

Yakar Kehilla

RELIGIOUS LEADER: Currently seeking Rabbi and woman role model to job-share spiritual leadership of the *kehilla*

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Women in Leadership Positions

- Committee of 7 trustees run the *shul* (currently, 3/7 are women)
- Women members vote
- All committee positions are open to women
- The Chair of the committee is currently a woman

Women Speaking From the Amud

- Women may teach or speak from the *amud*

Women's Ritual Participation

- The Torah is carried by a women through the women's section
- Women recite *birkhat hagomel*
- A prayer is said for *agunot*
- Women may wear a *tallit*
- Women and men join in singing during services
- A woman may lead *kiddush* and *al-hamichya* if no-one present objects (this has not happened yet)

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 the *sukkah* and may eat in *sukkah*
- Purim: Women's reading of the *megillah*
- Simchat Torah:
 - Separate women's Torah reading and dancing with a Torah scroll in women's section; women honored as *Kallat Torah* and *Kallat Bereshit* (just like *Chatan Torah* and *Chatan Bereshit*)

- Each woman gets an *aliyah l'Torah* if they want one
- If they prefer, women have option of attending the men's *minyán* behind the *mechitzah*
- Yom Ha'atzmaut: Separate women's dancing
- Shavuot: Women may teach at *tikkun ley!* 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 Available During Services

- "Kid's *Kehilla*" children's service (for children ages 0-7 years old) organized by a rotation of parents for 30 minutes during the adult *shiur*
- Childcare on high holidays, subject to demand
- Lunch for the children in *shul* on Yom Kippur

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 *eruv* around the synagogue
- Some practices modeled on *Kehilat Yedidya* in Jerusalem