

SHABBAT MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 23, 2022



Hi Everyone,

I hope you've had a great week! On Sunday night, many of us will gather around tables across the region for the start of Rosh Hashanah, our new year. It begins the period of the High Holidays that we have been preparing for during the last month. And for many of us that preparation involves taking stock of the previous year before we look ahead to the next. We often ask ourselves how we personally measured up, what we did well, and perhaps because it is always in the front of our minds, where we fell short or could have done better.

I had a milestone birthday this year, so I've been taking stock pretty much the entire year. Thinking about the things I'm most proud of and the things I did many years ago that still make me cringe. But I've also been taking stock of what our community has done over the last year. We have much to be proud of, as I've shared in previous messages. Whether it's the way we've emerged from Covid, the way that we have battled antisemitism, or the ways that we have helped and supported Ukrainian refugees, we've done so much to improve not only our Jewish community, but communities across Rhode Island, and across the world.

But taking stock also means looking at where we can improve, where we can do better in the new year. The last few years have been incredibly hard on all of us. The pandemic, economic uncertainty, and a combative political environment have frayed our nerves and our patience at times. And because we've been forced to stay separate, we've forgotten that we can still lean on each other, especially now as we come back together.

Every week I take a look at the Alliance's strategic plan, "Here For Good." I look at it to remind myself of the critical work we must accomplish and to make sure we are on the right track toward that goal. Building community and bringing community together are such a major part of the plan. As is creating more opportunities for people and organizations to come together in collaboration to make our community stronger.

In the coming year, we are going to double down on that work, because it is more critical than ever. But a strong community requires all of us. As you are taking stock over the next week or so, and as you look ahead to the new year, I'd ask you to think about the role you play in helping to make this community stronger and more vibrant. How can you connect in? What ways can you participate? If we all do that, I know that 5783 will be our community's best year yet.

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

Shabbat Shalom, and *Shanah Tovah*!

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

Adam Greenman
President & CEO