



The First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora

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

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Newsletter, March 25, 2021: First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora

If you read nothing else in this newsletter:

The church generally holds its annual member meeting on the first Sunday in May each year. However, to give ourselves more time for folks to get Covid19 vaccines, and to allow better ventilation in a warmer month, we have moved the annual meeting to June 06, 2021, immediately following Sunday service (starting at about 1 p.m.)

You must be paid up on dues through the membership year May 01, 2021 through April 30, 2022 (as well as all previous years) in order to vote at this meeting. Dues are \$30 for members 18 to 64, and \$25 for members 65+. Please consider paying your dues early to avoid a last-minute crush at the financial table.

Members, please watch your mailbox for a letter explaining what-all we will be doing at the annual meeting. We need at least 50% of members plus one to constitute a quorum, in order to be able to transact business. You may attend by Zoom or in person at the church.

If you would like to note the Zoom information for this meeting:

- Direct link: <https://zoom.us/j/91422751462>
- Or, launch Zoom and enter Meeting ID: 914 2275 1462
- Or, for audio only, dial 929-205-6099 and enter Meeting ID above

By the Numbers

- February 2020:
 - 4 worship services
 - 155 attending (30 people average); \$958.50 offering
- February 2021:
 - 4 worship services
 - 98 attending (25 people average); \$804.00 offering

Upcoming Speakers and meetings

- Sun., Mar 28: Beverly Burke (NSAC Gratitude Day)
- Sun., Apr 04: Robert Lowell Goller
- Sun., Apr. 11: Andrew Bozeman (FST board meeting)
- Sun., Apr. 18: Ron Skowronski
- Sun., Apr. 25: Bob Reuther
- Sun., May 02: Celeste Elliott



- Sun., May 09: Andrew Bozeman (FST board meeting)
- Sun., May 16: Gretchen Clark
- Sun., May 23: Cara Seekings
- Sun., May 30: Jeanne Phoenix Laurel
- Sun., Jun. 06: Ron Skowronski (FST annual member meeting)
- Sun., Jun. 13: Barbara Kellerman (FST board meeting)
- Sun., Jun. 20: Robert Lowell Goller
- Sun., Jun. 27: Bonnie Woods (meeting between Pastoral Committee and congregation)

Regular and special events

- Board meetings will now be hybrid format (in-person and Zoom). After careful consideration, the board of trustees has decided that we can hold monthly board meetings in a hybrid format, both in person at the church, and by Zoom, starting with the April 11 board meeting. We will meet at 1 p.m., since we no longer have to factor in time for those who live distant from the church to drive home after service.

We will start at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 11, 2021, downstairs in the dining area for those attending in person, or using the following Zoom log-in credentials for those who wish:

- Direct link: <https://zoom.us/j/99963821153>
- Or, launch Zoom and enter Meeting ID: 999 6382 1153
- Or, for audio only, dial 929-205-6099 and enter Meeting ID above

Members and friends of the church are always welcome to join the board for its monthly meeting. A special time at the beginning of the meeting is set aside for business members wish to bring before the board (so you don't have to sit through the rest of the meeting if you prefer).

- All-message service. The board and pastoral committee have discussed whether we can hold Mediums Day this spring. We are still concerned with safety during the Covid19 pandemic. We note that most people seeking readings during our Fall Mediums Day preferred live, in-person readings over virtual or remote readings. We don't think we're ready to have enough mediums and sitters in the same physical space for such an event at this time.

However, we have agreed to hold an intermediate event: an All-Message Service, in which all attendees will receive a message from spirit. On the evening of Wednesday, April 14 (time to be announced—likely 6:30 or 7 p.m.), we will gather in person at church for an all-message service. If we have more than about 30 people attending, we may ask some to wait downstairs, where they can watch the live-stream television during the first half of the service. Those who have received a message will be asked to change places (or they may, if they wish, leave)—so we will be able to keep social distancing precautions in effect.

There is no admission charge; a free-will offering basket will be available.

- FST Pastoral Committee meeting with congregation. Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 27 immediately after service for the next meeting of pastoral committee, board members and congregation and friends. Student healers, message workers and those who serve the church are

encouraged to attend. This is your chance to discuss what's working, what's not, and to make suggestions. We had a very productive set of discussions at our most recent meeting on March 07.

- **Food.** One concern raised at the last Pastoral-congregation meeting is that we all miss being able to chat, nibble, and sip coffee after services on Sundays. That—and we miss hugs.

