



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 1.24.24



An invitation to the MLK Celebration from your University Chaplain

Dear Tufts community and friends,

Next Wednesday evening, our community will gather for Tufts' annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Celebration. Over a shared meal enlivened by music and the presentation of the Student Voices awards, the lasting legacy of King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" will take center stage. Christian Walkes will offer insights on the Letter's historical context so that, in conversation around dinner tables, we might together reflect on how King's message speaks to our present moment and how we feel called to respond.

I've been dwelling with this Letter in recent weeks, struck anew by the pathos of King's prophetic voice, the ways he describes the spirit-shattering impact of racism and the "disease of segregation" on children and adults, the ways he maps out the moral strategies of nonviolence and both creative and created tension necessary to bring people to a place of dialogue and action, and the ways he draws upon centuries of teachings from religious and philosophical traditions to engage and confront the people who have disappointed him the most. In this case, it is the white Christian and Jewish clergy of Birmingham who have urged King and others to take their law-abiding time with civil rights and who therefore prefer an unjust status quo over genuine love and liberation. "How we have blemished and scarred that body through social neglect and through fear of being nonconformists," King writes specifically of the Christian church. And here he is alluding to a verse from the apostle Paul's Letter to the Romans that finds purchase in many of his speeches and sermons: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds..."

Transformation and renewal: these are two words to which I hold fast as we begin this new semester of life and learning at Tufts. We get to be a part of campuses pulsing with creativity and care, to surround ourselves with the gifts of study and research, artistic experimentation and scientific exploration. And we get to do it together. Through the renewing of our minds and the transformation of perspectives and practices that flow forth, we gain the freedom to question anything that blocks the way of truth or flourishing in our world. Let us embrace this calling this semester, and let the living legacy of King – rooted in courage, nonviolence, beloved community, and love – guide us.

I hope that you can attend the Day of Celebration next week and/or participate in the "[Single Garment of Destiny](#)" [Lunch and Learns](#) that will be offered on the Boston and Grafton campuses in mid-February. And, on behalf of the MLK Day of Celebration planning committee, I invite you to visit Tisch Library in the coming days to read and dwell with the power and possibility of King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail," which will be printed and on display on Level Two starting Thursday, January 25.

Pax et Lux,
Rev. Elyse Nelson Winger
University Chaplain

Upcoming Signature Programs


Tufts University Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration


Single Garment of Destiny

With Christian Walkes,
Director of Education and
Interpretation Programs at
Museum of African American
History in Boston

RSVP at go.tufts.edu/mlk


Wednesday, January 31, 2024
6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. • BREED MEMORIAL HALL
DOORS OPEN AT 5:15 FOR DINNER






Tufts
UNIVERSITY


Office of
the President



Office of the Vice Provost for
Institutional Inclusive Excellence



Jonathan M. Tisch
College of Civic Life



University
Chaplaincy

Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Wednesday, January 31, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Breed Memorial Hall (51 Winthrop Street, Medford MA)

Join the Office of the President, the Africana Center, the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Inclusive Excellence, Tisch College of Civic Life, and the University Chaplaincy for the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. The 2024 theme, Single Garment of Destiny, comes from the 1963 “Letter from Birmingham Jail” which includes this quote:

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial ‘outside agitator’ idea.”

The event will welcome Boston-native Christian Walkes, a Ph.D. Student at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education researching race and inequality in American schools through interdisciplinary historical inquiry. Walkes will offer insights from King’s Letter and frame the conversation for the evening. The event will feature student artists and musicians as well as the winners of the MLK Student Voices Award. Dinner will be served to guests in-person. You can [find more information about the event here](#), and register below. Community members are most welcome.

The gathering will be livestreamed, and ASL interpretation will be available on-site. You can find information about guest parking [here](#). Please email any questions or accessibility needs to University Chaplaincy Associate Director for Programs [Nora Bond](#).

Register for the MLK Celebration

Religious and Philosophical Programs

Our gatherings are open to all members of the Tufts community! Please find more information and more regular weekly programming and events [here on our website](#). If you have any questions, or would like to connect about convening a new gathering, please [reach out to the University Chaplaincy](#).

Bible Study

**WEDNESDAYS, 6PM
CAMPUS CENTER 218**

We will reflect on stories of God calling people in the Hebrew Bible, and how those stories can help us to better hear God's call to us today.

