



5787 Annual Newsletter

Our HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES are in-person at the New Thought Center of Hawai'i (NTCH) 81-6587 Mamalahoa Hwy, Kealahakua, and also on Zoom unless otherwise indicated. Rabbi Daniel Fink joins us again to lead our services.

KBS Annual Meeting (Zoom only) <i>Followed by September board meeting</i>	Sunday, Sept. 6 4PM
Erev Rosh Hashanah Service <i>Followed by Kiddush with apples and honey</i>	Friday, Sept. 11 6PM
Rosh Hashanah Day Service <i>Followed by Kiddush and potluck*</i>	Saturday, Sept. 12 10AM
Tashlich <i>Old Airport Park - Beach pavilion #1</i>	Sunday, Sept. 13 10AM
Rabbi Fink: Insights from travels thru the South <i>Potluck* & discussion at the home of Nella & Alan Silverman in Kona Palisades</i>	Wednesday, Sept 16 5:30PM
Shabbat Shuva Service <i>Followed by Kiddush and potluck*</i>	Saturday, Sept. 19 10:30AM
Kol Nidre Service	Sunday, Sept. 20 6PM
Yom Kippur Day Services • Shacharit (morning service) 10AM-1PM • Mid-afternoon discussion ~ 2-3PM • Minchah (Torah service) 3:30PM • Yizkor 4PM • Neilah 5:50PM • Havdallah 6PM (sunset is 6:58PM) <i>Followed by break-the-fast with bagels & lox + potluck*</i>	Monday, Sept. 21 All Day
Shabbat & Simchat Torah <i>Followed by Kiddush and potluck*</i>	Sat., Oct. 3 10:30AM

**For all potlucks- Please no pork or shellfish.*

Seats at all High Holiday Services are included with Congregation membership. Non-members who wish to attend are asked to make a contribution to help defray the costs of conducting the services.

No one is turned away for inability to contribute.



The prayer book used during Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur is called a "machzor" (מַחְזֹר), a specialized form of the siddur (the prayer book for weekday and Shabbat services). This year we will again use "*Mishkan HaNefesh: Machzor for the Days of Awe*." It consists of two volumes, one for Rosh HaShanah, one for Yom Kippur. KBS has purchased 50 sets for in-person use during the High Holy Days. We invite everyone to consider a donation to help defray the cost of this purchase. You may wish to honor your loved ones with a bookplate (an "Ex Libris" inscription pasted inside the front cover).

Those attending on Zoom will likely want to have your own machzor. The Kindle (digital) version costs only about \$20 for the pair of books. You can buy that online and then use it at home while attending KBS High Holidays services on Zoom.



Welcome Back Rabbi Daniel Fink



Daniel B. Fink is the emeritus rabbi of Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel in Boise, Idaho, where he served for thirty years. He received his bachelor's degree in history and philosophy from the University of Virginia, and a Masters of Arts in Hebrew Letters from the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. An ardent environmentalist, Rabbi Dan enjoys hiking, canoeing, biking and kayaking. He is the co-author of *Let the Earth Teach You Torah* and *Judaism and Ecology* as well as

numerous articles on Judaism and environmental policy, and is a forest therapy guide certified by the Association for Nature and Forest Therapy. He is also an avid amateur musician, playing banjo, guitar, and blues harmonica with his band, "The Living Room Boys." He is married to Dr. Janet Kaufman, and is the very proud father of Tanya and Rosa Fink and Rachel and Jonah Kaufman.



CONGREGATION KONA BETH SHALOM ANNUAL MEETING

The KBS Annual Membership Meeting will be conducted via Zoom, Sunday, September 6th at 4 PM. We will send the Zoom instructions by email to all KBS members prior to the meeting. At the meeting we'll elect Trustees to our Board and officers of the Congregation and discuss plans for KBS for the coming year. If you have suggestions, come to the meeting. We are actively seeking new members for our Board. The work is rewarding. If you are interested in joining our Board, email president@konabethshalom.org before the meeting and then be sure to attend. Nominations will be accepted at this meeting. The maximum number of Board members is eighteen (not including the immediate past president). Our present Board is shown below with the expiration dates of the trustees' three-year terms.

