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**Forward to the 4th Edition**

The *Ohr HaTorah High Holy Days Prayer Book* that you are now holding represents an important step in the liturgical journey of our congregation. When we were founded in December, 1993, we used a photocopy of the traditional service in the Reform movement's *Gates of Prayer* with added transliteration and guides. For High Holy Days, we used the Reform movement's *Gates of Repentance*.

In 1998 we introduced *Siddur Hadash*, a liberal Conservative prayer book, for our Shabbat morning services as our community became desirous of a fuller version of the liturgy with all its poetic and mystical allusions.

We know that our High Holy Days community is often less traditional than our Shabbat regulars, but we made the decision after our 5761/2000 High Holy Days services (at the urging of many of our Shabbat regulars) to bring our Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur services in line with what we do on Shabbat.

We did not want to leave out, however, those many members and guests who are not familiar with the High Holy Days prayer book. Hence this prayer book, with meditations, guides and transliterations. In the revised edition, we have corrected typographical errors in the Hebrew, translation, transliteration and the meditations. We have also created more open space on the pages and labeled the prayers more clearly.

As we wrote in the forward of the first edition, we expected that text to be good for a one-time use, as we evaluated its use and discovered errors. Our second edition worked out well: there were few mistakes and the format we used was beneficial to our attendees. For the third edition we corrected many remaining typographical errors. After evaluating our service that year, we saw additional corrections needed to be made, hence this fourth addition. We expect to use this text and format for at least the next few years. Again, we hope that the effort we have put forth into this prayer book will serve as a foundation for improving on it in the future with further commentary, outlines of the services, a fully original translation and many other elements that will make your High Holy Days experience rooted in the tradition, yet relevant, inspiring and interesting in the years to come.

For now, we hope you enjoy the use of this next step. Your comments and suggestions are again invited as we work on that envisaged final edition. We hope you forgive any typographical errors that remain and please point them out to us so that they can be corrected for that final effort.

Rabbi Mordecai Finley, Ph.D.

Meirav Finley  
Executive Director

Elul 5763  
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**List of major works consulted in crafting the translation and commentary:**

Jeffrey Cohen, *Prayer and Penitence: A Commentary on the High Holy Day Machzor*. Jason Aronson, 1994.

Rabbis Sidney Greenberg and Jonathan T. Levine, compilers and editors, *Siddur Hadash: Worship, Study and Song for Sabbath and Festival Mornings -- Enhanced Edition*. The Prayer Book

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- Rabbi Jules Harlow, ed., *Machzor for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur: A Prayer Book for the Days of Awe*. The Rabbinical Assembly, 1972 (1991 printing).
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- ibid., ed., *My Peoples Prayer Book: Traditional Prayers, Modern Commentaries, vol. I-IV*. Jewish Lights Publishing, 1997-2000.
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- Macy Nulman, *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Prayer*. Jason Aronson, 1993.
- Stephen Schach, *The Structure of the Siddur*. Jason Aronson, 1996.
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We would like to acknowledge and thank Rabbi Baruch HaLevi for his work when he was our rabbinic assistant in 2000-01 in creating the first version of this Machzor. Rabbi HaLevi found the commentaries, crafted the translation, and provided oversight for the transliteration. We remain grateful for his fine work.