

Resources to Inspire Creative Tefilah

“The old must be made new, and the new must be made sacred.”
—Rav Avraham Kook, first Chief Rabbi of Israel

Books

General Prayer:

- Entering Jewish Prayer: A Guide to Personal Devotion and the Worship Service- Reuven Hammer
- To Pray as a Jew - Dov Peretz Elkins
- A Guide To Jewish Prayer: Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz
- The Art of Public Prayer: Not for Clergy Only – Lawrence Hoffman
- L’elah L’elah/Higher and Higher: Making Jewish Prayer Part of Us – Steven M Brown *A USY publication
- My People's Prayer Book Set: Volumes 1-10 – Ed. Lawrence Hoffman
- Or Hadash: Commentary on the Sim Shalom – Reuven Hammer
- Rediscovering the Art of Jewish Prayer- Rabbi David Golinkin

Creative resources:

- L’elah L’elah/Higher and Higher: Making Jewish Prayer Part of Us – Steven M Brown *A USY publication
- Modim: We Give Thanks – Alisa Pomerantz Boro
- Karov L’chol Korav/For All Who Call: A Manual for Enhancing the Teaching of Prayer- Rabbi Jeff Hoffman, Andrea Cohen Kiener [with accompanying CD]
- The Book of Blessings: New Jewish Prayers for Daily Life, the Sabbath, and the New Moon Festival - Marcia Falk
- Toward Meaningful Prayer [I and II]: Inspiring Thoughts and Stories on Tefillah from Classic Sources- S. Feldbrand
- Talking to God- Naomi Levy
- Minding the Temple of the Soul: Balancing Mind, Body and Spirit [Yoga] – Tamar Frankiel, Judy Greenfeld [With musical accompaniment]

- Alef Bet Yoga – Steven A Rapp
- Book of Jewish Sacred Practices: CLAL's Guide to Everyday & Holiday Rituals & Blessings- Rabbi Irwin Kula and Vanessa Ochs
- Worship with Joy: A Demonstration of New Techniques and Models-
- Sedra Scenes: Skits for Every Torah Portion- Stan J. Biner
- God Whispers: Stories of the Soul, Lessons of the Heart – Karyn Kedar
- Three Times Chai: 54 Rabbis Tell Their Favorite Stories- Laney Katz Becker
- Filling Words with Light: Hasidic and Mystical Reflections on Jewish Prayer - Rabbi Lawrence Kushner and Rabbi Nehemia Polen
- Jewish Stories from Heaven and Earth: Inspiring Tales to Nourish the Heart and Soul - Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins
- Our Dance with God: Finding Prayer, Perspective and Meaning in the Stories of Our Lives – Karyn Kedar
- The Path of Blessing: Experiencing the Energy and Abundance of the Divine - Rabbi Marcia Prager
- PRAY TELL :A Hadassah Guide to Jewish Prayer - Rabbi Jules Harlow with Tamara Cohen, Rochelle Furstenberg, Rabbi Daniel Gordis and Leora Tanenbaum
- Soul Judaism: Dancing with God into a New Era - Rabbi Wayne Dosick

Music

Almost any popular song can be applied to a Jewish prayer in one way or another, you just have to think outside the box and be creative. For example, *One* by U2 is a great song to teach about faith, and monotheism in the Shema. But for specific Jewish music appropriate to use for Tefilah, read on!

www.Jewishmusic.com or **www.oytunes.com** for downloadable hits.

Jewish musical mavens who can help bring creativity to traditional nusach: (name, website, sample album)

- Craig Taubman –www.craignco.com - *The World is a Very Narrow Bridge*
- Shlomo Carlebach- www.Jewishmusic.com - *Hits of Carlebach*
- Sheldon Low –www.sheldonlow.com - *On One Foot*

- Debbie Freidman – www.debbiefriedman.com- *One People, Blessings*
- Rick Recht – www.rickrecht.com- *Shabbat Alive!*
- Avner Levi- www.jewishmusic.com - *Sephradic Super Party*
- Safam- www.safam.com
- Peter Halpern- www.urj.org- *Sweet Songs and Sacred Prayer*
- Sam Glaser- www.samglaser.com - *A Day in the Life*
- Joshua Nelson [Jewish Gospel] –www.joshuanelson.com- *Mi Chamocha*

Drama:

Sedra Scenes – Stan Biner

**Bibliodrama* – Dr. Peter Pitzele - www.bibliodrama.com

Parasha Plays – Richard J. Allen

Class Acts: Plays and Skits for Jewish Settings – Stan Biner

Kings and Things: 20 Jewish Plays for Kids 8-18 – Meredith Shaw Patera

The Magic Tanach and Other Short Plays – Gabrielle Suzanne Kaplan

*uses role playing as an excellent technique to engage with text through empathy and emotion

Enjoy these suggestions to enhance the experience of prayer for the Pray-er!

For additional suggestions please contact Amy Greenfeld (Greenfeld@uscj.org)