



Matters

Dear Friends



Beverley Jacobson

In the past few months Kisharon has changed shape. The organisation has been restructured and is stronger than ever and ready to take on the challenge of the New Year ahead.

The organisation has become streamlined and efficient. The management of Kisharon Day School and Tuffkid Nursery has been integrated under the inspirational leadership of Rabbi Yitzchak Freeman. Rabbi Freeman has a strong educational background, having taught for twelve years in secondary schools and having been the Head of a primary school for a further three years. As the past Principal of Kisharon College he also has vast experience of special needs. Rabbi Freeman is committed to enhancing the capabilities and skills base of staff which will ensure that both these environments become centres of excellence and will lead the way in the world of special education. We are also delighted to announce the appointment of Janice Marriott as Assistant Head - Early Years to lead Tuffkid Nursery. Janice was a driving force as the first Head of Tuffkid when it started and she returns to us having gained valuable experience in the US where she has lived for the past five years. We look forward to the nursery continuing to blossom.

Our Adult Services which include, the Hackney Inclusion Project, the Asher Loftus Business Centre, Adult Day Opportunities (Parson St), the Hanna Schwalbe Home and Supported Living have all merged and are being led by the energetic Jeffrey Gilbert who has been appointed Manager of Adult Services. Our experienced and devoted staff team has been bolstered by the recruitment of a host of energetic new support workers and together they will take on the challenge of redesigning the service to meet individual needs to ensure

that each individual is able to attain the highest achievable level of independence and social inclusion as possible.

Behind the scenes, Mrs Sue Lachman, our Parent Advice, Support and Communications Consultant, has worked tirelessly to support parents and champion their rights. Through Sue's efforts, many new initiatives are underway including the launch of the volunteers "Buddying Up" network and the Kisharon helpline to name but a few. These efforts will further enhance our service offering, and improve the provision for our clients and their families.

Throughout this period the staff have pulled together and has exhibited a sense of love and dedication unique to Kisharon and which epitomises the values which the organisation holds dear. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to publicly thank the staff for this invaluable input which drives Kisharon and gives it its reputation as an excellent provider of education and care.

Kisharon has a new lease of life. The energy is palpable and the excitement uplifting.

Our butterfly has spread its wings and we embrace the New Year with vigour.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year and may you be inscribed in the Book of Life for a year filled with prosperity in all facets of your life.

Dr Beverley Jacobson

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Kisharon Head Office
T 020 8731 7009

www.kisharon.org.uk

Tennis, Badminton and Bridge-a-thon

Challenge your friends to a game of tennis, badminton or bridge or why not all three?



Do you like playing tennis, badminton or bridge? Well if so, why not take part in Kisharon's first ever Tennis, Badminton and Bridge-a-thon. This will be a 12 hour tournament taking place from 8pm until 8am on the weekend of 12th and 13th December but don't worry if you don't have the stamina – you don't have to play for the whole twelve hours but you can if you would like!

Just choose the challenge of your choice and get your friends to sponsor you. You can play doubles or mixed doubles. All ages and abilities are welcome and water and snacks will be provided.

Kisharon is extremely grateful to the David Lloyd Centre in High Road Finchley for letting us use their facilities and to the Jewish News and Media Group for supporting this event.

For more information and an application form please contact the Kisharon Fundraising Department on 020 8731 7009 ext 204 or email fundraising@kisharon.org.uk

Make a Donation

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

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

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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 2003 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 Minibus comes and goes!



Philip Goldberg
Chairman of Kisharon
and Rabbi Ginsbury

At the end of June, Kisharon was delighted to receive the gift of a minibus from the Lincoln David Abraham Foundation.

The Foundation was formed in memory of Lincoln David Abraham, a hardworking and successful young man who, at the age of 34, died tragically in the 2004 Boxing Day

Tsunami. Over the past few years the Foundation has worked tirelessly to raise funds to enable Lincoln's name and spirit to live on by helping those less fortunate and Kisharon was delighted to be a recipient.

In a moving ceremony attended by Lady Jakobovits, Rabbi and Rebbetzin Ginsbury and dozens of Lincoln's friends, Lincoln's mother, Helen handed over the keys of the minibus to Philip Goldberg, Chairman of Kisharon.

