



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 2.17.21



Reflecting on the 2021 MLK Symposium

"In a sense, we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check—a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice." --Martin Luther King, Jr., 1963, I Have A Dream

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy as a Baptist preacher and spiritual leader, interfaith partner and American prophet norms the Tufts University Chaplaincy's multifaith commitments to justice and community. The excerpt from King's speech chosen for this year's Symposium is a clear example of the prophetic voice, as prophets—across time and traditions—call it as it is. Prophets name the empire's lie, decry the legislated scandal and beg us not look away. Then and now, King is calling us to tell continuing truth about that bad check, written in bad faith. For King, injustice was a spiritual crisis. And it still is.

Just days after the Symposium, two separate racist incidents took place during Tufts-sponsored events on Zoom. These events are outrageous and unacceptable; these acts of bigotry and hate are an assault on human dignity and beloved members of our community. At the same time, Asian Americans have been victims of hate crimes across the country at staggering rates, particularly since the beginning of the pandemic in March. And so we must do everything we can – in word and deed – to practice compassion and prioritize love on this campus and in our communities. For me, that means being pro-active in interrupting racism and bigotry when I encounter it; caring for people who have been harmed; and choosing to center the needs of those who are most impacted.

And so we must do everything we can – in word and deed – to practice compassion and prioritize love on this campus and in our communities. For me, that means being pro-active in interrupting racism and bigotry when we encounter it; caring for people who have been harmed; and choosing to center the needs of those at the margins. We're in moral and spiritual crisis as a country and community as long as racism and white supremacy endure.

But King also had a spiritual solution to this crisis. For prophets don't only call it as it is: they also gift us alternative vision of who we can genuinely become. King believed there were concrete ways to atone for the sins of racism and white supremacy that would build pathways to beloved community. At this year's Symposium we heard from Dr. Jelani Cobb that indeed there are. [You can watch the recording of the Symposium here.](#)

May we as a Tufts community listen to what King offers us in this moment. May we be steadfast in the spiritual and educational work it requires. And may we surround ourselves with the people and practices, texts and traditions we each need to help us on this way of justice and healing.

Pax et lux,
Rev. Elyse Nelson Winger
University Chaplain

This reflection is adapted from my closing remarks at the Symposium on February 3, 2021.

Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service

February 17 5:00 p.m. ET



**Join the Catholic and Protestant
Communities for virtual service**

Join Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell and Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper in virtual services for Ash Wednesday, as we gather to remember, once again, our finite lives and God's infinite love. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time when we honor the ancient call to be rooted in our truest selves through prayer, reflection, and acts of self-discipline. It is a call to journey through the wilderness as we move towards the Cross and the Empty Tomb. This year, we will not be imposing ashes, but turning our hearts and imaginations towards God and one another, preparing ourselves for Lent, the holy season of renewal and repentance. Music will be provided by Tom Dawkins, Music Director. Please contact Catholic Chaplain [Lynn Cooper](#) or Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](#) with any questions.

Religious and Philosophical Life Programs

You can find more information about our many weekly gatherings and student group meetings on our [website](#). You can also find the Zoom links for all events and gatherings there. In this section, we feature a weekly gathering hosted by one of our chaplaincies or religious and philosophical student groups, and highlight events and offerings from our chaplaincies. You can always reach out to the chaplain listed for more information, or find details on our [website](#). If you have an idea for how University Chaplaincy programming can better serve you, please contact program manager [Nora Bond](#).

Virtual Protestant Evening Worship

Sundays, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET

Protestant Evening Worship occurs every Sunday at 7:00 p.m. ET, with Reverend Dan Bell. This semester, we gather on Zoom to reflect on Scripture and hymns representing different Protestant traditions. Guest preachers from several different denominations join us help us understand how the Bible and Christian faith speak to our lives today. The Prayers of the People is the signature moment of our service. A student leader offers a series of prayers about various needs and concerns, and then everyone is invited to share their own prayers. On Zoom, people will type a joy or concern in the chat box or say it aloud. Each time they do, I light a candle and places it in a bowl of sand to honor the prayer sharing. Under typical circumstances, we would gather around the altar in Goddard Chapel and light the candles ourselves. It's not the same, of course, but this has been a good way to continue an important tradition in our community. I hope you will join us sometime and offer your prayers with us. Your presence would brighten our gathering and would be a blessing to all of us. Please know you are welcome and you are loved. You can always contact me, [Rev. Dan Bell](#), for more information, or explore the [Protestant Chaplaincy's website](#). Find the [Zoom information for Protestant Evening Worship on our website](#).



