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PaLs

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PaL is dedicated in lasting memory of Sammy Homburger ז"ל

PaL - Your Nation Needs You!

Since its inception in 2004, **PaL** has grown exponentially. To date, there are nearly 700 people learning over the phone each week under its auspices, mainly in the United Kingdom, but additionally in places as far flung as Turkey, Germany, Switzerland, France, South Africa and Israel.

Like many other outreach organisations, the experience of **PaL** has been that in times of economic uncertainty, people tend to grow disenchanted with 'traditional' Western values; as a result, today there are many Jews looking to develop their connection with their heritage, and just as many others taking their first, small steps towards discovering it for the very first time.

To ensure that **PaL** can respond positively to all those people signing up to learn through them, the organisation is now urgently looking to expand its pool of dedicated tutors, both male and female. And as Rabbi Paysach Krohn, who founded **PaL** in the UK in 2004, stated, the only qualification necessary for this is a willingness to help other Jews based on the fact that we have been *zocheh* to live a frum lifestyle, in *heimishe* communities, with a wealth of Torah and Torah opportunities on our doorsteps.

"It's understandable that someone who hasn't had any formal kiruv training might be a little nervous at the prospect of being challenged with tough questions by an as-yet-unaffiliated Jew," Programme Coordinator Mrs Judy Silkoff comments. "But that's what **PaL** is there for – the organisation is equally as committed to the needs and requirements of its tutors as its partners." A wealth of resources, such as the unique tutor training pack, pre Yom Tov and themed mailouts and a dedicated Ask the Rabbi facility, are just some of the ways that **PaL** ensures its tutors are well cared for and supported, she explains. *[see more details overleaf]*

In the words of **PaL** tutor Dov Phillips, who has been learning with his partner Robert Mitchell, from Ilford, for three years: "I have found it extremely rewarding being a **PaL** tutor. By giving up a small amount of my time I have been amazed by the results and the genuine appreciation showed by my partner. On several occasions Robert has asked questions or made comments that have made me see things from a different



Rabbi Krohn and a member of the audience at the **PaL** Pre-Rosh Hashanah Lecture 2010
 Photo: Shuli Smus Photography

perspective! One of the most inspiring things has been to see his commitment to Yiddishkeit grow over the years we have been learning. Slowly but surely he has taken on new mitzvos and the types of questions he asks show that he is always thinking about his everyday life from a Torah perspective."

To sign up as a tutor call 0800 055 3276 or email info@phoneandlearn.org

PaL - Leader of the Pack!

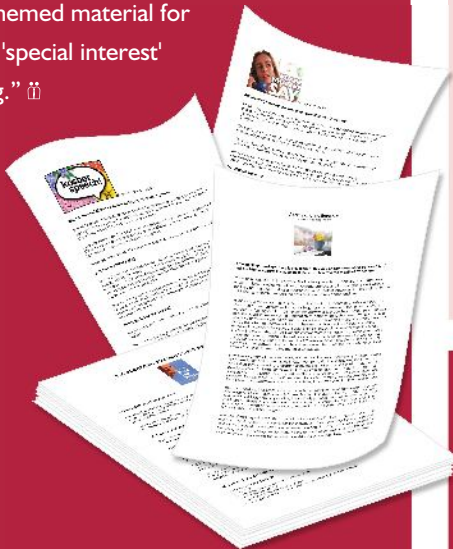
Ever responsive to the needs of its partners and tutors, **PaL** recently produced its first themed resource pack on the subject of 'The Power of Speech'.

One of **PaL**'s strengths has long been the special Yom Tov packs it despatches to partners and tutors before every Jewish holiday, comprising articles on *inyonei d'yoma*, both halachic and hashkafic. Last summer, **PaL** carried out a comprehensive survey of participants in its programme and asked if they would like to see more of these resource materials on other occasions. The answer was a resounding 'yes' and the thoughtfully produced new pack was the result.

PaL Programme Coordinator Judy Silkoff explained: "We decided that the perfect time to send out the pack would be Cheshvan, when our tutors and partners naturally do not receive anything Yom Tov related from us. And we chose to focus on 'The Power of Speech' as a natural extension of Rabbi Krohn's most recent lecture for **PaL** in September, where he spoke about 'Visions of Unity: Words building Worlds.'"

The pack comprised articles on the basic halachos of lashon hara and proper speech, as well as some inspiring pieces on our ability to affect our surroundings using the awesome tool of communication.

PaL partner Debbie L from Barnet commented: "I love the **PaL** yom tov packs and keep them in a special file to refer back to on a regular basis. I thoroughly enjoyed going through the 'Power of Speech' pack with my tutor and hope **PaL** will send out more themed material for regular 'special interest' learning." 🕊



PaL and the Hasmoneans - Presentations in the run up to Chanukah

PaL Programme Coordinator Judy Silkoff was invited to speak to the girls of Hasmonean High School in one of their Friday morning assemblies in Kislev. Some 500 students aged

11-18 heard Mrs Silkoff explain the message of **PaL** - that every individual can make a big difference to other people's lives, no matter how small or insignificant their contribution may seem.



Programme Coordinator Judy Silkoff with Mrs Rachel Fink, Head of Hasmonean Girls' School.

Following Mrs Silkoff's talk, Head of Jewish Studies Rabbi Jonny Solomon revealed to the girls that he is also a **PaL** tutor. He urged the upper school students to get involved with the organisation either during their years in the Sixth Form or on their return from sem.

Indeed, several Hasmonean sixth formers are already learning under **PaL**'s auspices, working on augmenting their skills before their gap year in Israel. **PaL**'s tutor roll also boasts many Hasmonean alumni.

Rabbi Solomon has invited Mrs Silkoff back to the school next term to speak to the girls of the Midrasha programme in more depth about **PaL**.

He commented: "Mrs Silkoff's talk was very well received by the students and I hope this leads to more people joining the **PaL** family." 🕊

PaL was also invited to speak to the graduating students of Kesher's 'Crash Course in Hebrew Reading' class just before Chanukah. Each student received a **PaL** goody bag containing information about the programme and a sign up form; several expressed strong interest in signing up to **PaL** in the new year, so that the programme can support and run alongside their learning in Kesher's 'Hebrew Reading II' course, due to begin in mid-January. 🕊

PaL Tutor Resources in a Nutshell!

- Unique Tutor Training Pack – multi-media material for all **PaL** tutors
- Tailored advice on which books to study
- Ask the Rabbi facility – send all your tutor questions to Rabbi Harvey Belovski at asktherabbi@phoneandlearn.org for response by return email
- Mail-out material by email or post before every Yom Tov and at other strategic points in the year
- Ten percent discount on books and sefarim at Torah Treasures
- Choice of weekly Parsha sheets
- Comprehensive list of local Jewish libraries (including JLE library membership arranged through **PaL**) so you can 'try before you buy'
- Access to some 20 interactive courses to learn with your partner, completely free of charge – including Halacha (Shabbos, Brachos, Daily Living, Kaddish Curriculum), Jewish Literacy (Tefilla, Jewish History, Chumash Themes, Hebrew Reading) and Jewish Thought



Phone and Learn (PaL) is a division of Partners in Torah*, USA

www.partnersintorah.org, a unique Jewish identity-building initiative committed to fostering unity among Jews of all backgrounds. **PaL** matches Jews who want to know more about their heritage with a friendly, knowledgeable tutor for an hour a week of Jewish study and discussion, over the phone.

*Partners in Torah is a project of Torah Umesorah.

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