

In Memory of Debbie Friedman, for whom we mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her passing, we celebrate the gift of music she left for all of us:

### **The Early Years**

*Shema/You Shall Love*, 1972

*V'shamru*, 1974

### **The Middle Years**

*Mi Chamocha*, 1989

*Oseh Shalom*, 1981

*Mi Shebeirach*, 1989

*Ye'vareche-cha*, 1980

### **The Late Years**

*Sow in Tears*, 2006

*Shalom Aleichem*, 2010

**Debbie Friedman (1951 – 2011)** was born in Utica, New York and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota. She had a passion for all genres of Jewish music, instrumental or vocal, that gave “voice” to the wonders of Jewish heritage and living. She enjoyed classical music including opera, symphonic and chamber music, and her early musical influences included Peter, Paul and Mary, Joan Baez, Judy Collins, and others in that genre. As did her musical forbearers, Debbie raised her voice, challenging those in positions of power and popularity and challenging the status quo. Debbie’s influence and inspiration were indelibly etched on her heart long before those musicians had their impact, however. Her mother and maternal grandparents were Debbie’s first and real inspirations. From them flowed her passion for love, justice, integrity, humor – and living Jewishly.

Debbie Friedman used music to express her Judaism. She translated and transformed prayers, Torah, Talmud, and other scholarly texts, ancient and contemporary. She brought words of heretofore lesser-known liturgical pieces, Torah portions, psalms, the prophets, and philosophers, into our every-day vernacular. Debbie began writing in the early 1970’s and continued up until her last years. She wrote many of her early songs while she was a song leader for both the Northern Federation of Temple Youth (NoFTY), Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI) in Wisconsin, and other youth organizations and camps around the country.