



# The First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora

*A Member of the National Spiritualist Association of Churches, U.S.A.*

*President Jeanne Phoenix Laurel, Ph.D.  
president@firstspiritualisttemple.com*

*Pastoral Committee Chair Beverly Burke  
pastoral@firstspiritualisttemple.com*

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## First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora: Newsletter, August 22, 2021

### Who is speaking on Sunday?

- August 29 Robert Lowell Goller
- September 05 Diana Moore
- September 12 Brenda Hawkins—Board meeting
- September 26 Jeanne Phoenix Laurel
- October 03 Bonnie Woods—Blessing of the Animals
- October 10 Beverly J. Burke—Board meeting; Memorial, Judy Murnan\*
- October 17 Cyndi Pirog
- October 24 Gretchen Clark
- October 31 Bob Reuther

\*Anyone interested in participating in the Memorial for Judy Murnan on October 10, please speak with Beverly Burke (or email me and I'll convey the message).

### By the numbers

- In July 2020 as we opened to in-person services for the first time since the pandemic began, we held three church services (we did not hold service on July 5, 2020). About 20 people attended each service; offering was \$928.47.
- In July 2021, we held four church services. About 28 people attended each service; offering was \$432.00.

### Welcome New Members!

Congratulations to our newest members, approved at board meetings in June and July, and offered the Right Hand of Fellowship on July 25: Carrie Batt, Megan Boggs, Lisa Finn, Jennifer Mintz, Jayette Sinclair and Susan Svorai.

### Seeking a Secretary

Thank you to Sandra Lombardo for serving as our church secretary from February 2021 through August 2021. However, Sandra has been given additional responsibilities at work, and no longer has the time to continue as secretary. If anyone is interested in the position, please contact me.

Church members can run for a seat on the board, including the office of secretary, only after two full years of being a church member. However, if an office is vacant, we can appoint any church member willing to serve in this office.

The position calls for someone with organizational and computer skills, attention to detail, and an ability to attend board meetings (second Sunday of each month), as well as most Sunday services. When I held the office, I found myself spending several hours each week out of church (sometimes more, sometimes less) on various tasks. The specific duties to be assigned are in a state of transition.



## Special Interest Classes and Meetings

- Introduction to Spiritualism. Darlene Feskun will offer a class for those who want to know more about Spiritualism, our Introduction to Spiritualism (or “101” as we sometimes call it) offers those who are interested). The class starts on **Sunday, August 22** at 9 a.m. in person at the church, and will continue for about 4 weeks. There is no charge for this class, although you will need to purchase the textbook for \$15.
- Homiletics Graduation. Jeanne Laurel’s class on how to develop and present a sermon—in a word, “homiletics”—will meet on **Sunday, August 29** so students can deliver their final 20-minute sermons. Board and pastoral members have been invited to attend, as a way of giving those who wish to present sermons on Sundays an audition. Members of the congregation are also welcome to attend.
- Teachers’ Meeting. Beverly Burke would like to meet with all those who teach classes at FST on **Sunday, September 05** at 12:30. If you are unable to attend this meeting, kindly let Beverly know what classes you are interested in teaching, and when you will be available.
- Board of Trustees Meeting. Our board meets the second Sunday of each month to make decisions and discuss ongoing operations of the church. We’ll meet again on **Sunday, September 12**, starting about 1 p.m. Members are welcome to attend board meetings, either to bring business for discussion, or just to listen in. We meet in person downstairs; if you’re interested in attending by Zoom, use the Sunday meeting ID (see end of newsletter for the list).
- All-Message Service. Those working as student mediums at FST will again offer an “all-message service” format demonstration of mediumship on **Thursday, September 16**, starting at 7 p.m. and running until about 9 p.m. Members and friends of the church are welcome to attend; free-will offering. With pandemic precautions still needed, we are offering this format of message-work, rather than Mediums Day, the private one-on-one readings that we offered in the past as a fundraiser.
- Platform Decorum, Chairing the Service. Beverly Burke will hold a class on **Sunday, September 19** at 12:30 for those interested in chairing Sunday services, discussing responsibilities and expectations.

## Classes: Development and Other Classes

Rob Goller has said he wants to delay the start of the development class until at least October 6. We know many people are waiting patiently for this class to begin. In the meanwhile, here are some offerings that might help you begin to cultivate the skills and tools needed for mediumship.

- MPI Study Group. If you are participating in the Morris Pratt Institute coursework, you are welcome to attend a drop-in study group covering the best ways to approach material. Beverly Burke and Lynette Lex, recent graduates, are available as mentors. The class meets the last Sunday of each month after worship service—the next meeting is **Sunday, September 26**. (There will be no August meeting.)
- Terminology for Development Students. Offered by Zoom, Jeanne Laurel, 7 to 8:30 p.m. (sign-in at 6:45), **Monday, September 13**, class fee \$10. This class was last offered in June 2021. It includes a 14-page handout you’re asked to read before class, so class members can discuss questions about the material. Signup sheet downstairs; or contact me.
- Thought Exchange. Begins again for the fall season on **Monday, September 20**, 7 to 8:30 p.m., offered by Jeanne Laurel, free-will offering. Zoom only. This class will continue to meet on the first and third Mondays of each month, with a new topic for each decided by those in attendance at the previous meeting. The topic to get us started on September 20: What I did during my summer vacation that was Spiritualist. There is no sign-up necessary; just show up on the first or third Monday, using the Monday Zoom ID number (see end of this newsletter).

