

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

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Sarah Kramer and R. Shari Berman

OTHERS PRESENT

Aviva and Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

Heather called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Aviva read the prayer for our country from the Conservative Siddur Sim Shalom and felt it should apply to Israel too. Mishebeirach was said for those in need of healing including those attending this meeting and in our community, Heather, Michael, Aviva, Jan Rae, Marilyn Anderson, Roz Cohen and Linda and Lou Harris.

MINUTES

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

MONTHLY MENTION

Thanks go to Aviva Plaut for all that she does for our congregation, leading services, Torah studies, and Judaism 101 and everything else that she contributes to KBS.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Mike reported that liability insurance is due in March as well as the monthly storage unit rental. There were donations from previous members but no renewals of membership this month. Joel moved to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

## FACILITIES

The in-person shabbat at New Thought Center of Hawaii (NTCH) on February 22 had problems again with their internet dropping out and was only noticed by those attending via Zoom for about 3 minutes. Alan decided that he would use the portable hotspot from now on to avoid this problem until NTCH improves their internet connection.

KBS is penciled in for April 13, 2025, for the second night of Passover if we decide to sponsor a pot luck community seder.

## CEMETERY

Heather visited the cemetery last week and everything looked fine.

Barry reviewed and updated the Rules and Regulations of the cemetery as it is the duty of KBS to make sure the graves are maintained in perpetuity. A copy of the revised Rules was emailed to the board before the meeting. A member would like to return a purchased plot since they are moving off island. Questions need to be resolved to clarify who can purchase this plot and for what price. Other questions were brought up, such as duplication of some of the rules, and changing the specific prices of fees (these may change over the years) to just naming the fees. A motion was made by Vivienne to approve sale of a returned plot to a daughter of a member who is buried in the cemetery. Barry objected to making a motion to change the Rules to include specifically named individuals. Joel brought issues with wording in the Rules and offered to review them for legal clarity. Heather tabled the motion until the document can be reviewed by counsel. All questions regarding the revised Rules, including the change in pricing for the remaining available plots, should be sent by email to the Board for review at least 7 days prior to the next Board meeting so that final revisions can be completed before the meeting.

## WEBSITE

The meeting for this past month had to be cancelled due to illness and Yehudah will be off Island this coming month. Unsure when another committee meeting can be scheduled. Topics to be decided will include which documents should be made available to the public, for example; Rules for the Cemetery, Rules for Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or membership list.

## BIKUR CHOLIM

Linda Harris is not doing well and in hospice palliative care. E.J., Roz Cohen's son, is still in need of monetary and social help with his mom. Goldie Lefkowitz will be celebrating her 103rd birthday in April. Goldie's daughter's partner was hit head-on in an accident on Queen K and is going through extensive surgeries at Queen's in Oahu.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The second Friday night shabbat gathering occurred last Friday at Elaine Dobinson's home. Ann Rothstein came and is getting more involved in KBS activities. The Silvermans will host a challah making Sunday this month. Vic and Heather will plan some hikes/walks. Stuart is working on reaching out to those congregants who did not renew this year.

Yehudah suggested changing the name of the committee to Engagement Committee instead of Membership to more accurately portray what the committee's aims are. The Board agreed to the change.

#### HIGH HOLIDAYS (HH)

Barry wrote and Aviva called Lise Stern, a rabbinic student at Hebrew College, who sent an email inquiry about being our leader for the coming HH. The hurdle of what KBS could afford to pay her seems to be cleared. R. Jessica Kate Meyer, who did an island-wide shabbaton in 2023, is on the Hebrew College faculty, and Vivienne suggested she could ask her for a recommendation. Meanwhile Lise is sending more information to Aviva for review. Questions were raised about whether the type of service Lise might lead would be recognizable and comfortable to our congregation as well as having meaningful sermons. So far we have no other candidates to conduct HH services.

#### ADULT LEARNING

The first session of Judaism 101 for Adults will be an overview about mainstream North American Jewish affiliations, e.g. conservative, reconstructionist, renewal. Aviva's availability would be either Monday or Tuesday, afternoon or evenings. Please give feedback. After Aviva returns next month, there will be definite day and time decided.

SHABBAT SHUSHAN PURIM	MARCH 15, 2025	10:30 a.m.
	OR	
SHABBAT PARAH	MARCH 22, 2025	10:30 a.m.

Location: NTCH  
Leader: Barry  
Torah: TBD (15th reading of Megillah)  
Drash: TBD  
Security: Vic  
Challah: Silvermans  
9 a.m. setup: Silvermans, Vic  
Potluck

Alan will check with NTCH for availability March 15.

COMMUNITY SEDER	SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025	5:00 PM
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Location: NTCH (Alan has reserved the date)

Response to the flyer asking about interest in having a pot luck seder: sent to 240 people on island list; 15 responses, 8 positive responses with a maximum of 20 people that could attend. Yehudah and Aviva additionally would attend if it were this small a gathering. Discussion recommended that this stay a small seder with no more than 30 people attending. Comments were concerned that the seder would not be too long. Some food could be ordered and charged to KBS. Mike was okay with KBS paying for a catered main dish, for example. It was thought that a minimal fee should be charged so that people would not back out at the last minute. The sign-up form needs to be organized so that we get all the dishes we need. Joel moved that KBS would have a potluck community seder on the second night of Pesach at NTCH with KBS paying for a portion of the cost, adults \$10 and children under 13 free. The motion was seconded and passed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

SHAVUOT

Monday, June 2, 2025

Morning

Aviva noted that her home would be available Sunday evening, June 1, for erev shavuot gathering. Alan has June 2 penciled in by NTCH but not booked. Aviva will contact Rabbi Kerry Chaplin next month to finalize plans. R. Shari is expected to have returned to Kona at this same time.

#### JEWS NEWS

Beit Aloha Elohim (BAE) will have Friday night services March 7 with R./Cantor Roz Barak. Purim service, Friday, March 14, at 6 pm led by Rabbi Sydney Mintz including megillah reading and hamantaschen. Friday shabbat service, March 28, led by Rabbi Sydney Mintz and Cantor Marsha Attie.

Chabad Hilo having a hamentash bake on Sunday, March 9, 4:30 pm.

#### HONORARIUM

Heather requested that we raise the limit for the President to offer an honorarium without Board approval from \$100 to \$118. Barry so moved. The motion was seconded and passed.

#### THANK YOU CARDS

Barry spoke to Jan Rae and a thank you card was sent to Priscilla Kostiner for co-leading services in January. Aviva has a cache of KBS thank you cards in case Jan is away. She and Yehudah sent a thank you to the Yerlicks, long time members who just moved away.

#### SCRAPBOOKS

KBS has received a \$247 bill from Michael and Solomon Herbert for completing the scrapbook project, digitizing archival congregation photos. There will be a committee formed to determine what the final version of the scrapbook should become. Many of the pictures would need identification of who and what they depict. Only the most senior members of the community may be able to identify them. Heather asked that we table this discussion as it seems a daunting project right now with everything else going on. Perhaps it could be put in the archives part of the website for now. Alan said he could get it transferred if Yehudah can download it to him. Mike said that he could take temporary charge of the project to get it organized. Aviva will write a thank you note to the Herberts.

#### SPONSORSHIP

This subject will be tabled until the next Board meeting.

#### NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held April 6 at 10 a.m. on Zoom. Please send any agenda items to Heather a couple of weeks ahead of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nella Silverman,  
Secretary