

Minutes
Kona Beth Shalom
Board of Trustees
February 5, 2023
Zoom (online) meeting

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

Alan Silverman, Nella Silverman, Elaine Dobinson, Barry Blum, Sarah Kramer, Mike Bernstone, Vivienne Aronowitz, Joel Gimpel and Trina Yerlick

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Sara Nealy, Eva Pierce, Vic Greenspan and R. Shari Berman

OTHERS

Aviva and Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting began at 10:03 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Barry opened the meeting with a reading from his wife Gloria's new book, "Tutu's Secret." If you have a problem and don't know what to do, Tutu is there for you. Tutu can be interpreted to mean many different things, e.g. your own tutu or someone in your family, your soul, etc.

MINUTES

Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes of the January 8, 2023, board meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial report was emailed to the board before the meeting but some members have yet to receive it, so the financial report has yet to be approved.

Mike sent a copy of the new membership directory to the board and Alan will post it on the website. Sarah asked that her name be changed in the directory from Serena Kramer to Serena Sarah Kramer.

Vivienne checked with Mike about the large promised donation for the March shabbaton, but it has yet to be received.

Sarah Kramer brought up the proposed change in dues structure that was introduced at the January board meeting and was left for future discussion. Barry

created a committee of Trina, Sarah and Mike to discuss 1) lowering the single membership to \$180, 2) creating a "Chai Club" to allow recurring "monthly" lower cost payments to support congregation activities, and 3) changing the display of the donation page. Trina noted later in the meeting that she does not want to be part of this committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES

The temperature at Hawaiian Queen Coffee Garden (HQCG) for services has been OK this winter. With no air conditioning in the venue, temperature and humidity might become uncomfortable this summer and fall. Since we coordinate schedules with Kokua Academy, an elementary private school that also rents HQCG, KBS cannot begin to set up for events until 3:30 p.m. on school days. Also the kitchen is not officially available for cooking.

The Klezmer event is booked for the Kona Education Center. Old A pavilion is booked for first night of Passover.

EDUCATION

Trina is privately tutoring two students; one is preparing for his bar mitzvah this fall, no date set, as yet.

Yehudah asked Rebecca Gottesman about being KBS Hebrew School teacher. She agreed and at present is available one hour/week. Now that KBS potentially has a teacher, we need to find students for our Hebrew school. There is still the question of when school would be available and where it would be located. There are no pamphlets specific to our Hebrew school, but Alan noted there is an education paragraph in the KBS trifold brochure.

CEMETERY

Vivienne has information from Chevra Kadisha about availability of kosher caskets, which she will share and can be posted on the website. Barry was concerned that if he should get an inquiry about someone dying, KBS plans for tahara may not be established. Right now only virtual tahara is available with Alice Lachman at Interisland Chevra Kadisha. Barry will continue to contact Rabbi Levi Gerlitzky, who is also a chaplain at Kona Community Hospital, to coordinate volunteers for tahara. Vivienne will be contacting North Hawaii hospice. Dodo mortuary and Ballard mortuary can make space for tahara, although Ballard it would be in Hilo.

WEBSITE

The new website administrator quickly got our website back online when an update limited access to the server. Still in the process of updating pages of the website. Alan is working on a new process to RSVP and donate funds for the shabbaton. It is

now possible to register and get tickets for the different events in the Calendar section of the website.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Ray Jackson is back from Oahu after two weeks for cancer treatment and surgery. Joan, his wife, thought they would be able to make it to the Klezmer concert. Shai Yerlick's knee is getting better.

Ruth and Sherrill Ader have successfully made the move to Woodland Hills, CA, and are slowly setting up their apartment in Variel Assisted Living facility there.

NORTH HAWAII CHAVURAH (NHC)

On February 18, there will be another Havdalah/Star Gazing event at Spencer Beach.

March will bring the shabbaton with Rabbi/Cantor Jessica Kate Meyer. Vivienne has sent out flyers with the dates and locations of the scheduled events. See Addenda for a copy.

NITZAVIM

Nitzavim Report 2/5/23 written by Yehudah Plaut.

