



# Matters

## Welcome

by Dr Beverley Jacobson

Dear Friends,

It is with great excitement that I have taken up my role as Chief Executive of Kisharon. Although the current turbulent environment presents many challenges, it also provides a good opportunity to implement the framework recommended by the strategic review that was carried out last year.

Through this process, Kisharon will realign its service and reposition itself not only to withstand the current economic crisis, but also to ensure its readiness to offer the 'Person-Centred' approach which local government will be demanding.

To support these changes, I am delighted to introduce several new additions to bolster our management team. David Posner, an experienced accountant, joins Kisharon as Director of Corporate Services, whilst Juliet Moss has been recruited to spearhead the fundraising challenge. Kisharon is also fortunate to have lured Sue Lachman to head up a new service offering parents advice and support and setting up many new channels of communication. Finally, the new year will see Valerie O'Leary complete the team as she comes on board with her human resource expertise.

Kisharon is proud to provide hundreds of families within the Jewish community with a lifeline of vital and ongoing support for their learning-disabled loved ones. Today, Kisharon's services are located on seven sites and cater for the needs of the learning disabled at every stage of their lives – from an inclusive nursery right through to supported living and work opportunities within the local area. Unfortunately, this high level of care comes at a significant cost. With an ever-increasing demand for our services and facing a harsher economic environment than ever before, Kisharon requires significant financial support to continue to provide for the most vulnerable of our community.

We owe great thanks to all of you, our loyal supporters, and hope that you will continue to stand by us as we face up to these challenging times.

*B. Jacobson*

## Contents

### News

Red Cross First Aid Course  
Help for parents  
Kisharon is uplifted!

### Focus on our Services

Tuffkid Nursery

### Why Kisharon?

Interview with  
Dr Beverley Jacobson

### Dates for your Diary

Future events  
Fundraising Dinner 10 May 09

### Fundraising

Conquer the Grand Canyon  
On your marks, get set, go!  
Quiches for Kisharon!  
Why me?

### Celebrations

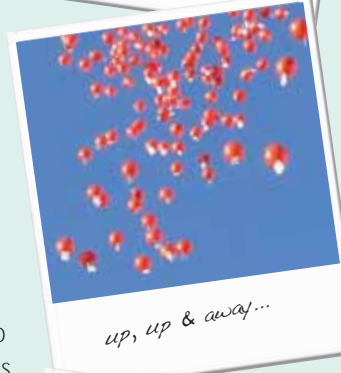
Nachus from Naftoli!

## Up, up and away...

Nursery and primary schools across North London took part in Kisharon's pre-Chanukah balloon race on Monday 8th December. Special guest Lady Jakobovits, together with Barnet's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mukesh Depala, joined Kisharon students for the launch of the event at Kisharon's Day School. Hundreds of balloons were launched throughout the day and Kisharon will be giving a prize to the student whose balloon travels the furthest.



*Councillor Mukesh Depala  
& Rabbi Yitzchak Freeman*



*up, up & away...*



*Beverley Jacobson  
& Lady Jakobovits*



*Shimony*



Kisharon Head Office  
T 020 8731 7009

[www.kisharon.org.uk](http://www.kisharon.org.uk)

# Fundraising

## Conquer the Grand Canyon!



Kisharon is delighted to offer our supporters the opportunity to conquer uncharted territory next year when we embark on our first Grand Canyon Trek. This spectacular fundraising challenge, with fully kosher food provided throughout, is taking place between Sunday 3rd May and Wednesday 6th May 2009, and will help us to raise vital funds for our services.

The four day trek will descend 16km into the heart of one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world, crossing stunning waterfalls and grapevines, and spending nights under the Arizona sky. The trek will be led by experienced guides who will offer Kisharon's challengers the opportunity to visit some unique sites including a swim through the 'green room', an underwater pocket accessed by swimming beneath breathtaking waterfalls, magnificent Red sandstone formations, and a trip to the most remote village in the USA, Supai, where post is still carried on packhorse! The challenging but once-in-a-life-time experience will culminate with a Vegas-style gala dinner in Scottsdale, Phoenix.



