

JDA Diamond Jubilee Dinner



Left to right: Sue Cipin, JDA Executive Director, with special guest, actress Stephanie Beacham and Trudy Kling, JDA Chairman.

What a sparkling evening!

One of the highlights of our 60th Anniversary year was the Diamond Jubilee Fundraising Dinner at the Glaziers Hall in central London held on Sunday 27 November 2011.

Two hundred guests attended this glittering event! Our special guest was the elegant actress Stephanie Beacham, who is partially deaf. She looked every inch the Hollywood film star in a long silver and black sequined dress, as she swept into the foyer with her partner Dr Bernie Greenwood.

More than 20 JDA members were at the Dinner, and many said how much they enjoyed the evening, which was organised by the Hear!Hear! committee and our own JDA staff.

A speech was made by Louise and David Sorkin, whose son, Kieran, was born in 2005 with no ears. They told the guests about their search to find the right treatment for their son. They said it was in many ways thanks to the help of Jody Sacks, JDA Family Services Coordinator, that they found the right support for Kieran.

Louise told the audience that Jody first began to support Kieran when he was only six months old.

"It was such a relief to be able to share the burden we had been carrying with someone who was not only sympathetic, but who could instantly offer us practical help," she said. "Through Jody, we became much clearer about what was available to us and we met other young Jewish families with deaf children. So our world really opened up."

She said that Kieran, who is now six, has endured more consultations and operations than most people do in their entire lives. And, last March, he finally had a Bone Anchored Hearing Aid screwed into his head. "His hearing instantly improved and he has gone from strength to strength.

"The JDA helped us to get Kieran into Sinai School where he is rapidly catching up with the other children of his age," Louise added. "He's popular, loves life and when he's nine and his growth is sufficient, he will finally be given his ears. Jody has become a firm friend and whenever we need guidance, it's good to know that JDA's just a phone call away.

"We never miss JDA Family Fun Days as they're a unique chance for us and our children to mix with other families with shared experiences. So we would like to thank all at the JDA."



Guest speakers David and Louise Sorkin share their story, interpreted by Gloria Ogborn.

The guests then watched a short film about the JDA which featured many of our members using JDA services, and showed the value of our work with hard of hearing people and families with deaf babies and children.

Special Features

Thanks to this wonderful appeal video, which was followed by a stirring speech by JDA Executive Director Sue Cipin, the Dinner raised £80,000 towards JDA ongoing support services for the Deaf and Deafblind community, for families with deaf babies and children and for those people with a hearing loss acquired in later life.

In her speech, Stephanie Beacham told the audience: "It's great to see that the JDA is doing so much to support people of all the different generations. People really do need specialist help and it's thanks to wonderful organisations like the JDA that they are getting it - and they rely on it!"

Stephanie told the guests that she knows full well what it's like to be deaf. She now only has 40 per cent hearing in her left ear and is completely deaf in her right ear.

She said that, when she visited the JDA Day Centre in October, as well as playing bingo, she met a couple of 'unforgettable rascals' called Harry and Eddie!

In her speech, Sue Cipin said: "Over 60 years, the JDA has built up specialist expertise and services which people have come to depend upon. Now, more and more people are turning to us for help, and we are delighted that this evening gave our supporters a greater understanding of just how important the JDA is in people's lives.

"We're deeply grateful to each of them, to the Hear!Hear! committee and to Stephanie Beacham, who spoke so movingly about her own deafness and how important it is to people to get the right help and support."



**The Hear!Hear! Committee (left to right):
Barbara Gee, Sharon Graham, Talya Tibber,
Trudy Kling, Vivienne Prevezer,
Rochelle Lewis and Caroline Janner.**



**Stephanie Beacham signing her new autobiography
"Many Lives" for Marie Littman**

**Trudy
Kling with
JDA
President
Evelyn
Gee,
Stephanie
Beacham
and JDA
Vice-Chair
Duncan**



**JDA President.
Evelyn Gee with
Caroline Janner,
Coordinator of
our Happy
Mondays group**

**Miriam
Solomon
and Myer
Solomon**



Photos by John Rifkin

Special Features



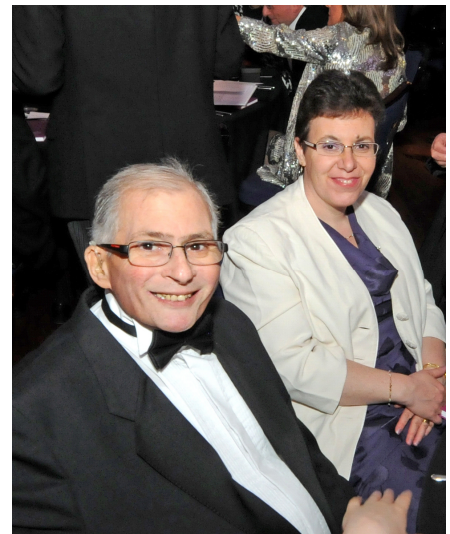
The Diamond Jubilee Dinner had a sparkling black, white and silver theme with "diamonds" scattered on the tables and table decorations created by Suzie Andrews



JDA's Helen Eisen and Marie Littman with Stephanie Beacham



Michael Corney having a chat with Stephanie Beacham, assisted by "hands-on" interpreter, Maria Economou



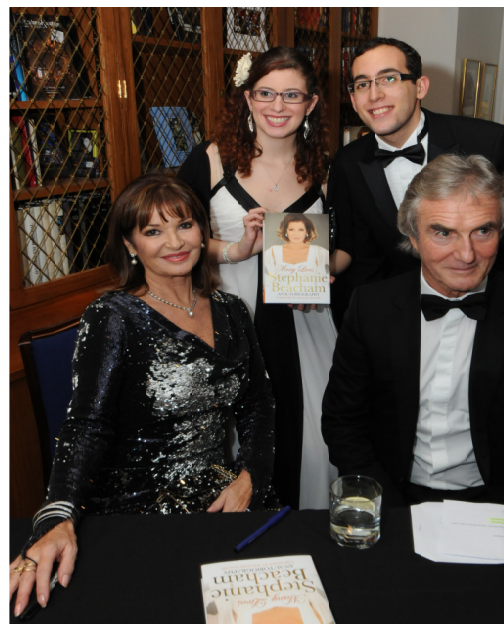
Ann and Harvey Clements who celebrated their wedding anniversary at the Dinner



Lorraine and Kenneth Silver with their daughter Melody Moss, Support Services Worker at JDA



Debra Britton with her daughter Yvonne Paton and her grandson David Paton



Rebecca and Daniel Clements with Stephanie Beacham and her partner Dr Bernie Greenwood