Warren Berkowitz | Board Member, Farm Manager
Blue Hill, ME
Warren Berkowitz was a long-time friend of the Nearings and one of the Good Life Center’s first stewards. After 40 years of service in public education Warren now lives in Blue Hill, Maine with his wife Nancy. Warren’s goals as Farm Manager include maintaining Forest Farm to provide future generations with access to the inspiring Nearing legacy, nurturing the Residential Steward Program and inviting youth groups to participate in the Good Life Center’s Daily activities. A proud parent, Warren’s two adult children have wonderful memories of time spent with Helen at Forest Farm. Daughter Jenny is a yoga teacher, professional dancer and Occupational Therapist in Baltimore and son Jacob Scott is an international economics analyst in Washington DC. Warren’s primary interests include gardening, yoga and tennis.

Mary Hildebrand | Bookkeeper
Surry, ME
Mary Hildebrand lives with her husband Steve in an owner-built, solar powered off-grid home in Surry, Maine, where they grow a lovely garden on their small, wooded, pastured lot. Mary is a firm believer in Scott and Helen Nearing’s pay-as-you-go philosophy. She enjoys volunteering at The Simmering Pot Community Supper and is a member of the Hancock County Food Security Network. Along with Steve and a small group of close friends she shouts it out with a local rock n’ roll band known as The Free Radicals.

Alison Stephens | Board Chair
Blue Hill, ME
Alison Stephens was raised a pacifist Quaker, living with her activist parents overseas during the French and Algerian war. Worked as the first Victim-Witness Advocate with the Hancock Co. District Attorney’s office in Ellsworth Maine in the 1980’s. She married Rev. Charles Stephens, and became a Unitarian Universalist, helping to serve a number of churches in varying states over the years. They raised 3 children and she worked as an office administrator in varying positions. Returning to Maine in 2012 to create their own homestead in Blue Hill, Alison and Charles were able to become Resident Stewards of the Good Life Center during the 2012 season. She eagerly learned all she could about the Nearing’s, their history and philosophy. It was an honor taking care of the homestead and garden and sharing the Nearing’s message of independent, simple living and political activism with visitors. After the stint as Resident Stewards, Alison worked as a part time administrator for the Good Life Center for a spell. Continuing with her interest in The Good Life Center she joined the board in 2016 and took over as board chair in 2018.

Marni Salerno | Board Member
Harborside, Maine
Marni joined the Good Life Center board in 2016 after attending an apple tree pruning workshop. Marni is proud to live near and support the Good Life Center as an important resource for radical thought and homestead based education. They believe in practicing small acts of anti-capitalism and are growing, learning and working toward being more self- sufficient.

Jeanie Kirk | Board Member
Portland, OR
Jeanie Kirk is a writer, editor, curator, feminist, and environmentalist. Her life has been guided by an ethos and desire to “do good” – a complex and ever changing lens through which to view the world. Jeanie loves exploring the concept of intersectionality and is an avid, life-long learner of progressive movements. With a master’s degree from Columbia University focused on the significance of climate change’s impacts on sustainable development, Jeanie felt an alignment with the Nearings’ legacy of environmental and economic justice since she first encountered their lives and teachings in 2016. A nonprofit fundraiser since 2010, she is currently the grants officer at the Prison University Project. Jeanie loves the ocean, really big trees, yoga, hiking, skiing, cooking, reading and swimming.

Hector Sapien | Board Member
Sedgwick, Maine
Hector Sapien, LCSW, is a clinical social worker with an extensive history of cultivating and leading child care teams in challenging therapeutic milieus. He has been a child care worker, supervisor and administrator in residential
treatment centers and psychiatric hospital settings, and is now a private consultant in Maine, where he trains mental health care professionals working with children and youth. He also consults on risk management, quality assurance, and new program start-ups. Specialized areas of interest include designing, implementing, monitoring, and maintaining mental health programs for diverse populations, as well as recruiting, training, and retention of competent child and youth care workers. He is also a founding member of the Youth in Focus (YIF) Collaborative. He has 2 sons and lives with his wife in Sedgwick, Maine, where his private practice includes a clinical caseload of young people ranging from ages 4 to 22, clinical counseling at George Stevens Academy in Blue Hill, Maine and is mental health consultant with the Head Start Division of Downeast Community Partners, headquartered in Ellsworth, Maine. He also teaches as adjunct faculty with the University of Maine at Augusta, via the Ellsworth Educational Extension.

Alex Page | Board Member, Treasurer
Portland, OR

Alex did not know about the Nearings until he visited the farm at the recommendation of a friend in 2016. Arriving outside of visiting hours, he and his wife Jeanie had the farm all to themselves and spent 2 hours in the late summer rains wandering, meditating, and admiring the abundant and beautiful garden. The next year, Alex and Jeanie became the Resident Stewards and fell even more deeply in love with the Nearings’ philosophy and tranquil lifestyle. Alex has always loved gardening, and his politics geared towards that of Scott’s pacifist and socialist teachings. Though based on the west coast of the United States, the Good Life Center captured a piece of his heart and his desire to help keep the mission alive and inspiring others has brought him back to his role on the Board.