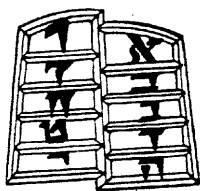


BETH SHALOM / OCEANSIDE JEWISH CENTER



THE BULLETIN



2860 Brower Avenue • Oceanside, NY 11572

Tel: 516-536-6112 • Fax: 516-536-0347

Volume 15 Number 5

May/June 2009 • Iyar/Sivan/Tammuz 5769



WHAT SUSAN BOYLE TAUGHT US

From Rabbi Mark B Greenspan

Who is Susan Boyle? If you own a computer then you probably have seen her video on the British version of “*American Idol*.” I don’t know if I can do justice in describing her. Susan Boyle is a forty seven year old spinster from a small village in Scotland who lives alone with her cat. She’s short and plump with grey frizzy hair and bushy eyebrows. She initially claimed ‘never to have been kissed:’ not exactly the image that we expect to see on television.

But there she was on “*Britain’s Got Talent*” standing in front of Simon Cowell and the other judges. When Susan said she wanted to be a professional singer the audience laughed and when Simon asked her how old she was, she put her hand on her hip and said, “Forty-seven and that’s on one side,” the audience became hysterical. I suspect that they weren’t laughing with Susan; they were laughing at her.

And then she began to sing. To say that Ms Boyle has a beautiful voice is an understatement. This woman has a voice that makes you want to weep it’s so beautiful – and it’s all the more striking because it seems to be so incongruous coming from such a dowdy and unattractive woman. In just moments, Susan Boyle’s life changed. In the weeks that have passed since her first appearance on TV, Ms Boyle has become the darling of the media. Every one wants to interview her and she has received invitations from recording artists to sing together.

Of course, there’s nothing new about this. For as long as we have been living in society we have been judging others by what we see rather than by who others really are. The Talmud tells the story of Rabbi Joshua ben Hananiah, a brilliant scholar who happened to also be a blacksmith, the humblest of professions. Rabbi Joshua was known for his great wisdom and his homely looks. Because he was a respected sage, Rabbi Joshua had access to the aristocracy of his day even though he was a humble craftsman. Once, the daughter of Caesar commented to him, “What a pity; that God would place such glorious wisdom in so ugly a vessel!”

Rabbi Joshua replied, “Tell me, in what kind of vessel does your father keep his wine?” Caesar’s daughter said: “In earthenware jugs.” Joshua told her: “Ordinary people keep

wine in earthenware jugs; you, who are so important, you should keep it in vessels of silver or gold!”

Caesar’s daughter went and told her father, who had his wine put into vessels of silver and gold. And of course you know what happened – the wine immediately turned sour. Caesar summoned Rabbi Joshua and asked him, “Why did you give my daughter such advice?” Rabbi Joshua said: “The same question she asked me, I [turned around and] asked her.”

I suspect that it was in response to this story that Rabbi Yehudah HaNasi, the editor of the Mishnah, said, *Al tistakel b’kankan eleh mah sheh-yesh bo*: “Don’t look at the flask but what’s found within.”

But we’ve never really learned that lesson. The NY Times recently had a story claiming that we are hard wired to reject

(continued on page 3)

OJC JOURNAL DINNER DANCE Sunday Evening, June 7, 2009

The Journal Committee is proud to announce that this year’s Journal Dinner Dance will honor the 60th Anniversary of our synagogue. The theme is “A Reunion.” We will recognize all attending Former Presidents of all of the arms of Oceanside Jewish Center. All members, past and present, have been invited. If you have any memorabilia (including photos, letters, articles, etc.) that we can display to highlight our temple’s history, please contact Ed Goldstein (536-2317) or Sharon Kamens (763-6783). All original items will be returned to you. You may attend by raising or donating \$180 per person. Ad blanks are available in the temple office or by calling Ed or Sharon. **The deadline for ads is May 18th and for reservations is May 22nd.**



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

TIME OF FREEDOM?
by *Jolene Boden*

I was recently sitting with two of my colleagues, one Jewish and one Christian. We were reviewing the recently past Passover holidays. My Jewish friend shared what she had done to make the Seder meaningful to her 3 and 6 year old grandchildren, using masks and frogs all over the table. The other woman said, “you know, that is what makes Judaism so special. You bring it to the basics of life...home to the family table. You work hard to make it meaningful to your children.” It struck me that we work hard as a family to make it Jewish, we work hard as a congregation to make it spiritually relevant, and we work hard as a movement and a people to bring a sense of relevance and personal connection to Judaism.