Email Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell to learn more (daniel.bell@tufts.edu).

All students are welcome, regardless of background or identity.

Dinner is provided!



University Chaplaincy
Protestant Chaplaincy

Bible Study

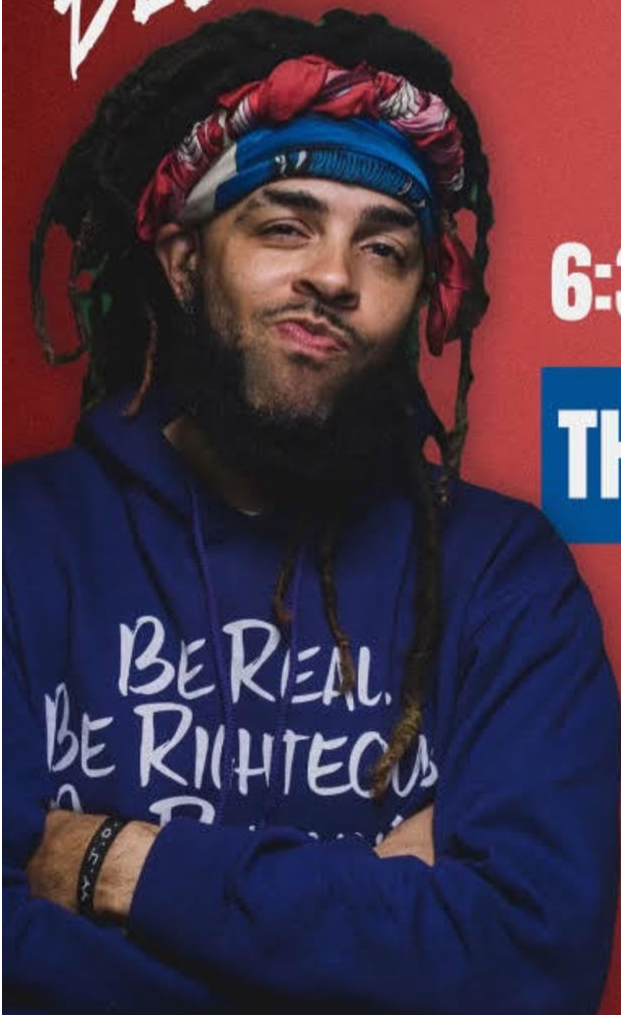
Wednesdays, at 6:00 p.m, at the Campus Center Room 218

We will reflect on stories of God calling people in the Hebrew Bible, and how those stories can help us to better hear God's call to us today. Email Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](mailto:daniel.bell@tufts.edu) to learn more. All students are welcome, regardless of background or identity. Dinner is provided!

OPEN MIC



HOSTED BY
DEE-1



**GODDARD CHAPEL
6:30PM TO 9:30PM**

THURS JAN 25TH

SIGN UP TO PERFORM



A TUFTS INTERFAITH AMBASSADORS COLLABORATION

Open Mic Night with Dee-1

Thursday, January 25, 6:30 p.m, Goddard Chapel

Join the Interfaith Ambassadors and Tisch College's Artist and Scholastic in Residence Dee-1 for an Open Mic Night at Goddard Chapel this Thursday! Sign up to perform through the link below, and come for live music, refreshments, spoken word art, and community.

[Sign up to participate in Open Mic Night](#)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ
الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Tufts Muslim Chaplaincy invites you to:

ISLAM IN DEPTH

Guest Speaker: Bilal Kaleem
Lessons from the Stories of
Youth in the Qur'an

Friday 1/26 @ 6pm

Location: Curtis Musallah

Open to all Tufts students

Questions? Contact najiba.akbar@tufts.edu

Islam in Depth with the Muslim Chaplaincy

Friday, January 26 at 6:00 p.m., at the Curtis Musallah

Join the Muslim Chaplaincy's guest speaker, brother Bilal Kaleem, on discussing lessons from the stories of youth in the Qur'an. Open to all Tufts students regardless of background. For any questions, email Muslim Chaplain [Najiba Akbar](#).

