Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 3.17.21

Blessings to you on this Feast of St. Patrick

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh (Blessings to you on this Feast of St. Patrick!)

In traditional Irish Gaelic, the common salutation, Dia dhuit (hello) is a call to attention. The phrase means 'God be with you' or quite literally, 'God to you'. The reply is then "God and Mary to you." To which one replies "God, Mary, and Patrick to you." Followed by "God, Mary, Patrick and Brigid to you." My spouse Andrew studied Irish in college and when he taught me this traditional greeting, it moved me deeply. I began to dream: what would it look like to consciously greet each person, each element of creation, by announcing the divine in our midst?

When my young son and I go for walks, he literally greets the day. He says hello to the trees and "good morning" to the sun and the cars. He talks to the bugs that he insists are following him. Upon passing folks on the sidewalk he stops to wonder—who is that? What is their name? Where are they going? I am grateful for how observant he is. Sure, it is a little frustrating at times—our walks home from the park often take twice as long as they would if I were walking by myself—but there is wisdom in his way of being in the world. He is present, wonder-filled, and seeing the myriad connections between and among us.

These walks have taught me that being attentive to the world is its own kind of greeting. When I notice the smallest details and give myself space to entertain genuine curiosities, I am amazed by the sense of awe that fills me—it is at once familiar and novel. I feel connected to what I encounter, and feel the withness that the traditional Irish greeting seeks to remind us of. There is so much beyond our awareness that is with us, whether we call it God, saints or anything else.

So today, I pose the question to you: what is with you, getting you through? New crocuses, a friend's kind word, a lit candle? I invite you to notice these, say hello in your own way, and thank them. As a Christian still journeying through this Lenten season, I can see no better reminder of the new life and transformation that awaits.

Warmly,

Lynn Cooper
Catholic Chaplain

TODAY: Wendell Phillips Speaker Audition
Wednesday, March 17, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. ET

The Wendell Phillips Award was established in 1896 and is given annually to a senior who demonstrates both marked ability as a speaker and a high sense of public responsibility. Selected by the Committee on Student Life, the winner is the one graduating senior invited to offer a speech as part of Commencement, and the speech takes place during the Baccalaureate Ceremony. The speech is intended to deliver a message about civic engagement in our time. This year, the Wendell Phillips Speaker Audition will take place virtually. Our four finalists will share their ten minute speeches with the Tufts community, and the Committee on Student Life will choose one speaker to give the Wendell Phillips Address for the 2021 Baccalaureate Ceremony. Please see the University Chaplaincy website for more information, and register to be an audience member for the audition..

Religious and Philosophical Life Programs

You can find more information about our many weekly gatherings and student group meetings on our website. You can also find the Zoom links for all events and gatherings there. In this section, we feature a weekly gathering hosted by one of our chaplaincies or religious and philosophical student groups, and highlight events and offerings from our chaplaincies. You can always reach out to the chaplain listed for more information, or find details on our website. If you have an idea for how University Chaplaincy programming can better serve you, please contact program manager Nora Bond.

Catholic Spirituality Hour
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET

Over the years, I have heard many iterations of this sentence, "I want to pray, but I don't know where to begin." Spirituality Hour is a response to this longing, and is for anyone who is seeking more depth, intention, and varieties of prayer. Spirituality Hour embraces the truth that anything can be a spiritual practice as long as it is done with deep attention and connects us to something greater than ourselves. We meet on Wednesday evenings to check in with one another and explore different kinds of prayer or spiritual practice. Our practices range from the ancient exercises of Lectio Divina and praying with the Psalms, to letter writing, breath work, creative expression, and contemplation with music. When we stretch our imaginations and begin to approach prayer in a more expansive way, we live more prayerful lives. Not because we are kneeling at our bedsides more, but because we begin to see our lives as holy sites worthy of deep reflection. Join us any Wednesday, and find the

Zoom link is on our website. You can always contact me, Lynn Cooper, with any questions.

