

Minutes
Kona Beth Shalom
Board of Trustees
August 3, 2025
Zoom (online) meeting

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

Alan Silverman, Nella Silverman, Elaine Dobinson, Vic Greenspan, Heather Rivera, Vivienne Aronowitz, Stuart Liroff, Joel Gimpel, R. Shari Berman and Mike Bernstone

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Sarah Kramer and Barry Blum

OTHERS PRESENT

Aviva and Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPENING PRAYER

Aviva read “grant us peace” prayer from the Reform siddur, “Gates of Prayer.” Mi shebeirach was chanted by R. Shari for those in need of healing: for everyone in our congregation, Elaine, Alice Bratton, Vivienne, Karen Breier, Jan Rae, Yehudah, Marilyn Anderson, Sarah Kramer, Mike, Goldie Lefkowitz, Joel’s friend Ken Bonnem, who is suffering from Parkinson’s. Everyone can fill in others who are in their hearts.

MINUTES

Amendments to the minutes were sent by Joel to improve grammar. Upon motion made by Joel and seconded, the amended minutes of the July 6, 2025, board meeting were approved.

MONTHLY MENTION AND JEWISH JOY

Thanks go to Vivienne. We will miss you on the Board, but so glad to have you still a part of our congregation. All the efforts Vivienne has put into bringing Jewish people together island-wide through the activities she has planned have not gone unnoticed.

Vivienne wrote, “I have been serving both the Kona and North Hawaii communities since we (Viv and her husband, Michael), moved here 21 years ago. After about 18 years on the KBS board, I felt it time to move on, especially with the strong new board leadership.”

Vivienne noted that last Friday night, Beit Aloha Elohim (BAE) had their first lay-led service. A restaurant has opened in the BAE building, but not associated with the congregation.

Lou Harris, who recently lost his wife, Linda, has news that their first great-grandchild is due early next year.

Welcome back home to the Big Island R. Shari! Aviva asked that she share the honor of opening prayer for future meetings.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Mike has sent payment to New Thought Center of Hawaii (NTCH) for High Holiday services (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur). These services have different contracts than our monthly shabbat services and payment was requested now. Mike asked to have copies of the contracts sent to him.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES

An additional shabbat service has been scheduled on October 11 to celebrate Simchat Torah. The regular 4th Saturday shabbat will be held as scheduled on October 25.

There is going to be an increase in the storage unit fee. It will now be \$271/month starting with the coming bill.

There are no other locations booked for future events.

CEMETERY

Heather was at Homelani Memorial Park for installation of the new mechitza. A planter box for small stones was attached to the fence. Barry is training Heather to lead burial services. Plots outside the mechitza are being sold for \$8,900.

WEBSITE

Heather transfers KBS activities to the Jewish Community Service (JCS) calendar.

KBS has a phone through Zoom. It is automatically answered and after the greeting asks the caller to leave a message. If a message is left, it is emailed to the KBS email address. Alan and Heather monitor the email and will respond as needed.

Heather revised the KBS information brochure and had 50 copies printed. It will be available to put out at services.

Website banner is up to date with Kahaluu snorkel event and book club zoom event.

BIKUR CHOLIM

There will be a note in High Holiday (HH) information emails that there will be a box for donations of non-perishable food items at HH services. Nella and Alan take them to the local Hawaii Food Basket.

Vivienne broke her hip and is recovering at home. Goldie fell and hurt her knees and is now recovering at home. Karen Breier fell and had to go to the hospital. Yehudah is home after surgery.

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

There was a committee meeting last Thursday. A mission statement was agreed upon. See addenda for the full statement. The original emphasis on increasing membership has shifted to a “build it and they will come” approach.

The following are the upcoming events:

8/24/2025	10-2	Snorkel/snack & BYO lunch	Kahaluu Beach
9/14/2025	TBD	Book Club “Here All Along”	Zoom

author, Sarah Hurwitz

Book available through Amazon/Kindle Books for around \$10.

Elaine will need to step down for awhile from her Engagement Committee duties as well as 2nd Vice-President. Whoever fills the 2nd V-P will take over the Chair of the Engagement Committee. Heather would like this to be resolved before the Annual/Board meeting, September 7.

HIGH HOLIDAYS (HH)

Rabbi Fink will be available next week to plan HH services and activities. Board members are asked to suggest topics for his discussions. R. Shari will be in Kona so hoping for her participation.

ADULT LEARNING

There are 3 students in the Hebrew learning class and there are 2 more group sessions, then individual sessions to see what people want to do with it further. Understanding and ability to read some of the standard prayers would be the goal.

Aviva has had a query from a family living in Volcano to help their son with his bar mitzvah preparation.

SIMCHAT TORAH SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Location: NTCH

This was the date available. More information to follow.

JEWS NEWS

Chabad rabbi has been on vacation.

BAE will have Friday evening services on August 15, 6:00 p.m. with Rabbi/Cantor Roz Barak and on August 29, 6:00 p.m. with Rabbi Sydney Mintz.

SHABBAT RE'EH AUGUST 23, 2025 10:30 a.m.
Location: NTCH
Leader: Aviva
Torah: TBD
Drash: TBD
Security: Stuart
Challah: Silvermans
9 a.m. setup: Silvermans, Vic, Plauts
Potluck

OLD BUSINESS

ANNUAL LUNCH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 1:30 P.M.
Location: Sunset Kai Lanai, Keauhou
meal and beverage included, attendees responsible for alcohol tab

NEW BUSINESS

JCS forwarded a request for donations. There will be a silent auction on Sunday, November 16. Vivienne is on the Board of JCS and will coordinate with Mimi Lind who is in charge of the auction. Suggestions for donation are Judaica, jewelry, etc. There are items in KBS storage unit that would be appropriate to donate. Members should start collecting items.

Mike made a motion for KBS to donate \$500 to JCS. There was a discussion and it was decided to amend the amount to \$540. The motion was seconded and passed.

Vivienne noted that there is still \$800 in North Hawaii Chavurah funds in KBS treasury. R. Jessica Kate Meyer may be returning to the Big Island in January, 2026. Viv would like to earmark these funds for that possibility and to include KBS in R. Meyer's visits around the Island.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held September 7 at 10 a.m. on Zoom following the Annual Meeting. Please send any agenda items to Heather a couple of weeks ahead of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Nella Silverman,
Secretary

ADDENDA

Engagement Committee Mission Statement

The Engagement Committee builds a welcoming and connected Jewish community by fostering relationships with prospective, new, and longtime members of Kona Beth Shalom. We create opportunities for meaningful involvement, ensure everyone feels valued and included, and help deepen each individual's connection to Jewish life.