Critical Conversations

An Israel Education Series

Prospects for Peace: Past, Present and Future



Dennis Ross



Ghaith al-Omari



Jonathan M. Tisch
College of Civic Life



Critical Conversations: An Israel Education Series with Dennis Ross and Ghaith al-Omari

Thursday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m. at Granoff Family Hillel Center

What might peace between Israelis and Palestinians look like, and what needs to happen to reach that point? Join diplomats Dennis Ross and Ghaith al-Omari, experienced negotiators and experts, in a conversation about past initiatives to make peace, the present situation, and what the future in the region might look like. You can find more information on the Hillel website.

[Register for Critical Conversations Event](#)

Partner Programs



Introducing Jumbo Spring Break

Registration open until Sunday, February 4, at 11:59 p.m.

Jumbo Spring Break (JSB) is a new program that offers the Tufts community a meaningful and exciting way to spend spring break. Participants will make a difference in the greater Boston area by working on a project in one of three themes, experience career opportunities and make connections in industry, government, or non-profits, and have a blast with new friends. JSB is a joint initiative of the [Dean of Students Office](#), [TCU Senate](#), [the Career Center](#), [the Tisch College of Civic Life](#), and [the University Chaplaincy](#). JSB brings Tufts students together for a memorable college experience that will live on in your personal Tufts highlight reel, will make you feel good about the contributions that you made, and can be a formative life experience that informs your future career and civic engagement plans.

Jumbo Spring Break activities will be March 18 to 22, 2024. All activities are either on campus or in the greater Boston area. Participants will live in their usual on or off campus housing during spring break. There is a \$500 program fee that covers the cost of all meals, transportation, and event expenses. Students who receive the highest levels of

financial aid from Tufts are eligible for fee waivers. Program registration is open until February 5. Space is limited and slots are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Join us and spend your spring break in a true Jumbo fashion! Learn more about [Jumbo Spring Break](#) here.

[Learn more about Jumbo Spring Break](#)

Resources, Scholarships and Opportunities

Become a Choral Scholar



Please contact Music Director Suzie Cartreine at chaplaincymusic@tufts.edu for more information

**Paid position, secured by audition.
All Tufts undergraduate students eligible
to audition!**

Voices for Peace and Light seeks Tenor and Bass Section Leaders

Apply today!

Voices for Peace and Light is an unauditioned choir open to all members of the Tufts community. Four Choral Scholars, one for each voice part (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass), will serve as section leaders in the choir. The Choral Scholar is a paid position, secured by audition. Minimum required experience: excellent musicianship, strong singing voice; strong sight-reading skills and/or the ability to learn music on your own; excellent choral singing habits and attitudes (e.g. as regards posture, punctuality, preparedness, attentiveness, responsiveness); kind and welcoming demeanor; ability to be tolerant of singers of all levels. Rehearsals: Thursdays, 12:10 – 1:10 PM, Goddard Chape (Jan. 25. Feb. 1, 8, 15, 29. March 7, 14, 28. April 4, 11). Please find the job on Handshake to apply or contact Music Director [Suzie Cartreine](#) for more information.

Apply on Handshake

What is the Point of Life? Theosis in Yoruba Traditions

Thursday, February 22, 2024, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., at 42 Francis Ave.
Cambridge, MA Common Room, CSWR

What is the Point of Life? Theosis in Yoruba Traditions, Lecture by Dr. Ayodeji Ogunnaike, For the millions of devotees of the Yoruba òrìṣà (divinities) all around the world, the answers to the related questions “What is the point of life?”, “Why am I here?”, and “What should I do with my life?” are simultaneously radically simple and bewilderingly complex and diverse. Thursday, February 22, 2024, 5:30 p.m.- 7:p.m. This event is free and open to the public. [Registration is required.](#)



Register for "What is the Point of Life?" Event

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](#).

Sadeh

Wed., Jan. 24, 2024
Tradition: Zoroastrianism

Tu B'Shevat

Wed., Jan. 24, 2024
Tradition: Judaism

Imbolc

Thu., Feb. 1, 2024
Tradition: Wicca/Paganism

The first fertility festival, celebrating the approach of spring and the growth of light in the darkness.

Laylat al-Isra'wa al-Mi'raj (Mi'raj al-Nabiy)

Thu., Feb. 8, 2024
Tradition: Islam

Commemorates the ascension (al-Mi'raj) of the Prophet to heaven following his night journey (al Isra') from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascent to heaven and return the same night. Begins at sundown.

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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