



# Tufts

# UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 10.19.22



*Navratri Celebration at Tufts, October 14, 2022*

## A Reflection from your Hindu Chaplain

Namaste dear friends,

This week we find ourselves in between the celebrations of Navratri and Diwali. After a few years of Zoom celebrations, returning fully to in-person community puja, dinners, and dancing has been so rejuvenating. This past Friday, Tufts Association of South Asians (TASA), the Hindu Students Association (HSA) and Jumboraas (JRAAS) held a Navratri celebration (pictured above) in Curtis Hall to culminate the nine day observance honoring the victory of Ma Durga over evil as recounted in the Devi Mahatmyam in the Markandeya Purana. In these embodied moments, the experience of our traditions resonates in the movements of every molecule, cell, hair, and muscle.

Dance, in particular, is one of the main embodiments that are treated with much spiritual care in the Hindu faith, the others being singing, poetry, sculpture, architecture, math. Grounded in Sankya [Sankhya](#) philosophy and Ayurveda [Ayurveda](#), Hinduism teaches that there are the Pancha Bhuta [Pancha Bhuta](#), five elements that make up everything: Prithvi [Prithvi](#): Earth; Apah [Apah](#) Water; Agni [Agni](#) Fire; Vayu [Vayu](#) Air; and Akasha [Akasha](#) Space/Ether. Each element is connected to one of the five senses: nose to Earth, tongue to water, eyes to fire, skin to air, and ears

to space. This bond between our senses and the elements is the foundation of our relationship with the natural world, and dance allows us to engage with the elements that constitute us and the environment around us.

With the coordination of motions and sensations in dance, we can feel the life in each of these elements and understand that these elements are also interconnected and interdependent. It is a beautiful way to honor the truth of our relational world. Do you have an embodied way to be in relationship with the elements and what is greater than yourself? How do you honor our interconnected, interdependent and relational world? I invite you to bring it forward into consideration this week and reach out and share.

Dhanyavaadah and best wishes,  
Preeti Banerjee

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## Upcoming Signature Programs



### **In Living Memory: A Concert of Stories and Songs**

Thursday, November 3, 8:00 p.m., Goddard Chapel

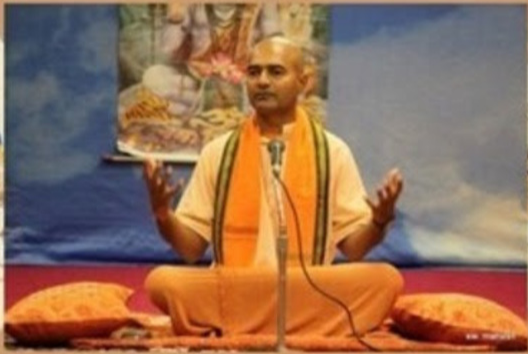
Join the University Chaplaincy, the Latinx Center, and the SMFA for *In Living Memory: A Concert of Stories and Songs*. The evening will feature organ music, performances by Enchanted and sQ!, spoken word offerings on the themes of remembering those who have passed, and a dance performance by Tufts Ballet Folklorico. We will uplift the many religious and cultural holidays this time of year, including Día de los Muertos, Samhain, All Souls Day, and more. We will also be welcoming an installation of an ofrenda from student artists at the SMFA. Students, chaplains, and Latinx Center staff will speak and the event will be followed by sweets and warm drinks outside. Please join us for a night of candlelight, meaningful festivities, and treats!

## Religious and Philosophical Programs

**Finding Balance in Turbulent Times**

Noon on Friday, Oct 21 at the Interfaith Center

The science of Yoga is dedicated to the physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual health of mankind. A proper approach to yoga brings good health, tranquility, creativity and inner harmony. The aim of this presentation is to give you lasting tools for stress management and keep your balance during any turbulent times you encounter in your life. All levels welcome! No RSVP necessary.



