

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

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

Alan Silverman, Nella Silverman, Elaine Dobinson, Barry Blum, Heather Rivera, Joel Gimpel, R. Shari Berman, Stuart Liroff and Mike Bernstone

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Vivienne Aronowitz, Vic Greenspan and Sarah Kramer

OTHERS PRESENT

Aviva Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPENING PRAYER

Aviva spoke about the war between Israel and Iran, and about hope. Hopeful people can move mountains. Hopeless people are easily manipulated. Israel and the Jewish people have hope.

MI SHEBEIRACH

Prayer was sung for the entire board, especially Elaine, Mike, Heather, Barry, Shari, Sarah, and Vic; as well as Marilyn Anderson, Jan Rae and Aviva's friend in Kentucky. We also included the flood victims in Texas, and Israelis still fighting,

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Joel and seconded, the minutes of the June 1, 2025, board meeting were approved.

MONTHLY MENTION

Heather recognized Joel for his sharp legal mind, attention to detail, and commitment to our bylaws. He has been incredibly valuable to this board. Barry added that Joel's violin accompaniment at services is beautiful.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Mike reported that it was a pretty quiet month. He will be transferring \$10,000 from our checking account to our credit union account that pays better interest.

There was a question why the Torah is not considered an asset in the report. Our congregation does not own the Torah. It is loaned from the Memorial Scrolls Foundation.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES

Alan reported our services at New Thought Center of Hawaii (NTCH) are running smoothly. We thank Aviva for the contact with Rabbi Rebecca Epstein leading a wonderful service last shabbat. A thank you and honorarium was sent out.

Pasha, our contact at NTCH, made KBS aware of different offices that are coming available at their site. The downstairs area contains four different offices, but when visited by a committee, they were deemed unsuitable because of lack of water for a kitchen and the amount of renovation needed to make it a single unit. The upstairs office had a condominium fee of \$1100/month, which was too high for our budget. Heather spoke to real estate agent and KBS member Arnie Rabin, who was helping us with consideration of the property.

A motion was made by Joel to contact Zoom, with whom KBS has an account, to get a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) KBS phone number for a \$5/month fee. The total fee to Zoom would then be approximately \$21/month. The motion was seconded and passed. Heather would answer the phone and receive messages through our KBS logon. Alan will look into setting this up.

CEMETERY

The new fencing for the mechitza has been delivered to Homelani. An installation date has not been set, but when it is, Heather will be there to oversee its installation.

Trina Yerlick sold back a plot in Beit Hashamayim when she moved off Island. Ann Rothstein may be interested since her parents plots are there. This plot is \$1596, much lower in price than the latest plots KBS has purchased. Joel moved that this one plot be made available to our congregation at the lower price until December 31, 2025, with their choice of available open spaces. After that, if not sold, the plots would bump up to \$3933, average of the other plots cost. If the plot does sell, the average will then be \$4223 per plot. The motion was seconded and passed. It was noted that this price is only for the plot; there are more burial fees that need to be paid to Homelani Estates. Heather will draft a letter that will be sent to all members.

WEBSITE

There's a new addition to the website: Jewish Joy Center. Heather wrote the first article and is asking the board members to add more articles and welcomes other articles written by our larger community. Heather encourages everyone to contribute a memory, tradition, fun family story, a recipe to build joy in our Jewish heritage. The click link on the banner did not work for everyone, so Alan will correct the problem.

It was suggested that KBS note on the banner when a visiting clergy conducts a service or other program. It may help draw interest in those events.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Heather recently had a colonoscopy where she found a surprising result and wanted to encourage everyone to regularly follow their doctor's advice about regular colonoscopies.

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Since January there have been many events from shabbat/holiday dinners to hikes and challah-making, to encourage participation at KBS and hopefully recruit new members. Elaine now wants to do a survey of those non-members who have attended these events, to get feedback about what it would take to get them to join KBS. Heather has written up a list of positive things about KBS and a framework of questions to help guide the contacts. This will be taken up at the next Engagement Committee meeting this next Wednesday at 4.

To encourage membership, Joel moved to allow new members who join now to have membership through the upcoming year. The motion was seconded and passed. Elaine is requesting a budget as some of the new ideas will need cash for rental fees and for food. Mike felt this was appropriate and KBS has done this in the past. Stuart moved to provide \$200 to the Engagement Committee to help pay for the next few events. The motion was seconded and passed.

Alan mentioned that he gets notifications when someone on the mailing list wishes to unsubscribe. Would the Engagement Committee wish to follow up on some of these? And, yes, Elaine would like to know about these.

HIGH HOLIDAYS (HH)

Rabbi Dan Fink, recently retired, will be our clergy for HH. He is now getting KBS emails and, when he can, will drop in on Torah studies to get to know our congregation. Aviva felt like this was a good match with our community as he loves the outdoors, his congregation was small and he is used to being both a rabbi and cantor. He plays guitar. He is coming with his wife and knows they will need to rent a car. He is open to whatever we ask him to do on in-between days. He supports the idea of coexistence in the West Bank, which might be a topic of discussion. Aviva will continue to work with Heather to set up a structure for the HH. Aviva will send out an announcement to introduce him to our board and congregation.

Rabbi Patz, although not chosen to be our HH rabbi this year, is knowledgeable about the history of the Czech scrolls and Aviva would like to ask him to lead a shabbaton this coming year. She will send a biography and other materials to the Board about this idea.

ADULT LEARNING/JUDAISM 101

National Jewish Outreach Program (NJOP) provides online materials for a crash course in Hebrew that lasts about 5 weeks. Three people have let Aviva know they would like to learn Hebrew: Heather, David Jackson, and Mike Boyette. Aviva will work personally with any Jews who wish to learn a Torah portion for HH.

Congratulations, Aviva, for completing the lay leader course. She learned that in the network of communities in this course, there were no other small congregations without a building or without a rabbi.

SHABBAT MATOT-MASEI July 26, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Location: NTCH
Leaders: Aviva
Torah: R. Shari, Aviva and possibly Vic
Drash: TBD
Challah: Silvermans
Security: Heather
9 a.m. setup: Plauts, Silvermans, Vic, Riveras

Heather asked Stuart to be her backup for security if she cannot make it to services.

SIMCHAT TORAH Actual date: Tuesday/Wednesday Oct. 14,15
Possible dates to celebrate: Sat. Oct.11(Sukkot) or Oct. 18 (prefer)
School fall break October 6-10.
Location: NTCH not booked, Alan will find out if either date is available
Band: Has not met for some time.
Service: Aviva is committed to service commemorating Oct. 7, 2023

JEWS NEWS

No news reported.

OLD BUSINESS

Heather will coordinate with Aviva on the best date for the Annual Dinner. Stuart reported hearing that Foster's Kitchen had a fire.

NEW BUSINESS

Heather will send the Board the Secure Community Network (SCN) website to listen to webinars to keep KBS safe, especially with HH coming up.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held August 3, 2025, at 10 a.m. on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nella Silverman,
Secretary