See more weekly gatherings

Death Cafe with the Humanist Community
Friday, March 19, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET

What do you believe happens after death? Does it matter? Would you want to know how or when you're going to die? What does it mean to you to leave a legacy? If these questions spark your interest, you should come to this year's virtual Death Cafe.The Humanist Community at Tufts will be hosting a Death Cafe for members of the Tufts community to talk openly with one another about death and dying. The program will include small group conversation, dinner, and, of course, cake! Find more information on the Facebook event page, as well as a link to register. Registration is required to receive a food voucher and Zoom link. You will be able to pick up your cake and conversation starters in advance and Grubhub gift cards will be provided over email. All are welcome and invited.

Passover with Tufts Hillel
Sign up for meals by Wednesday, March 24, 11:45 a.m. ET

Passover begins at sundown on March 27 and ends the evening of April 4. Passover Seder meals and services will be offered on campus, in small groups and virtually. Please view and complete this form to learn more about meals pick-up and small group gatherings. If any student has any questions, concerns or requires guidance on how to celebrate Passover on campus this year, please contact Rabbi Naftali Brawer.

Ramadan Kit & Suhoor/Sehri Grab'n'Go
Complete sign up form by Thursday, March 25

Tufts MSA is working hard to make sure everyone is able to enjoy their Ramadan this semester the most as possible! As part of our planning process, we have created a form where members of our community can indicate if they would like to receive Suhoor Kits and Ramadan Kits. Suhoor/Sehri Kits are intended for community members without meal plans and would like to pick groceries provided by Tufts MSA on a recurring basis. Those with meal plans are automatically eligible for suhoor / sehri kits via Tufts Dining. Ramadan Kits are a separate grab'n'go program for those interested in physical items that may help facilitate spiritual accountability throughout the holy month. While the MSA is continuing to prepare items for the kits, some example items include a prayer mat, tusbah, and Quran. Follow this link to visit the Google Form.

Holi with the Hindu Student Council and Tufts Association of South Asians (TASA)
Wednesday, March 31, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

Join the Hindu Student Council and TASA to celebrate Holi. Holi is the festival of colors and welcomes the joys of spring. For Hindus, it is a time of abundant celebration for nature's blessings and a symbolic reminder to turn over a new leaf. The celebration also has religious significance, as it symbolizes the victory of devotion and love over evil,

through the killing of selfish King Hiranyakashyap and the saving of his son, Prahlad. We will be handing out individual rang packets at the Campus Center Patio.