While we can't start preparing and serving brunch for a while, someone did suggest a useful work-around: lawn chairs! When the weather turns warm and sunny, you are welcome to bring your own brown bag lunch, a Tim Horton's coffee, and pack your lawn chair in your car. After our worship service, those who wish may adjourn to the parking lot (if it's not occupied by other East Aurora visitors), the adjacent cemetery (if the ground isn't boggy), or even Hamlin Park for a socially-distanced meet-and-greet-and-nosh.

A brown-bag picnic is strictly for members and friends to organize if they wish. We ask that no furniture or food be removed from the church, as we cannot guarantee someone with a key will be available and the end of the merriment to lock the building.

Classes

Continuing classes

- Thought Exchange. Open discussion on a topic supplied by participants, facilitated by Jeanne Laurel. Meets first and third Monday of each month, 7 p.m., by Zoom only. Topic for next meeting, April 5: Reincarnation, Part 2. Zoom info:
 - Direct link: <https://zoom.us/j/98966963694>
 - Or, log into Zoom and enter Meeting ID: 989 6696 3694
 - Or, for audio only, dial 929-205-6099 and enter Meeting ID above
- "Surviving Death." Netflix 6-part series viewing, followed by discussion, facilitated by Jeanne Laurel. Meets second and fourth Monday (and fifth Monday, if the month has one); login at 6:45 p.m., begins promptly at 7 p.m., by Zoom only. Next meetings: March 29, Episode 4; April 12, Episode 5; April 26, Episode 6. Members are welcome to watch the series on their own, and join for the discussion segment. Zoom info:
 - Direct link: <https://zoom.us/j/96476756900>
 - Or, log into Zoom and enter Meeting ID: 964 7675 6900
 - Or, for audio only, dial 929-205-6099 and enter Meeting ID above

Upcoming Classes, sign-up sheets available (or contact me); dates, times and formats to be announced. Please sign up to indicate your interest so we know how many are interested, and to supply class leaders information how to contact you to arrange dates, times.

- Homiletics: how to prepare and present a sermon for Spiritualists. Facilitated by Jeanne Laurel. May be in Zoom and in-person, as mutually agreed-upon by participants. Starts in mid-June.
- Development (or unfoldment), mediumship and healing. Pre-development led by Judy Murnan (required class for those who want to enroll in Development). Development led by Robert Lowell Goller. The two classes will be scheduled so those interested can complete pre-development first.
- Spiritualism 101, introduction to NSAC Spiritualism: what we teach, what we don't, and why. Led by Darlene Feskun. This class is required for participation in other classes we offer.

- The philosophy of Spiritualism. Led by Darlene Feskun.
- Angels. Led by Andrew Bozeman.
- Morris Pratt Institute study and support group.

News from NSAC

- Hydesville Day: A Celebration of the Advent of Modern Spiritualism, A worldwide Event Wednesday, March 31, 2021.
 - Livestream from Fox Cottage Hydesville Memorial Park, fundraiser for the property. Donations at <https://nsac.org/support-nsac-donation/>; click on Fox Cottage Preservation Fund.
 - Hydesville Day events will all be on one single Zoom meeting, sent after registration at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/47w7zv7o>. Most events free.
- Flyer with full details of each of the day's events at <https://nsac.org/news-events/>.

Thank yous!

- A big thank you to all those who stepped forward to work on Audit Committee: Sandy Bozeman, Julie Braun, Darlene Kerr, and Mimi Wilde. It isn't the most glamorous or visible of the work that needs to be done to keep our church afloat, but it's certainly one of the most important jobs to keep us on the straight and narrow.
- Thank you to the Ways & Means Committee, which is planning several raffles and fund-raisers. Watch this space for more info!
 - Gift cards won in the East Aurora Chamber of Commerce raffle, \$50 worth of goods or services each from Massage Works and The Irishman Pub (tickets \$1 for 1 tickets; \$5 for 7 tickets; \$10 for 15 tickets);
 - Christmas bazaar baskets, with pictures posted on our website and Facebook page for viewing and bidding;
 - Quilt, with glorious sunflowers and fairies theme, made by Lyn Batt (\$5 per ticket);
 - A table at the East Aurora Flea Market and Farmers Market to sell crafts, home-made goods, jewelry, masks, plants, some items from Christmas bazaar baskets.

As news media mark the one-year anniversary of the Covid19 pandemic and its restrictions and difficulties, I am amazed and grateful at how resilient our church and all our members and friends have shown themselves. Thank you to those who showed up for services; thank to those who stayed home to keep us safe; thank you to all those who tossed a little extra into the Sunday offering or a mailed envelope; and thank you to all for your prayers, your resilience, and your patience. What we've missed in hugs, we've made up for in attitude and actions – Jeanne Laurel, President, First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora

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