Rev. Dan Bell
Protestant Chaplain

[See more weekly gatherings](#)

The Rest of Us

Reclaim your Human Be-ing

Take 6 weeks to develop your own practice of radical rest

Learn more at <https://chaplaincy.tufts.edu/rest>



The Rest Of Us: Reclaim Your Human Be-ing

Sign up by February 21

The frenetic pace of life on our campus can sometimes feel inevitable. But does it have to be this way? This spring, Hillel and the University Chaplaincy invite you to experiment with sabbath practice--to tend to and lift up all that you are outside of your accomplishments. Sabbath is subversive. It challenges us to reframe our understanding of time and turns 'productivity' on its head. In a semester with such unique demands and a shortened spring break, what would it look like for you to embrace rest and restoration? Participants will be paired together to develop and commit to their own unique sabbath practice (however small or grand). For six weeks, you will meet up with your partner (Zoom or phone) once a week to explore the deeper themes of ceasing, resting, embracing and enjoying. The Rest of Us is an opportunity to explore what our religious and philosophical traditions have to say about stepping back from the noise and embracing those things which connect us more deeply to ourselves, the divine and one another. [To sign up fill out this Google form.](#)

Exploring the Spirituals: PSA Lenten Book Club

Tuesdays, February 16 through March 23, 8:00 p.m. ET

This year's Lenten book club will explore the rich tradition of African American spirituals and how they provide a powerful lens through which to view the Bible and our lives today. A "spiritual" is a genre of religious folksong closely associated with the enslavement of African people in the American South; [you can learn more about African American spirituals here](#). Our hope is that this study will help to deepen our walk with Christ and our commitment to the work of antiracism. Sponsored by the Protestant Students Association; facilitated by Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell and University Chaplaincy Music Director Tom Dawkins. Please email [Dan Bell](#) to learn more. All are very welcome to participate.



Mishloach Manot - Purim Baskets With Hillel

Signs up are open

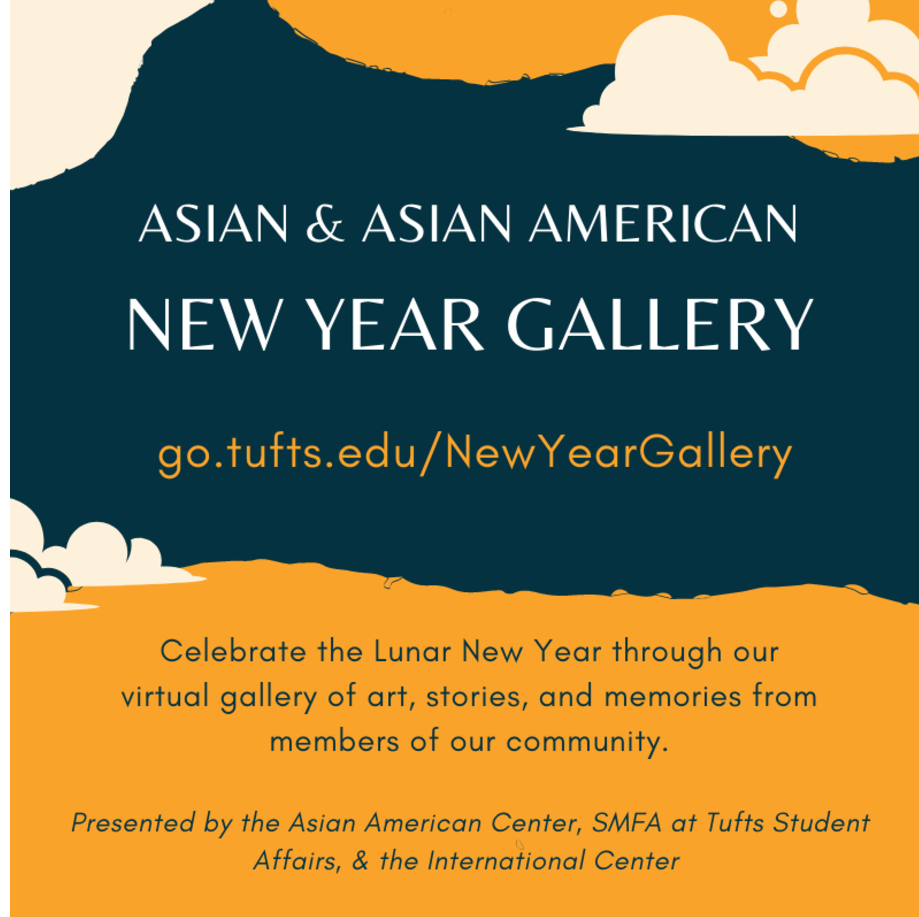
Purim is February 25 (or, the 14th day of the Jewish month Adar). Hillel is excited to deliver Purim goodies right to you. Sign up to receive a Mishloach Manot bag of snacks and trinkets to make your Purim memorable. Please note, you must be a student local to the Medford/Somerville campus. [Fill out this form to sign up for a basket.](#)

