



The First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora

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

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Newsletter October 16, 2022

Upcoming speakers and events

Sun., Oct. 16: Rev. Andrew Bozeman

Sat., Oct 22: Mediums Day

Sun., Oct. 23: Robert Lowell Goller

Sun., Oct. 30: Rev. Ron Skowronski

Sun., Nov. 06: Darlene Feskun (Daylight savings time ends; fall back for fall!)

Sun., Nov. 06: Next meeting between Pastoral Committee and congregation (after service)

Mon., Nov. 07: Work begins on chimney repair; no electricity for several days in building

Sun., Nov. 13: Robert Lowell Goller

Sun., Nov. 13: Board meeting, about 1 p.m., in person or by Zoom

Sun., Nov. 20: Rev. Andrew Bozeman

Sun., Nov. 27: Rev. Ron Skowronski

Sat., Dec. 03: Christmas & Holiday Bazaar: baskets, crafts, baked goods, spaghetti dinner

Sat., Dec. 17: 50th annual Carolcade, East Aurora (www.eanycc.com)

Bills home games (traffic alert!)

Sun., Oct. 30: Packers, 8:20 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 13: Vikings, 1 p.m. • Sun., Nov. 20, Browns, 1 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 11, Jets, 1 p.m. • Dec. 17 or 18 (TBA), Dolphins

A note on the holidays:

Christmas Day 2022 and New Year's Day 2023 fall on Sunday. We anticipate that most church members will be occupied with family (and football!) on these days—so we will not be holding service on either Sunday, December 25, 2022, or Sunday, January 1, 2023. We will, however, offer a Christmas Eve service, tentatively 7 p.m., on Saturday, December 24, 2022.

By the Numbers

Last year, July 2021, we averaged 29 people each Sunday service; \$108 average offering.

This year, July 2022, we averaged 22 people each Sunday service; \$143 average offering.

Last year, Aug. 2021, we averaged 25 people each Sunday service; \$137 average offering.

This year, Aug. 2022, we averaged 18 people each Sunday service; \$119 average offering.

Last year, Sept. 2021, we averaged 25 people each Sunday service; \$130 average offering.

This year, Sept. 2022, we averaged 20 people each Sunday service; \$106 average offering.



[NSAC Report Numbers](#)

Each year, our chartering organization NSAC (National Spiritualist Association of Churches) asks us to prepare a report of the activities for the calendar year. This year's report covers July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Here are some highlights:

- Religious services:
 - Past year (2021-2022), 53 meetings, 1,241 attending
 - Previous year (2020-2021), 52 meetings, 1,388 attending
- Adult lyceum (Intro to Spiritualism; Thought Exchange; Home Circle; Meditation; Philosophy; Principles):
 - Past year (2021-2022), 54 meetings, 310 attending
 - Previous year (2020-2021), 34 meetings, 289 attending
- Classes and workshops (Homiletics; Netflix "Surviving Death"; Mediumship Terminology; Platform Decorum; Angels; Mediumship Development):
 - Past year (2021-2022), 20 meetings, 117 attending
 - Previous year (2020-2021), 10 meetings, 96 attending
- Total members in good standing:
 - Past year (2021-2022), 58
 - Previous year (2020-2021), 59

[Upcoming Events](#)

Mediums Day, Saturday, October 22, 2022

As a fundraiser, and to share our religion, we are offering 20-minute in-person readings for \$40, and 30-minute in-person readings with spirit art for \$50. For the first time since the pandemic rolled in, we're returning to an in-person format. (We tried readings by Zoom and other remote formats last year, but they were not popular.)

All sessions have been booked, thanks to vigorous marketing and efficient organization of Bethany Keicher. We welcome any church members who want to volunteer: to set up the worship area on October 16 after service, to chat with visitors on the day of the event about Spiritualism, usher those sitting for a reading, and clean up after the event. We also invite members to contribute potluck dishes to pass for a light lunch to be offered mid-day. The event begins at 10 a.m., and wraps up after 3 p.m. Please note that masks are required for all who participate.

Congregation Meeting with Pastoral Committee, Sunday, November 6, 2022

The Pastoral Committee (Beverly Burke, Beth Heaney and Cheryl Ziccardi) will lead an open-forum discussion with the congregation immediately after service (at about 12:30 p.m.) Board members are strongly encouraged to attend. This is your opportunity as a member or friend of the church to voice your concerns, tell us what's going well and what needs adjustment, and to let us know what classes, workshops or other events you're interested in.

Christmas and Holiday Bazaar, Saturday, December 3, 2022

The annual Bazaar will be held from 10 a.m. until the winning ticket for the last basket is drawn around 9 p.m. We invite members, friends, and community businesses to contribute theme gift baskets—such as makings for a dinner; coffee or tea; holiday decorations; sunflower paraphernalia; children's toys; pet treats... the only limit is your imagination. We supply the baskets, and if needed we can also supply clear wrap so items can be viewed as shoppers place their bids.

From 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., we invite everyone to purchase tickets, and bid on the baskets displayed by putting one or more tickets into the container for that basket. More tickets equals more chances to win—but it only takes one to win. Ticket drawings for the winners will begin promptly at 6 p.m.; if you're not present, we'll contact you with the good news.

In addition to the basket raffle, we'll have following: • Spaghetti dinner served at 5 p.m.; donation of \$10 requested. • Crafts and baked-goods sale; we'll need donations for these tables, as well as people to staff

them. • Special raffle, \$5 a ticket, for a gorgeous, huge handmade quilt in a delicious assortment of blues and greens by our talented Vice President and Ways & Means Committee chair Lyn Batt. (Please consider taking some tickets to sell to family, friends and co-workers!)

