



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 9.27.23



A Greeting From Your Humanist Chaplain

Dear Tufts Community,

I recall my first few weeks as an undergraduate and how disoriented I felt. I was trying to find my footing in a space I did not expect to enter. I had not done so well in high school but was so excited about the possibilities of declaring a major in the Humanities. With each space I entered, and relationship made, I had greater clarity of who I was and how I wanted to shape my becoming. In the process, I changed majors several times. I then took survey courses in anthropology and eventually specialized in the anthropology of religion. In one of these anthropology classes, I met a professor who modeled what it meant to not only care about her students by tailoring the course to our interests but made a concerted effort to know us beyond our academic identities. Her way of facilitating meaning-making through careful discussion and an invitation to lively connections to everyday life inspired me to commit to helping to build communities of meaningful learning.

As a chaplain in both higher education and healthcare contexts, I focus on the person who is in front of me and I witness and listen intently to what is moving them in the present moment, just as my professor modeled to me. Some stories resonate with my own, such as those that underscore the weight of intersecting oppressive systems that at times are unbearable. In the practice of presencing with another, we can attune to what matters to us and hold new possibilities.

As the fall semester and your journey at Tufts this year unfolds, consider the people who sustain and care for the institution and us. While we are enmeshed in an academic environment, the reality of the everyday is very much present. For example, we need to meet our needs: socializing, eating, sleeping, cleaning, studying, going to the post office, being at events around campus. In these places, we interact with many other embodied selves as well as different versions of our own selves. We are all always doing more than just being intellectual, academic-focused thinkers, but the opportunity to explore it consciously is the invitation.

As you continue to navigate transitions at Tufts, I invite you to feel your way through these processes of getting to know yourself, your communities, your places as more than a single dimension.

En conjunto,

Anthony Cruz Pantojas
Humanist Chaplain

Inauguration Week 2023

LIGHTING THE WAY

University Chaplaincy Celebration

INAUGURATION WEEK

October 4, 2023 • 7:00 p.m. • Goddard Chapel

FEATURING

Ladies of Essence and Shir Appeal a cappella groups

Student leaders from the Catholic Community at Tufts, Hillel, the Hindu Student Association, the Humanist Community at Tufts, the Interfaith Ambassador Team, the Interfaith Student Council, the Muslim Student Association, the Protestant Students Association, and the Tufts Buddhist Mindfulness Sangha

An art installation that all attendees will create together at the event

All are welcome for a festive, multifaith gathering to welcome President Sunil Kumar into the Tufts community. Through music, spoken reflections, and a collaborative art installation, students and chaplains will lift up our shared values of hospitality and welcome!

For more information, visit chaplaincy.tufts.edu/inauguration



University Chaplaincy Event - one week away!

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 7:00pm, Goddard Chapel

All are welcome for a festive, multifaith gathering to welcome President Kumar into the Tufts community featuring Shir Appeal, Ladies of Essence, and student leaders from our many religious and philosophical traditions. Chaplains and President Kumar will also speak.

Through music, spoken reflections, and a collaborative art installation, students and chaplains will lift up our shared values of pax et lux, hospitality, and service. Please join us as we celebrate the legacy of religious and philosophical life at Tufts, rooted in our Universalist heritage and alive across our diverse and vibrant communities. During the gathering, we will invite attendees to write their words of welcome or blessing for our new president on a paper oak leaf, which will be added to a special art installation

created at this event which is inspired by the historic, stained glass oak leaves on one of the primary windows at Goddard Chapel.

If you are not able to join us in person, please consider sharing a word of encouragement or blessing for President Kumar by completing this form. Your words will be included in the art installation that is created during this special event. Please [email the University Chaplaincy](#) with any questions.

Submit to the Installation

Religious and Philosophical Programs

Our gatherings are open to all members of the Tufts community! Please find more information and more regular weekly programming and events [here on our website](#). If you have any questions, or would like to connect about convening a new gathering, please [reach out to the University Chaplaincy](#).



