

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

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT

R. Shari Berman

OTHERS PRESENT

Aviva and Yehudah Plaut

Trina Yerlick

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting began at 10:01 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Mi shebeirach was said for those in need of healing.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Mike and seconded, the minutes of the June 2, 2024, board meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial report was emailed to the board before the meeting. Next month's report will be late as Mike will be away until the middle of August.

The last of the scheduled rental payments to Hawaiian Queen Coffee Garden (HQCG) have been paid. From now on it will be paid on a month to month basis.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES

The Hawaiian Queen Coffee Garden (HQCG) confirmed that we can use their facility for July 20, 2024, for Ridley Murray's bat mitzvah. Mike has paid the rental fee.

There is still no answer if we can use HQCG for service in August 2024.

NEW VENUE IN LIEU OF HQCG CLOSING

After members visited and reviewed the list of locations that might be a replacement for HQCG, it was felt that New Thought facility in Kealekekua was the best choice.

Last week Mike and Elaine visited Beit Aloha Elohim (BAE) in Waimea and found it an excellent facility. Mike thought the commute to Kealekekua would be long and the roads are bad. Vivienne was asked to find out if KBS could rent the space for our services. Some of the advantages are the facility is air conditioned, excellent kitchen, recently renovated. Vivienne thought that KBS would not be charged rental fees. Some unknowns were whether there is storage for our ark and torah, books, tallit and kepot. Some disadvantages were security measures that could make it difficult for out-of-towners to just drop in; no external signs to identify the building. There could be security costs for the off-duty police who check people in. Alan noted when KBS hired security the rate was \$150/hour. Joel made a motion which was seconded to form a committee to explore the possibility of BAE being suitable for KBS after HQCG closes. A vote was taken and it did not pass. The discussion continued.

The 4th Saturday mornings, KBS's usual time for in-person services, BAE would be available to rent but not for the High Holidays (HH). A suggestion was made to rent a van to shuttle people from South Kona.

Yehudah felt that we may have misled New Thought, as they have rearranged their schedule to accommodate our dates. Aviva asked where would that leave our relationship with a group that took our concerns for a KBS home seriously.

Since HQCG is unwilling to confirm a reservation more than one month in advance, KBS needs to have a backup location for services in August. Joel made a motion to rent New Thought for our August services. The motion was seconded and passed. After much discussion, Aviva was asked to contact New Thought for rental of their facility for our August 24 service with the understanding that we have not made any permanent decision.

Barry felt that KBS is not ready to commit to either place. Barry tabled the discussion of plans needed for moving out of HQCG.

KBS has a reservation for HH at Kona Education Center (KEC) for Rosh Hashanah but Alan will have to complete paperwork for Yom Kippur.

WEBSITE

The web host informed KBS that our website is using a lot of data. There needs to be changes to pages to reduce this usage, such as reducing photo size..

CEMETERY

Heather has recently visited Beit Hashamayim and found it clean and in good condition. She reached out to Jen Shwarz, a death doula, and gave her our cemetery brochure. Jen is not interested in chevra kadisha unless virtual.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Ray Jackson has recently been in the hospital, discharged today. Everyone was encouraged to reach out to him and his wife, Joan.

Barry was in touch with a woman, who is assisting a Jewish woman living in Mountain View in abject poverty, sign up with Medicare. Barry put her in touch with Raquel Glassman, Hawaii Island's representative of Jewish Community Services (JCS).

Heather met with Raquel Glassman and they are working to create a Jewish hiking group. The first hike will be Aug 11, 2024. Heather will send Alan the flyer when approved. Heather also gave Raquel the cemetery brochure.

JEWS NEWS

According to Vivienne, Kona Chabad's legal injunction concerning using their house as a public place of worship has been resolved in their favor.

BAE

On July 3, the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival presented "The Songs of Ilse Weber." It was quite touching, talking about her life and her work during the Holocaust.

Friday, July 5, services were held by newly ordained "Rabbi" Roz Barak.

Friday, July 26, services will be conducted by Rabbi Roz.

Friday, August 16, services will be conducted by Rabbi Sydney Mintz.

Beth Or is having a Bagel Brunch on the Beach on Sunday July 14 at Onekahakaha Beach Park in Hilo 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SHABBAT BALAK July 20, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Location: HQCG
Event: Ridley Murray's bat mitzvah
Leader: Aviva Plaut, Shira Keshet
Torah: Ridley Murray, Rachel Silverman, her mom, and grandparents,
 Nella and Alan Silverman
Drash: Ridley Murray
Challah: Silvermans
Kiddush: sponsored by the family

There will be 2 tents set up outside the garage area with seating for all guests. The lunch will be catered by Poi Dog Deli with special addition of Shai Yerlick's amazing hummus platter. Joel promised to bring his fiddle. Tables will be set up on the outdoor lanai. The grandparents will give Ridley her tallit. Kepot are here. Candlesticks are the congregation's gift for the bat mitzvah. There will be mics set up on the side for people who are going to have readings. Alan and Nella want to thank all the hard work that Aviva Plaut has done to accomplish this simcha. Rachel needs to return paperwork to Barry.

NEW BUSINESS

AUGUST SHABBAT

R. Shari Berman has requested to lead the August services. She will be in Japan.

HIGH HOLIDAYS (HH)

Start to think about contributions to the Annual Newsletter.

Barry wanted to make sure someone is in contact with Cantor Jack Chomsky for any questions around his visit for the HH. The Plauts and the Yerlicks will host Jack and his wife, Susan. Barry has sent Jack the information about Reverse Tashlich Waterfront Cleanup, but has not heard back from him. Barry is leaving extra events during the time the Cantor is here open for now.

SIMCHAT TORAH

Plans need to be made if there is going to be a band. This could be a combined event with BAE. Barry will speak with Rebecca Barnes, manager BAE.

CHANUKAH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

No place has been found as yet, Hale Halawai not available. Perhaps we can combine with BAE.

VISITORS TO THE ISLAND

Cantor Jessica Kate Meyer has plans to return to visit KBS and the whole island in January.

Linda Hirshhorn, a Jewish Bay Area singer, is interested in visiting. Trina would host her. Time to be decided.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nella Silverman,
Secretary