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.

What My Father, the Doctor, Taught Me
Susan Zeide

When I grew up people didn't make doctors appointments. They didn't know when they were going to get sick!!!!! Patients just showed up at dad's office... holidays, weekends, family gatherings etc. were not spared. Sick people had to be seen... was the take-away lesson. We were taught that being Jewish was to live a righteous life... to help others, to give back, to be kind, to be generous, to leave the world a better place. Compassion and empathy are goals. One minute of pain, feels like an hour, while one hour of joy feels like a minute. So I learned that helping people and genuine caring were the most important aspects of Judaism. To reach that purpose, what you do is more important than what you say you will do.

Susan and her husband or enjoying their recent retirement.

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).