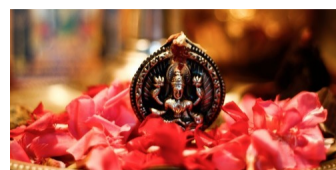




Join us October 13th!

Our presentation on October 13th 9-10pm ET highlights the auspicious Hindu festival of Navaratri, literally translating into "nine nights." The celebration is historically associated with the great triumph of Goddess Durga over the buffalo demon Mahishasura and symbolizes the victory of peace over ego by the divine feminine.



The festival is centered around the three major Hindu goddesses Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati, who represent the three gunas of Rajas (passion), Tamas (chaos), and Sattva (harmony) that are present in life.

Hindus around the world celebrate Navaratri through diverse celebrations, including Durga Puja in West Bengal, Garba performances in Gujarat, elaborate Durga "pandals" in Kolkata, the arrangement of Golu in Tamil Nadu, and the decoration of the Mysore Palace in Karnataka. The event traditionally concludes with the tenth day known as Vijaydashami or Dussehra, a day that represents victory and accomplishment and is celebrated throughout India with great joy and festivities.

Underlying the story behind Navaratri is a major philosophical theme that addresses seven key elements, whose imbalance results in harmful doshas to the body. It is believed that Goddess Durga encounters seven demons, who are each representative of these imbalanced elements, and it is her divine energy that defeats these troubles to provide Hindus with harmony in life. The festival reflects an essential message of the Vedas, which is to generate one's spiritual awakening by purifying the mind, gaining knowledge, and cultivating positive virtues.

Zoom link: <https://tufts.zoom.us/j/96496822108>
Password: hsc#2020

Weekly Showcase



Sid Anand, co-President, performing clarinet

<https://www.facebook.com/100001690976911/videos/3105838659482469/>

The composition Sid performs is Vinayaka Ninnu Vinna, in Ragam Hamsadhvani and Aadi Talam by EV Ramakrishna Bhaagavata. He thanks his guru Shri Chitravina Ganesh and Gayatri Fine Arts for the opportunity and the initiative.

Send your weekly showcase submissions at hsc.tufts@gmail.com if you would like to be highlighted in our next newsletter!

Our new Reading Group!

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.



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 – Ganesh** TBD
 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 Ganesh's blessings: [Jan 1, 2021.](#)
- February – Saraswati** TBD
 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.](#)

Fill out the form for our ACK program this year to have the comics mailed to you! <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRAPiJWepADTaCD0pQ80nwLugVW03DFcsLdNBiNORKzVJ1w/viewform>

Inspiration

"It is better to live your own destiny imperfectly than to live an imitation of somebody else's life with perfection"

Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 3 Verse 35

Vote!

Here is our voting plan from our JumboVote meeting on October 6th! Please feel free to visit jumbovote.org for more resources and state-specific deadlines. Here are the slides from the meeting:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1DJ9bR_nZD8xlerOfDv17L8KFdD9df87ClnWTW77jnz/edit?usp=sharing

<p>We're here to answer your voting-related questions this election season!</p> <p>Where to find more election information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Zoom office hours (Mondays 1-2pm, Thursdays 6-7pm) Our website: https://www.jumbovote.org/ Please feel free to contact us! <p>Email: jumbovote@tufts.edu Facebook Instagram Tumblr YouTube</p>	 <p>Tufts University's non-partisan student-run civic and voter engagement initiative</p>	<h3>Mini JV Presentation</h3> <p>Where to find more election information: Our Zoom office hours (Mondays 1-2pm, Thursdays 6-7pm) Our website: https://www.jumbovote.org/ Please feel free to contact us! Email: jumbovote@tufts.edu Tufts University's non-partisan student-run civic and voter engagement initiative @jumbovote</p> <p>docs.google.com</p>
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Email jumbovote@tufts.edu if you have any questions!

"Friendship is intimate and ordinary. It can also be revolutionary."
-Dana Robert



In this acute moment, building and nourishing relationships is vital to good health and wellbeing. This 9-week interfaith friendship project is designed for students 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 learn the skill of active listening while experimenting with shared spiritual practices from different religious and philosophical traditions. Several of our multi-faith 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 are paired in dyads and commit to spending an hour together each week (safely in-person or virtually) as well as another half hour in private reflection.

Contact Lynn.Cooper@tufts.edu if you are interested or have questions; there is no deadline by which to apply.

Interfaith Offerings and Office Hours

Tuesdays and Fridays 11-1pm ET

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