

Sichot beyn Achayot: An Open Dialogue Between Diaspora and Israeli Sisters

Session 3: Conversations Between Conservative and Masorti Sisters

Sunday @ 1:00pm-
12.12.21 2:30pm ET



Yaarat Dvash Yehoshua
Graduate Student
Jerusalem

Yaarat Dvash Yehoshua, is 24 years old; she was born in Jerusalem and is today studying occupational therapy. She remembers always having been full of energy, loving challenges and looking for opportunities to contribute.

Yaarat Dvash attended Hartman High School for Girls, a liberal, Orthodox school where I studied Gemara and gender studies and was also a theater major. During high school, she was a counselor in the Scouts, specializing in integrating special needs kids; she also volunteered in “Knafaim Shel Krembo” a youth group for children and teens with disabilities. Following graduation, she did a gap year of volunteering in a Youth Aliya- youth village, with at-risk teen immigrants from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union.

Since Yaarat Dvash was very interested in doing meaningful and challenging army service, she decided to enlist as a combat fighter in the special and secret Moran unit of the IDF, to which she was accepted following a challenging boot camp.

The training was very difficult, including crawling, carrying stretchers, and doing sprints and navigation tests over four months. We started as 100 girls and finished as 8. An additional 4 months of advanced training followed, where we were 3 girls and 18 boys learning more specialized unit exercises. Upon completion of the training, she began her regular service in an operations team that went out on many secret operations affecting the security of the country. Due to the unit's highly classified status, she was not able to talk about much of their activities.

Yaarat Dvash says that her nearly 3-year IDF service was challenging but satisfying; she felt that she had a real opportunity to contribute to the security of Israel and to perform on a level equal to that of the men in the unit. After finishing her army service, she flew to Ethiopia to meet and spend the High Holidays with the Jewish community there. She prays that the new friends that she made there will someday be allowed to make Aliyah. Last fall she began her studies in Occupational Therapy.

