

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

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

Alan Silverman, Nella Silverman, Elaine Dobinson, Eva Pierce, Barry Blum, Mike Bernstone, Vivienne Aronowitz, Vic Greenspan, Joel Gimpel, Sara Nealy and Trina Yerlick

TRUSTEES ABSENT

R. Shari Berman

OTHERS

Aviva and Yehudah Plaut

Sarah Kramer resigned her position on the board on 2/16/2023.

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPENING PRAYER

Barry opened the meeting with a mi shebeirach prayer for those in need of healing.

MINUTES

Upon motion made and seconded, the amended minutes of the February 5, 2023, board meeting were approved. Changes were the deletion of tahara from Vivienne's discussion with North Hawaii Hospice and the need for a new machzor, brought by Yehudah.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial report was emailed to the board before the meeting.

An insurance payment and the regular Hawaiian Queen Coffee Garden (HQCG) payments are due. There is no budget submitted for the upcoming shabbaton. Vivienne's budget for the Shabbaton is \$5000 (\$3000 from NHC fund and \$2000 from Nitzavim) to pay Rabbi/Cantor Jessica. There will likely be a few other incidental expenses like printing and food that can come out of the NHC fund. Mike asked Vivienne for the social security number, address and where to send the check for Rabbi/Cantor Jessica Kate Meyer.

Mike was thanked for providing the membership list. Alan will update the website.

On the topic of changing the dues structure, Sara Nealy proposed “ Angel Sponsors,” those who would give \$1000. Barry said he would call a meeting of Sara, Mike and himself to go over this idea as well as the Chai club that was previously presented by Sarah Kramer.

A motion was made and seconded to lower the single membership from \$270 to \$180/year beginning the next year at High Holidays. Joel asked how many members of the board were single members and said that they should recuse themselves from the vote. Three of the board members attending the meeting were single members and did not vote. That left 8 members of the board attending the meeting eligible to vote. There were 6 for the motion, one against and one abstention. The motion passed. As of next High Holidays, the dues structure will change single membership from \$270 to \$180.

Sara Nealy asked that her previous email concerning “Gifts of the Heart” be considered in how we present our request for funds next year. Alan said he would resend the email to the board.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES

All going well at HQCG.

Concerning the Klezmer event at Kona Education Center (KEC), Alan noted that it is more expensive and less flexible with timing. The manager was considering charging for 15 minute early arrival at KEC to set up. Eventually that did not happen and they were happy with the way we cleaned up the venue. There were no known complaints about noise. When Mike was asked about the financials of this event, he said we brought in approximately \$200-\$300 and it cost another \$1000 that was taken from Nitzavim funds.

Yehudah thought we missed an opportunity to find out how people learned of this event noting the lack of young people who were in attendance. A suggestion for next time would be to have a “How did you hear about this?” box to check off: newspaper, website, etc. Also the wording should be changed from “suggested” to “requested” donation.

EDUCATION

As a way to improve our education opportunities and attract children to KBS, Barry asked the question: “Can we Zoom with Oahu hebrew schools?” The discussion that followed noted how, after the pandemic, kids don’t like Zoom. The tour of Temple Emanuel by the Nitzavim committee showed younger children interested in arts and crafts. Personal relationships were most important. Chabad’s emphasis is on

teaching beginning Hebrew. It was suggested that older kids could have shabbatons with their counterparts in Oahu once or twice a year to expand friendships and opportunities. KBS has nothing organized at this point.

CEMETERY

On a visit to Hilo Vivienne joined with Eva to inspect Beit Hashamayim. Eva noted that they are doing a good job with upkeep of the site.

Vivienne is taking a chevra kadisha course. It was noted that Chabad has the needed supplies on hand and are available to us.

WEBSITE

New website working well and web manager responsive to our needs.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Orchid plant has been sent to Ruth Ader as parting gift.

Ray Jackson is taking chemo every week and his wife, Joan, is a little stressed. Trina and Vivienne are in contact.

Vivienne noted that in her community, David Kaplan is dealing with cancer.

NORTH HAWAII CHAVURAH (NHC)

The February star gazing event at Spencer Beach was wonderful and Vivienne encouraged all to take advantage of this opportunity when it's offered.

The shabbaton with Rabbi/Cantor Jessica Kate Meyer will begin March 16. She encouraged everyone on the board to spread the word, put up flyers on community billboards about this event and to make reservations.

Saturday, March 18, shabbat service is at HQCG. Aviva asked R. Meyer to lead the service and give a drash but has not yet heard back from her. The Saturday night havdalah event at the Plaut's will not be a potluck, but there will be salad, hummus, falafel, naan and desserts.

