



# Tufts

# UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 11.15.23



## A Reflection from your Humanist Chaplain

Dear Jumbos,

Care is more than just a four letter word. I realized the hard way because soon after being appointed the Humanist Chaplain in 2021, I acquired a plant, interestingly called "String of Hearts."

I was excited to tend to this plant, as my housemates also had plants they were doting on. The plant symbolized the deepest aspirations for my work, and it felt incumbent upon me to nurture it. I bought an intricately adorned ceramic pot for its new home. Aside from reviewing the sparsely written care instructions, I figured the plant would be just fine. After all, I grew up surrounded by plants as a kid. I was also a voyeur of others caring for plants. But, as life often demonstrates, things do not always go as planned. My plant started to wilt, and little by little leaves began to collect on the table.

I agonized over this unfavorable outcome. How could this be? What was I doing wrong? What should I be doing differently? After days of intensive reading and consulting plant connoisseurs, I decided to tend to my plant differently. I "listened" to it and let it "rest." Two years later, the plant has gone from a sole leaf to abundant growth. I had to recognize that I was imposing more than I was accepting. In retrospect, I did not inquire enough about the plant, its "language," and the ways I would meaningfully respond to its needs.

Extrapolating this to other domains in my life, I am often more attuned to my biases, attitudes, and preconceived notions and how these bear on relationships and the understandings of the world around me. This story asks me to consider my own embodiment and how I am situated among others – do I arrive somewhere ready to listen? To learn, and grow in the process?

As you go about your week, consider the quality of your care. How are you listening to your needs? How will you resource yourself? How will you enlist the support of others to fulfill these needs?

In solidarity,  
Anthony Cruz Pantojas  
Humanist Chaplain

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## Why I Give Jane Romp, A23

**“The University Chaplaincy encouraged me to organize across lines of difference on the topics and issues that mattered to me the most. My experience on the Interfaith Ambassador team allowed me to create spaces on campus for students of diverse perspectives, identities, and lived experiences to engage in community learning and service.”**

**Jane Romp, A23**

**Giving Tuesday Is Coming**  
Tuesday, November 28

On Giving Tuesday this year, join Tufts University alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students in supporting the impactful programs and communities of the University Chaplaincy! We are grateful for your support of the University Chaplaincy's innovative and inclusive programming through our Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Muslim and Protestant chaplaincies. Help us achieve our best day of giving yet by giving generously to the University Chaplaincy "Friends of Goddard Fund" in support of the Interfaith Ambassador Program this year. You can always [find more about giving to the University Chaplaincy here](#).

Above, Jane Romp shares why she gives back to the University Chaplaincy. Jane graduated from Tufts in 2023 as a triple major in Political Science, Civic Studies, and Sociology. During her time as a student, she was involved in JumboVote, Mock Trial, Model UN, COFFEE, and worked as an Interfaith Ambassador for the University Chaplaincy. Jane is currently working as a research assistant for a documentary project exploring implicit gender bias in judicial sanctions.

Giving to the University Chaplaincy

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## Upcoming Signature Programs





Thursday, December 7  
6:00 p.m., Goddard Chapel  
RSVP requested



You're warmly invited to  
a multifaith celebration.  
Join us for a night of  
storytelling, singing, and  
dancing featuring the Medford  
Community Chorale, WuZee, and  
a potluck hosted by the  
First Gen Collective!



**Call For Art, Pax et Lux: A Multifaith Winter Celebration**

Submissions due Monday, November 27

Pax et Lux is the University Chaplaincy's multifaith winter celebration centered around themes of peace and light. The celebration includes singing, dancing, storytelling, and poetry and aims to highlight individuality and celebrate people's traditions, cultures, and practices. This year a reception, co-hosted with the Tufts First Gen Collective, will be open to all after the event!

