ELUL STORIES
Sharing our stories, sharing lives, creating community

Elul is the month leading up to Rosh HaShanah. Each day during the month, a different Temple Beth Torah congregant will share an Ethical Will or portion of one in order to help us prepare for this season of self reflection and personal growth.

Appreciation
Ruth Broitman

To my father:

My ethical legacy was passed down to me by my father. It is his values and beliefs that I wish to remember and give to my children.

My father was a skilled carpenter, a trade that he learned in his home in Poland. After the war, he owned a small hand made furniture store in the Bronx. He created beautiful pieces, worked very hard, even carrying furniture on his back up flights of steps. Those were the easier things.

He never said a negative word to anyone in the family or to any of his customers. He was always gracious with a generosity of spirit which we all remember.

My dad grew up without a car and without any technology. These were all a mystery to him and he marveled at them. I took him shopping one day and pulled into a parking spot. (How hard is that?). He got out, stood there and admired my parking skills and drew a small crowd. My dad admired everything my brother and I did. His ability to admire, appreciate and express his love that way has always stayed in my heart.

I hope my children will always remember their grandfather and learn from him and hopefully the things he taught me.

L’Dor Va Dor- From Generation to Generation,
Ruth

Ruth Broitman has been a temple member for 23 years. She and her husband Stan and have two grown children, Tamara and Adam. Ruth sings with our temple choir and is the owner/director of Just Wee Two pre-nursery program. This piece is dedicated to her father, Harry Szmulewicz.

Would you like to share your Elul Story? Write an ethical will, in the form of a letter, a story or a collections of sayings. Include the "gifts" you would like to leave to your family focusing on the values and character traits which you feel are most important. Send it in its entirety or send a section of it to: ravsusie@gmail.com. If you missed any of the previous Elul Stories you can go to www.tbtiny.org (media galleries/elul stories).