



Tufts

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 1.22.25



Students light candles during prayer time, Protestant Evening Worship, Jan. 19, 2025, Goddard Chapel

A Reflection from the University Chaplaincy

“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.”

Last Sunday at Protestant Evening Worship (PEW) we sang this beloved spiritual in Goddard Chapel as we gathered for our first service of the new semester. It is a longstanding tradition at PEW to let our little lights shine by lighting candles and placing them in sand as we pray in a circle around the Communion table. This simple ritual, which has been practiced for well over a decade by the Protestant community on campus, is a meaningful way for students to slow down, pray, and reflect at the beginning of the week. It is also a powerful reminder that, while our individual lights may seem very small, engulfed by the darkness of life’s cares and concerns, our lights combined become a beacon of hope and resilience.

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness,” Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King declared. “Only light can do that.” As we celebrate and reflect on his life and legacy this week and next (learn more about Tufts’ [2025 MLK Celebration](#) on January 30 below), how can we let our collective light shine brighter? What can we do to join our little lights together to make a bigger impact than we ever could alone?

None of us can do everything. But I believe each of us can do something to make life better for others. With our skills and talents, dreams and passions, and—above all—our care and compassion, we can join as one to work for a better world, a more perfect union, the Beloved Community at the heart of King's vision. "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve," King said. "You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." So, with grace and love, Jumbos, let your light shine.

Peace and Light,
Dan

The Reverend Daniel Bell
Protestant Chaplain

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 with any questions.



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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 PM to 7:00 PM 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 the University Chaplaincy at 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

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.

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

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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 no later than 3:30 PM. Email the University Chaplaincy at chaplaincy@tufts.edu with any questions. [RSVP by January 23rd with this form.](#)

[RSVP to Attend the Field Trip](#)



BE-FRIEND



Be Yourself. Go Deep. Be Friend.

Starts the first week of February.



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

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

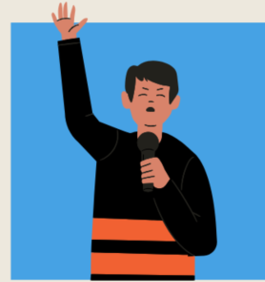
Great news: Be-Friend is back and in its fifth year! This semester-long interfaith friendship project is designed for participants to go deep and talk about the things that matter - our values, our sense of purpose, and our questions about life. You will hone the skills of active listening while experimenting 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 - of 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 if you have any questions. Learn about our [first year of Be-Friend here](#).

**The Tufts University Chaplaincy
and Interfaith Ambassador Team**
invite you to the

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF COMMUNITY ACTION

THIS YEAR'S TOPIC: HOUSING JUSTICE

- Hear from a panel of local activists and housing experts
- Engage in housing justice based activities
- Sign up for volunteer opportunities throughout the semester
- Enjoy dinner with classmates, faculty, and friends



RSVP HERE

February 5, 2025 at 6PM
Location TBD



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. Jr. Day of Community Action

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at the Interfaith Center, 58 Winthrop St.

Join the Interfaith Ambassador Team for its annual Day of Community Action, inspired by this year's Day of Celebration theme, "Where Do We Go From Here?" This year's focus is Housing Justice, and we will hear from a panel of local activists and housing experts as we engage these questions relationship to our current housing crisis: Where Are We? How Did We Get Here? Where Do We Go From Here? Dinner will be served, and you

will have the opportunity to sign up to volunteer and advocate with various organizations throughout the semester! Please sign up below and contact Interfaith Ambassador Tyler Kwong, A27 for more information at tyler.kwong@tufts.edu.

Sign up for Day of Community Action

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.

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

All are welcome



Humanist Chaplaincy Spring Book Club

Beginning January 22nd from 4:00 PM to 5:15 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.

A graphic of a rainbow with multiple curved bands of color (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) on the left side of the poster.

JAN. 22 & FEB. 5

WEDNESDAYS, 5-6:30 PM
LGBT CENTER, 226 COLLEGE AVE

TRUE COLORS GIMS

COME FOR ONE OR BOTH OF THESE
GIMS TO TALK ABOUT TRUE
COLORS, A CONVERSATION AND
CRAFTS GROUP AT THE
INTERSECTION OF QUEER AND
RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL IDENTITIES.
ALL ARE WELCOME.