On January 11-12, Aviva and I represented KBS at a state-wide conference for Nitzavim kicking off the 2nd year of the program funded by the Weinberg Foundation. This year the Foundation brought in Rabbi David Freidenreich to lead a day of brainstorming. I have photographs of the brainstorming session notes. The main shared learning was a Venn diagram showing that we all had things we shared and things that we did differently. We all understood that we could use each other to build a resource/asset directory to access throughout the state. For example, I have a lot of knowledge about growing food, something that many of the participants wanted to tap to further their projects. Having now met each other, the ask would be that much more personal and easier to actuate.

It was delightful to meet the Jewish leaders of the various island communities. On January 18, I flew to Maui to visit the three kehilot on that island: Chabad on Maui, The Maui Jewish Center, and the Maui Kosher Farm. It was great to meet each leader in the spaces they created to have a more personal feel for their practices and approaches.

OneTable (from their website)

Inspired by ancient Jewish wisdom, OneTable is a national non-profit that empowers folks (21-39ish) to find, share, and enjoy Shabbat dinners, making the most of their Friday nights.

Our social dining platform makes it easy for you to become the producer of your own experiences, and for Shabbat dinner to become a platform for community building.

We provide simple DIY tools so hosts can get right to welcoming people to a Shabbat dinner in their home, so guests can savor a Friday meal, and for all to experience unique events for Shabbat dinners right in their neighborhood. We do this because we believe good food and good conversation with great people is simply good for you.

Led by our core values of joy, welcoming, and elevation, we envision a whole generation of young people slowing down, getting together, unplugging from the week, creating intention in their lives, and building meaningful communities.

<https://onetable.org/>

During the conference, we met Aviella Weltman and her husband, Motti, founders and principals of Jewy Hui, the Oahu OneTable organization set up a year ago using Nitzavim funds. They agreed to help us try and set up a OneTable organization in our community on Big Island. They offered to visit us once we had gathered the initial group to help in initial setup. In addition I have had three online interviews with OneTable national staff. They have given us a tear sheet to hand out at the klezmer concert, an opportunity to do community outreach. I am actively asking them to build out an additional extension that includes other age groups.

HIGH HOLIDAY RABBI SEARCH

There are still more interviews pending. It was noted that KBS needs to make a decision soon as our prospects will soon be accepting offers for High Holidays. Barry said he can present the committee's results to the Board by Zoom or email very soon. Yehudah Plaut brought up the need for a new machzor that will need to be a subject for discussion at a future meeting.

SAN FRANCISCO YIDDISH COMBO KLEZMER CONCERT

February 8, 2023 6:30 p.m. (location available for setup 4:00 p.m.)

Location: Kona Education Center (previously Outdoor Circle)

The venue is fully booked with approximately 80 seats. Alan will send a letter to those who RSVP'd with detailed location and parking instructions. Since there is limited parking at the site, carpooling will be encouraged. Vic will be at the gate to help direct traffic when the lot is full. Security has been requested through the Kona Police Department. Have not heard whether a police officer is available for this extra shift.

Mike will bring a credit card reader and calabash to accept donations at the door. If wifi is not available, he can set up a hot spot with his phone. Fifty trifold KBS brochures have been printed and will be available for Barry to give out at the door. Yehudah will also have information leaflets concerning One Table. Alan will print the invitations to the shabbaton for Vivienne to give out at the event. Vivienne will

also bring index cards and pens so that those attending can let KBS know which of our community outreach projects (Hebrew School, One Table, etc.), they would be interested in knowing more about.

The event doors are open for helpers at 4. The Food committee will need to set up hot coffee and hot tea along with condiments, as well as dessert platters with cookies and fruit. Cold drinks will also be available.

UPCOMING JEWISH OBSERVANCES

TU B'SHVAT

Begins this evening, February 5, 2023.

ZOOM VIDEO/DISCUSSION

“Exploring Jewish Views of The Afterlife” on Sunday, February 12, 5 p.m. See KBS Board Meeting Agenda for Zoom connection.