At the time, Philip commented

"The minibus is the final piece of the puzzle enabling the Kisharon Day School to meet the needs of physically disabled children too. The bus has a fancy tailgate which makes it accessible to children in wheelchairs"

Jill Slotnick also thanked the LDA Foundation on behalf of all the parents of children at Kisharon,

"Every morning my son makes a beeline to the minibus. There is no place he would rather be. You bring a smile to his face each and every day"

A few days later the minibus took the children of Kisharon Day School off to the seaside. The sun reflected off shining faces, laughter filled the air as the gentle waves trickled over and tickled small toes.



Chief Executive, Dr Beverley Jacobson, Lady Jakobovits and Helen Abraham

The day was memorable because of the children's obvious enjoyment but also sadly because it was one of the first and last outings in the minibus. Three weeks after the dedication ceremony, it was stolen from outside Tuffkid Nursery School. Dr Beverley Jacobson, the Chief Executive of Kisharon said,

"We are devastated by this incident."

News – Annual Dinner

Lord Strathclyde steps in to help Kisharon!



More than 700 people supported Kisharon's fundraising dinner on Sunday 10th May at the Hilton Hotel Park Lane. Many of the enthusiastic guests were existing supporters of Kisharon but there were many new faces there as well. Unfortunately the guest speaker, Michael Gove, Shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families was unable to attend at the eleventh hour due to an emergency meeting concerning the MPs expenses row. Fortunately for Kisharon the Leader of the Conservative Party in the House of Lords, Lord Strathclyde stepped into the breach having been contacted just a few hours before the event.

Lord Strathclyde highlighted the importance of faith-based education in the context of special needs provision. He said,

"By giving children and adults with special needs a grounding in their cultural heritage and by teaching them Hebrew and Jewish studies, they naturally acquire a greater sense of familial and communal belonging than would otherwise be the case. In Kisharon the Jewish community has provided Britain with a fine working model for holistic, dedicated special education provision, whose values must be replicated and extended in our society".

A moving appeal was made jointly by the Chairman of the Dinner Committee, Jeremy Kon and the Chief Executive, Beverley Jacobson. During the evening, Kisharon Day School pupil, Joshua Diamond performed a song that he had written and fulfilled his dream of singing on stage with his proud parents watching.

The event was a tremendous financial success for Kisharon raising £500,000. Kisharon is extremely grateful to Jeremy Kon and his dedicated fundraising committee for putting on such a great event particularly during such a difficult financial year.



Philip Goldberg, Chairman of Kisharon with Lord Strathclyde and Chief Executive, Dr Beverley Jacobson



Lord Strathclyde gives the keynote address



Lord Strathclyde in conversation with Chief Executive, Dr Beverley Jacobson



The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks with Kisharon Trustee, Leo Noe



Jeremy Kon, Kisharon Dinner Chairman gives the appeal speech with Beverley Jacobson



Chairman of Kisharon Philip Goldberg with Dinner Chairman, Jeremy Kon



Joshua Diamond, pupil at Kisharon Day School

Be a buddy!

Kisharon recently launched an exciting initiative in an effort to support the many special needs children and their families who are struggling with life and in particular with filling their leisure time. "Buddying Up" is based on an American friendship circle idea and is intended to reach all children with special needs. For this idea to succeed, however, volunteers are desperately needed.

Kisharon is urging teenagers to give time, patience and love. In return they will have the opportunity to build a bond of friendship and experience unconditional love and acceptance from someone who will never forget them.

The teenage volunteers will go in groups of two or three to befriend a special needs child by spending an hour a week with him/her in the safety of his/her own home. Together, they can bake biscuits, play games, create arts and crafts, read books and do just about anything fun! With so much to look forward to from these visits, it is no wonder the children will wait all week for their volunteers to show up at their doorsteps!

The volunteers will be well supported and will have opportunities to socialise with other committed, caring and responsible teenagers. The teenagers will also gain a sense of security and self esteem that comes with knowing that they are making a difference to the life of a child. Dr Beverley Jacobson, Kisharon's Chief Executive, commented:

"The establishment of 'Buddying Up' will provide a desperately needed service which I hope the community will support. We are looking forward to welcoming volunteers to this special friendship initiative."

If you are interested in finding out about the "Buddying Up" Friendship for Special Needs Children where you can join other teenagers who are committed, excited and motivated to learn more and do more, please phone 020 8090 7219 or email:- advice@kisharon.org.uk for a volunteer form.

