

Report on the 5th Young Jewish Adult Forum

Written by B'nai B'rith Europe

Organised by B'nai B'rith Europe with the kind support of the Raoul Wallenberg Lodge Berlin and under the patronage of the Lord Mayor of the City of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit.
Report by Simone Hofmann



The 5th Young Jewish Adult forum took place from Friday November 11th- Sunday November 13th, 2011 at the Crown Plaza City Centre Hotel in Berlin. The central theme was: "Building the Future in a changing World". More than 170 participants from some 27 countries attended this forum. Already upon arrival the atmosphere was great. Most of the participants had attended the previous forums and knew each other - it was the ideal place to renew friendships.

The proceedings started with a Friday night service followed by a festive Kabbalath Shabbat Dinner in the presence of Mr. Rolf Schuette, Head of the Protocol Department of the Federal Land of Berlin, the President of the Jewish Community of Berlin Mrs. Lala Suesskind, the Grand Senior of B'nai B'rith and Honourary Lifetime President of B'nai B'rith Europe, Joseph Domberger.



Dr. András Kain President of the Raoul Wallenberg lodge and his wife Cynthia, Representatives of Bank Hapoalim, Allan Jacobs President of B'nai B'rith International and Ralph Hofmann, Host and President of B'nai B'rith Europe.

A special gift was presented to Mr. Schuette to acknowledge the contribution to this forum by the Senate of Berlin, one of the sponsors.

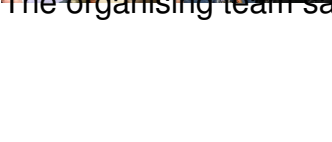
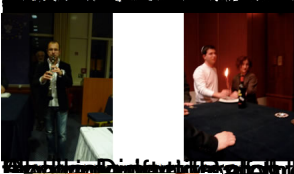
Stimulating speeches by the official guests started off an excellent forum. The participants were sitting, chatting and enjoying themselves a lot. Eva Vadasz opened the evening with a wonderful speech and mentioned in it the responsibility everyone has towards the others.

This was followed by Dr. Kain and then Ralph Hofmann who spoke about the decision of UNESCO to accept Palestinian membership and about the release of Gilad Shalit. He also spoke about the history of Jews in Berlin, a subject which was taken up by the following speakers, Mr. Schuette and Mrs. Suesskind.

Erik Engelmayer, a loyal friend of the forum and a great person, then took responsibility for introducing ice - breaking activities.

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The organising team says thank you to all who helped to make this forum such a success.