PURIM March 7, 2023

SHABBATON WITH RABBI/CANTOR JESSICA KATE MEYER March 16 - 19, 2023

Vivienne is setting up four events at locations across the island to provide chances to share music and song with Rabbi/Cantor Jessica Kate Meyer. Alan will have the RSVP and donation buttons available on the website in a couple of days. Vivienne will confirm the crowd capacity for each event. On February 19 there will be a “tease” on Zoom for the shabbaton. Information will be added as a banner on the website. Vivienne has help from each section of the island: Marjorie Wade Pauuilo, NHC Waimea, KBS Kona, and Eva Pierce et al, including Rabbi Rachel, in Hilo.

PASSOVER

Even though Kona Education Center (KEC) was available on this date, Chef Amelia was not happy with the kitchen facilities at KEC. Events Pavilion at Old Airport has been reserved for the community seder on the first night, Wednesday, April 5.

OLD BUSINESS

CHANUKAH PARTY RECAP

It was a big success and thanks to Barry and Gloria Blum, Leslie Harlib, Bill Lamden, Yehudah and Joel for providing music and song. Over 40 people were in attendance but only two children. Having no charge to attend the event brought in more people.

SHABBAT TERUMAH February 25, 2023 10:30 a.m.

Location: HQCG and Zoom
Lead/Drash/Torah: Aviva will coordinate with Shari and Vic.
Challah: Silvermans

Aviva will be off island during March and April. Trina said she could lead services in April.

NEW BUSINESS

PERMANENT SUKKAH AT PEACE GARDEN

Arnie Rabin has begun a project to improve and increase the awareness of Judaism in the Peace Garden located on Painted Church Road. He is creating a giant sukkah and is asking for monetary help and labor skills to complete this project. Arnie's cell phone number to call or text is: 808-987-1817. Barry asked the board to think over whether KBS should give a \$1000 donation to this project.

MI SHEBEIRACH

Aviva asked that we always say mi shebeirach at our board meetings. Barry said it will now be held as part of Bikur Cholim committee report.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

A discussion of whether board meetings should be on Zoom or in-person concluded that we shall continue to meet on Zoom.

The next board meeting will be held March 5 at 10 am on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Nella Silverman,
Secretary

ADDENDUM

SHABBATON FLYER

SHABBATON WITH RABBI/CANTOR JESSICA KATE MEYER



MARCH 16 - 19, 2023
North Hawaii, Kona, East Hawaii

Join us for a weekend of music, prayer and study
with this talented Rabbi/Cantor.

SCHEDULE

- **March 16th** Late afternoon musical jam with Rabbi Jessica at Barrie Rose's farm in Pauuilo. 4-6pm. Bring a pupu to share. **RSVP required.**
- **March 17th** Early tot/kiddo shabbat at 5pm at the Mauna Kea Beach Resort, Restaurant #3. This will flow into an erev shabbat program & potluck at 6pm.
- **March 18th** Shabbat Service/Torah Study at 10am at Hawaii Queen Coffee Gardens, Kailua Kona. Potluck lunch.
Kumsitz & Havdallah, 5-8pm at the Plauts' home, Kealekekua.
RSVP required.
- **March 19th** Afternoon Niggun Workshop, 3-6pm at Sheri Joy's home, Puna Palisades. Bring a pupu to share. **RSVP required.**

**North Hawaii
CHAVURAH**

There is no charge but donations are encouraged.
Go to konabethshalom.org donations page, specify
the donation is for the shabbaton.
RSVP on event page, konabethshalom.org/events.
Addresses and directions will be emailed one week prior the events.
Space is limited. Please do not bring any shellfish or pork



Jessica Kate Meyer is a prayer leader, vocalist, storyteller, musician, and rabbi. As Rabbi-Hazzan of The Kitchen SF, and Rabbi-Co-Music Director at Romemu in NYC, and while visiting communities around the world, Jessica has built community through soulful prayer and song. She has inspired people of all religious and music backgrounds to find their voice in prayer, and to attune their ears in listening. She has studied sacred Jewish music with masters from Ashkenazi and Mizrahi traditions, and has performed as a vocalist with ensembles across the US and Israel. In a previous life, Jessica appeared in film, theater, and television projects in Europe and the United States: most notably, as a principal role in the Oscar-winning film, "The Pianist".