

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

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

Alan Silverman, Nella Silverman, R. Shari Berman, Barry Blum, Heather Friedman-Rivera, Joel Gimpel, Sarah Kramer, Vic Greenspan, Stuart Liroff and Courtney Meiselman

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Elaine Dobinson, Craig Silverman, Arnie Rabin and Mike Bernstone

OTHERS PRESENT

Aviva and Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPENING PRAYER AND MI SHEBEIRACH

Heather read a poem from Prayers for Healing. Mi shebeirach was chanted for all those in need of healing on our board, in our families, in our community and in Israel.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Joel and seconded, the minutes of the October 5, 2025, board meeting were approved.

MONTHLY MENTION

The theme this month is gratitude. Heather expressed gratitude for the Board's continued enthusiasm and support for all the activities throughout the High Holiday season. She also noted the generosity of the congregation giving non-perishable items for The Food Basket of Hawaii Island.

JEWISH JOY

Many were able to join Courtney's adult bat mitzvah ceremony on Zoom last month. After reading the Genesis story of creation from the Torah, she delivered her drash that each of us has a way to create. As a ceramic artist, she created glazed pottery whistles to give to her guests.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial report was sent by email to the board prior to the meeting. Upon motion made by Barry and seconded, the financial report was approved. It was agreed to follow up on the September report which was not available at the October meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES

Alan provided the KBS 2026 shabbat schedule to New Thought Center of Hawaii (NTCH) and their board approved the dates and made no change in the monthly fee from what KBS is currently paying. Joel noted that there was no December shabbat date on the schedule. After discussion, Saturday, December 12, 2026, was added. This is the last day of Chanukah. Alan will resubmit the schedule to include the December date.

Alan also gave NTCH the High Holidays (HH) schedule that needs to be under a separate agreement from the one for shabbats. To lock in those dates, KBS needs to pay in advance at least half of the total amount. After discussion about the rates, the board decided to pay in full in advance to guarantee the dates for the High Holidays. The Board felt the rates being charged were very reasonable, especially since we don't have to pay storage fees for our aron.

See Addenda for shabbat and HH service dates for the coming year.

The Facilities committee (Arnie, Barry, Heather, Alan) met on October 22 via Zoom and Arnie proposed purchasing land for a permanent KBS home. It was decided that looking for a place would need to be postponed as it was calculated KBS would need 50 more members to make it feasible.

CEMETERY

Heather has visited the cemetery and found it in good condition.

WEBSITE

Heather has been posting two times a week on Instagram, KBS's newest social media outlet. She asked the Board to visit the KBS Instagram and Facebook sites and "like" them.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Fil Yeskel's memorial in Florida was on Zoom this morning.
Roz Cohen is moving to Hilo Life Care on Monday. She is not yet ready for visitors.

KBS will have a collection box for non-perishable donations to The Food Basket at every shabbat service.

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

See Addenda for a list of tentative events through August 2026.

After shabbat services, November 22, 2025, there will be either Israeli dancing or a creative writing workshop.

The Book Club will meet Sunday, December 14, on Zoom to discuss the book "Drawing in the Dust" by Zoe Klein.

The next Engagement Committee meeting is scheduled for November 20.

HIGH HOLIDAYS (HH)

The Board felt that Rabbi Dan Fink was an inspirational HH rabbi. He and his wife, Janet, were appreciated for their warmth and connection with our small community. With the Board's approval, Heather will draft a letter inviting them to come again next HH.

ADULT LEARNING/JUDAISM 101

The first class of Judaism 101 will start tomorrow, November 3, at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. Aviva explained that it will be open ended, intended to establish what the class would like to explore together, eventually inviting guest speakers.

SHABBAT TOLDOT November 22, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Location: NTCH
Leader: Aviva
Torah: Aviva, R. Shari, Vic
Drash: Barry
Challah: Courtney
Security: Heather
9 a.m. setup: Plauts, Silvermans, Vic, Heather
Potluck: Heather will bring salad.

Yehudah volunteered to help any other congregant who would like to prepare a drash on shabbat during the year.

