

**PaL on the Road**

PaL invited to Israel to meet UK gap year students

PaL Training Boosts Tutors' Skills

Successful Tutor Training Seminar held in May

PaL on Campus

PaL Lunch and Learn session for Cambridge Students



PaLs

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

PaL on the Road

PaL invited to Israel to meet UK gap year students

In May, PaL Programme Coordinator Judy Silkoff and Programme Administrator Samantha Taylor paid a visit to Israel to meet with a wide range of UK students coming to the end of their gap year programmes in the country. PaL was invited to Jerusalem by the Chief Executive of the Young United Synagogue movement Tribe, Rabbi Andrew Shaw, and Tribe Israel Executive Merissa Gross, to make a presentation at the 'Closing the Gap' dinner, hosted annually by the organisation for around 130 British 18 and 19 year olds.

The event was held at the King Solomon Hotel in Jerusalem. PaL was also delighted to have the opportunity to promote its services at an exhibition stand during the pre-dinner reception. PaL's trademark inflatable phone box put in an appearance of course, and the stall was inundated by students intrigued by the concept of continuing their Jewish learning over the phone on their return to the UK. Over 100

students signed up to study with the programme during the course of the event.

While in Israel, PaL was also invited to visit several seminaries to speak to British girls studying there about signing up as both partners and tutors on their return home. Over the course of four days, some 90 girls had the opportunity to find out more about PaL's innovative

programme. From the Neve campus, to Beis Yaakov seminaries, to the Michlelet Orot Israel College in the north of the country, every girl the PaL team encountered was more than eager to put her name down to study over the phone.

As the British students fly back to the UK over the course of the summer, PaL has been in touch with them to complete their



Signing up to PaL at the Tribe Dinner

registration to the programme and offer them the resources and support that have become synonymous with its name. Many yeshiva and seminary students worry about the prospect of leaving Israel at the end of their gap year, but thanks to PaL are able to feel secure in the knowledge that a variety of learning and teaching opportunities remain fully within their grasp. ☺

"My learning sessions are proving to be immensely helpful and enjoyable. My tutor is happy to answer any question I pose and if he can't answer immediately, comes back to me either by email or by phone. On the whole a truly inspiring person. The system that you are running is fantastic! Kol hakavod to you all."

From RM, PaL Partner since January 08

"I find that not only am I giving, but I am gaining so much myself. I have quite a busy schedule but the PaL hour has given me the opportunity to improve my own knowledge, while guiding someone else at the same time. It amazes me that we are two girls from the same town who would probably never have met if it wasn't for PaL!"

From RR, PaL Tutor since August 05



L to R: Dov Harris, Rabbi Roberts, Rabbi Silver, Jonny Rabson

PaL on Campus



On Chol Hamoed Pesach, PaL Executive Committee Member Yehuda Wittenberg was guest speaker at the Cambridge Jewish Society's weekly lunch and learn session. Over 35 students attended the session, where Yehuda delivered a shiur on the topic of "Pesach - The Joy Of Ultimate Freedom", as well as explaining how they could benefit from signing up to PaL's programme. PaL's telephone-based programme is of particular benefit to students living on university campuses, as they can arrange their Jewish learning at hours to suit their lecture schedules during term-time, without having to take a break from the sessions during holidays. ☞



Save the Date!

As in previous years, PaL is delighted to announce that Rabbi Paysach Krohn will be giving a public lecture for Ellul on behalf of the organisation. This year's event will be held at the Hasmonean Boys School in Hendon on 24 September 2008. ☞

PaL Training Boosts Tutors' Skills

On Sunday 11 May PaL held a Tutor Training Seminar in the beautiful surroundings of the Chai Centre in Hendon. The well-attended evening of inspiration, practical advice and confidence building tips for one-to-one tutors featured two keynote speakers and an 'Ask The Expert' panel session.

Rabbi Dovid Roberts of the Kehillas Netzach Yisrael in Edgware spoke first on the topic of "how to move your learning partnership forward". The 45-minute session covered a diversity of topics, ranging from the question of what is more important – action or learning – to the correct way to approach one-to-one learning.

The second session was delivered by veteran *kiruv* expert Rabbi Yehuda Silver of seed. Entitled "Practical advice on how to approach a learning relationship", it elaborated on the first session with a series of inspiring and helpful guidelines.

The Tutor Training Seminar concluded with an Ask the Expert panel comprising Rabbi Silver, PaL committee member Jonny Rabson, and the JLE's Director of Education Programmes Rabbi Aaron Hersh. Questions addressed included "where does the mitzvah of *tochacha* fit into *kiruv*"; "should one feel guilty if learning sessions sometimes veer off course and involve schmoozing or discussing personal issues"; and "suggestions on ways to turn a telephone learning session from a monologue into a dialogue".

Speaking after the event, PaL Programme Coordinator Judy Silkoff commented: "The Training Seminar offered our tutors a valuable opportunity to address some of the issues that can arise in a telephone learning relationship. We are delighted that it was able to deliver so much food for thought and useful advice to everyone who attended." ☞



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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