



SHARON MAIL

## Out and About

# Youth Forum makes the best argument

**O**N Sunday, I attended the Glasgow Jewish Education Forum Balloon Debate.

As chairman for the evening, United Synagogue director David Kaplan explained the situation to the audience of around 100.

The event was initially going to be a balloon debate, but instead of metaphorically throwing all but one of the participants overboard, a vote was to be taken on the best presentation.

Just as well, as one of the communal organisations, UJIA, had two speakers — surely negating their case for staying on board had the original format of the debate remained.

Speakers for Calderwood Lodge, JLGB, Scottish Jewish Archives, Maccabi, the Glasgow Reform Synagogue, UJIA, WIZO and the Youth Forum stated why their organisations would still exist and their services still required in 10 years time.

Harvey Kaplan, director of the Scottish Jewish Archive Centre, moved the clock forward to 2017 when Rabbi Moshe Rubin has become the first American to become Chief Rabbi and GJEF member Tony Tankel is the president of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council.

On a more serious note he said: "In 10 years time the Archive Centre will be more efficient because of two major projects currently underway. The first is the refurbishment of part of the basement with a new professionally designed display on Jewish life in Scotland.

"The other is a major upgrade of the computer system and records. Without the Archive Centre, no one will ever remember that we existed."

Eileen Carroll, speaking on behalf of the Glasgow Reform Synagogue, called Reform Judaism "a flexible and responsive approach to religion in today's society. Women fully participate in the services, which are conducted inclusively".

Christine Haughney, recently appointed head teacher of Calderwood Lodge Primary School was making her first public address.

She said: "Calderwood is a true community school and I believe that its services will continue to be sought after by the parents in the Jewish community."

WIZO's Dorothy Zolkwer spoke of the massive impact of the organisation in helping Israel.

She said: "Next to the Israeli government we are the largest social care agency."

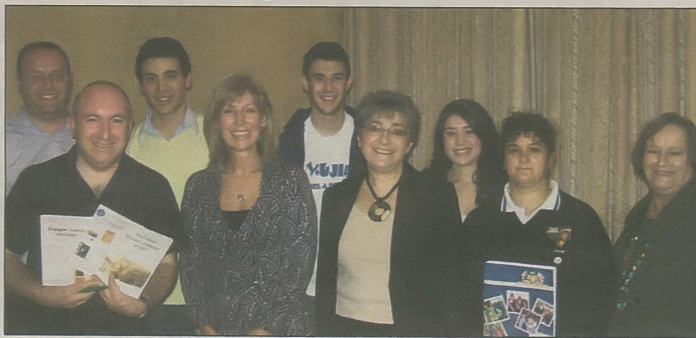
Dorothy told the audience that WIZO retained a membership of around 500 in Glasgow and she predicted that the younger women in the community will be involved in WIZO in 10 years' time.

UJIA was represented by youth leaders Elliot Gold and Rhea Wolfson who stated that their organisation was at the forefront of every young person's Israel experience.

Jo Zinger, meanwhile,



Paul Livingston receives the trophy for best presentation from David Kaplan



Event chairman David Kaplan with speakers at the Glasgow Jewish Education Forum Debate. Back, from left, Mr Kaplan, Paul Livingston and Elliot Gold. Front: Harvey Kaplan, Christine Haughney, Eileen Carroll, Rhea Wolfson, Jo Zinger and Dorothy Zolkwer

said: "JLGB has adapted to modern life whilst holding on to its ethos and values of loyalty, discipline, honour and self-respect."

She added: "Young people can learn new skills and gain confidence, in a fun environment."

Jo told the audience that JLGB was the largest youth movement running in Glasgow with around 80 young people attending.

The hardest-hitting speaker of the evening was Paul Livingston of the Youth Forum, who declared: "The tribalism and in-fighting that exists in the adult community does not exist in ours."

"The Youth Forum is run by young people for young people and we only answer to ourselves. Our group consists of all the main Jewish youth groups across a broad base.

"I believe the children are our future. My generation needs to be involved in the community in order for the community to survive."

His speech was voted the best and he received a trophy from David Kaplan.

GJEF member Nick Naddell told the audience about the work of the group.

He said: "We are giving the community the opportunity to talk and hear about issues that affect them."

"Our aim was to fill a gap in what is on offer and we hope to appeal to everyone across the board. Basically we're just trying to do our best for the community. And we don't get any formal communal funding and are looking for support from the community to keep running."

Mr Kaplan spoke of his delight that the community still had so many organisations as vibrant as they were when he used to live in Glasgow.

Using the example of his native Edinburgh, he said: "It's not always about numbers. My original community, Edinburgh, only has about 200 Jews but it's not always about quantities. People get lost in numbers and it's about quality and depth of service. Across the Glasgow and Scottish Jewish communities it's remarkable how much is achieved and done."

Tony Tankel said: "It was a real 'feelgood' event for the community."

GJEF have several events lined up, including the next meeting, a talk by Dr Edie Friedman, executive director of the Jewish Council for Racial Equality, who will be speaking on Thursday, October 11 and Scottish First Minister, Alex Salmond MSP, who will address the community next February.

## Committee on fast track

THE long tradition of Glasgow's annual After the Fast dance is being kept alive by Younger KKL.

Ralph Gurevitz, chair of the newly-formed eight-strong committee, said: "We are trying to encourage as many people to go as possible and are expecting about 100 to be at the event."

There will be discounts for students and graduates and there will be a DJ, licensed bar and a wide selection of popular events.

The dance is being held on Saturday (10pm) at the Glasgow Reform Synagogue, Ayr Road, Newton Mearns.

## Dinner at the Tea Room

FOLLOWING its sell-out success Friday nite dinner at L'Chaim's restaurant in Giffnock, the group is holding its next event at the Waverley Tea Room, Shawlands on Sunday (8pm). The event, for 18-35's, will include food, music and drink. Entry is free.

To reserve a place call Rabbi Mendel Jacobs or Tziri Jacobs on 0141 638 5613 or text 07966 303 292.

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