

SHABBAT MESSAGE JUNE 18, 2021



Hi Everyone!

I hope you've had a great week. Last night the Alliance held our tenth annual meeting, and I'm so grateful to everyone who joined us to celebrate the great work of the last year and look forward to all we will do together next year.

During the meeting last night, I spoke about the Alliance's organizational value of *Hineni*. *Hineni*. Literally, "Here I am!" A purposeful statement that declares that one is present and giving full attention to the matter at hand. In the Torah it is what Abraham, Jacob, and Moses all uttered to God at times of critical importance. In each case they demonstrated their attention to be full and ready for anything God commanded. And in each case, they emerged transformed.

Today the term goes far beyond biblical interpretation. *Hineni* is an acceptance of responsibility, for ourselves and for others. In today's vernacular, it's the equivalent of saying, "I'm all in." So many times this year, I have been fortunate to see people stand up and say, "*Hineni*. Here I am." To serve this community. To better this community.

Today we find ourselves in a very different place than when I spoke at our annual meeting a year ago. Vaccination rates are high, case counts are low, and we are seeing each other in person again. But there is no going back to what was. We've learned from these last fifteen months. We've grown from these last fifteen months. And through all the suffering, through all of the hard times, there are aspects that emerged that will make life better moving forward. That will make our community stronger. Last year I painted a picture of what our community could look like if we achieved everything in our strategic plan, titled "Here for Good," and I'm so proud to say that we are well on our way to achieving that. And that's only true because so many people said, *Hineni*, here I am.

I'm excited for the work that will continue into next year, but more importantly, I'm excited that all of that work has the Alliance's organizational values at the center. Everything we do will provide opportunities for people to uphold the values of righteous giving and justice, will provide people with lifelong learning opportunities, will secure our Jewish future, connect us to worldwide Jewry, and help us to repair the world.

But all of that only happens with you. I need you to join me in saying *Hineni*, here I am. To jointly proclaim our responsibility to our community. To each other. If we do that, I have total confidence that we will emerge from this pandemic with a community that is not only stronger and more vibrant, but one that is truly transformed, the envy of the country, and a place where others will come to stand with us so that they too can say *Hineni*, here I am. I hope you'll join me.

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

Shabbat Shalom!

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

Adam Greenman
President & CEO