

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE 2023  
ANNUAL LIFSPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**MAY 31, 2023**

This 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Membership was held on May, 31, 2023 both in person at the Woodstock Jewish Congregation and online via Zoom.

**GREETINGS AND WELCOME**

The Meeting was opened by Prudence Garcia Renart, Events Chair, with a welcome to all attending our first hybrid experience.

Attendees were also welcomed by Leeann Thornton, Member of the Board of the Town of Saugerties and liaison to Lifespring. Leeann congratulated Lifespring on 14 years of successfully engaging adult learners from the Town of Saugerties and nearby communities in a multitude of high quality opportunities for lifelong learning. She reflected on the origins of Lifespring and its relationship with the Town. She acknowledged the service of Lifespring's Board, its Executive Committee and all the volunteers that are the mainstay of the program. She, personally, and the Town of Saugerties are proud of this unique in the nation sponsorship of Lifespring.

**BUSINESS MEETING: REPORTS AND TRIBUTES**

The Business portion of the Meeting was opened at 9:45 a.m. by Susan Puretz, Lifespring's President.

**I. PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Susan Puretz:**

- a. Susan reflected on the events of the past few years including our continuing response to COVID, providing classes by Zoom, returning to a modified schedule of in-person classes at the WJC for the Spring 2023 semester, accepting credit card payment for the membership fee, and admission to limited enrollment classes by a first come, first serve process rather than the previous lottery system.
- b. She noted that this year has seen our highest membership level since our beginning and includes 62 new members in just this past year.
- c. Thanked our entirely volunteer group of Presenters who allowed us to provide a total of 46 classes, events and performances.
- d. Noted that for the first time, Lifespring opened selected events and performances to the community at large.
- e. Susan also announced changes in the COVID policy for Lifespring beginning August 1, 2023.
  - i. Proof of vaccination will not be required.
  - ii. Anyone choosing to wear a mask is welcome to do so but masks are optional unless requested by the class presenter.
  - iii. Social distancing is at the discretion of each individual.
  - iv. Food and drink may be consumed inside the WJC building.

- f. In order to cover the costs of returning to in person classes, the membership fee will be increased to \$80.00 per year. Membership enrollment will occur between August 1 and 18.
- g. Susan announced important dates for all members which will be shared in e-mails and in the new course catalog. Courses for Fall 2023 will begin on October 2 by Zoom and October 4 in person.

## II. **ELECTION RESULTS** by Laura Phillips

- a. Laura thanked the members of the Election Committee which included Connie Cuttle, Lydia Edelhaus and Diane McDowell.
- b. Laura described the process of soliciting, selecting and voting for the slate of nominees for election to the open seats on the Board.
- c. In May, 104 Lifespring Members voted in the 2023 election.
- d. These candidates were unanimously elected to terms beginning August 1, 2023 and ending July 31, 2025:

Natalee Rosenstein, Vice- President

Peg Nau, Treasurer

Anne Miller, Member-at-Large

Lee Gable, Member-at-Large

## III. **TREASURER'S REPORT (See attached)** by Laura Phillips

Laura presented this report due to the illness related absence of our Treasurer, Peg Nau who prepared the report.

In response to questions, Laura noted that

- i. We received no grants and that all expenses were covered by membership fees or occasional small personal donations.
- ii. Town of Saugerties provides our liability insurance and some in-kind services
- iii. Expenses this past year were lower due to the absence of hospitality costs.
- iv. Even though our expenses were lower than previous years, we still spent more than we received in membership fees which is one reason the membership fee will be returned to its pre-COVID amount of \$80.00
- v. We no longer have a printed catalog. The expenses associated with the catalog are related to the production of our 3 online only catalogs and various flyers announcing presentations.
- vi. Our robust opening balance is a result of savings related to the impact of COVID which eliminated our rental and hospitality costs.
- vii. Recognizing that currently our expenses exceed our income is the reason for the increase in our membership fee for next year.

- IV. MEMORY BOARD** by Susan Puret
- a. A Memory Board, created by Peg Nau, which commemorated the passing of Lifespring Members was displayed in the WJC lobby and on the Zoom screen.
  - b. Susan P called for a moment of silence in recognition of these deceased members.
- V. TRIBUTES TO VOLUNTEERS and RETIREES** by Susan Puret
- a. Susan recognized all of those who have volunteered service to Lifespring over the past year. These included all of the course presenters and performers as well as the members and leaders of our committees (Curriculum, Events, Online Taskforce, Publications, Class Managers, Hospitality, Membership, Program Support and AV), members of the Board of Directors and its Executive Committee.
  - b. Special recognition was given to Colleen Greco who has retired from her position as Events Coordinator and Susan Greenstein who is retiring from her work as the Publications Coordinator. The work, accomplishments and unique contributions of each were described and welcomed by all the attendees. Each received a single rose and a gift certificate to the Inquiring Minds Bookstore.
  - c. Susan Greenstein (attending in-person) shared her perspectives on her experience as Publications Coordinator with special thank-yous to those who worked with her on all the Lifespring publications over the years.
  - d. Colleen Greco (attending electronically) thanked all of those who partnered with her to organize, coordinate and present the special events of Lifespring under her many years of leadership as the Events Coordinator.
- VI.** Following a call for questions, of which there were none, Susan P. ended the business portion of the Annual Membership Meeting at 10:40 a.m.

The meeting concluded with musical and juggling entertainment by Lynda Sales and Bruce Sales Engholm to the delight of all!

Maureen Bybee,  
Secretary

**ATTACHMENTS**

**TREASURER'S 12 MONTH FINANCIAL REPORT**

### Treasurer's 12 Month Financial Report

<b>Starting Balance from last year - 4/30/22</b>	<b>\$20,395</b>
Revenue through 4/30/23	
Member Fees	\$8,798
Interest	\$80
<b>Subtotal Revenue</b>	<b>\$8,878</b>
Expenses through 4/30/23	
Zoom and Google Fees	\$1,815
Catalogs	\$927
Newsletter	\$525
Website Updates and Research	\$1,008
Hospitality	\$110
Rent	\$6,600
Misc	\$127
<b>Subtotal Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,112</b>
<b>Current Balance as of 4/30/23</b>	<b>\$18,161</b>



*Saugerties Adult Learning Community*



photo by Harvey Greenstein

## **14th Annual Meeting** **WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023**

### **SCHEDULE AND AGENDA**

- 9:00 am** Socializing both in-person and online; refreshments on the patio  
**9:30 am** Business Meeting Begins

### **Greetings and Welcome**

Prudence Garcia Renart, Events Chair  
 Fred Costello, Saugerties Town Supervisor

### **Reports and Tributes**

Susan Poretz: President's Report  
 Laura Phillips, co-chair of the Elections Committee:  
     Board of Directors Election Results  
 Peg Nau: Treasurer's Report  
 Susan Poretz: Honoring deceased members, Tributes to Volunteers

### **Questions and Comments**

Susan Poretz

**10:15 am** Entertainment –

**Lynda Sales** and **Bruce Sales Engholm** present a lively musical program of songs and ukulele accompaniment.