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?

Making Room for More Love

Carl Moskowitz

As the years have past I have been complacent about the many gifts I have received over the years and even have taken them for granted. But Rabbi Susie's challenge to think of the best gave me the opportunity to look over the years and think about those gifts.

My best gifts started 60 years ago when I met a women who three years later became my wife. For 57 years Marcia has been by my side, sharing both the joys and sorrows life thrust upon us. The gifts grew with the birth of our two sons Steven and Michael who added so much to our lives and who have taught me so much through the years. But there was a time when the three of them gave me a gift I never will forget and cherish. It was in October 1976, after Marcia returned from visiting my parents in Florida where my father was terminally ill and in a nursing home, that she said we have to bring him to our home in New Jersey. She didn't ask for permission or what I thought of the idea, it was a statement of what we were going to do.

The arrangements were made for transportation and the boys helped
prepare one of the guest rooms for my dad and the other for my mom. My father stayed with us for six weeks or so before passing on December 12. During that time, Steven and Michael took turns visiting with him, cooking him his favorite breakfast and making sure my mother was OK. And Marcia stood by my side when I came home from work and talked with my dad. The support and love the boys gave was beyond what one would expect from 12 and 9 year olds as was the compassion and love Marcia showered on him.

The gift of having my father spend his last weeks in a house of love instead of a Florida nursing home was a gift both to my parents and me that I can never repay.

_Carl Moskowitz is Rabbi Susie Moskowitz’s father-in-law and has been connected with TBT for over 20 years. He is an avid volunteer at Shaare Emeth Congregation in St. Louis and with many civic organizations there. He does a weekly food pick up for soup kitchen and rides with the Red Cross. He has amazing grandchildren!_

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).

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