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



PaLs

The Newsletter for Friends of Phone and Learn

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“It's all about the I”

PaL's Annual Pre-Rosh Hashanah Lecture

Over 1000 people streamed into Finchley United Synagogue a week before Rosh Hashanah, to hear the inspiring words of Rabbi Paysach Krohn at the annual PaL, Phone and Learn, pre-Rosh Hashanah lecture. The title of Rabbi Krohn's shiur this year was 'The iGeneration – iPod, iPad, iPhone; From Self-Involvement to Self-Improvement', and focused on how we can work on turning the 'lower case i' of 'I want' or 'I need' to the more 'upper case' type of I – 'I care, I help and I do'.

PaL chairman Dov Harris opened the event by welcoming the audience and reminding them of the organisation's main premise – to bring two people together, one looking to learn more about Judaism, the other with a stronger Jewish background, for an hour a week of learning over the phone. He spoke of the hundreds of people whose lives have already been touched by PaL and whose appreciation of their Jewish heritage has soared as a result of their tutor's influence.

Reflecting Rabbi Krohn's theme of working on our community involvement this year, Mr Harris urged the audience to text the keyword 'Tutor' to a specially dedicated PaL number. In doing so, they

would indicate their willingness to volunteer their time as a tutor for PaL. The organisation has a waiting list of people who are interested in embarking on a weekly telephone learning session, but who have been unable to do so due to a shortage of available tutors. Dozens of people sent a text to offer their services during the course of the evening and have continued to do so in the days since then.

Rabbi Krohn began his speech by expounding on a verse in Yeshaya 46:4, where G-d refers to Himself in the first person no less than five times. This, he explained, is the ultimate lesson on what it really means to be a member of the Jewish iGeneration. The antidote to the iGeneration of self-involvement, and the way to move towards the iGeneration of self-improvement, he explained, is gratitude.

Rabbi Krohn concluded by echoing Dov Harris' words and highlighting PaL's theme of the Jewish



The PaL team with Rabbi Krohn

people taking care of each other and looking out for those who want to be inspired. He reminded the audience that the organisation was set-up in memory of Sammy Homburger ז"ל, a man who epitomised that quality of dedication to the community. Rabbi Krohn urged people to send the 'Tutor' text and become a part of PaL, the epitome of the iGeneration! 🕯

PaL Roundup

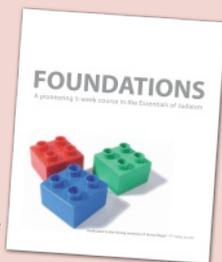
PaL was once again invited to take a stall at the UJIA's Yeshiva and Sem fair in the Autumn. The fair is held on consecutive nights in both London and Manchester, and is attended by hundreds of students in years 12 and 13 who are planning on taking a gap year in Israel after graduating high school. Nearly 50 people registered with **PaL** over the course of both nights, ranging from sixth formers looking to improve their text skills before sem and yeshiva, to supportive parents who don't want their children to get too far ahead of them in Jewish knowledge and observance.

One parent, whose son studies at JFS and plans to attend Yeshivat Hakotel next year, commented: "I had heard about Phone and Learn from a friend but brushed it off because it sounded too good to be true! I'm truly overwhelmed to discover that **PaL** really will enable me to learn more about any area of Judaism, completely free of charge." ❧

Laying the Foundations

This month sees the launch of a brand new resource for Phone and Learn, the **PaL** edition of 'Foundations'. Created in conjunction with **seed**, **PaL** Foundations has taken the highly successful **seed** Foundations course and transformed it into a multimedia programme suitable for **PaL** partners looking for a grounding in basic Judaism. The course is intended to be studied over a five-week period, and includes sections on the Jewish calendar, lifecycle and values. It will be distributed by email or cd to partners and tutors who express an interest in studying it.

Programme Coordinator Judy Silkoff commented: "We are very grateful to **seed** for allowing us to adapt the Foundations course for our partners and tutors and look forward to continuing to work together with them in the future." ❧



Save the Date!

PaL will be at the Jewish Living Expo 2012 at Wembley Stadium on 18th March. Visit www.jewishlivingexpo.com for more information and details on how to enter our grand prize raffle! ❧



PaL in Profile

PaL was delighted to launch the publication of its Partner Profiles booklet in September, featuring a selection of Phone and Learn partnerships. The booklet has been endorsed by the Chief Rabbi, Lord Jonathan Sacks, who commented in his introduction: "**PaL** is a hugely important weapon in [the] battle for a vibrant, growing, living Judaism in the 21st century." Rabbi Sacks has been deeply impressed by the organisation's work in recent months, and met briefly with **PaL**'s founder Rabbi Paysach Krohn during his pre-Rosh Hashanah visit to the UK.

The Profiles booklet takes a detailed look at the lives of eight **PaL** partners. These include Joel Sichel, who spent nearly two years in Yeshiva after being motivated by his **PaL** learning, and David Drapkin, who joined the **PaL** family last year in order to keep his thirst for Judaism quenched while living in the 'lonely' city of Leicester, where he is a student.

The booklet also features one of **PaL**'s longest-running partnerships, between physiotherapist Judith Moss and her tutor Sarit Sharman. Judith and Sarit have been learning together almost since the organisation's inception, and have developed a close, sisterly relationship over the years.

PaL Profiles was distributed to members of the audience at Rabbi Krohn's lecture as well as to the Rabbis of the United Synagogue and its affiliated communities. It is also available in 'flipbook' format via the organisation's new website, www.phoneandlearn.org. The back page of the booklet features the names of hundreds of men and women currently learning under **PaL**'s auspices.

PaL committee member Danny Binstock commented: "We were delighted to launch the **PaL** Partner Profiles booklet before Rosh Hashanah this year. Containing as it does so many uplifting and inspiring stories, it provided the community with the perfect blend of inspiration and encouragement in the run up to the High Holidays." ❧



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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