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.

The Sum of Our Parts
Nina Sitron

To my dear children Josh, Andy, Jennifer, and my precious granddaughter Wavy,

It's been my good fortune to grow and develop in life, to learn from the ups and downs that I've experienced. There's so much in my heart for you, and this ethical will is one way I can bequeath to you my values (what I believe matters in life & the kind of people I know we can be).

Some of the lessons I've learned from our sweet relatives, all of whom have added to the fabric of my life:

- From grandma Ester: be generous, care for those less fortunate
- From poppy Samuel: stand up for your principles
- From nana Eva: hold on to your family, no matter what
- From my mother Yetta: be curious, have big dreams for life, & never give up—anything is possible,
- From my father Arthur: add fun, discipline, & great hope to life
- From my Uncle Joe: honor people and you'll have a magical life
- From my Aunt Tessie: hard work is worth it
- From my Uncle Dave: be Young at Heart
- From my cousin Joe: where there's a will, there's a way

And from me, more principles that I've embraced along my journey:

- Look at life as an adventure, and be an open and willing explorer
Each new adventure bestows unpredictable gifts
Be willing to look at any area of your life where you're stopped or stuck, and find a way to break through. Never stop growing!
Understand your gifts and share them with the world
Believe in yourself
Care for those you love and be forgiving

I hope and pray that you have absorbed some of these by osmosis, and that by reading this Ethical Will, you will embrace even more of them.

Love always, Mom/Grammy

Nina Sitron has been a member of TBT since 1980. She nows lives in Northampton, Mass, thrilled to be able to share the growing-up years with her granddaughter. Over the years, as Nina volunteered at TBT, she developed skills she never imagined possible, and they stand her in good stead always. She is so grateful for that life-training!

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