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.

We still need a few more stories. I'm looking forward to sharing my ethical will with you on Erev Rosh HaShana. Send yours today. ravsusie@gmail.com.

Give While the Flowers Smell Sweet
Marvin Milich

"The Antiquity of Errors Is No Excuse For Their Perpetuity"
-- Herbert Peterfreund, Professor, NYU School Of Law, 1971

Professor Peterfreund spoke these words to my class in New York Practice during my senior year at NYU Law, and I have never forgotten them. I have tried to live both my professional and personal lives remembering not to accept things just because that's the way they have always been done. I have the reputation of being "brutally honest", and that has gotten me into trouble on more than one occasion. It is my tenacity and perseverance that has helped me gain some modicum of success. It is this principle that I try to impart to my children and grandchildren as well as to the students I teach and/or advise at Queens College.

My father understood me probably better than anyone else. He passed six years ago and would have been 100 last month. He instilled a work ethic in me for which I will always be eternally grateful. I always try to work hard, but I also like to play hard. His beautiful expression to "give while the flowers smell sweet" also rings in my head constantly. Being married to one of the most generous people on the planet, allows us to fulfill his wish on almost a daily basis.
My wish for my family is that they live a life of honesty, integrity, spirituality, and kindness to all. Happy New Year !!!

Marvin has been a member of TBT for the past 20 years and was previously on the Board of Trustees. He is married to the former Judi Kaplan, long time member and for Trustee of TBT. Together they have six children and twelve grandchildren.

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.tbt ny.org (media galleries/elul stories).