The Kisharon adventurers will also have the option of joining the local Jewish community for a pre-trek shabbaton.

Juliet Moss, Head of Fundraising at Kisharon, commented:

*‘The trek will certainly be challenging but it offers so many unique and spectacular opportunities. We hope to raise thousands of pounds to support the vital services Kisharon provides throughout the Jewish community – so take the plunge and join us!’*

If you would be interested in taking part, please contact Denise Lederman, Kisharon's Events Coordinator on 020 8731 7009 ext 202 or [denise.lederman@kisharon.org.uk](mailto:denise.lederman@kisharon.org.uk)

## On your marks, get set, GO!

Kisharon's fitness enthusiasts have been out in force over the last few months and we are very appreciative of the incredible funds they have raised for us.



Seven London Marathon runners completed the gruelling 26.2 mile race on behalf of Kisharon raising over £12,000. Participants included Joseph Maxwell, 58, a member of staff at Kisharon's College and Day Opportunities service in Hendon and Oliver Sanders, 38, who completed the race in an impressive 3 hours and 26 minutes and finished in the top 4000 runners. Oliver used the London Marathon as training for an "Iron Man" endurance challenge which he completed in July. The challenge included a 3.8km swim, 180km cycle and 42.2km run (marathon), which he completed in a staggering 13 hours and 30 minutes raising over £3000 for Kisharon and the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability.

On completing the Iron Man challenge, Oliver commented:

*‘Thank you to everyone for their sponsorship and good wishes. You should all know that it was only the thought of raising money and the opportunity to help Kisharon that kept me going in the middle of the marathon having already been on the go for 11 hours!!!’*

Kisharon was also the only Jewish charity involved in the BUPA 10K this year with twenty-five runners raising over £16,000 for Kisharon. Among those taking part for Kisharon was Jeffrey Gilbert, Manager of the Asher Loftus Business Centre, who commented:

*‘The run was very difficult but immensely rewarding and I thoroughly enjoyed representing such a great charity.’*

# Quiches for Kisharon!

**When:** National Kisharon Night, 28th February 2009

**Where:** Your house or a venue of your own choice

**What time:** It is totally up to you!

**Requirements:** Host a dinner party for your friends, family or whomever you want. Either donate the food yourself, or get the food sponsored so that all the proceeds come to Kisharon.

Ensure that each guest gives a minimum donation of **£15.00** to you to put in the Kisharon envelope that we will supply you on the evening and then send us the donation.

Contact Chavi Weltscher for more information –  
**020 8731 7009 ext 201**

or email [chavi.weltscher@kisharon.org.uk](mailto:chavi.weltscher@kisharon.org.uk)



## Why me?

Because Kisharon needs you!

- Set up fundraising committees
- Deliver Tzedakah boxes and posters to shops and synagogues
- Help in one of our services or at our very busy Head Office during appeal times
- Publicise the work of Kisharon to schools, colleges and friendship clubs

# News

## Tailor-made for Kisharon – Red Cross First Aid course



*Moishe Goldblatt receives his First Aid certificate*

Six men from the Kisharon College and Adult Day Opportunities Service have taken part in a unique project run by the British Red Cross, aimed at teaching first aid skills specifically to individuals with learning disabilities. The programme is the first of its kind in London. It was tailored for the needs and abilities of the Kisharon participants, all of whom have varying degrees of learning disabilities. Students were taught a range of first aid skills by a qualified Red Cross instructor, including how

best to assist in the event of an emergency.

John Hill, the British Red Cross instructor who led the series of sessions explained the idea behind the project: "in line with the British Red Cross policy that everyone may participate in the

learning of life saving skills, the Inclusive First Aid Programme was devised to spread learning to even those who may find it difficult to practice the skills, but may be able to understand, describe or demonstrate them."

The participants were each awarded certificates by Davina Snowball, the Red Cross' service manager for public and community training, at a ceremony at the Kisharon College in Hendon.

