



# The First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora

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

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## Newsletter, April 25, 2021: First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora

### Zoom Info:

- Surviving Death, class using Netflix series, **Monday, April 26**, 6:45 p.m. This will be the last class in this series. This class is by Zoom only.
  - Direct link: <https://zoom.us/j/98966963694>; Meeting ID: 989 6696 3694
- Thought Exchange **Monday, May 03 and May 17** (first and third Mondays of each month), starting at 7 p.m. All welcome; this class is by Zoom only.
  - Direct link: <https://zoom.us/j/93406860492>; Meeting ID: 934 0686 0492
- Board Meeting **Sunday, May 09**, starting at 1 p.m. Members and guests are welcome to attend, either in person (downstairs in the dining hall) or by Zoom.
  - Direct link: <https://zoom.us/j/99963821153>; Meeting ID: 999 6382 1153
- Annual Member Meeting **Sunday, June 06, 2021**, starting at about 1 p.m. Members and guests may use Zoom, or they may attend in person in the downstairs dining hall.
  - Direct link: <https://zoom.us/j/91422751462>; Meeting ID: 914 2275 1462
- To log into any meeting directly, open Zoom and enter the Meeting ID number.
- To participate in any meeting by audio only, dial 929 205 6099 and enter the meeting ID number.

### NEW PLAN—and some notes on Zoom:

Last month, I scrambled the Meeting ID numbers for Thought Exchange and Surviving Death classes. (The numbers shown above are corrected!) My apologies. As a safety measure, Zoom wants to generate a new number for each meeting, and makes it difficult for me to recycle the same numbers.

To simplify our access to Zoom, I've set up "recurring meetings," one for each day of the week. All classes, meetings and events on Mondays will use the same Meeting ID, no matter what time. (We cannot host simultaneous meetings, but we can use the number for meetings one after the other.)

**After our annual member meeting on June 06**, through the end of 2021, please use the following:

Weekday	Meeting ID	Direct Link	
Mondays	989 0834 3264	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/98908343264">https://zoom.us/j/98908343264</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Click the direct link; or</li> <li>• Open Zoom and enter Meeting ID number; or</li> <li>• Dial 929 205 6099, enter ID (audio only)</li> <li>• If your meeting or class is on a Monday—use the Monday number!</li> </ul>
Tuesdays	937 8288 9733	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/93782889733">https://zoom.us/j/93782889733</a>	
Wednesdays	994 9805 2420	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/99498052420">https://zoom.us/j/99498052420</a>	
Thursdays	930 3321 8920	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/93033218920">https://zoom.us/j/93033218920</a>	
Fridays	948 4233 7658	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/94842337658">https://zoom.us/j/94842337658</a>	
Saturdays	978 0026 1770	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/97800261770">https://zoom.us/j/97800261770</a>	
Sundays	984 2383 4708	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/98423834708">https://zoom.us/j/98423834708</a>	



### **By the Numbers**

- March 2020:
  - 3 worship services (the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, March 25, was when we closed for Covid)
  - 122 attending (41 people average); \$631.00 offering
- March 2021:
  - 4 worship services
  - 99 attending (24 people average); \$755.71 offering

### **Upcoming Speakers and meetings**

- 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)
- Sun., July 04: Darlene Feskun
- Sun., July 11: Lynette Lex
- Sun., July 18: Diana Moore
- Sun., July 25: Cyndi Pirog

### **Fare thee well in Summerland**

Our deepest condolences and love to the family of Judith A. Murnan, a long-time member of the First Spiritualist Temple. Judy had been a teacher, board member, speaker-seeker, and all-around “roll up your sleeves and get it done” member of First Spiritualist Temple for many years. She made her transition into Spirit on March 29, 2021. A memorial service presided over by Beverly Burke was held at Gilmartin Funeral Home in Batavia, New York on April 10, attended by family and church members. The church has donated \$100 to the Genesee County Animal Shelter in Batavia in her memory.