Interested undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit creative responses for this year's Pax et Lux celebration. We invite submissions of written or visual art to be displayed in Goddard Chapel event and reception. We ask that submissions respond to one of the following questions: "Peace and light have many different manifestations in many different lives, how do these grounding principles of our community reveal themselves in yours?" "What brings you joy and warmth in the winter?" "What traditions do you associate with wintertime?" [Submissions are accepted here.](#)

Submit Art to Pax et Lux



## 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](#).

# Rwanda Fellowship

ExCollege Class & Rwanda Trip

## General Interest Meeting

*The fellowship offers an in-depth analysis of Rwandan history, culture, genocide, and reconstruction.*

### **ExCollege Class: Rwanda Fellowship GIM**

Wednesday, November 15, 12:30 p.m., Granoff Family Hillel Center

This Rwandan Fellowship program offers an in-depth analysis of Rwandan history, culture, genocide, and reconstruction as impacted by external colonial powers and internal political and ethnic dynamics. This Fellowship's class component is followed by a 10-day trip to Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda, where fellows are fully immersed in the culture of Rwanda through the lens of reconciliation and care exemplified by the Rwandan people. If you have questions, please contact Associate Director [Lauren Bloom](#). Applications are open now and due Wednesday, November 29.



# Bible Study

**WEDNESDAYS, 6PM**  
**CAMPUS CENTER 218**  
**OCT.11 - NOV.15**

Please join us as we read and discuss the Gospel of Mark together. A daily reading plan is available. Email Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell to learn more ([daniel.bell@tufts.edu](mailto:daniel.bell@tufts.edu)) All students are welcome, regardless of background or identity.

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Protestant Chaplaincy

#### **Pizza and Bible Study**

Wednesday, November 15, 6:00 p.m., Campus Center, Room 218

Join the Protestant Chaplaincy as we study the Gospel of Mark together. All are welcome, regardless of your identity, spiritual/religious background, or knowledge of the Bible. Please contact Protestant Chaplain [Dan Bell](#) with any questions.

# Vocation: Professional and Spiritual Synergy

Thursday, November 16 at 5PM EST  
at Goddard Chapel

**Dr. Preeta  
Banerjee**



**Tufts Hindu  
Chaplain**

**Dr. Jonathan  
Garlick**



**Professor at Tufts Dental  
Medicine, Medicine, Engineering  
Director, Tufts Initiative in Civic  
Science**

**Kia Alston**



**Staff Clinician,  
Multicultural  
Specialist,  
Psychotherapist**

**Ymbar I. Polanco  
Pino**



**Engineer, Researcher,  
Economist, PhD  
Student**

Join us for a transformative panel discussion exploring the pursuit of vocation, with a panel discussion moderated by Wanci Nana, and an interactive Q&A session to inspire personal and professional alignment.



## **Vocation: Professional and Spiritual Synergy**

Thursday, November 16, 5:00 p.m., Goddard Chapel

Join the University Chaplaincy for a transformative panel discussion exploring the pursuit of vocation, with a panel discussion afterwards moderated by Interfaith Ambassador Wanci Nana, A24. The session is meant to inspire personal and professional alignment. Please reach out to [Wanci Nana](#) with any questions.



# Catholic Community Day Retreat

Saturday, November 18  
10 AM- 7 PM  
The Interfaith Center (58 Winthrop St)



Join us for a day of reflection and  
connection. Lunch and dinner provided.

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Catholic Chaplaincy

## Catholic On-Campus Day Retreat

Saturday, November 18, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Interfaith Center (58 Winthrop St)

Sometimes we just want to step back and take some quiet time to be with God, ourselves and one another. In the middle of the semester, it can be hard to make that happen. This on-campus Day Retreat is an opportunity to carve out space for connection and reflection but in a way that is accessible. We will try on different kinds of spiritual practice, learn with and from one another, make art, move our bodies, share meals, and end the day with a Dinner Church liturgy with the Saints. All are welcome. [RSVP here](#). You can contact Catholic Chaplain [Lynn Cooper](#) with any questions.

[RSVP to Retreat Here](#)

AFRICANA SPIRITUALITY DINNER SERIES

# The Beauty of Gospel Music

with David Coleman

NOVEMBER 27, 2023 · 5:00 - 6:30 P.M.  
THE AFRICANA CENTER, 8 PROFESSORS ROW



Gospel music is both current and historical. It is African-American history. It is American history. However, many of us are not allowed to learn history through the lens of Black lives, and the beauty of Gospel music is that we learn about this history while simultaneously linking that experience to our own, regardless of age, ethnicity, or creed. And we do it together, singing, and marching forward.



