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.

If you see something, do something. Take the initiative!
Sandy Cohen

My mother was handicapped and used a wheelchair in the last few years of her life.
The bad news and the good news was that in 1974 my mother was diagnosed with Stage 4 uterine cancer. The treatment at that time was for my mother to have a uterine radiation implant for 48 hours followed by 32 radiation treatments. The treatment regimen saved my mother’s life, and she was able to live another 20 years following the cancer diagnosis. However, the radiation caused multiple health issues too numerous and personal to enumerate here.
I do, though, want to focus on what it is like to use a wheelchair and be the caregiver/driver of a car for someone in a wheelchair. It is not easy, and so many insensitive and uncaring people make the experience unbearable. I am sure that you are thinking how easy it is today because there are so many handicapped parking spaces. Yes, that is true, but it is also usually where the empty spaces are located and where it is so easy to drop off your own shopping cart rather than walk the cart to a designated area.
Do you have any idea how difficult it is to maneuver a car around shopping carts when you are handicapped? Try it someday and see why my ethical request is for you to take the initiative when you are in a shopping center and move each and every cart so that you can help a handicapped person park their car in their designated parking space without any impediments.
Together, with just one small act of kindness, we can do so much for a handicapped person. Thank you.
In loving memory of my mother, Evelyn O. Kaplan, whose memorial plaque is displayed with great comfort for me in our Temple Sanctuary.
Sandy and her husband, Ira, have been members of Temple Beth Torah for over 30+ years. Our daughter and son-in-law, Jodi and Brian Bezack and our grandchildren, Emma and Aidan, are also members of Temple Beth Torah. Our son and daughter-in-law, Seth and Lauren Cohen, and our grandchildren, Alex and Maya, reside in Livingston, New Jersey, and are members of Temple B’Nai Abraham.

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: raysusie@gmail.com
If you missed any of the previous Elul Stories you can go to www.tbtny.org (media galleries/elul stories).