Name of Trustee/Term Expires

Una Greenaway/2026*	Victor Greenspan/ **
R. Shari Joy Berman/2028	Heather Friedman Rivera/2027
Dr. Barry Blum/2028	Alan Silverman/2028
Elaine Dobinson/2026*	Nella Silverman/2028
Joel Gimpel/2026*	Courtney Meiselman/2028
Arnie Rabin/2028	Sarah Kramer/2026*
Craig Silverman/2028	

*Term ending now and trustee standing for reelection.

**Immediate past president.

After the new Board is elected, the congregation will vote to select the new officers for the coming year. Each officer's term is one year. Current officers are:

President: Heather Friedman Rivera

1st Vice-President: Vic Greenspan

2nd Vice-President: Arnie Rabin

Treasurer: Una Greenaway

Secretary: Nella Silverman

The congregation will elect officers for the coming year at the Annual Meeting. Any active member of the congregation may stand for office. Nominations will be accepted at this meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be immediately followed by the monthly September KBS Board Meeting. All who attend the Annual Meeting are invited to stay and participate.

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT

At the September 6, 2026 Annual Membership Meeting, members will be asked to consider the following amendment to the Kona Beth Shalom Bylaws.

Current Article VI, Section 6:

"All officers and members of the Board of Trustees shall be covered by a blanket position fidelity bond in the amount to be determined by the Board of Trustees, the cost of which shall be borne by the congregation."

Proposed Amendment:

Delete Article VI, Section 6 in its entirety.

Argument in Favor:

The Board of Trustees reviewed the congregation's insurance requirements and determined that this provision is no longer necessary within the bylaws. Removal of this requirement allows future Boards to evaluate insurance coverage based on the congregation's circumstances and needs without requiring a bylaw amendment.

Argument Against:

Some members may believe that retaining this provision provides an additional layer of financial protection and oversight by requiring fidelity bond coverage for officers and trustees.

Adoption of this amendment requires approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting at the Annual Membership Meeting.



A Special Word of Appreciation



We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mike Bernstone for his many years of dedicated service as Treasurer and for his faithful stewardship of the congregation's finances.

We are also grateful to Una Greenaway for stepping into the role of Treasurer following Mike's retirement from the Board and for her ongoing commitment to KBS.



A RECAP OF THE YEAR



Shalom Chaverim,

As I reflect on the past year at Kona Beth Shalom, one word comes to mind: growth. Growth is not always measured by numbers. Sometimes it is measured by stronger foundations, improved organization, new opportunities for learning, and a deeper sense of connection within our community. This year, KBS has experienced all of these

Our congregation continues to thrive at our home at New Thought Center of Hawai'i. Throughout the year we gathered to celebrate Shabbat and holidays, study Torah, learn together, and enjoy one another's company. We welcomed visiting rabbis and guest speakers, strengthened existing programs, and introduced new activities designed to engage members of all interests and backgrounds.

Among the highlights were our community hikes, beach days, book club discussions, Israeli folk dancing, creative writing workshops, ceramics workshops, magic lessons, Judaism 101 classes, Torah study, holiday celebrations, and social gatherings. These programs remind us that Jewish life flourishes not only through prayer, but also through friendship, learning, creativity, and shared experiences.

During the year, your Board of Trustees worked diligently to strengthen the infrastructure of our congregation. We launched a redesigned website, created new brochures for Beit HaShamayim, oversaw installation of a new fence at Beit HaShamayim, developed an Operations Manual, implemented security policies and procedures, improved our record keeping, strengthened our digital organization and institutional continuity, and expanded our volunteer leadership. While many of these improvements take place behind the scenes, they help ensure that Kona Beth Shalom remains organized, resilient, and well-positioned for the future.

I am deeply grateful to every member of our Board of Trustees, committee volunteers, lay leaders, and congregants who contribute their time, talents, and energy to this community. Kona Beth Shalom exists because people care enough to participate, volunteer, teach, lead, and support one another.

As our congregation approaches its Annual Meeting, I encourage every member to consider becoming involved in the leadership of Kona Beth Shalom. New ideas, new voices, and new perspectives help keep our community vibrant and strong. Service on the Board of Trustees is both meaningful and rewarding, and I encourage anyone interested in helping shape the future of KBS to attend the Annual Meeting and consider serving in a leadership role.

The coming year will bring new opportunities to continue strengthening our congregation while preserving and enriching Jewish life on Hawai'i Island. As we look ahead to the coming year, there is every reason to be optimistic about the future of our congregation. Together we are preserving Jewish life on Hawai'i Island while continuing to create new opportunities for connection, learning, and spiritual growth.

