



Matters

Taxi Drivers make life a little easier at Kisharon!

"Kisharon provides an essential service to members of the Jewish community". Those were the words of David Lessman chairman of the London Taxi-drivers' Fund for Underprivileged Children as his charity presented an Easy-Lift Bench to Kisharon Day School.



Kisharon's Chief Executive Dr Beverley Jacobson and members of the London Taxi-drivers' Fund

The donation of the electric changing bench, worth over £2000, will facilitate the handling of disabled children who are unable to stand independently to use toilet facilities. Following the installation of a lift earlier in the year, the Easy-Lift Bench is the final piece of the puzzle which has allowed Kisharon to open its doors to the physically disabled for the first time

ever filling a previously unmet need in the community.

At the presentation, Chief Executive Dr Beverley Jacobson, joined several members of the Fund in unveiling the bench to staff and pupils. She said, "we would like to thank the London Taxi-drivers' Fund for their important contribution which has enabled Kisharon to move forward in its journey to provide for the needs of the physically disabled in the community for the first time in its history."



Members of the London Taxi-drivers' Fund for underprivileged children visit Kisharon

Dear Friends



Beverley Jacobson

Since starting in September I have been struck, time and again, by the enormous passion which drives Kisharon. The zeal starts at board level and motivates our directors to spend long hours after their normal working day planning and campaigning on our behalf. The same love and enthusiasm pervades our committed workforce and is magnified by the devotion and dedication of our parent body. This passion is Chava Lehman's legacy. It is an incredibly powerful force which we have to capture, celebrate and exploit to make Kisharon into an even greater organisation than it is already.

Today, Kisharon is in a very precarious financial position. We will have to restructure our operations over the next few months to create economic efficiencies. As hard as this process might be, we owe it to our service users in order to ensure Kisharon's long term sustainability.

The upside of this process is that it provides an opportunity to embrace a new culture of 'Person-Centred' service delivery. This will ensure that every individual we serve is valued and encouraged to play a full and meaningful part in community life, with opportunities to embrace employment and live as independently as possible.

It is an extremely challenging but exciting time for the organisation. Through it all, we will be striving for excellence in all that we do and will work unstintingly until this has been achieved.

Thank you for your continued support!

B. Jacobs

Contents

News

Shloime Gertner Sings
Youth Movement Tour
Capital FM donates £3000

Focus on our Services

Hackney Community
Inclusion Project

Interview

Interview with
Hersh Ashrae, Senior
Technician at the Kisharon
Business Centre

Dates for your Diary

Eilat 2009 Triathlon

Fundraising

Taxi-drivers
Extraordinary Triplets
Quiches for Kisharon
Marathon results

Celebrations

Jessica's Bat Mitzvah
Yoni's Bar Mitzvah



Kisharon Head Office
T 020 8731 7009

www.kisharon.org.uk



Kisharon hosts Adam and Emma Castleton and Leanne and Paul Orkin



Quids in from Quiches

Kisharon celebrated 'National Kisharon Night' recently raising nearly £15,000 from the hugely successful 'Quiches for Kisharon'. Over 1000 people of all ages attended over 60 different dinner parties, with guests invited to make a donation to Kisharon rather than a gift to their host. Many took the opportunity to socialise with friends by hosting a themed evening such as a bridge night and ladies' only evenings.

Some of the parents hosted a dinner party for over 60 people, raising £2000. "I was so nervous about hosting the event and making sure everything went to plan but I needn't have worried", said hostess Leanne Orkin. "The evening was absolutely brilliant, not only did we raise a lot of money for Kisharon but we brought different social groups together in aid of a good course."

Wholesale giant Costco, Louis Mann Butchers, Kosher Deli, Just Kosher and other shops, all generously donated food for the 'Quiches' evening.

"Quiches for Kisharon has been a fantastic success and we thank everyone who contributed to their evenings. It really is incredible to see so many people in the community supporting Kisharon. Long may it continue!" said Juliet Moss, Director of Fundraising.

Make a Donation

I have pleasure in enclosing my cheque/voucher for

- £1000
- £500
- £250
- £100
- £50
- £18
- other £ _____

Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Delta/CAF for the amount £..... as my gift to Kisharon

Debit/Credit Card No

Start Date Expiry Date Issue No Security No

Gift Aid Declaration. I confirm that I am a tax payer and I want Kisharon, Charity Registration No. 271519, to treat all donations I have made since 6th April 2001 and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations. (This makes your gift worth 28% more to Kisharon)

Signature _____ Date _____

Tick if receipt is required. Please do not send cash in the post.