Good Friday Ecumenical Service
Friday, April 2, 12:00 p.m - 1:00 p.m. ET

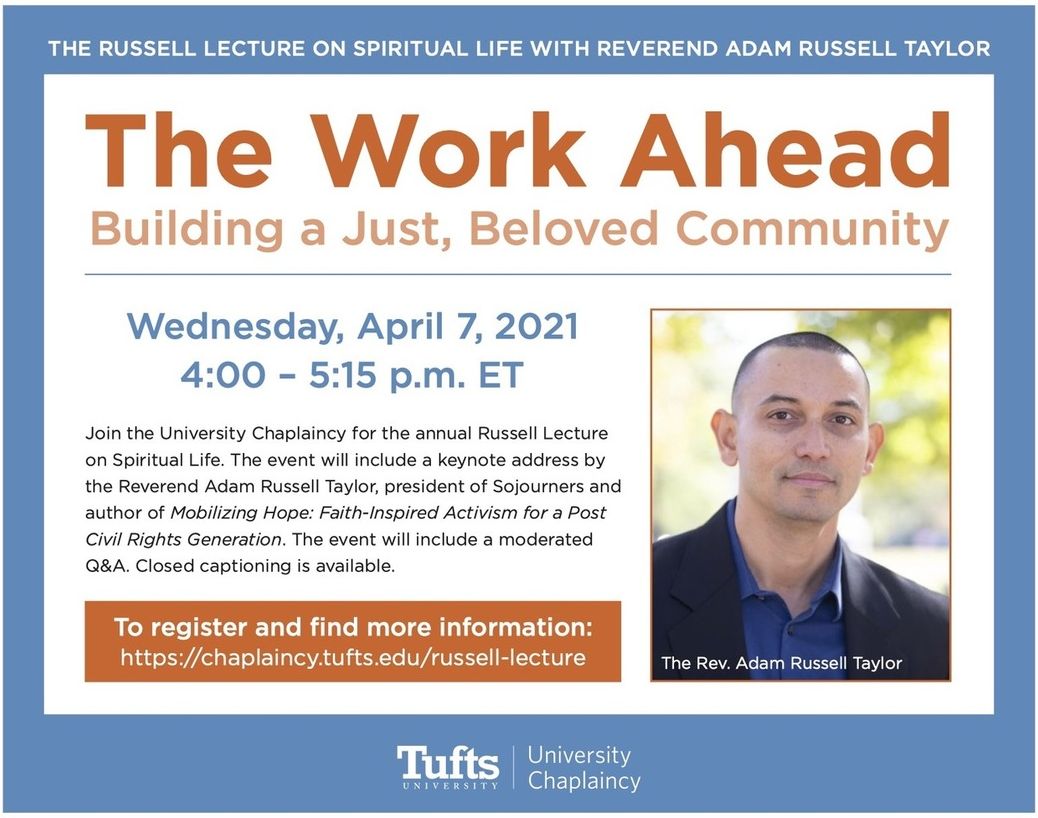
Like Christians all over the world, we come together on Good Friday to witness to Jesus' passion and to sit with the brokenness. This year, the Catholic and Protestant Chaplaincies know that so many of us are suffering. Join us. Let us be together. This service will be a time of prayer and song as we keep vigil and stay awake to the tombs in our world and the tombs in our hearts. Hosted by Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper and Protestant Chaplain Rev. Dan Bell. Join us on Zoom.

Easter Sunday Mass
Sunday, April 4, 5:00 p.m - 6:00 p.m. ET

Join the Catholic Community at Tufts as we gather to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord and the promise of transformation in our world. All are welcome. And as always, come as you are. Join us on Zoom.

Easter with the Protestant Community
Sunday, April 4, 7:00 p.m - 8:00 p.m. ET

All are warmly welcome to celebrate the Resurrection and new life in Christ this Easter as we gather for worship on the evening of Easter Sunday. Join the Protestant Students Association and Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell as we welcome the Reverend Brenda Bennett, Pastor of Community Baptist Church in Medford, as our guest preacher. Afterwards, please stick around for some time of fellowship. Join us on Zoom.



Save the Date: Annual Russell Lecture
Wednesday, April 7, 4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. ET

The Russell Lecture is the oldest lectureship at Tufts, and each year brings a distinguished lecturer to speak on a topic relating to spiritual life. This spring, we will host Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, president of Sojourners magazine and author of *Mobilizing Hope: Faith-Inspired Activism for a Post Civil Rights Generation*. Taylor also serves on the Global Advisory Board of Tearfund UK and is a member of the inaugural class of the Aspen Institute Civil Society

Fellowship. We are glad and honored to host him virtually this spring. You can learn more on our website and register for the lecture below.

