

On March 6 at 12:30 p.m., Congregation Beth Abraham will be presenting Yochi Rappeport, the Executive Director of Women of the Wall, who join us from Israel via Zoom. Yochi will speak about the activities of Women of the Wall (WOW) and her own life experiences as an Orthodox Jewish woman who is seeking gender equality and religious pluralism. WOW's central mission is to attain social and legal recognition of the right for women to wear prayer shawls, pray, and read from the Torah, collectively and aloud, at the Western Wall. WOW works to further their mission through social advocacy, education, and empowerment.

In its social advocacy work, WOW aims to change the status-quo that is currently preventing women from being able to pray freely at the Western Wall. This goal has tremendous ramifications for women's rights in Judaism and in Israel, and requires social advocacy in order to raise awareness and change social perception of these issues.

WOW educates Jewish women and the public about the social, political and personal ramifications of limiting or eliminating women's right to pray as a group at a holy site. The silencing of women in prayer by law and society—literally, publicly and deliberately—is a violation of civil rights, human rights and religious freedom. Education is the key to changing perspectives, laws, and lives.

By meeting to pray, WOW empowers and encourages Jewish women to embrace religion freely, in their own way. WOW stands proudly and strongly in the forefront of the movement for religious pluralism in Israel, with the hope to inspire and empower women from all over the world and across the spectrum of Jewish movements to find their spiritual voices and create meaningful Jewish identities.



Yochi Rappeport was born in Safed and raised in the Orthodox environment of the old city of her birth. Upon turning 18, she was drafted into the Israeli Defense Forces, where she served as a commander in the Nativ Military Course, teaching Judaism and Zionism to new immigrants and non-Jewish soldiers.

Following her military service, Yochi studied Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies at Bar Ilan University. After graduating, she served as an executive assistant at

an Israeli news agency. She joined Women of the Wall in 2016 as Director of Education and Community Outreach. With her vast pedagogical and galactic knowledge, she dedicated herself to educating and inspiring the Israeli public about WOW's mission.

In 2018, after expanding WOW's educational activities to more than 3,000 people a year, including 2,000 students, Yochi was appointed Executive Director of the organization.

Yochi's identity as an Orthodox woman and feminist shows that a woman may indeed possess both attributes. Married and the mother of a toddler girl, Yochi strives to make Jerusalem and Israel more tolerant places for her daughter and future generations.

In her free time, Yochi volunteers for "Not Standing Aside" (Lo Omdot Mineged), a non-profit that helps women once involved in prostitution with their immediate needs and avenues for healing.



