



# Tufts

# UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 3.16.22



*Hindu Student Council members celebrate Holi on campus on March 12 outside Goddard Chapel. From left to right: Taarika Bala ('24), Ti Wimmer ('25), Raaj Pednekar ('25), Keshav Mathur ('25).*

## A Reflection from our Hindu Advisor

In Sanskrit, Vasanta (वसन्त) means “spring.” Vasant Ritu (वसन्त ऋतु) or “spring season” is also known as Rituraja (ऋतु राजा) or “king of all the seasons.” During this time, it is neither too hot nor too cold and Mother Nature seems to be calling us out into the open, like sprouts from the ground. I love this season for the energy of new beginnings and new growth.

I also send my warmest regards as we prepare for the auspicious time of Holi, beginning this weekend and marked by a Festival of Colors. Known as one of Lord Krishna’s favorite celebrations, playing with colored waters and colored powders is a time-honored tradition as we shift from winter to spring. The celebration and colors represent the forces of life. Since we enter Spring break this weekend, the Tufts Hindu Students Council (HSC) will be holding Holi on April 16 and the Tufts Hindu Chaplaincy will be holding group discussion on the *Bhagavad Gita as It Is* on April 1.

As we celebrate this time of Holi, let us allow ourselves to be shifted by the sparks of spring colors and the bright rays of day. As the sunlight increases, akin to the lighting of bonfires to celebrate Holi, I want to share this second verse of the Rakshoghna Mantra (रक्षोघ्ना मन्त्र) from the Rig Veda (ऋग्वेद) often chanted to ward off evil:

ॐ रक्षोघ्ना रक्षोघ्ना रक्षोघ्ना रक्षोघ्ना रक्षोघ्ना रक्षोघ्ना  
रक्षोघ्ना रक्षोघ्ना रक्षोघ्ना रक्षोघ्ना रक्षोघ्ना रक्षोघ्ना (2)

*tava bhramasa asuya patantyanu sprsa dharsata sosucanah ॥  
tapumsyagne juhva pataṅgan asandito vi srja visvagulkah ॥ 2 ॥*

Your swift and whirling flames move quickly. Glowing in your fury may you consume evil.  
Offered (oblations) by ladle, may you cast scorching flames, sparks and firebrands all around you.

May the forces of life light like fires within you and the energy of Spring be yours this season.

Dhanyavaadah and best wishes,  
Preeti Banerjee, Ph.D.  
Hindu Advisor



**This week our community is greiving in the loss of Cher Xiong, a beloved student and friend who passed away unexpectedly this weekend. In the wake of this loss, chaplains are here for you. If you would like to schedule a time to check in, to talk, or process your feelings, [please complete this form to be contacted by a chaplain.](#)**

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**Upcoming Signature Programs**



# Valarie Kaur

Monday, March 28 • 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. • Breed Memorial Hall



Join Tisch College and the University Chaplaincy for a joint Solomont Speaker Series and Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life event as we welcome civil rights leader, lawyer, award-winning filmmaker, educator, Sikh American, and best-selling author Valarie Kaur on campus.

**“The revolutionary love compass is: See no stranger, tend the wound, breathe, and push. It’s loving others, loving opponents, loving ourselves. At any given moment, there’s a place where we are most called to be; *what is your work right now?*”**

Register at [go.tufts.edu/nostranger](https://go.tufts.edu/nostranger)

The Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life, the oldest lectureship at Tufts, offers a spiritual perspective on the present historical moment, and Kaur’s call to see no stranger is a timely one.

The Alan and Susan Solomont Speaker Series at Tisch College brings to campus civic leaders and change-makers who are working for the greater good to participate in a public forum with the Tufts community.