SHABBAT VAYISHLACH December 6, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Location: NTCH
Leader: R. Shari
Torah: R. Shari, TBD
Drash: R. Shari
Challah: Aviva
Security: Heather
9 a.m. setup: Plauts, Silvermans, Vic, Heather
Food: Sufganyot with various toppings
Chanukah dreidel kits, etc.

There will be no big Chanukah party with the band planned this year.

JEWS NEWS

Beth Aloha Elohim will have Friday night services, November 7 and November 21.

Hilo Chabad will start Kabbalah classes November 2 through December 14.

OLD BUSINESS

KBS will not be able to accommodate Pizmon. Aviva has let the Kona Choral Society know of their availability.

NEW BUSINESS

An inquiry to perform from Dr. Michael Riskin has been forwarded to BAE which has a better venue to accommodate his operatic selections.

Arnie suggested that KBS donate money to the historic Helani Congregational Church in Kona that was destroyed by fire. The board approved sending \$108 check that Mike will write and Aviva will send along with a KBS notecard.

On Friday KBS voicemail left by Carolyn Machado offered a 23 volume Zohar in Aramaic for donation. Heather said she will refer this to Rabbi Shaya of Hilo Chabad.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Note: This is not the usual Sunday board meeting time. The next Board meeting will be held **Tuesday**, December 2, 2025, at 10 a.m. on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nella Silverman,
Secretary

ADDENDA

Preliminary list of Kona Beth Shalom dates for 2026

Shabbat services – Saturdays 8:30AM-2:30PM

January 24

February 28

March 28

April 25

May 23

June 27

July 25

August 22

September 19

October 3

October 24

November 28

High Holy Days

Rosh Hashanah – Fri. 9/11 evening

Rosh Hashanah – Sat. 9/12 morning

Yom Kippur – Sun. 9/20 evening

Yom Kippur – Mon 9/21 all day

Engagement Committee Report for Annual Meeting 9/7/2025

Committee Report for Annual Meeting:

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.

Key activities or events led this year:

*Friday night Shabbat dinners (2)
Passover Seder
Challah Making Class
Hikes (2)
Beach snorkel/party at Kahalu'u*

Notable successes or outcomes:

All of our events were favorably received and provided social engagement for KBS members and non-members. 5 new people have joined KBS this year :)

Challenges faced and how you addressed them:

Biggest challenge is staffing events. Hopefully with more members we can relieve the current group who are now doing all the work.

Goals or plans for the coming year:

September 2025 — 9/14 10AM

Jewish Book Club Launch: *Here All Along* – Reflect together on Zoom as we approach the High Holy Days.

October 2025

Kids/Teens Art & Snacks: “What Judaism Means to Me” – Creative expression & community for our youth. Found these [Make your own Mezuzah Kit | Wooden Mezuzah Cases for Decoration | The "Jewish School Supply Company"](#) and non kosher scrolls [Amazon.com: My Daily Styles 4 \(Four Sheets\) Mezuzah Non-Kosher Klaf Printed Paper Parchment Hebrew Mezuzah 4" x 4" Count 4 \(Four\) Klafs Included : Home & Kitchen](#)

November 2025

Israeli Dancing – Learn simple, joyful dances. No experience needed. (Need to find someone to teach it)

December 2025

Latke & Sufganiyot Cooking– Cook, taste, and celebrate Hanukkah with community and creativity.

January 2026

Tu BiShvat Hike & Fruit Tasting – A nature walk and picnic to honor our connection to the Earth.

February 2026

Kabbalat Shabbat – Sharing Shabbat together.

March 2026

Hamantaschen Baking & Costume Contest – Sweet treats and silly fun for Purim prep.

April 2026

Passover Prep & Recipe Share – Learn, teach, and taste new ideas for your seder.

May 2026

Lag BaOmer Bonfire or Picnic – Sunset celebration with song, snacks, and s'mores.

June 2026

Shavuot Cheesecake Tasting & Texts – Explore Jewish wisdom and dessert traditions.

July 2026

Reverse Tashlich / Beach Clean-Up – Honor our Earth through service and shared purpose.