



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 1.17.24



Welcome to the semester, from your Protestant Chaplain

Dear Jumbos,

I recently visited the Airport Chapel at Charlotte Douglas International during a layover back to Boston. I arrived to find a small room with chairs, prayer rugs, an altar, and a bookcase with sacred texts from different religious traditions. In this place of solitude, I savored the moment to be tucked away from the bustling crowds of January travelers. I found my Episcopal prayer book in my luggage and began the evening prayer service of my tradition. After a few minutes passed, the door opened and another visitor made his way into the chapel. We nodded to each other as he prepared for his own devotions, taking a prayer rug and quietly reciting the words of the evening prayer in Arabic.

Mecca must have been behind me, I realized, as he faced in my direction while I sat facing the altar. As a result, we were facing one another without looking at each other—my head bowed to God the Holy Trinity, his body prostrate in worship of Allah. I finished my prayers, gathered my belongings, and whispered “Peace” to him as I left. He waved kindly and said, “Take care.”

We were two strangers in an unfamiliar place, not likely to ever meet again. We came with different faiths into that chapel, each of us seeking to commune with the Holy away from the noise of a busy airport terminal. On one level, nothing special happened; we were just using a quiet room to practice our respective religions. Yet I can’t help but think that, on a deeper level, something very important occurred in those few minutes of overlapping prayers.

In my theology, we stepped outside “chronos” time briefly to enter into “kairos” time—from the mundane to the eternal. You don’t need to find a chapel or house of worship to do this. Eternity, I believe, is always present, just waiting to be found within. But sacred spaces help, I think, whether it’s an airport chapel, our very own Goddard Chapel, Hillel Center, Interfaith Center, or various campus prayer spaces. ([Learn more about our sacred spaces here](#)).

Wherever they are for you, sacred spaces help to center us when life gets hectic. They help us find the Infinite amid the ordinary, and stillness in the midst of chaos. They also help us to encounter one another as fellow travelers on the journey of life, facing each other with kindness and respect as we look to our own traditions and principles to guide us.

This semester I hope you will find sacred “kairos” spaces that are meaningful for you, whether they’re the officially-designated ones at Tufts, or truly any place you find peace and connection—so long as your heart is open to whoever comes through the door.

Welcome to Spring 2024, Jumbos! Blessings to you,
Rev. Dan Bell
Protestant Chaplain, University Chaplaincy

Upcoming Signature Programs

MLK

WIN A
CASH
PRIZE!

STUDENT VOICES AWARD

What does it mean to you to be
“caught up in an inescapable network
of mutuality, tied in a single garment
of destiny”?

OPENS
24 OCTOBER



CLOSES
18 JANUARY

Accepting creative submission for the annual Rev. Dr.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Wednesday,
January 31. Find more at
go.tufts.edu/studentvoicesmlk



Jonathan M. Tisch
College of Civic Life



University
Chaplaincy



Office of the Vice Provost for
Institutional Inclusive Excellence

MLK Student Voices Award

Submissions now open through January 18, 2024

The annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration offers the Tufts community a time to participate in the ongoing university commitment to racial justice by honoring what we learn from the past, listening deeply to current voices of change, imagining together for Tufts, and celebrating a future of Beloved Community. Each year, we invite student voices - through essays, poems, spoken word, songs, art, or performances - to be a part of our community celebration.

Interested undergraduates and graduate students are invited to submit creative responses for this year's Student Voices Award as part of the annual Celebration coordinated by the Africana Center, Tisch College of Civic Life, and the University Chaplaincy. For the 2024 Celebration, we ask submitters to respond to an excerpt from the "Letter from Birmingham Jail," authored by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963:

"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."

For the 2024 Award, we are asking submitters to respond to the questions: What does it mean to you to be "caught up in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny"? What does that mean to you in this time of your life? Where does it show up for you at Tufts? What value does it have for our life together?

Individual and group submissions are welcome. Submissions could uplift a place, relationship, program, or gathering on our campuses that models mutuality and a recognition of the "single garment of destiny." Submissions are due on Thursday, January 18 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

There will be a cash prize for each winner, and one of the winners will be invited to present at the Celebration on Wednesday, January 31, 2024. [Find more information on the University Chaplaincy website.](#)

Find out more about the Student Voices Award

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 History**

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**



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

Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 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](#).

Multifaith Gathering for Peace

Wednesdays
12:15-12:45p.m.
Goddard
Chapel



University
Chaplaincy



Multifaith Gathering for Peace

Starts Wednesday 24, 12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

All members of the Tufts community—students, staff and faculty—are welcome to join members of the University Chaplaincy team for a weekly 30-minute multifaith gathering for peace. Our time together will include silence, candle lighting, music, reflections, and meditations from our different traditions. We look forward to sharing this space together as we navigate ongoing national and global crises and lift up our individual and shared hopes for peace in ourselves, others and our world. Please contact the University Chaplaincy if you have any questions or concerns.

If you would like to speak to a chaplain, please reach out to us through our [Contact a Chaplain form](#) or by [emailing the University Chaplaincy](#).



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, alums, and neighbors



Thursdays 12:10-1:10
Goddard Chapel
Rehearsals begin Thursday, January 25

Contact chaplaincymusic@tufts.edu for more information

Voices for Peace and Light Choir - join this semester!

Starts Thursday, January 25

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, and neighbors, the choir meets weekly on Thursdays in Goddard Chapel from 12:10 p.m. - 1:10 p.m. starting Thursday, January 25. Contact Goddard Chapel Music Director Suzanne Cartreine for more information.



