

Minutes  
Kona Beth Shalom  
Board of Trustees  
October 9, 2022  
Zoom (online) meeting

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

Vic Greenspan, Sara Nealy, Alan Silverman, Nella Silverman, Vivienne Aronowitz, Eva Pierce, Joel Gimpel, Mike Bernstone, Sarah Kramer, and Barry Blum

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Elaine Dobinson, Rabbi Shari Berman and Trina Yerlick

OTHERS

Ruth Ader, Aviva and Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

Barry convened the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

In memory of Alan Pollak, the meeting started with the “El Malei Rachamim” prayer.

MINUTES

Upon motion made and seconded, the amended minutes of the September 11, 2022, Board meeting were approved. The September 11, 2022, Annual Meeting minutes were amended and will be placed on the website until they are approved at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

A vote was proposed to elect Una Greenaway as a trustee since, as of the annual meeting, she no longer is immediate past-president and thus no longer on the board. Members of the board suggested the vote not be taken until she has been asked if she still wishes to be on the board. This issue tabled until Barry has a chance to talk to Una.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mike emailed the August and September 2022 financial reports to the Board members.

Mike will send out reminder notices to previous members from whom he has yet to receive dues. He will provide more details concerning types of membership (individual, family, sustaining) that make up our community. There will be a discussion whether changes are needed to our member fee structure. Sara Nealy

said she would send information about her California synagogue's "Gifts from the Heart" membership model. Sarah Kramer said she would research what other synagogues charge and will share this with the board. She was particularly interested in the cost of individual memberships.

Upon motion made and seconded, the financial report was approved.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

##### FACILITIES

Hawaiian Queen Coffee Garden (HQCG) was able to accommodate approximately 40 congregants on Kol Nidre on the High Holidays in the main room. The air conditioning was not working well and the rabbi and many attendees were uncomfortably hot. The evening services were dimly lit due to the lack of overhead lighting. The torchiere lights that were available were not bright enough. A different lighting needs to be worked out with HQCG.

One attendee needed subtitles when she joined on Zoom. Everyone attending the board meeting learned to use this feature by engaging the "live transcript" button on the bottom of the Zoom screen. Alan said it does quite well with English, but when Hebrew was spoken, the feature does not recognize Hebrew words.

Sara Nealy suggested that we have a pre-roll video or instructions to the Zoom attendees regarding how to join the meeting, keeping their audio silenced during the service, etc.

Alan noted that the County is opening up their public spaces for rent. KBS has nothing rented.

Since Kokua Academy was so cooperative in making their school schedule not have classes during Rosh Hashanah, Sara Nealy suggested we give them a thank you gift, something they might need. Jan Rae has thank you cards with the KBS logo that can be sent.

##### JEWISH EDUCATION

The education committee of Barry, Vic, Trina, Aviva and now Yehudah is dedicated to finding Jewish teachers and students. Barry has spoken to R. Shari who knew of several online games to teach teens and parents Hebrew. Rebecca Gottesman, one of our new members who recently moved to Kealahakua and previously taught Hebrew school, might be available for 1 or 2 hours every week from Friday to Monday. Alia Adler, who works in Mountain View for Teach for America, would be available for occasional substitute teaching. To find students, it was suggested that you need to connect with them via social media. Sara Nealy suggested we might need a younger person on the board who would be media savvy and help get kids interested. Yehudah thought with the Nitzavim funds we could hire someone to help. Vivienne thought that networking with other synagogues who already have programs would be useful and get kids together from other islands periodically.

## CEMETERY

The cemetery committee includes Barry, Vivienne and Eva. Barry has contacted Homelani Cemetery where our section, Beit Hashamayim, is located. A motion was made and seconded to buy burial rights to 5 more plots that were offered at a 20% discount (\$4700 apiece) which would amount to approximately \$20,000. This price was good until September 30, but Barry is hoping that Homelani will accept our offer since our board meeting when we could vote on this purchase wasn't happening until today, Oct. 9. The idea is to have plots that are somewhat affordable for our members when they are needed, as the price increases every year. Aviva thought this is an important purchase as it means KBS offers this life cycle service to our membership. Barry asked our Treasurer, Mike, if we were solvent enough to make this purchase. He noted there is only about \$2500 in our Burial Fund. We can spend the Nitzavim money but we would need to fundraise to replace it. The question was called and the motion passed. Barry will send everyone on the board the ground plan for Beit Hashamayim.

## WEBSITE

Alan said there was nothing in particular to report, but wanted to go back to the discussion under education about KBS social media presence. He feels that we haven't exploited the possibilities, such as advertising our upcoming events on Facebook. KBS does have a presence on Facebook and live streams any torah study or shabbat. We need someone younger with more experience to get involved with TikTok, Twitter, etc.

