



# Tufts

# UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 1.16.25



*A stained glass window at Goddard Chapel on a late winter afternoon*

*Photo credit: Elyse Nelson Winger*

## **A Reflection from the University Chaplaincy**

Dear Tufts community,

A new year has begun!

At the University Chaplaincy, we are delighted to join colleagues from across the University in hosting this year's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Celebration on January 30th (details below). This year's gathering is inspired by one of King's most compelling speeches, *Where Do We Go From Here?* Delivered at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1967, King reflects on

the triumphs of the nonviolent civil rights movement and the transformative power of Black community organizing.

In this speech, King celebrates the tireless efforts of SCLC staff and local citizens who worked to expand voting rights, build Black-led financial institutions, boycott discriminatory businesses, campaign for jobs, and establish housing corporations. The address is both a celebration of resilience, vision, and courage and a call to action. King's question to his listeners—*Where do we go from here?*—is just as relevant today as we strive to nurture and repair our community at Tufts and respond to the pressing challenges and injustices facing our nation and world, challenges that deeply affect our students, faculty, and staff.

As we live into this new semester, I invite you to bring these messages from King's speech into our communal life together at Tufts. They are the guiding words for us as we plan our MLK Day of Celebration, which will be at the center of our community Lunch and Learns that will be offered across our campuses in February.

"Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love."

"We must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future. When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds of despair, and when our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a creative force in this universe, working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil, a power that is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows."

"We still need some Paul Revere of conscience to alert every hamlet and every village of America that revolution is still at hand. Yes, we need a chart; we need a compass; indeed, we need some North Star to guide us into a future shrouded with impenetrable uncertainties."

May peace move and light shine among us,

Elyse Nelson Winger  
University Chaplain



*Khan Shairani, Muslim Chaplain*

We are delighted to announce that Khan Shairani will join the University Chaplaincy team as the permanent Muslim Chaplain. In this role, Khan will support Muslim communities across Tufts' campuses by advising undergraduate and graduate MSAs, coordinating weekly Jummah prayers on the Medford campus, offering opportunities for practice and learning that reflect the diversity of Muslim traditions, providing spiritual care, and participating in multifaith programming. With an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame, an M.T.S. in Islamic Studies from Harvard Divinity School, and a B.A. in Arabic and Chinese Studies from Williams College, Khan brings a wealth of knowledge, care, and experience to this

role. He is deeply committed to fostering transformative conversations and spiritual growth across our diverse community. Please join us in welcoming Khan to this vital role within our University Chaplaincy. You can contact Khan at [Khan\\_Asfandyar.Shairani@tufts.edu](mailto:Khan_Asfandyar.Shairani@tufts.edu).

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## **Signature Programs**



# THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

## 2025 Annual Celebration

**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**  
**THE PROMISE OF FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, AND JUSTICE**

Thursday, January 30 • 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Cohen Auditorium, followed by a reception in Alumnae Hall



**RSVP  
HERE**

Join the Africana Center, the Office of the President, 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 Celebration.

Our 2025 theme is inspired by Dr. King's 1967 speech, *Where Do We Go From Here?*, emphasizing love and power as tools for transformation. The following excerpt from this powerful speech is guiding our Celebration this year:

*"Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love."*

This year's event highlights the resilience and power of Black joy as a force for equity and freedom. Featuring Haitian Folkloric dance group Jean Appolon Expressions and Tufts' own Ladies of Essence and S-Factor, the celebration will also showcase the MLK Student Voices Award winners. Join us for an evening of reflection and inspiration, with a reception to follow.

The event will be live-streamed and recorded. ASL interpreters will be available.

Please contact [chaplaincy@tufts.edu](mailto:chaplaincy@tufts.edu) with any questions.



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College of Civic Life

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**The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 2025 Annual Celebration**

Thursday, January 30th from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM in Cohen Auditorium



The Africana Center, the Office of the President, the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Inclusive Excellence, Tisch College of Civic Life, and the University Chaplaincy invite you to the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.

