

EDUCATION

The holidays are over, and I find myself thinking about what the coming year will bring and how I will meet the challenges put before me. A recent discussion during our Friday Torah Study really resonated with me on this topic.

The section we were discussing spoke about sacrifice. To paraphrase: "Don't bring me a blemished calf, better you should bring me nothing at all." At first pass, it seemed that G-d was saying "If it's not perfect, don't bother," but after reading it through and discussing it, we came to the conclusion that it meant "Bring me your best or don't bother." What is the difference between the two? I think the first talks about going through the motions and fulfilling an obligation or ticking off a box, with no real intent. The second speaks of commitment, giving the best of yourself and what you have. Isn't that what we should always bring with us? Our best?

When parents are reminded that their child needs to continue to prepare for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah, their immediate concern is that their child has school work and so many activities, how can they possibly get it all in? Are they going to embarrass themselves on the bimah? Absolutely not. Rabbi Jay and Cantor Micah will never let that happen! When we push our students to practice, we are not looking for perfection, we are looking for that commitment, so that when the day comes for them to lead the service, they are the best that they are capable of being.

We have so many things going on that require our attention, it's easy to tick off those boxes or to do things halfway, but if we don't give it our best, why bother doing it at all? Because these things are important to us, it is why they are on our to-do list to begin with.

So, this year I will look at my to-do list, I will need to reprioritize, make some sacrifices and set realistic expectations for myself. After all, perfection is not in the cards for most of us; we can only do our best, and that in itself is an accomplishment.

L'shalom,
Morah Amy

OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER:

- October 1 No Religious School
- October 7-8 No Religious School
- October 14 3rd Grade Chavurah: Bronx Zoo/Schiff Tichon Sinai
- October 20 Family Shabbat Program
- October 21 6th Grade Chavurah: JFS Food collection
- October 28 5th Grade Chavurah: Tzedakah Box
Schiff Tichon Sinai
- October 29 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Orientation