Hi Everyone,

I hope you’ve had a great week! This weekend, we begin our celebration of Hanukkah at a time where the power of that holiday could not be more important. Each year, the Festival of Lights is a reminder of the power of miracles and a reminder that, sadly, throughout our history as a people, we have been targeted. In the last few months, many of my Shabbat messages have talked about the concern we have as a community about rising antisemitism. Today, I’m excited to share that there is something we can all do about it.

This year our entire Jewish community is engaged in the “Shine a Light on Antisemitism” campaign. It’s simple. We are asking Rhode Islanders to color in a Menorah and place it in their window during Hanukkah to show solidarity with the Jewish community during this time of rising antisemitism. You may have seen the Menorah on the back page of Jewish Rhode Island this month or the full-page version that appeared in The Providence Journal last weekend. There is also copy available for download on our website, jewishallianceri.org. Our hope is that this travels far beyond the community, and that our neighbors, colleagues, and friends outside of the Jewish community also participate. So please share the campaign far and wide. Just as we have the custom of placing Menorah’s in our window to share the light with others, this year others can place these Menorah’s in their windows to share their light with us. We hope you will join us in this effort.

And we hope you will join us for one of the many Hanukkah celebrations happening throughout our community in the next week. I know many synagogues are hosting celebrations, and we’ll be joining the City of Providence for their second annual “Hannukah Spectaculah.” This Sunday, from 3:00 – 6:00pm next to the skating rink in downtown Providence, we’ll have music, food, dancing, and games to celebrate together and to invite others to share in the joy with us. More information can be found in the link provided in the email.

This Hanukkah we must remember that even in times of stress and concern for our community, it is the joy of our people that sustains us. We must continue to find these opportunities for celebration and for joy. And we must never lose sight of the light.

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

Shabbat Shalom!

Adam Greenman
President & CEO