

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
LIFESPRING BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
March 12, 2024**

**PRESENT**

Susan Poretz, President  
Natalee Rosenstein, Vice-President  
Maureen Bybee, Secretary  
Peg Nau, Treasurer  
Laura Phillips, Registrar & Task Force for Online Learning  
Connie Cuttle, Curriculum Committee Coordinator  
Prudence Garcia Renart, Events Committee Coordinator  
Betsy Mills, Program Support Co-Coordinator  
Susan Davis, Membership Coordinator  
Maureen Huben, Hospitality Coordinator  
Betty Schoen-Rene Member-at-Large  
Diane McDowell, Member-at-Large  
Anne Miller, Member-at-Large  
Lydia Edelhaus, Member-at-Large  
Rich Davis, AV Coordinator  
Leeanne Thornton, Saugerties Town Board Liaison to the Senior Education Commission

**ABSENT**

Leslie Surprenant, Member-at-Large

This regularly scheduled online meeting of the Board was called to order by Natalee R, Vice-President, at 9:36 a.m. Susan P was present but had limited ability to participate due to internet problems.

**A. Minutes: February 13, 2024 (approved previously by on-line ballot)**

**B. President's Report and General Updates:** See attached report.

**C. Old Business**

1. Request from Hospitality Committee - Maureen H. requested replenishment of petty cash for refreshments as previously approved. Maureen H. also

- requested money for Annual Meeting. The process for use and replenishment of petty cash was reviewed. Peg and Maureen H. will work together to facilitate sufficient petty cash for the semester and the Annual Membership Meeting.
2. First day of Classes - Board volunteers are needed to monitor and open the front door both before the first class and then between classes.
    - a. Members volunteered.
    - b. Connie constructed a list of volunteers to be distributed to all who volunteered. Susan D volunteered as back up.
  3. Annual Meeting – Prudence
    - a. Expects to have an agenda at our next meeting. Is working with Maureen H for refreshments. Prudence will compose a “save the date” email for distribution to the members.
    - b. Natalee made a **MOTION** with a second by Laura that the Annual Membership Meeting be only in person this year. Discussion followed. **MOTION PASSED** unanimously. (14 yes, no opposed, no abstentions)
    - c. Peg volunteered to expand her Memory Board for in person display. Board Members were encouraged to let Peg know of any names to be included. Rich will work with Peg if any technical assistance is needed for viewing during the Meeting.
  4. Connie noted a correction in the dates included in her Report to the Board for today. The corrected dates will appear in the minutes sent to the Board for their approval.

#### D. New Business

1. Nominating Committee Report – from Anne Miller

Anne thanked and complimented the work of the committee. Anne made a **MOTION** with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura that contingent upon approval of the revised bylaws by the membership, the Board endorses the candidates for election presented by the Nominating Committee. **MOTION APPROVED unanimously.** (Vote Yes 14, no = 0, abstention = 0)

2. Discussion of Plans to Move Forward if revised Bylaws are approved.

The ballot regarding the revised bylaws has been distributed to members. Deadline to vote is March 20.

In order to facilitate transition to the new administrative structure once the revised bylaws are approved. Anne must resign as a Member at Large after April 9 so that she can take her new position on the Board as the Publications Coordinator. This leaves one year remaining in the vacant Member-at-Large seat which will be filled by appointment by Susan P. as President. Susan P

- intends to nominate Natalee as the member to complete Anne's term as member-at-Large.
5. Susan Davis thanked Diane McDowell for her past illustrious service on the Board. She is leaving the Board but continuing as a member of Lifespring. Natalee also recognized Diane's work on the Curriculum Committee and the Board.

Anne Miller made **MOTION TO ADJOURN**, with a second by Prudence. **MOTION APPROVED unanimously** (14 yes)

Natalee adjourned the meeting at 10:19.a.m.

Maureen G. Bybee,  
Secretary

**NEXT MEETING:** April 9, 2024 (on zoom) at 9:30

**AGENDA**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**March 12, 2024**

**B. Minutes: February 13, 2024 (approved previously by on-line ballot)**

**B. President's Report and General Updates:**

**C. Old Business**

1. First day of Classes (including door opening)
2. Annual Meeting

**D. New Business**

1. Nominating Committee Report
2. Discussion of Planned Moving Forward

**NEXT MEETING: April 9, 2024 (on zoom) at 9:30**

## **REPORTS TO THE LIFESPRING BOARD MEETING for MARCH 12, 2024**

### **PRESIDENT:**

President's Report for March 2024 Board Reports

The days since our last Board meeting in February have flown by. And while there has been much activity by many on the Board, El Presidente has not really been involved. My major preoccupation during this time has been as part of the curriculum committee as I have tried to find presenters for our Fall, 2024 schedule. --- which, by the way, involved a brunch meeting yesterday (3-7-2024) at my favorite restaurant—Rushbrook (and no, I do not get a commission for sending people there 😊).

As usual, I am so privileged to work with such a dedicated group of Board members.

In solidarity,

Susan Puretz

### **VICE PRESIDENT:**

No report.