The celebration will take place on Thursday, January 30, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Cohen Auditorium. The event will be live-streamed and recorded, and ASL interpreters will be available to ensure accessibility for all attendees.

This year's theme, "Where Do We Go From Here? The Promise of Freedom, Democracy, and Justice" draws inspiration from Dr. King's 1967 speech, which emphasizes the transformative power of love and justice. The event will highlight the resilience and power of Black joy as a force for equity and freedom.

The evening will feature performances by musicians, poets, dancers, storytellers, and artists from the Tufts and Boston metro community. In addition, the MLK Student Voices Award winners will be honored. This event serves as an opportunity for reflection and inspiration, followed by a dinner reception in Alumnae Hall.

For further information, please contact [chaplaincy@tufts.edu](mailto:chaplaincy@tufts.edu). Join us in honoring Dr. King's legacy and reaffirming our shared commitment to justice, democracy, and freedom.

RSVP To Attend MLK

# MLK

WIN A  
CASH  
PRIZE!

## STUDENT VOICES AWARD

“Power without love is reckless and  
abusive, and love without power is  
sentimental and anemic...”  
What does this mean to you?

OPENS  
26 NOVEMBER



CLOSES  
20 JANUARY

Accepting creative submissions for the  
annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Celebration on January 30, 2025. Scan the  
QR code to submit and find  
more at: [go.tufts.edu/studentvoicesmlk](https://go.tufts.edu/studentvoicesmlk)



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Office of the Vice Provost for  
Institutional Inclusive Excellence

**MLK Student Voices Award: Accepting creative submissions now!**

Applications for student voices are due no later than January 20th

Tufts' annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration invites students to honor Dr. King's legacy by submitting creative responses to the 2025 Student Voices Award. Submissions should reflect on the quote: "Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands

against love” from [Dr. King’s 1967 speech "Where Do We Go From Here."](#) Students can explore themes of power, love, and justice through essays, poems, songs, art, or performances. Winners will receive a cash prize and present their work at the Celebration on January 30, 2025. Submissions are due in PDF, MP4, MOV, JPEG, or PNG formats. Questions? Contact [anthony.cruz\\_pantojas@tufts.edu](mailto:anthony.cruz_pantojas@tufts.edu).

[Submit Student Voices Award application here](#)



**Welcome Back Community Dinner with the Interfaith Ambassadors**

Monday, January 20th at 6:00 PM at the Remis Sculpture Hall in Aidekman

The Interfaith Ambassadors invite you to join us for our Welcome Back Community Dinner on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. This will be an evening dedicated to fostering connection and celebrating the start of a new year and academic semester. Enjoy a warm and delicious meal in the company of students, faculty, and staff. All are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend along! Contact Infaith Ambassador Kyle Hammond at [kyle.hammond@tufts.edu](mailto:kyle.hammond@tufts.edu) with any questions.



# TEMPLE OHABEI SHALOM

BROOKLINE MASSACHUSETTS

JANUARY 24, 2025 · 11:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.



Image © 2025 Temple Ohabei Shalom

The University Chaplaincy's First-Year Experience Field Trip Series explores Boston's diverse religious and cultural history through free monthly site visits, meals, and reflections alongside fellow first-years, student leaders, and chaplains.

Join the University Chaplaincy on Friday, January 24 for a visit to Temple Ohabei Shalom, the oldest Jewish congregation in Massachusetts! Explore this historic building, enjoy a meal at a Jewish deli, and connect with community. Transportation provided to and from the site.

Please click here to RSVP by January 21

For questions, email [chaplaincy@tufts.edu](mailto:chaplaincy@tufts.edu).

This program is made possible by an Advancing Religious Pluralism grant issued from Interfaith America and funded by the Templeton Religion Trust.