## BIKUR CHOLIM/SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The committee includes Vivienne in Waimea, Alice Bratton in Kona and Oahu-based Jewish Community Services. Nella is notified of emails coming in through KBS website. Aviva noted that she should be part of the committee. As a nurse at Kona Community Hospital, she is available to visit with congregants there. When we hear of someone in need, our committee tries to guide them to services. Vivienne noted it also includes fund raising, such as The Food Bank. We asked folks to bring food at High Holidays. Eva asked to be on the committee for East Hawaii.

## NORTH HAWAII CHAVURAH (NHC)

Vivienne sent out an invitation through email to the board of her upcoming get togethers. A copy of her email will be included in Addenda A.

## UPCOMING JEWISH OBSERVANCES

### SUKKOT

First day starts tomorrow, Oct. 10. Aviva invited the board to come to her mini-sukkah.

SIMCHAT TORAH    October 16, 2022    4 - 6 pm

Location: HQCG

Religious service: Barry and Aviva

Band: Hakafot

Barry: Story, unroll and roll scroll

Food: Kiddush and pupu potluck (finger food)

Band: Israeli dancing

#### SHABBAT

Since Simchat Torah is Sunday, Oct. 16, and we have 5 Saturdays in October, Alan has been asked to see if we can reschedule with HQCG our shabbat service from Oct. 22 to Oct. 29. Alan will notify the board if that's possible. The 29th will be the preferable choice.

#### CHANUKAH

First night is Sunday, December 18, and the last day is Monday, December 26.

First night would be a good time to have the party but Joel, Aviva and Trina are participating in a community choral performance on that day. The last night is Dec. 25 which is not good timing. School break starts on Monday, the 19th. NHC will be having its celebration on Wednesday, December 21. Vivienne welcomed KBS for a joint event. Barry is going to send a proposal to the Board to have the party at Hale Halawai on Tuesday, December 20, from 3 - 6 pm, and see what people think. Yehudah would like to be included in the band this year.

#### SEDER

First seder is Wednesday, April 5, 2023. Barry asked to reserve the Maka`eo Pavilion for that night. He has spoken to Chef Amelia, our usual caterer, but has made no commitments. She has a camping stove because the pavilion kitchen has no stove. Alan mentioned that there has been a change in County policy about locking the gates earlier. He will report back what he finds out.

#### OTHER HOLIDAYS

Barry included the dates of other Jewish holidays to be aware of coming up in 2023.

Tu B'Shvat	Mon, Feb 6
Lag B'Omer	Tue, May 9
Purim	Tue, Mar 7
Passover	Wed Apr 5 - Thu Apr 13

Shavuot

May 25 - 27

Rosh Hashanah

Fri eve, Sep 15-17

## OLD BUSINESS

### REVIEW OF HIGH HOLIDAYS

Ruth Ader, who agreed only to house R. Pressman during the holidays, was very upset about the amount of dinner preparation and clean up that she felt obliged to do. When she asked others, three specifically, to invite him for supper, no one stepped up. She felt the rabbi knew that he was not invited other places. She was asked to have Friday night kabbalat shabbat on the first week but said she didn't know about the second Friday night gathering at her home until she read it in the schedule. She was disappointed by what she described as lack of support from the board and thought that KBS shouldn't invite another rabbi for High Holidays until we, as a community, are prepared to support this effort. She thanked Aviva for cooking food for her to serve and Aviva and Nella for inviting him for dinner when he had his study sessions. She felt we already have Rabbi Shari, who does not need to be housed or fed. She praised R. Pressman as a delightful person, full of knowledge and stories; but said too much was asked of her. Sarah Kramer didn't understand how this could happen. Vivienne apologized and said we should do better in the future. Ruth appreciated Viv inviting him to Hapuna Beach for havdalah. Aviva said she was responsible for organizing his visit, but when she didn't get positive feedback from congregants, she made sure Ruth had enough food prepared in hopes she wouldn't have to cook. She was not sure what the mixup was for the second Friday night kabbalat shabbat, but her house was always considered a backup for any get together. Sara Nealy apologized for being too busy to be able to help. Barry thanked Ruth for telling the Board what she experienced.

Sara Nealy also wanted to have input about the High Holidays but had to leave for work. The email she sent to the board with her thoughts will be included in Addenda B.

Barry asked that others please jot down notes and we'll take them up at the next board meeting. The High Holiday review is complex and he wants to take some time for it.

## NEW BUSINESS

Next meeting agenda topics: Change in dues structure.

Vivienne would like to propose giving special thanks to those who worked so hard on the High Holidays and made a motion, which was seconded, to give restaurant or other gift certificates to Ruth and Sherrill Ader, Aviva and Yehudah Plaut, Nella and Alan Silverman and Vic Greenspan. The motion passed.

Vivienne also thanked Barry for taking on the KBS Presidency again.  
Mi shebeirach to Sarah Kramer and all who are in need of healing.

