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My Machzor

In 1978, our Reform movement published *Gates of Repentance: The New Union Prayerbook for the Days of Awe*. My congregation, Temple Israel of Boston, packed up the *Union Prayer Book II*, bought some books for the congregation and encouraged congregants to purchase personal copies. It felt great to own my own prayer book; holding it, I felt a deeper relationship to our people and our traditions. I immediately placed my tree of life bookplate in the front cover declaring it was, "From the Books of Debbie Robbins." I used



Rabbi Debra
J. Robbins

the book in high school and took it to college. I learned to lead services with it as student rabbi, and have held it on the bimah at Temple Emanu-El for 24 years of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. The binding is cracked, the spine is frayed, certain pages are worn thin where cues have

been marked and remarked, and reading assignments have been revised as the clergy team changed over the years.

I have changed (thank God!) over these four decades and our world has changed too. But other than some wear and tear, my *machzor* has remained the same. When I look at my bookshelves it becomes clear. I have added photos to family albums since the 1970s as my family has grown.

(Continued on Page 18)

LIFE OF CHAI

Adult learning at Temple is vibrant and diverse. **Here are 18 paths to learning.** Find one or many that work for you.

Cover Story, pp.10-11

Community

Sh'ma Group Match Nights

PAGE 3

Sukkot Under the Stars

PAGE 3

קהלָה

Learning

Schlinger Ethics Symposium

PAGE 4

Ongoing Learning

PAGE 14

תּוֹרָה

Prayer

Yom Kippur, Festivals

PAGE 3

Shabbat

PAGE 8

תּפִּלָּה

Philanthropy

Contributions

PAGES 15-17

צְדָקָה

My Machzor

(Continued from cover)

I've come to love more poets, novelists and philosophers for the wisdom and insight they bring to shape and shift my perspective. I've learned to embrace more than one idea or opinion as "truth." There is something comforting and nostalgic about my *machzor*, knowing that in the uncertainty and evolution of ideas and society, words of prayer endure when everything around us changes. But after 40 years, as much as I love the familiarity of it, my *machzor* and I have grown apart, because it has not grown. People change. Our Reform movement

has changed. And books can change too. On Rosh Hashanah in 2015, we will begin new relationships of passion and challenge, partnerships that may be uncomfortable and refreshing at the same time, with a central text of our community.

Mishkan HaNefesh includes a wide variety of poetry from Israel and around the world, both classic and contemporary, to complement and enrich the traditional words of prayer. Our new *machzor* has the transliteration right next to Hebrew so all can add their voices to the service. In *Gates of Repentance*, it is clear that *Avinu Malkeinu* is a

metaphor: God is like a Father and God is like a King. This concrete imagery is expanded in *Mishkan HaNefesh* to reflect a diversity of images befitting our God, who is Infinite.

Our congregation is fortunate and grateful that two generous donations have been made to purchase the beautiful new books. Thanks to gifts from the families of Bobbie and Leo Fields and Martin J. Davidson Ph.D., of blessed memory, we will have some books available for members. At the same time, we want to invite you to purchase books for yourself and your family. Buying a *machzor*

is different than buying a novel, a biography or even a book of poetry.

Those books will never have pages sticky with Rosh Hashanah apples and honey or be stained by tears at Yizkor. Buying a prayer book is an investment in a relationship—a relationship with your community, your God, with your own sacred soul. Having a personal copy of *Mishkan HaNefesh* is a commitment to the past and the future of Judaism. I'm already looking forward to putting a book plate in the front of my new *machzor* and seeing yours when we come together to welcome 5776!

PRE-ORDER

Reserve your copy now by preordering at participate.tedallas.org/highholydays2014 or by calling Temple at 214.706.0000.

COST

\$28 for pickup at Temple, \$35 for shipping to your home

PERSONALIZATION

Engraving is available for \$15 a line, two-line maximum

For more information:
ccarnet.org/media/filer_public/2013/07/22/table_of_contentsmachzorjournal.pdf

מחזור לימים הנוראים

משכן הנפש

MISHKAN HANEFESH

Machzor for the Days of Awe