



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.
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Pastoral Committee Chair Beverly Burke
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Newsletter February 21, 2021

By the Numbers

January 2020:

- o 3 worship services (and one snow day)
- o 113 attending (38 people average); \$414.00 offering

January 2021:

- o 5 worship services (including one on Facebook)
- o 101 attending (20 people average); \$859.00 offering

New Members

Applications approved by the Board of Trustees at the January 2021 meeting include Kathleen A. Parks Marsh and Nicole Penfold. Welcome home!

Classes

Thought Exchange. This course, by Zoom only, continues to meet at 7 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month. It is facilitated by Jeanne Laurel; topics are selected by participants. The topic for our next meeting, March 01, is Reincarnation. To join us:

- o Click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/96476756900>
- o Or, log into Zoom and enter meeting ID 964 7675 6900 (no password)
- o Or, for audio only, dial 929-205-6099 and enter meeting ID

Surviving Death. Members in this course will view the 6-part Netflix series “Surviving Death,” with discussion following each episode. Login starts at 6:45; the meeting starts at 7 p.m. on the second, fourth and (if possible) fifth Mondays of each month. Participants may ask that we spend one or more meetings if necessary on discussion only. Facilitated by Jeanne Laurel; begins on February 22. To join us:

- o Click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/98966963694>
- o Or, log into Zoom and enter meeting ID 989 6696 3694 (no password)
- o Or, for audio only, dial 929-205-6099 and enter meeting ID

No charge for the course; donations are welcome. Participants need not register—but consider sending me an email letting me know so I can send discussion questions for each episode.

You’re welcome to watch the series on your own and join after the discussion starts. Given that the duration of each episode varies (between 48 and 57 minutes long), I cannot pinpoint to the minute exactly when discussion will start.



Help Wanted

Audit Committee. We're still in need of folks who can pitch in with the work of auditing church finances. During the past year, the pandemic has crimped our style, and various other obligations have prevented the folks who were on the committee from continuing.

The work is exacting, but not difficult: basically, matching up check stubs, receipts, ledger entries and deposit slips to make sure all the details were properly recorded. Our fiscal year ends March 31, so the financial folks can report to members at the May annual meeting that we're fair, square, and above-board in our dealings as stewards of monies donated by our members. It does need to be done on church premises, since it involves handling paper records.

If you're interested, please get in touch with me, or tell any Board or Pastoral Committee member. Thank you in advance!

Events and Dates

Sun., March 07, 2021: FST Pastoral Committee meets with congregation immediately following service, in worship area. Student healers, message workers, encouraged to attend. This is your chance to discuss what's working, and what's not, and to make suggestions.

Sun., March 14, 2021: Whether you believe Punxsutawney Phil (more winter) or Dunkirk Dave (early spring), a sign of spring arrives this Sunday, with the return to Daylight Savings Time; spring ahead for spring. It's also the date of our next Board of Trustees meeting. We're holding them on Zoom, starting at 1:30 p.m., on the second Sunday of each month. To join us:

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

Sun., March 28, 2021: NSAC Gratitude Day. "The fourth Sunday of March in each year shall be known as Gratitude Day. Chartered church societies shall hold a special service in honor of the founding of Modern Spiritualism and of the workers who have devoted their lives to The Cause. A special love offering shall be taken for the NSAC Spiritualist Benevolent Society." (From NSAC Bylaws Article XVI, Section 4) Our church will place a second basket for offerings near the collection plate.

Sun., May 02, 2021: FST Annual Member Meeting. Board officers to be elected are president, secretary, financial secretary and two trustees. Pastoral committee is up for reelection. (Incumbents may be re-elected if desired.) There will be bylaws amendments, reports, and discussion of how we will continue to run the church in the coming year.

Spring Mediums Day: The board and pastoral committee have been discussing when and whether to hold this event. In the past, we've held mediums days two or three times each year. Members and the general public are invited to sign up for 20-minute readings at nominal cost. In fall 2020, we offered readings by phone or other media, but folks seemed more interested in face-to-face readings. Because the pandemic continues, we're holding off scheduling the next mediums day until we can do so safely.

News from NSAC

Event: 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/>.

Course: MPI Happiness Course. Morris Pratt Institute's 27-lesson course *Spiritualism: A Religion of Happiness*, launched in late 2019, based on H. Gordon Burrough's 1962 *Becoming a Spiritualist*. Originally designed for ministers and teachers, but can be used for individual study. To order, contact Morris Pratt Institute at info@morrispratt.org or 414-774-2994.

Volunteer Opportunities, from NSAC newsletter February 2021. NSAC is looking for volunteers.

- o Longer-term volunteer commitments, Department of Publications. Must have 5 years' experience; apply by 03/15/2021 with cover letter, resume, portfolio samples of work. Additional information and applications to revbonnie1216@aol.com, Bonnie Crosier, OM Publications Dept.

- * Print media, committee chair; forms, brochures, books, advertising, newsletters
- * Broadcast, committee chair; TV, radio, press releases, advertising, copywriting
- * Web, committee chair; web development, advertising, copywriting
- * Social media; advertising, marketing.
- * Production coordinator; various media networks.

- o Hydesville Day volunteers (see event description above). Additional information and applications to Carol Caesar by 02/27/2021 for info, LtmJeanie@aol.com, call/text 301-467-4035.

- * Actors for the play, and portrayals of pioneers of Spiritualism.
- * Singers and musicians for church service and séance

As always, stay safe, stay warm. If you need me for anything, you can call, email or text. Love, light and laughter to all – Jeanne Laurel, President, First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora

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