

Welcome to TBZ Neila
Come as you are, surrender to this moment, open your heart
Rabbi Claudia Kreiman
Neila 5781

Neila has become over the years an unforgettable service here at TBZ. If you haven't been here, let me tell you a little bit.

During the break between Mincha and Neila, volunteers move all the chairs to the sides. Hundreds (700 or more sometimes) come into the sanctuary. Filling every space with warmth, song, and beautiful presence.

We end Yom Kippur with joy. We sing, we cry, we jump, we hug, we are close to each other, we hold glowsticks transforming this space into a colorful sanctuary full of life and joy. We cover ourselves with the tallit and cover our families and friends during the final priestly blessing. Children and adults, people who come once a year and people who are here all the time. Members of our community and people who have heard about Neila at TBZ. We are lifted up as one, knowing that we will be able to start the year with blessing and inspired.

But today is different, and I have struggled to imagine how we can bring even a bit of the experience of Neila to your homes. How can we experience the intensity we often experience- when you are on the other side of the screen.

I said in Rosh Hashanah, I miss you. Today -- for sure.

Even with this amazing davening team and John behind the cameras, and all the technology that - thank God has gone with no major glitches - we will not be able to bring the TBZ Neila experience to your home. Perhaps it is a moment to practice Hod, acceptance, surrender. As I said last night at times, we need to practice Hod, and at times we need to practice Netzach, tenacity and effort.

So - Tonight, we practice *Hod* - acceptance. We open ourselves to this moment, as it is, for what is and not for what isn't.

I invite you for a few moments to close your eyes, and imagine yourself in the sanctuary.

Come inside.

Be here.

Feel the people around you, hear their voices.

Embrace their shoulders,

Hold their hands.

Be here.

Accept this moment with grace and sweetness.

Perhaps if we can end Yom Kippur with an open heart to accept that which we can not change, then we may be able to find the strength and the courage to change that which we can.

The Gates are open, for us to come fully as we are, to this moment to this space, from wherever you are.