**Thank you for your trust, your support, and your commitment to our community.
L'Shanah Tovah.**

With gratitude,

Heather Friedman Rivera, Ph.D.

President, Board of Trustees



OUR WEBSITE

Our newly redesigned website is your 'go-to' location for everything happening at Kona Beth Shalom: www.konabethshalom.org. The website now includes expanded information about our programs, cemetery, membership opportunities, and upcoming events. This is where you can find out what is happening with your congregation and your local Jewish community. This includes information about Shabbat and Holiday services and celebrations, other educational opportunities for adults, public events, concerts and much more. You can keep track of yahrzeits. You can participate in Saturday morning Torah Study. You can communicate with us. Join us. Check us out.



[Welcome](#) [Jewish Life](#) [Calendar](#) [We Remember](#) [Join Us](#) [DONAT](#)



MISHEBEIRACH

Praying for all our congregation, for Israel and the world.

*Mi shebeirach avoteinu
M'kor hab'racha l'imoteinu*

*Mi shebeirach imoteinu
M'kor hab'racha l'avoteinu*

**May the source of strength,
Who blessed the ones before us,**

**Bless those in need of healing,
with *r'fuah sh'leimah*,**

**Help us find the courage, to
make our lives a blessing,
And let us say, Amen.**

**The renewal of body, the
renewal of spirit,
And let us say, Amen.**

– Debbie Friedman



BEIT HASHAMAYIM



Located within Homelani Memorial Park in Hilo, Beit HaShamayim is the only Jewish cemetery on the island. It is open to all Jewish families and persons in need, whether Jewish by birth, choice or family relationship. The Hebrew words Beit HaShamayim and the Hawaiian word Homelani each mean “Heavenly Home.” For more information about Jewish burial on the Big Island, check the [KBS website](http://www.kbswebsite.com) or contact Dr. Barry Blum at bonedoc.bb@gmail.com or info@konabethshalom.org



IN MEMORIAM FOR 2026

Marty Kelemen passed away March 2, 2026. Marty came to Kona from Los Angeles where he was born in 1941. He was a businessman there, manufacturing and selling high end mattresses. He brought some of the tastiest raw food delights to KBS pot-lucks. Later, he joined Chabad in Kona. He had one son from his first marriage.

Ted Leaf passed away January 30, 2026. A retired dentist, he was a member of Coast Guard Auxiliary for 22 years, an amateur radio operator (call sign WH6DGZ), served on the Kona Community Hospital emergency committee, was a clarinetist in the Hawaii County Band, and he worked with Arnie Rabin on the Annual Kainaliu Xmas Parade for many years. Ted attended Chabad of Kona and was a widower.

Jean Walzer passed away January 29, 2026. Trina Yerlick's mother, Jean Walzer, was born In Dayton, Ohio in 1927. She went to undergraduate school at Ohio State and then got her masters at NYU where she taught English writing for many years. She traveled and taught all over the world including Mexico, Thailand, China and Laos and finally slowed down at age 78 to live in Hawaii near Trina and Shai until age 97 when they all moved to California to be near the family. Jean was a wine expert and gave many tastings over the years. She was also a voracious reader. She really enjoyed her six grandchildren as well as two great grandchildren, Lia and Gabe, and will be remembered by all. She is resting peacefully at Fernwood Cemetery in Marin.

The Last Jews of Polná. Every year, Kona Beth Shalom takes the responsibility of reciting Kaddish for the last Jewish residents of Polná in the Czech Republic, the original home of our beloved Torah scroll. Slips of paper inscribed with the names of each of those 95 individuals of blessed memory are distributed to all at our Yizkor Service so that those names may be read aloud. There is no one else to do this.

**MAY THEIR MEMORIES ALWAYS BE A BLESSING
FOR THEIR FAMILIES, THEIR FRIENDS, AND FOR ALL OF US.**



TO HELP US RAISE FUNDS...
"GIVE ALOHA" at FOODLAND, SACK N SAVE
and FOODLAND FARMS

Kona Beth Shalom participates in GIVE ALOHA, the annual community matching gifts program of Foodland supermarkets, honoring founder Maurice J. "Sully" Sullivan, and continuing his legacy of giving back to the community.

How It Works

From Sept. 1-30, customers are invited to make donations of up to a cumulative total of \$249 per person, per organization to participating Hawai'i non-profit organizations at checkout using their Maika'i Cards. Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will match a portion of each donation* up to a total of at least \$350,000 for all organizations combined.

