

## Rabbi Yael Karrie

Yael was born in Haifa and very soon adopted a love for nature and the outdoors which continued through her involvement as a youth in the Society for Protection of Nature in Israel up to her work as a registered travel guide. It was Yael's work as a guide for over 40 Birthright groups that exposed her for the first time to the Reform Movement and deepened her connection and faith in Jewish peoplehood. In addition, during her time in Jerusalem, Yael volunteered in a rape crisis center for 6 years, which she believes also provided her with meaningful "tools" that help her with her rabbinical work.

Yael holds a BA in Jewish and Religious Studies from the Hebrew University and is completing her Masters in Jewish Studies specializing in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century morality movement and 19<sup>th</sup> Century kabbalah.

From 2013-2017, Yael served as the regional rabbi of Sha'ar HaNegev on the Gaza border. In this capacity she acted as the Jewish leader for residents of ten kibbutzim and moshavim within the regional council. The council's website identifies Yael as the provider of Reform religious services to the region – a first for any council in Israel. During "Tzuk Eitan", Yael ran programs for hundreds of soldiers and residents of the area, including piloting an art program "Reclaiming Red" as part of the support programs for residents.

In light of the unique region in which she was located, Yael also dedicated herself to peace building in the region by initiating a number of projects to bring the Jewish and Arab residents of the region closer together. These projects included the program "Inlight" -- an interfaith celebration of the festivals of light, a project which has been adopted by other communities around Israel.

Between 2017-2018 Yael was the Rabbi of Kehilat Kol HaNeshama in Jerusalem. Yael introduced a full spectrum of new paths and ideas to the congregation and led it through the difficult departure from the previous epoch. At the end of a dynamic and fruitful year she decided to move on to the next chapter in her life.

In her rabbinic work, Yael seeks to combine the values of Reform Judaism, the values of the kibbutz movement and the humanistic values on which she was raised. These are the four things she loves the most: love for one another, love of nature, love of art and love for the written word.