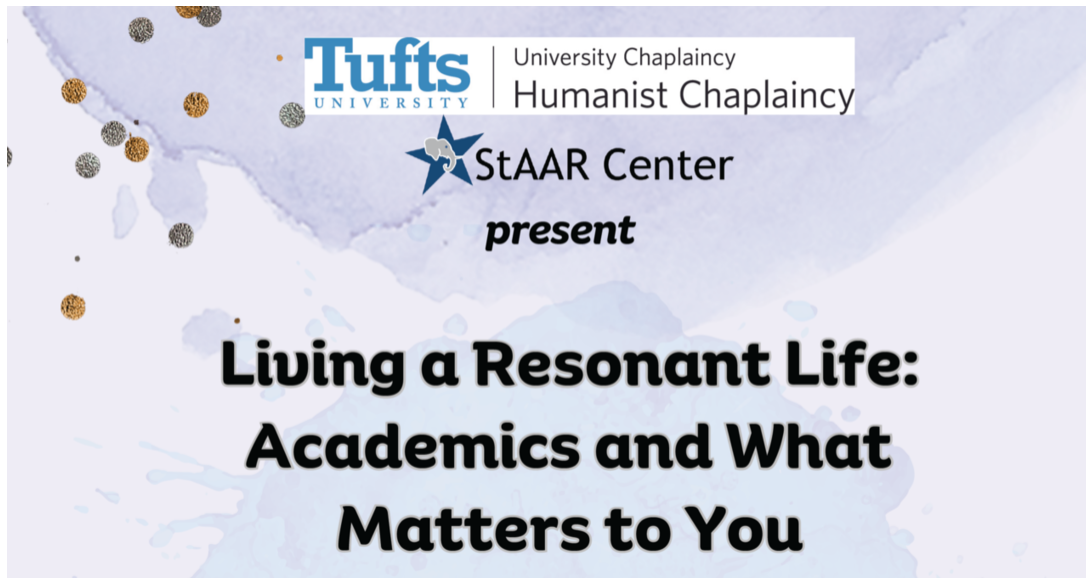
Be-Friend: The Interfaith Friendship Program (virtual/in-person options)

Sign up by Friday, September 29 - starts next week!

This semester-long interfaith friendship project is designed for participants to go deep and to talk about the things that matter like our values, our sense of purpose, and our questions about life. You will hone the skills of active listening while experimenting with shared spiritual practices from different religious and philosophical traditions. Our multifaith chaplains have contributed to the program, offering a diverse array of spiritual practices including nature walks, meditation exercises, listening to music, deep reading—of poetry, art, the world, our lives and one another. Participating students, graduate students, staff, and staff will be paired in dyads and will commit to spending an hour together each week. Students will be paired with other students, and the same for staff/faculty. The program will begin the

first week of October, all are welcome! Please sign up through the links below by September 29.
Contact Chaplain [Lynn Cooper](#) with any questions and sign up with the link below.

Sign up for Be-Friend



Living a Resonant Life: Academics and What Matters to You

Wednesday, October 4, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Interfaith Center (58 Winthrop)

In the age of neoliberal hustle and constant credentialing demands, how might we make “the art of living” more meaningful and sustainable? Join Dr. Justin Jiménez, StAAR Center Academic Success Coach and Lecturer of Education, and Humanist Chaplain Anthony Cruz Pantojas to explore how your academic journey at Tufts can be better aligned with your core values and personal aspirations. We will contextualize our personal stories and clarify the big questions that make us move. Pizza provided.

[RSVP by emailing Anthony Cruz Pantojas.](#)

RSVP for Living a Resonant Life

Sukkah Decorating



Tufts
HILLEL

Sukkah Decorating with Hillel

Thursday, September 28, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Granoff Family Hillel Center

Sukkah Decorating is your chance to do arts and crafts to decorate the beautiful Hillel sukkah and meet new people. Everyone is welcome, please join!

[See more on the Hillel Events Calendar](#)

Partner Programs



Tufts Community Day

Sunday, October 1, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Academic Quad

Join neighbors, families, and friends for Tufts Community Day on the Academic Quad (labeled as "The Green" in Google maps) of the Medford/Somerville campus. The event will be featuring:

- Live performances: song, dance, music, and theater
- Children's activities including, crafts, STEM, portrait artists, jumbo lawn game
- Medford and Somerville community groups and resource
- Research projects by Tufts University faculty
- Free raffle to local restaurants and small businesses
- Free food and refreshments

All activities are free and open to the public, so RSVP necessary. Find [more information about parking, weather, and more here](#).