Speaking about the worthwhile scheme, Rabbi Yitzchak Freeman, Principal of Kisharon College commented:

*"The Red Cross has created a first aid course which reflects both the abilities and the cultural sensitivities of our students. This valuable programme has enabled our students to learn an important and worthwhile skill that will allow them to provide crucial assistance in the event of an emergency."*

The British Red Cross will begin similar courses for London-based special-needs organisations over the next few months.

## Help for parents

### New service launched

Kisharon has launched an exciting new initiative: A Parental Advice, Support and Communication Service. The dynamic Sue Lachman has been appointed to pioneer this new service.

Sue is a past parent of Kisharon and long time friend of the organisation. For the past few years she has been working for Ezer North West advising parents about the educational rights of their special needs' children and successfully representing many of them at Tribunal.

Sue has a plethora of exciting ideas for her new role, brewing. She plans to develop support groups for parents of special needs children of different ages and with varying degrees and types of learning problems. She hopes to organise lectures and workshops on pertinent subjects. She has already set up a parents' e-group and hopes that all the parents of Kisharon users will subscribe to it. Sue also intends to set up a helpline to allow the public access to her experience, knowledge and expertise.

On the social front, Sue plans to develop a 'buddy' or 'befriending' system as well as after school and holiday programmes. Sue also hopes to establish a Parents' Association.

This provision will not only enhance Kisharon's current services, but will extend the organisation's ability to reach the wider Jewish community. This will be achieved through offering expert advice on all aspects of Jewish special need.

## Kisharon is uplifted!

A new lift has been installed at the Kisharon day school in Temple Fortune thanks to the generous donations of the children's charity Variety Club and Eva Greenspan, the Mayor of Barnet 2006-7, who opened the lift at a recent ceremony. The event was also attended by Headteacher Lilian Amdurer, Rabbi Yitzchak Freeman, Director of Learning Services as well as staff, parents and children of the school.



*Jessica Nesbitt, Lilian Amdurer, Eva Greenspan*

Rabbi Freeman voiced Kisharon's appreciation for the recent donation: "thank you to all those who made the lift a reality. The doors are now open literally to anybody with a physical disability as well as a learning disability".

Norman Kaphan, the Chief Barker, Lionel Rosenblatt and treasurer, Philip Austin of the Variety Club joined Eva Greenspan for a tour of the school led by the Headteacher ending in the library which now houses the lift. The lift will allow those with physical disabilities to access the whole of the school.

Speaking about the crucial resource, Lionel Rosenblatt, the Chairman of Appeals for Variety Club said

*"To be able to donate the funds for this lift fits totally within the ideals of our charity since the lift will allow Kisharon to admit children with severe mobility problems who previously could not have come to such a fantastic school as Kisharon since they would not have been able to negotiate the stairs. Variety Club is proud to be associated with Kisharon."*

# Why Kisharon?

by Dr Beverley Jacobson



Beverley Jacobson

## Tell us a little bit about your background and why you initially got involved in charity work?

I was brought up in South Africa where I studied medicine and worked at the Johannesburg Hospital in paediatrics. Following a move to London in 1992, I embarked on a Masters degree in Business Administration at the London Business School and soon found myself caught up in the world of strategic management consulting. In 1994, I gave birth to my eldest daughter Talya who contracted meningitis at birth. The meningitis resulted in Talya having mild quadriplegic cerebral palsy, cortical blindness, epilepsy and learning difficulties. The emotional difficulties and challenges that ensued were overwhelming. It was only through the support I received that I was able to gather the strength to help my daughter and get on with my life. This experience made me want to help others and is what inspired me to get involved in charity work.

## What attracted you to take the job at Kisharon?

It presented a perfect opportunity to use my experience, management skills and thirst for a challenge!

## What is so special about Kisharon?

Kisharon has a soul. Everything we do, espouses Jewish values both to our users and to the community beyond. Kisharon enables individuals to take an active part in Jewish communal life.

