**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.*

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### Keep it Simple

Dana Block

It's been 3 1/2 years since my father passed. Losing him was the hardest thing that has happened in my life. You can ask my husband, my father was the guy I called for everything. Something needed to be fixed, I needed advice, whatever it was I called him (and thankfully, my husband understood).

To say my father only left me one piece of advice would be a lie. He left me so much more than that. He left me his legacy. He was a kind and generous man who touched more lives than he even realized. I've had so many people tell me how wonderful my dad was and all I can say is, I know.

The one thing he always said was "keep it simple". He tried to keep life uncomplicated but enjoyed it to the fullest. He worked hard, loved with all his heart, and made sure everyone was ok. He was everyone's go-to guy.

This time of year is an especially hard one. The high holidays were always (and still are) a time when my whole family would get together. And the temple has been our home for as long as I can remember. Yesterday was my father's birthday. We still get together for the high holidays and we still celebrate my dad.

Life without him was a big adjustment for everyone in my family. With his voice always in the back of my mind I keep him alive for me and for my children. While they will never truly know the great man that he was, I will always do my best to help them understand.

*Dana Block has three children (Evan, Samantha and Daniel) with her*
husband, David. She has been a part of the temple her whole life because of her parents, Lynda and Henry. This Elul is dedicated to her father.

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).