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IN THIS ISSUE

James and the Giant Ticket

PaL partner James Joseph wins an unexpected prize in the post-Israel trip draw

PaL Turns Over a New Leaf

Putting in an appearance at Jewish Book Week 2011

PaL and the United Synagogue

Trustee Yehuda Wittenberg speaks to US Rabbanim at LSJS



PaLs

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

James and The Giant Ticket!

For several years now **PaL** has been invited to Israel to speak to students attending the Tribe Closing the Gap dinner in Jerusalem, and 2010 was no exception. Nearly every student at the event last May registered for the opportunity to continue developing their Jewish knowledge under the auspices of **PaL**. Indeed by the end of the first academic term of 2010/2011, several successful learning partnerships were well under way!

As in previous years, the Traveldesk travel agency teamed up with **PaL** to offer these dedicated learners free entry into a raffle, with the prize being a plane ticket back to Israel for a refreshing break. The winner, 20-year-old James Joseph from Hendon, was thrilled to be informed of his good fortune.

On being presented with his prize by Rabbi Harvey Belovski (who facilitates **PaL**'s 'Ask the Rabbi' service), James commented: "I was thrilled and delighted to hear that I had won the draw! It's a very welcome but totally unexpected bonus to my **PaL** learning!"

Programme Coordinator Judy Silkoff added: "We are delighted to be able to offer James the opportunity to make a flying visit back to the Holy Land! James and his tutor, Mr Nesanel Miller of Manchester, are the perfect example of **PaL**'s flexibility – he is based in London and Nesanel in Prestwich, but geographical distance is no object when it comes to their telephone learning schedule!" 🇮🇱



Prize winner James Joseph with Rabbi Harvey Belovski
Photo: Pini Smus

Spotlight on James Joseph

Age: **19**

High School: **Hasmonean**

Gap Year: **Yeshivat Alon Shvut**

Current Occupation: **Law student at LSE**

Registered to learn since: **November 2010**

Tutor: **Nesanel Miller**

Topic: **Mishna**

Goals for the Programme: **To improve his Torah learning skills**

Comments: **"I'm very grateful to PaL for matching me up with Nesanel. He's a great guy and we get on well, which means that I look forward to our weekly learning sessions - it makes the learning particularly enjoyable"**

Bringing Purim Joy to PaL Partnerships

In the run-up to Purim PaL teamed up with Infinity Souvenirs of Hendon as part of its ongoing commitment to fostering warm attachments between its tutors and their learning partners.

In a unique promotion, PaL tutors were able to choose between three styles of exclusively designed mishloach manos for each other with guaranteed delivery all over the world either just before Purim or on Purim day itself.

PaL Programme Coordinator Judy Silkoff commented: "Each year, many PaL partners experience a meaningful Purim seudah at the homes of their tutors; Purim, with its message of unity is a wonderful time of year for tutors to reach out to their partners and show them how much they care about them as individual members of the Jewish people. We were thrilled to team up with Infinity in order to help facilitate this goal."

PaL partner Jess Hod said: "I was so touched to receive Mishloach Manos from my tutor – it was really thoughtful of her and I very much appreciated both her gesture, and PaL for arranging the scheme." ❧



PaL Take 2 at Hasmonean

Programme Coordinator Judy Silkoff was invited back to the Hasmonean girls school in February, following her talk in Friday morning assembly last term. On this occasion, Mrs Silkoff led two sessions, with years 12 and 13, outlining the concept of PaL to the students in more detail. Some 22 girls registered with the programme during the course of the presentation, with the specific goal of improving their text skills in advance of their seminary year. Head of Kodesh on the Girls' site, Rabbi Jonny Solomon said: "I am delighted with the partnership that has been created with PaL and Hasmonean and hope that the learning from these girls serve to further inspire the PaL team in the outstanding work they are doing." ❧

PaL Turns Over a New Leaf...

A first for PaL was its appearance in February at the JC sponsored Jewish Book Week. The organisation was invited to take a stall on both Sundays of the week-long event, attended by over 3000 people from the wider Jewish community. Those stopping by the PaL stall were intrigued to discover more about the concept of Jewish learning over the phone and were particularly amazed that the entire programme is free to participate in. New PaL partner Eleanor Cowan, 56, who signed up at the event, commented: "I think this is the most fantastic concept and I wish it had been around years ago when I was newly married!" Eleanor and her tutor have got off to a great start exploring Jewish history together.

Jewish Book Week also proved to be the perfect occasion for PaL to launch its brand new bookmark, with its memorable strapline of 'Find your place in Judaism'. The bookmark is now available free of charge to shoppers at Judaica Stores Torah Treasures in Golders Green and Divrei Kodesh in Edgware – the perfect accessory to the latest in Jewish literary releases and a real spur to continued reading and learning! ❧



PaL partner Robert Mitchell at the Jewish Book Week stall

PaL and the United Synagogue

In March, PaL trustee Yehuda Wittenberg was invited to speak to a group of twenty United Synagogue Rabbis at the London School of Jewish Studies, as part of one of the Chief Rabbi's Rabbinic Consultative meetings. At the behest of Rabbi Dr Julian Shindler, Director of Rabbinic Liaison for the Office of the Chief Rabbi, Yehuda outlined the concept of the PaL programme and explained to the Rabbonim in attendance the benefits it could offer to their communities. Indeed, PaL works closely with many United Synagogue communities, offering tailored one-to-one telephone learning for congregants who cannot attend regular shiurim or who would like to learn at somewhat unconventional hours.

Rabbi Shindler commented: "The Office of the Chief Rabbi was delighted to give PaL the opportunity to familiarise the Rabbinat with their activities on this occasion. We would encourage our Rabbanim to develop a closer working relationship with PaL in the future". ❧



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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