

Minutes
Kona Beth Shalom
Board of Trustees
June 2, 2024
Zoom (online) meeting

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT

R. Shari Berman, Vic Greenspan and Eva Pierce

OTHERS

Aviva and Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPENING PRAYER

Barry read from the Pirkei Avot.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Joel and seconded, the minutes of the May 5, 2024, board meeting were approved as amended.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Mike said payments went out for renting of Hawaiian Queen Coffee Garden (HQCG) and our storage.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES

This is the last month of KBS contract with HQCG. We are still waiting to hear if we can rent the space for our July service. KBS may need to clear out our storage by the end of June.

Kona Education Center (KEC), where we have a backup reservation for July's service, does have internet. Alan will try to persuade KEC to allow our use of their internet for our online congregants and family that cannot make it to Hawaii for the bat mitzvah.

High Holidays (HH) dates for Rosh Hashanah (RH) and Yom Kippur (YK) are available to reserve at KEC. Alan has the form to fill out, plus a \$1000 check will be required to reserve each day. We still don't know if HQCG will be available or another facility, but reserving KEC seems the right thing to do. Mike moved to reserve KEC for the HH. The motion was seconded and passed. Mike will provide KBS checks for the rental. Clarification of dates: erev RH, Wednesday evening, October 2; RH, Thursday morning, October 3; Kol Nidre, Friday evening, October 11; YK, Saturday, October 12.; Shabbat Shuvah, Saturday morning, October 5, 2024. Will ask permission from KEC to leave books and other needs overnight in the room from erev RH to RH morning services and from Kol Nidre to Yom Kippur services. Alan says there is good security at KEC. Alan will ask if it is possible to leave the aron in an office or storage area between RH and YK.

The discussion began about finding a new place to have services as there is no guarantee that HQCG will be available to rent in the near future. Yehudah said that we should absolutely start thinking of a new place for KBS and that it should be done before thinking where to rent for the HH. The Committee to look for a new facility to rent has the following members: Barry, Elaine, Yehudah, Aviva, Sarah, and Una Greenaway (if she accepts). Barry asked to brainstorm possible places that we might rent on a long-term basis without stating any difficulties that might come along with that facility. Deciding the right place will be the job of the committee.

The following were suggestions for a new facility to rent for KBS: 1) the old Safeway location, 2) the old K-Mart location, 3) one of the following churches: Salvation Army, Jehovah Witness, United Methodist, Calvary; 4) Hawaii Technical Academy (old West Hawaii Today building), 5) old Regal Makalapua movie theatre in K-Mart shopping center, 6) Hotels in Kona, 7) La`i`opua Community Center Complex near Hawaii County Community Health Center, 8) public schools, 9) Imin Center, 10) Elk's Lodge in Hualalai Center (Leeds Center), 11) old Elk's Lodge, 12) Kona Brewing Co. new event space, 13) commercial properties owned by Jews, 14) New Thought Center in Kealahakua, 15) SKEA in Captain Cook, 16) private schools, Kuleana or Makua Lani, 17) sweetheart deals.

Barry will divide up the list of facilities to contact and give committee and some board members assignments to find out their assigned facility's suitability for KBS. A meeting will then ensue to review the results.

WEBSITE

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

CEMETERY

Heather had a conversation with Josh Stensrud, the new director at Homelani Cemetery, and when we decide a new fence needs to be installed, Homelani will install it. KBS will have to install a new fence before all plots are sold because the current one is rusted and zip-tied together. Heather is keeping an eye on it and right now that can be deferred.

Heather has spoken to Rabbi Shaya Rotenberg, Hilo Chabad, about the cemetery and Barry wants to distribute flyers to make sure any Jewish person on the Island knows that Beit Hashamayim is there.

There is a discussion about creating a Chevra Kadisha team on this Island: the Hilo Rabbi Rotenberg, Heather and Vivienne. Viv got a call from Alice Lachman, Oahu Chevra Kadisha, that a new student, Jen Schwarz from Hawaii Island, attended the Decisions of Fate training last week. Viv will make contact when she get more information.

BIKUR CHOLIM

No news to report.

JEWS NEWS

BEIT ALOHA ELOHIM (BAE)

Rebecca Barnes is away in Israel this month.

Vivienne organized a havdalah and stargazing event at Spencer Park this past Saturday, June 1, 2024, with about 16 people attending. Vivienne asked for \$180 for an honorarium from her North Hawaii Chavurah fund for Greg Doppman, astronomer, for all his help over the years with these events.

Wednesday, July 3 at 4pm, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival will present Czech Jewish composer Ilse Weber's music. She perished in the Holocaust. Watch for email.

Friday, July 5, Cantor Roz Barak will conduct services.

HILO CHABAD

Heather attended services and lunch on Saturday, June 1. There were about 20 people who attended.

SHAVUOT Tuesday, June 11, 2024 evening

Location: Yehudah and Aviva's home (also their 40th anniversary)
Study: Book of Ruth, reading of 10 commandments
Potluck: Blintzes by Plaut, the rest is up to those who attend
Watch for the email and RSVP.

SHABBAT BEHA'ALOTCHA June 22, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Location: HQCG
Producer/Leader: Aviva Plaut
Torah/Drash: TBD R. Shari Berman, Vic Greenspan
Challah: The Silvermans

RIDLEY MURRAY BAT MITZVAH July 20, 2024 10:30 a.m.
Location: HQCG or KEC
Luncheon after service provided by family.

SIMCHAT TORAH Thursday, October 24, 2024

Details to be determined.

CZECH SCROLLS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Details to be determined.

CHANUKAH Sunday, December 29

Hale Halawai is not available. KEC is available. Alan will give Barry Imin Center's phone number.

OLD BUSINESS

SECURITY AT KEC OR OTHER VENUES

Alan wants to check out the feelings of the Board regarding hiring an off-duty police officer to be present at our services. Discussion ensued with stories of mainland "trained" congregants bringing concealed weapons to the service to hiring off-duty police officers. More discussion was deferred until we know where we will be holding services. Everyone on the board was against the idea of congregants bringing weapons into the service.

NEW BUSINESS

REVERSE TASHLICH SERVICE September 29, 2024

Instead of throwing rocks or bread into the ocean, congregants would pick up garbage from the shore. It is a nationwide idea with registration to be completed by June 5. Vivienne will fill out the form and let everyone know where we will meet. BAE will also be involved.

JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES (JCS) STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP GATHERING

August 5 RSVP BY June 6

Two people from each organization will be flown free to Oahu to attend. Aviva and Vivienne will represent KBS. Barry will send RSVP paperwork.

YEHUDAH SENEGAL TRIP

Barry suggested Yehudah should give a talk when he comes back after teaching Family Farm Management. He went to Senegal last year also and brought back many photos and memories.

MOVE FROM HQCG

Vivienne thought movers should be hired to transfer our storage sundries from HQCG to our new location.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting will be held July 7 at 10 a.m. on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Remember: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Now go study.

Respectfully submitted,
Nella Silverman,
Secretary