Jonathan M. Tisch  
College of Civic Life



University  
Chaplaincy

## Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life & Solomont Speaker Series: Valarie Kaur

Monday, March 28, 4:30 p.m., Breed Memorial Hall

This year for the annual Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life, and as a Solomont Speaker Series event, we are welcoming civil rights leader, lawyer, award-winning filmmaker, educator, best-selling author and Sikh American woman warrior Valarie Kaur to Tufts. She will speak to us about Revolutionary Love - the way of being that allows us to be present for, care for, and fully respect ourselves and others. This event is generously sponsored by The Office of the President, the Chief Diversity Officers, the Generous Listening and Dialogue Center at Tisch College and the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations Interfaith Civic Studies Grant. You can [read more about the event here on our website](#), and you can register for the event below.

Register for Russell Lecture

**Please join us for a workshop with Valarie Kaur on Tuesday, March 29 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Breed Memorial Hall. We will be working and learning with Valarie directly, to learn together about the intersections of civic engagement and spirituality. Please register below. Space is limited.**

Register for the Workshop



**Adventuring to Advocacy: Finding our paths to environmental justice**

Save the date: April 10, 2022, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., more details to come

Come join us for a day-long journey exploring our individual paths to climate justice. Through developing our stories, connecting to local organizations, and engaging with the worldviews of your friends and neighbors, begin to imagine your role in the advocacy needed in the fight for climate justice here on Tufts Campus and beyond. By working to understand the varied approaches to environmental salvation taken by activists and faith leaders alike, this workshop hopes to root us in our home and grow us into the change we wish to see. Hosted by the Tufts University Chaplaincy Interfaith Ambassador Program.

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# Share Your Hopes and Interests For our New Africana Spirituality Chaplain!

Follow the link in our bio to chime in!



## Share your hopes for the new Africana Spirituality Chaplain

Survey now open

This spring, the Tufts University Chaplaincy will hire a new Africana Spirituality Chaplain. The Africana Spirituality Chaplaincy, first established in 2017, seeks to create a comfortable space at Tufts for all students, staff and faculty, especially those of the African Diaspora, to grow in worship, fellowship, and community. The chaplain will be a member of the multifaith University Chaplaincy team and work in collaboration with campus partners to support and celebrate Afro-indigenous and Afro-diasporic traditions and communities. The chaplain will work with the Africana Center and offer collaborative programs and will build relationships and actively engage with the existing communities across Tufts' campuses. You can [take the survey here](#).

Take the Survey

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**Religious and Philosophical Programs**

# FULL MOON PUJA

HOSTED BY VENERABLE VINEETHA  
AND CHAPLAIN JI HYANG PADMA

7 PM Wednesday, February 16

7 PM Wednesday, March 16

7 PM Wednesday, April 13

At these Full Moon Pujas, we learn Pali recitations and practice a ritual for renewing our commitment to this path that dates back to the time of the historical Buddha.



University Chaplaincy  
Buddhist Chaplaincy

## **Full Moon Puja**

Wednesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m., Interfaith Center

Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.

Venerable Vineetha and Ji Hyang Padma will each speak about the integration of spirituality into our daily life, and about practices of spiritual friendship at the full moon.





### **Praying for Peace**

Thursday, March 17, 12:00 p.m., EDT, Virtual

For many of us, our hearts are heavy as we watch the news unfold day by day, hour by hour. One thing we can do as a community is come together in solidarity to pray for peace. This Thursday, join the Catholic Chaplaincy to pray for peace both for the war in Ukraine and the many places that war spreads and continues to cause suffering across the globe. We pray for peace and end of strife worldwide. "In this unreal situation, any word of support and prayer is equal to a shield against the bombs or rockets of treacherous atrocity." May these words written by a Ukrainian friend of a local Boston parish guide us and ground us. May they remind us of the power of prayer. [You can find the zoom link here.](#)



### **Purim with Hillel**

Thursday, March 17, Granoff Family Hillel Center

Hillel will be hosting a Megillah reading Thursday morning at 9 a.m. There will be snacks. We hope to see many of you there. Feel free to reach out to [David Wignens](#) with any questions. We will then continue celebrating Purim with Hamantaschen and Mishloach Manot making at Tufts Hillel! Available all day while supplies last



**Relaxation Night with C Stacey Woods/ IV @ Tufts**

Friday, March 18, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Eaton 202

Spring break is here. Still hanging around campus on Friday, March 18th? Come celebrate rest and recreation with some fun fellowship. We will be in Eaton 202 winding down by playing some icebreaker games along with talking about how we have seen God move this semester before we leave for vacation. Some light snacks will be provided. Bring your friends. All students are invited. Hosted by the C. Stacey Woods Programming Board.

