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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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Living is Giving!

Rabbi Krohn's Annual Visit to London for PaL

The London community was treated to a double-helping of the renowned storyteller and author Rabbi Paysach Krohn in the days before Rosh Hashanah. PaL arranged two consecutive nights of lectures, firstly in North West London at the Finchley United Synagogue on Monday 10th September, and the following evening at the Yesodei HaTorah Girls school in Stamford Hill. Both events were extremely well attended, with around 1200 men and women streaming into Kinloss on Monday, and over 800 ladies present on Tuesday.

Although each event had its own distinct flavour and topic, and the second night specifically marked the Yahrzeit of the Chafetz Chaim, there was an overriding theme running through both events - that of using the High Holy Days to grow in our connection, both to each other and to Judaism. As always, Rabbi Krohn brought a repertoire of new stories with him to the UK, all designed to highlight the fact that as members of the Jewish people, we must all reach out and share our knowledge and experience with others. At Kinloss, he focused on the fact that the trials and tribulations we all undergo in our daily lives are tailor-made for us and that we can use these experiences to assist others in similar situations.

In Stamford Hill, Rabbi Krohn referred to the Chafetz Chaim as one of the greatest givers of the past century, both in the fact that he left numerous texts to guide every aspect of Jewish daily life, but also through the fact that he was someone who communicated and connected with people so effectively.

At both events, everyone who attended was handed a beautifully-produced DVD from Rabbi Krohn on the subject of Bikur Cholim (visiting the sick), entitled 'Sense and Sensitivity'. In North West London, participants were also given a 'Bag for Life', a PaL-themed bag containing information about the organisation that they were urged to pass on to someone who might benefit from the flexibility of the Jewish telephone learning programme. In the words of Dov Harris, chairman of PaL, by passing it on they would have the potential to inspire not only a generation, but generations, with the ability to grow in their connection to Judaism that they may not otherwise have had the opportunity to do.



The PaL team: staff and trustees with Rabbi Krohn

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Rabbi Paysach Krohn at the PaL Evening

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Rabbi Krohn urged his audience to register with PaL as tutors, as a first step towards reaching out to other members of the Jewish nation in the run up to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. 🕊



Rebbetzin Liss (centre row, far right) and US Rebbetzins at the Pe'ir session

STANDING UNITED

During the course of Rabbi Krohn's 2012 visit he spoke at a Rebbetzin's training seminar organised by the United Synagogue's 'Pe'ir' division based in LSJS.

The seminar was attended by nearly 30 women. Rebbetzin Shuli Liss of Highgate United Synagogue commented: "I was very inspired and enthralled by Rabbi Krohn's words and hope to get my community involved with PaL as soon as possible." Rebbetzin Liss arranged for PaL promotional material to be placed on the seats of the 300-strong community for Kol Nidre services and initial interest has been extremely positive.

In addition to this, articles about PaL appeared in several United Synagogue magazines before Rosh Hashanah, including Borehamwood and Elstree, Staines and District, and Bushey. The Bushey article was penned by PaL partner, Alison Rubenstein, who commented: "I would strongly recommend PaL as an option to anyone who wants to increase their Jewish knowledge in a supportive, flexible environment!"



Rabbi Dan Roth, founder and developer of Torah Live

MULTI-MEDIA MOMENTUM

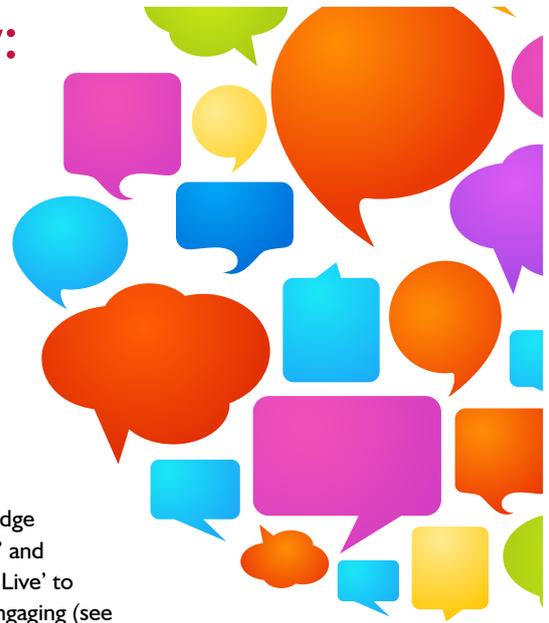
In a first for PaL, partners were sent a multi-media information package in the run-up to the Yomim Noraim this year. In addition to the usual collection of interesting and inspiring articles on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the pack included a link to an exclusive short film on the subject of the Succos holiday. PaL teamed up with the Torah Live organisation in Israel to arrange the distribution of this innovative resource (www.torahlive.co.il); 'Torah Live' creates entertaining and informative videos with the goal of fusing the power modern technology with authentic Torah wisdom.

Founder and Developer of Torah Live, Rabbi Dan Roth, commented: "I was delighted to work with Phone and Learn on this occasion; we share the mutual goal of carrying the message of Torah into the future and both employ modern technology to help us achieve that goal!"

PaL in Review:

5772

The past year has seen PaL working harder than ever to find new ways of reaching out to Jews in all corners of the United Kingdom and helping them to 'get connected': Offering new resources such as the innovative 'Taste of Talmud' course; working with a wide range of organisations from Partners in Torah, seed and Keshet, to Tribe and the United Synagogue; and employing cutting edge technology such as Skype, 'live chat' and the multi-media creations of 'Torah Live' to keep the programme flexible and engaging (see side bar).



Here's what PaL's users had to say about the organisation in 5772...

"With Pnina's help, I made changes in my life, building a Kosher home and becoming Shomer Shabbos." STEPHANIE WOLF, BUSHEY

"The Torah is literally coming to life for me!" LYNNE BEN GUIRA, ST JOHN'S WOOD

"I really do not know where I would be Jewishly without this 'shiur on tap'." MISS VB, LEEDS

"PaL helped me hold onto the Jewish learning that I cared about." MR EZ, NEASDON

"My transition to being more observant has been made so much easier and any questions I have are answered." LEILA BURNLEY, ILFORD

"Phone and Learn has given me the opportunity to learn so much about Judaism! It is wonderful that it provides learning possibilities and without limitations." SARA AMIN, BELGIUM

"I heard about PaL through a friend and have found my learning tutors to be extremely encouraging and helpful. My current tutor is terrific: I phone him once a week, late at night. We both have to be adaptable as stuff sometimes comes up, but our Talmud study is going well and I hope that one day we'll reach the end of the tractate we're learning. Perhaps we'll celebrate with a siyum: over the phone of course!" ANTHONY GEE, STAINES

PaL Stats

Did you know that...

25% of PaL partners have no synagogue membership, formal Jewish education or basic level of Jewish knowledge

65% of PaL partners live away from the UK's main Jewish centres

35% of PaL partners describe themselves as unaffiliated, progressive or non-Orthodox on registration

For partners like these, PaL is a real lifeline, providing what is their main route to their Jewish heritage.



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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