Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 12.8.21

A Reflection from our Humanist Chaplain

The change of seasons is full of possibilities for us. As our bodies adapt, our senses heighten to move and visualize, and we notice the early setting sun and the dimming down of our energy. However, opportunities for visibility and reflection from our part are a must. In the upcoming weeks, Tufts communities and beyond will be celebrating the winter solstice. The winter solstice holds an important place for human beings because it serves as an indication of longer nights and the beginning of winter.

As a winter solstice baby born in La Isla del Encanto / Island of Enchantment, Puerto Rico, The concepts of light and enchantment have a very personal meaning in my life. For example, growing up I recall parrandas, eating tembleque, and gathering with neighbors who would open their houses to share in celebration during the winter season.

The Humanist Community at Tufts is preparing to celebrate the winter solstice this upcoming Friday by sharing food, lighting candles, recasting our visions, dreams, and uncertainties as a community.

Today, I invite you to consider the generations of peoples and even non-human sentient beings who have learned and adapted throughout time in order to not only survive but thrive as they experience the winter solstice. May you reflect, discover, and embrace the many processes of change.

Anthony Cruz Pantojas, M.T.S.
Humanist Chaplain

Celebrating Giving Tuesday 2021

A big thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Giving Tuesday campaign! We are honored to share that we received 81 gifts with a total of $5,409 in donations.

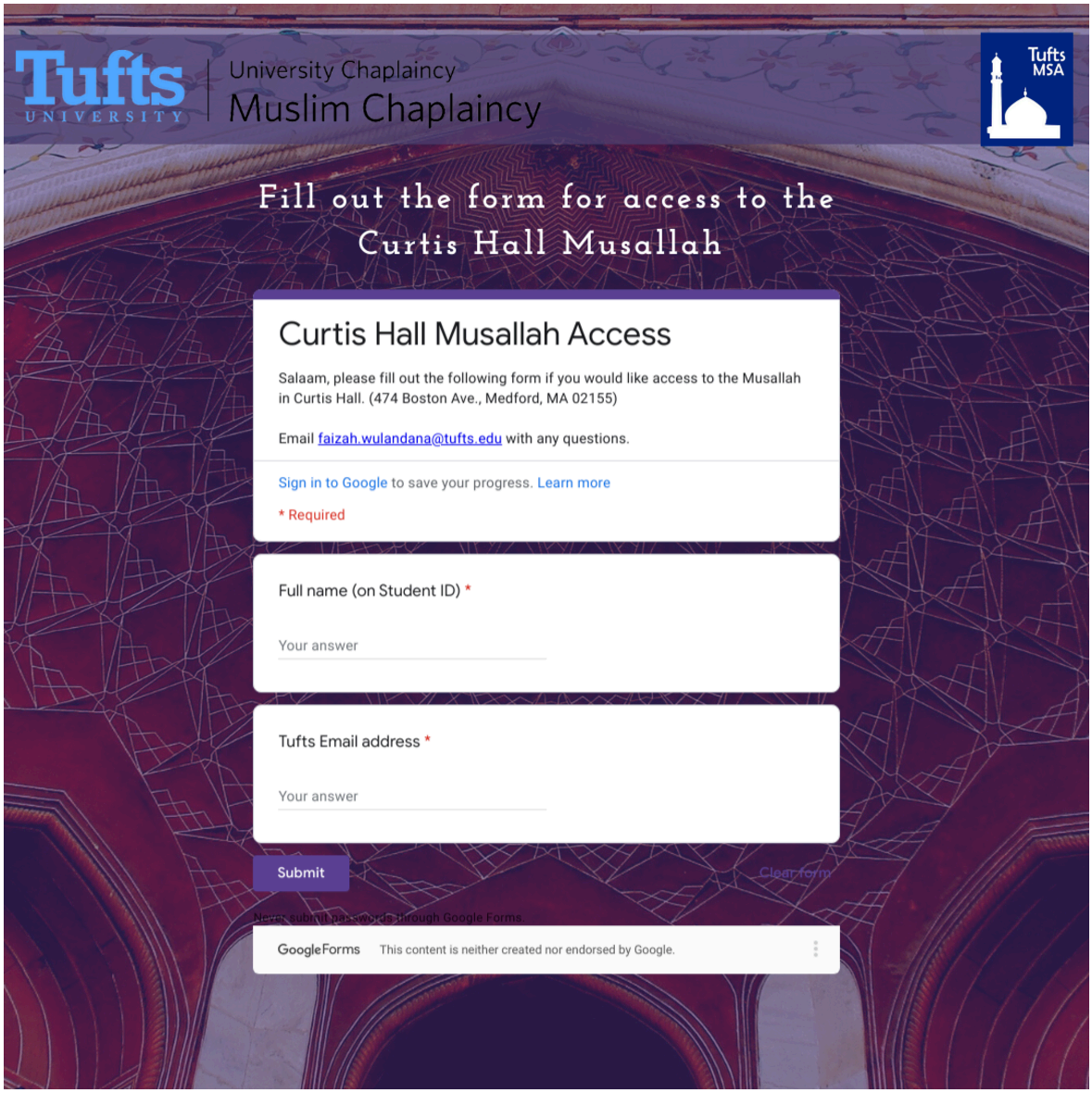
We are especially grateful to our first-ever challenge donor for helping us shine a light on our community and the impact of this office. This successful campaign was made possible through the support of our students, community members, and alumni of the University Chaplaincy from near and far.

