



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 3.29.23



Photo credit: Preeta Banerjee

A Greeting From Your Hindu Chaplain

Namaste Friends,

This is the time of year when many in the Hindu Community are celebrating the New Year. Some are preparing for Ram Navami, the birthday of Lord Rama, the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Ram Navami is celebrated on March 30 and this coincides with Basanti Durga Puja also known as Chaitra

Navratri, which takes place this year from March 22 to March 31. My personal practice centers around the worship of Goddess Durga as found in Hindu scriptures. Vasant, or the Spring, ushers in the harvest crops and people worship and thank the Mother Goddess Durga for her generosity. We offer bright flowers and sweets during puja, a word that holds many meanings, including respect, honor, and worship.

Tomorrow, the [Asian American Center welcomes Ocean Vuong to Tufts campus](#) in celebration of the Center's 40th anniversary. Vuong, a renowned Vietnamese American poet and author, addresses many of life's deepest themes and challenges. In his novel, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, Vuong describes a gripping childhood memory of climbing over a fence to get his grandmother, Lan, flowers: "It was beauty, I learned, that we risked ourselves for...I would never know those flowers by name. Because Lan never had one for them. To this day, every time I see small, purple flowers, I swear they're the flowers I had picked that day."

As I prepare to put flowers on my altar for Basanti Durga Puja, I am thinking about this passage. To make an offering to our Divine, to our elders, to our friends, to our community, to ourselves – isn't that what our many varied rituals powerfully share? Be it flowers, bread, song, respectful bows, gifts, or time, what and how we offer tells us something about ourselves, as alluded to by Vuong.

As Spring begins, I wonder what you are offering intentionally to what you love? What is one aspect of beauty that you are enjoying as Spring begins? Is there a particular ritual that you like to observe?

In closing, I leave you with this Rama Dhyana Mantra, something I say each time I place a flower upon the altar:

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय
नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

Om Apadamapahartaram Dataram Sarvasampadam
Lokabhiramam Shriramam Bhuyo-Bhuyo Namamyaham

I bow to Lord Rama, the one who is most beautiful in the world,
the one who wards off sorrow and gives us wealth.

Dhanyavaadah and best wishes,

Preeta Banerjee
Hindu Chaplain

Religious and Philosophical Programs

Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, April 5, 5:00 p.m.

Goddard Chapel



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University Chaplaincy
Catholic Chaplaincy

Stations of the Cross hosted by the Catholic Chaplaincy

Wednesday, April 5, 5:00 p.m. at Goddard Chapel

Each year during Holy Week, we dwell in the story of Jesus' passion. We read and reread the scriptures, but there is one practice that brings it all to life: inviting the faithful to experience this story in an embodied way, the way of the cross. Building upon our virtual gathering last year and with the inspired leadership of Sebastian Fernandez, E24, we will gather together for this mini-pilgrimage together with Jesus and one another.



Passover Programs

You are invited to Tufts Hillel's Passover seders where you can expect great food, connection with your community, and spiritual renewal! Together we will retell the story of Passover, finding new relevance for our lives in the story of our people's liberation. [Click here for a full list of passover programs and events](#) hosted by Tufts Hillel. Passover begins this year on Wednesday, April 5 at sundown, and will be observed through Thursday, April 13 at sunset.

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Friday, April 7, 12:00 p.m.

Goddard Chapel



With many Christians all over the world, we gather on Good Friday to bear witness to Jesus' Passion. Hosted by Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell, this service is a time of prayer and song as we keep vigil and stay awake to the tombs in our world and the tombs in our hearts.

If you are interested in singing or playing an instrument, please email Suzie Cartreine, University Chaplaincy Music Director, at chaplaincymusic@tufts.edu.

Rehearsals will be scheduled soon.



University Chaplaincy
Protestant Chaplaincy



University Chaplaincy
Catholic Chaplaincy

*Art by Sadao Watanabe, Japan
Lindiwe Mvemve (South African, 1958-), Crucifixion, 1977.*

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Interfaith Iftar during the holy month of Ramadan

Wednesday, April 19, 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at Breed Hall

The University Chaplaincy would like to say Ramadan Mubarak to all those observing this month! We would also like to extend an invitation to all students, faculty and staff to this year's Interfaith Iftar hosted by the University Chaplaincy and the Muslim Students Association, which will be held on April 19 from 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. in Breed Hall. [Please RSVP here](#) if you would like to attend this iftar.

A little about Ramadan....

Ramadan, the holy month of fasting for Muslims, began this year on the night of Wednesday, March 22 and will continue until sundown on Thursday, April 20. Ramadan is a time for introspection, devotion, and service, as well as time for communal worship and cooperation. The significance of Ramadan is highlighted in the Qur'an in Chapter 2, Verse 183: "Oh you who believe, fasting has been prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those who came before you, so that you can become conscious of God." Those observing Ramadan abstain from food and drink from dawn until sunset each day. After sunset, the fast is traditionally broken with dates and water, after which the evening prayer is performed, and the larger break fast meal (iftar) is served. In the late evening, Muslims often gather for congregational night prayers at the mosque or in homes, sometimes offering prayers deep into the night. The pre-dawn meal is then eaten before starting a new fast the following day. The end of Ramadan is marked by the holiday of Eid-ul-Fitr, which will likely take place on Friday, April 21. Sometimes there is variation in the exact start and end dates of Ramadan, depending on how Muslims interpret the lunar calendar each year.

