

SHABBAT MESSAGE
MAY 20, 2022



Hi Everyone,

I hope you've had a good week! Last weekend saw another horrific shooting, motivated by hate. Our hearts go out to the families of the victims and to the entire Buffalo community, all of whom are still reeling. We know that the shooter was motivated by a racist and antisemitic ideology, and we must double down on our efforts to fight all forms of hatred here in Rhode Island. The Alliance continues to work with its partners in the faith community and beyond to do just that, and I'll have more to share soon.

It can be easy to look at events like the one in Buffalo and grow discouraged about our future. But sometimes when the world seems so dark, we must look for the light more closely. For me, that often comes from family. Tomorrow is my daughter Alexandria's bat mitzvah, and I'm filled with so many emotions. There's overwhelming joy in having the opportunity to watch her achieve this milestone surrounded by her family and friends. There's immense pride in seeing the amount of work and practice she has put into each prayer and Torah verse to ensure it's just right. There's gratitude to Rabbi Voss-Altman and David Perolman who have supported her through her training. And if I'm honest, there's disbelief that I have a daughter old enough to become a *bat mitzvah*.

And that's the thing. It seems like just yesterday we were bringing Alexandria home from the hospital. Just yesterday, I was teaching her how to ride a bike. Just yesterday, she started school, and just yesterday that she had her first day of summer camp at the JCC, which also happened to be my very first day here at the Alliance.

As a dad, it has been so incredible to have a front row seat, watching the amazing kid Alexandria has become. I've seen her demonstrate such empathy and compassion for helping others near and far. It was Alex who shared at the dinner table that as a family we need to find a way to help people in Ukraine. And her fierce advocacy around the need for climate action has led to real change. She reminds me that there is goodness all around, we just have to focus ourselves differently at times.

And while this whole message has been one of a doting father, I can honestly say that I've seen these same traits in so many of the pre-teens and teens throughout our greater Rhode Island Jewish community. Whether it's kids in her religious school class, kids at the day schools, or kids here at the JCC, I've witnessed countless acts of kindness, charity, empathy, and community. It's why our community invests so much in making sure these kids all have opportunities to come together, to discover their Judaism, and to serve as that light for the rest of us.

They may all live into their Jewish values in ways that are different than we did at their age. But they do so with just as much passion, or even more passion. It can be easy to be pessimistic about the future these days, but all one has to do is look at Alexandria and her peers across our community to know we're going to be better than fine. So *Mazel Tov* to Alexandria, and *Mazel Tov* to all of the young members of our community who make it strong and vibrant today, and will make it even stronger and more vibrant in the future.

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

Shabbat Shalom!

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

Adam Greenman
President & CEO