**Tufts** UNIVERSITY | University Chaplaincy

## Field Trip Visit to Temple Ohabei Shalom

Friday, January 24th from 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Join us on Friday, January 24th, for a visit to Temple Ohabei Shalom, the oldest Jewish congregation in Massachusetts. Explore this historic building, enjoy a meal at a Jewish deli, and connect with community. We'll depart from Tufts at 11:30 AM and return by 3:30 PM. Email [chaplaincy@tufts.edu](mailto:chaplaincy@tufts.edu) with any questions. [RSVP by the 21st with this form.](#)

RSVP to Attend the Field Trip



# BE-FRIEND



Be Yourself. Go Deep. Be Friend.

*Starts the first week of February.*



University  
Chaplaincy

**Be-Friend: The Interfaith Friendship Program (virtual/in-person options)**

Beginning the first week of February, sign up by January 31

Great news: Be-Friend is back and in its fifth year! This semester-long interfaith friendship project is designed for participants to go deep and talk about the things that matter—our values, our sense of purpose, and our questions about life. You will hone the skills of active listening while experimenting with shared spiritual practices from different religious and philosophical traditions. Our multifaith chaplains have contributed to the program, offering a diverse array of spiritual practices, including nature walks, meditation exercises, listening to music, and deep reading—poetry, art, the world, our lives, and one another. Participating undergraduate and graduate students, staff, and faculty will be paired and will commit to spending an hour together each week. Students will be paired with other students, and the same for staff/faculty. The program will begin the first week of February. All are welcome! Please sign up through the links below by January 31. Please email Associate Director Lynn Cooper at [Lynn.Cooper@tufts.edu](mailto:Lynn.Cooper@tufts.edu) if you have any questions. Learn about our [first year of Be-Friend here](#).

[Sign Up For Be-Friend Here](#)

## Religious and Philosophical Events and Gatherings

Our events and weekly gatherings are open to everyone in the Tufts community. You can find a calendar and descriptions of our regular events on our website. If you have an idea for a gathering or event, please contact the University Chaplaincy.