**Partner Programs**



# CMHS Support Space

TO HONOR THE ONE YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ATLANTA SPA SHOOTINGS

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 16 2:30-4:30  
LED BY ANDREW YUEN, PSY.D.**

**REGISTER IN ADVANCE, LINK IN BIO**

## **Counseling and Mental Health Services Support Space**

Wednesday, March 16, 2:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 16th is the one year anniversary of the horrific shooting at several Atlanta spas. Eight people were killed, six of whom were Asian women. Violence against Asian people in the US has not abated since then, and the impact of this violence is felt among our Asian community at Tufts. Counseling and Mental Health Services is offering a two-hour support space run by clinician Andrew Yuen, Psy.D. If you or a fellow student may benefit from support and community during this time, please consider joining. [You can register in advance for this meeting here.](#)

GSAS Community Fellows Present

# Islam in/and America

TUE, MAR 29, 2022

12:00-1:30 PM EST

VIRTUAL

REGISTER HERE:



Dr. Sylvia Chan-Malik's talk will explore the history and presence of Islam in America, and how American Islam transcends race, gender, culture, and politics. The talk will center the experiences of American Muslims, and will touch upon the legacies of historic Black Muslim men and women.

## **Islam in/and America**

Tuesday, March 29, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m., Virtual

Join the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) Community Fellows as we learn from Dr. Sylvia Chan-Malik, whose talk will explore the history and presence of Islam in America, and how American Islam transcends race, gender, culture, and politics. The talk will center the experiences of American Muslims, and will touch upon the legacies of historic Black Muslim men and women. At the end there will be time for questions. Dr. Sylvia Chan-Malik is a scholar of American studies, race and ethnic studies, women's and gender studies, and



religious studies. Her research focuses on the history and presence of Islam in the United States, with a specific focus on the lives of U.S. Muslim women, Black American Islam, and the rise of anti-Muslim racism in 20th-21st-century America. Sylvia is a core faculty member in the Departments of American Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and affiliate graduate faculty for the Department of Religion at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. Her writings appear in numerous journals and anthologies, with her commentary appearing in venues such as NPR, Slate, The Guardian, Mic, The Intercept, Middle East Eye, The Daily Beast, PRI, HuffPost, Patheos, Religion News Service, and more. [You can register here.](#)

# Make Your Voice Heard!



**Complete Tufts' DEI  
Climate Survey by March 31  
and help us create a more  
inclusive and responsive  
environment at Tufts.**

**Look for an email from Rob Mack and  
Joyce Sackey, Associate Provosts  
and Chief Diversity Officers  
in your inbox and respond today!**

**Acknowledge**

**Commit**

**Transform**

As you may have seen, the deadline to complete the university-wide Campus Climate Survey on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging has been extended to March 31, and we have stepped up efforts to encourage all members of the university community to take the survey and provide valuable feedback. The survey was developed in alignment with Tufts' anti-racism commitment to Acknowledge, Commit, and Transform (ACT) and results from the survey will help Tufts become a place where all members of our community feel a sense of belonging and contribute in ways that celebrate their identity. Individual survey responses will be anonymous and a report on the results will be released later this semester. You can find the survey in an email from Rob Mack and Joyce Sackey, Associate Provosts and Chief Diversity Officers.

