

Minutes
Kona Beth Shalom (KBS)
Board of Trustees
February 2, 2025
Zoom (online) meeting

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT

R. Shari Berman

OTHERS PRESENT

Aviva and Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPENING PRAYER

Aviva lead prayers for our country and for Israel emphasizing compassion, peace and wisdom for our leaders.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Barry and seconded, the minutes of the January 5, 2025, board meeting were approved.

MONTHLY MENTION

Heather thanked Nella for her taking minutes and all the secretarial work she does for us. Elaine thanked the Silvermans for hosting the first membership committee shabbat dinner.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Mike reported that we received a large donation from a former member, Richard Green. Jan Rae sent him a thank you note.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES

There was still an internet issue at the last in-person shabbat. Alan is still in discussion with New Thought Center Hawaii (NTCH) to improve that.

Alan noted that there was excellent attendance at the past shabbat. Priscilla Kostiner helped lead a moving service along with her extended family, including her grandchildren. Ann Rothstein attended in person and her brother, Natan, from Israel on Zoom, for a remembrance of their parents passing 20 years ago. They were founding members of KBS. Shout out to Alan for the Zoom connection to Israel so that Natan could participate.

Barry wanted to get official KBS thank you notes out to Priscilla Kostiner as well as Trina and Shai Yerlick, long term KBS members who are in the process of moving to California to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Barry will contact Jan Rae to find out what cards she uses for this correspondence.

CEMETERY

Heather noted that visual inspection of Beit Hashamayim was fine. The management of Homelani cemetery asked to speak to Heather and Barry about some new opportunities for KBS.

Barry explained there are 6 plots available for purchase within the mechitza that are only slightly different in price. Mike moved that he will calculate the average cost of the 6 remaining plots and set a price. The motion was seconded. Mike will bring back the information to the Board at the next meeting. Joel moved to table the discussion until the next meeting. The Board voted to table.

A discussion regarding fees other than the purchase price to be included when buying a plot would be out of the purview of KBS. Fees are handled by the Hilo cemetery that cares for the grounds.

WEBSITE

Website update committee met last month. Heather created a Google doc for a list of proposed changes. A few changes and updates were distributed for different members of the committee to complete. The on-screen banner is being used more to highlight current happenings.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Jewish Community Services (JCS) is looking to hire a case manager for the west side of Hawaii Island. Barry has contacted Raquel Glassman about Roz Cohen needing care. Vivienne is on the board of JCS. Viv has connected Raquel with Jeff Sturmer, a caregiver who wants to volunteer (found on Jews in Hawaii Facebook page). There's a new program being started, The Village, for seniors in need.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Basic idea is to hold Friday night shabbat dinners, inviting members and prospective new members. Currently committee members are hosting these dinners at their homes, but there is a need to open up these shabbat dinners to the board and eventually the whole congregation. If we get an overwhelming response to come to these dinners, we would then think about NTCH as a site. Any ideas from the Board would be welcome. Please send an email to Elaine.

MI SHEBEIRACH

Prayer was sung for Heather recovering from shoulder surgery, Sarah Kramer, Mike Bernstone, Jan Rae, for those suffering after the wildfires in California, Roz Cohen, recently released hostages and their families in Israel, for our fragile democracy and those people being affected whether to their emotional or physical health, and to all who are in need of healing.

ADULT LEARNING/JUDAISM 101

Aviva's training is focusing on how to lead a Friday night service, a Saturday morning service and havdalah. Aviva is encouraging more engagement from KBS members and the membership committee's Friday night shabbat dinners are helpful, but younger people are seeking content that is not totally related to Jewish ritual. Aviva is trying to embrace the opportunity for adult Jewish learning, including music, art, literature, holidays and life cycles. She suggests we choose a regular monthly meeting time, perhaps a week night, and it could be done in person or online. The first subject, suggested by Aviva, will be watching a documentary about the history of Judaism, music and antisemitism. Each participant should be willing to present a topic. April would likely be the beginning meeting.

SHABBAT MISHPATIM February 22, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Location: NTCH
Leaders: Aviva
Torah: Shari?, Vic
Drash: Aviva
Challah: Silvermans
Security: Vic
9 a.m. setup: Plauts, Silvermans, Vic

OLD BUSINESS

SHAVUOT MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025

Aviva reached out to Rabbi Kerry Chaplin after her initial letter saying she would be on island. R. Chaplin would prefer an erev shavuot teaching either in-person or on Zoom. She asked about a stipend. Aviva thought a day service would be better for our congregation as well as including a celebration of R. Shari's return to Big Island. Barry moved to authorize an honorarium of \$118. The motion was seconded and passed. A sponsorship would be appropriate for this event and can be put on the agenda for next month's board meeting.

POTLUCK SEDER SUNDAY APRIL 13, 2025

A suggestion was made to have a second night potluck seder this year. Alan was asked to see if NTCH was available. Barry will draft a letter for members of the congregation to see if there is any enthusiasm for a community potluck seder. The emphasis would be on keeping it local.

JEWS NEWS

Beit Aloha Elohim will have first night seder in Waimea. Friday, February 7 service will be led by Rabbi/Cantor Roz. Friday, February 21 service and Tu B'shvat seder will be led by Rabbi Sydney. The mitzvah hui prepared 150 portions of food for the friendly fridge in Waimea in January and will help fund and prepare the Thursday evening community meal at St James Church in May.

NEW BUSINESS

HIGH HOLIDAY CLERGY SEARCH

Committee members: Aviva, Barry, Alan
Cantor Chomsky will not be available to come this year.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held March 2, 2025, at 10 a.m. on Zoom. NOTE: Aviva will not be on island to lead the March service.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nella Silverman,
Secretary