

Minutes
Kona Beth Shalom
Board of Trustees
June 4, 2023
Zoom (online) meeting

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

Alan Silverman, Eva Pierce, Barry Blum, Mike Bernstone, Vic Greenspan, Joel Gimpel, Nella Silverman and Trina Yerlick

TRUSTEES ABSENT

R. Shari Berman, Vivienne Aronowitz, Elaine Dobinson, Sara Nealy

OTHERS PRESENT

Aviva and Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Barry opened the meeting with readings from "The Joys of Yiddish."

MINUTES

Upon motion made and seconded, the amended minutes of the May 7, 2023, board meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Treasurer Mike Bernstone explained that donations from Nitzavim fund have no expiration date by which they must be used and that no further funds are expected.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HIGH HOLIDAY (HH) MACHZOR

A motion was made, seconded and passed that KBS purchase 50 sets of the reform machzor, "Mishkan Hanefesh," for no more than \$50 per set. This machzor will be the bedrock for our future high holiday celebrations and appropriate no matter who leads the services. It contains the KBS Torah portions we already chant on the HH. A Kindle version is also available for download for \$9.99/set and during the discussion there was the consensus that this online version should be made available for purchase by congregants who are attending via Zoom. Since the Kindle version is

immediately available upon purchase, it would not have to be ordered in advance. A question arose whether there would then even be a need for slides to be made of the pages for the Zoom participants. Shari has suggested we order directly from the publisher to reduce the cost. Nitzavim funds could be used to pay for these books. Trina will notify Cantor Jack Chomsky of our machzor choice, which he has reviewed and is comfortable using.

The problem of disposing of old machzorim was again brought to the attention of the board. These old books are now in the KBS storage unit.

FACILITIES

Hawaiian Queen Coffee Garden (HQCG) is available in July for the Doppmann bat mitzvah. The school that rents space will not be in session at that time.

The Old A Pavilion has been booked for December 10 for the Chanukah party.

EDUCATION

There is no leader for the Hebrew school and no children registered to attend. Trina's bar mitzvah student, Franz Hillert, is moving to Germany.

CEMETERY

No one has contacted KBS about a burial since last month. Heather Rivera, a member who lives on the East side, has been visiting Beit Hashamayim weekly. Barry encouraged any of our congregation to visit the cemetery. Eva is the shomer for the cemetery and, as she passes by almost every day, she sends a prayer for those buried there. Cemetery staff have been notified if they cannot contact Barry that they should contact Eva. The Board has trust in Eva to be the KBS contact there.

Vic thanked Ron and Eva for hosting the Nitzavim committee members when they visited the cemetery last month.

Vic gave Barry contact information for the former president of Sof Maarav, Don Armstrong, to ask about Abraham's Garden cemetery in Oahu.

WEBSITE

Some users of the website have complained of not being able to find the emails from KBS. Jewish Community Services uses the Constant Contact mail server but it does come with additional costs. It was decided that we are sticking with Mail Chimp.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Marilyn Anderson is having some medical issues and is on the mainland with her daughter. Trina is taking care of her mom. A couple of KBS members are visiting and in contact with Goldie Lefkowitz. Shai Yerlick is getting a new knee in July.

NORTH HAWAII CHAVURAH (NHC)

NHC had a successful havdalah and star gazing event in May. There will be no meeting in June, but the usual erev Shabbat will be held the second Friday in July. Rabbi Sydney Mintz will be living on the Big Island part time starting in August. She plans to do some programming. Stay tuned.

NITZAVIM

Nitzavim committee members visited Hawaii Island Jewish establishments in May. Eva was their guide when they visited the cemetery in Hilo. They asked questions of its history and, when they came to Kona, Barry provided the KBS brochure regarding our cemetery. Rabbi Gerlitzky and the Chabad community provided a delicious lunch to the visitors. KBS hosted the visitors at HQCG. Barry gave a background talk about KBS and then asked for ideas from the group to strengthen membership. Barry praised the good energy and caring attitude of the people who attended. Josh Levenson, the leader of Nitzavim, was unable to attend as he was ill with Covid.

After they visit Kauai Jewish community this summer, there are no further plans as yet for the future of Nitzavim. The sole purpose was to meet the Jewish communities on their home ground and see how they operate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LIANA DOPPMANN BAT MITZVAH July 22, 2023 10:30 a.m

Barry noted that Liana knew the prayers when she attended last month's shabbat service. Aviva has been in touch with her mainland cantor who shared their outline for training bar and bat mitzvahs that will be helpful to KBS. Buying kiddish cups as gifts for the upcoming bar and bat mitzvahs was agreed upon and Trina will order two online. Liana's family are expecting a large number of guests and have a tent and chairs ordered. Chuck Frumin will be contacted about time for the tent setup.

EVAN WEDGWOOD BAR MITZVAH October 28, 2023 10:30 a.m.

Evan asked his parents to have a bar mitzvah. He lives in Pahoehoe. Aviva and Trina are involved with his training. Barry would like to find a way to get Evan involved in a Jewish activity other than just the bar mitzvah. The movie "Soul Doctor" will be coming to town soon, which might be one such opportunity.

HIGH HOLIDAYS (HH)

The following HH events need to be planned: annual meeting, meet the cantor lunch or dinner, Shabbat Shuvah, tashlich, Succot, Simchat Torah.

Simchat Torah is on Sunday, October 8. That Sunday there are conflicting events that make it hard to plan. Saturday, October 7, late afternoon or evening would be better, perhaps havdalah and then Simchat Torah celebration. Leslie Harlib, pianist, might be available. Perhaps it could be celebrated at Kona Education Center. Imin Center does not allow any music.

PEACE GARDEN

Yehudah Plaut felt that KBS sponsoring a mezuzah for a non-home site is inappropriate. Barry disagreed.

SHABBAT KORACH June 24, 2023 10:30 a.m.

Location: HQCG
Leader: Aviva Plaut
Drash: ?
Torah: Vic, Aviva
Challah: Silvermans

Potluck to follow services.

NEW BUSINESS

PESACH

Barry is willing to be asked to lead the seder but he asked the Board to decide when and where to have it.

CANDLELIGHTING

Alan would like us to consider doing something different on Friday nights since it hasn't attracted the participation for which we'd hoped. Perhaps we could consider family gathering at the beach for a potluck, singing songs, even a semi-service. Since Vivienne has the 2nd Friday set aside for NHC, perhaps the 3rd Saturday might be appropriate for KBS.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nella Silverman,
Board Secretary