Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 5.27.20

Goddard Chapel
Medford, Massachusetts

Words of Gratitude for the Tufts Community from Jenny Peace, University Chaplain, *ad interim*

It was an unexpected email last summer that first introduced me to the possibility of serving as the interim Tufts University Chaplain. I was at the end of a year-long sabbatical following ten years as a professor of interfaith studies. The seminary where I taught was moving out of state and I was considering my next steps. Discerning whether I felt called to this position, I heard a clear, whole-hearted, inner "Yes!" This sense of clarity has remained with me throughout the year.

Tufts is a special place full of hard-working, brilliant, and caring people. I appreciate the pervasive spirit of collaboration and am grateful for everyone I worked with this year – students, staff, faculty, and administrators across different offices, centers, and departments. I've been especially impressed by the students. Time after time when I was weighing various programs and priorities, I relied on the wisdom of students to ask for what they needed and offer what they had. I want to add a special word thanks to President Tony Monaco for his leadership and ongoing commitment to the University Chaplaincy. I also want to thank Chief of Staff Michael Baenen, a constant source of support for me this year and a tireless advocate for building Tufts' multifaith chaplaincy model into a nationally recognized program. Most of all, I want to thank the kind and dedicated people who make up the Tufts

University Chaplaincy team: Abdul-Malik, Dan, Lynn, Naftali, Nora, Priya, Shelby, Tom, and, Walker. You have my deepest respect, appreciation and gratitude! I am so glad that the Reverend Greg McGonigle, who led the University Chaplaincy with such vision, has heard a call to return and once again take up this role with such a remarkable team.

I am leaving Tufts in an exceptional moment. We are all wrestling with the implications of living in the midst of a global pandemic. It is a time filled with unknowns, uncertainly, and ambiguity. I'm struck by the poignancy of this present moment too. It contains an invitation to ask ourselves what really matters and how we want to live. In the book, *At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew's Search for God with Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land*, author Yossi Klein Halevi writes that we are called to "live at the center of unbearable ambiguity with an open heart." Through the challenges and the joys of this remarkable year, know that you have all made an indelible mark on me for which I will always be grateful. May we each find the courage to live with an open heart, even in the midst of unbearable ambiguity, listening always for that inner "Yes!"

Warmly,

Jenny

Jennifer Howe Peace, Ph.D.
Tufts University Chaplain, *ad interim*

Open Zoom Farewell for
Jenny Peace, University Chaplain, *ad interim*
Friday May 29, 2020 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

Come say goodbye to Jenny on her final day! This is your last chance to ask Jenny questions about thorny theological dilemmas, interfaith relationship-building strategies, how to write a ukulele song, or what to do with the half-knit scarf you started in her winter knitting group. Jenny would be delighted to see you! Feel free to just drop in for a few minutes. If you are not able to join the call, you are welcome to send her an email with your best wishes.

Join event via Zoom by clicking here.

Check-In with a Chaplain

Our chaplains are here for you, no matter where you are in the world or how you are doing. 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.

Rev. Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain

Rabbi Naftali Brawer, Jewish Chaplain

Walker Bristol, Humanist Chaplain

Lynn Cooper, Catholic Chaplain

Abdul-Malik Merchant, Muslim Chaplain

Venerable Priya Sraman, Buddhist Chaplain

Sustaining Practices with the University Chaplaincy

This semester, the University Chaplaincy team offered short videos to the community, featuring a range of ideas for grounding and centering. Our team hopes the videos will offer sustenance in this time, and speak to people from a range of religious and philosophical worldviews. Last week, University Chaplain *ad interim* Jenny Peace shared a video about making clay pinch pots.

We encourage you to find them on our website or Facebook throughout the summer, if you are looking for inspiration for a new practice. We have had offerings from Music Director Thomas Dawkins about deep listening, Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper about grateful living and letter-writing, Muslim Chaplain Abdul-Malik about creative connecting, Humanist Chaplain Walker Bristol about intentional presence in nature, and Program Manager Nora Bond about sleep. To see the full collection, follow the University Chaplaincy's Facebook page or visit our website.

Religious and Philosophical Life Programs

Summer Check-In and Reflection with Tufts Buddhist Sangha
Fridays, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

Join Buddhist Chaplain Venerable Priya Sraman for meditation, Dharma discussion, and spiritual reflection this summer. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Buddhist Chaplain Priya Sraman at Priya.Sraman@tufts.edu.

Join Friday events via Zoom by clicking here. Check the University Chaplaincy website, Facebook, and Instagram for more information about offerings this summer.

