



PaLs

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PaL is dedicated in lasting memory of Sammy Homburger ז"ל

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Maggid's nights of inspiration

It was an honour to host two evenings of inspiration in the week before Rosh Hashana with the renowned speaker and author Rabbi Paysach Krohn. The first evening was in Finchley Synagogue in North West London, and the following evening at Yesodey Hatorah Girls School in Stamford Hill. Both events were extremely well attended, with packed gatherings in Kinloss and Stamford Hill. As always these annual events are wonderful opportunities to celebrate PaL's achievements and for us to meet many of our partners and tutors who attended.

Although each event had its own distinct flavour and topic, there was an overriding theme running through both – that of using the High Holy Days to grow in our connection, both to each other and to Judaism. In North West London, Rabbi Krohn focussed on how we should try to make a Kiddush Hashem during this auspicious time of year, and use the talents Hashem has given us to help others. Rabbi Krohn urged the audience to learn more about *Emunah* and to believe in themselves and by doing this, they would be able to achieve wonderful things.

The topic for the second evening was 'Emunah – Connecting to Hashem on a Higher Level' where Rabbi Krohn highlighted the importance of feeling Hashem's presence by

recognizing *hashgacha pratis* in our everyday life. The Maggid Speaks author encouraged the crowd to enrich their lives by strengthening their *Emunah* as this will change our perspectives when life throws up difficult challenges. As always, Rabbi Krohn brought a repertoire of new stories with him to the UK, all designed to bring these important messages to life.

At both events, PaL reiterated the need for more tutors to sign up to teach, and asked every person attending to spread the word about PaL offers to those who may benefit from flexible learning on the phone. Dov Harris, chairman of PaL said, "This past year has seen hundreds of people sign up to PaL because their friend, colleague or associate has suggested to them that their lives will be so much more meaningful if they call PaL and begin to connect to their Judaism. Pass on PaL's details to people you encounter who would benefit from doing some Jewish learning."

As in previous years, these events saw an increased number of new partners signing up to PaL.

During his 48 hour visit to London, Rabbi Krohn visited a number of schools in North



Rabbi Krohn with some of the PaL trustees



West London where he inspired the students and provided them with *chizuk* and food for thought just days before Rosh Hashana. 🕎

To listen to the lectures please visit www.tinyurl.com/RabbiKrohnPaLevent2018

Meet the new members of the PaL team

Jessica

My name is Jessica Debson, I'm 28 and recently joined the **PaL** – Phone and Learn team.

Previously I've worked for Partners in Torah, based in America as a relationships manager and at SawYouatSanai as a matchmaker. I have taught in Neve Yerushalayim, and volunteered at Crossroads, a drop in centre for at-risk youths in Jerusalem. I'm currently living in London with my family and training as a Systemic Family Therapist.

I'm really excited to be part of the **PaL** team because it offers Jewish men and women of all different ages and walks of life, the opportunity to connect to their roots and their spirituality. We are living in such a fast-pace world where it is often a struggle to find a moment to pause and re-focus on one's self and one's inner-most values and beliefs. **PaL** offers Jews from every stage and background the opportunity to re-focus even while on the go.

Interviewing and matching tutors and partners has reminded me how wonderful Jews are! I am inspired by the passion in the tutor's voices, so enthusiastic to help, and the eagerness of the partners to learn more and re-connect to their own spirituality. I am impressed with the number of existing partnerships which have progressed and how these learning relationships have blossomed over the years. It has reminded me that we, the Jewish people really are one big family.

jessica@phoneandlearn.org 📧



Blima

My name is Blima Bodner, I'm 26 and recently joined the **PaL** – Phone and Learn team. **PaL**

is such a special and unique organisation. A few years back I was a **PaL** tutor and at the time, I was amazed at the dedication and care of the team, pairing up tutors and partners with precision - always available to address any concerns. After getting married and settling in Israel for a short stint, I had the opportunity to tutor in Neve Yerushalayim and She'arim seminaries. It was a fantastic experience to connect first hand with the phenomenal educators and mentors and the inspiring students, who often left jobs and families to pursue their spiritual dreams.

Earlier this year, we returned to settle in London. Now it is my turn to experience **PaL** from the inside, to see the dedication to every fellow Jew from the trustees and fellow colleagues. In just a few months I have gained a whole new appreciation for **PaL** partners and tutors. We are inundated with both partners and tutors eager to give of their free time to learn. I love coming into work, to speak to new people, connecting with them and ultimately trying to set up their bespoke learning partnerships. Each day there are different accounts of personal struggles and triumphs - all of which are truly humbling to hear. blima@phoneandlearn.org 📧



PaL in Review 5778



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. *Partners in Torah is a project of Torah Umesorah. PARTNERS IN TORAH is a trademark of Partners in Torah, a division of Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools, and is being used under licence.