



December 27, 2009 -  
January 17, 2010

## Calendar

**Sunday, December 27**  
9:15 Umoja Chorus Rehearsal  
10:00 Women's Spirituality Group  
11:00 Worship Service

**Monday, December 28**  
**Office Closed**  
\*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time)  
10:00 Mondays at Martha's SGM

**Tuesday, December 29**  
**Office Closed**  
10:00 Wisdom Sprouts SGM

**Wednesday, December 30**  
**Office Closed**

**Thursday, December 31**  
**Office Closed**  
5:20 UUBF Zen Meditation

**Friday, January 1**  
6:30 AA Men's Group

**Saturday, January 2**

**Sunday, January 3**  
9:00 Worship Service  
11:00 Worship Service  
12:30 30% Chance of Enlightenment

**Monday, January 4**  
\*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time)  
9:00 Newsletter Deadline  
4:00 Bicentennial Committee Mtg.  
5:00 Transitions

**Tuesday, January 5**  
10:00 Seekers SGM  
12:00 Staff Lunch  
7:00 Executive Board Meeting

**Wednesday, January 6**  
9:00 Staff Meeting  
6:30 RE Committee Meeting  
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, January 7**  
9:00 Newsletter Crew  
5:20 UUBF Zen Meditation

**Friday, January 8**  
6:30 AA Men's Group

**Saturday, January 9**  
8:30 RE Teacher Bridging & Orientation Breakfast  
10:00 Wise Together SGM  
6:00 Second Saturday Potluck

**Sunday, January 10**  
9:00 Worship Service  
10:00 Women's Spirituality Group  
10:00 New Orleans Rebuilding  
11:00 Worship Service  
12:30 New UU Class  
12:30 UU Burlington Animal Ministry  
12:30 Gary's Committee on Ministry  
6:00 YUuth Group Meeting

**Monday, January 11**  
\*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time)  
10:00 Mondays at Martha's SGM  
5:00 Celebration Committee  
5:00 All Committee Night

**Tuesday, January 12**  
10:00 Wisdom Sprouts SGM  
12:00 Staff Lunch  
5:30 Property Committee Meeting  
7:00 Planned Giving Committee  
7:00 Book Discussion Group

**Wednesday, January 13**  
9:00 Staff Meeting  
3:00 PSI Meeting  
6:00 Sapere Aude SGM  
6:00 Music Committee Meeting  
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, January 14**  
3:15 M'ellen Committee on Ministry  
5:20 UUBF Zen Meditation

**Friday, January 15**  
6:30 Men's AA Group

**Saturday, January 16**

**Sunday, January 17**  
9:00 Worship Service  
9:30 Care Network Ministry  
10:00 Women's Spirituality Group  
11:00 Worship Service  
12:30 New UU Class  
7:30 Iranian & American: ARAC Discussion  
12:30 Reducing & Eliminating Nuclear Weapons

## On My Mind

The folks with the best view of the Christmas Tree on Church Street are probably the protesters who vigil each afternoon at 5:00 p.m. on the sidewalk in front of our meetinghouse. This is the ninth year they've watched a big evergreen go up, and they haven't missed a night since they started, just two days after 9/11.

Some of the regulars are from our own congregation, like Sylvia Holden and Dave and Sally Conrad. Most are senior citizens, which is no accident. Have you noticed how one-time hawks like Robert McNamara—who as Defense Secretary led the escalation in Vietnam--often experience a change of heart in their latter years? If you live long enough, maybe you finally realize that bombs are not the answer.

Anyone with historical memory can recall how America first got into Afghanistan. It wasn't after September 11, but in 1980, when the Soviets invaded. That's when the CIA started funding radical Islamic fighters, creating the holy warriors who have now become our nemesis. Our money was matched dollar-for-dollar by the Saudis. That's how guys like Bin Laden got their start.

That was nearly thirty years ago, and the fighting there has been continuous. So I'm not sure a surge on the ground or more predators in the air in the next eighteen months are likely to turn the tide. Maybe I'm getting old. But I can recall the Vietnam era—I was eighteen the last year a draft lottery determined who got sent to Southeast Asia---and it wasn't Cabinet Secretaries or Nobel Prize winners like Kissinger who finally brought an end to the conflict. It came from ordinary people, protesting in the streets.

Yes, I know President Obama has eloquently laid out the case. Still, he leads a country that does more military spending than the next eighteen nations combined. Waging war and preparing for war is our national obsession.