The Oceanside Jewish Center continues to strive for ways to create meaningful Jewish experiences for our members. We have programming that reaches out to all ages and we are always open to thoughts and ideas. We want this to be your synagogue- we value the partnership between lay leaders, professional staff and congregants.

As my two years as president come to a close, I can't help but reflect on the many opportunities and struggles that I have had during that time. I have been privileged to represent OJC in the community, at United Synagogue and with our membership. I have been thrilled to share in celebrating with the B'nai Mitzvot, to watch the smiles of the parents as they experience their child's milestone in life. I have been saddened to offer condolences at times of grief and to try to offer a connection to our synagogue family.

These have been some challenging times, and we have had to make some difficult choices. I could not have done all of this without the support of my executive board and the Rabbi. I sincerely thank them for making this a joint effort and for being a part of the OJC family that I call my home.

B'shalom,
Jolene Boden

**DEADLINE FOR
NEXT BULLETIN
August 17th**



BAR/BAT MITZVAHS

ZACHARY LEVYMAY 2, 2009
Zachary is the son of Nancy and Greg Levy and the brother of Jason. Zachary's hobbies and interests are: basketball, baseball, and hanging out with his friends. His future career goal is to go to college and establish a career then.

DANIELLE WILSON.....MAY 9, 2009
Danielle is the daughter of Elayna and Neal Wilson and the sister to Samantha and Brett. Danielle enjoys softball, karate, singing, art, hanging out with her friends, and having fun and just being happy! Danielle is currently on the Honor Roll and a proud member of Best Buddies at the OMS. Danielle's future career goals are undetermined at this point in time.

JEREMY STUMERMAY 16, 2009
Jeremy is the son of Laurie and Adam Stumer and the older brother to Noah. Jeremy enjoys history, swimming, and video games. His future career goal is to become a medical examiner.

JEREMY LEIDERJUNE 16, 2009
Jeremy is the son of Martha and Roger Leider, and the brother of Sydney and Stormy the Cat. His hobbies and interests are: ice hockey, baseball, traveling, and summer camp. Jeremy hopes to become a professional hockey player in the future.

Beth Shalom / Oceanside Jewish Center
Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
2860 Brower Avenue, Oceanside, NY 11572
Main Office (Tel.) 516-536-6112 • (Fax.) 516-536-0347
Religious & Nursery School Office (Tel.) 516-764-4213
Web Site: <http://www.oceansidejc.org>
Email: mainoffice@oceansidejc.org

Mark B. Greenspan Rabbi
Gadi Elon Cantor
Yitzhak Lefkovitz Cantor Emeritus
Steven Barr Sexton
Jolene Boden President
Len Lerner Executive Director
Karen Rosenberg Secretary
Andrea Cassidy Bookkeeper
Yitzchak Dees Education Director
Anita Hoine Early Childhood Director
Paula Spector, Davey LeBoyer Library
Jeffrey Hahn Bulletin Editor
Karen Wolf Assistant Bulletin Editor
Please submit articles via email to: jlshahn@aol.com
Files should be saved as WORD (.doc) or "text" (.txt).

RABBI (continued from page 1)

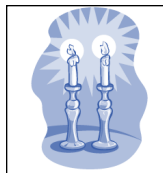
the homely and embrace the beautiful. Social scientists claim that the ability to stereotype is an survival technique for categorizing between people who were malignant vs. those who are benign. It helps us to make sense out of the world – even though the stereotypes are not always correct (as in this case). Our tendency to categorize goes far beyond anger and friendliness: we look at age, gender, skin color, weight and social skills. In truth these categories are self fulfilling and reinforcing: because someone is young, thin and attractive, we presume that they are more socially skilled. And because we see them that way, they are more likely to respond that way as well.

