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?

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**The Bracelet**

*Jan Sheinkopf*

I could write about all those non-tangible gifts which we acquire with maturity and experience, like patience, tolerance, and non-attachment, but I'm not going to. This is about a tangible gift—a handmade brass bracelet. A man named Steve made it, an artist and designer who showed his work at a local market in Charlestown Rhode Island. I loved the bracelet, and Steve asked me if I made things as well. I told him I painted. Steve told me to keep the bracelet and to gift him a painting when I was ready. The next week, I brought him a painting I did of an osprey in a tree. He loved it and we became good friends. That was about eight years ago.

Last year, our daughter Laura got married to our son in law, Mark. Steve made their rings by melting down gold rings from both families. It symbolically represented combining both Laura and Mark's past, and creating a future.

When I met Steve, I was amazed at how he could gift me the bracelet, without really knowing me at all. I felt honored that he had complete trust in me.
We see the spark of God in each other. The bracelet gave me the opportunity to give the spark back, and see it grow a thousand times more.

Jan Sheinkopf and her husband Paul have been members of TBT for 24 years. Jan is a painter and a gardener. In Rhode Island she volunteers at the community garden that provides food for a local shelter. When she is on Long Island she is a weekly volunteer at the Mercy INN soup kitchen.

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