

Minutes
Kona Beth Shalom (KBS)
Board of Trustees
October 5 , 2025
Zoom (online) meeting

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

Barry Blum, Sarah Kramer, Vic Greenspan, Alan Silverman, Nella Silverman, Heather Friedman-Rivera, Shari Berman, Craig Silverman, Arnie Rabin and Courtney Meiselman

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Elaine Dobinson, Joel Gimpel, Mike Bernstone and Stuart Liroff

OTHERS PRESENT

Aviva Plaut and Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting began at 10:04 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Aviva selected a prayer for peace written by Reb Nachman of Breslov and asked Alan to read another peace prayer, "Source of All" by visual artist Joanne Fink. See addenda for the full prayers and artwork. Barry read a prayer by Yehuda Amichai. "Don't stop beating the swords into plowshares. Don't stop. Go on beating and making musical instruments out of them. Whoever wants to make war again will have to turn them into plowshares first."

MI SHEBEIRACH

The mi shebeirach prayer was said for those on our board and in our community and friends who are in need of healing.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Barry and seconded, the minutes of the September 7, 2025, KBS Board Meeting were approved. The minutes of the September 7, 2025, Annual Meeting were tentatively approved. Final Annual Meeting minutes approval will take place at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

MONTHLY MENTION

The theme is Volunteerism this month. Heather wanted to thank everyone who helped with the High Holiday (HH) services, from greeters, set up, musicians, tech support, contributors to the services. Everyone did such an amazing job. Thank you.

JEWISH JOY

Heather did her first reading from the Torah during Rosh Hashanah services. She still gets very emotional thinking about that. It was pure Jewish joy for her and she wrote a blog about it in the Jewish Joy Corner for the website.

The Board members agreed that Rabbi Daniel Fink, who led HH services, was inspirational, his sermons were thought-provoking, and his musicality was beautiful. KBS hopes he returns next year. His wife, Dr. Janet Kaufman, was helpful and insightful when we had extra classes and discussions. Alan is preparing all four of his drashes to be posted online.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Since Mike is out of town and we have not received a monthly update before the meeting, we will postpone this report until our November 2025 Board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FACILITIES

Heather requested a Facilities Committee meeting with Arnie, Barry and Alan for October 16 at 4 pm on Zoom. Arnie is unable to attend meeting at this date and time. Heather asked him to give a few dates and would rework the timing of the meeting. Arnie also suggested Mike Bernstone attend this meeting. As treasurer, he would be most helpful to discuss KBS finances. Arnie also felt that there should be a separate committee to search for a permanent location, and not be under Facilities. Heather will bring this up at the meeting and report back to the board.

New Thought Center Hawaii (NTCH) dealt with a lot of the safety issues we discussed with them. There is a label on the kitchen drawer where a first aid kit is located. The fire extinguishers are now much more noticeable and they have been checked out so they are all properly charged and available for use, if needed. An issue with the lock box for keys has been addressed. Changes have been made to the internet connection that make it much more stable. The 9 hours we were on Zoom on Yom Kippur day had no glitches. The 35 congregants who attended on Rosh Hashanah eve was the largest number KBS had for HH at NTCH. They were comfortably accommodated on the lanai with chairs and lights. Pasha Macgregor, manager of NTCH, goes out of her way to communicate with neighborhood businesses to inform them when KBS has our services so that noise is kept to a minimum.

Heather prepared a security policy and checklists for services that were sent to Board members before the meeting. Board members thought that the policy was very thorough and well thought out. Vic moved to accept the security policy and

checklists. It was seconded and approved. A copy of these documents will be attached in the Addenda.

CEMETERY REPORT

Heather visited the cemetery and found it clean. There are still 6 plots available for sale.

WEBSITE

Alan noted some of the pages have been refreshed. All the HH dates and times for services have been taken down and banner with times for Simchat Torah is now up. Heather and Alan are focusing on keeping the calendar updated. Jewish Community Service (JCS) events are also made part of the newsletters that go out to members .

Heather wants to start an Instagram page. This may increase our outreach to a younger demographic. She wants to have two posts a week, one event-related and one joyful. It would then direct them back to our website for more information. The board was in favor of this project.

Heather reminded the trustees that it is their responsibility to read and keep up with newsletters, emails and be familiar with the website and visit it often.

BIKUR CHOLIM/SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Stuart is not feeling well and Aviva will make contact to see if KBS can help.

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

There is a planned Zoom meeting this coming Thursday, but Heather will check with Stuart, who is the chair, to make sure he's up to leading the meeting,, it might have to be postponed.

