

SHABBAT MESSAGE
May 21, 2021



Hi Everyone.

I hope you've had a good week. Last weekend my family and I took our first extended trip since getting vaccinated. We travelled to Washington, DC to see friends we hadn't seen in over a year, and to explore. And on Monday, we had the incredible privilege to be among the first ten people to experience the reopened US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Though I've been before, this experience was like none I have ever had. Normally, the crowds make it difficult to see everything, and even harder to reflect on what you are seeing. Those distractions were gone, and I was able to think about things in ways that I was unable to in the past. What struck me most during this visit was America's response to the Holocaust, before, during, and after. Again and again, anti-Semitism at home created a lack of empathy for those facing atrocities abroad. Even after the war, Jewish American organizations like the American Jewish Committee needed to plead and beg for the US to admit more survivors and even then, received pushback.

This got me thinking about the importance of empathy, something the world could use more of today. Too often, we fail to step into someone else's shoes and try to see things from their point of view. But doing so can reveal so much. It may not change our mind, but it could change our perspective. Since Hamas began firing rockets into Israel earlier this month, I've heard from many community members, all very passionate about their views on what is happening in the conflict and what our community should do about it. Often the folks I have spoken with have very different views from each other. At the Alliance, we've provided people the tools to take action as they see fit, whether it's providing financial support to victims, contacting their representatives, or seeking out opportunities to learn more.

As we head into Shabbat, let's all pledge to have a little more empathy. And let's pray for the Israeli and Palestinian victims. Let's remember that each victim has a story, a perspective, and if we seek to learn more about each other's experiences, the world can be a better place.

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

Shabbat Shalom!

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

Adam Greenman
President & CEO