

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

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

Barry Blum, Sarah Kramer, Alan Silverman, Nella Silverman, Heather Friedman-Rivera, Shari Berman, Craig Silverman, Elaine Dobinson, Joel Gimpel, and Courtney Meiselman

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Vic Greenspan, Mike Bernstone, Arnie Rabin and Stuart Liroff

OTHERS PRESENT

Aviva Plaut and Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting began at 10:32 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Blessings were given by Heather and Aviva for the working of our Board and for peace.

MI SHEBEIRACH

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

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Joel and seconded, the minutes of the November 2, 2025, KBS Board Meeting were approved.

MONTHLY MENTION

Heather thanked those who set up and contributed to the success of our in-person shabbat on November 22, including Israeli dance after services.

Heather also made a special mention of Mike Bernstone, who has been a dedicated Treasurer for our congregation for many years.

JEWISH JOY

There was enthusiasm and joy by those who partook in the Israeli dance that was led after services by Tamar Elias. Thank you Tamar.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mike emailed the monthly Treasurer's report to the board before the meeting. Upon motion made by Alan and seconded, the report was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FACILITIES

Alan submitted the dates for next year's shabbat and High Holy Day services and finalized an agreement with New Thought Center Hawaii (NTCH). They have accepted the dates. There is no increase in charges this year but KBS will need to give at least two weeks prior notification if we want to change dates. See addenda for dates. Simchat Torah starts Saturday evening, October 4, 2026, and a date to celebrate has not yet been reserved.

CEMETERY REPORT

Heather visited the cemetery and found it clean. There is nothing more to report.

WEBSITE

The Torah studies are being added to the banner that runs across the top of the webpage.

Heather posts twice a week on Facebook and Instagram. On Tuesdays she puts a photo with a quote, and on Fridays she posts an upcoming event.

BIKUR CHOLIM/SOCIAL COMMITTEE

KBS is putting out a box at in-person services to collect non-perishable grocery items for The Food Basket. Emails about the services will include a reminder to bring donations. Checks to The Food Basket are also welcome.

Roz Cohen has moved to Hilo Life Care Center.

Sarah asked if anyone has information about Barbara Lewis. Trina called her during high holidays. Barry said she is in a board and care facility, but unsure which one. Sarah will try contacting Diane Horowitz or her brother.

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Stuart is still dealing with health issues and is out of state, but Heather conducted the November 20 Zoom meeting. Nothing planned for a Chanukah party. If Aviva and Yehudah are planning something, perhaps KBS can be included.

HIGH HOLIDAYS (HH) COMMITTEE

Sarah has a possibility for next year's HH rabbi: a woman rabbi who lives in Scottsdale, Arizona. Sarah will get her details to Heather..

Heather's request to retain Rabbi Dan Fink again for next year has been sent but Rabbi Dan is unable to confirm or decline at this time.

JUDAISM 101

The second session was Monday, December 1, on Zoom and recorded on You Tube. Alan can share the link to see the session. Aviva and Yehudah are waiting for feedback to come up with a subject for next month's get-together.

The format is discussion rather than lecture. Monday's session lasted longer than an hour because the group was engaged in the subject, "G-d Struggling." There were several very positive responses from members of the board.

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

R. Shari will be leading the service, chanting the Torah and haftarah portions and giving the drash in honor of her bat mitzvah portion.

Location: NTCH

Challah: Aviva

Security: Heather

Potluck

BOOK CLUB December 14, 2025 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Zoom

Title: Drawing in the Dust by Zoe Klein

CHANUKAH December 19, 2025 TBD evening

RSVP required, space limited (maximum 30)

Location: Aviva and Yehudah's home

Entertainment: house guests: professional pianist and cantor

Music, candle lighting and potluck

Mandatory sign up for potluck menu

Zoom available for the entertainment

JEWS NEWS AROUND THE ISLAND

Beth Or, Hilo, Chanukah potluck, December 20, 5-9 p.m., at Women's Club of Hilo,\$20

Chabad Hilo Chanukah celebration December 14, 3 p.m.

Beit Aloha Elohim (BAE), Chanukah potluck, December 19, 6 p.m., Rabbi Sydney Mintz

OLD BUSINESS

PIZMON

This a cappella musical group was referred to BAE for possible connection.

NEW BUSINESS

BETH AM Beverly Hills

Aviva just received a letter letting us know that 10-15 students from their Reform congregation will be visiting Hawaii and wondering about connecting with KBS.

OPEN KBS TREASURER POSITION

Mike Bernstone is retiring as Treasurer December 31, 2025. Heather, Alan and Elaine will meet with Mike on December 16 to go over details, such as bank signatures. It was decided that Heather will send a letter to the congregation to ask for help since the Board has not come up with a solution. Courtney's mom will be contacted as she freelances preparing work forms and reports but does not live on Island. Proposals included: finding a treasurer who is a member of the congregation and possibly paying for bookkeeping services.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Board meeting will be held January 4, 2026, at **4 p.m.** on Zoom. Please note the new time. We are trying to accommodate R. Shari's and Una Greenaway's schedules.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nella Silverman, Secretary

ADDENDA

List of Kona Beth Shalom dates for 2026, covered by this agreement

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 24

November 28

December 19

Supplemental rentals

In addition to the 12 dates covered by this rental agreement, KBS will rent the lanai on the following dates:

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

Additional holiday: Simchat Torah—Saturday, October 3, 8:30am-2:30pm