

Minutes
Kona Beth Shalom (KBS)
Board of Trustees
January 4 , 2026
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, Stuart Liroff, Elaine Dobinson, Joel Gimpel and Courtney Meiselman

TRUSTEES ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Una Greenaway, Aviva and Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Opening prayers led by Rabbi Shari, who recited Psalm 134.

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 Joel and seconded, the minutes of the December 2, 2025, KBS Board Meeting were approved.

MONTHLY MENTION

Thanks to Aviva and Yehudah for an amazing Chanukah celebration at their house. Thank you to Elaine and Alan for joining Heather at the transition Treasurer's meeting at Mike Bernstone's house on December 16. Also thank you to Courtney for introducing her mom, Andi Meiselman, as a possible bookkeeper for the congregation.

JEWISH JOY

A Koa wood paddle with an inscription thanking Mike Bernstone for his many years of service was given to him at the Treasurer's meeting December 16.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The delayed September 2025 treasurer's report and the December 2025 report were sent to the Board prior to the meeting. Una clarified that the organization was actually in the black by \$4,000. The board reviewed the treasurer transition process, which involved three accounts: a main account at First Hawaiian Bank where Barry remains a signer, Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union account, and a Schwab brokerage account containing \$180,000. KBS needs to arrange access for someone other than Mike to the Schwab account.

The Board discussed difficulties in updating First Hawaiian Bank account signatories due to outdated financial information and IRS certification requirements. Alan explained that, to obtain the needed verification, we need to provide the original address used when the EIN was first issued, but multiple attempts with different addresses were rejected, preventing retrieval of this information. Arnie suggested applying for a new EIN as a simpler solution, though this would require updating the KBS donation letter. The Board agreed to pursue this option.

Meanwhile, Heather is arranging signature changes for the account at Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union, which has different requirements. She explained that money could be transferred from First Hawaiian Bank to the Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union via online banking. Alan noted that Mike had been using his personal credit card for congregation expenses, which were then reimbursed from the bank accounts. The group agreed to transition to using the congregation's accounts.

Heather presented three voting items: adding Alan and herself as bank account signers, securing bookkeeping support from Andi Meiselman at \$25/hour, and recruiting Una as treasurer.

Upon motion made by Elaine to elect Una to the board, and amended by Barry to include her becoming Treasurer, replacing Mike Bernstone, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Upon motion made by Una and seconded, Andi Meiselman will be hired as bookkeeper of KBS and paid \$36/hour for services rendered. The motion passed. Una, Heather and Courtney recused themselves from the vote.

The board discussed the need to establish a clear transition process for future treasurers, with Una and Andi working out details of their roles and bank account access. A written document would be placed on the website when complete.

Upon motion made by Courtney and seconded, the new signers on the bank accounts will be Heather Rivera, Pamela (Una) Greenaway and Alan Silverman replacing Michael Bernstone. The motion passed.

Elaine will show Una how to post the Treasurer's reports on the website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FACILITIES

Alan confirmed that Shabbat bookings are on track, with payments being processed through First Hawaiian Bank as well as payments being processed for KBS storage unit.

CEMETERY REPORT

Heather updated the forms and removed Mike's name from them.

Arnie is pursuing finding a way to find a location and perhaps funding for a cemetery on the Kona side of the Island.

WEBSITE

Alan confirmed the annual fee for web hosting payment was processed through First Hawaiian Bank.

Alan provided an update on the website, noting that while it's functioning well, we may need to consider hiring a web designer for an overhaul once financial matters are sorted out.

BIKUR CHOLIM/SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Sarah is relocating to Waikoloa this week from Arizona. She plans to notify the congregation when she moves into her new house and puts up a mezuzah, with Barry and others planning to attend.

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Stuart now feels he can assume his role leading the Engagement Committee. There will be a committee meeting this coming Thursday, January 8, at 4 p.m. After the next shabbat service January 24, there will be a creative writing workshop led by Heather. On March 15 there will be a Zoom book club at 10 a.m. There are plans to create an asset list of member talents. Tu B'shvat and Purim activities will be discussed at the committee meeting.

HIGH HOLIDAYS COMMITTEE

As yet no response from Rabbi Dan Fink to our request for him to return next year. Aviva feels he might be on vacation. Heather will wait a couple of weeks before sending another letter.

JUDAISM 101

Next meeting will be tomorrow, Monday, January 5, at 6 p.m. on Zoom, which will extend to 1.5 hours to allow more participation time. Aviva explained that while she could recommend existing Jewish education programs, she didn't want to replicate them, instead focusing on creating a safe learning environment where community members could share their knowledge and experiences. The next Judaism 101 meeting will be on February 9.

SHABBAT BO January 24, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Location: New Thought Center Hawaii (NTCH)

Leaders: Aviva and Una

Drash: Aviva

Torah readers: Aviva, R. Shari

Challah: Alan and Nella

Security: Heather

Potluck: salad, bagels

JEWS' NEWS

Chabad of Hilo is starting a new class, Rabbinic Responsa.

BAE is having Friday night services every week in January..

NEW BUSINESS

REPAYING KOA PADDLE

Upon motion made by Barry and seconded, KBS will reimburse the \$193.72 bill for the gift to Mike Bernstone for his many years of service as Treasurer. Motion passed.

BOMB THREATS TO MAUI AND OAHU SYNAGOGUES

The board discussed security concerns after a Maui Synagogue received a bomb threat, with Alan noting that Temple Emmanuel on Oahu had previously closed due to a similar threat. Heather had our security measures checked by a local representative of Secure Community Network who found them adequate.

ADJOURNMENT

The next board meeting will be on Monday, February 2nd at 4 PM, as Tu Bishvat falls on the first Sunday.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nella R. Silverman

Nella Silverman, Secretary