

SHABBAT MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 10, 2021



Hi Everyone!

I hope you had a great week, and a wonderful Rosh Hashanah! It's hard to believe that tomorrow is the 20th anniversary of the September 11th attacks. Like everyone else, I remember exactly where I was that day. I remember walking out of my apartment building for an early morning class and remarking to myself what a beautiful late summer day it was in Washington, DC. I remember sitting in class when the building we were in shook slightly. Looking at others, we had a brief moment of puzzlement on our faces before going back to our work. I remember about ten minutes later when someone came in to tell us what had happened in New York and that we should all head back to our dorms or apartments. I remember returning to my apartment with a beautiful view of the Potomac River to see the Pentagon ablaze and the relief in my mom's voice when I finally got through to let her know I was okay, because at that moment there were reports of an explosion at the State Department, two blocks from my apartment. I remember.

September 11, 2001 is seared in my memory. It has defined so much of my adult life, and was a turning point for so many. All of us mourned for those lost, but for those in our community who lost a loved one in the terrorist attacks, that mourning continues. I thought of September 11, 2001 during Rosh Hashanah services this week. Rabbi Voss-Altman opened the Temple Habonim service with a reminder of the power of living in the present. The opportunity that exists in *hayom*, today. The reflection in our prayer book reminded us that the High Holy Day liturgy says over and over again how important it is to live for today.

Even as the memory of September 11th lives on for all of us, we should also remember how important it is to live in the present. To cherish family, friendships, and community. To work together to make a better world. As we experience these days of awe together, I hope we all take a moment to reflect on the past, but that we find time to live in the moment. To live for today.

Until next time, I wish you a safe, peaceful, and joyous Shabbat and an easy, meaningful fast.

Shabbat Shalom!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam".

Adam Greenman
President & CEO