

Minutes
Kona Beth Shalom (KBS)
Board of Trustees
February 2 , 2026
Zoom (online) meeting

TRUSTEES LOGGED INTO MEETING

Barry Blum, Sarah Kramer, Alan Silverman, Nella Silverman, Heather Friedman-Rivera, R. Shari Berman, Una Greenaway, Arnie Rabin, Stuart Liroff, Elaine Dobinson, Joel Gimpel and Courtney Meiselman

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Vic Greenspan and Craig Silverman

OTHERS PRESENT

Aviva and Yehudah Plaut

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting began at 4:01 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Opening prayers led by Aviva Plaut who read a prayer for the US and Israel by R. Jay Sherwood emphasizing kindness, justice and righteousness. R. Shari read a prayer for Tu B'shvat reminding us life comes from our core, our roots.

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. Trina Yerlick's mom, Jean Walzer, passed this week. R. Shari recited kaddish for her and for Jerry and Judy Rothstein's yahrzeit.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Joel and seconded, the minutes of the January 4, 2026, KBS Board Meeting were approved.

MONTHLY MENTION

Thanks to Una and Alan for doing the continued work of transitioning the Treasurer job from Michael Bernstone. An additional thank you to Alan for building the Torah stand for services.

JEWISH JOY

The last of the hostage remains from the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack were returned to Israel.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Una sent the balance sheet by email to the board before the meeting but Andi Meiselman is still working on the profit/loss report. It will be ready next month. Una is now a signer on both the FHB and HFCU accounts and a debit card has been issued for the credit union. The Schwab account is still yet to be transferred. The Green family foundation gave a \$5,000 donation this January in memory of Barbara Green.

Joel moved to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FACILITIES

Alan and Aviva have the quarterly Zoom meeting with New Thought Center Hawaii (NTCH) this coming week. Things have been running smoothly. Monthly rental bills to NTCH have been set for payment as well as monthly rental payments for the storage unit.

There was a nice turnout last shabbat with 23 people attending and another 8 on Zoom. Heather's after shabbat "Creative Writing" seminar was met with success and hopes that another can be scheduled.

CEMETERY REPORT

Heather visited the cemetery and found it looking fine. Barry and Heather worked to update the cemetery forms with new address, phone number, etc. It is downloadable from the website and a small number of pamphlets will be printed for availability at shabbat services.

Questions were raised about how caskets are buried at Beit Hashamayim. The casket is set on the ground with a hard plastic cover to prevent the ground sinking. The same is available for Jewish burials at the Veteran's Cemetery in Kona.

WEBSITE

Alan is focusing on keeping the calendar updated and Heather sends out twice weekly Instagram and Facebook posts (they have been getting a number of likes). Heather has been producing some original material for the Jewish Joy section. Arnie has written an article. Members are encouraged to write and share with our community.

Barry dropped off a small package of photos taken earlier in KBS history. there are albums that Solomon Herbert digitized, all of which are in need of id's of people in photos which can then be placed in our gallery section of the website. Arnie volunteered to help with the id's.

Heather asked if anyone knew of a website designer to help clean up and refresh our web pages. Arnie recommended Walter Shock.

BIKUR CHOLIM/SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Aviva will send a condolence card from KBS to Trina Yerlick on her mother's passing.

Nella asked for help in organizing shalach manot for the Jewish residents of The Regency retirement home in Kona, if possible.

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thank you to Heather for the excellent creative writing workshop after last month's services. There were rave reviews and calls for another one soon.

A Tu B'shvat email was sent out by Heather describing ways the membership might celebrate the holiday at home.

Arnie Rabin will have a Magic Lesson after services on February 28, in celebration of Purim.

The next engagement committee meeting is set for Thursday, March 5 at 4 pm.

Book Club led by Heather will be Sunday, March 15, at 10 a.m., discussing, "Israel" by Noa Tishby. (The author was interviewed on PBS Firing Line 1/25/26.)

Clay Workshop Sundays in April (choice of 12th or 19th) with Courtney Meiselman. The glazing will be scheduled in May. Flyers are being made.

HIGH HOLIDAYS COMMITTEE

R. Dan Fink has a possible commitment that may keep him from being able to come to our HH next year.

At Sarah Kramer's welcome home party, her daughter's best friend is a cantor.. That friend and the rabbi who she works with, would be interested in coming for HH., if we need someone.

Courtney spoke to the rabbi who officiated at her bat mitzvah in Texas and he is interested in reaching out to KBS.

JUDAISM 101 February 9 6 p.m. Zoom

The subject of the next discussion will be: Jewish Perspectives of Aging.

SHABBAT ZACHOR February 28, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Aviva and Yehudah will be away. Suggested aron be left in storage.

Leaders: Barry (in person) and R. Shari (on Zoom)

Drosh: Megillah reading (groggers needed)

Challah: Alan and Nella
Helpers: Courtney and Vic
Security: Heather
Hamentashen: Heather/Nella and Alan
Challah: Nella and Alan
Potluck: No meat

JEWES NEWS AROUND THE ISLAND

Chabad Hilo Kids Challah Bake was on January 25

Beit Aloha Elohim (BAE)

Friday night Feb. 6, 6 pm, singer/songwriter Cantor Marsha Attie

OLD BUSINESS

KBS has a P.O.Box 699 in Kailua Kona.

Heather checked and we need, but don't have, a fidelity bond per the bylaws. Heather will look into how much this will cost and report to the board.

NEW BUSINESS

FREE TREE OF LIFE DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

HBO created this movie in 2022 and is now available on HBO Max Documentary. Alan received an email that we could schedule a free screening on Zoom and then have a discussion with one of the survivors. This was referred to the Engagement Committee for possible scheduling.

JEWISH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS, FEBRUARY 9TH 10:00 AM

In wake of the uptick in antisemitic activities, the JCPA has been commissioned by the Weinberg Foundation to assess community relations activities and needs in Hawaii, to be discussed in a Zoom session with Island community leaders. Heather will send an email to the Board after the meeting with details.

REDEDICATION OF OUR TORAH

Memorial Scrolls Trust suggested to rededicate the torah every 10 years. Barry said we rededicate our Torah every time we use it, including at Simchat Torah, but suggested we reactivate KBS sending contributions to the Polna community for upkeep of the synagogue memorial there. A suggestion was made to replay the documentary "Black Fire/White Fire" as a fundraiser.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Board meeting will be held Sunday, March 1 2026, at 4 p.m. on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nella Silverman, Secretary