

## **Or Chadash**

RELIGIOUS LEADER: Rabbi David Freedman, Rabbi-in-residence

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### **Women in Leadership Positions**

- Women serve as Board officers.
- There has never been a woman president, but this would be acceptable to members.

### **Women Speaking from the Amud**

- Women occasionally speak from the *amud*.

### **Women's Ritual Participation**

- The Torah is passed through the women's section by men.
- Women recite *birkhat hagomel*.

### **Women Reciting Kaddish**

- Or Chadash is a relatively new minyan and to date, there has not been any women needing to recite *kaddish*.

### **Women's Tefillah Group**

- Or Chadash holds services in the building used by Sydney's only Women's Tefillah Group.
- The two groups are organizationally separate, but share many members and often host shared events.

### **Celebration of Life Cycle Events**

- Bat Mitzvah: Girls sometimes share their *simcha* with the WT.
  - The two groups daven *shacharit* together and then the women move upstairs for a separate *kriyat haTorah* and *musaf*.
  - The groups are rejoined for *kiddush* and sometimes a dvar Torah by the Bat Mitzvah girl.
- Simchat Bat: Families often hold Simchat Bat ceremonies, but not necessarily through the shul.

### **Holidays**

- Simchat Torah: Services are similar to a Bat Mitzvah celebration with the WT.
  - There is a joint *shacharit*, separate *hakafot* and *leyning*, and then a joint *kiddush* and lunch.

### **Mechitzah Structure**

- Straight down the middle of the shul by a curtain (which is pulled back for Divrei Torah).

### **Childcare Available During Services**

- Childcare (including children's *teffilot*, *kiddush*, *parsha* quiz and games) is provided for children ages 2-7 year olds from 10:15am until the conclusion of services.
- Or Chadash published a children's *siddur* with photos of children in the synagogue, for use in the children's services.
- Childcare is provided for special events (e.g. Tisha B'Av), but not during Friday night services.
- All our non-*teffilah* events (e.g. Chanukah party, *Simchat Beit Hashoevah*, etc...) are child friendly.

### **Other**

- The chores of organizing food – whether for *kiddush* or more formal meals – and cleaning up afterwards, are shared by men and women.