For more information about Ramadan at Tufts you can visit the [Muslim Chaplaincy's Ramadan Page](#).

Upcoming Co-Sponsored Events



TISCH COLLEGE SOLOMONT SPEAKER SERIES 2023

Thursday, April 13
5:30 PM ET
Breed Memorial Hall
51 Winthrop Street

Bishop William J. Barber II

*Civil rights leader, architect of the Moral Mondays Movement &
co-chair, Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival*

Solomont Speaker Series: Bishop William J. Barber II

Thursday, April 13, 5:30 p.m. at Breed Hall (51 Winthrop st)

Join Tisch College for a lecture and conversation with renowned orator, moral leader, civic rights activist and organizer, Bishop William J. Barber II, on organizing for multiracial democracy. Bishop Barber will discuss our individual and collective power to effect change on issues like systemic racism, poverty, and climate change at a time of historic demographic transition by breaking through divisions and centering solidarity. Generously co-hosted by the University Chaplaincy and the Africana Center with support from the Political Science Department, the Tufts Democrats and the Civic Studies Program. [To register for in-person attendance, click here.](#) We strongly encourage in-person attendance, however, the event will be livestreamed. Be advised there is no Q&A or chat feature with the livestream. You can [find more information about the event on the Tisch College website.](#)

Partner Programs

TUSC AND THE TUFTS LGBT CENTER PRESENT:

**KERRI
COLBY**

RAJA

DRAG ME TO TUFTS

A TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY EXTRAVAGANZA!

WITH MC & TUFTS SUPERSTAR
DR. LAWHORE VAGISTAN

AND PERFORMANCES FROM:
THE HOUSE OF VAGISTAN

FEATURING
PERFORMANCES
AND A Q&A PANEL
WITH THE QUEENS

INTRODUCING:

**JUMBO
DRAG
COLLECTIVE**

FOUNDED BY
ASTER R'SK & ARI OLA



FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST
COHEN AUDITORIUM
DOORS @ 7:30PM
SHOW @ 8:00PM

FREE TICKETS GO LIVE
ON TUFTS TICKETS
3/27 @ 10:30am



Drag Me To Tufts: A Trans Day of Visibility Extravaganza

Friday, March 31, 8:00 p.m. at Cohen Auditorium

All are welcome to Drag Me to Tufts, hosted by the LGBT Center and TUSC, which also features an introduction to the Jumbo Drag Collective. [Tickets are available through JumboLife here.](#)

GRIEF

Hunter Harville-Moxley M.A. Thesis Concert

A work for chamber orchestra and choir based on the Kübler-Ross five stages of grief.

**Saturday, April 1, 2023
at 7:00 pm**

**Distler Performance Hall
Granoff Music Center**

Free; no tickets required

Call us at 617.627.2253
or visit go.tufts.edu/musicevents

This event will be livestreamed at go.tufts.edu/musiclivestream

Due to university COVID regulations, live audience attendees at Tufts Music events must be prepared to present a Tufts ID or Covid Vaccination Card showing that they have been VACCINATED and BOOSTED.



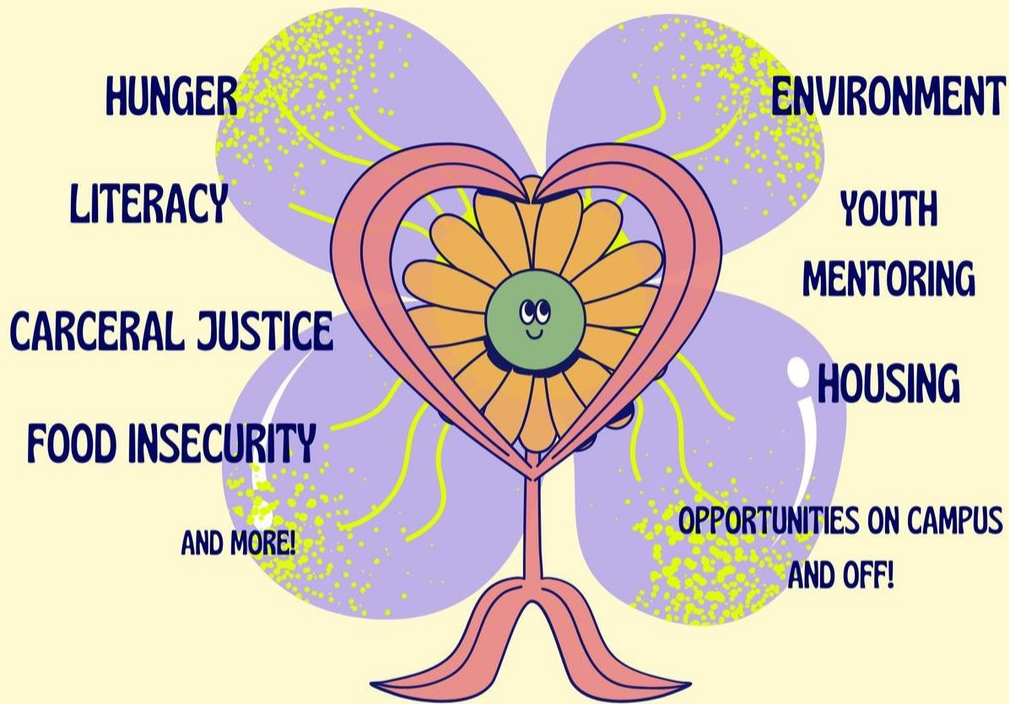
GRIEF: Hunter Harville-Moxley M.A. Thesis Concert

