



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 02.21.24



Chaplains gathered at the annual Association of Chaplains and Spiritual Life in Higher Education conference at the University of Southern California in February 2024

A Reflection from your Humanist Chaplain

Dear Jumbo Community,

When was the last time someone held space and listened to you? How about a time when you deeply listened to another? What resulted from these moments? Earlier this month at our annual Association of Chaplains and Spiritual Life in Higher Education conference, a profound experience unfolded. During a cultural identity session, an elder within our Black Chaplains group spoke about passing the torch to the next generation. The assembled body not only honored the elders, but also actively responded by recognizing their individual and collective responsibilities.

This powerful encounter led me to contemplate the effects of listening and its diverse forms. In these tumultuous and divisive times, even common phrases like "lending an empathetic ear," "having a critical ear," or "active listening" take on renewed significance. Listening is not just a skill, but a deliberate practice of understanding, reflecting, and preparing for hopefully sustained and meaningful dialogue.

I was recently in Houston, Texas and gave a talk to a secular community entitled: Unmasking the Human (Un)Condition: How Deep Listening Reveals Our Shared Humanity. I spoke about the masks, or the performative qualities of our lives that are influenced by social and cultural contexts. I proposed that by engaging in moments of "resonant listening" that we can better confront what afflicts us. In wading in the often difficult realities of the world together, we can open new orientations to relationship-building, where we might upend the pervasive imaginary of possessive individualism and separation and move towards a more interdependent model for collective flourishing.

As a Chaplain going into various spaces, I find there is a need to pay attention to our identities and our emotions. This requires perhaps an uncomfortable practice of suspending immediate judgment and allowing curiosity to lead the way. In conversation, a mutual recognition of our multiple truths and differences can be a source for change.

My invitation for our community is to hold space for complexity and to notice when we are present with another. In the coming week, several opportunities for doing just that. Please explore this e-news and see what sparks your interest. What possibilities are available for deeper resonance and embodied connection?

En conjunto,

Anthony Cruz Pantojas

Upcoming Signature Programs

Join the Interfaith Ambassadors and the University Chaplaincy for

MLK DAY OF COMMUNITY ACTION

February 24, 2024

Noon to 2:00pm in JCC 160

Join us for lunch from Darryl's Corner Bar and Kitchen, a panel with campus and community leaders on educational access and voting rights, and opportunities to get involved!

Panelists include:

- **Kelly Siegel-Stechler**, Senior Researcher, Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE)
- **Dr. Aaron T. Jennings**, Equity, Diversity and Excellence Officer, Chelsea Public Schools
- **Aneth Fernandez A25**, Co-President, College Access Mentoring Initiative (CAMI)
- **J. David Gibb**, Executive Director, Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS)
- **Kyle Hammond A25**, Interfaith Ambassador, Tufts University Chaplaincy and Mentor, Directing through Recreation, Education, Adventure, and Mentoring (DREAM)
- **Anthony Cruz Pantojas**, Humanist Chaplain and Advisory Committee Member, Interfaith America's *Faith in Elections Playbook*
- **Christina Joseph**, Program Manager, Alray Scholars Program



Please register
by February 23

MLK Day of Community Action

Saturday, February 24, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., JCC Ballroom, register by February 23

Join the Interfaith Ambassador Team for lunch, a panel with campus and community leaders on MLK's legacy in modern activism, and opportunities to get involved in direct action. Find more information through the link below, and register by February 21. You can find more information about the [Day of Community Action](#) (DOCA) on our website.

[Register for Day of Community Action](#)



Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life and Solomont Speaker Series with Dee-1

Wednesday, March 6, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Distler Performance Hall (20 Talbot Ave)

We look forward to welcoming Tisch Scholar-in-Residence Dee-1 as our Russell Lecture speaker this year, with support from the Tisch College Solomont Speaker Series. A transformative lecture from Dee-1, detailing how his spiritual roots have given him the courage and confidence to become a disruptor inside the fields of entertainment and education, will also include special performances with Voices for Peace and Light, a student-led Q and A, and a fabulous reception! Save the date and register below.

[Register for the Russell Lecture](#)



Apply to be a Summer Program Support Staff

Apply by Monday, February 26

The Summer Program Support Staff work closely with University Chaplaincy staff to prepare for the inaugural year of first year experience programming for Fall 2024. This role and the program offerings are funded by an Advancing Religious Pluralism grant from Interfaith America. We seek two students who will work in collaboration and independently on these three projects: 1) a service-learning opportunity offered in collaboration with Pre-Orientation in Summer 2024 2) first year experience field trips offered in Fall 2024 and 3) curriculum support for the Spring 2025 class hosted by Tisch College of Civic Life. All Tufts undergraduate students are eligible to apply. SPSS will work 20 hours/week (mostly in office, with remote hours available) early June to early September 2024.

