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.

My Growth With Judaism
Ronee Packer Baldwin

My grandparents were orthodox. What this meant to me was going to shul for 5 minutes with my grandmother, getting dressed up and playing with my cousins, making rugelach with my grandmother and not being able to color on Saturdays.

My parents were conservative. To me this meant trying to remember not to use the wrong dishes, tearing the toilet paper to prepare for erev Yom Kippur and walking around in the dark.

My son was a Bar Mitzvah but being in temple did not mean very much to me.

Three years ago things changed, when I met Marvin Broitman. I started going to services at Temple Beth Torah and felt like I was part of a family. I wanted to learn more and enrolled in class at the Y to learn Hebrew and the history of the Jewish people. My thirst for Judaism became stronger and I became a Bat Mitzvah in 2013. I continued with Hebrew classes at Temple Beth Torah and try to follow the prayers during services. I still have much to learn and hope to fulfill my quest for knowledge by taking more courses at TBT and becoming involved with my new family of TBT clergy and congregants.

I have two wonderful children, David and Michelle, and one scrumptious
granddaughter and a wonderful life partner, Marvin. I am retired from my Assistant Dean position after 28 years at Stony Brook. I now work part time for Hadassah.

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