

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2020  
LIFESPING BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESENT**

Susan Poretz, President  
Natalee Rosenstein, Vice President  
Maureen Bybee, Secretary  
Peg Nau, Treasurer  
Laura Phillips, Registrar & Task Force for Online Learning  
Diane McDowell, Member at Large and Co-Coordinator Curriculum  
Maureen Huben, Member at Large and Events & Services Co-Coordinator  
Lucy Stagich, Member at Large  
Colleen Greco, Events & Services Co-Coordinator  
Susan Davis, Membership Coordinator  
Susan Kromprier, Program Support Coordinator  
Lee Gable, Ad Hoc Class Manager Coordinator  
Leslie Suprenant, Member-at-Large  
Rich Davis, AV Coordinator

- A. Meeting called to order by Susan P at 9:35 a.m.
  
- B. Minutes: Approval of Minutes of November 10, 2020  
MOTION to approve by Susan K and second by Lucy. Discussion of error in listing Maureen H. twice among those in attendance. Secretary made the correction.  
MOTION TO APPROVE AS CORRECTED  
APPROVED unanimously
  
- C. President's Report and General Updates:  
See attached report. Susan P reiterated her Board report comments about the recognition of Peg's appointment to the Town Board and her thanks to Laura and the Online Taskforce for the job they are doing.
  
- D. Board Reports: Questions and/or Actions on Board Reports
  - a. Susan P called for questions regarding attached submitted reports.
  - b. Laura added to her Online Taskforce report that not only has Carolyn Siewers volunteered to serve as a Zoom cohost for the spring but Colleen has also volunteered.
  
- E. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Reprise and Reflections: Fall 2020, Winter Presentation, Lunch with Lifespring
  - i. There was a general consensus that fall classes were successful in terms of quantity and quality for both content and technological execution.
  - ii. Maureen H noted that her friend who attended the Winter Presentation was very impressed with both content and ease of use of Zoom
  - iii. Susan K also reported compliments from her guest regarding the winter presentation.
  - iv. Lunch with Lifespring – Susan P asked if Events & Services would be willing to take over coordination for the future until LS is no longer on Zoom. Susan K volunteered to join Events and Services specifically to assist with Lunch with Lifespring program. Colleen accepted Susan K's offer. Discussion of Susan P.'s request followed. Natalee celebrated Susan K's idea and efforts to create the first Lunch with Lifespring. Natalee agreed that it would be best for our new programs to fall under the standing committees whenever possible. Discussion also included thoughts on management of participation in Lunch conversation through group facilitation skills by the host or perhaps clearer ground rules. Maureen H, noted the need for a host in each group who also allows the group to self-direct as appropriate. Subcommittee of Events and Services will look at these and other ideas for supporting and facilitating future Lunch with Lifespring events. Natalee requested that this subcommittee consider the best timing of future Lunch with Lifespring events including alternate days from presentations or time limits. Natalee suggested offering the next lunch experimentally on January 13.
  - v. **MOTION** by Colleen with second by Maureen H. that the Board authorizes Events and Services to offer another Lunch with Lifespring on any day in January.  
**MOTION approved unanimously.**
- b. "New Ad Hoc" Committee

Natalee brings the Board's attention to her recommendation that the successful "New Ad Hoc Committee" be disbanded and that their ideas and recommendations for programs be placed under the oversight of our existing committees. Natalee reminds us that she will reconvene the Moving Forward Committee to examine future planning.

  - i. **MOTION** by Natalee and second by Susan K that with appreciation and congratulations the New Ad Hoc Committee be disbanded.  
**MOTION: Approved unanimously**

- c. Regional LLI update
  - i. Natalee reported that a small regional LLI conference was held on November 20th with 9 or 10 LLIs attending. The event included Zoom breakout rooms. Those in attendance have just received the summary report from the convener, Bob Nasser. Natalee will wait until the next Board Meeting to make a formal report in order for attendees to have time to process the experience and Bob's report.

