Hello!

We’re celebrating the start of our new newsletter! This bulletin will offer a monthly picture of Humanist life at Tufts, while the Humanist Community at Tufts newsletter will offer updates week to week. If you’re not subscribed to the Humanist Community listserv, you can do so easily by visiting the Tufts E-list Service and entering your UTLN.

December is a quick but intense time at Tufts, especially this year amid finals, current events, and tragedy on campus. We want to offer the Chaplaincy spaces to everyone who might need care and support through the end of the term. As a part of our Humanists Against Homelessness initiative, we’re excited to host a winter clothing drive for Second Chance, an organization which partners with local shelters and service providers to make sure they get the types of clothing they need to best help homeless and low income families in Somerville. We’ll also be hosting one last small group reflection for the term preceding HCAT’s December Jam Session right before finals. Find out more about all of these on the list of upcoming events below.

Wishing everyone strength over the next few weeks and a restful winter break.

Take care,

Walker

---

Winter Clothing Drive for Second Chances Somerville starts TODAY!

---

American Humanist Association: Humanists Stand in Solidarity with Standing Rock

Sincere Kirabo (pictured) is the social justice coordinator for the American Humanist Association. Last month, he joined alongside the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe near Cannon Ball, ND to support and interview water protectors involved in the #NoDAPL anti-pipeline protests. The AHA officially stated their solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe last month. To learn more about #NoDAPL, Sincere has encouraged people to check out the work of Indigenous activist Kelly Hayes.

---

Humanists Against Homelessness: Winter Clothing Drive for Second Chances - 12/2 to 12/16 in the Interfaith Center (58 Winthrop St, Medford, MA)

In anticipation of another New England winter, many of our homeless and low income community members in the greater Somerville area are without warm clothing. As a part of our ongoing Humanists Against Homelessness service series, we’ll be hosting a winter clothing drive through the end of the semester for Second Chances. The mission of Second Chances confronts the challenge head-on of making sure...
resources go to the providers who need them—as described on their website, they “provide clothing to homeless and very low-income people in Cambridge and Somerville by working with local homelessness and social service agencies where they receive shelter and services.” They support services for people of all ages, sizes, and genders.

The drive box will be located in the front of the Interfaith Center (58 W Inthrop St, Medford, MA) starting this Friday, December 2nd and will continue until 2pm on Friday, December 16th. Learn more by visiting the Tufts Humanist Chaplaincy website.

**Small Group Reflection** — 12/9 at 5:30pm in the Interfaith Center (58 W Inthrop St, Medford, MA)

Our day to day lives, on campus and off, can be challenging just as they are exciting, but we don’t always have a structured hour in the week to sit down and reflect on the way we’ve grown. With the Humanist Community at Tufts, our small group reflection series encourages everyone to share their own pieces of inspiration—poems, readings, songs, art, or any artifact that helps you understand and tell your story. Together, we’ll offer our sources of inspiration and explore how we draw meaning from them.

The upcoming small group reflection will be on Friday, December 9th, at 5:30pm in the Interfaith Center downstairs meeting room. Small group reflections are open to all members of the Tufts community, irrespective of anyone’s belief background. Join us and bring your own piece of inspiration to share!

**Humanist Community at Tufts: Holiday Jam Session** — 12/9 (Time and Location TBD)

In 2011, the Humanist Community at Tufts (then known as the Tufts Freethought Society) began hosting regular jam sessions in the Granoff Music Building, bringing people together simply to sing and play with one another—to connect in new creative ways. Reviving that program, HCAT plans to host a holiday-themed jam session before finals this December to celebrate music that brings us together in the cold of winter.

The holiday jam session is planned for after the small group reflection meeting on the evening of December 9th—more details forthcoming. Save the date!

**Other Announcements from the University Chaplaincy**

This Sunday, the University Chaplaincy invites everyone to join in a Candle Lighting Vigil for the Country. All are invited to share in a space to remember and call attention to the emotions, concerns, hopes, and prayers that characterize our experiences of the election, its aftermath, and the ongoing protests in Standing Rock. The vigil will take place between the Catholic and Protestant services in Goddard Chapel on Sunday, December 4th, at 8:30pm.

The Sociology department announced this week that Professor Katy Vecitis, lecturer in urban sociology and sociology of deviance, passed away last Sunday. Katy is remembered by many students and colleagues as an engaging teacher, thoughtful mentor, and warm friend, and will be missed dearly by our campus community. From Monday, December 5th, until Friday, December 9th, we will host a memorial display in Goddard Chapel including space to write intentions or memories to be sent to Katy’s family and information on how to give to the Katy Vecitis Memorial Fund for the Tufts Sociology Department.

All are welcome to join in the holiday tradition with the University Chaplaincy at the Annual Holiday Concert preceding the end of the semester. Come share in warm refreshments and sing along with the Tufts Concert Choir and Chaplaincy Music Director Christian Lane. The holiday concert will take place at 4:30pm on Wednesday, December 7th in Goddard Chapel.
Always feel welcome to reach out to Humanist in Residence Walker Bristol with any thoughts, questions, or concerns at walker.bristol@tufts.edu.