

Kehilat Orach Eliezer (KOE)

RELIGIOUS LEADER: Rosh Kehilah Dina Najman-Licht

WEBSITE: <http://koe.org/>

EMAIL: info@koe.org

PHONE: N/A

ADDRESS: 891 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10025

Women in Leadership Positions

- The first female co-president was in 1994
- Several women have served as president or co-president since then
- Women may serve in all leadership positions.

Women Speaking From the Amud

- The *d'var* Torah is lay lead, and women have an equal opportunity to deliver it
- The Rosh Kehilah delivers the *d'var* Torah whenever she wants to

Women's Ritual Participation

- The Torah is passed through the women's section
- Women may say *birchat hagomel*
- Women may lead prayer for US government or State of Israel, as well as special *tehilim*
- Since 1993 a women has led *Kabbalat Shabbat*
- Women do *pesicha* during the Torah service, take out the Torah scroll(s), hand them to the men, and later return the Torah scroll(s) to the ark
- Women make *kiddush* for the community Friday night and Shabbat morning
- Women make the *bracha achronah* for the community at the end of *Kiddush*
- For the regular Torah reading, there is one *gabbai* and one *gabbait* as the two people checking the accuracy of the Torah reader, calling up those honored with aliyot, and making the *misheberachot*
 - All of these responsibilities can be done by either the gabbai or gabbait
- Women can do *hagba* and *gelilah*
- Women lead *anim zemirot* and the *shir shel yom*
- Mother's names may be used for *aliyot*

Kaddish

- Women say *kaddish* even when no man is saying it

Women's Tefillah Group

- There is no interest in a separate *kriyah*, but space is reserved for a WT in case congregants change their minds

Life Cycle Events

- Hosts may request a Partnership *Minyan* style mixed *kriyah* for life cycle events (in addition to the regular *kriyah*)

Holidays

- Simchat Torah: There is a *Kallat Torah* and *Kallat Bereshit aliyot* for women with women *layning*, then *Chatan Torah* and *Chatan Bereshit aliyot* for men with men *layning*
- Equal *mechitzah* access for Simchat Torah dancing
- Sukkot: *Lulavim* are shared between men and women on their respective sides of the *mechitzah*
- Women have their own *hoshanot* on their side of the *mechitzah*
- All *megillot* are read after *mussaf*
- Both men and women read from the *megillah*

Mechitzah Structure

- *Mechitzah* is down the middle of the *shul*

Childcare

- There is a room for children but no regular babysitter
- There is a Youth Tefillah to teach young girls and boys to pray and to lead services once every 6-8 weeks