

Wherever you are...

...call home  
and connect to your  
Jewish heritage  
in just one hour a week



# PaLs

The Newsletter for Friends of Phone and Learn

No 2 | April 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

ד'ב

## PaL's Campus Campaign

PaL outlines its work to the UK's Jewish university Chaplains

## PaL Partner Profile

Meet longstanding PaL partner, Jacob Morrison-Wood

## Save the Date

Get ready for PaL's next inspiring Tutor Training Seminar

PO Box 48547  
London NW4 9AF  
08000 J-LEARN (553 276)

[www.phoneandlearn.org](http://www.phoneandlearn.org)  
[info@phoneandlearn.org](mailto:info@phoneandlearn.org)

Registered Charity Number 1110416

PaL is dedicated in lasting memory of  
Sammy Homburger z"l

## PaL's Campus Campaign

### *PaL invited to make a presentation to the UK's Jewish university Chaplains*

The run-up to *Pesach* is a particularly busy time for the team of Rabbis who work as student chaplains at university campuses across the UK. **PaL** was therefore delighted to be invited to make a lunchtime presentation to seven of these 'unsung heroes' of Jewish student life at their recent pre-*Pesach* training seminar.

The seminar was attended by the chaplains for the London, Cambridge, Oxford, Western, North Eastern and Nottingham regions, as well as by Jewish Chaplaincy Chief Executive, Rabbi Yoni Sherizen. Outlining the Phone and Learn programme Chairman Dov Harris commented that **PaL** is only too happy to reduce the burden on the already over-stretched chaplains by organising telephone learning partnerships for interested students on their campuses. **PaL** is especially convenient for students living away from home in halls of residence, as the 'mobile' nature of the

programme allows them to continue their learning uninterrupted in both term-time and holiday periods.

The presentation was followed by a brief question and answer session led by Dov and **PaL** Programme Coordinator Judy Silkoff. Judy explained that **PaL** tailors the learning partnerships it establishes to each specific student's needs and wants. Tutors are hand-picked to ensure that their partners will gain the maximum benefit from a relationship that dovetails perfectly with both their spiritual and practical requirements.

At the end of the session Rabbi Sherizen thanked **PaL** for joining the chaplains for their meeting and offering to help those on the UK's university campuses to explore their Jewish learning in a meaningful and consistent way.



*PaL chairman Dov Harris and Rabbi Harvey Belovski with the chaplains*

Indeed, the presentation has already proved fruitful – **PaL** has been invited to visit the Cambridge campus over Chol Hamoed *Pesach*. On behalf of the organisation, Committee member Yehuda Wittenberg will lead a Lunch and Learn session with nearly 40 members of the university's Jewish Society, as well as inviting them to register with **PaL** for the coming term. 

## New Resources for PaL Partnerships

As the number of PaL learning partnerships increases, it becomes ever more important to offer tutors a wide range of resources and support. To this end, PaL is delighted to be working with Rabbi Harvey Belovski of the Golders Green Synagogue. Rabbi Belovski is now available to answer any questions that tutors may have, arising as a direct result of their PaL learning sessions. All they need to do is email [asktherabbi@phoneandlearn.org](mailto:asktherabbi@phoneandlearn.org)! Additionally, PaL has teamed up with the Shema Yisrael network to offer three written courses in *Kashrus*, *Tefilla* and *Shabbos halocho* to any partners and tutors who wish to study these topics together in more depth. The courses comprise a series of comprehensive and practical lessons, and can be dispatched either by email or cd, depending on the tutor's preference. 📞

## Save the Date!

On the evening of 11 May 2008 PaL will be holding a Tutor Training Seminar in the aesthetically pleasing surroundings of the Chai centre in Hendon. The seminar is open to PaL tutors primarily, as well as to community members involved in other forms of one-to-one tutoring. The aim of the seminar is to offer inspiration, practical skills and confidence building tips to tutors: sessions will be given by Rabbi Yehuda Silver of seed and Rabbi Dovid Roberts, Rav of Kehillas Netzach Yisrael. At the end of the evening a Question and Answer panel will deal with specific issues that tutors may have come across as a result of their learning partnerships. 📞

## Bringing the Red Phonebox Back to the UK!

The traditional red telephone box may be on the decline across most parts of the UK but at Phone and Learn it is still thriving! Attend any future PaL events and you will now be greeted by the sight of our very own 7ft, customised inflatable red phone box!

Unlike conventional phone boxes which are restricted by space constraints, PaL can absorb an infinite number of UK Jews who come together to learn under its auspices each week! The signal may be 'busy' but you'll always get through! 📞



## PaL Partner Profile

*Jacob Morrison-Wood has been learning with PaL tutor Mordechai Freund since January 2006. 23-year-old Jacob is a marketing assistant living in Edgware. He first signed up while studying creative writing at Leeds University.*

### *What were your initial impressions of learning over the phone?*

I'm used to learning face-to-face, so the idea seemed a little unusual at first - but after the first couple of sessions it felt completely normal - and still does! In truth, the main focus of learning is through the medium of talking and listening, so telephone learning makes perfect sense.

### *Tell us a little about your PaL partnership.*

Mordechai and I learn, in general, for an hour each week. We study *Mishnayos* and *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch*, but the learning often goes off on a tangent! PaL picked a really good tutor for me.

### *What would you say are the specific advantages of learning over the phone?*

I think it's the fact that I can do it in the comfort and convenience of my own home. It saves time and expense, and is especially helpful for people who can't travel easily. Distance is never a deterrent as the person you learn with could easily live at the other end of the country.

### *Have you and Mordechai ever met in person?*

We get on extremely well and I've thought about it several times. But personally I prefer to keep that level of anonymity - I think our relationship would change if we were to meet in person and I think there's something special about having a relationship solely over the phone.

### *How has your PaL experience affected you over the years?*

Mordechai and I have had many discussions on a wide variety of issues. He's made me think a lot more and opened my eyes to the beauty of Judaism.

### *In a nutshell, who do you think can benefit from the PaL programme?*

No one is too knowledgeable to learn more, so even people with a regular learning schedule, or those who attend *shiurim* would definitely gain from it. Also, at the other end of the spectrum, people who want to learn about basic elements of Judaism and who like to learn at their own pace, from a topic of their choice, would also find it really useful. 📞



**Phone and Learn (PaL) is a division of Partners in Torah\*, USA** [www.partnersintorah.org](http://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.

PARTNERS IN TORAH is a trademark of Partners in Torah, a division of Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools, and is being used under licence.