Something Greater than Ourselves Program, hosted the Humanist Chaplaincy

Throughout Spring Semester 2021

How do you find and describe your sense of meaning in life? Is it a commitment to justice, an awe before nature, or a unique experience of God? This new series will share readings, videos, reflection tools, and discussion groups around talking about "something greater than oneself" (abbreviated "sgto"). Those interested can sign up anytime through the semester and have access to all the program's resources in a shared Box drive. Join the new e-list organized by Humanist Chaplain Walker Bristol to hear weekly announcements, resources, and opportunities for connection around finding something greater than oneself. Join the [sgto e-list via the Tufts e-list service here](#). Feel free to e-mail [Walker Bristol](#) with any questions.

Partner Programs



Asian & Asian American New Year Gallery

Now open virtually

The Asian American Center, SMFA at Tufts, Student Affairs, and the International Center present the launch of their virtual Asian & Asian American New Year Gallery. [Visit this website](https://go.tufts.edu/NewYearGallery) to see art, stories, and memories from the Tufts community related to the lunar new year. Get started on the guided tour by pressing the "Next guide point" button on the bottom of the screen. A healthy, prosperous new year to all who celebrate.



Religion and Peacebuilding Panel Series

Begins February 18, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET

The Fletcher Initiative on Religion, Law, and Diplomacy (RLD) invites you to their upcoming panel series, "Religion and Peacebuilding." The panels will cover a wide range of topics and feature many accomplished speakers, while exploring the role of religion in our discourse around conflict and peace. The topics of the panel series are as follows: A Power Like No Other: Religion and Peacebuilding, Liberation Theology & Peacebuilding, Women, Religion, and Peacebuilding, and Religion and Community: Growing Resilience Through Interfaith Peacebuilding. You can [find more information and register on the Fletcher website](#).

ANTHROPOLOGY SPEAKER SERIES: GLOBAL RACISM, STATE VIOLENCE, & ACTIVISM

Tue. 02/23
12-1:30 pm

Free and open to the public
For event registration details visit:
sites.tufts.edu/anthrospeakerseries

Questions? Contact us at
anthropology@tufts.edu

Nitzan Shoshan
Professor,
Centro de Estudios Sociológicos
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Anthropology

CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES AT TUFTS
Co-Sponsored by: Department of Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora; Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and Middle Eastern Studies Program

What are the everyday sites of the production of rightwing ideology in Germany? How do practices apparently designed to teach tolerance in fact exclude some groups? What is the relationship between anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in Germany, and how does the state mediate the meanings of these terms? In this conversation between two scholars, we hear about the significance of "homeland" in Germany today and consider the relationships among citizenship, race, and religion. Finally, we consider what all of this suggests about current events in the United States today.

Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, & Homeland in Germany

Tuesday, February 23, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. ET

What are the everyday sites of the production of rightwing ideology in Germany? How do practices apparently designed to teach tolerance in fact exclude some groups? What is the relationship between anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in Germany, and how does the state mediate the meanings of these terms? In this conversation between two scholars, Nitzan Shoshan (Professor, Centro de Estudios Sociológicos at El Colegio de México), and Sultan Doughan (Postdoctoral Fellow, Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies, Boston University) we hear about the significance of "homeland" in Germany today and consider the relationships among citizenship, race, and religion. Finally, we consider what all of this suggests about current events in the United States today. This event is part of the Anthropology Speakers Series: Global Racism, State Violence, and Activism, presented by the Department of Anthropology and the Center for the Humanities at Tufts. [You can register here](#). For questions you can [email the Tufts Anthropology Department](#).

