

**SHABBAT MESSAGE
DECEMBER 3, 2021**



Hi Everyone!

I hope you've had a great week, and are enjoying Hanukkah as much as I am. Given the holiday, it makes sense that I've been thinking a lot this week about miracles. It can be easy, given the seemingly constant stream of negative news in our world, to be cynical about miracles and question their existence. That miracles are best left for stories about temples and oil that happened long ago. But all week I've been reflecting on the miracles—big and small—that happen in our lives every day.

I think about the miracle of vaccines that have made it possible for so many of us to gather together once again—allowing me to see my whole family in person last week. Despite the pandemic, I think about the fact that our community is strong. We have more people moving here because of our thriving Jewish community, with growing day schools and with greater collaboration among all of our Jewish institutions. And I'd be lying if I didn't say that I think it's a miracle that we have so many donut options to choose from here in Rhode Island to celebrate Hanukkah right!

At their core, miracles are about belief and about faith. I think we all wish we had total control over events and circumstances. But if the last 19 months have taught us anything, it is that many things are beyond our control. Like so many people during the pandemic, I became obsessed with the show *Ted Lasso*. So much so, that one of my colleagues got me this shirt as a Hanukkah present this year. The show follows an American football coach who moves to England to coach a Premier League soccer team. But the show is really about the concept of belief. It doesn't shy away from difficult topics, but this notion of believing in each other and of having faith that things will work out, is central to every episode and is the essence of the *Ted Lasso* character.

The show brought me light during a dark time. And while things can still feel pretty dark in our world, I'd encourage us all to look for the light in these last few days of Hanukkah. Think about the everyday miracles, both big and small, in your life and within our community, and let's all choose to focus on the light. If we do that, I have faith that our community's best days are still ahead of us.

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

Shabbat Shalom!

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

Adam Greenman
President & CEO