I am interested in leaving a legacy to Kisharon

Post to: Kisharon, 1011 Finchley Road, London NW11 7HB

Kisharon Marathon runners sprint to the finish line



Yoni Forsyth

Six London Marathon runners completed the gruelling 26.2 mile race on behalf of Kisharon raising over £20,000. The Kisharon runners – Rafi Mendelsohn, Aaron Morris, Jonny Friedman, Yoni Forsyth, Judy Cowan and Brian Resnick, successfully completed the largest annual fund raising event in the world on Sunday 26th April. Unfortunately Aviva Braunold had to pull out of the marathon but did manage to raised over £3000 on Kisharon's behalf.

Thanking the runners, Dr Beverley Jacobson, said, "The hard work and dedication that our marathon runners have shown is truly admirable. I would like to thank them all for raising crucial funds to enable us to continue caring for and educating children and adults with learning disabilities"

Yoni Forsyth, who completed the race in 4 hours 10 minutes, used the London Marathon as a farewell to family and friends in England before he makes Aliyah to Israel in a few days time. He now hopes to take part in the Israel Marathon next year.



Rafi Mendelsohn

First time runner Rafi Mendelsohn, managed to complete the marathon in 4 hours and 46 minutes, he said: "Although it was one of the most difficult things I have ever done, it has to be one of the most rewarding. Knowing that I was running for such a brilliant charity really provided me with the inspiration I needed to complete the gruelling 26 miles. Thank you to everyone who has supported me."

After completing his fifth Marathon in 4 hours, avid marathon enthusiast Aaron Morris said "After five times of participating in a Marathon, the feeling of finishing the race is like no other feeling. It really is an unbelievable experience. Until next year!"



Aaron Morris

News

Shloime Gertner sings for Kisharon



The Kisharon Adult Opportunities Service enjoyed a wonderful Purim celebration recently when students and staff attended in fancy dress and enjoyed a festive meal together. A great atmosphere was created by Rabbi Neuman's talented rendition of well known Purim songs on his keyboard. Rabbi Freeman, Head of Kisharon Adult Day Services, recounted the Purim story and spoke about the mitzvot associated with the holiday. During the Purim party, staff and students were treated to a concert by the well-known singer Shloime Gertner.

In Stamford Hill, a packed room of over 600 people attended a Purim concert organised by the B'er Miriam Seminary. The Shushan Purim performance, which raised over £3,000, saw the first ever UK showing of the musical 'Faces', an exciting combination of original choir songs, dance and drama. The highlight of the show included a performance by the Kisharon Ladies Choir, which included a stunning solo performance by service user Channie Goldman. Guests also heard Rabbi Todras Miller from the Gateshead Seminary, who spoke about the gift of making people happy by giving Mishloach Manot on Purim .



Shloime Gertner



Youth Movement Tour

February saw the first ever Youth Movement Tour of Kisharon, allowing youth leaders in the community to learn more about Kisharon's fantastic services. Youth Movement leaders from Bnei Akiva, Hanoar Hatzioni and the Union of Jewish Students were joined by Chief Executive, Dr Beverley Jacobson, as they took a whirlwind tour around the Day School, the College and Adult Opportunities Service and the Asher Loftus Business Centre.

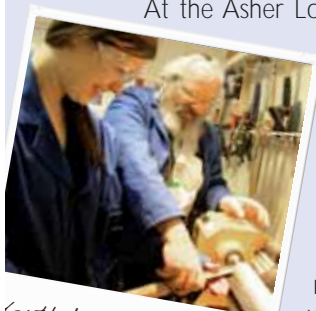
Whilst visiting the Day School the youth leaders joined pupils in fun filled games as they learnt about Purim. The youth leaders were able to witness firsthand the supportive and loving environment that Kisharon offers helping students to reach their potential, both academically and socially.



Youth Leaders visit the Kisharon Day School

"I have lived in north west London all of my life and until now I had never heard of Kisharon", said Abigail Broza, Mazkira of Bnei Akiva. She continued, "Kisharon is a fantastic and inspirational place. I came away feeling that I wanted to help create a greater awareness in my youth movement."

At the Asher Loftus Business Centre, service users gave the youth leaders a guided tour of the bicycle and repair shop, the printing shop and the wood turning workshop. The youth leaders were then treated to a lesson on how to make a rolling pin on a lathe. UJS Hillel representative, Danya Taylor (pictured), was the first brave soul to put her skills to the test by making a rolling pin. The tour concluded with an inspiring talk from Moishe Goldblatt, a worker at the Business Centre's woodturning shop.



Youth Leaders guided tour of Asher Loftus Centre

Volunteers!

KISHARON NEEDS YOU

Volunteers are a crucial part of making our services run so smoothly and are involved in all aspects of the charity – from helping out in the different centres and lending a hand in the office, to organising and supporting fundraising events. Here we focus on two of our volunteers.

