

*"Open the gates
of heaven,
open for us
your storehouse
of goodness."*

Yom Kippur Mahzor

Clal— The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership

Founded in 1974, Clal—The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership is a think tank, leadership training institute, and resource center. Bringing Jewish insights to a wide American audience, Clal makes Jewish wisdom an accessible public resource. A leader in religious pluralism, Clal builds bridges across communities to encourage diversity and openness. Linking Jewish texts and tradition with innovative scholarship, Clal promotes Jewish participation in American civic and spiritual life, reinvigorating communities and enhancing leadership development.

Clal's diverse faculty, with its reputation for excellence, provides cutting-edge teaching, lectures, programs, and consulting nationwide. Working with scholars, professionals, volunteer and religious leaders, Clal has earned a reputation for compelling programs that explore religious and American identity. Joining with experts from diverse fields, Clal offers new perspectives on contemporary issues, reaching influential leaders, thinkers, and practitioners. Clal's publications and resources offer thought-provoking ideas, tools, and techniques that enrich people, communities, and institutions. In all of Clal's work, it strives to build vibrant Jewish life that is engaged in the intellectual and ethical challenges of the world.

Clal— The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership:

Brings

Jewish wisdom to the American spiritual landscape and makes it a resource for all.

Builds

bridges across communities to encourage pluralism and openness.

Promotes

inclusive Jewish communities in which all voices are heard.

Nurtures

volunteer, professional and rabbinic leadership to build dynamic communities and helps people to re-imagine Jewish life.

Enhances

Jewish participation in American civic and spiritual life.



The Hebrew word for Inclusive

The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership

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***Many Voices.
Strong Communities.
One People.***

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Center for Learning and Leadership

Have you ever felt

LEFT OUT?

***Locked out by the
circumstances of your life?***

*At one time or another most of
us have. As **Yom Kippur** ends, the
final words of the day remind us
that we hold more keys than we
often imagine to the locked
places in our lives.*



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CALLED **NE'ILAH**, the locking, this service invites us to see ourselves not necessarily as those upon whom the gates of hope and possibility are closing, but as swinging shut behind us as we enter into a new year. Yom Kippur promises a fresh start. The real question is whether or not we are prepared to take it.

The Talmud (Y. Ber. 31a) teaches that *Ne'ilah* begins as the sun sets because that is when the gates of the Temple were closed. But even when those gates were closed for millennia, we were not locked out. The Rabbis opened new doors, including that of prayer—prayers like *Ne'ilah*.

Just as the past year has brought moments of pain and frustration into each of our lives, we can choose to either see ourselves as simply locked out of a better future, or as people who hold the keys to help make a better future happen.

AS **WE RISE** for the final moments of the day, consider yourself as one rising to walk through the gates of this past year and into the next. Meditating on these simple questions will prepare you to take those steps with greater purpose, meaning and joy.

What doors have closed on you this past year?

What new ones would you like to open as you move into the year ahead?

How will you prepare yourself to open those doors?

Upon whom or what can you call to help you in that process?

WHILE **THERE ARE** no guarantees about the outcomes in life, the final act in the High Holiday drama reminds us that we always have a hand in shaping our destiny.



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