# Welcome Back Shabbat

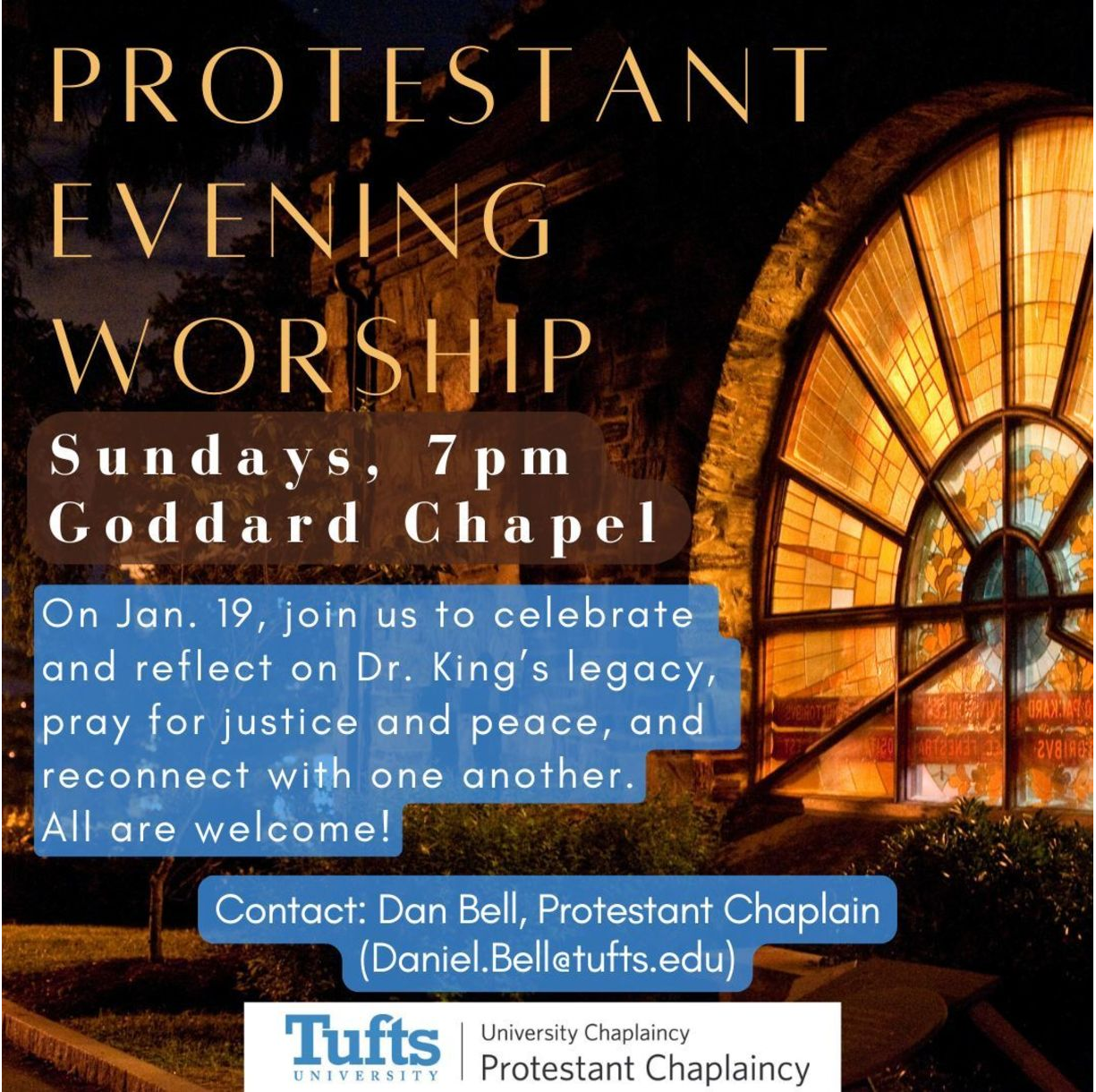


### **Welcome Back Shabbat**

Friday, January 17th from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at Hillel

Join Hillel for Welcome Back Shabbat services and dinner at Hillel! Please sign up via sms/text: Text HILLEL to 617-420-7411.





# PROTESTANT EVENING WORSHIP

**Sundays, 7pm  
Goddard Chapel**

On Jan. 19, join us to celebrate and reflect on Dr. King's legacy, pray for justice and peace, and reconnect with one another. All are welcome!

Contact: Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain  
([Daniel.Bell@tufts.edu](mailto:Daniel.Bell@tufts.edu))



University Chaplaincy  
Protestant Chaplaincy

## **Protestant Evening Worship Resumes This Sunday**

Sunday, January 19th at 7:00 PM in Goddard Chapel

Join us to celebrate and reflect on Dr. King's legacy, pray for justice and peace, and reconnect with one another. All are welcome! If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Protestant Chaplaincy at Tufts, please email Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain, at [Daniel.Bell@tufts.edu](mailto:Daniel.Bell@tufts.edu).



Jan 22nd  
Wednesday 7:15-8:15 pm

# Tea & Poetry

A poem of a Buddhist nun in the voice of a Buddhist monk



Ground floor lounge  
@ Interfaith Center



[vineetha.mahayaye@tufts.edu](mailto:vineetha.mahayaye@tufts.edu)



## Tea and Poetry with the Tufts Buddhist Sangha

Wednesday from 7:15 PM to 8:15 PM at the Interfaith Center

Join the Tufts Buddhist Sangha for a tea ceremony and a place to socialize. You can also learn more about our *Therigatha* (the Poems of Buddhist Nuns) program, which we are offering this semester. Enjoy more than ten varieties of Sri Lankan tea, which is a traditional Chinese way of making and sipping tea in small tea cups. Come for many more sweets and oranges. Email Buddhist Chaplain Vineetha Mahayaye at [vineetha.mahayaye@tufts.edu](mailto:vineetha.mahayaye@tufts.edu) with any questions.