Free workshop series for neurodivergent Tufts students

See dates below, all workshops in 574 Boston Ave, Room 402

Join this fall to talk and learn about different pieces of your college journey as a neurodivergent student. This workshop series is open to students of all years who identify as neurodivergent (whether they are clinically diagnosed or self-identifying).

- Self-Advocacy & Disclosure: October 3, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Accessing Formal Accommodations: October 11, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Campus Life & Community: October 24, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Executive Functioning & Self-Care: November 2, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Housing & Living on Your Own: November 7, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This workshop series is being conducted as a research study. You can [contact the research team at Eliot Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development here](#). Participants will be asked to share their feedback on the format, content, and perceived impact of the workshop series on their experience at Tufts. Workshop participants will be entered into a raffle to win a \$20 online gift card at each session. You can [sign up here](#).

Sign up for the workshops



Indigenous People's Day Celebration

Sunday, October 8, 2023 at 1:00pm - 6:00pm, Residential Quad by Olin Patio

The Indigenous Students' Organization at Tufts (ISOT) is excited to announce their annual Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration! Join on the Residential Quad by the Olin Patio for celebration and visibility of Indigenous people across the world. There will be speakers, performers, vendors and food. This is a free event for all of the Tufts community and greater Boston area (no registration required), everyone is welcome to come.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities



Alternative Spring Break Coordinator Tufts Student Life

Apply to be an Alternative Spring Break Coordinator

Apply now on Handshake; applications close October 13

Student Life, TCU Senate, the University Chaplaincy, the Career Center, and the Tisch College of Civic Life are collaborating to create an alternative spring break experience for March 2024. The March 2024 break experience will be a pilot program which has the dual goals of (1) planning, creating, and implementing an experience that contributes to student learning, builds social connections, and serves the community in a meaningful way and (2) documenting, assessing, and analyzing the opportunities and challenges and making recommendations for March 2025 and beyond. Consistent with the civic engagement mission of the University, the alternative spring break program will give students an opportunity to learn about, engage with, and contribute to the community outside Tufts. As key peer leaders in this effort, the Alternative Spring Break Coordinators will work in partnership with the teams noted above to plan and implement the alternative spring break experience and assess the experience to make recommendations for future years. Current standing as a Tufts graduate or undergraduate student at the time of hire are welcome to apply. Appointment is October through May, with an average time commitment is 10 hours per week October through December and April through May. Compensation is \$17/hour. You can apply directly on Handshake and reach out to Associate Dean of Students [Kevin Kraft](#) with questions.

Apply on Handshake



HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL

Black Religion and Critical Theory Colloquium

Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 12:00 - 6:15pm, Braun Room, Swartz Hall, 45 Francis Ave.

Convened by Ahmad Greene-Hayes, Assistant Professor of African American Religious Studies at HDS, this colloquium seeks to bridge connections between the critical study of Black religion and studies of race, gender, and sexuality in critical theory and philosophy, among many other fields. The aim of this gathering is to support research and sustained dialogue about the ways in which religion and race are co-constitutive and function as governing categories of analysis at the helm of both religious studies and Black studies, respectively. This event will also be streamed live on the [HDS YouTube channel](#). You can register to attend here.

Register to attend Colloquium

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](#).

Sukkot

Fri., Sep. 29 – Fri., Oct. 6, 2023

Tradition: Judaism

Also known as Feast of Booths. An eight-day Jewish festival of booths (or tabernacles) and the fall harvest. The name refers to the booths (sukkot) used by Israelites during desert wanderings and constructed in the fields during the harvest season. It is a time of thanksgiving for God's presence in creation and among the Jewish people. The Eighth Day (Shmini 'Atzeret) is considered both the end of Sukkot and a distinct festival.

Simchat Torah

Saturday Oct. 7, 2023

Tradition: Judaism

Rejoicing of the Law) Joyous festival in which the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah in the synagogue is completed and its first book begun again. The celebration typically includes singing, dancing, and marching with Torah scrolls.

Ghambar Ayathrem

Thu., Oct. 12, – Mon., Oct. 16, 2023

Tradition: Zoroastrianism

Celebrates the creation of plants, the sowing of the winter crop, and the return of herds from pasture.

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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