

Minutes
Kona Beth Shalom
Board of Trustees
January 7, 2024
Zoom (online) meeting

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT

R. Shari Berman and Eva Pierce

OTHERS

Aviva and Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

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

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

Barry requested a motion to suspend the rules for this meeting to allow the Chair to change the order of the agenda and to prevent any member from proposing a motion during a specific discussion. Joel so moved. Following discussion, the motion was seconded and passed.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Vic and seconded, the minutes of the December 3, 2023, board meeting were approved as amended. There was an inadvertent addition and punctuation error.

OPENING PRAYER

Mi shebeirach was chanted for all those in need of healing.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Concerning the question last meeting about the \$3,000 increase in fixed assets on the balance sheet, Mike said it was for the High Holiday machzorim that KBS ordered. Mike feels that KBS will be OK for awhile, so the Dues Committee can discuss the matter in a couple of months.

Joel moved to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES

The dates for renting Hawaiian Queen Coffee Garden (HQCG) have only been approved through June of 2024. The school that rents space at HQCG has had to find other accommodations for the fall. The new manager of the site is changing it from a nonprofit to a commercial venture; a restaurant is planned. Several trustees thought the timeline was not realistic to accomplish this change.

Barry noted that, at some point in time, we will have to begin a process for a new place to have services. Aviva said that having services at HQCG is unsustainable considering the age of our board members and those who help with services and holidays. It seems the new congregation, Beth Aloha Elohim (BAE) in Waimea, can offer more, given the money behind them and the professional staff. Yehudah suggested and received a positive response to an idea of sending a van to Kona to bring congregants to the Friday evening services. Rebecca Barnes has been named manager for BAE. A committee headed by Yehudah and Aviva Plaut will discuss how KBS should move forward. Barry, Sarah, and Elaine volunteered to be on the committee. Torah study will still happen on Zoom.

On Tuesday, January 2, Aviva and Yehudah hosted Nachum Fridman, co-creator of an "eco-healing" center at K'far Sarah in Israel to help IDF soldiers deal with Post Traumatic Stress Injury (PTSI). Nachum also went to BAE on Friday evening, Jan. 5 to inform and solicit help in continuing K'far Sarah.

WEBSITE

Alan noted website continues to be updated and is running smoothly.

NORTH HAWAII CHAVURAH (NHC)

Barry asked Vivienne if there is still a NHC after the advent of BAE. Vivienne says she has blended NHC into BAE. NHC still has money in the KBS treasury. There was one disbursement on January 4 to Ralph Melnick who did two Zoom seminars on anti-semitism. There was a discussion of when these funds might be transferred to BAE accounts and Barry decided, until all gets sorted out with the organization of BAE, that Viv will keep him informed when funds are brought in or taken out of her account with KBS.

Vivienne informed the board of events at BAE. Last Friday, January 5, services were conducted by Rabbi Sydney Mintz with Issac Zones as musical accompaniment. Nachum Fridman presented information about the K'far Sarah PTSI treatment center. Saturday, January 6, havdalah was held at Hapuna Beach with star gazing afterwards. On Sunday, January 28, there will be a Tu b'shvat celebration, planting trees. Rebecca Gottesman's brother, Rabbi Jonathan Miller, will be there. Tentatively, on Friday, February 9, Roz Barak will lead services. The next weekend, February 16-17, Rabbi Sydney Mintz's stepson will celebrate his bar mitzvah. Roz Barak will

conduct services on March 16. So far no definite plans have been confirmed for Pesach. Roz Barak has been invited to conduct High Holiday services this year. Rabbi Jessica Kate Meyer, who toured and led discussions throughout the island, is tentatively planning to come next January to stay a week or more.

CEMETERY

Barry sent a map of Beit Hashamayim (BH) plots and their availability and value. There are several plots still available. Barry thought that no more plots were needed to be purchased and, with no verbal objections from the Board, he will not engage Homelani for more plots adjacent to BH. Until all the plots are filled, there will only be a portable fence around BH. A permanent mechitza including the fence and a vine will then be requested. Barry encouraged anyone wanting to purchase a plot in BH to do so promptly for the best rates.

Eva emailed the board that the cemetery is neat and let the management know of recent threats to our Jewish community and to be aware for the well being of BH.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Jill Raznov, new case manager for Jewish Community Services (JCS), has backed off the number of hours she is working to focus on her own mediation practice. Mimi Lind of JCS is looking for someone on the West side of the island to help with the homeless and drug addicts.

A Zoom shiva service was held for Myron Glatt on Wednesday evening, December 6. Ruth Glatt would enjoy visits from friends.

Sandy Wexler was at the last shabbat and is looking enlivened with having family help. Now she lives at the Regency. Marilyn Anderson is in touch and brought her to services.

UPCOMING JEWISH OBSERVANCES

SHABBAT BESHALACH January 27, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Location: HQCG

Producer: Aviva Plaut

Priscilla Kostener, who regularly comes in January to help lead the service and possibly read Torah, will also be here.

Rabbi Jonathan Miller, Rebecca Gottesman's brother, will most likely give the drash.

SEDER

KBS not going to have a community seder this year. Joel made a motion that Alan will send an email to our members who live on Big Island asking that if they are

holding a seder, would they accept visitors or other members to join them. The motion was seconded and passed.

OLD BUSINESS

HAWAII JEWISH LEADERS CONVENING

Yehudah attended, but felt there was nothing particularly helpful for KBS. Josh Green spoke of recovery efforts in Maui. Yehudah will keep attending to stay informed. Barry was interested in keeping in touch with the new leader, Rabbi Freidenrich, and would come up with questions and an agenda for a possible Zoom session to support our efforts at KBS.

CHANUKAH PARTY RECAP

A nice event with music by Barry, Joel and Yehudah and Gloria Blum singing. Thanks to Vivienne, who manned the welcome table, we have 3-4 new names on our contact list, \$75 from the donation jar and miscellaneous sales of our Chanukah merchandise.

NEW BUSINESS

OAHU TEMPLE EMANUEL ZOOM TALK

On January 3, Governor Josh Green spoke on the state of anti-semitism in Hawaii at Temple Emanuel in Oahu. Alan provided Zoom connection information.

NEW MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY

D.J. Boltach comes from Belarus and moved to the U.S. when he was 12. He has recently found out from 23 and me of his Ashkenazic Jewish heritage. He has been attending the Chanukah party, shabbat services and Torah studies. He has professed interest in becoming a bar mitzvah. Aviva and Yehudah consulted with Rabbi Pressman from the Torah study who suggested a chumash for his studies, e.g. Etz Chaim. Barry has a copy that he would be willing to give DJ.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting will be held February 4 at 10 a.m. on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nella Silverman,
Secretary