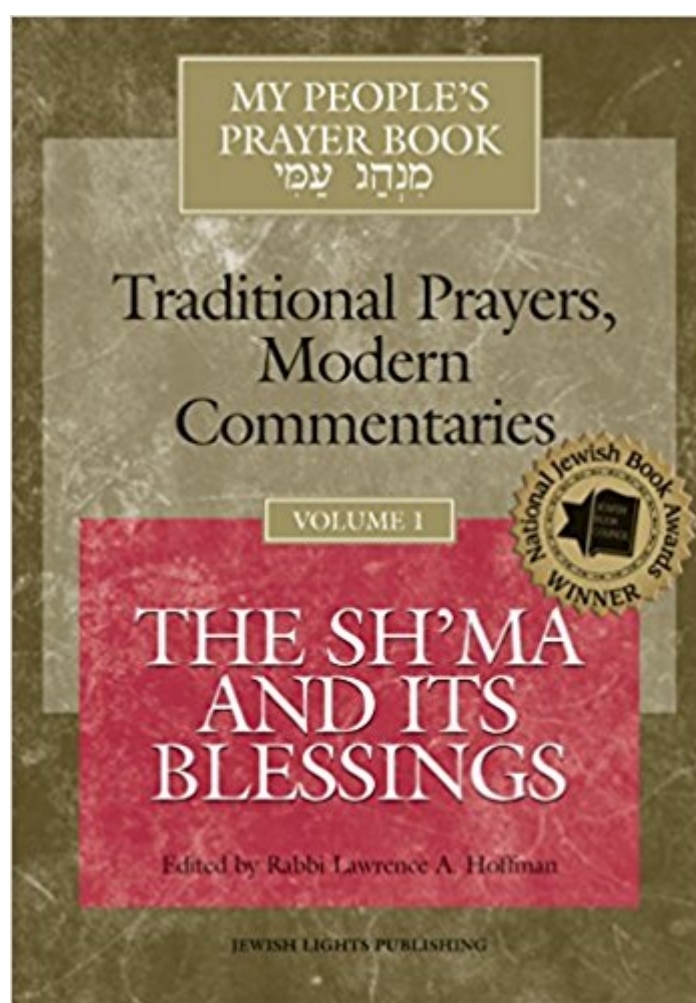


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My People's Prayer Book, Vol. 1: Traditional Prayers, Modern Commentaries--The Sh'ma And Its Blessings



Synopsis

"The prayer book is our Jewish diary of the centuries, a collection of prayers composed by generations of those who came before us, as they endeavored to express the meaning of their lives and their relationship to God. The prayer book is the essence of the Jewish soul." My People's Prayer Book provides diverse and exciting commentaries to the traditional liturgy, written by some of today's most respected scholars and teachers from all perspectives of the Jewish world. They explore the text from the perspectives of ancient Rabbis and modern theologians, as well as feminist, halakhic, medieval, linguistic, biblical, Chasidic, mystical, and historical perspectives. This stunning work, an empowering entryway to the spiritual revival of our times, enables all of us to claim our connection to the heritage of the traditional Jewish prayer book. It helps rejuvenate Jewish worship in today's world, and makes its power accessible to all. The My People's Prayer Book series belongs on the library shelf of every home, every synagogue – every sanctuary of prayer. Introductions tell the reader what to look for in the prayer service, as well as how to truly use the commentaries, to search for – and find – meaning in the prayer book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Add[s] a great deal to the understanding of the prayers.... [Will] appeal to an American Jewry searching for a deepened spirituality without compromising pluralism." Jewish Book World "By juxtaposing ... different commentaries, we get some sense of how rich, how suggestive, and how alive the words of the Shema are.... Enlightening.... [Introduces] us to the world of Jewish

thought that centers around these six inexhaustible words." *Jewish Book World* "Lucidly reviews prayer's development and current structure." *Hadassah* "Beautifully produced ... will provide insight to the prayer service to anyone, whether an accomplished scholar or a novice seeking meaning in the prayers. The translations, which are new for this series, are quite meaningful.... A useful addition to the library of anyone who desires to find more meaning in their davenning." *Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs Torchlight* "Thorough." *Reform Judaism* "[An] outstanding guide to the siddur.... Engages the mind and heart ... [and] demonstrates the joy that can be found in the study of Jewish texts. And it challenges one's assumptions at whatever level of understanding one brings to the text. What more could one ask of a book?" *Houston Jewish Herald-Voice* "A remarkable achievement.... The caliber of the commentaries and the beautiful format of the book make this an exceptional work." *Conservative Judaism Quarterly* "The first [prayerbook], in any language, deliberately to acknowledge and exploit the rich variety of ways in which modern Jews approach their liturgy.... Represents an important step in ... creating the tools for English-speaking Jews' greater spiritual engagement with their liturgical heritage." *CCAR Reform Jewish Quarterly* "Christian readers will be enriched by this exploration of Jewish prayer as the oldest and deepest roots of Christian prayer.... Rich." *Celebration*

Text: English, Hebrew (translation) Original Language: Hebrew

This is a great in depth discourse on the daily prayers. It has helped me better understand not only words but the history of the words in my prayers.

interesting, excellent

It takes a bit of time to get used to its "talmudic" page setup approach. It contains a decent set of prayer commentaries by both Reform, Conservative, and Feminist viewpoints. It also has Halachic reviews, I believe they are conservative rather than orthodox. Its really an enjoyable book to use for those who like me see prayer as an important and a uniquely positioned mechanism for expressing and deepening our faith.

Too reform, too conservative. The word traditional is used liberally. Page 24: "he uses more liberal prayer books than Orthodox ones..." "Orthodox volumes are cited here, but references to them are

limited."

This is an excellent resource for someone that is not satisfied with just rote repetition of the Sh'ma and its blessings. This book will give you a history of where the prayers are coming from and an excellent English translation. The use of commentators from various Jewish backgrounds adds to the flavor of the book. You are not just exposed to one opinion or another but are given a wide range of views. I look forward to reading all of the books in this series.

I like this book. I wanted something to simplify the service for me and also to translate the prayers into poetic English instead of the stilted hard to read translation in the artscroll Siddur. I also liked the volume 2 of the series, about the Amidah.

This whole series is terrific! So much interesting information packed into such compact books! I recommend all of them highly

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