Apply for HEERF Grants and Covid-19 Relief Funds

Applications due March 1

The COVID-19 crisis has created significant financial hardship for individuals and families around the world, including members of the Tufts community. In response, many Tufts community members have come together to support students facing COVID-related financial challenges. In addition, the federally funded Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) under the CARES Act provides emergency grants to qualifying students for unforeseen expenses related to the pandemic. Such expenses include food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, childcare, and travel-related costs. Collectively, both institutional and federal HEERF grant funds are called the Tufts University COVID-19 Emergency Fund; money received through the Tufts University Covid-19 Emergency Fund does not need to be repaid. These funds are available to currently enrolled, eligible degree- or certificate-seeking students who are experiencing unexpected financial hardship and meet the requirements listed on the [emergency fund website](#). All undergraduate, graduate, and health professions students enrolled at Tufts are welcome to apply. [You can apply here, after logging in with your Tufts credentials](#).

Survive and Thrive: Tools for Uncertain Times: for Undergraduates

Wednesdays, February 24, March 3, March 10 and March 17; 2:00 p.m. - 3 p.m. ET

This group is hosted by Counseling and Mental Health Services and aims to help undergraduate students learn and practice resiliency skills to better face unexpected changes and manage uncertainty. Participants will acquire tools to build social connection, manage emotions, find purpose and meaning, set goals, and promote healthy habits. Each participant will receive a copy of the “Resiliency Skills Workbook” for their own use. Students are encouraged to attend each session if possible. To RSVP or to ask any questions, please contact staff clinicians [Jennifer Granquist](#) and [Andrew Yuen](#).

Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities



Coronaspection Video Series with the Elijah Interfaith Institute

Elijah Institute’s “Coronaspection” initiative brings together premier religious voices from around the world to engage in introspection in light of the Corona crisis. “Coronaspection” was created from interviews conducted with 40 major faith leaders, as well as from some messages made by others for this project. In addition to the full interview, you can also watch shorter clips derived from them, gems of wisdom that appear on the leader’s personal page. You can [watch the trailer for Coronaspection here](#), and [find all of the interviews on their YouTube channel](#).

The Hands of Hope Service Year Program at Casa de Esperanza

Rolling applications are open

Hands of Hope is Casa de Esperanza’s service year program which recruits recent college graduates and other highly qualified young adults, from throughout the United States. These passionate individuals have a desire to help abused, neglected and HIV positive children through work with our agency. This program brings together approximately 35 young adults annually to live and work with some of our society’s most vulnerable children. Hands of Hope House Parents commit one year to live and work with these vulnerable children in the Residential Program’s agency foster homes. You can learn more on the [Hands of Hope website](#) and [find the application here](#).

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](#). See below for a Tufts community member’s personal experience of an observance listed here.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, 2.17.2021

Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic

A special day of repentance observed by Protestant and Roman Catholic Christians to mark the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period (excluding Sundays) of prayer, repentance, and self-denial preceding Easter. The name derives from the practice of marking of the faithful with ashes to signify penitence.

Purim (Feast of Lots)

Thursday, 2.25.2021

Tradition: Judaism

Celebrates the rescue of the Jews of ancient Persia from a plot to destroy them as related in the Book of Esther, which is read at this time. Purim is a joyous holiday, celebrated by wearing of costumes, giving gifts to friends, giving to the poor, and socializing. Preceded by the Fast of Esther, Purim is a day of feasting. Begins at sundown.

Nineteen Day Fast

Sunday, 2.28 – Friday, 3.19.2021

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.

Spotlight on...Purim!

"While hamantaschen traditionally are filled with plum or poppyseed paste, our family was determined to bring people something fun and different when Purim came around. Honing the craft since 2004, we'd open the family 'factory' out of our home kitchen in Chicago just two days a year and we'd make hundreds of hamantaschen, which we'd disseminate to friends, family, and local teachers (just to spread smiles), and the process we perfected our signature buttery dough recipe and an assortment of creative fillings (like apple, roasted strawberry pistachio, cappuccino pecan, and lemon lavender). In 2020, the famous recipe was put into great new hands with the students living in the Bayit, the Jewish Culture House at Tufts. Last year, we [sold over 1100 hamantaschen to Tufts students and faculty](#), donating all the proceeds to charity. Though we're "closed for business" on campus this year, we look forward to making everyone's Purim sweet again in spring 2022!" - Jacob Shaw, A21



Hamantaschen cookies

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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