### **Regular and special events**

- Sunday, May 09: Board of trustees meeting. We’re meeting by Zoom and in person now, and starting at 1 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join us. If you have a business concern or suggestion (how we’re conducting the business of First Spiritualist Temple), we have a time set aside for members to bring questions or information to the board at the start of the meeting. Zoom information appears at the start of this newsletter.
- Saturday, May 15: Garden cleanup! Come in your grubby gardening clothes as early as 9 a.m. to help weed, detrash, and make our memorial garden ready for the coming season. Darlene Feskun has volunteered to be at church with a key (for rest breaks inside) as we tidy up from winter’s ravages. If it looks like rain on that date, the garden clean-up will convene on Saturday, May 22.

- Sunday, June 06: Our annual member meeting. We usually hold this meeting on the first Sunday in May, but we're giving the weather a chance to get warmer, and folks who wish to get Covid vaccines this year. We won't have our usual potluck lunch, but feel free to bring your own refreshments. We'll start the meeting at about 1 p.m., right after the Sunday service. You may also attend by Zoom if you wish; see information at start of this newsletter.

Anyone may attend, but you must be paid up on dues through membership year which runs May 01, 2021 through April 30, 2022 (as well as all previous years) in order to vote on bylaws, elections and other matters. Dues are \$30 for members 18 to 64, and \$25 for those age 65+. ***Please consider paying your dues early to avoid a last-minute crush at the financial table.***

Those who have been members in good standing for two years may stand for election to office. This year, we elect President (incumbent Jeanne Laurel); Secretary (incumbent Sandra Lombardo); Financial Secretary (incumbent Donna Bush); and two Trustees/odd year (incumbents Lynette Lex, Tom Schickling). We also elect members of the pastoral committee; those standing for election include Beverly Burke, Beth Heaney, Cheryl Ziccardi (incumbents) and Diana Moore.

If you can remember to bring the papers we mailed to each member (including Andrew Bozeman's proposal, and the proposed bylaws amendments), that will help us cut down on paper.

- Sunday, June 27: FST Pastoral Committee meeting with congregation. Immediately after service members and friends are invited to meet with the pastoral committee. 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.

### **More church business**

- All-message service: We held our first all-message service in a long time on Wednesday evening, April 14. Everyone who attended received a message. It's not replacement for our biannual Mediums Day events, but it does fill a need for additional message-work as an important part of our religion, and still allows us to be careful about face-to-face meetings during the pandemic. The board will be looking at additional all-message services in the near future.
- PayPal is coming. Those who know how to set up a way for the church to take on-line donations, and those who keep track of our financial dealings, are working together for a rollout soon. We know this service will offer a convenient way to pay dues, purchase books and make offerings, especially the world moves toward a cashless, check-less way of handling transactions.
- Electrostatic spray disinfection is coming. We've had an offer from a local business to use a system that uses electrostatic charging to assure that disinfectant solution adheres to all surfaces—not just those which can be reached by hand-cleaning. The service is Double O Floor Care, and John Oryszak made this generous offer! As the service has been offered to us free, in exchange for a letter acknowledging receipt of this service for tax purposes, we're asking for an application after the June 06 member meeting.

- NSAC Gratitude Day. Thanks to those who donated to the special offering on March 28 for Spiritualist workers who have devoted their lives to teaching, to be shared through the NSAC Spiritualist Benevolent Society. Our church has sent a check for \$135 to the NSAC for this cause.

## **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, May 03: What is Infinite Intelligence (God)? Zoom info appears at the start of this newsletter.
- “Surviving Death.” This class is wrapping up on April 26 with the sixth and final episode of the Netflix series. Assuming Netflix maintains this show in their current lineup, I may be offering another set of screenings late this year or early next year.

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. Robert Lowell Goller will lead this class beginning September 8, and will incorporate some of the pre-development material at the start of his class beginning this fall. The board and pastoral committee are also considering a few one-day, stand-alone modules containing some material.
- Spiritualism 101, introduction to NSAC Spiritualism: what we teach, what we don’t, and why. The current class is underway, 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. This group will be facilitated by Beverly Burke and Lynette Lex on the last Sunday of each month after our worship service. The group begins meeting April 25, 2021.

Thank you all to members and friends who have kept our church going in such good shape during the past year. We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting on June 06, where we will make decisions which will shape the coming year.

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