- Working with Angels. Offered by Andrew Bozeman on four Saturdays, **January 8 through January 29, 2022**, times to be announced (2-1/2 hours per class), \$15 per class.
- Offerings from NSAC. Our chartering organization, the National Spiritualist Association of Churches, often lists classes; search for “NSAC Online Services and Classes.” An easier way to find NSAC mediumship workshops might be searching Facebook for “Morris Pratt Institute,” where you’ll find (for example):
  - Home Circles: Spiritualist Development, Rev. Dr. Rosemary Calderalo, **Thursday, September 23**, 7:30 p.m. EST, via Zoom, \$50.
  - Natural Law and the Workings of Mediumship, Rev. Lelia Cutler, **Saturday, October 23**, 12 p.m. CST (that’s 1 p.m. Eastern time), via Zoom, \$50.
- Offerings from *The Journey Within*. This United States church is a member of the Spiritualists’ National Union, a United Kingdom organization similar to NSAC. We have much in common with their approach, although the platform decorum guidelines differ slightly. You’ll find a range of offerings at <https://journeywithin.org/event-list/>, including:
  - Bringing Your Evidential Mediumship to the Next Level, James Van Praagh, **Saturday & Sunday September 18-19**, \$150.

### **Classes: The Cost**

We work hard to keep costs low. If you are unable to attend a class offered by FST because of cost, please let a board member know. We will work with you to find a way to allow you to attend.

### **Service Opportunity from Hearts & Hands:**

Hearts and Hands is a nonprofit organization that matches caring, reliable volunteers with older community members who have essential needs, like transportation, to ensure they can continue living independently.

Services provided to the community include transportation, in-home services such as meal preparation and minor home repairs, and caregiver support through friendly visits. Through these services, Hearts and Hands initiates meaningful connections between their volunteers and older adults. Creating these connections combats social isolation and allows for the individuals served to age gracefully in place, while maintaining their quality of life.

If you want to learn more information about Hearts and Hands, you can visit: [volunteerhnh.org](http://volunteerhnh.org)

### **Ongoing Service by FST and its Members:**

- We take non-perishable, unexpired food items to FISH of East Aurora when our members drop them off. FISH is now starting to accept fall and winter clothing in good shape as well. (Visit “Fish of East Aurora” on Facebook.)
- Diana Moore takes cat and dog pet food donations (canned food especially needed), as well as cat litter, to St. Matthias Pet Pantry, so those struggling to make ends meet can take care of their animals. (Visit “St. Matthias Pet Food Pantry” on Facebook.)

### **What’s That Zoom Number?**

To simplify the answer to that question, all Zoom sessions hosted by the church will use numbers that correspond to days of the week.

- Mondays, link <https://zoom.us/j/98908343264>, ID 989 0834 3264
- Tuesdays, link <https://zoom.us/j/93782889733>, ID 937 8288 9733
- Wednesdays, link <https://zoom.us/j/99498052420>, ID 994 9805 2420
- Thursdays, link <https://zoom.us/j/93033218920>, ID 930 3321 8920

- Fridays, link <https://zoom.us/j/94842337658>, ID 948 4233 7658
- Saturdays, link <https://zoom.us/j/97800261770>, ID 978 0026 1770
- Sundays, link <https://zoom.us/j/98423834708>, ID 984 2383 4708

Click the link; or open Zoom and enter ID number.

For any meeting, audio only, dial 929 205 6099 and enter meeting ID.

If your meeting is on a Monday, use the Monday link or number.

### **Reminder about Masks**

- Everyone must wear a mask upstairs in the worship area, with a few exceptions.
- Those on the rostrum serving the church in a speaking capacity may remove their masks while speaking; musicians may remove their masks.
- We will wait before restarting use of healing chairs and hands-on healing. For now, healers will send out healing to the congregation by sitting or standing in front of the church, facing the congregation.

Thank you to all our members and friends! First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora is moving toward its 110<sup>th</sup> celebration of November 11, 1911—the date we first opened our doors as a church built by Spiritualists, for Spiritualists. Our founders had been meeting for a number of years prior, but made a commitment to build for the future. We are grateful to them, and look ahead to many more years of service, with Spirit's blessing.

Jeanne Phoenix Laurel, President. Feel free to email or call me: [jeannelaurel@gmail.com](mailto:jeannelaurel@gmail.com), or [president@firstspiritualisttemple.com](mailto:president@firstspiritualisttemple.com). Home 716-876-4805, cell 716-208-0624.