Saturday, April 1, 7:00 p.m. at Distler Performance Hall Granoff Music Center

All are welcome to attend GRIEF, Hunter Harville-Moxley's thesis concert. The event is free and no tickets are required. For in person viewers please be prepared to present a Tufts ID or vaccination Card at the entrance. The [event will also be livestreamed here](#). Hunter has performed for University Chaplaincy concerts such as In Living Memory and Pax et Lux.

— LEONARD CARMICHAEL SOCIETY —

DAY OF SERVICE



**SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH |
11AM - 2PM**

JOIN US FOR OUR CAMPUS-WIDE DAY OF
SERVICE! VOLUNTEER ON THE TUFTS CAMPUS
OR WITH OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN
MEDFORD & SOMERVILLE. ALL VOLUNTEERS
WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A FREE LUNCH, T-SHIRT
AND TRANSPORTATION.
SCAN THE QR CODE NOW TO SIGN-UP!



Leonard Carmichael Society (LCS) Day of Service

Saturday, April 8, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. held both on and off campus (transportation available)

LCS is hosting a Tufts Day of Service during which Tufts students will actively and meaningfully engage with their communities in an effort to help those around us and learn from the valuable lessons of service. Students will then regroup for a reflection on their work and a brainstorm of how to continue creating positive change in the surrounding areas on a regular basis. Find [more information on the Leonard Carmichael Society website](#).

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities



Summer Housing Positions with Office of Residential Life and Learning (ORLL)

Apply by Monday, April 10 at 12:00 p.m. ET

ORLL is seeking student staff to support our residents living on campus this summer. There are two positions available to apply for, a Summer Community Builder position and a Summer Operations and Response Team position. Both of these positions will receive a room credit, 80 meals (40 per summer session) and \$200 Jumbocash. You can [find more information and other positions with ORLL available here](#).

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](#).

Great Lent

Ongoing through Sat., Apr. 15, 2023

Tradition: Christianity-Orthodox

In Orthodox churches, the first day of Lent marks the beginning of the Great Fast, the final six weeks of a 10-week period leading up to Holy Week and Easter (Pascha). In the churches that follow the Gregorian calendar, Lent is a six-week observance (40 days excluding Sundays) beginning with Ash Wednesday and culminating in Holy Week. It is a time of repentance and sacrifice in preparation for Easter.

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.

Ramanavami

Thu., Mar. 30, 2023

Tradition: Hinduism

Celebrates the birthday of Rama, the seventh incarnation of the God Vishnu. The Ramayana, one of the Hindu epics that tells the story of Rama, is read during the previous eight days.

Hydesville Day

Fri., Mar. 31, 2023

Tradition: Spiritualism

On this date in 1848, the discarnate soul of Charles B. Rosna communicated via the mediumship of the Fox sisters heralding the advent of Modern Spiritualism.

Palm Sunday

Sun., Apr. 2, 2023

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

Celebrates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, marking the beginning of Holy Week that culminates in Easter or Pascha. In some churches, Palm Sunday is combined with the anticipation of Christ's death and so is also known as "Passon Sunday." Orthodox Christians often observe this Sunday on a date different from the date on which Protestant and Roman Catholics observe it.

Mahavir Jayanti

Tue., Apr. 4, 2023

Tradition: Jainism

Celebrates the birthday of Lord Mahavira. Born with the name Vardhamana in ca. 599 BCE, he was later given the titles of honor, Mahavira ("Great Hero") and Jina ("Conqueror" or "Victor"), a title applied also to the other Tirthankaras.

Passover (Pesach)

Wed., Apr. 5 – Thu., Apr. 13, 2023

Tradition: Judaism

Passover commemorates the deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. It is celebrated for eight days with special prayers and symbolic foods at home, starting with the Seder, a ritual meal that re-enacts that ancient deliverance and emphasizes the freedom of the Jews under the guidance of God. The first two and the last two days are holidays.

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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