NITZAVIM

Yehudah wrote the following report 3-5-23.

"Oahu visit, February 28, 2023

Aviva, Vic and I visited the Jewish congregations of Oahu, starting at the army base. Their synagogue, the Aloha Jewish Chapel (<https://www.facebook.com/alohajewishchapel>), is built specifically for all Jewish servicemen, both present and past. With a member, either active duty or retired, any Jew can enter and be part of the community on base.

Dan Bender, lay leader, talked to us about the congregation. While we were there, Mimi Lind gave a presentation about Jewish Community Services, in particular, outreach to people who need additional services like housing as well as food insecurity. Dan Bender added using their services for service people on Oahu. I told them, that to my knowledge, soldiers from Pōhakuloa Training Area never came to our synagogue.

We had lunch at Chabad of Hawaii. Rabbi Itchel and Pearl spoke about Chabad. It was a bit uncomfortable and disconcerting, for some of us, how similar their proselytizing resembled the approach using common phrasing and exhortations of the Southern Baptist Church. We toured their school which met on Sundays.

The remaining part of the day was spent at Temple Emanu-el (<https://www.shaloha.com/join-our-family.html>), where Josh Levinson is the president, and next door at Sof Ma'arav.

We started our visit by hearing Chris Gerson talk about Oahu Jewish Ohana (<https://oahujewishohana.org/>). The OJO model hires Rabbis to conduct online programs. They have no building. Most of what they do is via Zoom, on which they actively organize weekly activities.

We then listened to Don Armstrong from Sof Ma'arav. Don is the past president, having served 10 years. He talked about his efforts to organize Abraham's Garden (<https://jewishgirlmeetsnotsojewishboy.com/abrahams-garden/>), a Jewish burial organization.

Then, Sandy Armstrong, who is the current president of Sof Ma'arav, talked about the collaboration between her egalitarian, participatory, lay-led havurah. and Temple Emanu-el, the reform affiliated congregation next door. Sof Ma'arav has an arrangement with the Unitarian Church, whereby they are given free space to use for services, store their three Torah and space for prayer books. Sof Ma'arav conducts Saturday services weekly, reading from Torah. Temple Emanu-el conducts Friday evening services. I think they have around 70 families. Temple Emanu-el has around 225 families. It has a serving Rabbi/Cantor, Cherie Weiss. She was recently hired and brought with her a lot of family/children's programming.

We were given a tour of the Temple Emanu-el school by Rachel Garcia, Educational Director. The site has numerous buildings housing the School of Jewish Studies. The following programs are active for all children age groups: Nevatim for Learners Ages 0-5, SJS: K-7 Learning Experience, Kadima: grades 5-7 Hebrew Experience, B'nai Mitzvah Corner, Post B'nai Mitzvah Opportunities: grades 8-12 . Sof Ma'arav freely has access and uses the space at Temple Emanu-el when it needs it. There are many classrooms in the school to cover all the activities conducted on campus, many of them crafts rooms i.e. we saw in process, clay seder plates being made.

There are many members who belong to both synagogues.

The financial model in use at Sof Ma'arav in some ways is similar to ours in that we do not have to maintain our own physical plant. This allows them to exist because they have limited financial resources.”

Nitzavim committee members will be visiting Hawaii Island Jewish establishments May 3 and 4; our side of the island will be visited more than likely on 5/4. The Plauts will not be on island when they arrive. This date was established last year. The Hilo side is planning their visit presentations apart from KBS. Barry asked Vic to find the original email concerning what this visit should entail and send it to him. He wants to see something in writing, how many people, their names, when they are arriving. Barry asked Yehudah to send him Josh Levinson's email. Vivienne will be part of this committee. Vic said he would contact the Hilo side of the island to find out what they are planning. Aviva suggested a short video might be appropriate. Vic thought they should make a visit to HQCG. Let Alan know if a visit to HQCG is a part of the plan and he will call Chuck to make arrangements.

HIGH HOLIDAYS (HH)

Cantor Josh Chomsky has accepted coming on HH this fall.

Aviva accepted the responsibility to be the lead of the HH machzor committee. Everyone on the board as well as R. Shari and Cantor Chomsky should have a voice in choosing a machzor for the coming HH. Aviva feels we should be looking at Reform, Conservative or Reconstructionist machzors. Rabbi Pressman has sent a PDF of a Reconstructionist machzor, which Alan will email to the board. "Gates of Repentance" was another suggestion. Hard copy machzors are affordable. There can be a campaign to help pay for the books by selling a frontispiece in the book with "in memory of" or "in honor of". There is a joy of coming to service and opening a book and seeing your loved one's name.

