L'Dor V'Dor - A Loving Legacy
Maxine Roeper Cohen

To my cherished children, David, Dana, and Sherri, and my sweet grandsons, Ari Daniel and Micah Samuel, I leave it to you to determine my legacy when I am no longer here to enjoy love and laughter with you. For now, I strive to keep your grandparents'/great-grandparents' core values and traits alive and meaningful for you.

Your grandma, Mildred Roeper, was full of love. Family came first, no matter what. She embodied caring, compassion, and reverence for all life, human, animal and plant. She raised your Uncle Ken and me to believe in ourselves, to have confidence, to walk with strength and energy, and to meet life with a smile and a wink. Humor was in her soul and made each day so much fun. She expected us to study and learn, make ourselves well rounded people, and have a good time as well. She lovingly nudged us to be people oriented and to clearly communicate our passions and ideals. She would encourage you to believe in yourselves, in your inherent goodness, and in your capacity to reach out to make a difference in this world. Hold family close and always be there for each other! Face each day with energy, purpose, compassion and appreciation.

Your grandpa, Daniel Roeper, was the epitome of strength and bravery, yet this was coupled with a gentleness of spirit towards everyone he met. Serving in the Navy during World War 11, followed by a career as a lieutenant in the NYC Fire Department, he always smiled and made the most of each day, never complaining or sharing what must have been some scary times. He was our teacher, our exemplar of patience, tact, and respect. He was our booster and our adventure leader. He was a man who ran into burning buildings and also made baby formula and changed his infants' diapers in a time when most
men wouldn't think of doing those things. He would teach you all to hold no stereotypes, show no prejudice, have ambition, study hard to succeed, and show respect and patience to all you meet. See your glasses as half full and strive to fill them to the brim!

There is so much more to share about your amazing grandparents, and I will continue to share their legacy with you. I am so proud of all of you! May you live healthy, joyous, service oriented, and meaningful lives. May you respect and appreciate each day that is given to you with optimism, purpose, and a positive outlook. May you always feel enveloped and bolstered by our family values and unending love.

Maxine and Larry Cohen are long time members of TBT and Dix Hills residents for more than 30 years. Maxine loves singing in the TBT Choir, and works for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. Their children and grandchildren light up their lives with joy, love, and fun.

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.tbtny.org (media galleries/elul stories).