

The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue of Montreal

RELIGIOUS LEADER: Rabbi Howard S. Joseph

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Women in Leadership Positions

- Women serve as on the Board
- There must be at least one women on the Executive Board

Women's Ritual Participation

- Women may touch the Torah from the men's section
- Women recite *birkhat hagomel*
- Mother's names are always included in *misheberachs*

Kaddish

- Women may recite *kaddish*

Women's Tefillah Group

- WT is held every Rosh Chodesh (it is the longest running WT in Canada)

Life Cycle Events

- Simchat Bat: Celebrated in the *shul*
- Bat Mitzvah: Ceremonies have been held since the 1980's
 - Initiated by the Rabbi
 - Typically occur either on Shabbat morning after services or during Shabbat *mincha*

Holidays

- Purim: Women's reading of the *megillah*

Mechitzah Structure

- Raised women's section; 3 feet on the women's side

Childcare Available During Services

- Child care offered during Shabbat services

Other

- The synagogue and its clergy actively help *agunot*