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.

Lighting Candle, Making Connections
Meryl Givner

One of the things we do every Yom Kippur is light Yahrzeit candles for those who have passed away. As we name the person we say something special about him or her. Not only do I light candles for immediate family that has passed away - my parents, grandparents, brother-but also for those relatives I never knew such as my Aunt Ana. Aunt Ana died young and didn't have children of her own to light a candle for her.

I once had a conversation with my father about dates on the calendar. It was after my mother died so I was already an adult. I told him that when you’re young those dates which have meaning for you are your birthday and the birthdays of your family members. As you get older more dates take on meaning. We discussed how I was happy my mother didn't die on my nephew's wedding day or my birthday. He told me that his sister Ana died on Yom Kippur. That really hit home as she is the one I light the candle for each Yom Kippur.

Meryl and her husband David have been Temple members for more than 3 decades with their children Michael and Sarah. We have enjoyed TBT and have made many lasting friendships. We look forward to Rabbi Moskowitz's leadership.

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.tbttny.org](http://www.tbttny.org) (media galleries/elul stories).