

Kehillat Ohel Avraham

RELIGIOUS LEADER: No community rabbi - shared spiritual & educational leadership of the kehilla

WEBSITE: <http://www.ohelavraham.org.uk/>

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PHONE: 020-8202-8021

ADDRESS: On Shabbat mornings at LSJS, 44A Albert Rd, London NW4
(Please Note: Our policies and practices do not necessarily reflect on those of LSJS)

Postal address: Kehillat Ohel Avraham, POB 48502, London NW4 2XA

Other events, Friday nights and services held in private houses around Hendon, London NW4. Shemini Atseret and Simchat Torah and all women services are held in a private house in Hendon London NW4 – Please phone for details.

Women in Leadership Positions

- A committee of Trustees run the kehilla (currently, 4/6 are women)
- Women members can speak and vote at general meetings equally with men
- All committee positions are open to women and men equally
- The Chair of the committee is sometimes a man and sometimes a woman

Women Speaking From the Amud

- Women may and do teach or speak from the amud

Women's Ritual Participation

The Mechitzah runs front to back or the shul to give more equal audio-visual access to women

- The Torah is passed through the mechitza and carried by a women through the women's section
- Women may recite birkhat hagomel
- A prayer is said for agunot
- Women may wear a tallit or head covering if they so wish (or not)
- Women and men join in singing during services
- A woman may lead communal kiddush and al-hamichya provided no-one present objects (this is a fairly rare occurrence)
- Women participate in reading kinnot of Tisha B'Av

Kaddish

- Women may recite kaddish

Women's Tefillah Group

- WT and Women's kriyat haTorah occur periodically
- Use mother's name during aliyot at women's kriyat haTorah

Life Cycle Events

- Bat Mitzvah: Women's kriyah and mussaf if desired

Holidays

- Sukkot: Women have their own lulavim and etrogim; women help build & decorate the Sukkah and may eat in Sukkah with or without a blessing as is their custom.
- Purim: Separate women's reading of the megillah by women for women
- Simchat Torah:
 - o Separate women's Torah reading and dancing with a Torah scroll in women's section; women honoured as Kallat Torah and Kallat Bereshit (just like Chatan Torah and Chatan Bereshit)
 - o Each woman gets an aliyah l'Torah if they want one Flags with pictures of girls as well as boys on.
 - o If they prefer, women have option of attending the men's minyan behind the mechitzah
- Yom Ha'atzmaut: Separate women's dancing
- Shavuot: Women may teach at tikkun leyl Shavuot
- Tisha B'Av: Women and men read kinot

Mechitzah Structure

- Portable
- Eye-level
- White lace curtain on a rod
- Front to back down the middle, dividing hall into left and right halves

Childcare May Be Available During Services (depending on demand)

- Children's services (run by and shared with another kehillah)
- Childcare on high holidays, subject to demand
- Lunch for the children in shul on Yom Kippur, subject to demand

Other

- Women and men give and participate in shiurim
- Questions are encouraged from both men and women
- Men and women prepare and tidy away the kiddush
- Large local eruv in the Hendon area
- Some practices modelled on Kehilat Yedidya in Jerusalem
- Some traditions derived from our heritage as the Yakar Kehilla
- We feel close in our ethos to Open Orthodox approach of Rabbi Avi Weiss