During HH, a new member joined, Ethan Asher. He works at 4 Seasons.

HIGH HOLIDAYS COMMITTEE

Aviva feels like she now has a good relationship and can call on Rabbi Daniel Fink for liturgical questions. Yehudah noted that the rabbi was very cognizant of the timing of the services and was able to end services comfortably and appropriately.

Heather is creating a letter to follow up with congregants who have not yet renewed their memberships and will work with Aviva to develop reasons to join. In previous years, Mike has sent out letters and would be a good person to consult on this project.

In answer to a question, members are able to pay dues through the website. Heather has a spreadsheet where she has kept track of 5 families who took advantage of the offer to pay this year and have HH seats for two years.

JUDAISM 101

Aviva decided on Monday evening at 6 pm, to start monthly study sessions. She will be ready for the first session on Monday, October 27. Here are some educational sessions that have happened this past month:

On September 29 a Zoom online discussion, "Ghosts of a Holy War: 1929 and the Roots of the Arab Israeli Conflict" was communicated by newsletter to the congregation with a clickable Zoom link to join.

Rabbi Fink conducted a session between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, "A Manual for Living with Defeat: Leonard Cohen and the Ten Days of Teshuvah." Alan did get a note from Zoom, noting copyrighted music was detected and prior permission should have been requested before playing, even though KBS is a religious organization and we can claim it as an educational use of material. Permission fees can be expensive.

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

Location: NTCH

Barry, Shari and Aviva having a meeting to coordinate the event after the Board meeting at 1:30 pm. Shari provided the Zoom link.

Security: Heather

Publicity: Instagram and Facebook, BAE

Band, hakafot,

Potluck : Heather salad, Aviva challah, Alan & Nella bagels +
Courtney, Trish

SHABBAT NOACH October 25, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Heather, Courtney and Shari will be away

OCT. 7 ANNIVERSARY

Heather will send an email to the congregation with suggestions of how to commemorate the day from home. Please see the suggestions for the email in the Addenda.

SUKKOT

Aviva and Yehudah are building a sukkah in their yard. A notification will be sent by email. Anyone who wishes to visit should email them. A newsletter will be sent.

CHANUKAH

We will table this discussion until the next Board meeting.

JEWS NEWS AROUND THE ISLAND

Chabad Hilo is having a dinner on the 7th and Sukkot celebration on the 12th.

OLD BUSINESS

Heather, after getting the Board's responses, replied inquiries we received: declined the Saul Kaye Chanukah performance and Yitzhak Husbands-Hankin concert. There was no response from Holly Blue Hawkins to a letter of interest sent to them. A letter of interest was sent to pizmon.org and they replied they are going to be available March 13-21. Heather will speak to them on Zoom in the near future. Pizmon group will have 14-17 people for us to host. Questions concerning kosher food might be needed. Aviva will contact the Choral Society to see if they are interested in interacting with this group.

NEW BUSINESS

GIVE ALOHA

R. Shari wanted couples to know that if they have two different Maikai cards, they can use the Give Aloha program to split the family KBS membership fee between the two (\$180 each) and get the entire amount matched by Foodland. If they have a single card, the maximum that will be matched by Give Aloha will be \$249.

THEMES FROM VISION SETTING

See Addenda for major themes from the Vision Setting Activity that the Board participated in on September 28, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Board meeting will be held Sunday, November 2, 2025, at 10 a.m. on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