Swami Mahesh is a wandering yogi from India. He has a degree in Engineering and a Masters in Yoga Philosophy and has over 30 years of experience teaching yoga. As an independent wandering yogi, he travels both nationally and internationally to conduct seminars, workshops and retreats on yoga in various educational, social, and corporate institutions, yoga studios, prisons, and many other facilities. His articulate and engaging teaching technique in an open caring environment creates effective learning of Yoga and spiritual life.

**Tufts** UNIVERSITY | University Chaplaincy  
Hindu Chaplaincy

### **Finding Balance in Turbulent Times**

Friday, October 21, 12:00 p.m., Interfaith Center

The science of Yoga is dedicated to the physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual health of humankind. A proper approach to yoga brings good health, tranquility, creativity and inner harmony. The aim of this presentation is to give you lasting tools for stress management and keep your balance during any turbulent times you encounter in your life. All levels welcome! No RSVP necessary. Our guest, Swami Mahesh, is a wandering yogi from India. He has a degree in Engineering and a Masters in Yoga Philosophy and has over 30 years of experience teaching yoga. As an independent wandering yogi, he travels both nationally and internationally to conduct seminars, workshops and retreats on yoga in various educational, social, and corporate institutions, yoga studios, prisons, and many other facilities. His articulate and engaging teaching technique in an open caring environment creates effective learning of Yoga and spiritual life.



**Family and Friends Weekend Open House**

Friday, October 21, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Join chaplains for a warm open house on the Friday of Family and Friends weekend. Light refreshments will be served, and chaplains will be present to introduce themselves. No RSVP necessary. Historic Goddard Chapel will be open to visitors throughout the day. Family and friends are welcome at any of our regular events scheduled during the weekend, and you can [find a full schedule for the weekend here](#).

# GLOBAL MUSIC NIGHT

**with Protestant  
Evening Worship  
Sunday, November 6  
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Goddard Chapel**

Join the ensemble performing a diverse repertoire for Tufts Global Music Night with the Protestant Chaplaincy!

All instruments and vocalists are welcome. Complete the interest form by Sunday, October 23


This event is in collaboration with GLIDE (Graduate Leadership in Inclusion, Diversity and Equity) and the University Chaplaincy, and is led by M.K. Titiati, a graduate student in Ethnomusicology and a GLIDE Fellow.



## **Join the ensemble for Global Music Night with Protestant Evening Worship**

Complete the interest form by Sunday, October 23

Join the ensemble performing a diverse repertoire for Tufts Global Music Night with the Protestant Chaplaincy! The evening will be held Sunday, November 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Goddard Chapel, and we welcome vocalists and musicians from across Tufts to join. Please [email the University Chaplaincy](#) with any questions and [complete the interest form here](#) by Sunday, October 23 to be contacted by the organizers. This event is in collaboration with GLIDE (Graduate Leadership in Inclusion, Diversity and Equity) and the University Chaplaincy, and is led by M.K. Titiati, a graduate student in Ethnomusicology and a GLIDE Fellow.



# HUMANIST HUB: MEANING MAKING FOR LIBERATION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 6PM  
INTERFAITH CENTER  
58 WINTHROP ST.

Join the Humanist Chaplaincy for a series of dinner conversations exploring identity, meaning-making, and liberation.

Our first dinner will explore the topic of “Inquiry,” a process of articulating our pressing questions and developing ways we can embody meaningful activism. All are welcome and food is provided.

Please RSVP by  
Monday, October 24



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University Chaplaincy  
Humanist Chaplaincy

## **Humanist Hub: Meaning Making for Liberation**

Thursday, October 27, 6:00 p.m., Interfaith Center

This project centers marginalized spiritual, philosophical, and cultural traditions not typically represented in inter-religious engagement. This group will be a supportive lab and network to think about the ethical, philosophical, intercultural, and interfaith challenges of this era. If these issues are important to you, then we invite you to apply! We are recruiting fellows for a three part dinner throughout the fall semester. You are welcome to join one or all of the dinners this semester. This space will provide opportunities to transgress oppressive systems and to realize decolonial and abolitionist futures. Our first dinner will explore the topic of “Inquiry,” a process of articulating our pressing questions and developing ways we can embody meaningful activism. All are welcome and food is provided.