Please RSVP  
by scanning the  
QR code

**Tufts**  
UNIVERSITY  
University Chaplaincy

**AC**  
THE AFRICANA  
CENTER  
TUFTS UNIVERSITY

## Africana Spirituality Dinner Series: The Beauty of Gospel Music

Wednesday, November 27, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Africana Center (8 Professors Row)

Gospel music is both current and historical. It is African-American history. It is American history. However, many of us are not allowed to learn history through the lens of Black lives, and the beauty of Gospel music is that we learn about this history while simultaneously linking that experience to our own, regardless of age, ethnicity, or creed. And we do it together, singing, and marching forward. Please join for this dinner and conversation co-hosted by the University Chaplaincy and the Africana Center. You can contact Humanist Chaplain [Anthony Cruz Pantojas](#) with any questions. Please [RSVP to the dinner event here](#).

RSVP to Dinner Event

**\*FIND THE CHASE CENTER  
ON THE LEFT SIDE OF  
CARMICHAEL HALL!**

**TRUE COLORS AND TUFTS  
COFFEE PRESENT**

# QUEERNESS AND FAITH

**NOV. 30  
6:30-7:30PM, CHASE  
CENTER\***

a dinner event for any and all interested in  
exploring the intersection between queerness  
and spiritual or religious traditions (or lack  
thereof).

Come and join us for some yummy food and  
good conversation!



**RSVP HERE!**

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UNIVERSITY | Chaplaincy



## **Queerness and Faith Dinner**

Thursday, November 30, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Chase Center (Carmichael Hall, opposite side from dining hall)

Join us for this annual gathering, hosted by True Colors and COFFEE, where we enjoy dinner together and discuss the intersections between queer identities and religion, spirituality (or lack thereof). [Please sign up here](#). Sponsored by the LGBT Center and University Chaplaincy.

[RSVP to Queerness and Faith](#)

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**Partner Programs**





Tisch Library Special Collections

# HISTORY AND SYSTEMS OF TAROT

Join Special Collections for a lecture  
on Tarot and other forms of  
cartomancy!



November 16, 2023 from 2-3pm  
Tisch Library Room 103

Lecture by Grace Rotermund, A'24



**Tisch Library Special Collections Lecture: History and systems of Tarot**

Thursday, November 16, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Tisch Library, Room 103

Grace Rotermund, A24, Religion Major will be speaking in the Tisch Library, Room 103. Come learn about the history and systems of Tarot, along with other forms of cartomancy!



### **Capoeira Workshop**

Thursday, November 16, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Aidekman Arts Center

Join the Tufts University Art Galleries next week for a special Capoeira workshop in conjunction with our current exhibition *Véxo: We Know*, led by instructors from Sinhá Capoeira. Capoeira is a mixed martial arts that incorporates dance-like practices, originating from Afro-Brazilians and continues to be practiced as an indigenous movement to this day in Brazil. All ages and levels are welcome to this workshop. No equipment or accessories necessary, just come with comfortable clothing and sneakers.