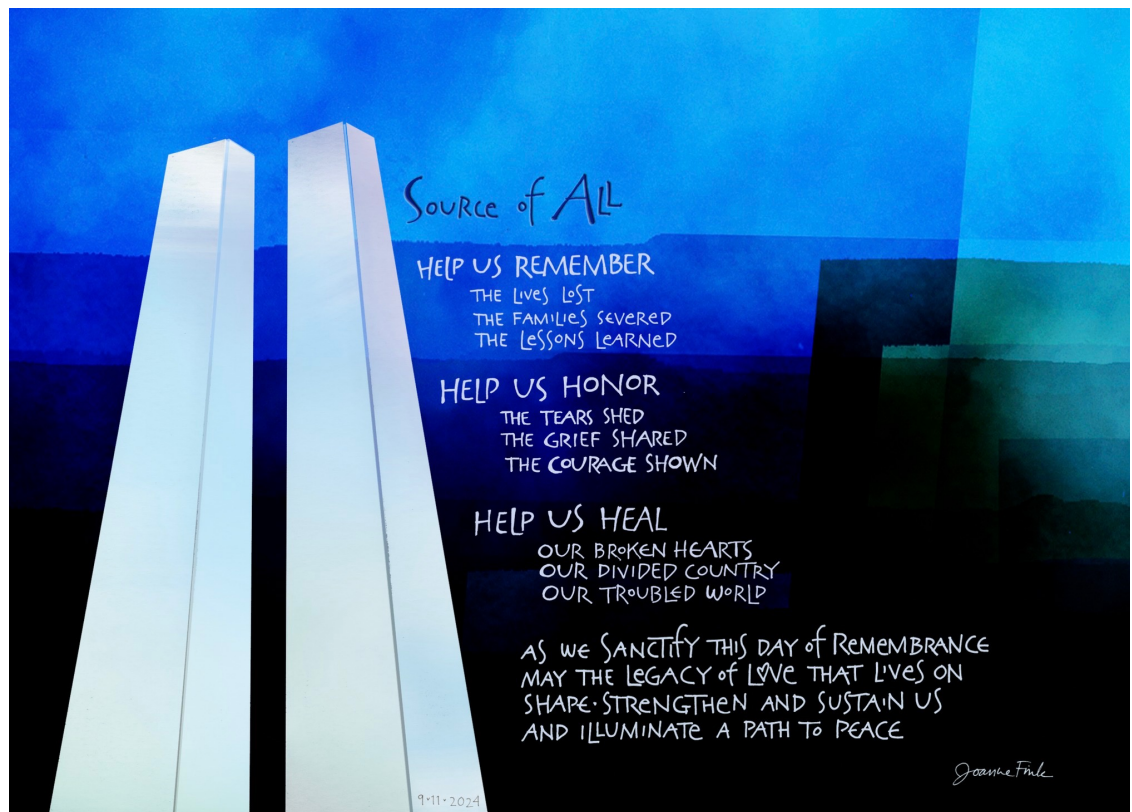
Respectfully Submitted,

Nella Silverman, Secretary

ADDENDA

Rabbi Nachman's Prayer for Peace

May it be Your will, Holy One, our God, our ancestors' God, that you erase war and bloodshed from the world and in its place draw down a great and glorious peace so that nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war any more. Rather, may all the inhabitants of the earth recognize and deeply know this great truth: that we have not come into this world for strife and division nor for hatred and rage, nor provocation and bloodshed. We have come here only to encounter You, eternally blessed One. And so, we ask your compassion upon us; raise up, by us, what is written: I shall place peace upon the earth and you shall lie down safe and undisturbed and I shall banish evil beasts from the earth and the sword shall not pass through your land. but let justice come in waves like water and righteousness flow like a river, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Holy One as the waters cover the sea. So may it be. And we say: Amen. (Translation by Rabbi Deborah Silver. The quotations are: Leviticus 26:6, Amos 5:24 and Isaiah 11:9)



KBS Event Security Checklist

(For Security Lead / Assigned Board Member)

Before Event

- Walk through lanai, yoga room, kitchen and kitchen walkway, and parking area.
- Confirm exit routes (slide to yoga room + backdoor to kitchen) are unlocked and clear. Check that fire extinguisher and first aid kit are present and accessible.
- Have your cell phone on you for emergency calls (cell signal confirmed).
- Greet attendees as they arrive — stay alert for unusual behavior.

During Event

- Position yourself where you can observe entry.
- Do a mid-event walk-through of parking area, kitchen and back walkway. Stay aware of attendees, especially unfamiliar visitors.
- Keep exits unobstructed and accessible.
- If suspicious activity arises, call 911 immediately if needed.

Emergency Response

Call 911 for medical or security emergencies. Direct congregants to exits calmly:

- **Primary:** Slider to Yoga Room.
- **Alternate:** Kitchen walkway.
 - Guide emergency responders to lanai. **After Event**
 - Walk through lanai, yoga room, kitchen walkway, and

parking area again.

- Confirm no one is left behind.
- Secure exits as appropriate.
- Report any incidents to President as soon as possible and to Board at meeting or before if warranted.

Security Lead Name: _____

Event Date: _____

Kona Beth Shalom Security Policy

Congregation Security Policy for New Thought Center

Purpose

To promote the safety of our congregation in a rented, open-air space by establishing simple, practical steps for prevention, awareness, and response.

Roles & Responsibilities

• **Event Security Lead:** One board member will be designated as Security Lead at each event.