Take a look at our new website!
www.kisharon.org.uk



Bupa 10k –

A different way of doing the school run

An ice cream, an elephant and seven other people ran on behalf of Kisharon at this year's BUPA 10k Run on the streets of London. Nearly £17,000 was raised by the Kisharon team which included Abigail Martyn (the ice cream), Josh Ejdelbaum (the elephant), father and son



Father and son Laurence and Jonathan Nesbitt

Laurence and Jonathan Nesbitt, Avner Radomsky, Adam Azoulay, Simon Klinger and Danny Wulwick, who raised a staggering amount on his own of over £9,500. Everyone finished in respectable times, ranging from 52:07 minutes through to 1:26:03

"It was a real honour to run for Kisharon especially for the kids in the school who we know quite well through Jessica. We had a great run at a really well organised event. I am humbled by the generosity of our friends and family who despite these difficult times have been more than willing to sponsor us and provide their support. Thank you for providing us the opportunity to take part. It was very special for me to run alongside my son in an effort to make life better for our daughter and her friends."
– Laurence Nesbitt, whose daughter attends Kisharon Day School

Kisharon winner looks forward to a holiday in Eilat

Mrs Lisa Berkeley of Edgware was delighted to win Kisharon's first ever national raffle which is a fortnight's holiday at Isrotel Sport Club Hotel, Eilat and flights to Israel kindly donated by Isrotel Hotels and Travelink London. Having confessed to never having won anything before, Mrs Berkeley is really looking forward to taking her prize in the next few months.



Raffle Draw

The other prize winners included Miss J Goldstone of Hendon who won his and her Accurist watches, Jennifer Jankel of Weybridge who won two Eurostar tickets, 87 year old Essie Graham of St John's Wood who won a flying lesson (which she decided to give to a friend) and Jonathan Jackson who won a sterling silver bracelet.

The draw for the raffle which raised nearly £23,000 took place at Kisharon's Volunteers Thank You Party in Parson Street in July at which time Kisharon service users also took the opportunity of decorating the white hoarding surrounding the garden which was put up due to the recent fire.

School Holidays – A time to think of others

A group of teenage girls from North London Collegiate and Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls' gave up some precious holiday time to take part in Kisharon's inaugural Disability Awareness Programme.

The programme was designed to attract children in their Bar and Batmitzvah year and give them an experience which would enable them to appreciate all they have at the same time as developing an empathy for others. The programme was a very carefully structured mix of discussion groups, simulation activities and opportunities to visit different parts of Kisharon's services. On the first day the group visited Tuffkid Nursery, on the second day, the Kisharon Day School and finally the Adult Services.

The programme was the brainchild of the Chief Executive, Dr Beverley Jacobson, who is passionate about making the public and particularly children aware and sensitive to the issues surrounding disability.

Dr Jacobson commented:

"The programme was a resounding success and we hope to roll it out to school groups nationally."

Julie Koopman, whose daughter Ruby was one of the participants commented:

"The programme was highly beneficial. The children attended enthusiastically each day and were intrigued by all they learnt. The programme was cleverly structured and the children were well supported in confronting some difficult issues. They will certainly be life time supporters of Kisharon."



“

When my friend asked me whether I wanted to go on this Kisharon 'thing' I had no idea it would be as much fun or as fulfilling as it was. When I arrived I felt a little anxious as I had always had a certain view of disabled people but that fear soon left me. Every morning we started off with a few games to help us understand what it was like living with a disability such as trying to make a bracelet wearing gloves with our fingers tied together and we would also learn a bit about the different types of disabilities and have discussions about disability. In the second part of the morning we would go on a trip to one of Kisharon's centres. The first day we went to Kisharon's nursery where children with disabilities and children who don't, play alongside each other. The second day we went to the Kisharon Day School and joined in an Israeli dance class with disabled girls who were the same age as us and sang songs with them. On the final day we went to the Kisharon Business Centre where everyone had a disability including one of the members of staff. I am so glad I went to Kisharon as it was such a worthwhile experience.

”

By Darcy Hill, 12yrs, Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls'

A flaming time in Parson Street

A major fire destroyed a group of four timber cabins at the rear of Kisharon's Parson St. Centre. The fire appears to have started around 2.00 a.m. on Thursday 14th May. Forensic scientists and the fire service are still investigating the cause of the blaze, however, the signs are that it was not caused by arson or negligence. The most likely source being an electrical fault in some fixed heating equipment.

