

Minutes
Kona Beth Shalom (KBS)
Board of Trustees
April 6 , 2025
Zoom (online) meeting

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

Alan Silverman, Nella Silverman, Elaine Dobinson, Barry Blum, Vic Greenspan, Heather Rivera, Joel Gimpel, Vivienne Aronowitz, Stuart Liroff and Mike Bernstone

TRUSTEES ABSENT

R. Shari Berman and Sarah Kramer

OTHERS PRESENT

Aviva and Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPENING PRAYER

Barry read from Naomi Remen's book, "My Grandfather's Blessings": "After all these years I have begun to wonder if the secret of living well is not in having all the answers but in pursuing unanswerable questions in good company."

MI SHEBEIRACH

Prayer was said for the entire country as well as everyone on the board and for Larry Cohen and his mother, Roz. Marilyn Anderson is recovering from successful surgery.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Vic and seconded, the minutes of the March 2, 2025, board meeting were approved.

MONTHLY MENTION

Heather wanted to thank Elaine for her phenomenal work heading up the Engagement Committee. She's brought great energy and exceptional leadership skills, very organized and has infused our congregation with new and interesting things to do.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial report was sent by email to the board prior to the meeting.

Mike said there was one new membership this month, another Silverman family that is moving to the Big Island from Colorado. All our financial resources are in a safe place. Thank you, Mike, for taking care of this for the past many years.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES

Alan and Vic had a quarterly update Zoom meeting with folks at New Thought Center Hawaii (NTCH) to go over some issues.

1. Internet - NTCH has agreed to move from Hawaii Telcom wired connection to a wireless connection from T-Mobile for better and more reliable internet service.
2. Lighting - With our community seder coming up on Sunday evening, NTCH has agreed to replace some of the bulbs with larger ones so that there is sufficient lighting to read the haggadahs.
3. Short notice date changes - NTCH asked for 3 weeks notice if KBS would like to make a change from current reserved dates for services.
4. Alan responded positively to NTCH's board's request for some members to attend our community seder.
5. Moving the aron from its storage place in the meditation room to the covered lanai continues to be challenging. Our aron is on wheels which cannot touch the wood floor, as well as being just barely able to pass under the non-standard short doorway. Vic will contact Joe Rosner, the creator of the aron, who has recently returned to the Big Island, and will work out a fix and will do repairs.

KBS has no other spaces booked, but will need a space for Simchat Torah.

CEMETERY

Heather visited the Beit Hashamayim and it looked good.

Barry has sent a revised pamphlet with rules and regulations for the cemetery pamphlet that was approved by committee email. It can now go onto the website. Barry printed copies to distribute: some to bring to services, 2 copies to the cemetery office, 2 copies each to funeral homes in Kona and Hilo, 2 copies each to the Chabad rabbis, 2 copies to Rebecca at Beit Aloha Elohim (BAE). Several plots are still available and prices are noted in the booklet.

WEBSITE

Website holding steady. The revised cemetery booklet is on the website. There are updates to the slide show, e.g. hike at Pu'u Wa'a Wa'a.

Using the banner to highlight upcoming events has alerted people to the hike and has generated several responses for the community seder. It seems to be a good communications tool for our congregation's activities.

Heather will continue to pass along our activities to the Jewish Community Services (JCS) website.

The website committee will plan a meeting after the community seder to continue coming up with ideas to refresh the look of the website.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Barry noted that Roz Cohen does not need visitors as her Alzheimer's has progressed. JCS is providing support to move her to a full care facility. Patty, her daughter, is now involved.

Goldie Lefkowitz will celebrate her 103rd birthday this coming Saturday.

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Heather and Vic led a 4.5 mile hike up to the base of Pu'u Wa'a Wa'a last Sunday. Thinking of having another hike at Spencer Beach possibly in May.

The committee is having a meeting this Thursday, April 10, at 4 p.m. on Zoom. The Community Seder is being held on Sunday evening, April 13, starting at 5 p.m. There are plans to have a challah baking session at the Silverman's home on May 18.

HIGH HOLIDAYS (HH)

A letter has been sent to Lisë Stern that we will not be engaging her for the upcoming holiday.

While in Israel, Aviva met with Jack Chomsky, our cantor for the last two HH, to ask for suggestions of possible HH leaders. There was a problem with requests that Aviva previously sent out but were not received by her prospects. Aviva will make sure to resend to these contacts.

R. Shari is not going to be in HI.

R. Sandra Razieli independent rabbi located in Maui is a possibility. She was a contact through Nitzavim.

Priscilla Kostiner has been asked if she has a suggestion for us.

ADULT LEARNING/JUDAISM 101

Aviva has been collecting material on her visit to Israel. Her thought for the first get together would be sharing: Jewish Stories, Tell Us Yours.

SHABBAT SHAMINI April 26, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Location: NTCH
Leaders: Aviva
Torah: TBD
Drash: Aviva - reflections on her trip to Israel
Challah: Silvermans
Security: Vic
9 a.m. setup: Plauts, Silvermans, Vic

NO TORAH STUDY SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025

COMMUNITY SEDER NTCH Sunday, April 13, 2025 5:00 p.m.

There are 33 attendees signed up with people already volunteering to cook brisket, orange chicken and salmon. There should be enough tables and chairs at NTCH to accommodate. Heating plates will be needed as there is no stove there.

The venue is open at 3:30 p.m. for setup and we need to be out by 9:00 p.m. Much help will be needed. Although not a glatt kosher meal, we are following the conservative guidelines of the 5 forbidden grains and leavening, but allowing all other grains and legumes. As we are serving meat, it is asked that no dairy and of course no shellfish be used.

JEWS NEWS

Beit Aloha Elohim (BAE) will have Friday night services April 4 at 6 p.m. with Rabbi Roz Barak. Saturday Passover dinner will be on April 12 at 5:30 p.m. with Rabbi Roz Barak. Music concert with Noa on Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m. Saturday study on April 19 at 5 p.m. with Rabbi Ryan Bauer followed by beer and pizza and live music. Friday service on April 25 at 6 p.m. with Rabbi Sydney Mintz and Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback.

Hilo Jewish Women's Circle had a seder plate painting event on April 3 at 5 p.m. Beth Or will have a seder on April 13 at 7 p.m. in Hawaiian Paradise Park. Hilo Chabad will have a seder on April 12th and 13th in Hilo.

OLD BUSINESS

Natan Rothstein, Ann Rothstein's brother, has co-written an article for the Jerusalem Post about the history of his parents and recollecting his time on the Big Island.

NEW BUSINESS

We will table Sponsorships discussion for next month.

Kona Historical Society is opening a Bee Keeping Legacy exhibit created by the granddaughter of Gus Rouse, who raised queen bees in South Kona for three decades. Open April 8 thru July 3, limited hours.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held May 4, 2025, at 10 a.m. on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nella Silverman,
Secretary