Summer Faith Sharing Group with Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper
Tuesdays, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. ET

Hungry for meaningful connection? Looking to go deep and learn more about the Catholic tradition? Join Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper for a Summer Faith Sharing Group, which began May 26th. You can join for any session, without having attended previous sessions. Topics will include: Catholic Social Teaching, Spirituality, Doubt/Uncertainty, Scripture, and Art Study. If you are interested in learning more or being added to the email list, please contact Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper at Lynn.Cooper@tufts.edu. If Tuesday evenings are not open in your schedule, let Lynn know via email, and she can potentially adapt meeting times.

Join Tuesday events via Zoom by clicking here. Check the University Chaplaincy website, Facebook, and Instagram for more information about offerings this summer. You can also find the Tufts Catholic Community on their Instagram for updates and reflections.

Partner Programs

Tisch College Summer Webinar Series
Navigating the Pandemic: Knowledge, Resilience, Civic Purpose and Engagement
Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ET starting June 10

Tisch College of Civic Life is launching an eight-part weekly webinar series aimed at supporting students and the Tufts community generally during the COVID-19 pandemic. The series, Navigating the Pandemic: Knowledge, Resilience, Civic Purpose and Engagement, will be offered on Wednesdays, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ET, starting June 10. The series will draw on the expertise of Tisch College faculty and staff, Tufts faculty in a variety of academic disciplines, and experts from Boston-area universities, hospitals, and community nonprofit organizations. Topics will include: emotional resilience in the face of trauma and uncertainty, civic engagement and voting, dispelling COVID-19 misinformation with science, the public policy and economic implications of the pandemic, physical health and nutrition, and building and maintaining connections despite social distancing.

These free weekly seminars will be open to current and incoming Tufts students, 2020 Tufts graduates, and members of the Tufts community. Each webinar will include a plenary session that will be recorded and shared, and some sessions may include discussions or activities for smaller groups. Students who attend at least six of the eight sessions will qualify for a certificate of completion.

If you are a current Tufts student or a 2020 Tufts graduate, please sign up for the webinar as a course on Canvas. If you are a Tufts University community member, please register on the Tisch College website. Please any questions to tischcollege@tufts.edu.

Summer Sustainability Webinar Series
Tuesdays, June-August for Tufts faculty and staff

This summer, the Office of Sustainability is partnering with staff throughout the University to bring Tufts employees a weekly webinar series on the many components to sustainability, including Trash and Recycling, Sustainable Events and Purchasing, and more. Any employee can attend any of the sessions by registering on the Office of Sustainability website. You can also attend or watch ten webinars (eight requirements and two electives) to become a certified Eco-Ambassador, joining a group of 120 other committed employees at Tufts. If you are already an Eco-Ambassador, you are still welcome to attend any of the events. For more information about topics and dates, please visit the Tufts Office of Sustainability website. Register for one or more webinar here.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunies

Muslim Wellness Foundation COVID-19 Survey

The Muslim Wellness Foundation has partnered with University of Maryland Professor Dr. Shawn Bediako to conduct a survey to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on Black communities. The purpose of this anonymous and confidential survey is to obtain information on the psychological, economic, and community impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in a national sample of Black or African Americans. The survey will take about ten minutes to complete. The study is currently seeking individuals with the following criteria: self-identity as Black or African American, are 18 years or older, currently reside in the United States, and read and write in English. As a participant in this survey, you will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire about your general thoughts and feelings, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on your life and the lives of your friends and family members. By participating you may help researchers and community organizers better understand how to develop programs and services to meet the needs of the Black community during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, please contact Muslim chaplain Abdul-Malik Merchant at Am.merchant@tufts.edu.

Emergency Funds for Students
Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until funds are expended.

The COVID-19 crisis has created significant financial hardship for individuals and families around the world, including members of the Tufts community. In response, many Tufts community members—alumni, friends, classmates, and parents and families—have come together to support students facing COVID-related financial

challenges.

In addition, the federally funded Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Emergency Grants under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provide emergency grants to qualifying students for expenses directly related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, childcare expenses, and travel.

Although the use of these funds will be evaluated separately, these funds together are called the Tufts University COVID-19 Emergency Fund. These funds are available to currently enrolled, eligible degree- or certificate-seeking students who are unable to meet essential financial expenses or who have experienced unexpected hardship due to circumstances surrounding COVID-19, and meet listed requirements.

Application review committees have been established for each school at Tufts. All requests for funding may be submitted online. Upon approval, funds will be disbursed through your student account. The maximum award available to dependent students is $1,000. Independent students may request up to $1,800. Students do not need to pay back these funds.