The fire was first spotted by an eight-year-old boy living in a house that overlooks the garden at Parson St. He was awoken by loud explosions, probably from a fire extinguisher that burst or from tree branches cracking as they burned. He woke his mother, who called 999. Just a couple of minutes later, another neighbour also got up, and spotted the light from the flames, rousing his wife, he also called the fire brigade, who were able to get rapid access to the fire when they arrived via the neighbour's garden.

The fire completely destroyed three of the four cabins, together with the storage areas between them. A fourth cabin, used as a therapy room, was badly damaged and had to be taken down. The fire also wrecked the neighbour's garden and some of their property.

It was a miracle that no-one was hurt and that neither our main building, nor the neighbour's home, was destroyed. Four fire crews fought the blaze, and they said that if they had arrived just five minutes later, both buildings would have gone up in flames and been destroyed. Kisharon lost a huge amount of equipment in the fire. There was a fully equipped

fitness studio with treadmills, exercise bikes, a punch ball, a cross trainer and trampoline. The therapy room had a specialist couch, chairs, exercise balls, and other expensive equipment and resources. The classrooms were kitted out with computers, specialist keyboards, and other resources. The totality of the destruction was incredible.

Fortunately by 6.00am the fire was completely put out. No decision has yet been reached on how the cabins will be replaced. Kisharon has at last regained use of the garden and activities have resumed largely undiminished by the loss of the cabins. We are making use of alternative facilities such as local sports centres. The service users have also started regular visits to Mapledown School where they are able to use their pedal go-karts, trikes and racing track.

The fire damaged area of the garden has had to be kept securely boarded up as the soil is badly contaminated with shards of glass and metal. The wooden hoarding has provided Kisharon with a wonderful expanse of pristine white space that was decorated during our Volunteers Thank You and Raffle Draw Party.



Decorating the wooden hoarding after the fire





Dates for your diary

November 2009

18-22 November 2009
Eilat Triathlon

December 2009

12-13 December 2009
Tennis/Badminton and
Bridge-athon

February 2010

27 February 2010
Quiches for Kisharon

April 2010

29 April - 6 May
'Viva Grand Canyon' trek

June 2010

Disability Dash

Raffle Launch



Triathlon

Tri sponsorship – Tri entering
Tri4Kisharon

join the Kisharon team at the Eilat Triathlon
18th - 22nd November 2009

Event date: 20th November
Distance Options

- **Olympic** – one mile swim, 25 mile cycle, 6.5 mile run
- **Sprint** – Half of the Olympic distance
- **Relay** – Olympic distance (in teams of 2 or 3)
- **Relay** – Sprint distance (in teams of 2 or 3)

For further details and to request your information and registration pack contact Kisharon's event team on 020 8731 7009 ext 204.
Or email triathlon@kisharon.org.uk

Kisharon - providing support for the learning disabled

www.kisharon.org.uk

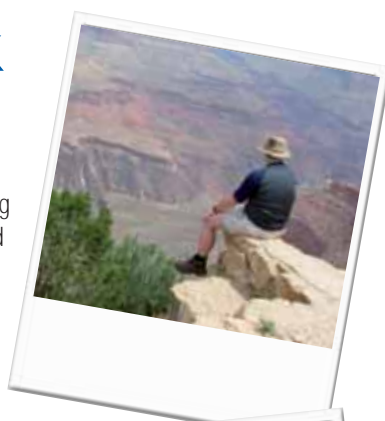
'Viva Grand Canyon' Trek

29 April - 6 May 2010

Fancy looking at stunning scenery whilst at the same time raising funds for Kisharon? Then please join us on our annual Grand Canyon Trek. This is a moderate to tough trek, over rough and undulating terrain. The trek also involves crossing some streams and there are opportunities for swimming and jumping into waterfalls. All participants should be fit and used to walking with a day pack for long periods of time. During this stunning challenge we will descend 16km into one of the most beautiful landscapes to the heart the Grand Canyon. From here we will be exploring this incredible landscape, crossing travertine pools of turquoise blue water, jumping into breathtaking waterfalls, traversing massive fields of grapevine and spend our nights under the stars. Culminating in an overnight visit to Las Vegas to celebrate our achievements with a gala dinner.

All food on the trek will be supervised fully kosher. So you can raise funds for Kisharon and have the adventure of a lifetime.

For full details contact the Fundraising Office on 020 87317009 ext 206.



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

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