#### F. New Business

- a. Susan P reminded all that the current plan is for the Feb courses to be: unlimited enrollment, open to: members and their guests, as well as to those on the interest list and past presenters. Diane noted that CC is well along in their plans for additional Winter Presentations and the February mini series with keeping in mind that there will be no limits on number of participants.
- b. Lee asked if a friend from out of state could attend future Winter and February presentations as a guest and could also request membership to attend the fall semester. Susan Davis noted that under current policy an out of state guest could register for both Winter presentations and February miniseries. This guest could also request membership in Lifespring and register for Spring term classes at no charge. It is expected that Membership by distant persons would be self-limiting when LS returns to in person only classes. There was general agreement that as long as we are fully on Zoom there need to be no limits on class/event size based on geographic location of attendees.  
Susan Davis will be extending an invitation to the January winter presentation to a Saugerties group of local artists since their interests and this LS topic overlap.
- c. New schedule for Spring Semester
  - i. Diane M reported that for the spring semester classes will be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays. This allows us to offer 8 classes and is able to be managed by Online Taskforce. Members could take as many as 4 classes. The consensus of Board is that the first spring class would be Monday April 5.
- d. Membership Recruitment
  - i. Susan P opened this topic with her concern that volunteers for the Taskforce and the Curriculum Committee have dwindled. Discussion included the idea of a general appeal to members for volunteers with descriptions of these two committees in particular, a suggestion to review list of members who attended Open Board Meeting with an individual appeal to volunteer to for these 2

committees, a general appeal using a Google form with specific skills highlighted and then followed up with a personal invitation, an open meeting of the CC to include those expressing interest, a general appeal that asks members to identify their own skills, Online Taskforce could supply board with list of skills needed for these two committees to the Board, and/or use opportunity at Winter Presentation to recruit volunteers? Several members noted the effectiveness of personal invitations to potential volunteers. Susan D is not comfortable with using Winter Presentation for volunteer recruitment due to time constraints and composition of the audience. Questions also arose about the timing of an appeal. Susan P summarized the discussion and suggested that each of us initiate personal invitations to members we hope would volunteer and that Susan P will develop an appeal in consultation with Susan D, Laura and Diane to be sent after the Christmas holiday.

- e. Arm of the Sea request (see attached)
  - i. It was agreed that this request is not approved as a matter of Lifespring policy. Susan P will respond to the request.

**MOTION** to adjourn by Natalee, second by Susan K.

**MOTION approved unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

January 12,, 2020 (by Zoom)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AGENDA: December 8, 2020**

**A. Minutes:** Approval of Minutes of **November 10, 2020**

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

1. Updates

**C. Board Reports: Questions and/or Actions on Board Reports (Note: Format for the meeting will be changed. We will skip most of the Reports –unless there is a question specific to a Committee and instead focus on Old and New Business items.)**

**D. Old Business:**

1. Reprise and Reflections: Fall, 2020.
2. "New Ad Hoc" Committee
3. Regional LLI update

**E. New Business**

1. Zoom attendance at Feb mini-series
2. New schedule for Spring Semester
3. Membership Recruitment
4. Arm of the Sea request (attached)

**NEXT MEETING:**

January 12,, 2020 (by Zoom)

**\*Note:** Reports (All listed below will be handled only by special request –i.e., if there is a question about a particular report)

a. **SEC Chair Report**

b. **Treasurer's Report**

c. **Report from Registrar**

d. **Reports from Committee Coordinators**

Curriculum Committee

Events & Services Committee

Membership Committee

Program Support Committee

e. **Reports from Ad Hoc Committee Coordinators**

Class Managers

AV

Publications

Task Force  
f. **Report from Moving Forward Committee**

**ARM OF THE SEA REQUEST**

Dear Susan and Susan,

Leeanne Thornton suggested that I get in touch with you.

I work with Arm of the Sea Theater, which, as you may know, is based in Saugerties. Our mission is to spark wonder, give insight, engender joy and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. In addition to running a touring theater company, we are working on a project to transform the site of an old paper mill on the Lower Esopus Creek into a new cultural center - the Arm-of-the-Sea Tidewater Center. The Tidewater Center will eventually run a whole range of programs, including (eventually) Arts & Science Camps for youth and Arts & Science Camps for seniors. We plan to open an outdoor performance space at the Tidewater Center next summer.