Natalee Rosenstein

**REPORTS CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE**

**TREASURER:** Peg Nau, Treasurer

<b>TREASURERS REPORT February 2024</b>			
		<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>\$23,355.51</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Amt Rec'd</b>	<b>Received From</b>	
2/29/2024	\$46.54	Interest	
<b>Monthly Income Total</b>	<b>\$46.54</b>		
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
	<b>Amt</b>	<b>Payee</b>	
2/7/2024	\$140.85	1420 Laura Phillips	Zoom and Google
2/9/2024	\$2,730.00	1421 Woodstock Jewish Cong	Rental
2/27/2024	\$308.50	1422 Lydia Edelhaus	Water Bottles
<b>Monthly Expense Total</b>	<b>\$3,179.35</b>		
		<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$20,222.70</b>

**REGISTRAR:**

Registration and Taskforce Report for Lifespring Board Meeting March 12, 2024

Final Attendance numbers for the February 7 and 14 mini courses:

The total registered was 174.

February 2024 Mini Courses	Registered	Attended Feb 7	Attended Feb 14
A1 Bricks	54	41	39
A2 Bowermaster	36	25	22
A3 Chestnut St	58	44	41
B1 Hildegard	49	36	34
B2 Stone Landscapes	62	40	37
B3 Idylls	38	25	29

The Winter Presentation, Sustainable Landscapes for Community and Home was on Wednesday March 6, with Stefan Yarabek. There were 114 total registered. Of that number, 77 were members and 37 were guests. The actual total that attended was 79.

Registration for the Lifespring Spring Semester began February 26 and will March 11. The statistics will be reported next month.

Laura Phillips,  
Registrar

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **CURRICULUM:**

The Curriculum Committee has completed the schedule of Winter Presentations for December 2024 and January and March 2025. The committee is working to complete the class schedule for Fall 2024 and the Mini-Series scheduled for February 5 and 12, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Cuttle

### **EVENTS:**

The events committee is working. When we have a solid set up, we will put it on the agenda.

Prudence

### **HOSPITALITY:**

The Hospitality Committee has begun working with the Events Committee to plan for the annual meeting.

Maureen H.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Now that the Winter Presentations and February Mini-series have been completed, it is time to thank, once again, our local media folks: Kingston Freeman, Hudson Valley One, Lighthouse TV, Mike Campbell (Saugerties Town website & FB pages) for helping us to get the word out to the broader community about the opportunities to participate in Lifespring programming, free of charge. Our Interest List of current non-members signing up to receive information about membership for 2024/25 has grown to over

100. It has been carefully tended by Susan P who has been responding to each inquiry that comes into the LS Gmail. Laura has also been instrumental in keeping this list up to date by passing along the information from those non-members who register for a mini-course or WP and want to be put on the Interest List. It is all part of the process of keeping Lifespring in the news and an accessible option for community members interested in joining a Lifelong Learning Institute.

In addition to sending out Member updates and information, we have also been sending targeted emails (particularly about the Winter free opportunities) to people who were members in the recent past and did not rejoin or who have had some affiliation with or expressed some interest in Lifespring but are not officially members. We are calling this a KIT list (Keeping in Touch) and hoping that it has generated some good will and perhaps some future members.

I have completed the Need to Know information letter that is sent to everyone registering for courses at the WJC. It will be sent out closer to the start of the semester and posted at the WJC during class time. Thanks to Natalee, Susan P, and Laura who were both editors and proof-readers on this compilations of friendly rules, regulations, and helpful bits of information! (Let me know if you want an "advance copy!")

Happy almost spring!

Susan Davis

#### **PROGRAM SUPPORT:**

Met with committee to determine class needs and set up in WJC. We have a tentative setup for the classes, including AV needs as well as accommodating presenters' requests. We will confirm what presenters need, based on this setup plan. Rich Davis will confirm AV needs and will provide Susan K with these. Susan will then f/u with Rahel and Karl at WJC for all setup. Susan K will f/u as needed for any changes.

Respectfully submitted  
Susan Krompier

#### **MEMBERS AT LARGE:**

My report:

Worked with Laura Phillips and Peg Nau to order 50 water bottles for the presenters of the next few semesters.

Respectfully submitted.

Lydia Edelhaus, Member-at-Large

No report,  
Leslie Surprenant



See Publications Coordinator Report from  
Anne Miller

### **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

#### **AV:**

AV Report - I've developed a plan for servicing the AV needs for the upcoming semester at the WJC, including providing AV for Chuck Mishaan., Rivka Tadjer, Bill Rhodes, and possibly Kris Miccio.

Rich Davis  
[richdavis@earthlink.net](mailto:richdavis@earthlink.net)

#### **CLASS MANAGERS:**

See Member-at-Large report from Lydia Edelhaus

#### **PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR:**

Publications Committee Report: Catalog out on time. TOTALLY a team effort. Thank you, Connie, Laura, Susan D., Fran and Anna.

Anne Miller

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Ad Hoc Nominating Committee: Nomination applications received from 5 people. Bios scheduled to be sent to the Board for approval March 12.

