

Minutes  
Kona Beth Shalom (KBS)  
Board of Trustees  
June 1, 2025  
Zoom (online) meeting

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT

R. Shari Berman and Vivienne Aronowitz

OTHERS PRESENT

Aviva Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Vic asked to step down as President and Heather as 1st Vice-President agreed to take on the role of President. Vic agreed to be 1st Vice-President. Heather thanked Vic for taking on the role of President until Heather felt ready to accept the role.

OPENING PRAYER

As it is Shavuot, Aviva found a piece written by Chaim Stern and John Rayner, editors of the reform siddur: "When Torah entered the world, freedom entered it. The whole Torah sits only to establish peace. Its highest teaching is love and kindness. What is hateful to you. Do not do to any person. That is the whole Torah. All the rest is commentary, go and learn it. Those who study the law are true guardians of civilization, honoring one another. Doing acts of kindness and making peace. These are our highest duties. But the study of Torah is equal to them all, because it leads to them all. Let us learn in order to teach. Let us learn in order to do."

MI SHEBEIRACH

Prayer was sung for those in our community in need of healing: Elaine, Mike Bernstone, Jan Rae, Jessica Liroff, Barry's brother Robert and daughter Katie, Yael (Aviva's sister), Marilyn Anderson recovery from surgery, Sarah Kramer - off of hospice!, Michael Cohen (Aviva's friend).

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Joel and seconded, the minutes of the May 4, 2025, board meeting were approved.

MONTHLY MENTION

Heather spoke about Vic today. He just steps up and always says “yes, what do you need?” He has been president, he is reliable, always here to set up events, greeting guests with a warm smile, keeping an eye on our safety. Thank you very much, Vic.

Mazel tov to Aviva for being close to completion of her lay leader training.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Mike said it has been a quiet month. A regular monthly donation is coming from a Schwab account of Greg and Tracey Villasenor who live in California. Mike asked if anyone was familiar with this name so a thank you could be sent.

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

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### FACILITIES

Last month's service went smoothly. Rain held off until the end of the service. Internet signal was good.

Pasha asked that payment for the High Holiday (HH) services be made. We have the dates penciled in but it will not be a permanent booking until they receive payment.

Alan contacted Outdoor Education Center and they did have the date available for Shavuot. This site could be another resource for KBS to use.

Another office is up for sale in the same area of New Thought Center of Hawaii (NTCH). It is a condo arrangement so there would be a monthly fee. There is office and classroom space as well as a kitchenette. Pasha estimated they are asking \$300K. The Board thought this would be worth exploring. Mike noted that we have approximately \$180K in the building fund. It was suggested contacting Arnie Rabin, who has helped us previously with a similar quest. A committee was set up to explore this possibility. Besides Heather, Stuart, Mike and Alan would be on the committee.

### CEMETERY

Heather has decided it is time for the fence replacement at Beth Hashamayim, funds for which have been previously approved. She will order the fencing and has contacted the cemetery office to let them know that it will be coming. The entrance to the plots will change to a more convenient location. Heather will oversee the installation and will be reimbursed by the congregation for the fence costs.

Barry was contacted by Mike Deroy, salesman for Homelani in Kona, and has found that previous information regarding charges and how one is to be buried (not compatible with Jewish law) was confusing and incorrect. Heather will check with Josh at Homelani Hilo to get accurate information.

### WEBSITE

Have to make some time to look over suggestions that Heather's colleague made to refresh the site. We might need a professional involved to make some of these changes, but the website is continuing to work. There is good response to the information buttons on the banners on the home page.

## BIKUR CHOLIM

Vivienne is visiting her daughter who is about to give birth to her first child and Viv's first grandchild. Mazel tov!

Goldie Lefkowitz, our oldest KBS honorary member, is 103 years old. It was suggested that KBS could inform her of the virtual tahara and other end-of-life rites that are available through Chevrah Kadisha of Oahu.

## ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Next meeting will be this coming Thursday, June 5 at 4 p.m. on Zoom.

May's event, Challah making workshop, was a success. Thank you to Alan and Nella for hosting the event.