Upcoming Signature Events

Pax et Lux: A Multifaith Celebration
Thursday, December 9, 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Join the University Chaplaincy and the Interfaith Ambassadors for this evening of warm celebration uplifting the themes of peace and light. Dancing, singing, and story-telling will light up Goddard Chapel. We will welcome WuZee, Shir Appeal, Public Harmony, Ballroom Dance Team, and stories from chaplains and students about their rituals and traditions at this time of year. A reception of cocoa and treats will follow on the Goddard Chapel steps. We welcome you to join us! Please email program manager Nora Bond with any questions or accessibility needs.

Religious and Philosophical Programs



Access to the Curtis Hall Musallah

If you are a Muslim student, staff, or faculty community member seeking access to the Curtis Hall Musallah, please complete this form to gain swipe access to the sacred space. If you have questions about prayer spaces on any of the Tufts campuses, please reach out to Muslim Chaplain Najiba Akbar.

Buddha's Enlightenment Day

A celebration of our innate Buddha - nature

With Venerable Vineetha and Buddhist Chaplain Ji Hyang Padma

Enlightenment Day is traditionally accompanied by stories, rice cakes, light and flower offerings. There will be the opportunity to take refuge and to witness this joyful ceremony.
We will celebrate the hard work of our e-board, and welcome new e-board members! Please join us!

Wednesday, December 8th
7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Interfaith Center

Tufts UNIVERSITY | University Chaplaincy Buddhist Chaplaincy

Enlightenment Day with the Buddhist Chaplaincy and Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha
Wednesday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.

This year, join the Buddhist Chaplaincy and the Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha at the Interfaith Center to celebrate Buddha's Enlightenment--and our innate enlightened nature--with stories, rice cakes, and light and flower offerings. There will be an opportunity to uplift the hard work of our e-board, and to welcome new e-board members too. All are welcome.

Partner Programs

Central American Artists Call
Application deadline extended to Wednesday, December 8.

Call for Art! *Temporary Living: Creating While Questioning* is a student exhibition curated by Geovani Alberto Cruz Alfaro, A23 that welcomes Central American artists to share and create visual futures of the Central American diaspora through various mediums. The call is open to all Central American Tufts undergraduate and graduate students across all campuses. The exhibition will open at the SMFA Well Gallery and Remis Sculpture Court, in January 2022. Scan the QR code or follow this link to submit to the exhibit. Email Geovani Alberto Cruz Alfaro with any questions.