Anne Miller

#### **Slate of Candidates for Board Approval**

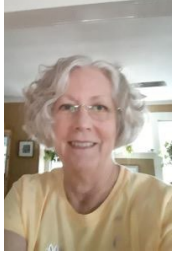
There are **six** candidates running for a total of **five** open slots for terms of **different** durations.

#### **Open Positions:**

- **1 Secretary for a TWO year term** - (uncontested)
  - **1 Member-at-Large for a ONE year term** - (2 people competing)
  - **3 Members-at-Large for TWO year terms** - (3 people running uncontested)
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**1 Secretary for a TWO-year term - (uncontested)**

**Maureen Bybee**



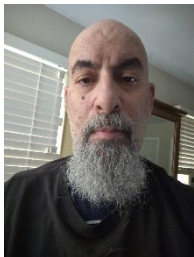
Maureen was an online faculty instructor and Program Coordinator of the Human Services Program at Suffolk County Community College.

She has been a member of Lifespring since 2019 and a member of OLLI at Stony Brook, NY for three years. In addition to being Lifespring's Secretary since 2020, she has also been a Taskforce Zoom host for Lifespring since 2020.

*"I am an educator at heart. My experience with Lifespring has been rewarding. I've learned new things and made new friends. I hope to continue to support the success of Lifespring for all our members through my work on the Board and on the Lifespring Taskforce."*

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**1 Member-at-Large for a ONE year term - (2 people competing)**



**Martin Haber**

Martin was active in the NYC Teachers Union (UFT) throughout his 30 year teaching career and served as his school's UFT Chapter Chair, as well as a Delegate to the UFT Assembly. *"I have a clearer picture of what Lifespring is all about, thanks to teaching my course on Native American history last year. I may be able to contribute a point of view as a life-long educator, and I am most interested in in-person classes, especially Humanities offerings. I would also like to help develop the continuation of nature walks and talks and Hudson Valley history and ecology. I enjoyed participating in courses on the 1930's, and on "Arthur Miller's Men," as well as the Nature Walks, and hope I could contribute to the continuity of diverse topics in the future of Lifespring!"*



**Leslie Surprenant**

Leslie has, and had, multiple leadership roles in New York State's various statewide environmental protection programs that require inter-agency, interstate and international coordination and cooperation. She has taught numerous Lifespring courses (Invasive Species, Ecology, Sustainability), co-led spring

and fall nature walks, and coordinated courses (Banned Books, Eclectic Outdoors) over her 5 years of membership.

“Having served as a Member at Large on the Board for almost 4 years as well as serving on the Curriculum Committee and Moving Forward Committee, I have seen, and learned from, the achievements and challenges in leading and governing a learning community and welcome the opportunity to serve in a governance structure guided by both experienced leadership and those new to Lifespring. I have encouraged the Board to welcome new ideas and ways of achieving Lifespring’s mission of providing varied learning experiences to a diverse membership. I believe I have made a difference.”

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### 3 Members-at-Large for TWO year terms - (three people running uncontested)

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#### Roz Abramov



In addition to serving on two coop Boards, Roz Abramov was a mathematics professor for more than 25 years at Pace University, serving on, and chairing, many department and university committees. In her second career as an attorney, her legal work included leading a team of financial analysts that worked on contracts for executive officers of major corporations.

*“I am a relatively new member of Lifespring and am very impressed by the outstanding job the board is doing to bring a wide variety of courses and events to the membership. I realize that it takes a lot of thought, effort and planning to do this. Currently, I am a member of the online task force and would like to continue in that capacity and to increase my participation in helping Lifespring by serving on the Board.”*

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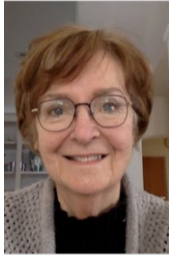
#### Lydia Edelhaus

With graduate degrees in Counseling Psychology and Philosophy, Lydia spent the previous two decades as Division Director for the Family Support and Advocacy Division for the Mental Health Association of Dutchess Country and has also been an Adjunct Faculty at both SUNY New Paltz and Marist Colleges in their philosophy departments.

She has been with Lifespring for about 3 years, taught a course in Philosophy and Literature for LS, and is currently taking over the training of Class Managers. She was a member of the Curriculum Committee for Lifespring for 2 years, and has been a Member-at-Large on Lifespring’s Board. She looks forward to training Class Managers for this spring’s semester!

*“I would like to continue my membership on the Board, and assist this amazing organization in any way that I can.”*

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**Miriam Kragness**

Miriam Kragness has served on four association Boards; has 20+ years' consulting experience with management teams and governing Boards of nonprofit and for-profit organizations and government agencies; has provided clinical rehab and neuropsychology services to ill and injured individuals at SUNY Upstate Medical University, NYU Langone, and Mount Sinai in New York; and has also taught graduate and undergraduate

courses along the way.

*“A new Lifespring member, I thoroughly enjoyed the programs I've taken so far and look forward to classes I'm signed up for in the Spring. As an eager proponent of lifetime learning, I would enjoy supporting the community through program planning and organization.”*

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**BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

No Report.

Natalee Rosenstein

**ONLINE TASKFORCE**

No report.

Laura Phillips