## How are you settling into your new role?

I am really enjoying getting to know our very special users, their families and our truly dedicated staff.

## Is there anything that has surprised you since taking on your role at Kisharon?

The extent of the goodwill and human kindness that I witness surprises me daily and has made me truly passionate about my role.

## What has Kisharon got planned for the year ahead?

I aim to promote Kisharon within the Greater London Jewish Community and to enhance the understanding of the organisation as a provider of a life span of services. Kisharon needs to be there for any individual or family that is struggling with special needs issues. Additionally, I will be looking for ways to improve the economic efficiency of the organisation as a whole.

## Do you have any personal targets that you would like to accomplish for Kisharon?

I aim to ensure that Kisharon is run more efficiently, effectively and economically and that it is valued as a centre of excellence.

## In the current economic climate, do you think Kisharon will suffer?

Every charity will suffer but I see it as an opportunity to realign our organisation and services to ensure that we have the robustness to survive the crunch.

## You have run 15 marathons – what spurs you on and how do you find the time?!

I enjoy keeping fit. I find that exercise gives me space to work through problems and clear my mind. I love the challenge of endurance especially when I can couple it with the objective of raising funds for a good cause.

## A thank you from one of our Service users :

To Dr Jacobson,

Hello! My name is Debbie Rosten and I'm one of the many service users of Kisharon, but I mainly use the Business Centre and Supported Living Services. I personally and very strongly love, appreciate and benefit a lot from everything that Kisharon does. Everything that Kisharon does is 1st class, top quality and amazing work - a big well done to all of the dedicated staff for everything that they do. It's a pleasure to work for such a great cause,

# Nachus from Naftoli!

Kisharon's Day School was alive with celebration when it celebrated Naftoli Walzer's barmitzvah in October. This was no ordinary simcha as Naftoli is no ordinary young man. As a baby, Naftoli was diagnosed with Global Developmental Delay which affects his social, behavioural and cognitive development and doctors were very pessimistic about his future. However, through the love and devotion of his family and the wonderful support of Kisharon, Naftoli has flourished and exceeded everyone's expectations.

Naftoli led the prayer service at the Kisharon Day School and the joy that all his special friends displayed created a sublime atmosphere. The singing pierced the heavens. The genuine display of warmth and delight of both the staff and children of Kisharon was unique. The service was followed by a wonderful party attended by family and friends.

Rabbi Neuman, a teacher at the Day School who prepared Naftoli for his Bar Mitzvah, praised his student: "Naftoli is a warm and lively individual who with encouragements, friendship and guidance is able to achieve far beyond the capabilities he displays at first sight." Speaking about the build up to Naftoli's big day: "the regular training helped Naftoli to improve his singing ability. His voice became more beautiful and louder. And now he is coming forward willingly to sing a solo or speak in front of his peers and teachers."

Naftoli's Barmitzvah celebration was a wonderful opportunity for the people who have helped him overcome his challenges, to share in the joy and excitement of his reaching this milestone. For his mother, it was an emotional time to reflect upon the past. She recalls the doctor's discouraging words "he may never walk or talk..." and she recounts that she had one request from Hashem "Please ensure that my dear child will learn to reciprocate the infinite love I have for him". Naftoli has far transcended his mother's humble wish.

Naftoli lives in Stamford Hill and is an active member of the Wiznitz Community. He enjoys swimming and football. He is very keen to go to shul every shabbas and were you to walk in, he would be the first to greet you with his sparkling eyes, endearing smile and warm handshake. He would then ensure that you were

comfortably seated and he would hand you a siddur before going on to some other self appointed task. On Purim he collects money from his friends and family for Kisharon and in honour of his Bar Mitzvah he has proven his fundraising skills once again and has collected almost £500.



*Naftoli Walzer*

Kisharon Day School 1011 Finchley Road, London NW11 7HB  
T 020 8455 7483 F 020 8209 0994  
kisharondayschool@kisharon.org.uk

# Focus on our Services

## Tuffkid Nursery

Tuffkid nursery was established in 2001 following a demand for a nursery that provided education to an integrated group of special needs and mainstream children. Tuffkid allows special needs children to experience the same activities and learning opportunities alongside their peer group whilst supporting their therapeutic and developmental needs.