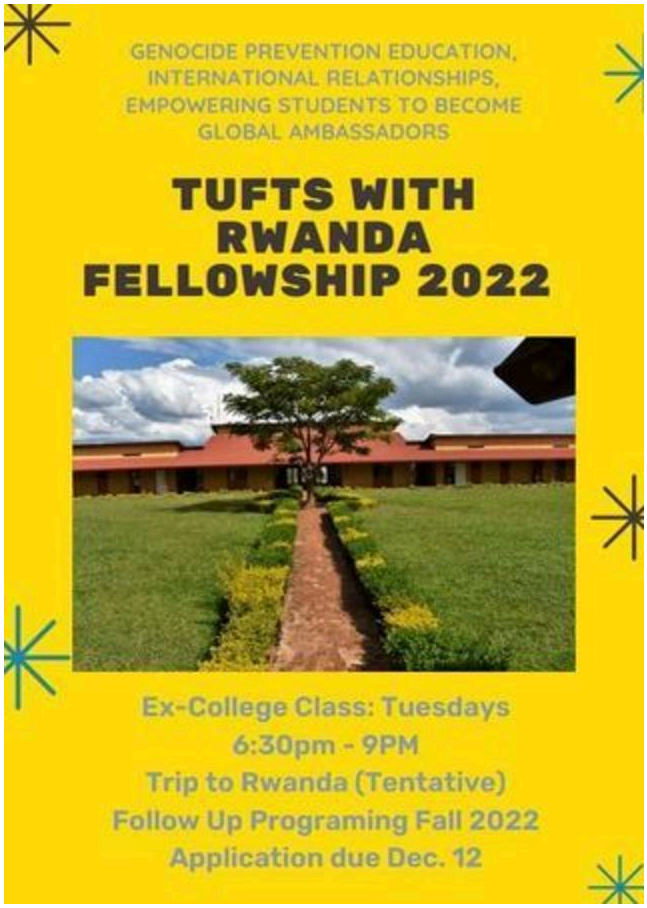
Rest & Recharge Workshop
Wednesday, December 15, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET, held virtually.

Join Tufts Counseling and Mental Health Services counselors Dr. Candyce Burke-Auguste and Kalo Sokoto for a virtual Rest & Recharge workshop. The goal is to provide a space for students to connect and share some of their thoughts and feelings as well as learn a bit about stress management and self-and community care. The Zoom link for the webinar can be found here. This gathering is for Black-identifying students.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities

Harvard Square Homeless Shelter Volunteering with the Catholic Chaplaincy
Wednesday Breakfast Shift (leave campus 6 AM and return 9:30 AM); sign up today through email.

All are welcome as we rekindle our relationship with the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter. Since November 3, we have been sending 3-4 Tufts community members to help serve breakfast at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter, located in University Lutheran Church, 66 Winthrop St. Cambridge, MA (in the middle of Harvard Square). The University Chaplaincy will provide a T Pass for transportation on the 96 bus into Harvard Square, which stops at 6:10 a.m. in front of the LGBT Center. Volunteers travel together. As a volunteer, you decide which weeks you are able to serve. We will have this shift through the spring semester. Please email Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper if you are interested in signing up or learning more. You do not need to be Catholic to participate.



Tufts with Rwanda Fellowship 2022
Application due Sunday, December 12.

The Tufts with Rwanda Fellowship centers around genocide prevention education, restorative justice, and empowering Tufts students to become global ambassadors. The class will explore the root causes of the Rwandan genocide of 1994, its long lasting impacts on Rwanda, and how future generations can apply these lessons. Participants will learn from a accomplished array of speakers, including first hand survivors and renowned researchers of the Rwandan genocide, and through a community-focused Ex-College class that is 2 SHUs and will meet in person on Tuesdays 6:30 pm - 9:00pm. The fellowship includes a highly subsidized, ten-day trip to Rwanda where participants will visit memorials and strengthen bonds with the Agahozo Shalom Youth Village. Students of all