We are reaching out to local groups who share our interests, to tell them about our plans. **If possible, we would like to present our plans to the Town of Saugerties Lifespring Board and get your input on the project.**

I would be happy to tell you more. In the meantime, you might enjoy seeing **this 2-minute video about the Tidewater Center**. It captures the current ruin-filled state of the site and the transformation of the site that's already underway. **<https://vimeo.com/338419491>**

Best regards,  
Laura Rock Kopczak  
Project Manager, Arm-of-the-Sea Tidewater Center  
845-901-4967

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## REPORTS

### Reports for December 8, 2020 Board Meeting

**(Note: Blank spaces after a committee indicates that there was no activity and thus nothing to report)**

#### **PRESIDENT:**

1. Congratulations are in order to Peg Nau, our Treasurer, who has been appointed to the Saugerties Town Board.
2. Still doing general monitoring from afar of the various Lifespring committee activities. Once again, I give special and huge THANK YOU's to Laura and her Ad Hoc Online Task Force –whose presence was felt in all the successful activities that Lifespring has been involved in during covid-19.
3. Gift update: The Gift Committee will be meeting shortly to discuss future gifts.
4. Have not yet followed up with a request for a meeting with the new Library Director, Jennifer Russell. The intent of that meeting will be to: just “connect” and also to ask about the status of the hearing loop (i.e., the Lifespring donation of funds to pay for the Library's purchase of sound equipment for the hearing loop). p.s. I'll bet you are getting tired of seeing this in my reports (☺)
5. I am concerned about the scarcity of volunteers serving on both the curriculum committee and the On-Line Task Force. I think this is an issue that we must address.
6. Sharing some feedback that I received regarding the fall semester and the December Winter Presentation

From Susan G:

“Susan D, what a great presentation from Jon Bowermaster. Wow!! And I learned a lot. Wonderful!

And so smooth all the rest, Susan P, Laura, and Rich. Really brilliant!”

From Marv Beach:

“Thanks so much for bringing Jon Bowermaster to Lifespring! Loved this morning's presentation, and will definitely be looking at some of his other films and sharing the access info with environmentalistic friends. It was wonderful, no exaggeration, to see positive-focused films about the environment. So often I and others feel sick with dread after watching environmental impact documentaries. Hope on the Hudson - Yes indeed.

A couple of technical kudos: I thought it was very effective to have the whole screen be filled with the films, instead of having a side-strip of zoom participant faces. Also, a very good idea to transform us all into Names only, no more faces, during the presentation. It is inevitably distracting to see faces of people we know (or don't), even when they are not busying themselves with other activities (which can be annoying).

So again, thank you so much to all of you board and task force members who did a great job on this presentation, and on the fall semester.

It was a pleasant surprise to find out how good classes on zoom could be.

From Bobbi Rudick:

I would just like to say how wonderful these two classes were this semester. I thoroughly and fully enjoyed both of them.

The photojournalism class was superb and I truly hope both of these outstanding presenters come back and do another class in the future.

Susan Puretz

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

**TREASURER:**

The updated Budget Worksheet is attached on the last page of these reports.

Peg Nau

**REGISTRAR:**

Registration and On-line Taskforce Report for Lifespring Board Meeting December 8, 2020

The major Lifespring event for the month was the Winter Presentation on December 2, *A Visit to Jon's Hudson River Stories* with Jon Bowermaster. The audience of 98 participants was fascinated by his films, which were played and screen shared by Rich Davis via Zoom. Carolyn Siewers and Laura Phillips managed the Zoom controls and chat questions. 128 people had signed up, which included 22 people from the 2019-2020 combined Lifespring Interest List, and 23 guests invited by our members. Of those, approximately 15 asked to be added to the Lifespring Interest List. This was a great way to reach out to potential new members for the spring semester.