June 2 will be a Shavuot celebration with visiting Rabbi Kerry Chaplin, "What's Missing: A Shavuot Soul Study," at 5 pm at the Plauts' home.

Sunday, June 8 at 8 am meet for a hike on the Kahakai trail along the shore from Spencer Beach to Mauna Kea Beach. Meet Vic and Heather at the large pavilion at Spencer Beach Park off Kawaihae Road. Bring plenty of water and a packed lunch, light snacks will be provided. See Addenda for flyer.

SHAVUOT      MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025      5 PM      See Addenda for flyer

Location:      Yehudah and Aviva Plaut's home

Food:              Blintzes made by the Plauts and pot luck

## HIGH HOLIDAYS (HH) COMMITTEE

There are two final candidates: R. Norman Patz and R. Dan Fink. Aviva will send out a letter asking R. Fink if he will accept the position of rabbi for the KBS HH. Perhaps the other rabbi could come for a shabbaton later in the year. Both are comfortable with the reform machzors we use.

## JUDAISM 101

For the moment, Aviva is sidelining all class ideas except for the crash course in Hebrew. KBS needs more people who can learn a Torah portion for the HH. National Jewish Outreach Program has online resources for this class. Aviva will be available online or in person to conduct these classes. It will take about 6 lessons to cover the entire aleph-bet. Heather wants to sign up. Alan will send out a note to the mailing list asking who would be interested in taking these classes.

SHABBAT SH'LACH      June 21, 2025      10:30 a.m.

Location:      NTCH  
Leader:          Visiting Rabbi Rebecca Epstein  
Torah:          Rabbi and her husband  
Drash:          R. Epstein  
Challah:        Silvermans  
Security:        Vic  
9 a.m. setup: Silvermans, Vic

Potluck        No shellfish or meat please.  
It will be Joel and Jan Rae's anniversary.

#### SIMCHAT TORAH

Discussion will be tabled until next meeting. Aviva feels there is enough space to hold the celebration at NTCH.

#### JEWS NEWS

June 22 Beth Or will have a bagel brunch on the beach  
Chabad Hilo rabbi away for 6 weeks  
Rabbi Rachel conducting classes Kabbalah 101

#### OLD BUSINESS

Heather has been working with Foster's Restaurant in Kona for our HH coordination dinner with the rabbi.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Aviva has been contacted by the parents of a prospective bar mitzvah for training. They live in Pahoia.

An email has come into the website asking whether we are going to have a community seder next year. The family plans a big extended gathering of about 14 people from as far away as Australia.

#### NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held July 6, 2025, at 10 a.m. on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nella Silverman,  
Secretary

#### ADDENDA

# Shavuot

with  
Rabbi Kerry Chaplin  
and  
Blintzes\*\*



Guest Rabbi Kerry Chaplin will guide us  
in a homemade blintz-fueled study:

### **“What’s Missing: A Shavuot Soul Study”**

exploring the thirst to connect with  
what’s most important on one of our  
most important holidays. Learn more  
about Rabbi Kerry at her website  
[www.rabbikerry.com](http://www.rabbikerry.com)

or her instagram [@rabbi.kerry.chaplin](https://www.instagram.com/rabbi.kerry.chaplin).



*Monday, June 2 5pm*  
*at the home of Ariva & Yehudah Raut*  
*in Kealahakua*

**\*\*Yes, Homemade blintzes !!**

# KONA BETH SHALOM HIKE

SUNDAY JUNE 8, 2025 AT 8:00 A.M.



Let's take a scenic hike along the coast on the picturesque Ala Kahakai trail from Spencer Beach in Waikoloa to Mauna Kea Beach. Meet at the large pavilion at Spencer Beach Park.

**Be sure to bring sufficient water** and a packed lunch (light snacks will be provided). Mauna Kea Beach and Spencer Beach are also good places to cool off with a dip.



Contact:

Vic Greenspan or Heather  
Friedman Rivera

[president@konabethshalom.org](mailto:president@konabethshalom.org)