

Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| Foreword, Loren Ostrow | xiii |
| Acknowledgments, Rabbi Denise L. Eger | xvii |
| Introduction, Rabbi Denise L. Eger | xix |
| PART I: PERSONAL PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS | I |
| <i>Chapter 1: Prayers and Blessings for Friday Night and Mornings</i> | 3 |
| FRIDAY NIGHT: PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS FOR THE HOME | 4 |
| A Prayer before Candle Lighting: A Blessing of Gratitude for a Life Lived with Friends, Family, and Partners of many Genders and Sexual Orientations | 4 |
| Addition to <i>Ahavat Olam</i> (“Eternal Love”) | 5 |
| A <i>L’cha Dodi</i> for Friday Nights | 6 |
| A <i>Mi Chamocha</i> for Friday Nights | 8 |
| Twilight People: A Prayer for Trans Jews | 9 |
| In Praise of a Partner for Friday Nights | 10 |
| A Blessing for My Gay Son for Friday Nights | 11 |
| A Blessing for My Queer Daughter for Friday Nights | 12 |
| A Blessing for My Child Who Is Transitioning for Friday Nights | 14 |
| A Prayer for Safety | 15 |
| MORNING PRAYERS | 17 |
| A Blessing for Chest-Binding for Trans, Non-Binary, and/or Gender Non-Conforming Jews | 18 |
| An <i>Asher Yatzar</i> (“The One Who Forms”) Blessing for Many Genders | 19 |
| A Morning Prayer for LGBTQ Jews: I Am Unique | 20 |
| A Morning Blessing for Non-binary Jews | 21 |
| A Morning Blessing for Transgender Jews | 22 |
| A Blessing for Studying Torah | 23 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| The <i>Sh'ma</i> | 24 |
| The Westward <i>Amidah</i> (“Silent Prayer”) | 25 |
| A Blessing for My LGBTQ Ancestors | 29 |
| | |
| <i>Chapter 2: Daily Prayers and Blessings</i> | 31 |
| A Prayer for Closeted Individuals | 33 |
| A Prayer for Not (Yet) Coming Out | 34 |
| A Coming-Out Prayer for LGBTQ People and Those Who Love Them | 35 |
| A Prayer for Coming Out—Over and Over Again | 36 |
| A Prayer for Courage for Those in Transition | 37 |
| A Blessing in Celebration of Living as Non-binary | 39 |
| A Blessing after Making Love | 40 |
| A Prayer When Struggling in a Relationship [A] | 41 |
| A Prayer When Struggling in a Relationship [B] | 42 |
| A Blessing on Seeing a Non-binary Person | 44 |
| A Blessing before Putting Up a Queer Bumper Sticker, Flag, Poster, or Other Symbol of Queer Visibility | 45 |
| A Prayer before Marching for Equality | 46 |
| | |
| <i>Chapter 3: Prayers and Blessings for Unique and Sacred Moments</i> | 47 |
| A Prayer before Candle Lighting: Prayer before Coming Out | 50 |
| A Prayer after a Painful Coming-Out | 51 |
| A Ritual for Separating from Abusive Parents | 52 |
| A Prayer after My Child Came Out [A] | 54 |
| A Prayer after My Child Came Out [B] | 55 |
| A Prayer after a Loved One Came Out [A] | 57 |
| A Prayer after a Loved One Came Out [B] | 58 |
| A Prayer after a Loved One Came Out as Transgender | 59 |
| A Prayer for a Parent Who Initially Struggled with Their Child’s Transition | 60 |
| A Prayer to Recite after Being Attacked Physically or Verbally for Being LGBTQ | 61 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Blessings for Any Moment While Transitioning | 62 |
| A Prayer before Beginning Hormonal Treatment | 63 |
| A Blessing for the First Time Shaving | 64 |
| A Prayer before Top Surgery | 65 |
| A Prayer before Looking for a Partner on a Dating Website or App | 66 |
| A Prayer after a First Sexual Experience | 67 |
| A Prayer before Introducing My Partner to My Family | 68 |
| A Blessing for Creating a Shared Home: Attaching the <i>Mezuzah</i> | 69 |
| A Prayer before Testing for HIV | 70 |
| A Prayer after Testing HIV Positive [A] | 71 |
| A Prayer after Testing HIV Positive [B] | 72 |
| A Prayer before Egg Donation, Freezing, Insemination, or Surrogacy [A] | 73 |
| A Prayer before Egg Donation, Freezing, Insemination, or Surrogacy [B] | 75 |
| A Prayer for a Pregnancy | 76 |
| Adopting a Child: Prayer for the Beginning of the Adoption Process | 77 |
| Adopting a Child: Blessing after Completing the Adoption Process | 78 |
| When the End of Life Is Near: Who Will Say <i>Kaddish</i> for Me? | 79 |
| For One Who Has Lost a Partner [A]: Left Behind | 81 |
| For One Who Has Lost a Partner [B]: My Body | 82 |
| <i>Kaddish</i> | 83 |
| | |
| PART II: COMMUNITY VOICES | 85 |
| | |
| Chapter 4: Prayers and Blessings for the Torah Service | 87 |
| THE CALL TO THE TORAH | 88 |
| The Call to the Torah: <i>Mibeit</i> (“From the House of”) | 89 |
| The Call to the Torah for a Non-binary <i>Brit Mitzvah</i> (“A Covenant of Sacred Obligations”) Celebration | 90 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| <i>MI SHEBEIRACHS</i> (BLESSINGS AFTER THE TORAH READING) | 91 |
| <i>Mi Shebeirach</i> for Coming Out | 92 |
| <i>Mi Shebeirach</i> for the Baby-Naming of a Child of LGBTQ Parents | 93 |
| <i>Mi Shebeirach</i> for a Renaming Ceremony | 94 |
| <i>Mi Shebeirach</i> for an LGBTQ Community | 95 |
| <i>Mi Shebeirach</i> for My Chosen Family | 96 |
| <i>Mi Shebeirach</i> for Lawmakers | 97 |
| | |
| <i>Chapter 5: Prayers, Blessings, and Readings for the LGBTQ Year</i> | 99 |
| TRANS VISIBILITY DAY (MARCH 31) | 100 |
| Survival Guide | 101 |
| When I Was Growing Up | 102 |
| In the Image of God | 103 |
| LESBIAN VISIBILITY DAY (APRIL 26) | 104 |
| Lesbian Pride | 105 |
| Abraham and I | 106 |
| Blessed Twice | 107 |
| PRIDE SEDER (PASSOVER) | 109 |
| An LGBTQ Passover Theology | 110 |
| Passover Liberation | 111 |
| Four Family Members | 112 |
| <i>Otot Umofsim</i> —Signs and Wonders | 114 |
| <i>Mitzrayim</i> | 115 |
| LGBTQ Redemption | 116 |
| A Life of Celebrating Being Gay and Jewish | 117 |
| SHABBAT ACHAREI MOT/K'DOSHIM | 118 |
| “God Made Adam and Eve, Not Adam and Steve” | 119 |
| <i>K'doshim Nih'yeh</i> | 120 |
| A Commentary on Leviticus 19 | 122 |
| A Prayer to Be Recited before the Reading of <i>Acharei Mot</i> (Leviticus 16:1–18:30) | 123 |

