



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

IN THIS ISSUE

PaL Partner of the Year

What our tutors have to say about their learning PaLs

Ten things you should know

PaL and seed join forces in the press

Strike 1 for PaL

Lighting up the tills for Chanukah

Bridging the Gap

UJIA yeshiva and sem fair 2012

4A Helenslea Avenue
 London NW11 8ND
 0800 055 3276

www.phoneandlearn.org
 info@phoneandlearn.org

Registered Charity Number
 1110416

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



PaLs

The Newsletter for Friends of Phone and Learn

No 17 | January 2013

PaL Partner of the Year

In November, PaL announced its quest to find its 'Partner of the Year'; the PaL who had provided his or her tutor with a growing sense of admiration, inspiration and awe thanks to the strides they had made in their Jewish journey and who had helped to transform their weekly study session into a warm, friendly and mutually beneficial learning relationship.

As expected, the nominations duly came flooding in. We will be announcing the winner of the competition in a future edition of PaLs, but here is just a taste of some of the wonderful things our tutors had to say about their partners:

Janet Goldberger: My partner **Ilaan Stein** from Amsterdam is just amazing! We have been studying the laws of Shabbos together for almost half a year now and I love it - she is completely committed to keeping to our learning schedule. Ilaan is so thorough and intelligent and we have great chats too!

Deena Bamberger: My partner **Lucy Macleod** is ultra-committed to her learning, never missing a session unless she's out the country and she has inspired me more than words can describe to keep growing, striving to improve my observance



of the laws we study together. Lucy is always seeking knowledge that will bring her closer to Judaism and is truly an inspiration to me. I have learnt so much from our sessions and look forward to them all week.

Ari Blum: I would like to nominate my partner **Ezra Zachariah** for the award. His passion for learning new things is unparalleled. He

always provides the sessions with his trademark enthusiasm and excitement. Ezra is one of those 'hidden stars' who likes to keep out of the limelight but who really deserves this accolade!

Debbie Adler: My PaL **Emma Field** is so inspiring. I learn much more from her than she from me. She is super inspiring and will sacrifice almost anything to help her family grow spiritually.

Rebecca Frankel - I'd love to nominate my partner **Alex Blair**. She has come such a long way and battled disability to be able to communicate and connect with other Jews and learn more about her religion, which she then puts into practice as far as she is able. She has shown enormous integrity and commitment and been a real inspiration to me and also to my family and community.

Yocheved Dolties - my partner Leah Hecker is incredible! That just about says it all!

Of course, just as much praise is due to our dedicated and inspiring tutors as to their learning PaLs - without whom there would be no PaL! ז"ל

STRIKE 1 FOR PAL!

LIGHTING UP THE TILLS FOR CHANUKAH

PaL teamed up with Kosher Kingdom in the run up to Chanukah 5773 with a unique promotion encouraging people to register with the programme.

Everyone who shopped at Kosher Kingdom in the run-up to the holiday received a **PaL**-branded matchbox as a free gift, inviting them to 'Light up their life' by registering with Phone and Learn.

Programme Coordinator Judy Silkoff commented: "The matchboxes are cute and definitely came in handy at Chanukah but they served a dual purpose.

As well as playing their part in lighting people's menorahs this season, we wanted them to take the opportunity to further their Jewish education and connect to their heritage.

Chanukah is the perfect time of year for this after all – the festival is all about re-introducing Jewish ideas and values through education and self-learning. We were particularly delighted to team up with Kosher Kingdom, as it has such a strong appeal to the entire spectrum of the Jewish community."

Yvonne Taylor, customer at Kosher Kingdom during the first day of the promotion, commented: "I live in Surrey and came down to London especially to buy Chanukah goodies for my children. There aren't many learning opportunities near my home and I think this is a fabulous idea." 📍



TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT 1-2-1 KIRUV TUTORING!

PaL has always worked closely with other local outreach organisations to ensure that it delivers the best possible service to the community. In the spirit of collaboration, this article was penned jointly by PaL and seed and appeared in the Hamodia newspaper in November.

1

Kiruv is NOT a job only for the professionals! You may not believe you're qualified to tutor because you don't have any formal kiruv training or experience, but most tutoring organisations will not see that as an issue. As Rav Wolbe z"tl said, we all have an equal obligation in kiruv rechokim and to get involved on a personal level.

2

Besides, you know a lot more than you think you do... You went through kindergarten, primary school and secondary school, all in a frum Jewish framework? That's more than most 1-2-1 partners did - 15% have had no formal Jewish education whatsoever! With your sem or yeshiva years on top of that, you have huge amounts to offer.

3

You don't have to sign your life away! Most organisations will ask you to commit one hour a week of your time, but if you have a simcha to attend, or you're going on a family holiday, or one of your kids is sick - your partner will understand if you have to reschedule or cancel from time to time.

4

The partner is not the only one who gets a lot out of the learning! Nearly all tutors report that their partners regularly fill them with inspiration and that they grow and learn just as much from the experience - if not more.

5

Be ready for the responsibility before you sign up. Tutoring is certainly a commitment and you will have to work at building the relationship. There may be many reasons why your partner comes across as ambivalent at first - nerves, shyness or fear of the unknown. It's up to you to make the initial contact with them and get the ball rolling.

6

No-one's going to make you sign on any dotted lines! If after a few months you can't commit any longer, kiruv organisations will understand! They'll appreciate the time you did give them - and the zechuyos are yours to keep as well.

7

But don't forget to keep your contacts informed - if you decide to take a break from the programme you signed up to, you're moving country or expecting a simcha, make sure you tell the organisation. And don't assume your partner will let them know on your behalf - they may not make contact to request a new tutor because they feel shy or embarrassed to ask. But partners often lose heart if they feel they've been left hanging - if the organisation knows about it early on, they can easily rematch them. Three months down the line though - the partner may be lost for good.

8

Don't worry about existential angst! Not every partner wants to know answers to the really tough 'kiruv classics' - they're more likely to be interested in knowing the ins and outs of shabbos observance, or learning the weekly sedra so they can understand the d'var torah their kids bring home from school. If you're nervous of philosophical types, tell your kiruv organisation - they will do their best to match you with someone you feel comfortable with.

9

You're not on your own - most kiruv organisations give tutors amazing support and back up in the form of access to a wealth of resources - articles, courses, yom tov packs and parsha sheets. Some even have a dedicated Ask the Rabbi facility.

10

This is YOUR chance to make a difference to someone else's life, and shape the future of the Jewish people. Don't turn it down! 📍

PREPARING TO BRIDGE THE GAP

Over 30 sixth-form students from Jewish high schools around the UK registered to learn under the **PaL** umbrella at the UJIA's yeshiva-sem fair in October. The fair, which is held on concurrent evenings in London and Manchester, is attended by numerous Israeli yeshiva and seminary representatives. This was the fifth consecutive year that **PaL** has been invited to join the exhibitors.

The busy A level students in attendance were delighted to learn more about **PaL**; the programme provides them with the perfect mix of flexibility and support to allow them to augment their Jewish studies at the same time as preparing for major exams.

While the majority of those who registered during the course of the evenings were still at school, some of those attending the event in other capacities also took the opportunity to get on board. Israeli-born Or Katzman, who was representing the FZY year-course in Manchester, was very keen to register with the programme and indeed has just begun a weekly gemora learning session with tutor Zalmi Sonnenfeld. 📍



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.

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.