

Mishkan HaNefesh, or “Gates of the Soul” has been piloted at a range of Reform synagogues since 2011. These newly published volumes arrive the way all of our best changes have come about: through a process of dialogue, agreement and disagreement, balance and counterbalance, innovation and tradition. And when we gather together for Rosh Hashanah this fall, these prayerbooks will rest in the hands of our congregants, to guide us through another new beginning.

At first it may feel strange to sit in our accustomed environment opening a book whose texture and content is so different than the one we know. The layout of the pages is new, and some of the building blocks of the service we are accustomed to have been updated. It goes without saying that many of us have strong emotional attachments to certain readings in Gates of Repentance. Some members may even have memories of the Union Prayerbook that preceded it, with a red ribbon to mark the pages. And it's true that some of those readings are not in our new prayerbook. However, some of them are. And still others thread their way thematically through the services, so that long recited words might be heard in a new light.

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Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



A couple of weeks ago, Steve and I took our boys on a family trip to Portland for a few days. We rarely have free weekends to travel together because of Shabbat, so we were really excited for this little adventure. Plus, we were visiting Steve's family, so we had the added bonus of time with uncles and grandparents to look forward to.