CONTENTS

xi

| | |
|--|-----|
| HARVEY MILK DAY (MAY 22) | 124 |
| Harvey Milk and His Judaism | 125 |
| Quotes by Harvey Milk | 126 |
| PRIDE SHABBAT (JUNE) | 127 |
| Candle Lighting for Pride Shabbat | 129 |
| A Blessing for Pride | 130 |
| A Prayer for Straight Family and Friends on Pride Shabbat | 131 |
| Addition to <i>Modim</i> (“Gratitude Prayer”) | 132 |
| Remembering from Where We Come | 133 |
| A Responsive Reading (Based on the Religious Declaration for Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing) | 135 |
| Thoughts on the Rainbow Flag | 136 |
| Rainbow | 138 |
| In Remembrance of Orlando [A] | 139 |
| In Remembrance of Orlando [B] | 140 |
| On the Daughters of Zelophehad | 142 |
| Waiting for a Legal Decision of Marriage Equality: A Waiting Psalm | 143 |
| Recipe for Rainbow Challah | 144 |
| BISEXUALITY VISIBILITY DAY (SEPTEMBER 23) | 147 |
| Blessing for a Bisexual Community | 148 |
| Poetry Obscura | 149 |
| NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY (OCTOBER 11) | 150 |
| A Prayer for Coming Out | 151 |
| We Have Always Been | 152 |
| An <i>Ushpizin</i> Ritual for National Coming Out Day on Sukkot | 153 |
| Love Wins | 156 |
| A Prayer for LGBTQ People | 158 |
| An Amphitheater of LGBTQ Spirituality | 159 |
| TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE (NOVEMBER 20) | 161 |
| A Prayer for Transgender Day of Remembrance | 162 |
| Prayers for Transgender Justice | 164 |
| <i>El Malei Rachamim</i> for Transgender Day of Remembrance | 165 |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| A Transgender Day of Remembrance <i>Yizkor</i> (“Prayer of Remembrance”): For Those Who Died Sanctifying Their Names | 166 |
| WORLD AIDS DAY (DECEMBER 1) | 167 |
| In the House of God: Addition to <i>Mah Tov</i> | 168 |
| A Prayer before Lighting the Memorial Candle | 169 |
| Heartbeats: A Poem for World AIDS Day | 170 |
| Our Hope | 172 |
| A Reading of Hope and Remembrance | 174 |
| A Reading for <i>Ahavat Olam</i> (“God’s Eternal Love”) | 175 |
| “They don’t like us. They won’t help us. We’ve got to help ourselves.” | 176 |
| A Healing Prayer | 177 |
| May We Choose: Addition to <i>Aleinu</i> | 178 |
| Before the Recitation of the <i>Kaddish</i> | 179 |
| <i>Chapter 6: Prayers, Blessings, and Readings for LGBTQ Weddings, Covenants, and Partnerships</i> | 181 |
| <i>Ufruf</i> Blessing for Two Lesbian Women | 183 |
| <i>Ufruf</i> Blessing for Two Gay Men | 184 |
| <i>Ufruf</i> Blessing for a Non-binary Couple | 185 |
| Introduction to a Transgender or Non-binary Jewish Wedding Service | 186 |
| A Contemporary Version of the <i>Sheva B’rachot</i> [A] | 188 |
| A Contemporary Version of the <i>Sheva B’rachot</i> [B] | 189 |
| Document of Separation | 190 |
| <i>Get</i> : Certificate of Decree of Divorce | 191 |
| Glossary | 193 |
| Sources | 201 |