Applying for emergency funds is simple and open to all undergraduate and graduate students at Tufts. Students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until funds are expended. Once your application is received, it will be reviewed by the Tufts University COVID-19 Emergency Fund Committee, and you will receive notification of a decision within two weeks. Additional details on award limitations and criteria can be found at the fund website.

Tufts Summer Food Pantry

The Tufts Food Pantry has moved to the Dewick Macphie Conference room for the summer. The pantry is open every day of the week, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. The pantry is accepting donations of any unopened items (perishable or non-perishable), as well as toiletries. Come by to donate what you can or take what you need - all are welcome. For more information about the Tufts Food Rescue Collaborative, which organizes the pantry, see their website. For the latest updates, follow Tufts Food Rescue Collaborative on Instagram. If physically getting to the pantry presents an issue for you, please reach out to Tufts Mutual Aid or Tufts Food Rescue Collaborative via Facebook or email at tuftsmutualaid@gmail.com.

Tisch College Summer COVID Response Program
Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, reviewed every week; funds are limited.

Tisch College of Civic Life has announced a new program to support students who wish to aid in the COVID-19 response this summer. The Tisch Student COVID Response (TSCR) Summer Program will provide stipends for students to innovate, self-design, or work with an existing project that addresses the impacts of COVID-19. Students may address needs in their hometown community or address a broader need, whether domestic or global. All work must be done remotely, and projects must directly address an issue related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grants will be awarded from any amount needed up to $3,000 to support payments, the purchase of materials, supplies, and any other resources required for the successful implementation of the projects. Students can work independently, as a group, and/or with a partner organization. All currently enrolled Tufts students are eligible. More information is available here. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, reviewed every week (reviews began on May 11); funds are limited, so apply soon. If you need your application to be reviewed before the next review date, please email Alex Lein, Student Coordinator, at alex.lein@tufts.edu.

Part-time job as a Youth Organizer with Temple Sinai in Brookline, MA
Application deadline: June 15

Temple Sinai in Brookline, MA, is a vibrant and progressive urban congregation. Temple Sinai is seeking a part-time Youth Advisor to strengthen their youth group and keep students in Grades 9 – 12 involved and engaged. This is an opportunity to work with a group of teens who care about their learning, each other, and giving back to the world. The position will average 8-10 hours/week from late August 2020 through June 2021. The majority of program hours are on Sundays. Remote work is possible, with the expectation of a tranisition to in-person eventually. Qualifications include, but are not limited to: a passion for Jewish engagement, and experience working with teens

in both informal and classroom settings. To find out more information see the job posting, and please email the Temple Sinai Director of Education, Heidi Smith Hyde at Education, at school@sinaibrookline.org with a cover letter and resume to apply.

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.

Ascension of Baha'u'llah
Wednesday, 5.27.2020
Tradition: Baha'i
Marks the anniversary of the death of the founder of the Baha'i faith. Work is suspended on this day.

Ascension of Jesus
Thursday, 5.28.2020
Tradition: Christianity-Orthodox
The celebration of Jesus' ascension into heaven and enthronement as universal sovereign. It comes 40 days after Easter. The date observed by Protestants and Roman Catholics is often different from the date observed by Orthodox Christians.

Shavuot
Thursday, 5.28 – Saturday, 5.30.2020
Tradition: Judaism
(Or "Feast of Weeks.") Shavuot marks the conclusion of the seven weeks following Pesach (Passover). It is a celebration of the harvest of first fruits and commemorates the giving of the Torah and Commandments at Mount Sinai. Begins at sundown.

Pentecost
Sunday, 5.31.2020
Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic
(Or Whitsunday.) The commemoration of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus following his ascension, Pentecost is considered the "birthday" of the Christian church (Acts 2:1-11). It comes 50 days after Easter (Pascha, Orthodox Easter). Roman Catholic and Protestant Christians often observe Pentecost on a different date from Orthodox Christians.

Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji
Tuesday, 6.16.2020
Tradition: Sikhism
The fifth Guru (1563-1606), built the Golden Temple of Amritsar to emphasize that the Sikh way was open to all, regardless of caste; the temple was constructed with doors facing all four directions. The first Sikh martyr, Arjan is also remembered for his contributions to and compilation of the Sikh Scriptures.

Litha
Friday, 6.19.2020
Tradition: Wicca/Paganism
Summer Solstice, celebrating the longest day and the blessings of light as well as the beginning of the sun god's death. Begins at sundown.

About the University Chaplaincy Enews

The University Chaplaincy Enews is published weekly by the Tufts University Chaplaincy to promote programs and opportunities related to spirituality, ethics, culture, and social justice. To propose announcements for inclusion please contact the University Chaplaincy at chaplaincy@tufts.edu.

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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