

MINUTES  
ANNUAL MEETING OF CONGREGATION  
KONA BETH SHALOM (KBS)  
OCTOBER 1, 2023  
ZOOM (ONLINE) MEETING

MEMBERS LOGGED INTO MEETING

Alan and Nella Silverman, Barry and Gloria Blum, Joel and Jan Rae Gimpel, Vivienne and Michael Aronowitz, Trina and Shai Yerlick, Elaine Dobinson, Eva and Ron Pierce, Mike and Ruth Bernstone, R. Shari Berman, Vic Greenspan, Sarah Kramer, Aviva and Yehudah Plaut, Una Greenaway and Leon Rosner, Heather Friedman-Rivera

CALL TO ORDER

The annual meeting began at 10:02 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Barry Blum urged that this prayer - written by "UnXeptable," a grassroots movement launched by Israeli expats in support of a democratic Israel - be taken to heart by this congregation's leadership:

"May it be your will that the State of Israel be blessed and continue to exist as a liberal democracy, respecting all its inhabitants and all shades of Judaism.

"May it be your will that the leaders and people of Israel have the wisdom to listen to different voices and diverse viewpoints, manage the disputes, and take actions that benefit the community and the whole public.

"May it be your will that we have the strength to protect the judicial system's independence and preserve equal rights for all people of Israel and all Jewish people worldwide."

MINUTES

Minutes of last year's annual meeting were distributed to the membership before today's meeting for review. Upon motion made by Joel Gimpel and seconded, the minutes of the September 11, 2022, annual meeting were approved. It was noted by Barry Blum that these minutes had been reviewed by the board last year, a month after the 2022 annual meeting, to check them for accuracy.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

These remarks were prepared and read at the meeting:

"The times they are a'changing.' Internationally, nationally, locally and internally. The opening prayer expresses thoughts about some of the international changes. Nationally we are facing major choices to keep democracy functional. Internally,

many of us are experiencing health and family issues, and most of us are aging. Locally - Big Island \_ Jewish community - big changes! A new Jewish congregation is taking shape in Kamuela. "Big Island Synagogue," funded primarily by Marc Benioff at the former Mamane St. Bakery site in Kamuela, just conducted High Holiday services there. Rabbi Rachel Short, leader of Ahaha 'Aina, is taking a sabbatical. Chabad in Hilo is raising money for a torah. Chabad in Kona is alive and well. And Congregation Kona Beth Shalom is losing board members with no new replacements in sight (as far as I know)."

It was noted Rabbi Rachel has been released from her duties at Ahaha 'Aina by their board.

#### ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The bylaws state twenty-five percent (25%) of the congregation shall constitute a quorum at meetings. As of October 1, 2023, there are 61 members of KBS. (25% of 61= 15.25) We have 23 members on Zoom, so we have more than a quorum in attendance.

The bylaws state eighteen (18) is the maximum number of trustees, excluding the immediate past-president. There are currently eleven (11) trustees as Sara Nealy has resigned. Vic Greenspan is immediate past-president.

Two current trustees are up for reelection: Vivienne Aronowitz and Joel Gimpel . Sarah Kramer wanted to run for trustee and was accepted. By voice vote the two trustees up for reelection were reelected and Sarah Kramer was elected. All will serve 3-year terms.

The following are the Board of Trustees for KBS and the Hebrew and English years through which their terms run:

1. Vivienne Aronowitz 5786 (2026)
2. Rabbi Shari Berman 5785 (2025)
3. Michael Bernstone 5785 (2025)
4. Barry Blum 5785 (2025)
5. Elaine Dobinson 5784 (2024)
6. Joel Gimpel 5786 (2026)
7. Victor Greenspan 5785 (2025) Past President
8. Sarah Kramer 5786(2026)
9. Eva Pierce 5785 (2025)
10. Alan Silverman 5785 (2025)

11. Nella Silverman 5785 (2025)

12. Trina Yerlick 5785 (2025)

Congratulations to the Board.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Barry Blum, Michael Bernstone and Nella Silverman agreed to keep their positions. Barry nominated Vic Greenspan for 1st Vice-President and was accepted. Sarah Kramer volunteered to serve as 2nd Vice-President and was accepted. Joel called a vote by acclamation. All were voted into their respective offices. These are the officers for the coming year 5784 (2023-2024):

Barry Blum, President

Vic Greenspan, 1st Vice-President

Sarah Kramer, 2nd Vice-President

Michael Bernstone, Treasurer

Nella Silverman, Secretary

Congratulations to the Board Officers.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Mike sent the financial reports for the past year to the Board by email. Mike created a budget for the coming year that covers \$26,000 in income and \$26,000 in expenses. Barry requested that he be sent a copy of the budget.