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## Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities



This webinar series explores a singular question from multiple perspectives:

**How might we catalyze healing and transformation in higher education if we are to live together peacefully, respect the planet, and uplift the human spirit?**

**Healing Higher Education: Confronting the Issues**

**Dr. Joy Blanchard**  
*Associate Professor of Higher Education Graduate Programs, Louisiana State University*

**Dr. Hollie Chessman**  
*Director of Research, American Council on Education*

Framing the series, this discussion will illuminate perspectives and learnings gleaned from research reports from the American Council of Education that shed light on the myriad of issues within higher education, from the concerns of sitting college and university presidents to the issues of racial injustice and inequity rampant on American college campuses.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 7:00 - 8:30 PM ET**

### **Healing Higher Education: Race, Reckoning, and Radical Reimagining,**

Beginning on Thursday, March 17th, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. ET, Virtual

This webinar series will explore the question: How might we catalyze healing and transformation in higher education if we are to live together peacefully, respect the planet, and uplift the human spirit? [You can find more information here.](#) [You can register here.](#)





### **Combined Jewish Philanthropies Scholarships**

Application Deadline is April 29 for current undergraduate students and May 15 for incoming Freshmen

Every year, the Combined Jewish Philanthropies Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to eligible undergraduate students in the Boston area. In partnership with JVS Boston, the applicants are interviewed and based on that information a Committee of volunteers award grants. In the last four years, the Committee has made 251 awards for a total disbursement of \$1,400,000. Primary consideration is given to Jewish students. Under certain circumstances, one-year Israel programs are considered. [An application may be requested by clicking here.](#) For more information, [see this flyer.](#) Please contact [Lee Ann Bennett](#) if you have any questions.

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## **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.](#)

### **Nineteen Day Fast**

Tue., Mar. 1 – Sat., Mar. 19, 2022

Tradition: Baha'i

A designated 19-day period of fasting each year immediately before the Bahá'í New Year. The fasting is seen as a period of spiritual preparation and regeneration for the new year ahead.

### **Great Lent**

Mon., Mar. 7 – Sat., Apr. 23, 2022

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.

### **Ghambar Hamaspathmaedem**

Wed., Mar. 16 – Sun., Mar. 20, 2022

Tradition: Zoroastrianism

Celebrates the creation of human beings and honors the souls of the deceased.

### **Purim (Feast of Lots)**

Wed., Mar. 16, 2022

Tradition: Judaism

Celebrates the rescue of the Jews of ancient Persia from a plot to destroy them as related in the Book of Esther, which is read at this time. Purim is a joyous holiday, celebrated by wearing of costumes, giving gifts to friends, giving to the poor, and socializing. Preceded by the Fast of Esther, Purim is a day of feasting. Begins at sundown.

### **Laylat al-Bara'ah**

Thu., Mar. 17, 2022

Tradition: Islam

Begins at sundown. On this night, God approaches the Earth to call humanity and to grant forgiveness of sins. Observed on the 14th day of the lunar month of Sha'ban.

## Holi

Fri., Mar. 18, 2022

Tradition: Hinduism

A joyous spring Hindu festival that is dedicated to Krishna in some parts of India; in other parts of India, it is dedicated to Kama, the God of Pleasure. People throw colored water or colored powder in celebration.

## Ostara

Sat., Mar. 19, 2022

Tradition: Wicca/Paganism

Vernal Equinox, celebrating the equivalence of light and dark and the arrival of Spring.

## Naw Ruz

Sun., Mar. 20, 2022

Tradition: Baha'i

The seventh greatest festival, "New Day" is the first day of the Zoroastrian/Persian and Baha'i New Year. It falls on the spring equinox and symbolizes the renewal of the world after the winter. For Zoroastrians, Naw Ruz also celebrates the creation of fire that is symbolic of Asha, or righteousness. It is also the day on which Zarathustra received his revelation.

## Naw Ruz

Mon., Mar. 21, 2022

Tradition: Zoroastrianism

The seventh greatest festival, "New Day" is the first day of the Zoroastrian/Persian and Baha'i New Year. It falls on the spring equinox and symbolizes the renewal of the world after the winter. For Zoroastrians, Naw Ruz also celebrates the creation of fire that is symbolic of Asha, or righteousness. It is also the day on which Zarathustra received his revelation.

## Birthday of Prophet Zarathustra (Khordad Sal)

Sat., Mar. 26, 2022

Tradition: Zoroastrianism

The anniversary of the birth of the founder of the Zoroastrian faith.

## Hydesville Day

Thu., Mar. 31, 2022

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.

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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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