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.

Home is Where the Heart Is
Claire Zukerman-Leinheardt

As a young girl, I grew up in a reform synagogue, Temple Israel in Lawrence. My family was active in the temple. While I did not have a Bat Mitzvah, I was confirmed. My family moved to Melville in the fall of 1970. In 1971 we attended High Holiday services at TBT at Suffolk Developmental School. The services were familiar to me, but mostly I remember the president's speech. David Feller said "I have a dream"! It was all about the future for Temple Beth Torah. I was an activist and immediately "hooked"! We needed to build a temple for the growing Jewish population and for our community.

The Zukerman family was fortunate; we found a home at TBT. Our little house on Carman Road held Shabbat services and King of Kings was our place of worship for B’nai Mitzvot. We were 100 families strong and growing. I immediately became active and soon was president of Sisterhood. Our team worked hard. We grew together, raised money together and became a family. My three children (Jeffrey, Steven and Amy) had their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs here and all were confirmed. I worked on the fund raising committee for Phases I, 2 & 3. I served on the Board for 18 years. Unfortunately, due to life's circumstances, I am no longer an active member, but my heart and soul will always be close.

Claire Zukerman-Leinheardt has moved from Melville to Manhasset with her husband Wally. They are still members and will always be connected to TBT. The Youth Lounge is named in memory of her son Jeffrey Zukerman.
and a Youth Leadership award is given in his memory each year.

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.tbteny.org (media galleries/ehul stories).