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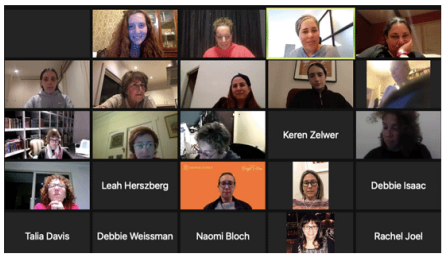
JOFA zooms with a Rabbanit in Efrat

September 6, 2021 by Community newsdesk

The Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance Australia (JOFA) recently hosted Rabbanit Shira Marili Mirvis on ZOOM.



Rabbanit Shira Marili Mirvis was recently appointed as the first-ever sole female Rabbanit of Kehillat Shirat HaTamar, an orthodox congregation in Efrat, Israel. Prior to this, Shira had a fellowship with Midreshet Lindenbaum's Institute for Halachic Leadership where she became certified in the topics of *Shabbat*, *Niddah*, *Chuppah* and *Kiddushin*, *Brachot*, and *Issur V'Heter*.

Titled "Shattering the Glass Ceiling: Q&A with Rabbanit Shira Marili Mirvis" the discussion centred on questions from the audience seeking advice about how to promote greater inclusion of women in orthodoxy with a special focus on Australia.

Due to lockdowns, many cities will not be hosting synagogue services this year over the high holidays, so Rabbanit Marili Mirvis also provided a pertinent Rosh Hashanah message. It was a real treat to hear from a gifted educator and leader in Israel at a time when travel is not possible.

Vice President of JOFA Australia Sharona Jotkowitz facilitated the Q&A. While JOFA in Australia is just a few months old, the event was joined by Daphne Lazar Price, the Executive Director of JOFA in the United States, who showed her support for the burgeoning alliance.

"Men and women in the Australian Jewish community were thrilled to be able to hear from Rabbanit Shira Marili Mirvis," said Nomi Kaltmann, JOFA Australia president. "While Rabbanit Marili Mirvis has previously visited Australia many decades ago, this was the first time that the Australian Jewish community had the chance to hear from her firsthand. We were thrilled with the clever and relevant advice Rabbanit Marili Mirvis provided about how to advance progress for orthodox women," said Kaltmann.

With a crowd of over 75 listening live to the ZOOM conversation, JOFA Australia hopes that this will be the beginning of a long and ongoing relationship with Rabbanit Marili Mirvis. "Based on the feedback we received from the event, Rabbanit Marili Mirvis's words and wisdom were well received and many found her to be insightful and introspective," said Kaltmann. "We hope that we will be able to welcome her back to Australia in person one day soon when borders re-open!"

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December, 1942. Following their parent's arrest for being part of the Norwegian resistance movement during the war, young siblings Gerda and Otto are left on their own. Read more

May-24 11:30am SBS-Viceland: Difficult People

Billy visits his very Jewish brother for Yom Kippur dinner and Julie attempts to befriend a veteran to prove to Marilyn's surrogate daughter that she's charitable. Read more

May-27 11:00am SBS-Viceland: Difficult People

Julie tries to fit in with a group of high-power, Jewish TV writers, and Billy tries to fit in as his rich boyfriend's kept man. Read more

May-29 8.30pm SBS-Viceland: Hitler's Museum of Lost Art

The search of a flat in Munich in 2012, owned by elderly recluse Cornelius Gurlitt, uncovers one of the most extraordinary stashes of lost art ever discovered. Read more

Jun-07 8.00pm SBS-TV: Great British Railway Journeys

Michael Portillo's Bradshaw's-inspired rail tour of London continues in Hampstead where shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War, a ground-breaking Jewish doctor found refuge. Read more

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