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PaLs

The Newsletter for Friends of Phone and Learn

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IN THIS ISSUE

S*XC

PaL's Winning Ticket

19-year-old Israel sign-up wins trip back to the Holy Land

Chanukah One-to-One Learning

PaL teams up with seed for successful pre-Chanukah evening

Connect to P@L

Launch of PaL's new e-newsletter

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Registered Charity Number
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PaL is dedicated in lasting memory of Sammy Homburger **K**

PaL's Winning Ticket to the Holy Land!

Last May, **PaL** registered some 100 gap year students as partners and tutors of the programme during a flying visit to Jerusalem. Since that time, the new sign ups have proved themselves to be extremely dedicated learners, studying a range of topics that include Parsha, basic Jewish knowledge, Shabbos Halacha and Hebrew reading skills.

As a reward for their dedication, **PaL** teamed up with tutor and long-time supporter, Mr Benzy Adler of Traveldesk, to offer the 'Israel sign ups' free entry into a draw to win a plane ticket back to Israel for a refreshing break. The winner, 19-year-old Gina Osen from Hampstead Garden Suburb, was presented with her prize by Lady Amelie Jacobovits, and plans to take advantage of her unexpected reward within the coming months.

Gina, who has been learning Nach on a weekly basis with **PaL** tutor

Rachelli Royde since July, commented: "I already gain so much from my learning with **PaL**, so I was stunned to receive the phone call telling me when I received the phone call from **PaL** telling me that my name had been drawn as the winner! It was so hard leaving Israel to return to the UK after my gap year in seminary ended, I can't believe that **PaL** has given me this incredible chance to return!"

PaL's Programme Coordinator Judy Silkoff added: "We were thrilled to be able to offer Gina the opportunity to recharge her batteries in Israel! The students who signed up to **PaL** at the Tribe dinner in May have really proved their enthusiasm through their dedication to learning and their vocal support of our programme!"

To sign up to **PaL** as either a partner or a tutor email info@phoneandlearn.org or telephone 08000 J-LEARN (553 276)

Spotlight on Gina Osen...



PHOTO CREDIT: PINI SMUS

Age: **19**
High School: **Hasmonean**
Gap Year: **Midreshet Tehillah Seminary, Jerusalem**
Current Occupation: **Student**
Signed up to PaL: **May 2008**
Learning since: **July 2008**
Tutor: **Rachelli Royde**
Topic: **Nach**
Programme Goals: **To learn more and improve my skills**

“Rachelli and I mainly learn over the phone but as we live fairly near each other have also met up in person a few times. She is exactly the kind of tutor I was hoping for when I signed up to **PaL** and I've really gained a lot from our sessions together!”

Connect to P@L!

PaL is delighted to announce the launch of a new resource for partners and tutors, a monthly email newsletter, 'P@L', due to be launched in February '09.

P@L will keep those learning through the programme up-to-date with all the latest **PaL** news, as well as informing them of events run by other organisations that may be of interest as they seek to grow through a diversity of learning opportunities. The first edition includes details of learning sessions at seed and Kesher, and a JLE trip to Poland. It is hoped that this latest addition to the **PaL** resource bank will help partners to progress further in their Jewish journey and find new outlets for their burgeoning interest in their heritage.

P@L will also include a round-up of the latest book releases and a selection of interesting questions from Rabbi Harvey Belovski's **PaL** Ask the Rabbi mailbag.

P@L will automatically be sent to all partners and tutors who register an email address when they sign up to the programme, but anyone may request to join the mailing list by sending a blank email with the word 'subscribe' in the subject line to info@phoneandlearn.org.



A Snapshot of PaL: Facts and Figures!

Did you know that...

- **18%** of **PaL** partnerships learn Halacha (Jewish law) as their topic of choice and...
- ...**A third** of those opt to study the halachos of Shabbos
- **13%** of **PaL** partners and tutors study the weekly Parsha together
- **70%** of **PaL** partners live in the wider London area
- And **4%** live on the European continent, in France, Belgium and Germany
- **16%** of **PaL** partners and tutors have been learning together for longer than two years
- And **a fifth** of this group have been learning for over three years!
- Only **29%** of **PaL** partners live in the same town as their tutors

PaL 'Lit Up' with Chanuka Learning

Nearly 200 people attended a pre-Chanukah evening of learning and inspiration called 'Let There Be Light' at the Hasmonean boys' school in December, organised by **PaL** and **seed**. Participants could opt either to continue with their regular learning topic or enjoy working through a range of Chanukah resources provided.

This session was followed by words of inspiration from the Mashgiach of Gateshead's

Yeshivas Tiferes Yaakov, Rabbi Yehudah Leib Wittler. Rabbi

Wittler strongly praised those who study through programmes such as **PaL** and **seed**, explaining that one can never know the enormous positive ramifications of devoting time to learning Torah One to One.

Let There Be Light represented the first time that **PaL** has organised a joint event with another organisation. **PaL** programme coordinator Mrs Judy Silkoff commented: "We were delighted to have the opportunity to pool our resources and work together with **seed**; it was wonderful to see so many people learning together in such a strong spirit of achdus.

seed's Programmes Director Rabbi Malcolm Herman added: "At **seed** we consider **PaL** to be our 'first cousin' in providing a service for Anglo-Jewry of flexible One to One learning so we were excited to be able to share the 'simcha' of learning together."



PaL partnership Jeremy Rose and David Davis



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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