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PaL is dedicated in lasting memory
of Sammy Homburger ב"ת



PaLs

The Newsletter for Friends of Phone and Learn

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The true tale of two PaL spirits

Along Ruth's journey

Ruth grew up in South Africa attending a Catholic school before she moved to Ireland almost 20 years ago. For residence purposes she started looking into her ancestry and went through a lot of records in a Christian Church in Dublin where strangely she found many Jewish names around where her grandmother was buried in the Church cemetery. Ruth made further enquiries and discovered that her grandmother had lived in the Jewish ghetto after Ruth's grandfather had died. They actually lived on Arnatt Street, right near to the Synagogue. Something piqued Ruth's interest: why would her grandmother live right in the middle of a highly populated Jewish area? She subsequently discovered that she was, in fact, Jewish. Her mother never confirmed this with her even though Ruth is quite sure she knew! Ironically, years earlier Ruth was travelling through Europe and had attended a Pesach seder, even though at that time she didn't know she was Jewish!

Since looking into her family history she has discovered that she has an uncle who has told her more about the Jewish side of

the family and found out she has a cousin in Johannesburg. Ruth has always been very open and honest about her Jewish identity but has not always found the reception so positive. In spite of that, Ruth has given her 2 boys brit milah and has travelled to Israel where she felt at home.

A couple of years ago when Ruth was seeking to learn more about her Jewish heritage she searched the internet for information and inspiration and was put in touch with PaL who paired her up with her now-tutor Hindy Bloch. They are currently learning Chumash together which Ruth finds fascinating. With the help of PaL, Ruth has been given a priceless opportunity to connect to her heritage week in and week out and now enjoys being able to "come home" each week.



Deena's amazing trip

Deena is a third generation Brit with her great great grandparents having come over from St. Petersburg many years ago. She is the eldest of her siblings and

although brought up in a completely secular environment, she felt an awesome sense of Jewish pride.

At the Israel Living Expo in 2013 Deena heard about PaL and signed up to find her own PaL tutor and she hasn't looked back since. As Deena explains, "PaL means so much to me as it has given me hope for the future as I have always known that I am a Jew but I am now slowly gaining the knowledge and confidence to travel my personal Jewish journey. It's amazing that I have a special PaL tutor, Rivka, who is very knowledgeable and has a lot of patience for me. She encourages me when it gets tough and I feel that I can ask her anything. If she doesn't know something then she knows someone that does." Deena's new knowledge has encouraged her to take her Jewish observance to new levels: Deena has joined her local synagogue and with the help of Rivka, she is in the process of keeping a kosher diet as well as having her kitchen kashered. Deena never imagined doing any of this before she started learning with Rivka but now feels that her whole outlook on life has changed for the better as a result of this special partnership. 🕍



SHABBAT UK-23/24 OCT'15

Just One Shabbos...again!

On 24/25 October this year, for the second time in the UK, **PaL** will be celebrating ShabbatUK – a nationwide Shabbos project bringing unity to all Jews across the spectrum of Anglo Jewry. ShabbatUK brings a Shabbos experience to many people who have never tasted the beauty of Shabbos before. The choreographed festivities include an exciting grand Challa Make on Thursday evening, communal Shabbos meals across the country and inspirational motzei Shabbos havdalah concerts on Saturday night.

Once again, **PaL** is an official learning partner of ShabbatUK and we will be providing one-to-one learning opportunities for all who sign up to ShabbatUK who want to study more about Shabbos in particular, and Judaism in general. If you know of anyone who would be interested in their own tutor to study about Shabbos, please ask them to be in touch with us so we can help them too.

PaL will be having a dedicated section at the Challa Make with over 200 places reserved for **PaL** tutors and partners and their respective families. Please let us know if you and your family would like to be part of this special Challa Make session. Spaces are limited so do be in touch soon to avoid disappointment. 🕍

Save the Date

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PaL is a division of Partners in Torah, USA. PaL is dedicated in loving memory of Sammy Rosenberg 71.

PaL Israel Update

Did you know we have a **PaL** office in Israel? May brought much excitement there with visits to various seminaries, yeshivas and Gap Year Programmes recruiting many new tutors and partners to join the **PaL** family.

PaL hosted a very successful lunch bringing together dozens of girls from a range of programmes based on the Neve Campus. The girls were completing their Israeli programmes before returning to the UK, mainland Europe, South Africa and Australia.

Abigail Burman, **PaL**'s Israel Follow-Up coordinator was a guest speaker at an evening held to promote and publicise different UK organisations to those girls who are returning to the UK this summer following a gap year in Israel. Once again, many girls signed up to get involved, excited by the prospect of continuing their Jewish learning with **PaL** after they have tasted the sweetness of Judaism in their gap year.

PaL campus representative Chaim Burman (yes – Abi's fantastic husband who recently joined the **PaL** faculty) visited boys at Yeshivat Hakotel and Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh. Students there were keen to hear what **PaL** has to offer and they too signed up eagerly.

Abi commented "It was fantastic to have the opportunity to once again meet so many participants of the different programmes here in Israel. It was an opportune time to recruit both partners and tutors who were moved by their time in the Holy Land and wanted to further their personal Jewish journey on their return to the UK." 🕍



Aleinu – All Of Us Together

On Monday 6 July, **PaL**'s Programme Coordinator

Rochel Taylor together with several **PaL** trustees represented **PaL** at the Aleinu conference. Aleinu, an umbrella organisation which brings together many people involved in outreach and Jewish Education held its second conference in Finchley, London as an opportunity for all involved in Jewish outreach to benefit from each other's knowledge and experiences". The theme of the evening was "21st century challenges to Torah" with the keynote speaker being the excellent Rabbi Yossi Chazzan who was followed by a series of interactive workshops. Rochel commented "It was a good opportunity once again to share good tips, best practice and hear valuable advice so that we as communal organisations, can help the community in general and each and every individual in particular". 🕍

Ner Yisrael Lights Up

Last month, as part of **PaL**'s tutor recruitment programme, **PaL** trustee Yehuda Wittenberg was the guest speaker at a number of the Shabbos morning services held at the Ner Yisrael synagogue in Hendon, London. He explained to the congregants what **PaL** is and how they can get involved. He described the background to **PaL**, how it started and how it operates and explained how each and every tutor makes a huge difference. He stressed the importance of having as many people as possible on the **PaL** database so as to match tutors up with the very many new partners who sign up each week. There was widespread interest with many men and women expressing their interest and registering to sign up to tutor for **PaL**. It was an extremely successful opportunity and we extend our thanks to Yehuda for spreading the **PaL** word and to Ner Yisrael for hosting us. A big thank you to our **PaL**s, Benji Israel, Joseph Sueke, Daniel Hanstater and Benji Fruhman for making the sessions at Ner such a big success. 🕍



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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