

Join us October 20th!

This week's presentation will follow the Navratri theme discussed at last week's meeting and focus on the three Goddesses that are celebrated during the nine-day festival. During Navratri, the first three days celebrate Devi (Divine Mother) in the form of Durga, the next three are set to honor Devi in the form of Lakshmi, and the last three are dedicated to Saraswati. In Hinduism, these three goddesses also represent the significance of feminine power.



Goddess Saraswati, Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Durga are the respective consorts of Lord Brahma (the creator), Lord Vishnu (the protector) and Lord Shiva (the destroyer). Saraswati is the goddess of knowledge, and she is the one who gives the essence (Saara) of the self (Swa). Lakshmi is the goddess of wealth and prosperity, and she is invoked for a happy and prosperous life. Durga embodies shakti (energy) and courage, and she is said to ward off all evils.

Devi or the Divine Mother embodies the energy which has given birth to the entire universe, and she represents the universal shakti (energy). Navratri is the time when this shakti can be accessed by worshipping all the names and forms of Devi.

"When we honor the Devi during the nine days of Navratri through the chanting of the many names and qualities of the Devi, we enliven those qualities within us. They manifest in us according to the need of the hour." - Bhanumathi Narasimhan (Sister of Gurudev Sri Ravi Shankar)

Zoom link: <https://tufts.zoom.us/j/96496822108>

Password: hsc#2020

Weekly Showcase



<https://youtu.be/pNxURnwtSxE>

Akshita performing Krishna Shabdham kuchipudi style, in Ragam Mohanam and Aadi Talam. This classical piece

is in Kuchipudi style, which is an ancient classical dance form from the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, and depicts the dancer longing for the blessing of the Hindu Lord Krishna. This specific solo performance was held at her arangetram ("ascending the stage") in August 2015 to mark the completion of her formal training in Indian classical dance. This piece, among several others, demonstrated her mastered skill in Nritya (pure technical dance such as posture, rhythm, leg movements, and hand movements that are based on music alone), Natya (explanatory dance that expresses emotion conveyed through hand gestures and facial expressions), and Nritya (the combination of Nritya and Natya that involves emotions, expressions, and description). This piece was choreographed by Akshita's guru, Smt. Neena Gulati from Brookline, MA.

Email hsc.tufts@gmail.com to be featured in our next newsletter!

Our new Reading Group starts next week!

ACK is an Indian publisher of graphic novels based on biographies, religious figures and cultural stories, founded in 1967 by Anant Pai. Largely a response to supporting children in learning about their heritage, the series also has equally engaged older readers in important conversations about their relationship to the content including social equity and gender dynamics. Email preeta.banerjee@tufts.edu with any questions!



Proposed schedule:

- October – Tales of Durga**
 We will meet on Friday Oct 23 to hold a small ceremony, discuss our reading and eat together.
 To accompany 10 days of Navratri/Durga Puja: **Oct 17-26, 2020.**
- November – Rama**
 We will meet on Friday Nov 13 to hold a small ceremony, discuss our reading and eat together.
 To accompany Diwali as first celebrated to welcome Lord Rama's homecoming to Ajodhya: **Nov 14, 2020.**
- January – Ganesha**
 We will meet on Friday Jan 15 2021 to hold a small ceremony, discuss our reading and eat together.
 To accompany the New Year as any new beginning is a time to ask for Lord Ganesha's blessings: **Jan 1, 2021.**
- February – Saraswati**
 We will meet on Friday Feb 12 2021 to hold a small ceremony, discuss our reading and eat together.
 To accompany Vasant Panchami day is dedicated to Saraswati: **Feb 16, 2021.**
- March – Krishna**
 We will meet on Friday March 26 2021 to hold a small ceremony, discuss our reading and eat together.
 To accompany Holi – a festival said to be the favorite of all of Lord Krishna and Radha Rani: **March 28, 2021.**
- April– Hanuman**
 We will meet on Friday April 23 2021 to hold a small ceremony, discuss our reading and eat together.
 To accompany Hanuman Jayanti – born on this day: **April 26, 2021.**
- May - Ganga**
 We will meet on Friday May 14 2021 to hold a small ceremony, discuss our reading and eat together.
 To accompany Ganga Saptami and celebrate the day Goddess Ganga was reborn: **May 18, 2021.**

Inspiration

"True worship can only be achieved by renouncing arrogance. When a man achieves true worship then all his immoral deeds come to an end. His state of affluence and spiritual power also come to an end. A man renouncing his desires can absorb in the God."

Amritbani Satguru Ravidassji, Shabad-6, Raag Gauri


Tufts University | University Chaplaincy

Wednesday
October 21, 2020
4:00-4:45pm EDT


Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/3Yvk7d>
Meeting ID: 951 0102 8879
Passcode: 270437

Meet the University Chaplaincy


Bring your questions, needs and curiosity! Chaplains are eager to get to know you, learn how best to support you and share about the programs, interfaith collaborations, and pastoral care services available to you.




The Rev. Elyse Nelson Winger
University Chaplain




Amara Mohammed Davis
Africana Spirituality Advisor




Lynn Cooper
Catholic Chaplain



Preeta Banerjee
Hindu Advisor



Walker Bristol
Humanist Chaplain



Rabbi Nathali Brewer
Jewish Chaplain



Abdul Malik Merchant
Muslim Chaplain

Interfaith Offerings and Office Hours

Tuesdays and Fridays 11-1pm ET

Please email me: preeta.banerjee@tufts.edu to set up an appointment

On Indigenous People's Day, I was asked by a Tufts student to share a 1 min message on the traditions I carry on PBS American Portrait, check out the result here:

<https://www.pbs.org/american-portrait/story/21164/preeta-b-medford-ma-the-tradition-i-carry-on-is>