[Apply to be a Summer Support Staffer](#)

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](#).

Rustin

Film Screening and Discussion



Bayard Rustin was the architect of 1963's March on Washington. He challenged authority and never apologized for who he was, but was forgotten despite making history. Directed by George C. Wolfe and starring Oscar-nominated actor Colman Domingo, Rustin shines a long overdue spotlight on the extraordinary man who, alongside giants like the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., Adam Clayton Powell Jr., and Ella Baker, dared to imagine a different world, and inspired a movement in a march toward freedom.

WHEN: FEBRUARY 22, AT 6 PM
WHERE: THE CABOT ASEAN AUDITORIUM
160 PACKARD AVE
MEDFORD, MA 02155

RSVP HERE:



Tufts | Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Inclusive Excellence

Tufts | University Chaplaincy

Tufts | Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life



Rustin Film Screening

Thursday, February 22, 6:00 p.m., Cabot ASEAN Auditorium

As a part of Black Legacy Month, the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Excellence and co-sponsors Africana Center, LGBT Center, Tisch College, and the University Chaplaincy will be screening *Rustin*. Bayard Rustin was the architect of 1963's March on Washington. He challenged authority and never apologized for who he was, but was forgotten, despite making history. Directed by George C. Wolfe and starring Oscar-nominated actor Colman Domingo, Rustin shines a long-overdue spotlight on the extraordinary man who, alongside giants like the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., Adam Clayton Powell Jr., and Ella Baker, dared to imagine a different world, and inspired a movement in a march toward freedom. Register to attend below.

[Register to view Rustin](#)

AFRICANA SPIRITUALITY DINNER SERIES

Spirituality, Movement, and Creative Practice

with Jenny Oliver

FEBRUARY 26, 2024 · 5:00 - 6:30 P.M.
INTERFAITH CENTER, 58 WINTHROP STREET



Join Jenny Oliver, Head of Dance Performance, for dinner and a conversation about creative practice and the humanity that she brings to it. As a movement practitioner her work and studies have taken her to places such as Brazil and Haiti focusing on the deep connections of dance and ritual. During this fellowship experience you will be invited to interact and engage with one another through reflective prompts and as well as an opportunity to move.



Please RSVP
by scanning the
QR code

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**THE AFRICANA
CENTER**
TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Africana Spirituality Dinner with Jenny Oliver

Monday, February 26, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Interfaith Center

All are welcome for the first spring semester gathering of the Africana Spirituality Dinner Series, co-hosted by the Tufts University Chaplaincy and the Africana Center. Join Jenny Oliver, Head of Dance Performance, for dinner and a conversation about creative practice and the humanity that she brings to it. As a movement practitioner her work and studies have taken her to places such as Brazil and Haiti focusing on the deep connections of dance and ritual. During this fellowship experience you will be invited to interact and engage with one another through reflective prompts and as well as an opportunity to move. Please contact Humanist Chaplain [Anthony Cruz Pantojas](#) with questions or for more information.

[Sign up to attend Africana Spirituality Dinner](#)

HUMANIST HUB: CULTIVATING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

5-6:30p
Interfaith Center

How can we navigate the challenges posed by the "tyranny of the historical present"?

In the presence of gross atrocities and pervasive polarization, how do we foster caring relationships?

What steps can we take to envision flourishing futures for everyone?

Join the Humanist Chaplaincy for an engaging dinner and conversation series aimed at tackling these questions. We'll explore the themes of trauma, repair, and re-worlding as we seek meaningful insights together.

February 27: Power and Historical Trauma
March 26: Repair
April 26: Re-worlding



To register, use the QR code or
visit: <http://tinyurl.com/humanisthubdinners>

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Humanist Hub: Cultivating Meaningful Relationships

Tuesday, February 27, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., at the Interfaith Center (58 Winthrop St)

How can we navigate the challenges posed by the "tyranny of the historical present"? In the presence of gross atrocities and pervasive polarization, how do we foster caring relationships? What steps can we take to envision

flourishing futures for everyone? Join the Humanist Chaplaincy for an engaging dinner and conversation series aimed at tackling these conversations. We will explore the themes of trauma, repair, and re-worlding as we seek meaningful insights together. Please contact Humanist Chaplain [Anthony Cruz Pantojas](#) with questions or for more information.