Big News: Building Repair

Chimney Work, Monday, November 7 through Wednesday, November 9, 2022

We did it! We dropped a bundle of money to begin building repairs. We have a contract with Magic Stone of Grand Island to repair and refurbish our chimney and surrounding roof fixtures for \$13,635.

Last winter, we experienced water seepage into our basement. At our May 1, 2022 annual member meeting, members voted to authorize the board to (1) prioritize gutters, soffits, chimney and concrete repairs; (2) purchase a dehumidifier if warranted; and (3) continue looking into drain tile to be placed on the inside perimeter of the building basement. We've been up to our eyebrows in estimates, contractors and some of the smaller repairs; many thanks to Darlene and Willie Feskun, Rick Mallory, and others, for both repairs and contractor discussions.

Weather permitting, chimney repair will be completed by Sunday service, November 13. Note that electricity will be shut off while workers are here, and we may have other minor disruptions.

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of our members and friends, we are able to afford this repair without taking out a loan. We are in good enough shape financially that the board does not feel it necessary to issue a "red alert" call for fundraising. Of course, that leaves a sizeable dent in our cash reserves, so we'll keep our Ways & Means committee revving at full throttle.

We are still looking into a dehumidifier, which may cost \$5,000 or more. We have an estimate for installing drain-tile, essentially a covered trench running along the inside perimeter of our basement for water diversion. However, the \$23,000 estimate does not include tearing out walls, appliances and flooring, which will at least double the cost and require extensive aftermath renovations. We're going to wait on this for now.

Our building is 111 years old as of November 11, 2022, and we plan to keep it going for the next generation of Spiritualists.

More News & Notes

Healing. On Sunday, October 23, we're returning to the option for hands-on healing during the 10:30 to 11 a.m. healing portion of our service. Please note that we extend the choice to our spiritual healers: to offer hands-on healing to individuals at the front of the church, or to sit at the front and offer remote healing. Healers may also choose to wear masks, and may choose to ask those sitting for a healing to wear masks.

Brunch. Our multi-talented financial crew, Tina Chlewicki and Donna Bush, have jumped into our return to preparing brunch after Sunday service for those who wish to join us downstairs. However, they could use a hand from volunteers. We ask that you pick up some light refreshments, set them out, and put the coffee on; give us the receipts and we'll reimburse you. Please see Tina or Donna for details.

Chocolate. Candy bars are for sale, Niagara Chocolate. At 2 for \$3 (or \$1.50 each if you insist on getting just one), we keep half of the profits (with the other half going to purchase the candy bars). That means we're hoping to sell 18,180 candy bars to finance our chimney repairs. But seriously, folks, if you're back in the office now that the pandemic has cooled off, consider taking a box to sell at work!

PayPal. We had a delay, but PayPal has finally designated us a "charity." That means PayPal reshuffled some headings (making us harder to find from their general home-page), and dropped the fees they charge commercial accounts. It also means we need to give you a new way to find us and avoid fees: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/FSTofEastAurora> If you'd prefer to scan a QR Code, it appears at the end of this newsletter.

You can make a general donation, pay membership dues, pay for a workshop or class (including freewill offerings if there's no charge for the class). One very special request: **Please email us why you're sending us money!** (Use president@firstspiritualisttemple.com if needed.) Reason: To help us keep our books and accounts straight, we need to know if you're paying for a class, member dues, or making a general offering. It's far easier to record it right the first time, rather than to try to backtrack and figure it out months later.

Classes

The following are open to those who wish to participate. There is no fee, although donations (PayPal, at the financial table, or in the box placed in the worship area) are appreciated. For Zoom access, select the appropriate day of the week on the list at the end of this newsletter.

- Thought Exchange. Meets 7 to 8:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month. (If there's a fifth Monday, we ignore it.) By Zoom only. Open forum discussion topics selected by participants at the previous meeting. Topic for October 17: "Bringing Spiritualism into your home." Hosted by Jeanne Laurel.
- Spiritualist Philosophy. Meets 6:30 in person and by Zoom on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Taught by Darlene Feskun.
- Introduction to Spiritualism (Spiritualism 101). Begins Sunday, October 13 at 9 a.m.; to be held several consecutive weeks. In person only. \$10 textbook purchase. Taught by Darlene Feskun.

Zoom

We use a "day of the week" schedule for Zoom links. Whatever meeting or class, you can quickly tell what Zoom number we'll be using.

- Mondays: <https://zoom.us/j/98908343264>,
- Tuesdays: <https://zoom.us/j/93782889733>
- Wednesdays: <https://zoom.us/j/99498052420>
- Thursdays: <https://zoom.us/j/93033218920>
- Fridays: <https://zoom.us/j/94842337658>
- Saturdays: <https://zoom.us/j/97800261770>
- Sundays: <https://zoom.us/j/98423834708>

For any Zoom meeting you wish to attend, you may click the link to join with audio and video by computer or mobile device. If you want to use audio only, you can dial 929-205-6099, and enter the string of 11 digits at the very end of the link.

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With love, light & laughter, Jeanne Phoenix Laurel, President, First Spiritualist Temple of East Aurora. Home 716 876 4805, cell 716 208 0624. President@FirstSpiritualistTemple.com or JeanneLaurel@gmail.com.

Scan this PayPal QR Code to send us money (donations, member dues, class fees). It will take you to the following website: <https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/2026476>. Please be sure to let us know what the money is for, either in PayPal, or by emailing president@firstspiritualisttemple.com.