The response of the judges and audience to Susan Boyle was not so much a comment about her talent as it was an indictment of how superficial we are. Like the daughter of Caesar, we tend to see the flask rather than to focus on what it contains. Someone enters the room and we make a flash judgment: good or bad, ugly or beautiful. We like them or we don't.

Parshat Kedoshim contains one of the most important chapters in the Torah. We're told to "Love your neighbor as yourself" "Not to put a stumbling block before the blind," to "leave the corners of your field for the needy," and "not to oppress the stranger in your midst." All of these laws can really be reduced to a single overriding principle: Kedoshim t'hiyu, "You shall be holy." But what does it mean to be holy? It means not only to act a certain way but to recognize the potential of godliness in others and to treat them accordingly. After all, doing good (or not hurting others) does not make us holy – it simply means that we're not criminals. To be holy is to see the hidden godliness in others and to strive to bring that quality out in ourselves. It is to see beyond the surface of things and to judge based on the essence of things.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with being attractive. The sages saw beauty as a sign of God's presence in the world. Physical beauty is meaningless if it is not accompanied by depth and character. What counts, in the end, is what's found within. Yiddish speakers talk about a shayner yid, a beautiful Jew. Being a Shayner Yid has nothing to do with looks but with character of the individual. Our tradition teaches us to say a blessing when we encounter a person who has physical or congenital disabilities, "Praised are you Adonai our God who has created a variety of different types of people. We are not beautiful or ugly, tall or short, physically able or disabled, whole or broken; we are just different.

Susan Boyle can teach us a lesson. She reminds us not to presume anything about the people that we encounter in our daily lives. Even more important, we are taught to love them not because they are beautiful or talented or skilled or because they make us laugh but love them because they are human beings. They are kamocha, no different than we are. We can't help ourselves. We are going to make snap judgments of others. But maybe we can step back and ask: *Who is this person, really? What is it that I haven't seen?*



SISTERHOOD UPDATE

By Judy Kagan and Barbara Simon

Co-Presidents

Passover and the weeks of preparation are behind us and we are looking ahead to the final months of the 2008-09 Sisterhood year. There are still exciting events to end this term. On May 19th we will host our famous Annual Bingo Supperette, which will be followed in June by the Sisterhood Year End Dinner. Plan to join us!!

It is also time to take stock of what Sisterhood has accomplished this year. Yasher Koach to all of the women who have contributed so much to our success the officers, Board Members as well as all of our sisterhood members who supported our endeavors.

Sisterhood membership has increased during the past two years from 50 members to 118 members for 2008-09. Our outreach program culminating with the outstanding Paid-up Membership Dinner was a most positive experience.

Our programs have been varied, exciting, fun and educational. Members have shown their approval by turning out in great numbers for these events. This year we co-shared a Women's League Shabbat and our Women's Seder with the Sisterhood of the South Baldwin Jewish Center and our annual Chanukah program with the Friedberg JCC.

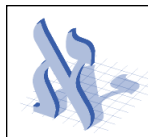
The Fundraisers were exceptional!! The Atlantic City Trip, New Year Card Sales, New Year Calendar, New Year Leagrams, Holiday Flowers, Anniversary Leagrams, Passover Candy Sale, Theater Club, Judaica Gift Shop, Bingo Supperette and Holiday Boutique made it possible for Sisterhood to meet its financial obligation to our Synagogue and to support the many Women's League projects.

Sisterhood Mitzvah projects received recognition from many recipient organizations including Hatzilu and National Council of Jewish Women. We take pride in supporting these organizations which help repair the world.

A special thank you to Robbie (AKA) Robert Ian Caterers and the entire OJC Staff for their cooperation and efforts on behalf of Sisterhood.

It has been a rewarding and fruitful year. Have a wonderful summer!!

My sincerest thanks to Karen Wolf who has been the Bulletin's assistant editor for several years. Her editorial skills are truly appreciated and have added tremendously to producing a publication with virtually no spelling errors and proper grammar. Commas are her favorite. Karen...Thnaks! (Oops...THANKS!).....Jeff



NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

by Anita Hoine
EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR

This school year has flown by. It seems as though we just celebrated the High Holidays! We are now getting ready for our Pre-K Graduation and summer. We are as busy as ever in nursery school now.

