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 a High Holiday reflection to help us prepare for this season of prayer, repentance and tzedakah.

Now I Belong
Ruth Broitman

My parents were Holocaust survivors. After the war they turned away from their faith but not from their strong connection to being Jewish. As a child I eagerly anticipated the arrival of the High Holidays. I got to go shopping and buy a new dress and a new pair of shoes and have a delicious dinner. I walked back and forth to the temple in our neighborhood in the Bronx but never went in. I was drawn to the music and prayers I could hear from the outside but never had any Jewish education.

As an adult my family always belonged to a temple. My son and daughter were educated and had a Bar and Bat mitzvah. I never felt fully connected to the temple we belonged to at that time.

In 2010 at the age of 63 everything changed for me. I enrolled in an adult Bat Mitzvah class at Temple Beth Torah. I learned to read the letters, follow the service and to sing the songs. Now I attend all High Holiday services and sing with the choir. I still buy a new outfit and cook a traditional dinner, but now the feeling of longing to belong is gone. I am a part of my heritage and linked to the family that was lost.

Thank-you Rabbi Moskowitz and Temple Beth Torah

Ruth Broitman - wife of Stan - mother of Tami and Adam - Temple member for 20 years - very busy owner and director of a pre-school.

Would you like to share your story? It can be a High Holiday memory, a first experience or a ritual that is special to you at this time of year. Send your stories
If you missed any of the previous Elul Stories you can go to [www.tbny.org](http://www.tbny.org) (media galleries/elul stories).