The Dues Committee was asked to prepare a report for next month, as set out in its initial creation, to review membership dues structure for next year (2024-2025) and create ideas to increase revenue and membership for the overall well being of KBS.

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

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### FACILITIES

KBS continues to use Hawaiian Queen Coffee Garden (HQCG) as its monthly meeting place for services. In December Alan will send a list of proposed dates for services and holidays for the year 2024. Ideas to help cool the sanctuary and improve lighting will be discussed and brought to a future board meeting for consideration.

There are limited places to reserve in Kona for holiday activities. Hale Halawai is open weekend days only and is booked well in advance. Imin Center and Kona

Education Center have limitations on amplified music. Perhaps the Mamane Bakery facility bought by Big Island Synagogue in Kamuela will be open for events in the future.

## EDUCATION

October 28 will be Evan Wedgwood's bar mitzvah at HQCG.

A discussion ensued about where to find and encourage students to come to Hebrew School. Our Hebrew School now has no students and Trina Yerlick, our Hebrew teacher for the past several years, is no longer available.

## WEBSITE

Goal for this year will be to refresh the website. The problems to be resolved are: board documents retrieval, load speed of website and pages, calendar upgrade.

A discussion began of KBS using social media platforms other than Facebook. Facebook is now used for live streaming Saturday torah studies, which gives us later access to these programs. The question came up of what age group are we looking to bring into the congregation which will lead to finding appropriate other social media.

## CEMETERY

There will be a burial of ashes of Roslyn Cooper on November 17 at 1 p.m. at Beit Hashamayim in Hilo. All are welcome to attend. Barry will officiate. Eva plans to speak to her contact at Beit Hashamayim and suggest that an opportune time to install new fencing to create a uniform appearance would be after the November 17 burial of Michael Emmon's grandmother's ashes. Barry thanked Eva and Heather for being a continuing presence at Beit Hashamayim. He felt it shows Homelani that KBS is interested and cares about its upkeep.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Shabbat services are usually held the fourth Saturday morning of each month, both in person and on Zoom. Torah studies are conducted on the other Saturdays of the month on Zoom.

Sukkot will be celebrated Wednesday, October 4 between 4-5 pm at Paleaku Gardens in Captain Cook, HI, with Arnie Rabin, who built the permanent sukkah. Light desserts are welcome and wine will be provided.

Simchat Torah will be held at HQCG Saturday, October 7 at 6 p.m. with havdalah, unrolling and dancing with the Torah, and pot luck. Any musicians are encouraged to participate. Leslie Harlib will play piano and lead the entertainment. R. Shari will send appropriate havdalah service to Barry.

Bar Mitzvah of Evan Wedgwood will be held at HQCG on Saturday, October 28, 10:30 a.m. Family will provide the oneg. Trina has the kiddush cup to give Evan as KBS gift and will bring a birthday cake for Shai's 75th. The family is expecting approximately 40 guests. Aviva will discuss arrangement details with the mom, Jill Raznov.

Chanukah will be celebrated at HQCG on Sunday, December 10 at 4 p.m. Leslie Harlib? Latkes? and other details to follow.

Other holidays occurring in 2024 (Seder in April, Bat Mitzvah in July, High Holidays in October) will be discussed later. There are hopes to plan a grand celebration at Simchat Torah with Jan Prchal and his Czech family who care for the museum that once was the synagogue in Polna, where our Torah originally resided. Thoughts are to run Sara Nealy's film, invite the governor and mayor.

The annual meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m. The board meeting will now begin.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nella Silverman  
Secretary