

Minutes  
Kona Beth Shalom  
Board of Trustees  
December 4, 2022  
Zoom (online) meeting

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

Alan Silverman, Nella Silverman, Elaine Dobinson, Eva Pierce, Sara Nealy, Barry Blum, Sarah Kramer, Mike Bernstone, Vivienne Aronowitz and Trina Yerlick

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Vic Greenspan, Joel Gimpel and R. Shari Berman

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting began at 10:06 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Barry opened the meeting with prayers for peace.

MINUTES

Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes of the November 6, 2022, board meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mike emailed the financial report to the board before the meeting.

Heather Rivera, from Hilo, has become a new member. She is an author and will present a talk at North Hawaii Chavurah (NHC) in January.

Discussion ensued concerning dues and different categories that could be added, for instance, for online-only participants.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FACILITIES

The shabbat just after Thanksgiving last month was a celebration of birthdays: Barry delivered the drash in honor of his birthday and Shari also in honor of her birthday chanted part of the torah portion from Japan on Zoom. Aviva led the service and she and Vic each also leyned torah.

The Chanukah party will be held at Hawaiian Queen Coffee Garden (HQCG) on Tuesday, December 20. Maka'eo Pavilion is still reserved for the 1st seder and also is available for 2nd seder, whichever we decide.

The Kona Education Center, previously known as Outdoor Circle, is reserved on February 8, 2023, for the San Francisco Yiddish Klezmer concert.

A list of dates for shabbats and holidays will be submitted to HQCG for the year 2023.

## EDUCATION

Trina is tutoring two students; Aviva is teaching them torah. Trina is preparing them to sing a couple of Chanukah songs at the party on Dec. 20.

As to the future of the Hebrew school, Vivienne is retiring soon and Marjorie Wade is a former Hebrew school teacher that makes it possible for them to be the base of an education program, if students can be found.

## CEMETERY

Eva is checking on Beit Hashamayim in Hilo every couple of weeks. She has met our new member, Heather Rivera, who seems interested in helping. Vivienne will contact her and hopefully involve her with tahara and other classes from Interisland Chevra Kadisha.

For KBS members, there are now only 2 plots left at the original cost, 5 at the recent (higher) cost, and 4 plots at whatever Homelani's price is or will be.

## WEBSITE

KBS will transfer our web hosting service to a local Oahu business, Webmasters Services Hawaii, by early next week. The transfer should be invisible to users, in other words, the website address will remain the same. There will be ability to have emails through this website so no need for gmail. Alan is doing a physical backup of the site as well as Webmasters doing weekly backups online. Once transfer is complete, the calendar and other new entries or updates can proceed again.

## BIKUR CHOLIM

Ruth Glatt and Sarah Kramer are both home from the hospital. Shai Yerlick is healing and welcomes calls.

## NORTH HAWAII CHAVURAH (NHC)

On Wednesday, Dec 21st from 4 - 5 pm, NHC has a tentative plan to meet at the Luau grounds at the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel for pupus and maybe some Israeli dancing prior to going to the Garden Room from 5:30 to 6:30 pm for a Chanukah celebration



## OLD BUSINESS

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

Sara Nealy created an outline to guide discussion.

### **Proposed Basic Strategic Planning / Marketing Planning for KBS**

S. Nealy, December 3, 2022

#### **1. Compile some basic demographic data**

- # Jewish people/families on the island
- Where do they live on the island
- Average age

#### **2. Analyze our perceived strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT)**

- e.g., Strengths: active core group of volunteers
- e.g., Weaknesses: loss of membership over last 10 years
- e.g., Opportunities: attracting growing number of unaffiliated Jewish families in the area/ focus on welcoming new families
- e.g., Threats: decline in sense that prayer/religious affiliation is valuable

#### **3. Define critical issues and objectives**

- e.g., Membership fee structure, consider “Gifts of the Heart” structure to offer a creative solution that ameliorates obstacles to recruiting and engaging people into our spiritual community.
- e.g., Relevance/appeal, consider partnering with other organizations to offer innovative educational experiences with out-of-the-box appeal

#### **4. Form a task force** made up of 2-4 board/community members to address critical issues and put forward recommendations to board/membership.

#### **5. Involve membership/community in process**

- Surveys and open forums  
to discuss direction and vision of KBS and to shape types of events and activities

#### **6. Draft or refine mission and vision statement** for the congregation that connects to insights gained through the process

#### **7. Tailor all visuals and written communications thematically to the vision**

- website, membership eblasts, special event invitations, etc.

8. **Create a theme (each year)** to engage the greater Jewish community with KBS and raise our profile as a relevant and valuable resource  
– e.g., social justice, diversity, tolerance, seeding the next generation, etc.

After Sara went through the outline with the board, Barry asked Sara, Elaine and Vivienne to be on the task force for this project.

#### SEDER

There is still no consensus about whether it should be on the first or second night. There was a suggestion to unify with NHC's seder plans. Barry estimated that it would cost \$60-70/plate for a catered event. The discussion was tabled until next month's meeting.

#### JULY 2023 BAT MITZVAH REQUEST

The family has agreed to a regularly scheduled morning shabbat service, July 22, 2023. The family is bringing their cantor to conduct the service. There would need to be a tent erected to accommodate the number of people attending. A discussion ensued about what to expect the family to provide, e.g. sponsored oneg shabbat. Barry is the contact person with the family.

FEBRUARY KLEZMER EVENT      February 8, 2023      6:30 - 8:30 pm

Location: Kona Education Center (formerly Outdoor Circle)  
Could be a fundraiser. Perhaps \$10 admission charge. Cookies, tea, even wine served at intermission.

#### NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting will be held January 8 at 10 am on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nella Silverman,  
Secretary

## ADDENDUM A

The tentative plan is to have a music jam/prep for erev shabbat on Thursday afternoon/eve in North Hawaii.

Fri erev shabbat at the MKBR with an early gathering for kids.

Sat morning shabbat service at the HQCG if it's available and kumsitz/niggun circle late Sat afternoon with potluck and havdalah at the Plauts.

Sunday afternoon in Hilo/Pahoa.

If anyone would like to assist with the arrangements or planning let me know.

Donations are invited through KBS, please indicate it is for the shabbaton. We will not charge for any of the events.

See her list of offerings below.

Rabbi Jessica Kate Meyer's offering of events:

Shabbat Services (Friday evening and Shabbat morning)

Lead Davening with members of the community.

Share divrei Torah

Leyn/chant Torah – with or without English interpretation alongside Hebrew

Prayer service for families with young children (either Fri morning, or pre-services on Friday eve or Shabbat morning).

Classes

Nigun/Song Circle: Learn new nigunim, and sink into familiar melodies. Melodies can be in preparation for Shabbat services if preferable. (No musical or Hebrew prowess required).

1 Prayer, 3 Ways: Exploring the meaning of a particular prayer (El Adon or Adon Olam, for example) through listening to 3 melodies for this prayer from around the Jewish world. How does each melodic style/interpretation change the meaning of the prayer? (No musical or Hebrew prowess required).

Music from around the Jewish world: a listening class, can be in preparation for a holiday, or a Shabbat-centered session.

Torah Study: Let's study parashat hashavua (or in preparation for a holiday).

Ritual Workshop: Exploring the power of ritual. Studying traditional ritual, and learning to craft our own.

Davening workshop with the community's prayer team to strengthen communal listening and prayer leadership.

Concerts + Storytelling

Havdalah + concert with storytelling. Can be in collaboration with musicians from the community, or with my ensemble from the east coast.

Conversation on the making of "The Pianist" and how working on this film led to the rabbinate.