# SPRING BOOK CLUB

Come join us for lively discussion and snacks as we read, *What I Believe: Humanist Ideas and Philosophies to Live By* by Andrew Copson

**Wednesdays, beginning**

**January 22**

**12:00-1:15p**

**Interfaith Center**

For more info, e-mail

Anthony Cruz Pantojas, Humanist Chaplain

[anthony.cruz\\_pantojas@tufts.edu](mailto:anthony.cruz_pantojas@tufts.edu)

**All are welcome**



## **Humanist Chaplaincy Spring Book Club**

Beginning January 22nd from 12:00 PM to 1:15 PM in the Interfaith Center

Join the Humanist Chaplaincy's Spring Book Club. This semester, we will delve into *What I Believe: Humanist Ideas and Philosophies to Live By* author Andrew Copson. To join, e-mail Humanist Chaplain Anthony Cruz Pantojas at [anthony.cruz\\_pantojas@tufts.edu](mailto:anthony.cruz_pantojas@tufts.edu).





All are welcome to join

# Voices for Peace and Light

An interfaith, intergenerational choir  
for the greater Tufts Community!

Open to all students, staff, faculty, alumni, and neighbors

Thursdays 12:10-1:10  
Goddard Chapel  
Rehearsals begin Thursday, January 23  
Contact [chaplaincymusic@tufts.edu](mailto:chaplaincymusic@tufts.edu) for more information

## **Voices for Peace and Light Rehearsal**

Beginning Thursday, January 23rd from 12:10 PM to 1:10 PM at Goddard Chapel

Do you love to sing? Spend your Thursday lunch hours singing with peers, colleagues, and neighbors in the Tufts University Chaplaincy choir, Voices for Peace and Light. All are welcome; no experience is necessary!

Voices for Peace and Light is an interfaith, intergenerational choir whose membership is drawn from the entire Tufts community – graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, staff, alumni, and neighbors. Members include both experienced choral singers and people who are brand new to choral music. Supported by four strong choral scholars, we rehearse weekly and perform at various functions a couple times each semester. Last year we sang for the University Chaplaincy's programs In Living Memory and Pax et Lux, sang back-up vocals for hip-hop Artist-in-Residence Dee-1 at his Russell Lecture, and performed for the Chaplaincy's Senior Awards Night.

For more information, or to sign up please contact Suzie at [chaplaincymusic@tufts.edu](mailto:chaplaincymusic@tufts.edu)  
The first rehearsal is Thursday, January 23, 12:10 PM – 1:10 PM, in Goddard Chapel.

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# GROW YOUR MINDFULNESS SKILLS

**Learn mindfulness & meditation.**  
**Join our FREE 4-week Intro to Mindfulness class!**  
**Classes begin January 19**

Students who participate in this mindfulness program report:



Less self-judgement



More mindfulness



Less stress



Better sleep

**REGISTER AT**  
**TINYURL.COM/TUFTSMINDFULNESSSPRING2025**

**Tufts** Counseling & Mental Health Service

**MIEA** Mindfulness Institute  
for EMERGING ADULTS

## CMHS Mindfulness Class

Beginning Sunday, January 19th at Tisch Library

Sign up today for a free, 4-week Introduction to Mindfulness class offered by CMHS. Classes meet in-person at Tisch Library and begin Sunday, January 19th. No prior mindfulness or meditation experience is required. [Sign up for the Mindfulness class with this form.](#)

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## Upcoming Religious Celebrations and Observances

To see more upcoming religious holidays and festivals, including information about seeking religious accommodations at Tufts, please follow the link to the [Tufts Multifaith Calendar](#).

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

Monday, January 27, 2025

Begins at sundown on the first day listed. 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.

### Sadeh

Thursday, January 30, 2025

Every year, thousands of Zoroastrians in Iran and other countries celebrate the religious feast of Jashn-e Sadeh by burning firewood in an open space to signify the coming of spring and as a symbolic token of the eternal fight with mischief.

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## Support the University Chaplaincy

Supporting 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 spiritual care, support religious and philosophical communities, educate about spiritual and ethical issues in society and the world, and promote multifaith engagement.

**Tufts University Chaplaincy | Goddard Chapel, 3 The Green | Medford, MA 02155 US**  
chaplaincy.tufts.edu | chaplaincy@tufts.edu | 617.627.3427



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