The nursery has been one of Kisharon's biggest success stories and is now a thriving, highly oversubscribed centre where all abilities learn and play together. At Tuffkid there are 26 children of which 9 places are reserved for children with special needs. Qualified therapists and nursery staff work with the children using an inclusive holistic approach to meet the individual child's needs. We are very proud of the specialist provision with state-of-the-art equipment resources, as well as the noticeable homely and caring feel apparent as soon as you walk into the nursery.

"The nursery has grown so much over the past few years that Tuffkid had to relocate to Western Avenue in Golders Green. The nursery has outgrown these facilities," said head teacher Pam Lerner, who has been involved in the nursery from the start and has seen it grow from strength to strength.

Kisharon recognises that the parents of Tuffkid pupils are paramount to the success of the nursery. Mrs Fraser, a parent, is thankful to Tuffkid for helping her daughter progress,

*"Tuffkid saved my life. My daughter has developed amazingly over the 2 years she has been there and I am really grateful for the wonderful work Tuffkid does."*

Tuffkid Nursery 3 Western Avenue, London NW11 9HG  
T 020 8201 8488 F 020 8458 5465 [tuffkid@kisharon.org.uk](mailto:tuffkid@kisharon.org.uk)



*Getting messy*



*Soft Play*



*Tuffkid Nursery*

## Please toy with us!

Help us set up our new toy library in Stamford Hill. Our day centre for women in Stamford Hill has a new project – these young adults with learning disabilities are setting up a Toy Library to be used by all children within the local area to help with this project they need brand new good quality, hard wearing toys suitable for children up to the age of 10 years. Wooden puzzles, board games, hand and eye co-ordination toys, building bricks etc. which are durable and can be used again and again. Unfortunately we cannot accept second hand goods.





# What we've been up to...

## Dates for your diary

### February 2009

28 Feb 2009  
Quiches for Kisharon – Dinner parties in private homes in aid of Kisharon

### March 2009

10 March 2009  
Purim Shpielung and collecting

### April 2009

26 April 2009  
London Marathon

### May 2009

06 May 2009  
Grand Canyon Trek – USA

10 May 2009  
Kisharon Fundraising Dinner

25 May 2009  
BUPA 10k run – London

### June 2009

5-a-side football tournament  
Date to be confirmed



Rabbi Tour 2008



5-a-side football



Hanna Schwalbe Home day out



Hackney Inclusion Project visit the British Museum



We meet Golders Green Police Officers



Horse riding

Please make a note in your diary

**The Kisharon Dinner 2009**  
Sunday 10 May | The Brewery, London EC1Y 4SD

**OUR CHILDREN  
OUR RESPONSIBILITY**

FRIENDS OF KISHARON, 1011 Finchley Road, London NW11 7HB  
Tel: 020 8731 7009 | Registered with the Charity Commission 271519 | Web: [www.kisharon.org.uk](http://www.kisharon.org.uk) | Email: [info@kisharon.org.uk](mailto:info@kisharon.org.uk)



Kisharon Head Office 1011 Finchley Road, London NW11 7HB  
T 020 8731 7009 ■ F 020 8731 7005 ■ [info@kisharon.org.uk](mailto:info@kisharon.org.uk) ■ [www.kisharon.org.uk](http://www.kisharon.org.uk)

#### Kisharon Services

Tuffkid Nursery ■ Kisharon Day School ■ Kisharon Adult Day Opportunities ■ Asher Loftus Business Centre  
Hanna Schwalbe Home ■ Supported Living ■ Hackney Community Inclusion Project

Corporate Member of the National Autistic Society ■ Registered with the Charity Commission 271519  
Kisharon is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Incorporated in England & Wales No. 01259900 ■ Registered office: 1011 Finchley Road, London NW11