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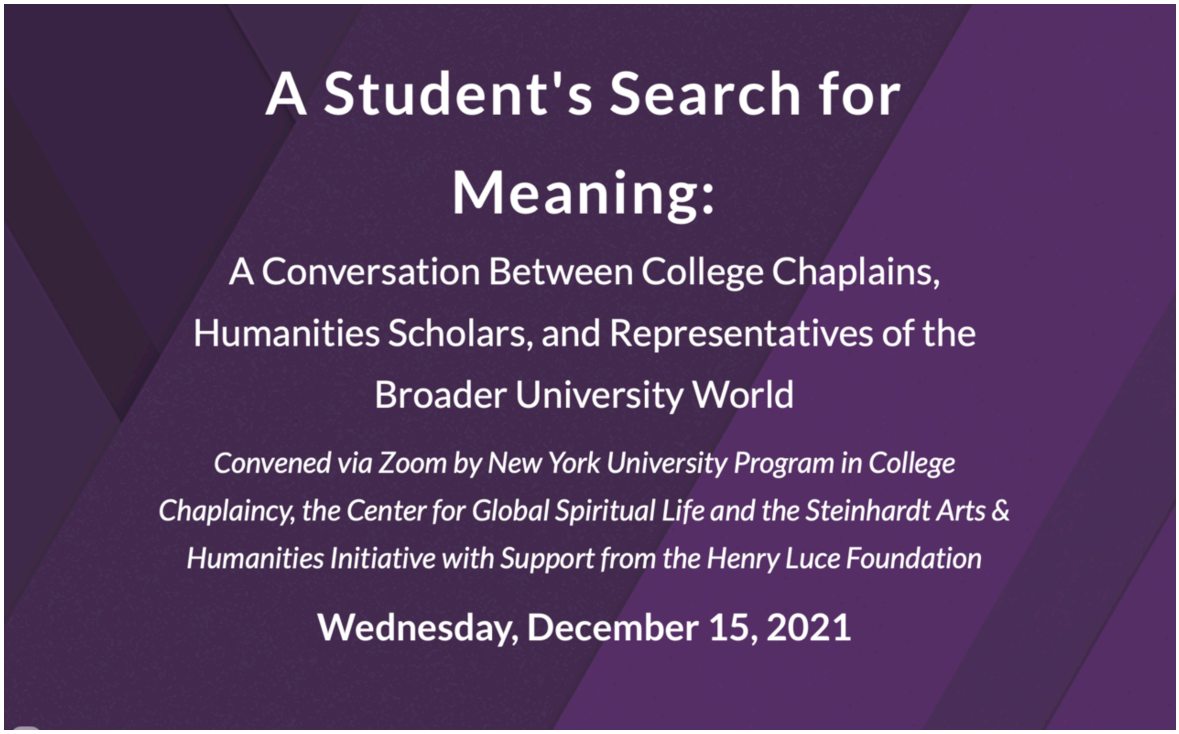
backgrounds and majors are apply to join for a beneficial experience and to be part of an amazing cohort. You can reach out to the fellowship organizer with any questions, and find the application here.



A Student's Search for Meaning: A Conversation Between College Chaplains, Humanities, Scholars, and Representatives of the Broader University World
Wednesday, December 15, various times.

New York University Program in College Chaplaincy, the Center for Global Spiritual Life and the Steinhardt Arts & Humanities Initiative invite you to a series of conversations about the intersections of the humanities, chaplaincy, and education. You can learn more about this virtual event 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.

Advent
Ongoing through Fri., Dec. 24, 2021
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.

Bodhi Day
Wed., Dec. 8, 2021
Tradition: Buddhism
In the northern tradition, this is the anniversary of the Buddha's Enlightenment, ca. 596 BCE. In the southern tradition, the Buddha's Enlightenment is celebrated during Wesak. The dates and names of Buddhist celebrations vary significantly among cultures and communities.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Wed., Dec. 8, 2021
Tradition: Christianity-Roman Catholic

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sun., Dec. 12, 2021
Tradition: Christianity-Roman Catholic

Yule
Mon., Dec. 20, 2021
Tradition: Wicca/Paganism
Winter Solstice, celebrating the longest night and the blessings of darkness as well as the rebirth of the sun god. Begins at sundown.

Christmas
Sat., Dec. 25, 2021
Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic
Celebrates the anniversary of the birth of Jesus.

Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ
Sat., Dec. 25, 2021
Tradition: Christianity-Orthodox
Celebrates the anniversary of the birth (nativity) of Jesus. December 25 is the date of this observance for Roman Catholic, Protestant, and many Orthodox Christian churches.

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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