Life's Big Questions

Jewish Learning Fellowship

Led by
Katie Hamelburg



Life's Big Questions Jewish Learning Fellowship

Apply by Friday, January 19

Are you looking to explore big questions, build new friendships, and dive into your Jewish identity? Applications are now open for the Jewish Learning Fellowship (JLF), a 10-week stipended fellowship at Tufts Hillel beginning in second semester.

The Jewish Learning Fellowship (JLF) is a 10-week experiential, conversational cohort for students looking to deepen their understanding of Judaism on their own terms. The theme of next semester's Jewish Learning Fellowship will be "Life's Big Questions," discussing topics including Shabbat, relationships, personal identities, and more. The fellowship is for people of all backgrounds, experiences, and connections to Judaism. We'll explore your own thoughts, beliefs, and questions on your own terms!

Spaces in the Jewish Learning Fellowship are limited - please fill out the application below. Please be in touch with [Katie Hamelburg](#), Curator of Religious Experience at Tufts Hillel, if you have any questions.

[Apply for Jewish Learning Fellowship](#)



Gesher: Building Bridges

Applications due by Wednesday, January 24 at 12:00 p.m.

The course will begin on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. Fellowship meetings will be weekly on Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.

Since October 7th, we've felt many things—grief, mourning, anger, fear, confusion. One thing has been missing: dialogue. Gesher: Building Bridges is a new Tufts Hillel initiative aimed at bridging the divides within the Jewish community.

Gesher fellows will study diverse perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a focus on seeing the other and building bridges, particularly amid the ongoing war. We will delve into important themes, including identity, diaspora, humanization, and challenging hate. This is a student-led fellowship designed for all students—Jewish and allies alike—committed to shared learning, open to new experiences, and respectful toward diverse voices.

As a fellows you will have the opportunity to explore your own views in a challenging, tolerant, and respectful environment. The fellowship will feature a highly subsidized trip over Patriots' Day Weekend to hear insightful speakers and come together in pursuit of collective healing.

Dates and logistical details:

- Weekly seminars over 10 weeks beginning 2/7/24
- Wednesdays at 8:00pm
- Immersive travel experience over Patriots' Day Weekend in April

Find more information on the [Hillel website](#).

Find more on Gesher

Partner Programs

TSF 2024 Applications Open

The 2024 Tisch Summer Fellows application period is now open through January 19, 2024, 11:59 pm ET.

Tisch Summer Fellows Applications Open

Applications now open through January 19, 2024, 11:59 pm ET.

Undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students from across the university are invited to apply for the 2024 cohort of Tisch Summer Fellows (TSF). This program is designed to support the professional and career development of participants while enhancing the knowledge, skills, and behaviors needed to build robust and inclusive democracy. Since 2004, community-based advocacy organizations, national non-profits, government agencies, and elected officials have hosted fellows to support dynamic, mission-driven projects to advance the public good.

The 2024 TSF program period is June 3 through August 9, 2024. You can [find more application details and information on the Tisch College website](#). If you have questions, please contact Civic Life Coordinator [Awes Hassan](#).

Find more about TSF

GROW YOUR MINDFULNESS SKILLS

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

**Students who participate in this mindfulness program
report experiencing:**



**Less self-
judgement**



**More
mindfulness**



Less stress



Better sleep

**REGISTER AT
TINYURL.COM/TUFTSMINDFULNESSSPRING2024**



Counseling &
Mental Health Service



Mindfulness
Institute
for EMERGING ADULTS

Free four-week introduction to Mindfulness

Begins Sunday, January 21

Introduction to Mindfulness® is a free four-week introduction to the practice of Mindfulness, offered by CMHS and taught by certified Mindfulness instructors. You will learn several tools, including meditation, breathing exercises, guided imagery, the body scan and more. Each of these practices are designed to deepen self-reflection, help you manage stress and enrich your life. The sessions meet in person once per week for four consecutive weeks. Attendance at all four weeks is highly encouraged. Contact Mental Health Promotion Specialist [Erica Schonman](#) with any questions.

[Sign up for Mindfulness Sessions](#)

Resources, Scholarships and Opportunities

USDA



Climate Change Fellows Program

Apply by Wednesday, January 31

USDA is seeking qualified applicants for inclusion in the USDA Climate Change Fellows Program (CCFP). Through research, conservation practices and partnerships, USDA aims to find solutions to agricultural challenges, enhance economic growth and create new streams of income for farmers, ranchers, producers and private foresters. Successfully meeting these challenges will require USDA to staff a diverse set of employees with the expertise to implement USDA's climate change strategy. USDA's Climate Change Fellows Program (CCFP) allows USDA to hire Climate Change Fellows through a time-limited appointment. Projects will involve working with USDA employees on climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts across the Department. You can find more through the [Friedman School of Nutrition Career Services website](#).

Find more about the Climate Change Fellows

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](#).

Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji

Wed., Jan. 17, 2024

Tradition: Sikhism

Guru Gobind Singh Ji (1666-1708), the 10th and final Sikh master, created the Khalsa, the "Brotherhood of the Pure," and declared the Scriptures, the Adi 'Granth, to be the Sikh's Guru from that time on.

Sadeh

Wed., Jan. 24, 2024

Tradition: Zoroastrianism

Tu B'Shevat

Wed., Jan. 24, 2024

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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