

# Interfaith Insider

Welcome to the SAIT Interfaith Centre monthly newsletter. Subscribe [here](#) to meet our team and stay up to date on all that's happening!



## OUR OFFICE HAS MOVED

The Interfaith Centre has moved into our new area.

Come visit us in  
**Room MB 305**

## We live in interesting times

Imam Fayaz Tilley, p.2



Learner  
Services

**Interfaith  
Centre**

Lest we forget those who protected the rights and freedoms, we have today.

The poem "In Flanders Fields" uses imagery to describe beautiful red flowers growing in the graveyard, called poppies which are placed "Between the crosses, row on row." The point of the red poppies is to honor the soldiers who died. By wearing a poppy, you would be standing with the soldiers and their families. However, some who do not wear the poppies claim to support all voices unheard.

The "Larks" can sing and fly, symbolizing that life is triumphant. In mythology and literature, larks also represent daybreak, signifying change and promise. Multiple speakers in the poem illustrate that they had families and relationships before death "loved and were loved, now we lie." Each person was unique, came from different cultures, and had other hopes and dreams. The dead were involved with a mess bigger than themselves to bring hope for the future.

The line "Take up our quarrel with the foe" shows historical relevance to discredit the growing antiwar sentiment, and the following few lines tell people to fight with a purpose. The torch represents peace, dropping every time someone engages in unnecessary violence. This poem was written when evil would triumph, and deaths would be meaningless if people did not stand up for their country.

*By Adrian Oida*

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## Interfaith Interface every Friday

Interfaith Interface is a safe, inclusive and inspiring activity where students from different spiritual backgrounds and diverse cultures come together to engage in thought-provoking dialogue.

[Click Here](#) to join us for an online dialogue on MS Teams on Fridays.

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## Interfaith Centre LEADS Student

*The Interfaith Centre has never been bubblier and fuller of smiles and joy since Yen (pronounced "In") joined our team. What a delightful spirit she is, come see for yourself.*

### Yen Nguyen



Hey everyone! My name is Yen Nguyen, and I come to campus from Vietnam. I am pursuing a diploma in Business Administration and being a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, Beta Sigma Tau Chapter.

I love learning about differences between people, beliefs, and cultures, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to share my journey here at Interfaith Centre with you all, as a Student Leader. To me, the Interfaith Centre is the most inclusive, diversified, and respectful environment that I have ever been involved in! So if you have any questions - no matter how big or small - feel free to reach out to our Chaplains!

Outside of class, I love to do volunteer, calligraphy, read, and watch soccer matches (I rarely miss any soccer matches of my national team!)



## Chat with a Chaplain

Imam Fayaz Tilley,  
Muslim Chaplain, MCC

## We Live in Interesting Times

We definitely live in interesting times. On the one hand the world is getting smaller yet on the other much more divided. Likewise, we are partaking in delightful conversations around pluralism and the role of religion in the public sphere while bigotry, racism and xenophobia is exponentially on the rise. At times, it seems that we as the human race are spending more time and energy on warding and mitigating trials and tribulations rather than embracing and experiencing joy and jubilation and yes, the global pandemic hasn't helped! Every so often, I get lost in deep thought and contemplation trying to identify what I can do and what responsibilities I'm obligated to discharge in bringing about solutions to our problems and how I can play a role of being constructive and not destructive. Without fail, I regularly conclude that change starts with me and as the quote goes, "one day or day one. You decide."

Islamic scholar, Dr. Hamza Yusuf writes in his book titled Purification of the Heart, "If we examine the trials and tribulations, wars and other conflicts, every act of injustice all over earth, we'll find they are rooted in human hearts. Covetousness, the desire to aggress and exploit, the longing to pilfer natural resources, the inordinate love of wealth and position, and other maladies are manifestations of diseases found nowhere but in the heart. Every criminal, miser, abuser, scoffer, embezzler, and hateful person does what he or she does because of a diseased heart. If hearts were sound, these actions would no longer be a reality. So, if we want to change our world, we do not begin by rectifying the outward. Instead, we must change the condition of our inward." After reading, this I once again renew my commitment to do what is right and not easy and that is: let change start with me!

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## Diwali

*By Mahnoor Ahsan*

Diwali is known as the festival of lights, and is India's biggest and most important holiday of the year. It is mainly celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and others. People that celebrate Diwali will light up clay lamps (often known as a Diya) outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protected them from spiritual darkness. Diwali is often celebrated over three days. On the first day, they clean their houses and shop for gold and/or kitchen utensils to bring in good fortune.

The second day consists of decorating throughout the house, and outside as well. People create rangoli patterns on the ground using coloured sand or powder and also light up the Diyas.

Day three is considered the main day. On this festive day, friends and families get together for the Lakshmi Puja. Lakshmi is the female goddess, while Puja means prayer. After the prayer, everyone celebrates by enjoying meals and desserts of all kinds. The third day usually ends off with fireworks!

The fourth day is the first day of the new year. This is the day friends and families gather to celebrate by giving each other gifts and praying for a happy and joyous new year that is filled with blessings.

The last day of this festive occasion ends off with brothers visiting their married sisters, who welcome them with a fancy meal! Diwali is celebrated by more than a billion people across India alone! Some hold the belief that Diwali is the celebration of Goddess Laxmi's marriage to Lord Vishnu. Some even consider this day as her birthday, as it is a popular belief that she was born in the month of Kartika on a new moon. This year, Diwali will take place on Thursday, November 4!