CONTACT: DAN BELL, PROTESTANT CHAPLAIN
DANIEL.BELL@TUFTS.EDU

True Colors General Interest Meeting

Wednesday, January 22 and February 5, from 5:00 PM to 6:30pm, LGBT Center

Come for one or both of these general interest meetings to talk about True Colors, a conversation and crafts group at the intersection of queer and religious/spiritual identities. All are welcome. Contact Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain, with any questions at 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



Tea and Poetry with the Tufts Buddhist Sangha

Wednesday, January 22nd 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 with any questions.

The University Chaplaincy Presents..

A Graduate Hindu Student Lunch !



23 THURSDAY JAN



12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Tufts Interfaith Center, 58 Winthrop St.

Join us for great food, with veg and non veg options,
to foster connection, plan events for the semester, and
discuss the formation of a new Graduate Association.

All are welcome !



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**BIRYANI AND GOOD COMMUNITY ARE
WAITING! SEE YOU THERE!**

For more information, please email Prakruthi Ramesh, Chaplaincy
Graduate Student Worker, at Prakruthi.R@tufts.edu

Hindu Graduate Student Lunch

Thursday, January 23rd from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM at the Interfaith Center, 58 Winthrop

Join University Chaplain Elyse Nelson Winger and Chaplaincy Graduate Student Worker Prakruthi Ramesh, EG25 for lunch, catered by Guru the Caterer, and discussion about programs and celebrations for Spring Semester on the Medford-Somerville campus.

Students from all graduate programs and schools are invited! No registration required.

For more information, please email Prakruthi at Prakruthi.R@tufts.edu.



TUFTS ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Vespers AND Paraklesis



With Fr. Anthony Tandilyan, our Spiritual Advisor

Thursday Evenings at Goddard Chapel

6:30 - 7:30 PM

1/23, 1/30, 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/27, 4/3, 4/24

Join us for a beautiful Thursday evening prayer service!

Alternating between Vespers and Paraklesis.

All are welcome!

Vespers with the Orthodox Christian Fellowship

Thursday, January 23rd from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM, Goddard Chapel

During spring semester, Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) will be meeting Thursday evenings. The first Vespers service will be next this Thursday, from 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM at Goddard Chapel. You can find more information on upcoming events through the link below.

[Find the OCF Calendar](#)



Community Dinne

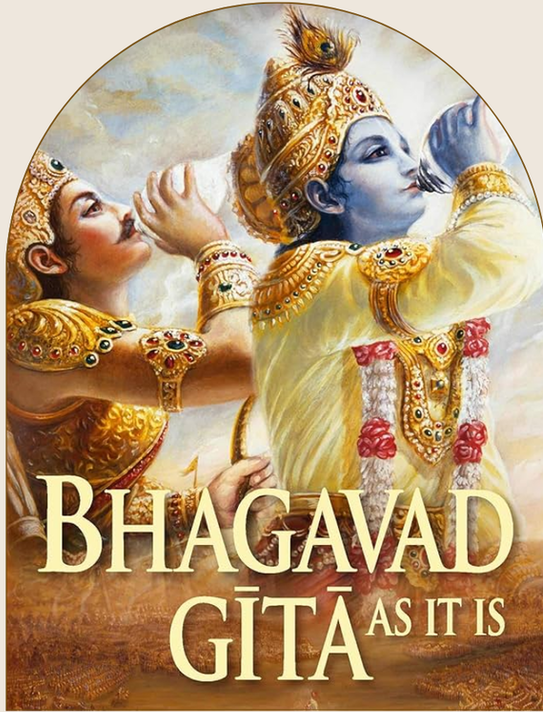
Tuesday, January 28th, from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM, Granoff Family Hillel Center

Find community, make connections with your peers, and eat dinner at Hillel. Join us for a kosher meat dinner with a vegetarian option. Find more information and the full Hillel events calendar through the link below.

[Hillel Events Calendar](#)

Modern Yogi Book Club

Reading and discussion group every other **Wednesday** at the Interfaith Center from **12-1.30 pm**, beginning 1/29



This Spring, all undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff are invited to participate in the Modern Yogi Book Club, a series of lunchtime discussions hosted by Interfaith Ambassador and Hindu Student Association member Niam Lakhani. This group will provide a space to dive deep into the captivating wisdom of Vedic texts and discover how these timeless teachings relate to our lives today.