Delia Fishman



Delia has been volunteering at Kisharon's Tuffkid Nursery since 2001. Her time spent at the nursery is very varied and split between organised playtime, arts and crafts, storytelling and davening. She has learnt to use 'Makaton', a form of sign language that enables her to communicate with children that have limited verbal skills.

She says, "I see the wonderful results that are being achieved by the children as they improve their communication skills, and this is because of the dedicated and excellent full time staff at Tuffkid."



Roisy Nevies

Roisy helps run the weekly dance class at the Day School and has been involved with Kisharon for over ten years. She works with four other volunteers to run the class which involves singing and dancing including ballet. All of the activities are designed to help improve co-ordination and movement in the pupils.

She says, "I really do enjoy being with the children and seeing them learn and improve. Every achievement is acknowledged and celebrated, nothing is taken for granted. I also love the camaraderie between the volunteer team and working together with them."

Capital 95.8 dives in with Kisharon

We are pleased to announce that 95.8 Capital FM's charity 'Help a London Child' has awarded Kisharon a donation of nearly £3,000 which will provide 30 swimming sessions for children at the Kisharon Day School. This is the second year running that Capital has donated money to Kisharon, an increase from last year's donation of £1,500. The lessons are both fun and therapeutic and greatly enhance the physical and social development of the Day School pupils.

Focus on our Services

Hackney Community Inclusion Project

The Hackney Community Inclusion Project was established in collaboration with Hackney Local Authority. The project provides an opportunity for young people with learning difficulties to develop independent skills within their own community. The students are encouraged to become self-supporting in accessing local facilities, travelling, shopping and cooking. Work placements are arranged where possible.



"I come to Kisharon because I have friends. Friends mean staff who help me to independence. To help me to work. This makes me feel worthwhile – a million pounds. ."

There are separate male and female facilities. The male facility is located in Paget Road, Stamford Hill and accommodates twelve men. Six women attend the female facility, located in Warwick Grove, which has recently launched a toy library which is being run by them for the children of the local community.

Kisharon supporter Yoni celebrates his Bar Mitzvah with a Splash!

Hasmonean High School pupil Yoni Wieder (centre, white t-shirt) celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in March by hiring the popular swimming venue Aquasplash in Hemel Hempsted and inviting all Kisharon staff and pupils to come along.



Thanking the London-based radio station, Kisharon's Chief Executive, Dr Beverley Jacobson said, "swimming is an activity that children of all ages and ability can enjoy together, and we are immensely grateful to 'Help A London Child' for continuing their support for Kisharon."



Jessica's Bat Mitzvah celebration at Kisharon

In March, Kisharon Day School pupil Jessica Nesbitt celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in style with a party at Kisharon Day School. The Kisharon party was a double celebration as Jessica's Bat Mitzvah was twinned with Hasmonian High School pupil Ella Rose. Family, fellow pupils and teachers joined in the celebration which included a buffet style lunch followed by simcha dancing.

Kisharon's Bat Mitzvah twinning programme is a project between Kisharon Day School pupils and the girls at Hasmonian High School. The pioneering programme encourages students to become independent learners and to reach their potential both academically and socially. The programme includes weekly trips to Hasmonian High School where the Kisharon pupils spend time socialising with the girls and building lasting friendships.

The programme is being overseen by Lilian Amdurer, Head Teacher of the Kisharon Day School. She said "the integration programme is an absolutely fantastic opportunity for Kisharon pupils and Hasmonian pupils to build lifelong friends. Jessica's batmitzvah celebration at the school allowed all Kisharon pupils to join in the simcha"

Jessica also celebrated her batmitzvah at her shul, Edgware Yeshurun, where Rabbi Lewis arranged for the entire congregation to bless Jessica on her special day. During the service Rebbetzin Lewis presented Jessica with a certificate and Chumash.



Ella Rose cutting her Batmitzvah cake



Batmitzvah girl Jessica Nesbitt

Places now open for Eilat 2009 Triathlon!!!

Kisharon is delighted to offer our supporters the opportunity to run, cycle and swim for charity by taking part in this year's Eilat Triathlon in November. This spectacular challenge will see you take part in a one mile Red Sea swim, twenty-five mile Negev cycle and a 6.5 mile run. Participants can complete all three legs of the challenge, or join with two friends to make it a team effort.

Last year's successful triathlon saw twenty three participants, aged between 16 and 68 and from London, Manchester, Leeds and Israel raise over £60,000.

The Israeli Triathlon Championship is part of the BG Triathlon World Cup series, an international competition which sees athletes from thirty six different countries compete in sixteen championships worldwide.