Please [RSVP here](#) by Monday, October 24 at 11:59 p.m. ET. There is limited space.

PLEASE JOIN US ON  
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2

The American Humanist  
Association will present  
The University Award for  
Philosophical Diversity  
to Tufts University

RSVP by Monday, October 31, 2022.



**American Humanist Association Award at Tufts University**

Wednesday, November 2, 2022, Breed Memorial Hall

The American Humanist Association (AHA) will present The University Award for Philosophical Diversity to Tufts University on Wednesday, November 2 in Breed Memorial Hall on the Tufts Medford campus. The AHA will present The University Award for Philosophical Diversity to Tufts University. The award ceremony will be held at 11 a.m., followed by a catered lunch at 11:30 a.m. Please help us to plan by [completing this RSVP](#) no later than Monday, October 31, 2022.

# THE UNLEARNING RETREAT: PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY AS A FORM OF KNOWLEDGE



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022

10:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

INTERFAITH CENTER  
58 WINTHROP ST. MEDFORD, MA

Dr. Kelli Morgan is a Professor of the Practice and the inaugural Director of Curatorial Studies at Tufts University. A curator, educator, and social justice activist who specializes in American art and visual culture.

Let us journey together, as we reorient our personhood and imagine ourselves unearthing the quiet confidence within. In this Unlearning Retreat, join us in a practice of personal and communal freedom-making.



## Unlearning Retreat for BIPOC Students

Saturday, November 5, Interfaith Center

In this Unlearning Retreat, join the Hindu Chaplaincy and Humanist Chaplaincy in a practice of personal and communal freedom-making as we engage in a BIPOC space for healing and exploring our inner world in relation to the external world. We welcome Dr. Kelli Morgan to be with us. She is a Professor of the Practice and the inaugural Director of Curatorial Studies at Tufts University, and a curator, educator, and social justice activist who specializes in American art and visual culture. You can [read a feature about Dr. Morgan in TuftsNow here](#). If you are interested in attending the retreat please [sign up to journey together here](#), as we reorient our personhood and imagine ourselves unearthing the quiet confidence within. Please RSVP by Thursday, November 3 by 7 p.m. ET.

Partner Programs





### **Majors Month**

Monday, October 17 - Friday, November 18

This year we partnered with the Office of Undergraduate Education and the Tufts Career Center to offer Majors Month for the first time. This month, from October 17 to November 18, is full of events to help you learn more about majors and minors and make the decisions that work best for you. The University Chaplaincy is here to offer the space to reflect on your own identities and values and hopes for your future - which is why we're hosting "Majorly Confused? Finding Your Own Wisdom for Choosing a Major" in November. Find [more information here](#), including a full list of events and sign up links.

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

# Donations Accepted! 2022 Winter Coat Drive

The FIRST Resource Center and the International Center are co-sponsoring a drive to help Tufts students with their winter clothing needs! Please consider donating **new** or **gently worn** winter coats, boots, and accessories to help our students through the New England winter!

Donations are accepted now through **Friday, October 28** at the following locations:

**FIRST Resource Center**  
20 Professors Row, 9am – 5pm

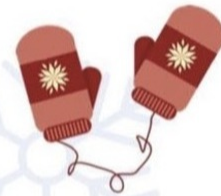
**International Center**  
20 Sawyer Avenue, M/W/F, 9am – 5pm



Thank you for your donations!

