2008 Award Deborah Sam Hoffenberg

Under the patronage of B’nai B’rith Europe, in the presence of Graham Weinberg, President of B’nai B’rith Europe, during a Gala Dinner attended by 250 guests, the Deborah Sam Hoffenberg Lodge awarded their 2008 prize to Laurant Munnich.

Many personalities honoured the evening by their presence, among them Mr. David Kornbluth, Israeli Ambassador to UNESCO, Mr. Daniel Halevy-Goetschel, Minister and Councillor representing H.E. Daniel Shek, Israeli Ambassador to France, Mrs. Liliane Capel, Deputy Mayor of Paris representing Mr. Bertrand Delanoe, the Mayor of Paris, Jacques Jacubert, President of B’nai B’rith France, and Théo and Esther Hoffenberg, son and daughter of the late Sam Hoffenberg.

Many Presidents of B’nai B’rith lodges in Paris and its suburbs, from the Côte d’Azur and from the Region of Provence-Midi-Var, also attended.

Following the opening address by Richard Abitbol, President of the Deborah Sam Hoffenberg Lodge in Vincennes, and by Claude Bloch, President of the Tsedek Association in Israel, Mr. Daniel Halevy-Goetschel spoke of the attachment of Israel by the Diaspora. On behalf of the Mayor of Paris, Mrs Liliane Capel paid a very moving tribute to Sam Hoffenberg.

Graham Weinberg, President of B’nai B’rith Europe, took the floor for his first public speech since his election on 12th May 2008. He presented his vision of B’nai B’rith for the coming three years. Jacques Jacubert, President of B’nai B’rith France, also addressed the audience.

In conclusion, Mr. André Added, President of the Inter Country Committee France-Israel of the International Rotary, explained the reasons why Rotary joined the Deborah Sam Hoffenberg Lodge to support cooperation with the NGOs, promoted by the Vincennes Lodge, advocating the humanitarian mission of B’nai B’rith.

Forty-five singers and dancers, who came especially for this occasion from Kiryat Ekron in Israel, gave a very high quality performance: Choirs, traditional singing and dancing from Morocco and Yemen, and Druze dancing, led us through the multicultural and open country of Israel, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the State.

The second part of the evening was marked by a moving tribute paid to Sam Hoffenberg by Simon Midal and Théo Hoffenberg.

Richard Abitbol, President of the Deborah Sam Hoffenberg Lodge, explained the reasons for the choice made for the 2008 Award. He paid tribute to the Charity of the Jewish Appeal in France and to the Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah.

After the presentation of Akadem by Mr. David Saada, Richard Abitbol presented the Award, being a sculpture by Myriam Frank.

Sales of roses and an auction with paintings and wine assisted in raising funds for the Tsedek association.