

SHABBAT MESSAGE  
JULY 1, 2022



Hi Everyone,

I hope you've had a great week! In my last Shabbat message, I paid tribute to our outgoing board chair Jamie Pious, and introduced you to our new board chair, Harris Chorney. Today, I'd like to pay tribute to you, because without all of you, and without all of your support, there would be no community.

We have accomplished so much work over the last year—*because of you*. By now you know that our community raised more than \$250,000 to support relief efforts for the people of Ukraine. In the last year, we also launched a micro-grant program to encourage greater collaboration, connection, and innovation in the community. The program had so much success that we will be doubling the amount of funding available in the year ahead. We're also rethinking how we approach our relationships with overseas communities. We've focused on building partnerships between our local agencies and partners in three regions, Afula-Gilboa in Israel, Warsaw, Poland, and Rosario, Argentina. We're building people-to-people connections between our Rhode Island community and these communities, living into our value of *K'lal Yisrael*.

And this year we enhanced the way that we tell the story of Rhode Island's Jewish community. We know that today people consume media in a variety of ways, and if we want to tell the story of our community to the entire community, we must embrace these new methods. It's why last year we launched our first podcast series, *Chutzpah!* and *Breakout Sessions*. And I'm excited that later this summer, we'll be launching our third podcast, *Breaking the Glass*, which focuses on the lived experience of multi-faith couples as they navigate the space where faith and relationships intersect. And this coming year you can expect more podcasts, and expanded video content as well.

These are just a few examples of the great work you made possible this year, and these examples aren't just innovation for innovation's sake. In each case, we're responding to what our community has told us they are looking for. Our strategic plan focuses on building connections, collaboration, and social action and security because the community set those priorities. Together, we are finding ways to be bold, to innovate, to build our 21st century Jewish community.

This work only happens because of you. Thank you for believing in our community, and for investing in our community, and thank you in advance for your continued investment.

In this message I spent a lot of time looking back at the last year. But it's also about *Kadima*, about moving forward. It's about dreaming about a future where our Jewish community is strong, vibrant, and thriving. I am so proud of all we have done together, and I could not be more excited for what comes next. I know that where our community is going is not a dream. It's possible. It's possible because of all of you, because together there is nothing we cannot accomplish. *Kadima B'Yachad*. Forward together.

Until next time, I wish you a safe, peaceful, and joyous Shabbat.

Shabbat Shalom!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam".

Adam Greenman  
President & CEO