Long after the Holiday Tree is gone from the Marketplace, a few people will still be gathering at each evening sending a simple message, holding signs that say peace on earth, bring the troops home. Maybe you should join them? There's no better place to see the lights.

**Gary**

## Upcoming Sundays

### January Worship Theme: Time

Time is a companion, a swift river, a creeping increment of measure, sometimes a seeming enemy, sometimes a source of healing: whatever our relation to time, time marches on with or without our awareness. Or does it? What of those moments when the light and sensation of eternity - timelessness - floods our being? *"Time is an illusion. Lunchtime doubly so."* - Douglas Adams

**Sunday, December 27, 11am**  
**"Intergenerational KWANZAA Service"**  
Joyfully celebrate Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work & Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity and Faith with Jeh Kulu, Drumming and Dancing, the Umoja Chorus and Reverend Elaine.

**Sunday, January 3, 9am & 11am**  
**"Dream Time"** Human beings spend an average of one-third of their lives fast asleep, but why? Ancient peoples saw dreams as gateways to the divine, modern psychologists as maps of repressed wishes and unconscious desires. Gary explores dreaming as a prototypically Unitarian Universalist pathway to insight.

**Sunday, January 10, 9am & 11am**  
**"Visualize Free Time"** Time - and the lack of "free" time - is a stressor shared by many Americans, of varying ages, political and religious persuasions. Materials from the "Take Back Your Time" movement call us to recognize this loss and to reclaim our time. Reverend Elaine will highlight the sacred, healing role free time may play in life .

**Sunday, January 17, 9am & 11 am**  
**"Re-Segregating America?"**  
Americans were jubilant one year ago with the inauguration of our first African American President. But alongside signs of progress, there is much to suggest that the racial divide is widening in education, health, income and other leading indicators. Gary ponders the road toward full equality on this Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration. The choir sings.

# CELEBRATING OUR FIRST 200 YEARS



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF BURLINGTON VERMONT

On January 29, 1810 the First Congregational Society of Burlington, presently called The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, accepted and implemented their Articles of Association. Please join us for the following events in 2010 as we celebrate 200 years of spirituality, fellowship, spirit, and community.

**JAN  
29**

**Birthday Celebration Kickoff Soiree!**

**5 pm to 7 pm**

Light refreshments, wine, soft drinks in Parlors

**JAN  
31**

**“A Faith for Our Time”**

**9 am and 11 am**

On the 29th day of January, 1810, our Society was founded, growing from a religious controversy and spiritual renaissance that was sweeping New England. Two hundred years later, Rev. Gary Kowalski recalls the principles at stake and explains why ours remains a timely message.

**FEB  
28**

**“But What do You People Believe?”**

**9 am and 11 am**

The congregation's founders were able to overcome adversity not only because they had excellent personal character (for the most part; there were a few clinkers) but also because they agreed upon a basic systemic theology. In their first 75 years, three of the four sermons they printed and preserved as freestanding pamphlets laid it out in clear detail. So what were these beliefs, and do they haunt or illuminate the meetinghouse which listened to them? Elz Curtiss will discuss.

**MAR  
7**

**“Joshua Young, Burlington Unitarian Abolitionist”**

**9 am and 11 am**

In correction of many mistaken tales, Rev. Robert E. Senghas will give an account of how our minister Joshua Young was involved with abolitionist John Brown and ultimately resigned from our pulpit.

**APR  
18**

**“Unitarian Universalist Women”**

**9 am and 11 am**

Rev. Elaine Bomford will relate some of the many contributions made by women through the years to our Society, to our Unitarian Universalist faith, and to the greater good of all.

**MAY  
16**

**Bicentennial Guest Speaker - Fred Small**

**9 am and 11 am**

Sermon topic will be announced at [www.uusociety.org](http://www.uusociety.org) and in future newsletters.

**MAY  
23**

**The 1960s**

**9 am and 11 am**

This Lay Service explores the First UU Society's RESPONSE to news-worthy peak events in the 1960s: the Women's Movement, Civil Rights, and the Vietnam War.

**JUNE  
12**

**Open House** at Meetinghouse and tours of building.

**10 am to 12 pm**

Light refreshments.

**JUNE  
13**

**Parade up Church Street**

**9 am**

**Intergenerational Wheel of Life Service**

**10 am**

**Replanting of Memorial Tree and Burial of Time Capsule**

**11 am**

**Ice Cream Social following the Memorial Tree Service**

**Organ Concert**

**3 pm**