Register for the Russell Lecture

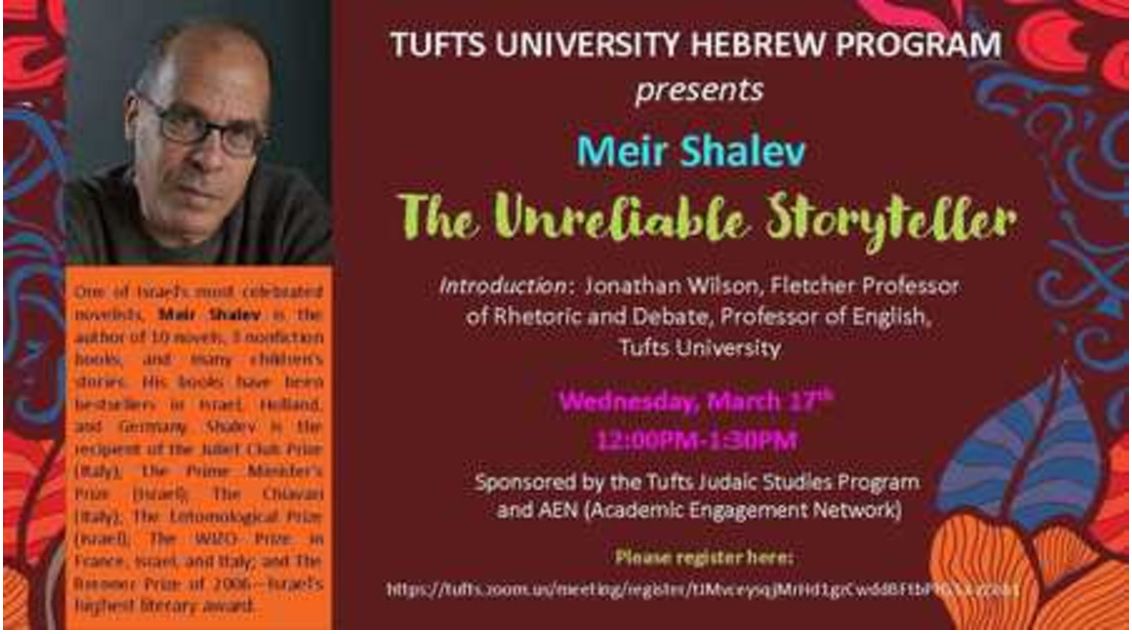
Neha Ratnapuri, A23, lights a candle in Goddard Chapel

An Offering for the Tufts Community: "A Time to Grieve, Hope, and Act"

On Sunday, March 7, members of the Tufts community came together for a live gathering, "A Time to Grieve, Hope, and Act," as we marked a year since Tufts' campus closure last March. Thank you to the students, staff, and chaplains who contributed to the gathering, as well as the community members who gathered that Sunday to commemorate this moment together.

This multifaith, inter-generational community gathering was hosted by students, chaplains, and staff from the University Chaplaincy and Hillel and included welcoming words by President Monaco. Tufts Now uplifts the beautiful reflections and candle lighting by our multifaith staff and student communities in their article, "Spiritual Hope and Healing After A Tumultuous Year." To see the full recording of this gathering, click here to watch on YouTube.

Partner Programs



The Unreliable Storyteller: Narratives in Memoir and Fiction
Monday, April 5 – Friday, April 9

The Hebrew Program at Tufts presents a talk with one of Israel's most celebrated novelists, Meir Shalev. Shalev is the author of 10 novels, 3 nonfiction books, and many children's stories. His books have been bestsellers in Israel, Holland, and Germany. He is the recipient of the Juliet Club Prize (Italy); The Prime Minister's Prize (Israel); The Chiavari (Italy); The Entomological Prize (Israel); The WIZO Prize in France, Israel, and Italy; and The Brenner Prize of 2006—Israel's highest literary award. This event is sponsored by the Tufts Judaic Studies Program and AEN (Academic Engagement Network). Register for the event here.

Women's Center Symposium 2021: Our Selves
Monday, April 5 – Friday, April 9

April will bring the 10th annual Tufts Women's Center Symposium on Gender & Culture. This year's symposium will be a virtual event series that will take place April 5 - April 9, and the theme is Our Selves. Find the call for submissions here, and follow along on the Women's Center's social media for more updates, including a symposium website, keynote speaker announcement, and collaborations. Submissions are due March 19, and you can submit your work here. The Women's Center is looking for many different kinds of submissions, including poetry, personal essays, art, short stories, TikToks, videos, drawings, paintings, collages, audio pieces, and academic essays.

