opposite horospherical subgroups, which was a conjecture of Margulis based on Selberg’s earlier work in the case of a product of \( SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \)s. I had solved this conjecture for discrete subgroups of \( SL(n, \mathbb{R}) \) for \( n \geq 4 \). Ratner’s theorem on orbit closures was a key ingredient of my proof. I did not get to receive any comments from her either on my talk or on my work at that time.

Seventeen years later in 2013, there was a conference in her honor titled “Homogeneous Dynamics, Unipotent Flows, and Applications” at the Hebrew University. I had just finished my joint work with Amir Mohammadi on the classification of joining measures for geometrically finite subgroups of \( SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \) or of \( SL(2, \mathbb{C}) \). It was an extension of her work “Horocycle flows, joining and rigidity of products,” published in *Annals of Mathematics* 1983, and our approach was to adapt her proof in the infinite-volume setting. I opened my lecture saying that I was proud of my mathematical aunt; she and Margulis shared a common advisor, Sinai. I then successfully squeezed the two subjects of discrete groups and joinings into my one-hour lecture and closed with the statement that I had started my mathematical career by applying Ratner’s theorem as a black box and that I was now hoping to generalize her ideas in the infinite-volume setting. After my lecture, I asked Marina directly, “Did you like my lecture?” She said, “Yes, very much,” with a big emphasis on “very,” and asked, “Why don’t you post your lecture notes in your webpage?” I jokingly replied to her, “Marina, who is going to read it?”

She once said in an email to me, “If a woman is good in math, she does not need encouragement or a role model. I remember when I was young, no matter what anyone would say, I knew that I would go to math. I did not need any encouragement for that. The same is probably true about you. Did you need encouragement?”

I wrote back, saying, “Marina, whether you wanted to or not, you have been a great source of pride and inspiration for female mathematicians in the area. I am very grateful to you for having been such a great role model.”

Thank you Marina.

Credits
Photo is courtesy of Nimish A. Shah.