

NCSY's *Ben Zakkai* Honor Society Annual Israel Dessert Reception

Over one hundred guests joined Ben Zakkai Chair Isabelle Novak in a multigenerational tribute to the NCSY magic. Dozens of NCSY veterans from the 60s (including Arlene now Yehudit) Ginsburg Gross, whose father, Founding Har Sinai Director Rabbi Louis Ginsburg was later cited by Dvora Gasner as a crucial influence) mingled with ten of this year's Candidate members who are spending their gap year in Israeli Yeshivot and Seminaries. Powerful videos from the National NCSY Gala complemented Israel NCSY Director Rabbi Yosef Ginsburg moving report of their important work. OU legends Paula and former National Board and Youth Commission Chair Marcel Weber met teens who had been influenced by their grandchildren on NCSY Summer Programs. Candidate Member, former New Jersey President, now at Michlala, Rina Blumberg gave a pitch-perfect Dvar Torah. But nothing prepared the audience for the sheer emotional impact of Dvora and Benjy Gasner's remarks. The former Joan Abrams of Syracuse and Ben Gasner of Baltimore, both third generation Americans who made Aliyah together in 1970 (one of the first two Ben Zakkai couples to do so - on the same boat no less) are among the Yakirei Yerushalayim , renowned for their chesed and communal leadership