I have watched many of our children grow and mature. There were many that came in shy and hesitant, who now are excited and confident. I see capable "Kindergarten ready" children who have developed strong skills and relationships. They have a warm feeling for Judaism and have learned the meaning of our holidays and customs. They've received a great beginning to their Jewish education.

Our year has been filled with many highlights. Now as we draw to a close, we look toward our end of year parties.

Our two year olds and three year olds will return to us next year and we look forward to seeing many of them in camp. I would be remiss if I didn't thank my wonderful staff for another great year. They give so much of themselves to their job. They are caring, dedicated teachers. The children are their prime concern. It takes much time and many staff meetings to plan out the months and goals for our yeladim. The children have explored the environment around them and developed as unique individuals. Much gratitude to my entire staff.

I wish you all a restful summer spent in the best of health. If you know of anyone interested in camp or school for the fall, please don't hesitate to have them call me.

**BETH SHALOM
OCEANSIDE JEWISH CENTER
MISSION STATEMENT**

"Beth Shalom Oceanside Jewish Center affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, is an egalitarian congregation and a nurturing community which provides opportunities for Jews of all ages and backgrounds to live in the presence of G-d through religious observance, Jewish learning and acts of social responsibility."

PLEASE JOIN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY!

**TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT
2009/5769**

Thursday Evening, May 28th
8:00 PM

Oceanside Jewish Center
2870 Brower Avenue
Oceanside, NY 11572

Has G-d Vacated the Premises?

**Synagogue, Community
and Spirituality in the
21ST Century**

Three thousand years ago the people of Israel stood at the foot of Mount Sinai as a community when they accepted the Torah.

We continue to struggle with what it means to encounter G-d and one another in community.

In an age when more and more people are going elsewhere for prayer, study and spiritual enrichment, what does it mean to "belong" to a synagogue?

What does the synagogue offer us and how can we be a part of transforming the synagogue for the next generation.

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot is co-sponsored by
Temple Avodah
South Baldwin Jewish Center
Oceanside Jewish Center
B'nai Israel of Freeport

LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

Our Thursday morning Bible class will soon complete study of the Second Book of Kings. On May 21st we'll discuss *A Pigeon and a Boy*, by Meir Shalev, a prominent Israeli author. Our final book discussion, with luncheon provided by Robert Ian Caterers, will be held on June 18th. We'll review *Sarah's Key*, a novel by Tatiana de Rosnay that has gained a wide readership and requires immediate reserve at the Oceanside Library. Reservations for our luncheon are a must as well. All are welcome to join us - please contact Paula (764-4213 ext 23) with any questions or comments.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION

FICTION

- All Other Nights: A Novel*, by Dara Horn
- A Mad Desire to Dance*, by Elie Wiesel
- Friendly Fire*, by A. B. Yehoshua
- Sima's Undergarments for Women*, by Ilana Stanger-Ross

NONFICTION

- Hope, Not Fear: A Path to Jewish Renaissance*, by Edgar M. Bronfman

- Saving Israel: How the Jewish People Can Win a War That May Never End*, by Daniel Gordis
- The Case Against Israel's Enemies*, by Alan Dershowitz
- An Introduction to Islam for Jews*, by Reuven Firestone
- Jews and American Comics: An Illustrated History of an American Art Form*, edited by Paul Buhle
- Jewish Travel Guide, 2009* (International Edition)

PLANNING A BAR/BAT MITZVAH? CHECK OUT THESE TITLES:

- "This One's for You" Poems for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Candle Lighting Ceremony*, by Marcy Schwartz
- Putting God on the Guest List and For Kids-Putting God on Your Guest List*, by Jeffrey K. Salkin
- Danny Siegel's Bar and Bat Mitzvah Mitzvah Book: A Practical Guide for Changing the World Through Your Simcha*, by Danny Siegel.