- Conducts a pre-event and mid-event walk-through of the lanai, yoga room, kitchen and back walkway, and parking area.
- Greets all attendees with awareness and assessment skills.
- Ensures exit routes remain open and unobstructed.
- Calls 911 if needed and directs congregants to exits in emergencies.

• **Board Assignments:** Security Lead roles will be assigned during board meetings when planning each event.

Venue Considerations

- **Exit Routes:** The slider door exit to the yoga room and the back door to the kitchen will remain

unlocked and unobstructed at all times during services.

- **Fire & Medical Safety:** Ensure fire extinguishers and a first aid kit are present and visible.
- **Post-Event Check:** Security Lead confirms all exits are secured as appropriate when leaving.

Training & Preparedness

- Board members are encouraged to attend free webinars from the Secure Community Network (SCN) before the High Holy Days.
- Periodic refreshers on emergency procedures will be offered to all board members and volunteers.

Coordination with Law Enforcement

- For events expecting large attendance, the Security Lead (or another designated board member) will notify the local police department in advance.
- Off-duty officers may be hired for additional security when warranted.

Emergency Response

- **Medical:** Call 911 immediately; direct emergency responders to the lanai.

- **Suspicious Behavior:** The Security Lead or board members should engage only if safe, otherwise call police.
- **Evacuation:** Use slider door to yoga room or back walkway to kitchen as primary evacuation routes, if main entry unsafe.

Prohibited Items

- No firearms, weapons, or explosives are permitted on the lanai or in associated rental spaces, except by active law enforcement or authorized security personnel.

Review & Updates

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board. Updates will be communicated to all members and volunteers.

6 Ways to Observe the Anniversary of October 7 at the High Holidays

1. Light an extra yahrzeit candle

It is customary to light yahrzeit candles for lost loved ones before the holiday begins, so consider lighting an additional one to symbolize the lives lost in the past year, on October 7 and throughout the Israel-Hamas War, or even fill a table with tea lights to represent the scores of lives lost.

Before you light the candle, say: This/these candle/candles honor the memory of all the victims of October 7 and the Israel-Hamas War. As Jon and Rachel Goldberg-Polin say, “kol adam hu olam ve’mlo’o,” every person is a universe. We remember these universes.

2. Eat bitter foods

Eating bitter foods at the start of the Jewish New Year is considered to be a faux pas by some, and yet this year feels very different, so maybe a break in tradition feels right. You can add bitter or sour symbolic foods to your Rosh Hashanah meal, perhaps foods that also symbolize Jewish resiliency and diversity — from pickles to preserved lemons. Another option is a food that mixes sweet and sour flavors, like lemons preserved in honey which are sweet and tangy.

As you present these foods, say: These foods represent the bittersweet beginning of this Jewish New Year. We remember the bitterness of the past year and that so many of our Jewish brothers and sisters are still experiencing, which we hope will turn to sweetness soon.

3. Add olive oil

Add olive oil to dip your round challah into or a dish of olives to symbolize a yearning for peace. You can also incorporate more olive oil or olives into your holiday menu.

As you present the olives/olive oil, say: The olive oil/olives in this dish represent our sincere yearning for peace. May we have peace in our world soon.

4. Sing “Oseh Shalom”

Many Jews find comfort in this traditional song all about peace.

Hebrew transliteration: Oseh shalom bimromav / Hu Ya'aseh shalom aleinu / Ve'al kol Yisrael / Ve'al kol yoshvei tevel / Ve'imru, imru, Amen.

In English: May He who makes peace in his high places, Make He make peace upon us And on all of Israel – And say, Amen.

Here is a playlist of other meaningful post-October 7 songs that you can incorporate into your holiday observances, and here are some uplifting Israeli songs that can add sweetness to your celebrations.

5. Say the Acheinu

If you do not already, consider saying the Acheinu prayer in honor of the hostages. This is a prayer said during the morning services twice a week and during Shabbat, meant for all the Jews around the world whose lives are in peril, and for the past year, it's often been used as a prayer for the release of the hostages.

As part of the blessings over the candles and food, say: And now we say the Acheinu prayer, for all the members of our great Jewish family in peril, including the hostages still held in Gaza:

Hebrew transliteration: Acheinu kol beit yisrael, han'nutunim b'tzara uvashivyah, haomdim bein bayam uvein bayabasha. Hamakom

**Y'racheim Aleihem v'yotziem mitzra lirvacha um'afaila l'orah
umishiabud lig'ulah, hashta ba'agala uvizman kariv. V'nomar: Amen**

In English: Our family, the whole house of Israel, who are in distress, or in captivity — who stand either in the sea or on dry land — may the Omnipresent have mercy on them and take them out from narrowness to expanse, and from darkness to light, and from oppression to redemption, now, swiftly, and soon!

