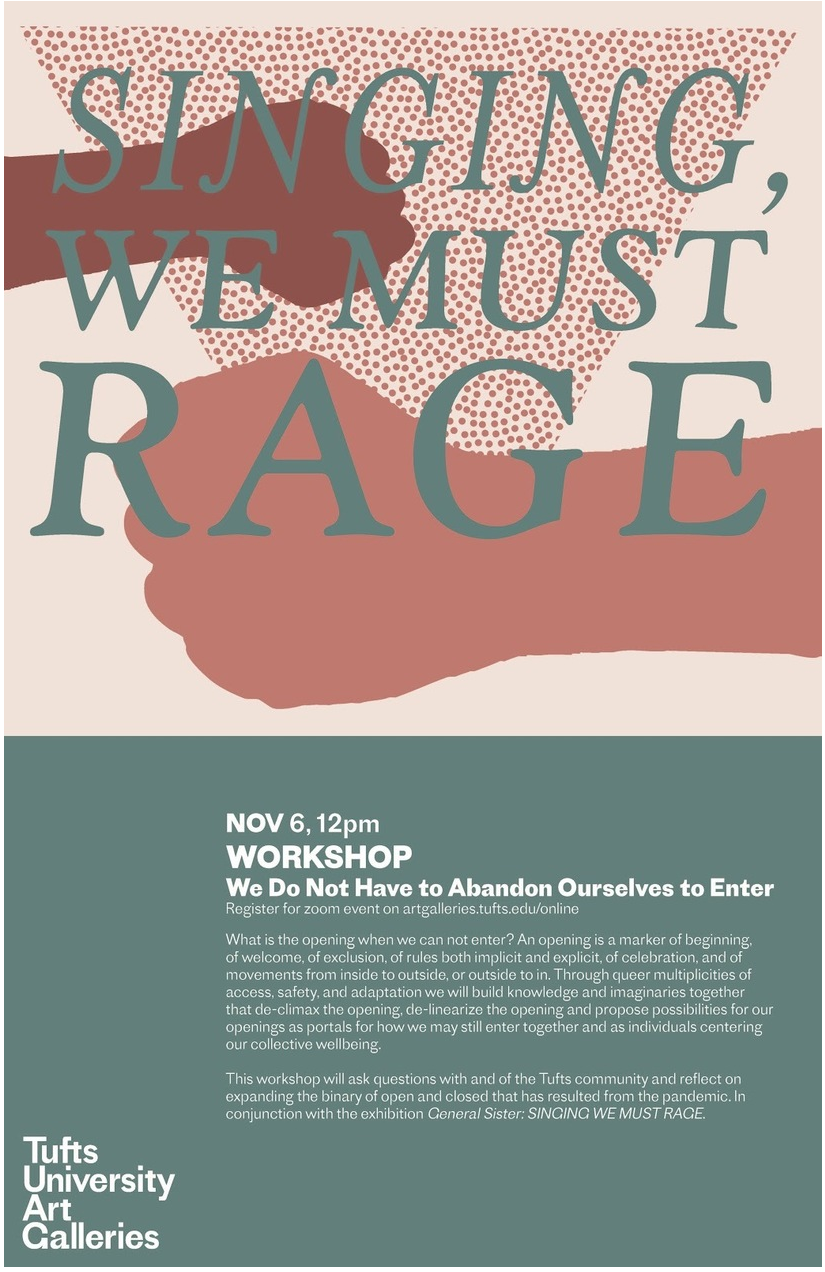
The Breakfast Club: Faculty/Staff bible Study and Prayer Group
Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. ET

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

Calling All LGBTQ+ Artists

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.



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.

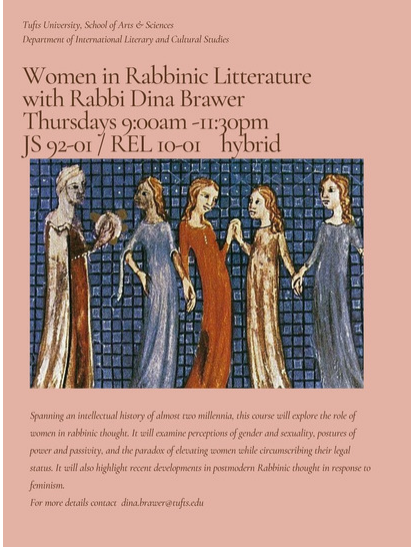
Participate in McNair Project Survey
September 2020 - January 2021

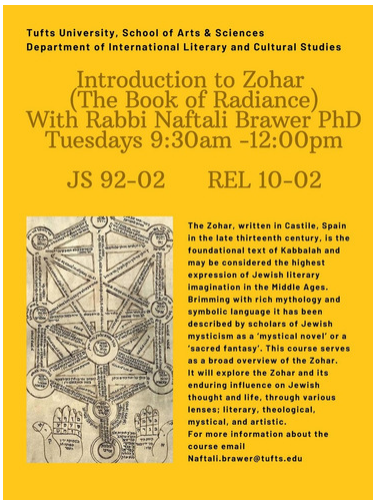
The purpose of this study is to explore and analyze the experiences of current gender sexual minorities (GSM) of color (who are 18 or over) with sex education in order to gain additional insight on what needs to be improved in reintroducing sex education in spaces within and beyond the classroom. If 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.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunies

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.





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.

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.

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.

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