LIBRARY HOURS:

- Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9 AM - 1 PM
- Tuesday & Thursday 4 PM - 6:15 PM

LIBRARY DONATIONS Paula Spector, LIBRARIAN (764-4213) / Davey LeBoyer, COORDINATOR (766-3244)

GENERAL FUND

- Thelma Lennhoff in memory of Philip Dinhoff, father of Anne Gubenko.
- Michelle & Marvin Dressler in memory of Helen Margolis, mother of Ellie Allen.
- Michelle & Marvin Dressler in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Rickman, son of Jeff & Debbie.
- Thelma Lennhoff in memory of Carl Sussman, brother of Sydney.
- Murray & Charlotte Meshnick in memory of Carl Sussman.

CHARLOTTE LeBOYER CHILDREN'S COLLECTION

- Ruth & Eric Gewurz in honor of the birth of a great-granddaughter to Barbara & Ed Simon.
- Davey & Jerry LeBoyer in memory of Esther Miller.
- Eileen & Victor Mitchnick in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Gross, granddaughter of Judy & Ira, daughter of Lisa & Brad.
- Davey & Jerry LeBoyer in memory of Richard Bailey.
- Davey & Jerry LeBoyer in honor of Helene & Bernard Kenner, UJA Honorees.
- Davey & Jerry LeBoyer in honor of the engagement of Lori Fromewick.
- Davey & Jerry LeBoyer in honor of the birth of Preston Michael Glatzer, grandson of Paula & Larry Spector.
- Renita & Bill Last in honor of the birth of Preston Michael Glatzer.
- Library Committee of Central Synagogue of Nassau County in honor of the birth of Preston Michael Glatzer.
- Thelma Lennhoff in honor of the birth of Preston Michael Glatzer.
- Ruby & Fred Heiman in honor of the birth of Preston Michael Glatzer.
- Sharon & Fred Kamens in honor of the birth of Preston Michael Glatzer.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

- Florence Shane in memory of David Shane, yearzeit of her husband.
- Thelma Lennhoff in memory of Rona Lennhoff, yearzeit of her daughter.
- Thelma Lennhoff in memory of Hannah Kaufman, yearzeit of her mother.
- Ruth & Eric Gewurz in memory of Isaac Klevan, yearzeit of Ruth's father.
- Evelyn & Peter Stone in memory of Lillian Gralnick, yearzeit of Evelyn's mother.
- Evelyn & Peter Stone in memory of Ilona Hollos, yearzeit of Peter's aunt.
- Evelyn & Peter Stone in memory of Margaret Kovacs, yearzeit of Peter's "second mother."
- Evelyn & Peter Stone in memory of Ann Barovsky.
- Evelyn & Peter Stone in memory of Nancy Gelbien.

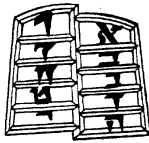
IDA & ISIDORE SCHNISEL MEMORIAL FUND

- Marilyn & Marvin Moelis in honor of the graduation of their granddaughter, Traci Antkies, from the University of Florida.
- Marilyn & Marvin Moelis in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Goldstein, son of Steven.

HERMAN TRACHTENBERG JEWISH HUMOR COLLECTION

- Iris & Bernard Trachtenberg in memory of Goldie Trachtenberg, yearzeit of Bernard's mother.

Kindly forward all donations of at least \$10 or more with all pertinent information to Davey LeBoyer, 286 East Lexington Ave., Oceanside, NY 11572 or through the synagogue office.



You are cordially invited

to attend the

Beth Shalom/Oceanside Jewish Center

2009 Installation of

Officers and Trustees

also honoring the

Sisterhood "Woman of Valor"

and

Men's Club "Man of the Year"

Friday Evening, June 19, 2009

Dinner

6:30 PM

Reservations required

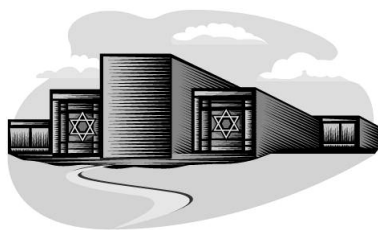
Adults \$24 - Children age 12 & under \$12

RSVP to the OJC office (536-6112) by June 12th

Kabbalat Shabbat Services and Program

8:00 PM

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