Due to the large response, we increased the Zoom capacity from 100 to 500 for the month of December at a cost of \$50. Based on the response to the January Winter Presentation registrations, we can renew that for another month. We dropped two of the paid licenses we had purchased for fall classes, for a savings of \$29.98 each for December and January. We can renew these licenses at any time as needed. Only two members registered who had not joined a Zoom meeting previously. I contacted each and offered a one-on-one taskforce how-to session and neither party responded. Our members have become Zoom savvy! We had some lingering problems with our emails with Zoom invitations sent from our Gmail accounts being delayed or rejected by AOL and I ended up using my personal HVC.RR.COM account to send the reminders to those AOL customers the night before. I filed a complaint with AOL and found out that they are really a part of Yahoo (who knew?). The Yahoo postmaster replied, "I do apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you. I've checked this case from our end and since you're getting a delivery failure message when sending to AOL address, it is possible that the domain of the sender is having difficulties connecting to AOL Server which is possible why the emails are being deferred and not able to reach the designated recipient. However, our mail servers appear to be fully functional at this



time. Occasionally, temporary network issues can cause a message to be deferred or even fail." Whatever the issue was it seems to have resolved itself since then.

Twenty-seven people signed up for Lunch with Lifespring on December 2, counting spouses who were sharing a screen. Susan Krompier recruited 5 other volunteers to be table hosts with her. Fifteen actually attended and the group was divided into 2 "dining" tables, with the table hosts being evenly divided and the remainder of the participants being assigned at random. Many of the participants expressed enthusiasm for doing something like this again. The two newish members I met seemed pleased to meet people in a more casual setting.

Two of our taskforce members have experienced health emergencies in their families and were not available this week, so we were stretched a little thin. Carolyn Siewers has volunteered to continue with Zoom training to become a full-fledged Lifespring host for future classes.

Laura Phillips  
Registrar

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **CURRICULUM:**

#### Winter Presentations

January - "Women of Brush and Chisel" with Valerie Balint

February mini session:

"Meditation" with Barbara Schofield

"Off the Beaten Track"

"Lost Industries" with Marilou Abramshe

"Roaring 20s in the Arts" with Chuck Mishaan

March (tentative) - "Life, Love and Latkes in the Catskills"

#### Spring Semester

The plan is to schedule 8 courses on Monday and Wednesday at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

The "Healthy You" course has all 6 sessions set, and will be on Wednesday at 9:30.

Other presenters / topics being considered are:

Gary Miller - Women in Photojournalism

Irene Hurst

Andy Weintraub

Joey Hickok - religion

Rosemary Dean - Shakespeare

Nathan Brenowitz

Chuck Mishaan - Jazz Age

Susan Blacker - Yoga with Roxy as a backup presenter

16

Play Reading with Prudence Garcia-Renart will be scheduled as a special event since attendance will be limited.

Diane McDowell and Mary Porter Hall

**EVENTS and SERVICES:**

As part of the Ad Hoc Committee, we have been working on the following ideas:

1. Pursuing the suggestion of a magic show. Maureen looked into a few leads, but the first two magicians did not work out because of scheduling. The third person never responded to her emails.

2. I looked into having a holiday floral arrangement demonstration by the woman who owns The Dancing Tulip in the village. After meeting with her and discussing her proposal with the committee, I spoke with her to explain the complexity and the possible problems with the Zoom technology concerning an effective/ successful presentation. I also explained that we are an all-volunteer organization and cannot pay our presenters. She understood and was gracious. She's very accommodating and offered to brainstorm other ideas when, and if, we would want to consider her presenting in the future, perhaps in the late spring or next fall, when it could be SAFELY and with no expense to our members. We'd like to suggest that as a committee, we place her floral presentation/demonstration on a list for future non-class events.

3. The third possibility was the idea of a book talk. During the open November Board meeting, one of our members offered to be a source for ideas/ questions on how to facilitate a book talk. Maureen plans to pursue this after the holidays.

4. Susan P. sent us the possibility of a one-time play reading, a six week course that was originally being offered in the spring 2020 semester. Susan contacted the presenter who was reluctant at first but may consider doing it if enough members may want to carry it beyond a one day activity. We will consider pursuing that idea after the holidays.

Maureen and Colleen

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Four people from the Membership Welcome Table team joined the November Open Board meeting. In an email discussion after the meeting, they shared a few thoughts. Essentially, there were two comment threads...one was about the value of offering more courses and choices (both large and smaller formats) for the Spring, 2021 term to attract more of our members to try Zoom. The other thread expressed support for the idea of planning some outdoor, masked, distanced activities for the spring, when the weather warms, a hike on the Ashokan Rail Trail was one example.

