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.

Love and Remembrance
Ellen Rodis

Jerry and I had just started to date when he called to tell me that his sister had given birth. Jayne was a beautiful baby and a joy to her family. When she began to talk she called me Elu. Jerry and I were married when Jayne was three years old. As we stood under the chupah with our family the rabbi said the date of the wedding, which was in the month of Elul. We all quietly laughed.

Jayne grew to be a lovely woman but tragically, she died too young from a brain tumor. As we approach Elul our memories of Jayne come forward and thoughts of those happy days are diminished by our loss.

As children Jerry and I attended the religious school at the Free Synagogue of Flushing. We raised our children in Woodbury, were members of North Shore Synagogue and educated our children there. Almost twenty five years ago we joined TBT. Our children are raising their children as Reform Jews and we are happy to have passed on to them the heritage we received from our parents.

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 to ravsusie@gmail.com.
If you missed any of the previous Elul Stories you can go to www.tbtny.org (media galleries/elul stories).