Gita3: A Contemporary Guide to the Timeless Teachings of the Bhagavad-gita will be provided to all participants, and *Bhagavad-Gita As It Is* (which is available through Tisch Library and online) will also serve as a primary text. No experience or previous background is needed. Lunch from Guru the Caterer will be provided each session. For more information, contact Niam at

Niam.Lakhani@tufts.edu.

DISCUSSIONS:

1/29, 2/12, 2/26, 3/12, 3/26, 4/2, 4/16

All are welcome.

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Hindu Chaplaincy

Modern Yogi Book Club

January 29th from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM at the Interfaith Center, 58 Winthrop St.

This spring, all undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff are invited to participate in the Modern Yogi Book Club, a series of lunchtime discussions hosted by Interfaith Ambassador and Hindu Student Association member Niam Lakhani, A27. This group will provide a space to dive deep into the captivating wisdom of Vedic texts and discover how these timeless teachings relate to our lives today. *Gita 3: A Contemporary Guide to the Timeless Teachings of the Bhagavad-gita* will be provided to all participants, and *Bhagavad-Gita As It Is* (which is available through Tisch Library and online) will also serve as a primary text. No experience or previous background is needed. Lunch from

**CREATED FOR COMMUNITY:
A FOUR-WEEK BIBLE STUDY
FOR AN UNLONELY LENT**

**WEDNESDAYS, 7-8PM
FEBRUARY 5-26
CAMPUS CENTER 203**



Hosted by Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell, with pizza provided, we will use the resource *Not Made to Be Alone: Created for Community in a Lonely World*. The book has prompts for journaling and conversation to help us reflect and prepare for the season of Lent. Please email Dan at Daniel.Bell@tufts.edu if you would like a copy or just want to learn more.

Created for Community: A Four-Week Bible Study for an Unlonely Lent

Wednesdays, February 5th - 26th, from 7:00 PM to 8:15 PM, Campus Center Room 203

You are invited to a four-week Bible study on the importance of community. Hosted by Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell, with pizza provided, we will use a resource called *Not Made to Be Alone: Created for Community in a Lonely World*. The book has prompts for journaling and conversation to help us reflect as we prepare for the season of Lent.

Please email Chaplain Dan Bell at Daniel.Bell@tufts.edu if you would like a copy or just want to learn more.

Get paid to sing!

Become a Choral Scholar with Voices for Peace and Light!

Hiring a Tenor for the University Chaplaincy's choir.
Contact chaplaincymusic@tufts.edu for more information and apply on Handshake.

Paid position, secured by audition.
All Tufts undergraduate and grad students welcome to apply.



Hiring a Tenor for the Voices for Peace and Light Choir

Apply now on Handshake

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), serve as section leaders in the choir. In Spring 2025, we are hiring a Tenor. All Tufts undergraduates and graduate students are welcome to apply; eligible for work study, but not required. You can email Music Director Suzie Cartreine at chaplaincymusic@tufts.edu with any questions.

Apply on Handshake

Partner and Community Programs

TCU SENATE & THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR
INSTITUTIONAL INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE PRESENT



TUFTS TABLE

THE POWER OF PERSPECTIVE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025 6:00-8:00 PM
BREED MEMORIAL HALL

Open to all students, staff, & faculty from all campuses from across the university

No cost to attend

Dinner will be provided

Tufts Table aims to establish connections between diverse members of our community while sharing perspectives on subjects such as exploring our intersecting identities, finding a sense of belonging and community, and creating a more inclusive Tufts.

RSVP



Tufts Table Beyond Polarization: The Power of Perspective

Thursday, January 23rd, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Breed Memorial Hall, 51 Winthrop St

Tufts Table provides community members, who might not otherwise cross paths, with the opportunity to make connections and share perspectives on subjects such as exploring our intersecting identities, finding a sense of belonging and community, and creating a more inclusive Tufts. Please RSVP below. This community dinner is free and open to students, faculty, and staff from across all four campuses (Boston, Grafton, Medford/Somerville, and SMFA).

[Register for Tufts Table](#)

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.

Imbolc

Saturday, February 1, 2025

Begins at sundown on the first day listed. The first fertility festival, celebrating the approach of spring and the growth of light in the darkness.

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.

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chaplaincy.tufts.edu | chaplaincy@tufts.edu | 617.627.3427



emma

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