Tufts Women's Center 10th Annual Gender & Culture Symposium

Spring 2021, April 5-9th
Theme: Our Selves

For the 10th annual Women's Center Symposium on Gender and Culture, we wanted to do something different. We're living in a uniquely alienating time when we all need more warmth and humanity.

This year we want to focus on what inhabiting an identity and a body feels like in 2021: during a pandemic, during extreme political and social unrest, during a time when awareness of inequalities, barriers, and identity is increasing—but the barriers themselves are not decreasing.

We are going to structure this year's symposium as a series, which will include live events, digital content, and a virtual art gallery. We want you to bring yourself as you are to this symposium, and we want to celebrate you and your work. What have you made recently that you'd like to share? What brings you comfort and happiness? What keeps you going? What makes you feel at home in your body? What do you want to say about who you are in 2021? We invite you to share your joys, your struggles, and all the complicated parts of yourself that make you you.

Submissions are due Friday, March 19th. Send us your poetry, personal essays, art, short stories, TikToks, videos, drawings, paintings, collages, audio pieces, academic essays, and ideas. To submit a piece, visit bit.ly/tuftswcsubmit2021

We're here to celebrate ourselves just as we are—works in progress, seeds of ideas, and fully formed in our own ways.

Global Tufts Month: Who Gets to Belong in the Just and Sustainable Society?
Monday, March 19, 1:00 p.m - 2:30 p.m ET

In honor of Global Tufts Month, the Office of the Provost cordially invites you to attend Who Gets to Belong in the Just and Sustainable Society?, a university-wide panel discussion hosted by Julian Agyeman, Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning. Professor Agyeman and panelists, Shibani Ghosh (Friedman), Karen Jacobson (Fletcher), Shan Jiang (A&S), and Ramnath Subbaraman (TUSM) will address "just sustainabilities," the intersecting goals of social justice and environmental sustainability defined as the need to ensure a better quality of life for all, now, and into the future, in a just and equitable manner, whilst living within the limits of supporting ecosystems. Please register here.

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities

Field Guide for Aspiring Chaplains
Thursday, March 18, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET

The Field Guide series is intended to offer a basic introduction to profession of chaplaincy, from education and training through to practice. Each session includes an in-depth conversation with spiritual care practitioners on topics of key importance to those considering careers in chaplaincy. Please find more information on the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab website.

Apply to be an Intern at the LGBT Center
Priority Deadline: Wednesday, March 24

The LGBT Center is looking for undergraduate interns for the 2021-2022 academic year. LGBT Center interns are a small team of undergraduate students committed to furthering the values and work of the LGBT Center. They work in collaboration with each other, the LGBT Center professional staff, and other students/departments to serve the LGBT+ community at Tufts, with all of its intersecting identities, by developing various programs, resources, and events. If you are interested in applying, visit here. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact joel gutierrez, LGBT Center program administrator.

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. See below for a Tufts community member's personal excperience of an observance listed here.

Nineteen Day Fast
Sunday, 2.28 – Friday, 3.19.2021
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
Monday, 3.15 – Friday, 4.30.2021
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
Tuesday, 3.16 – Saturday, 3.20.2021
Tradition: Zoroastrianism
Celebrates the creation of human beings and honors the souls of the deceased.

Naw Ruz
Friday, 3.19.2021
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.

Ostara
Friday, 3.19.2021
Tradition: Baha'i
Vernal Equinox, celebrating the equivalence of light and dark and the arrival of Spring.

Naw Ruz
Sunday, 3.21.2021
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)
Friday, 3.26.2021
Tradition: Zoroastrianism
The anniversary of the birth of the founder of the Zoroastrian faith.

Laylat al-Bara'ah
Saturday, 3.27.2021
Tradition: Islam
Begins at sundown. (Night of Repentance). 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.

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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