**Questions?** Email [first@tufts.edu](mailto:first@tufts.edu) or [internationalcenter@tufts.edu](mailto:internationalcenter@tufts.edu)

FIRST Resource Center  
20 Professors Row  
  
International Center  
20 Sawyer Avenue



## 2022 First Center Winter Coat Drive

Donations accepted through Friday, October 28

Please donate new or gently used winter clothing items. Donations are being accepted at the FIRST Resource Center (20 Professors Row) and the International Center (20 Sawyer Ave). You can reach out to the [FIRST Resource Center](#) or the [International Center](#) if you have any questions.

# JEWES OF COLOR IN EARLY AMERICA

Today multiracial Jews are about 10-25% of the Jewish population in the United States with nearly 87,000 nonwhite, Hispanic, or multiracial Jewish households in the New York area alone.

Most people tend to think of multiracial as a fairly recent phenomenon, but in this talk Professor Leibman reveals the early history of multiracial Jews in the United States and Caribbean and explains how their stories got lost in common tellings of Jewish American history.

OCTOBER 20, 2022 • 5:30 PM • RAYTHEON AMPHITHEATRE

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. REGISTRATION PREFERRED.

For registration and more information: [bit.ly/RudermanSeries-Leibman](https://bit.ly/RudermanSeries-Leibman)



**LAURA ARNOLD LEIBMAN** is Professor of English and Humanities at Reed College, VP of Program (AJS), and the author of *The Art of the Jewish Family: A History of Women in Early New York in Five Objects* (Bard Graduate Center, 2020) which won three National Jewish Book Awards. Her latest book *Once We Were Slaves* (Oxford UP, 2021) is about an early multiracial Jewish family who began their lives enslaved in the Caribbean and became some of the wealthiest Jews in New York.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT [l.leibman@northeastern.edu](mailto:l.leibman@northeastern.edu)



## Jews of Color in Early America

Thursday, October 20, 5:30 p.m., Raytheon Ampitheatre and livestreamed

The Jewish Studies program at the Northeastern University College of Social Sciences and Humanities invites you to the annual Morton E. Ruderman Memorial Lecture Series with Dr. Laura Arnold Leibman. Today multiracial Jews are about 10-25% of the Jewish population in the United States with nearly 87,000 nonwhite, Hispanic, or multiracial Jewish households in the New York area alone. Most people tend to think of multiracial as a fairly recent phenomenon, but in this talk Professor Leibman reveals the early history of multiracial Jews in the United States and Caribbean and explains how their stories got lost in common tellings of Jewish American history. Laura Arnold Leibman is Professor of English and Humanities at Reed College, VP of Program (AJS), and the author of *The Art of the Jewish Family: A History of Women in Early New York in Five Objects* (Bard Graduate Center, 2020) which won three National Jewish Book Awards. Her latest book *Once We Were Slaves* (Oxford UP, 2021) is about an early multiracial Jewish family who began their lives enslaved in the Caribbean and became some of the wealthiest Jews in New York. It will be [livestreamed here](#). You can [learn more and register here](#).

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](#).

#### **Installation of Granth Sahib Ji as Guru**

Thu., Oct. 20, 2022

Tradition: Sikhism

This day celebrates Gobind Singh Ji's passing on guruship to Scripture, henceforth known as the Guru Granth Sahib.

#### **Diwali (Dipavali)**

Mon., Oct. 24, 2022

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.

#### **Diwali/Mahavir Nirvana**

Tue., Oct. 25, 2022

Tradition: Jainism

This "Festival of Lamps" celebrates the attainment of Moksa by Lord Mahavira. A burning lamp symbolizes the "light of knowledge," which dispels the darkness of delusion and ignorance.

#### **Birth of the Bab**

Wed., Oct. 26, 2022

Tradition: Baha'i

The anniversary of the birth of the Bab, the herald of the new age for Baha'is. the Shrine of the Bab in Haifa, Israel, is part of the World Center of the Baha'i faith.

#### **Birth of Baha'u'llah**

Thu., Oct. 27, 2022

Tradition: Baha'i

The anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith. Work is suspended on this day.

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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

## 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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