6. Read a poem

Incorporate a reading from “Shiva: Poems,” “Heroes of October 7” or “One Tiny Seed,” the poem Rachel Goldberg-Polin recited in front of the United Nations in December 2023 and printed below.

Before you recite it, say: This poem, “A Tiny Seed,” was written by the great Rachel Goldberg-Polin about her son, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, whose memory we hope will be a seed planted for a better future.

There is a lullaby that says your mother will cry a thousand tears before you grow to be a man.

I have cried a million tears in the last 67 days. We all have.

And I know that way over there there's another woman who looks just like me because we are all so very similar and she has also been crying.

All those tears, a sea of tears they all taste the same.

**Can we take them gather them up, remove the salt
and pour them over our desert of despair and plant one tiny seed.
A seed wrapped in fear, trauma, pain, war and hope and see what
grows?**

Could it be that this woman so very like me that she and I could be sitting together in 50 years laughing without teeth because we have drunk so much sweet tea together and now we are so very old and our faces are creased like worn-out brown paper bags.

**And our sons have their own grandchildren and our sons have long lives
One of them without an arm. But who needs two arms anyway? Is it all**

**a dream? A fantasy? A prophecy?
One tiny seed.**

Vision-Setting Activity, September 28, 2025

Major Themes

1. Attracting and Retaining Younger Members & Families

- Lower or tiered membership fees for people under 35 and students.
- More family-oriented events (Hanukkah, Purim, Simchat Torah parties; crafts & baking corners for kids; teen activities).
- Consider starting a Hebrew school or hiring a Hebrew teacher.
- Create a building fund campaign to support long-term growth and space for families.
- Children's activity corner at services.

2. Membership Growth & Community Outreach

- Host more casual, non-religious social events: hikes, beach gatherings, movie nights, game nights, concerts, luncheons.
- Explore occasional events on the Hilo side to welcome potential members and reduce long drives for East Hawai'i residents. Consider supporting ride-sharing or carpools for

those who wish to attend events farther away.

- Improve outreach to isolated Jewish people (e.g., Regency, Life Care Center).
- Holiday outreach (bring challah/hamantaschen, backpacks, food bank collections at services).
- Broader community engagement: partner with non-Jewish organizations, invite visiting Rabbis/Cantors to participate.

3. Jewish Learning & Enrichment

- Increase adult education: classes, lectures, book club, play readings, creative sharings.
- Sign up for existing learning programs eg Judaism 101, Hebrew learning; build on our current book club.
- Encourage learning new music for services; bring in guest musicians or Cantors.

4. Building a Permanent or Consistent Spiritual Home

- Find a permanent home for the congregation or strengthen identity as “Kona’s Jewish Home.”
 - Build momentum for a building fund and clear communication about vision and needs.
- ### **5. Worship & Spiritual Experience**

- Add music and fresh inspiration to services.
- Offer occasional Friday night home-based services or use New Thought.
- Keep inviting visiting Rabbis and Cantors more than just for High Holy Days.

6. Community Culture & Camaraderie

- Foster a friendly, welcoming environment.
- Encourage multigenerational participation and connection.
- Continue “momentum” with good communication networks and shared experiences.
- Offer variety: garden project, pie day, bridge events, partnerships with other congregations.

7. Communication & Feedback

- Maintain clear contact lists and emails to keep members connected.
- Send out surveys or email prompts asking what activities people want.
- Share opportunities for involvement and learning through newsletters or dedicated messages.

Prioritization Suggestions

Short-Term Quick Wins (6–12 months)

- Launch a member interest survey asking what events/activities they'd join.
- Pilot 2–3 social/family events (beach day, game/movie night, Hanukkah party).
- Start a children's corner at services with crafts or quiet activities.
- Expand music in services (invite musicians, learn new melodies).

Mid-Term (1–2 years)

- Develop tiered membership fees for younger members/students.
- Strengthen Hilo outreach with one or two rotating events and ride-sharing support.
- Build an outreach committee for homebound Jews and community service (food bank, holiday gifts).
- Plan a building fund campaign.

Long-Term (3+ years)

- Hebrew school or children's education program (teacher recruitment, curriculum planning).

- Establish or secure a permanent spiritual home.
- Expand adult education and cultural offerings (lectures, music, creative sharing series).