#### NEXT BOARD MEETING

Barry needs to be in Hilo the first Sunday in November when we usually would have our meeting, so the next Board meeting will be held November 13 at 10 am on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nella Silverman,  
Secretary

#### ADDENDA A

From: Vivienne Aronowitz <aronowitz@gmail.com>  
Subject: Erev shabbat and Sukkot this Fri, 6pm at the MKBH No 3 and more

Date: October 9, 2022 at 9:51:20 AM HST

To: undisclosed-recipients;

Shaloha,

I look forward to seeing you this coming Friday evening at No 3 restaurant at the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel. For those who are new to the group( welcome) or haven't been for a while, you need to indicate to the gate guard that you are going to the event at No 3. They are not allowing us to use beach parking so please use the valet parking at the hotel. There is not a charge but you can tip if you like.

Please bring a potluck item to share( no pork or shellfish) and think of including some seasonal produce. Sukkot is the harvest festival. Even though we will not have a physical sukkah, we will be under the stars.

There are wonderful spiritual interpretations of this holiday. See the link below from the velveteen rabbi, in particular the last two paragraphs.. When we do our introductions, I would like each person to briefly share how they plan to create a sukkat shalom in the coming year or share a gratitude of what they have harvested in the last season.

<https://velveteenrabbi.blogs.com/blog/2007/09/shelter-and-pea.html>

If anyone would like to lead in singing the song- Ufros aleinu sukkat shelomecha, let me know. Here is a link to a lovely version. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHzOrsBXHYE>

Next month( Nov 11th), Leslie Harlib, talented pianist and singer, will join us. In December, we will not meet on the 2nd Friday but will do a channuka celebration later in the month. More info to follow.

On January 13th, I am excited to share that Heather Friedman Rivera RN, JD, PhD author of several books will share some of her journey with us.

[www.amazon.com/author/drheatherrivera](http://www.amazon.com/author/drheatherrivera).

Chag sukkot sameach and shavua tov,

Vivienne

ADDENDA B

On Sun, Oct 9, 2022 at 1:44 PM Sara Nealy <saranealy@gmail.com> wrote:  
Notes on High Holidays

Aloha, all.

Sorry I had to leave before we could discuss some of these ideas together.

My overall feeling on the High Holidays is one of gratitude for what was pulled together. I think that my value to the KBS Board is probably to offer a perspective that might be considered more of a marketing/community relations mindset. In that spirit...

#### Music

The liturgical music of the holidays delivers the power of the holidays as much as or more than any other element.

We have discussed a vision of wanting to attract more of our island's Jewish community and younger families to join KBS.

I think that we must consider how we can be more compelling to new potential members as well as serving our current membership.

Thank goodness we have the beautiful musical accompaniment from Joel Gimpel and Yehudah Plaut... but that is not enough.

We are without a cantor or a rabbi who can sing on key with an appealing musical style. "Feeling" the music is not sufficient for the leader of the music. I suggest that we seek a cantor or Jewish musical professional who can lift us to the heights of prayer that are possible for the High Holidays. I truly believe that this, more than any other element, will elevate our High Holiday services at Kona Beth Shalom. I suggest we add this to our budget for next year. If we decide that our dear Shari is to return as a rabbi to lead services, her role leading the music would then be minimal. I would be willing to help locate the appropriate chazzan/singer.

And just as a general note: many congregations have energized singing in services just by picking up the pace on some songs so that everything doesn't sound like a dirge. Our pace is painfully slow.

#### Zoom for online participation

In addition to having been essential during the pandemic, as you know, online services facilitate accessibility allowing participation by more congregants, even when they are ill, disabled, or unable to travel long distances to the site of our services. This is very important on our island.

Online participation for services is here to stay. Enhancing that experience offers us a myriad of benefits, from attracting new members and donors, to having the ability to include media in the service, to helping us gear up for a higher tech-future that young people, in particular, respond to.

Kudos to Alan for making it possible so far and for being such a remarkable one-man facilitator! The on-screen Hebrew (and for some, the English transliterations) were especially appreciated.

Some improvements that do not involve cost — just awareness — include insuring that:

Every online participant should arrive at a home/welcome screen or video that gives basic instructions including muting their audio unless they are asked to speak.

Additionally, as Alan did on Yom Kippur morning, a quick verbal announcement should be made to online participants to mute their audio during the service.

Many congregations put a free online High Holidays registration form on their website. This gives additional information as well as an opportunity for Zoomers to donate to the congregation at any level to support our ability to make the service available to them. It also gives us the opportunity to invite them to subsequent services and events because they sign in.

Yizkor

If members are to read the names of our beloved ones who have passed, we need to add phonetically spellings so the names are recognizable to the one remembering their loved ones! It is painful and disrespectful to hear the names of loved ones mispronounced.

Membership model

I would like to suggest that we consider moving to a new membership model in which each of our members or families making a financial commitment to the congregation that is meaningful to them.

My California congregation, Beth Emek, made this shift, and it has been successful for them. Here is a link to learn more about it:

<https://www.bethemek.org/about/gifts-of-the-heart/>

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I have additional thoughts, but these are ready to send, so I'll start with this. Perhaps we might revisit these topics at a future board meeting.

Thank you all for the huge effort, thought, energy, and love put in to making the High Holidays possible for us all.

Warm thanks,  
Sara Nealy