How to Donate

At checkout, present your Maika'i Card and inform the cashier that you would like to make a donation to our organization. If you do not have a Maika'i Card, you may request one, free of charge. The five-digit registration code for KBS is 78575. Your donation will be added to your grocery purchase total. The amount you have donated and the name of our congregation will appear on your receipt. Any donation must be made payable to Foodland, Sack N Save or Foodland Farms. Donor names will not be released to Kona Beth Shalom, so please forward the information to us so that we may properly acknowledge your gift: treasurer@konabethshalom.org

Are These Contributions Tax Deductible?

These contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please save your store receipt for tax purposes as it will be the only record you will have of your donation.

***How Matching Gifts Are Calculated**

Matching Gifts will be calculated after the end of the program. Organizations will receive 100% of all customer donations given to their organization, plus their percentage of Foodland's matching gift. The portion of the matching gift that each organization receives is based on the total dollar amount of customer donations designated to that organization as a percentage of all customer donations received for all organizations.



Please complete your MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / DONATION FORM

Kona Beth Shalom offers a rich program of activities to our community throughout the year. We invite you to join us as members and to donate financially. Please use Become a Member to renew or become a new member. With the understanding that some can afford to donate more and some less, we have created membership categories as well as special funds designated for specific usage. Your donations go toward operating expenses including rent, supplies, internet communications, books, teachers, our Jewish cemetery, Jewish religious and educational activities, visiting rabbis, cantors and speakers and more.

Joining as a member in any category enables you and us to stay in touch, which is why we ask for names and contact information. We also want to know if your children or grandchildren may be of the age to consider Hebrew School attendance or Bat or Bar Mitzvah training.

Levels of Membership include the following donation opportunities:

- SINGLE Membership: \$180
- FAMILY Membership: \$360
- SUSTAINING Membership: \$540
- OTHER amounts:

We understand that not everyone has the same ability to contribute financially. If your circumstances are such that a contribution would be a hardship, please join in the "OTHER" category and indicate the amount you are comfortable donating (whether one time or monthly).

All KBS Memberships include seats for High Holiday Services at no extra cost. Non-members who wish to attend High Holiday Services on Zoom are asked to contribute \$36 per family, per holiday.

Non-members who wish to attend High Holiday Services in person are asked to contribute \$50 per adult, per holiday.

Non-member children and kupuna are invited without charge.

Besides MEMBERSHIP Donations and the MACHZOR Fund, we invite contributions for:

- YIZKOR Contribution (include the names of people to be remembered)
- CHEVRA KADISHA Contribution (cemetery)
- MISHEBERACH (healing) Contribution (include person's names)
- JEWISH EDUCATION PROGRAM (for children and/or adults)
- BUILDING FUND Contribution
- UNRESTRICTED Contribution

Why Become a Member of Kona Beth Shalom?

1. Support the Heart of Jewish Life on the Island

Your membership helps sustain our Shabbat services, High Holiday events, Torah study, gatherings, cemetery upkeep, and more. Your dues are an investment in Jewish continuity and connection — for yourself and for others.

2. Be Part of a Sacred Community

Membership means belonging. Whether you're celebrating, grieving, learning, or simply needing connection — our community is here for you, and your presence helps shape who we are.

3. Access to Life Cycle Support

Members receive support for weddings, funerals, unveiling ceremonies, and more — all rooted in Jewish tradition and care.

4. Cemetery Privileges

Members receive discounts on burial plots and priority access to our Jewish cemetery.

5. Voting Rights and Leadership Opportunities

Members shape the future of our congregation through voting at our annual meeting and by serving on the board or committees.

6. Deepen Jewish Learning and Connection

From Torah study to holiday observances to guest speakers and visiting rabbis — members help make these programs possible and have opportunities to participate more fully.

7. Be Counted

Membership demonstrates your commitment to Jewish life in our rural Hawaiian community. You help ensure that our sacred traditions and values endure from generation to generation.

8. It's Easy & Painless

Membership can be paid as a one-time annual payment or spread out monthly throughout the year. Choose the amount you can pay on the online form at [Become a Member](#) or use the QR code



**Kona Beth Shalom, here for everyone since 1980.
We look forward to 5787 being a wonderful year for all of us.
On behalf of all the members of Congregation Kona Beth
Shalom, we wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year –
*L'Shana Tovah Tikateivu!!!***

