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Youth Visions

Renee Sharon of Charlotte Elected International Teen President of BBYO's Young Women's Division

Sharon to Serve at the Helm of Leading Pluralistic Jewish Teen Movement

Washington, DC - Renee Sharon of Charlotte, NC has just been elected to serve as the International President (N'siah) of BBYO's young women's division, B'nai B'rith Girls (BBG). Sharon was elected to the board of the leading worldwide pluralistic Jewish teen movement by 600 teen members in February at BBYO's largest-ever International Convention, held in Bruceville, TX. She will follow Dina Finer of Tulsa OK, who currently serves as the President of BBG and will continue to fulfill her role until the new programming year begins in June 2007.

"In a world that is run by adults, BBYO gives teenagers the ability to let their voices be heard," said Sharon, daughter of Shirley and Gil Sharon. "It gives us the opportunity to experience things we would otherwise not have the chance to experience."

Sharon, who will be graduating this spring from Providence High School, will defer her first year of college to spend the 2007-08 term assisting Jewish high school students in creating strong, dynamic programming; modeling leadership; representing teens at major communal gatherings; and encouraging involvement in the broad spectrum of Jewish life and activities.

Sharon has been actively involved with BBYO's Eastern Region for four years and is currently serving as the President of North Carolina Council in Eastern Region BBYO. As such, she played a key role engaging teens in an all night program raising funds and awareness for Israel. In all, they raised over \$10,000 for Israel.

"Renee is creative, energetic and passionate about Judaism and



Renee Sharon

BBYO," said BBYO's Eastern Region executive regional director, Ellen Goldstein. "Eastern Region is thrilled that Renee will have the opportunity to share her enthusiasm with teens across the US and abroad. We are proud of Renee's accomplishments and know she will serve as a positive role model for her peers."

In addition to Sharon, the new international leaders of BBG include: VP of programming, Ali Greenberg of Miami, FL; VP of membership, Lauren Shenfeld of Los Angeles, CA; secretary and treasurer, Emily Rosenfeld of Dallas, TX; and Jewish and Israel education, community service and social action VP, Lisa Weissnar of Chatsworth, CA.

Sharon will be installed to her new position, along with her counterpart, Jason Wachs of Cleveland, OH, who will oversee the young men's division of BBYO, during a ceremony this summer.

"This year, I will be traveling around the world representing BBYO and inspiring younger members to take a stand on impor-

tant issues affecting Jews today and motivating them to take advantage of indescribable leadership opportunities," said Sharon. "BBYO is the place where there are no restrictions based on age or experience. There are only opportunities to strengthen yourself as a young Jewish leader."

As the leading pluralistic Jewish teen movement, BBYO aspires to offer more Jewish teens more meaningful Jewish experiences. Open to any Jewish teen, AZA and BBG chapters throughout the world are BBYO's renowned leadership programs with more than 250,000 living alumni who are among the most prominent figures in business, politics, academia, the arts and Jewish communal life. BBYO's unique online network - b-linked.org - connects thousands of teens, giving them access to a variety of resources to help them through the college admissions process, take part in community



service projects, travel the world and communicate with their peers. Those who become a part of the BBYO community enter a lifelong network of friends, enriched by Jewish values, with a common commitment to strengthening the Jewish community.

For more information on BBYO, please visit www.bbyo.org. ☆

Temple Beth El to Host Spring Kallah

Temple Beth El will be host to the North American Federation of Temple Youth - Southern Area Region (NFTY-SAR). LIBERTY (Life In Beth El Reform Temple Youth) and the Spring Kallah committee, under the leadership of Ellen Donlin, is hard at work preparing for this amazing event. Programs will be exciting, intriguing and informative. Included in the program is an enlightening

social action program, an opportunity to welcome Shabbat with the Temple Beth El congregation in a NFTY style service led by some of NFTY and LIBERTY's finest youth, along with many other incredible opportunities. Our teens have had wonderful experiences on their many trips to Atlanta, Florida and South Carolina. We, at Temple Beth El, look forward to extending our-



selves to those teens that will be jonaing us from the Southern Area Region. ☆

"You have tried us, O God, refining us as silver is refined. We came through fire and water and You brought us out to abundance."

- Psalm 66: 10, 12