



Montefiore

From the OFFICE OF THE DEAN



Dear Einstein Community:

The Passover holiday began this past weekend, reminding us that others have overcome extreme struggles—and so, too, have we. For the Jewish members of our campus community, the recent Seders offered the opportunity to retell the Passover story of how the Jews, enslaved for centuries, finally won their freedom.

But there are other religious holidays to celebrate as well. From Sunday through yesterday was the Hindu holiday known as Holi, a festival of colors celebrating love, the arrival of spring, and victory of good over evil. Like Passover, it's poignant because it allows us to look hopefully to a time in the not-too-distant future when we can overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and enjoy life to the fullest.

I'd like to offer those celebrating these festive holidays of endurance and renewal a most Happy Passover and Holi, free—to the extent possible—of the hardships that engulf us all. I'd also like to offer my best wishes to those preparing for the Easter holiday and for the observance of Ramadan, which take place this weekend and from mid-April through mid-May, respectively, and represent two of the holiest of holidays for Christians and for Muslims.

I also want to mention the Bahá'í holiday known as Ridván, which also takes place from mid-April to early May. It was during this period that the leader of this faith, Bahá'u'lláh, introduced the spiritual principles at the heart of his teachings, which promote universal peace and unity among all races, nations, and religions—a message that resonates with us as we face down anti-Asian bias and structural racism.

It is fortuitous that this year, these religious holidays—and several others celebrated across multiple faiths—fall so closely together. Each offers the much-

needed possibility of renewal and new beginnings, to looking inward as well as outward, and to celebrating humankind's need to persevere through extreme difficulties. It also allows us to recall the rewards of willpower, and to ensure that love, freedom, and regard for those less fortunate triumph.

Finally, these holidays remind us that life is not without adversity and we cannot always see or know when misfortune will end. Sometimes, we see a glimmer of light only to have it fade. Yet if we persist in our efforts, we can push through and ultimately experience better times.

I've often discovered that persevering through hardship can and does ultimately produce many rewards. Let us remember this as we celebrate our respective holidays safely and with appropriate caution—and with a sense of joy in our hearts and minds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Tomaselli', with a stylized, flowing script.

Gordon F. Tomaselli, M.D.

The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean

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