Looking Forward:

A Summary:

Lifespring is committed to continue to explore ways to stay connected with all current members and to attract potential new members. In order to do this effectively, current members are invited to bring guests to the Winter Presentations (December, January & March), the February 3, and February 10 mini-course series, and perhaps some additional Lifespring events that are still in the planning stage. We also are inviting past Presenters who had been scheduled to present during our cancelled and abbreviated semesters as well as everyone on the Lifespring Interest List to attend. Anyone who expresses an interest in becoming a Lifespring member (from the web, phone, or word of mouth) is invited to sign up to join the Interest List.

Membership in Lifespring for current members has been extended until July 31, 2021. There will be no additional membership fee. Non-members who are interested in joining our Lifespring community as members may register for the Spring, 2021 term of classes. Information on how to become a new member and how to register will be available in the Spring catalog due out in early March. New members will not be charged a membership fee for the Spring 2021 term.

It is anticipated that any current member, including those who become new members in Spring, 2021, who wishes to continue as a Lifespring member for 2021/2022 may do so by paying a membership fee that is yet to be determined by the Lifespring Board. Information about this process will appear in the Lifespring Catalog for the Fall, 2021 semester that will be available in mid-summer. The information will also appear on the website, in press releases, and in general emails sent to the Lifespring membership and Interest List. Lifespring will continue to make every effort to take in as many new members as space and resources will permit.

Susan Davis, Membership Coordinator

**PROGRAM SUPPORT:**

**MEMBERS AT LARGE:**

***AD HOC COMMITTEES***

**AV:**

Nothing to report for the AV team.

Rich Davis

**CLASS MANAGERS:**

I have nothing to report

Lee

**PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR:**

**Lifespring newsletter, News & Views**

There is nothing to report. Spring newsletter will be next up.

**Spring Catalog**

Not time yet, but soon, to get going on this.

**Flyers**

All upcoming winter presentations will have a flyer. I continue to work with Susan D and Connie Cuttle to develop these flyers. There will also be a flyer for the February mini courses.

**Website**

The website is current. The Special News Section that appears when you first access the newsletter has been updated to reflect current information. Susan Davis and I edited the text and Anna Landewe made the changes on the website. Also, Susan Davis continues to liaison with David Cartmell to keep the “coming up” dates current. Also, the fall newsletter is up on the website as well.



View northeast from Panther Mountain

Susan Greenstein

***OTHER REPORTS*****MOVING FORWARD:****ON-LINE TASKFORCE REPORT FOR LIFESPING BOARD MEETING**

SEE Registrar's report

**GIFT COMMITTEE:**

See President's report

**NEW ADHOC COMMITTEE**

Hi All,

I have something I wanted to run by you all. I have been thinking that the successes of the ad Hoc Committee have made its continuation unnecessary. Our main objective was to figure out ways to involve the membership more during this period when we can't

16

meet in person. We had a successful, well attended open Board meeting, discussed and made recommendations about recruiting and admitting new members, set up our first Lunch with Lifespring and explored other possibilities for non-class events which can be followed up by the Events committee.

I am very impressed by and appreciative of the work you have all. It seems to me that we could now turn these issues over to our existing committees to continue to explore and implement. Please let me know your thoughts. If you agree, I will present this as our final Board report.

Regards,  
Natalee

**SEC** (Senior Education Committee)

The members of the Saugerties Senior Education Commission of Lifespring will hold a meeting on December 14, 2020 via Zoom. The agenda will include reviewing and revising the guidelines of operation that have been in effect for 2020. We offer congratulations to Peg Nau, one of the SEC members, on her appointment to the Town of Saugerties Board. She will be filling out the term for a Board member who resigned. Peg will no longer serve on the SEC. Peg has been Vice-Chair of the SEC since the adoption of the Town Local Law 1 in 2018 and has made valuable contributions to the work of the Commission with her wise words and helpful suggestions. Peg's term on the SEC expires in December, 2020. The Town Board will appoint a new SEC member for a 4-year term starting January 1, 2021.

Thank you Peg!

Susan Davis,  
Chair

