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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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PaL Tutor Training Forum Success

At the end of January, **PaL's** women tutors based in London were invited to **PaL's** tutor training forum. The event which took place in North West London, was an opportunity for tutors to engage with Rebbetzin Joanne Dove - seed's senior educator, in an informal setting.

Rebbetzin Dove, who has been involved in Jewish education for over 30 years, began the session with overall advice about how to establish a good rapport, specifically when learning with someone on the phone. She reiterated that in order to build up good communication during a **PaL** learning sessions, it is essential that partners and tutors also connect with each other on a personal level.

The second part of the tutor training forum was a Question and Answer session. Prior to the event, **PaL** tutors had submitted questions which were then discussed at length at the training session. Questions ranged from, "How to keep the initial enthusiasm going during

a learning partnership?"; to "How tutors and partners can relate to each other when they come from such different backgrounds?".

PaL tutors attending the event were able to discuss with each other their own learning experiences and not only gain excellent encouragement and advice from Rebbetzin Dove, but from fellow tutors as well. All tutors who attended gave overwhelmingly positive feedback and are eager to attend similar tutor training events in the future. **PaL** tutor Esther said, "The Tutor Training Forum was extremely interesting and informative. It was also a fantastic opportunity to meet fellow **PaL** tutors and hear about the experiences with their learning partnerships." **PaL** tutor Sharon remarked, "It was so beneficial, really relevant to situations we as **PaL** tutors find ourselves in."

PaL Programme Coordinator Rivka Graham commented: "At **PaL** we pride ourselves on the high level of support

we provide not only to our partners, but also to our incredibly dedicated tutors, who so willingly make time in their busy schedules to connect to others in the wider Jewish community. We are delighted that our initial Tutor Training Forum was able to deliver so much useful advice and inspiration to our dedicated **PaL** tutors. We hope to run similar sessions in the future, in various locations, in order to continue providing **PaL** tutors with ongoing support and resources." ❖



Joanne Dove, Senior Educator, seed

PaL at Campus Lunch & Learn

In January, **PaL** Programme Coordinator, Rivka Graham and **PaL** Follow up Coordinator, Beth Franks attended a Lunch and Learn session at Kings College Jewish Society - JSoc. Many students attended the session, where Rivka introduced the idea of **PaL** - Phone and Learn, explaining how they could benefit from signing up to the flexible learning programme.

PaL is of particular benefit to students attending university, as they can arrange their weekly Jewish learning session around their college (or study) schedules during term time. The **PaL** learning sessions can continue during the holiday times as whether the students are on campus, or back home; all they require is a phone or laptop in order to tap into their weekly hour of inspiration.

Many students who signed up to learn with **PaL** at the event have already started their weekly learning sessions, and will continue to do so throughout the summer break. In addition to the 'food for thought', **PaL** also provided a delicious lunch of sushi and wraps. Kings College JSoc President, Daniella Nevies commented, "It was great to hear all about **PaL**, Phone and Learn, and their wonderful learning programme. The lunch and learn session generated a lot of interest among us students, I look forward to starting my weekly learning sessions with my **PaL** tutor shortly." 🍴



Kings College students at the **PaL** Lunch and Learn session

70 Days for 70 Years



The year 2015 marks 70 years since the end of the Holocaust. In January, The United Synagogue launched '70 Days for 70 Years' - a worldwide project engaging hundreds of thousands of Jews in an uplifting educational and memorial programme. Participants received a copy of a specially published book of 70 inspirational essays written by internationally renowned educators, historians and scholars - to be read, one a day. In addition, each participant received a memorial card giving the details of one victim of the Holocaust in whose memory the learning is dedicated. The victims' details were provided by Yad Vashem from their central database of Shoah Victims' Names.

PaL offered all tutors and partners the opportunity to go through the

book together during their weekly learning sessions. Tutors and partners who chose to do this, received a complimentary copy of the '70 days for 70 Years' book. The book contains an inspiring and thought provoking article for each day, on one of the seven strands: Jewish History, Torah and the Modern World, Philosophy and Chagim, Holocaust and Rebirth, Living the Tanach, Living Judaism and Stories about the Holocaust. The main start date in the UK was Sunday 25th January, the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, and culminated on Shabbos 6th April - the first day of Pesach. It is no coincidence that there are just over 6 million seconds in 70 days.

The vision of this project was that Jews of all ages from all over the world would connect through Jewish learning to remember the past and to build the future. **PaL** sent out books to over 50 **PaL** partners and tutors based in the UK, Holland, Israel and South Africa. **PaL** tutor Abigail remarked: "My **PaL** partner and I have spent the first 10 minutes or so of our weekly learning sessions reading the most relevant and interesting essay for that week. Being involved in the 70 days for 70 Years project gives us the sense of being part of a larger learning initiative which many people across the world are participating in, whilst at the same time remembering and thinking of the person in whose memory we have been asked to learn." **PaL** partner Sienna commented, "The content of the book is very impressive - it has a good mix of academically researched articles and more simple thoughts on a variety of subjects. I look forward to continue studying it with my **PaL** tutor Elisheva in more depth." **PaL** tutor Carole remarked, "The articles were inspiring and enhanced our learning sessions; they enlightened both myself and my **PaL** partner Rose"

PaL Programme Coordinator, Rivka Graham commented, "It has been a privilege for us at **PaL** to work alongside the dedicated team at '70 Days for 70 Years' and to be involved in this fitting tribute to the millions of Holocaust victims." 🍴



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.

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