Ivan Green at last year's Eilat Triathlon



For further details and to request your information pack contact Kisharon's event team on 020 8731 7009 extension: 202 or email triathlon@kisharon.org.uk

Extraordinary triplets

Extraordinary triplets Amy, Natasha and Benjamin Hertz celebrated their eighth birthday recently with a special request for their family and friends. The siblings from Stanmore celebrated their special occasion at the Topsy Turvy soft play area in Brent Cross by asking their friends to make donations to their favourite charity Kisharon, rather than receive toys and games. The triplets, who attend Hertsmere Jewish Primary School, first heard about Kisharon when their thirteen-year-old sister Shoshi performed in JFactor, an all girls talent show in aid of Kisharon. At the show they met Kisharon Chief Executive, Dr Beverley Jacobson, who presented a short film on the work that takes place across all the services.

Following their generous support, the Hertz triplets visited the Kisharon Day School and attended an assembly where they met the pupils at the Kisharon Day School and received

achievement certificates from Dr Jacobson. The triplets were also invited to present certificates for achievement to a few of the Day School pupils.



The Hertz triplets Ben, Amy and Natasha



Dates for your diary

May 2009

Monday 25 May 2009
BUPA 10k Run – London

June 2009

Sunday 14th June 2009
Ten Pin Bowling
Venue to be confirmed

Sunday 28th June 2009
Five-a-side Football
Tournament
Mill Hill Power League

July 2009

Wednesday 15th July 2009
Raffle Draw at Kisharon
College

November 2009

Friday 20 November 2009
Eilat Triathlon

December 2009

Saturday night - Sunday
12-13 December 2009
Tennis/Badminton and
Bridge-athon

Interview

with Hersh Ashrae, Senior Technician
at the Kisharon Asher Loftus Business Centre.

How long have you been working at Kisharon?
I have worked for Kisharon for just under six years, working first at the College premises in Parson Street and then at the Business Centre in Church Road.

How did you first get involved with Kisharon?
My involvement with Kisharon goes back many years. My son Yossi first went to Kisharon Day School some thirteen and a half years ago when he was just four and a half years old. My wife Sorah and myself watched his steady progress under the very professional tuition and guidance of his teacher Cynthia Jacobs and the Kisharon Principal Chava Lehman. It was always an ambition that when I retired, and if an opportunity arose within Kisharon, I would apply to be part of this first class caring organisation.

What do you love most about your job?
I think the most rewarding part of the work I do is to be able to pass on skills that enable our service users to feel that they are doing a meaningful and worthwhile job - one which is appreciated by customers who are more than happy to pay for the services which we provide. Our young men achieve a sense of great satisfaction when they are genuinely praised for their achievements and skills by customers and visiting dignitaries.

What does your day to day job involve?
This can vary depending on what is on the curriculum for the day. A typical day would start off with a Limmudei Kodesh session conducted by Rabbi Weltman after the young men have returned from morning davening held at the College Shul. The men also have tea whilst we are learning and then we all have a ten minute P.E. session which helps set the ball rolling for the busy day ahead. We will usually then do some woodwork which is a definite favourite of the men. Apart from being able to

produce a sought after article, the men find the "hands on" aspect of this work very enjoyable and this activity can also have therapeutic benefits i.e. it can release tensions as one is absorbed in the work. We then have a lunch break and continue with either bookbinding, or literacy, or a music session until the late afternoon when we daven Mincha. Other activities include cooking and social skills. We endeavour to take the men on an outing every four weeks to various interesting venues, mostly museums in the winter months and outdoor activities in the summer. One of our favourite pursuits is playing cricket at Kenwood Park.

What is your most memorable experience?
Several years ago we all went on a field trip to Lyme Regis for four days. All of us had such a wonderful time in the country. There was much interaction between all the participants looking out for each other's welfare and concern for the livestock which was mostly horses at the holiday site. It was wonderful to see the co-operation and obvious enjoyment experienced by all. Nothing was taken for granted and the outings and daily barbecues were immensely appreciated.

What have you learnt from your time at Kisharon?
Working at Kisharon has given me an insight into the many complexities of our special young individuals. To use humour as one of the ways in which to encourage and stimulate good practice. I have realised the best incentive to learning is to be treated as an equal in every respect. To always treat everybody with the utmost dignity and respect deserving of our precious charges.



Hersh Ashrae



Kisharon

Kisharon Head Office 1011 Finchley Road, London NW11 7HB
T 020 8731 7009 ■ F 020 8731 7005 ■ info@kisharon.org.uk ■ www.kisharon.org.uk

Kisharon Services

Tuffkid Nursery ■ Kisharon Day School ■ Kisharon Adult 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 7HB