Sign up for Humanist Hub Dinner

Resources, Scholarships and Opportunities



The Oys & Joys of Interreligious Engagement with Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership

Wednesday, February 28, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., in person or over zoom

The Miller Center at Hebrew College invites you to join, in person or on Zoom, for a book launch event discussing two recent publications: *With the Best of Intentions: Interreligious Missteps and Mistakes*, and *Pluralism in Practice: Case Studies of Leadership in a Religiously Diverse America*. Published by Orbis Books, each volume presents a series of case studies to explore interfaith relations. You can register below.

Register for The Oys & Joys of Interreligious Engagement



2024 Haley House Summer Residency

Apply by March 1

The Haley House Live-In Community is now accepting [applications](#) for the [2024 Summer Residency at Haley House!](#) Haley House uses food with purpose and the power of community to break down barriers between people, empower individuals, and strengthen neighborhoods. We believe in radical solutions: solving problems at their root by challenging attitudes that perpetuate suffering and building alternative models. Founded as a “house of hospitality” in 1966, Haley House has grown into a multifaceted organization deeply rooted in the South End and Roxbury. The summer residency is a 3-month-long program where residents help manage the day-to-day operations of the Haley House soup kitchen while participating in community life with the Haley House Live-in Community. Residents are asked to commit to 20 hours per week in exchange for housing and food. The Live-in Community is a core piece of Haley House, where residents live in an intentional community upstairs while running the soup kitchen and food pantry on the first floor, all at 23 Dartmouth St. The deadline for applications is 3/1/24 and if you have any questions, contact [our email](#). [Apply here](#).



StAAR Center Graduate Positions




Apply by March 8 at 12:00 p.m.

The StAAR Center seeks motivated graduate students to work collaboratively with undergraduate and graduate students at Tufts. Graduate Writing Consultants work with students on writing across disciplines, while Graduate Academic Mentors work with students on foundational academic and executive functioning skills. \$21/hour to start, paid training. Positions are for academic year 2024 - 2025. Info sessions will be held on Monday, February 26 at 12 pm in Dowling Hall and Friday, March 8 at 12 pm on Zoom. Learn more [here](#).

StAAR Center Graduate Positions

LAND OF THE FIRST LIGHT FELLOWSHIP

The Program

-  Spend 10 weeks in Mashpee on Cape Cod, ancestral homelands of the Wampanoag
-  Develop your own project based in ecological research, wetland restoration, or land protection and be paired with an expert mentor from Mass Audubon
-  Enjoy wide-ranging excursions, including guided preserve walks, community events, hands-on restoration, discussions with tribal elders, nonprofit board meetings, weekly check-ins with your peer fellows



Land of the First Light Fellowship Application

Apply by March 31

The fellowship is hosted by the Native Land Conservancy (NLC), the first Native-led land conservation non-profit east of the Mississippi. Our mission is to preserve healthy landscapes for all living beings and restore land wherever possible. Our all-Indigenous board of directors come from four local tribal groups. We draw upon our collective traditional cultural knowledge with generations of direct experience in the woodlands, coastlines, and waterways of our homelands. The fellowship intends to open up pathways to diverse careers in conservation for rising Native Americans. Whether you're a student of ecology or considering a career switch, you're in the right place! We believe that it is in all our best interests when the next generation of Indigenous conservationists are encouraged to bring their whole selves to their training, including their culture. For more information visit our [form here](#).

[Land of the First Light Fellowship Application](#)

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](#).

Laylat al-Bara'ah

Sun., Feb. 25, 2024

Tradition: Islam

Begins at sundown.

(Night of Repentance)

On this night, God approaches the Earth to call humanity and to grant forgiveness of sins. Observed on the 14th day of the lunar month of Sha'ban.

Nineteen Day Fast

Thu., Feb. 29 – Tue., Mar. 19, 2024

Tradition: Baha'i

A designated 19-day period of fasting each year immediately before the Bahá'í New Year. The fasting is seen as a period of spiritual preparation and regeneration for the new year ahead.

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Maha Shivaratri

Fri., Mar. 8, 2024

Tradition: Hinduism

A feast dedicated to the Hindu deity Shiva. The night before the feast fasting is observed, texts are recited, songs are sung, and stories told in honor of this God whose cosmic dance creates, preserves, destroys, and recreates the world.

Ramadan

Mon., Mar. 11 – Wed., Apr. 10, 2024

Tradition: Islam

The Holy Month of Ramadan is the month of fasting during which Muslims who are physically able do not eat or drink from the first sign of dawn until sunset in honor of the first revelations to the Prophet Muhammad. The evening meal is celebrated with family.

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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