

SHABBAT MESSAGE MARCH 26, 2021



Hi Everyone.

I hope you've had a great week! This weekend marks the beginning of Passover, and I want to wish all of you a wonderful holiday. With the exception of the years when Passover falls on my birthday — meaning substandard cake — it has always been my favorite holiday. Which is why I was overjoyed when a few weeks ago, my youngest daughter Norah, randomly said it was her favorite holiday as well. I think some of the reason for her love of Passover comes from our family's connection to PJ Library.

For those who don't have young children or grandchildren, you may not be familiar with PJ Library, but it's one of the Alliance's most popular programs and it exists only because of donor support. Each month, the Alliance, in partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, sends high-quality, age-appropriate books with a Jewish theme to 750 children throughout Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts — at no charge to participating families. For many families, the books provide an easy entry point to Judaism, with conversations starting during the sweet bedtime moments where we share stories together.

PJ Library is also an easy entry point to our local Jewish community. Before I joined the Alliance, PJ Library books were a gateway for our family — to our faith and our community — and they were always good for a recipe or two. In fact, our recipe for Fried Matzah came from the book, *A Sweet Passover*, which we learned to make during a Passover cooking event. PJ Library provides families with many engaging programs and opportunities throughout the year to celebrate and enhance Jewish life. Our programs are inclusive of all, regardless of Jewish affiliation. We also help connect families with other Jewish organizations and experiences, if desired, to promote ongoing learning and community building.

PJ Library books and programs highlight and celebrate the diversity of the Jewish community, and we want to make them available to even more families across greater Rhode Island. Our goal is to expand access to 1,000 children per month, and to do that **we need your help**. We are working to raise \$150,000 over the next three months to expand PJ Library. The effort kicks off April 1st, on 401Gives Day, a day of giving spearheaded by United Way of Rhode Island to support nonprofits throughout the state. We'd love if you'd consider a gift to support this valuable and beloved program. Just \$36 provides books for a child for one year. You can give before April 1, by clicking the link included in this e-mail—just select "PJ Library" from the dropdown menu. We will also be sending out an email the morning of April 1 with a direct link to the 401Gives Day website. **Thank you in advance for helping to share the gift of PJ Library!**

Together, we can give families in our community the chance to read together, learn together, strengthen their Jewish identity, and connect to our community.

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

Shabbat Shalom!

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

Adam Greenman
President & CEO