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4A Helenslea Avenue
 London NW11 8ND
 0800 055 3276

www.phoneandlearn.org
info@phoneandlearn.org

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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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Strengthening the Fire of Torah

Rabbi Krohn's annual visit to London for PaL



Rabbi Paysach Krohn at the PaL evening

The London community was treated to an inspiring and thought provoking pre-Rosh Hashana lecture by the renowned storyteller and best-selling author Rabbi Paysach Krohn. PaL arranged the annual event in North West London, at the Finchley United Synagogue, on Monday 2nd September, which was once again extremely well attended with well over 1100 men and women streaming into Finchley's Kinloss shul for one of the most anticipated events in the communal calendar.

The overriding theme running through the lecture was that a person is able to change

by refocusing in one moment - "yesh koneh olomo be'sho'oh achas", (Avoda Zoro 17a) and by continuously improving oneself with slow and steady changes one will be able to achieve great things. As always, Rabbi Krohn brought a repertoire of new stories with him to the UK, designed to highlight how people can display exemplary levels of chesed, be it by forgiving someone who wronged you, giving chizuk and encouragement to a friend or classmate in need, making someone feel special, or by reaching out to others and teaching them Torah.

Rabbi Krohn focused on the fact that on Rosh Hashana, Hashem is renewing His relationship with the Jewish People and therefore although it is an extremely important day, we should realise there is an element of simcha and joy in the day as well. He explained that the more we display chesed in our interaction with other people, the more Hashem will judge us favourably for the coming year.

Rabbi Krohn highlighted how mitzvos are compared to candles and when the winds of secularism come along, candles can get blown



PaL trustees with Rabbi Krohn

out. Torah is compared to fire, and when there is a strong fire and a wind comes along it makes the fire even stronger. In order to strengthen ourselves against damaging or negative influences, he declared, we should increase our Torah learning. "And what better way to do that than by learning with PaL," urged Rabbi Krohn.

During Rabbi Krohn's 24 hour visit to London he visited a number of schools in North West London and was able to inspire the students and provide them with food for thought just days before Rosh Hashana.

To listen to the lecture please visit www.phoneandlearn.org/events.php

PaL's Angel of the North

PaL partner Samantha tells us about her partnership

“ Malka and I have been **PaL** partners for about two years. She lives in Gateshead and I live in Bushey, Hertfordshire. From the first phone call we quickly established a good rapport. She supported me through personal difficulties and when I got remarried she not only came down for the wedding (where we met in person for the first time) but she also made us the most beautiful wedding cake!

Malka and I have worked on a couple of topics since we started learning together. Kashrus has been a very important one and as each Chag comes, we discuss preparations and meaning together. She has introduced me to lovely traditions such as the 15 types of fruit on a platter at Tu B'Shvat.

One of my major concerns was keeping Shabbat properly and after discussion with her Rabbi, it was suggested to us that we work through a book called 'The book of Shabbos' by Rabbi Yechiel Michel Stern. We are still working our way through the book, page by page, week by week, nearly every Tuesday lunchtime between half and one hour. One day we will complete the full 39 Melachot!

Just a few months after I was remarried, Malka invited us to spend Shabbat with her and her family in Gateshead. This was a very special time for both me and my husband. Malka's family were most welcoming and our husbands struck up a friendship very quickly too! During our stay we toured the Gateshead community, she also showed us the 'Angel of the North' by night and the famous Metro Centre! We had a very special Shabbat with our new friends and I discover that not only is my friend the most amazing cake-maker, she is an excellent cook.

Malka and I have continue to speak, nearly every week. We also communicate by text when we can, often wishing each other Shabbat Shalom or Chag Sameach at appropriate times! She has been there through good and bad, and supported and encouraged me every step of my journey into a more orthodox lifestyle, from Kashrus, through Shabbat, and supporting my husband and I in our further learning.

My husband and I were fortunate to be invited once again to spend the last Shabbat of August this year with Malka and her family again. I am truly blessed to have been introduced to Malka by **PaL**. I know, despite our age difference, we will be friends for life and continue to learn together for many, many years.”

PaL in Review: 5773

The year 5773 has seen **PaL** continue to grow and expand, constantly finding new ways to bring learning opportunities to Jews, whether they are living in Izmir (Turkey), Aujan-Mournède (France), Trier (Germany), Dublin (Ireland) or within the UK. **PaL** successfully offers everyone a connection to their Judaism no matter where they live.

PaL has been working with a wide range of organisations from Partners in Torah, seed and Keshet, to Tribe, UJS and the United Synagogue to ensure that whoever signs up and wherever they live, the opportunity to learn and connect is always available.

This is what a few of PaL's tutors had to say about PaL in 5773....

'As much as I am the 'tutor', I feel that my partner teaches me just as much, if not more!'

FAIGY SHWARTZ,
MANCHESTER

'Watching my PaL partner grow and improve in his Torah knowledge is an inspiration for me. He is so committed to our weekly learning session.'

MENDY STERN,
MANCHESTER

'As a tutor, I gain way more from the partnership than my PaL! She is so inspiring, wanting to grow more and more. Nothing can compare to that feel-good-factor you get right after a PaL session!'

DEBBIE ADLER,
GOLDERS GREEN

'In as much as my PaL partner is growing through her commitment to learning, I am enjoy reviewing the subject matter and then studying it with my partner, so I get to learn it twice! I am indeed grateful for this opportunity.'

RUCHI COHEN,
STAMFORD HILL

'PaL has changed my life for the better; initially I was nervous about taking the plunge and becoming a PaL tutor, but now I wouldn't give it up for anything!'

ARON BAMBERGER,
GOLDERS GREEN

'Being a PaL tutor has helped me learn the 'whys' of the Jewish things that I do unfortunately too often without thinking!'

RUTIE COHEN,
GOLDERS GREEN

As we look ahead to 5774, we are looking forward to welcoming more tutors and partners to **PaL** and to supporting those of you who are already part of the growing **PaL** family. 🌟

SAVE THE DATE

PaL will be at the Jewish Living Expo Sunday 3rd November 10:30am – 6:30pm in Wembley Stadium.

Visit www.jewishlivingexpo.co.uk for more information.

Jewish LIVING EXPO
Everything for everyone Jewish!
SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2013
WEMBLEY STADIUM

PaL will be attending the Yeshiva & Sem Fairs:

Manchester Fair

Monday 21st October
6:30pm – 9:30pm

King David High School
Eaton Rd
Manchester
M8 5DY

London Fair

Wednesday 23rd October
6:30pm – 9:30pm

Hasmonean Girls School
2/4 Page Street, Mill Hill
London
NW7 2EU

Make sure to visit our stand - we look forward to seeing you!



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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