



PaLs

The Newsletter for Friends of Phone and Learn

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

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Partner of the Year

In December, PaL announced its mission to find its 'Partner of the Year'. That's the PaL partner who provided his or her tutor with a growing sense of admiration, inspiration and awe and helped to transform their weekly learning sessions into a mutually beneficial learning relationship.

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

Sara Wittenberg:

My partner **Linda Allen** from Elstree and I have been learning for over 10 years. She has made tremendous strides in gaining knowledge paired with commitment to Torah and Mitzvos. I find her quest for knowledge, inquisitive questions and sincerity an inspiration and I enormously enjoy our learning sessions.



Rifki Weingarten:

I admire my partner **Rochelle Chakimi** tremendously. We have been learning for almost 10 years, her genuine and sincere desire to grow was obvious. I really enjoy our learning sessions and discussions and believe I have gained from our learning partnership as much as she may have gained from me.

Yaakov Grant:

I am nominating my partner **Jamie Belnikoff** because he is great to learn with. Jamie is always very keen and we have a good rapport. Our learning partnership has grown into a wonderful friendship where we inspire each other.

Sandy Sasson:

I admire my partner **Rosa Katan** for her strong commitment to her learning. Rosa's eagerness to learning is so inspiring and she is always keen to put her new knowledge into practice. Our learning sessions have inspired me, as it says in the Talmud (*Talmud Bavli, Taanis 7a*), 'I have learned much from my teachers and even more from my friends, but from my students I have learned more than all of them.'

Of course, just as much praise is due to our many dedicated and inspiring tutors without whom there would be no PaL! 🙏

Chanukah mother and baby groups

During the week of Chanukah **PaL** hosted mother and baby groups in Radlett United Synagogue and Edgware United Synagogue. The Chanukah-themed sessions offered Chanukah arts and craft for older children, free play for the little ones and plenty of doughnuts and refreshments for the adults. The highlight of these events were the wonderful Chanukah

music and singing sessions ably led by Sarah Silkin, one of **PaL**'s Follow-Up Coordinators. Using latkes, dreidles and a bubble machine both the mothers and the children enjoyed these sessions thoroughly.

"These sessions were very well attended and gave us an opportunity to spread the word about the flexible and convenient learning opportunities that are available through **PaL** – Phone and Learn." **PaL** Programme Coordinator Rivka Graham commented, "The bespoke learning and flexibility we offer at **PaL** is something which is extremely appealing to many people, especially young mums. We welcome our new **PaL** partners to the **PaL** family and hope they enjoy their learning sessions."



Alison meets Esther

Coffee break

PaL recently launched a new initiative to encourage tutors and partners to meet up with each other face to face where possible. Feedback from many of the successful partnerships, was that the weekly telephone learning sessions were even more enjoyable after they had met up in person. Working together with restaurants in Golders Green, Edgware, Borehamwood and Manchester, **PaL** is now able to offer all new learning partnerships a coupon for a free coffee and pastry. These coupons are now included in welcome packs sent to all new learning partnerships. To ensure existing **PaL** partners don't miss out on this, they all received a coupon as a Chanukah treat.

Esther Coleman and Alison Rubenstein who have been learning together for over three years were one of the many partnerships who used their coupon. "Thank you for a lovely Chanukah treat - much appreciated." Esther and Alison commented.



Spreading PaL to Southend-on-Sea

On a blustery winter's evening, **PaL** hosted a fantastic evening to introduce **PaL** telephone learning to the Southend and Westcliff Hebrew Congregation. Rabbi Shimshon Silkin, one of the UK's most popular speakers and educators gave a riveting interactive lecture on, 'The Seven Wonders of Jewish History'.

The eager audience were delighted to hear about the convenient learning opportunities that were available to them in Southend-on-Sea. Many attendees signed up to learn with **PaL** and chose a variety of topics to pursue in their new learning partnerships, from halacha to Hebrew reading, parsha to Jewish history. As always, each person's learning partnerships will cater to their interests and needs to create an enriching, bespoke learning experience.



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 up to an hour a week of Jewish study and discussion, over the phone.

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