SHABBAT VAYAKHEL-PEKUDEI March 18, 2023 10:30 a.m.

March 18 shabbat was booked for the shabbaton in place of our usual fourth Saturday shabbat.

Location: HQCG
Leader: probably R. Meyer to be confirmed
Drash: probably R. Meyer to be confirmed
Torah: Shari, Aviva, Vic
Challah: Silvermans

Potluck to follow services.

KUMSITZ/HAVDALAH March 18, 2023 5 - 8 p.m.

Location: Aviva and Yehudah Plaut's home

RSVP required

SEDER April 5, 2023 OLD A PAVILION

Doors open: 5:30 p.m. Seder begins: 6:00 p.m.

Quote from Chef Amelia is included in the Addendum.

In order to get the reservation page up on the website, a decision of how much tickets will cost was discussed. Amelia's meal cost per person is \$68. Additional costs for transportation and for setup/clean up for 65-70 people would bring the total to \$5700-5900. The charge for last year was \$75 members (\$37.50 for kids 6-13), \$95 for non-members (\$47.50 for kids 6-13), all children under 6 are free. The same fee structure was approved for this year. Amelia will tell us when she needs the final count of attendees.

Eva will check prices for seder items at the large Safeway in Hilo and Amazon. She will let Mike know and he can order and pay directly.

Alan and Barry will discuss the haggadah.

Barry asked if anyone was interested in working with Amelia. Complaints arose about the soup.

Barry encouraged as many as could do it please attend the seder. Alan has ordered the wine from Long's Drugs.

SHABBAT ACHREI MOT-KEDOSHIM April 29, 2023 10:30 a.m.

Since several members are away on the 4th Saturday, April 22, it was requested and accepted that shabbat services would be moved to April 29.

Location: HQCG
Leader: Trina Yerlick
Drash: TBD Shari?
Torah: R. Shari and Vic
Challah: Silvermans

Potluck to follow services.

UPCOMING BAR/BAT MITZVAHS

LIANA DOPPMAN JULY 22, 2023 HQCG

They are bringing their own cantor. Barry has been in touch with the cantor and has sent an email to Trina.

EVAN KAINALU WEDGEWOOD OCTOBER 28, 2023 HQCG

Barry will email Trina the expectations page about bar mitzvahs to give to the parents. Evan has been asked to come to the April shabbat service. He lives in Pahoehoe.

A discussion ensued about what requirements we should expect bar and bat mitzvot should do. The meeting was running long and more discussion was postponed.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting will be held April 2 at 10 am on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nella Silverman,
Secretary

ADDENDUM

From: Chef Amelia <fisherfamily@chefamelia.net>
Subject: RE: Seder info
Date: March 4, 2023 at 2:07:49 PM HST
To: Alan Silverman <alan.silverman@gmail.com>

Aloha everyone, here are the menu details and price points. I am referring to last years notes for this proposal.

Passover Seder Dinner 4-6-23
Location: Old airport pavilion
65-70 people @ \$68 per person
(final headcount due 3-31-23)

Delivery charge \$150
Pop up kitchen fee \$100
3 server attendants 4.5 hours \$202.5 each(\$607.5)
Chef on-site coordination fee 5 hr. @ \$75 ph
(\$375.0)

Estimated invoice:
\$5,652.50 - \$5902.5

Seder Plate:
I will provide the large plates, small plates, & bowls
Final count of these are due with headcount.
Committee will do accompaniments
I will provide Charoset ½ cup per person

1.Plated served green salad with citrus vinaigrette
Served with ½ hard boiled egg
(accompanied by gefilte fish (committee will supply)

2.Matzo ball soup with chicken broth, vegetable garnish, & herb (two balls per person)

3. Buffet
Crusted Beef Brisket
Non dairy horseradish aioli
Moroccan Vegetable stew with Ulu (vegetarian variety)

Sea salt olive oil roasted potatoes

Honey glazed dill Carrots with dates and orange

Lemon grilled green beans

I will provide bamboo plates for salads, buffet, desserts, * coffee cups

Dessert: Fresh fruit platter, coffee, and teas.

(non dairy creamers)

Committee will provide cookies

I will provide everything for service except a coffee and tea pot.

The committee will provide the silverware and napkins

And water pitchers (filtered water)

Note: Last year we used a tie on the chairs for the vegetarian guests to clarify for the servers.

My staff will be available for any help with tables and chairs for set up and breakdown.

Let me know if you have any questions or feedback.

Thanks so much, Chef Amelia