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 respond to the question:

What is the best gift you have ever received?

Editor's note: Judy and Jill had such similar stories that I wanted to share them together. They both remind us of the influence of grandparents and the power of small gifts. SHM

A Jewish Star Necklace
Judy Roth

The best gift I ever received was a tiny gold Star of David. My great grandparents, Minnie and Charles Lapidus, gave it to me when I was 5 years old. They gave it to me and told me how wonderful and special it is to be Jewish. This gift gave me a deep love of Judaism which sustains me to this day.

Jill Oliver
I didn't have the opportunity to know my grandfather very well. However, toward the end of his life, he sat me on his lap and presented me with my first Jewish Star necklace. I can't recall his words but the moment was impactful. He explained his love for me, the importance of being Jewish and the significance of wearing the necklace. He wanted me to understand the importance of pursuing a spiritual life.

Judy Roth has been a member of TBT for over 30 years but has become an active member over the last few years, becoming an Adult Bat Mitzvah this past fall and a mainstay of TLC@TBT cooking and delivering meals to families in need of assistance.

Jill Oliver and her husband Bill joined TBT this year. Jill is a teacher in
Queens, a profession which allowed her to fulfill a lifelong passion. She is hoping to get more involved in TBT.

Would you like to share your Elul Story? Answer the question: What is the best gift you have ever received? You can interpret the word gift very liberally - a moment, a thing, a find, advice, a surprise. Send it to me at: ravsusie@gmail.com.
If you missed any of the previous Elul Stories you can go to www.tbtny.org (media galleries/elul stories).