SAVE THE DATES



# Power, Policy, Progress

*Redefining Authority, Reshaping Influence*

NOVEMBER 17 & 18, 2023

**THE FLETCHER SCHOOL**  
160 PACKARD AVE, MEDFORD



**REGISTER**



**SUPPORT**

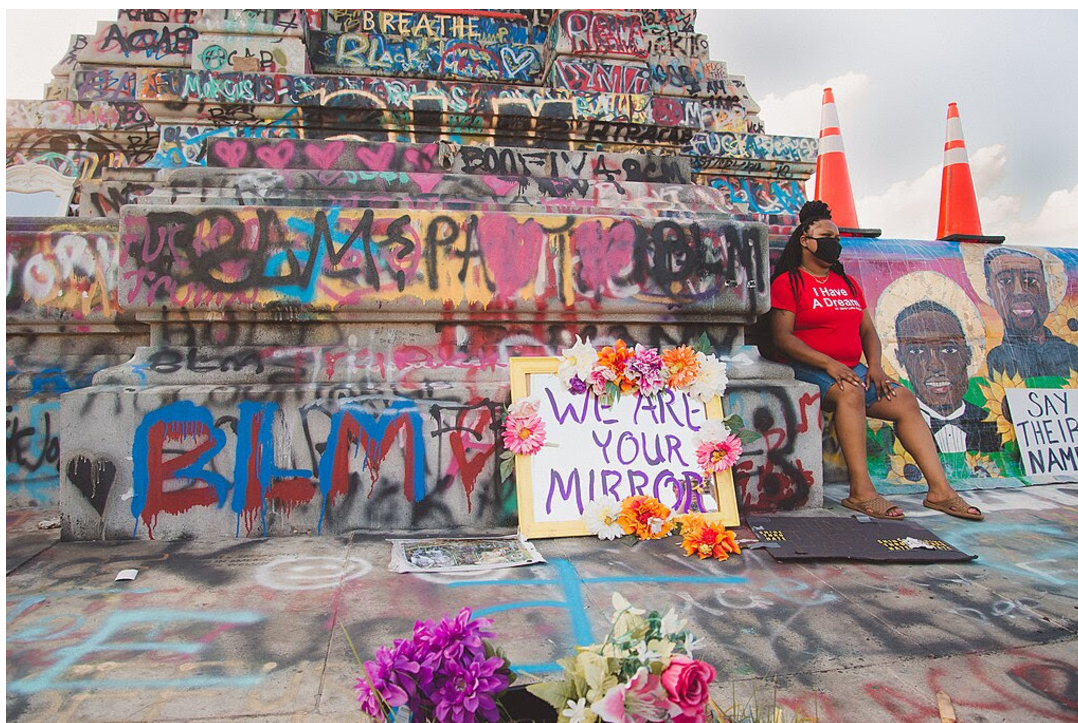
## **9th Annual Conference on Gender and International Affairs**

Friday and Saturday, November 17th & 18th, 2:30pm - 7:15pm, Fletcher School

The student committee for The Fletcher School at Tufts University's annual conference on Gender and International Affairs is pleased to invite you to our upcoming conference, Power, Policy, Progress: Redefining Authority, Reshaping Influence, scheduled for Friday, November 17 and Saturday, November 18. Individuals can [register](#), donate, and learn more about our lineup of speakers on our [website](#). The conference is free to the public and will be virtually accessible for registered participants unable to attend in person.

[Find more about the conference](#)





## REL 192-02 Civil Disobedience

Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

This course assesses the place of religion in the theory, practice, and history of civil disobedience. How has religion shaped notions of citizenship, justice, legitimate authority, and obedience? Is religion an impetus or impediment to protest? What role does it play in establishing and motivating the distinction between violent and nonviolent dissent? What impact have different forms of civil disobedience — religious and irreligious—had upon various moments of history? We will explore these and related questions through scrutiny of classic and contemporary accounts of civil disobedience taken from practitioners and theorists. As a course in religious studies, we will also pay special attention to civil disobedience as a site of interreligious exchange and moral formation.

Find Spring 2024 Course Offerings

## 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](#).

### Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

Fri., Nov. 24, 2023

Tradition: Sikhism

This day commemorates the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (1621-1675), the ninth of the Ten Sikh Gurus. He is remembered not only for his defense of the Sikh faith, but also of Hinduism and of religious liberty.

### Day of the Covenant

Sat., Nov. 25, 2023

Tradition: Baha'i

Celebrates the anniversary of the appointment of 'Abdu'l-Baha, the son of Baha'u'llah, as the Center of the Covenant. Work is not suspended on this day. Begins at sundown.

### Guru Nanak's Birthday

Sun., Nov. 26, 2023

Tradition: Sikhism

### Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Baha

Mon., Nov 27, 2023

Tradition: Baha'i

Commemorates 'Abdu'l-Baha's death. Begins at sundown.

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



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