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Mozaic Concierge Living Breaks Ground!!

After an incredible effort to develop the concept, plans and funding for the first new Life Plan in Fairfield County in more than 25 years, Mozaic Concierge Living began construction in April!

The funding was established through the issuance of tax-exempt bonds by the Stamford Housing Authority and underwritten by HJ Sims. These bonds will be repaid by the new community over time, and most importantly will fund the construction and start-up operations of Mozaic Concierge Living. Construction is being managed by a General Contractor, KBE Building Corporation, and the architecture and interior design work was done by Perkins Eastman. As you may know, Mozaic Senior Life has partnered with Greenbrier Development to consult on the development and start-up operations as well. This team is very excited to bring to Stamford an upscale, luxury, life plan community with 168 Independent Living Residences and 42 units in the Health Center for those who need more care over time.

A groundbreaking ceremony has been planned with those involved with the community and will feature a number of elected officials and other dignitaries.

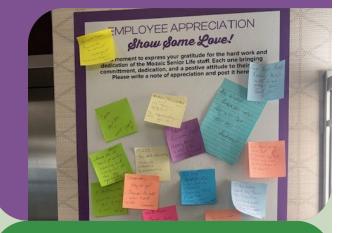
Construction is expected to take approximately two years, and move ins will begin in the Spring, 2027. **More than 80% of the Residences are already under deposit** with individuals and couples who have researched the market and decided that Mozaic Concierge Living is their plan for the future. To find out more about the remaining Residences, and the community in general please visit us, **mozaiccl.org** or at the Welcome Center at 260 Long Ridge Road, Suite C-160, Stamford, CT.



AJAS Innovation Igniter Award



At the annual AJAS (Association of Jewish



For more information on Mozaic Senior Life services call 1-833-MSL-LINK (675-5465) Visit our website at mozaicsl.org Aging Services) Conference in Atlanta, Mozaic Jewish Home Resident David Reiss was presented with one of the Innovation Igniter Awards for his

work creating and facilitating the Travel Club on Friday afternoons. David started the group in 2022 as a way to bring the world to fellow Residents. Each week David selects a destination that he shares on his computer with those who participate. They have literally travelled the entire globe by now, and he continues to find new and exciting destinations. David was recognized by AJAS for his creativity, energy, and enthusiastic approach to quality of life. Ellen Ashkins, Director, Resident Life, was in Atlanta to accept the award on David's behalf, and consistent



with his Master of Technology, he participated remotely at the conference so he could explain firsthand to the participants what he does. It was a very meaningful experience for all in attendance.

Chairperson and President's Remarks



The big news in this issue of *ChaiLights* is of course the groundbreaking of Mozaic Concierge Living in Stamford, as we are so proud to be able to be planning for our future while sustaining all of the important work we do on The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus and in the community. Mozaic Concierge Living will be an incredible place to live, and we are exhilarated by the response by those who have selected their

Jon August

residences with a 10% deposit on their Entrance Fee. We will now do our best to manage the construction, and prepare for the future of this Life Plan community.

On the campus we continue to have so many things to be grateful for. March included the celebration with our 20 centenarians, which were joined by their families to recognize this incredible milestone. Many dignitaries, including our United States Senator Richard Blumenthal, Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, Dr. Manisha Juthani, and Mayor Joe Ganim, joined us for the festivities. We also celebrated the end of winter, which comes with its challenges for an aging population. There were a number of COVID-19 cases in January, and flu cases in February, but as always our staff did an incredible job of caring for and protecting our loved ones.

You will read more about our upcoming events sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary and Men's Club. We encourage you to participate actively and to help them help us – as these two volunteer organizations raise and distribute much needed funds to Resident activities every year.



Andrew H. Banoff

Finally, we thank our volunteers and family members for their steadfast commitment and support of the work we are privileged to do. It is our honor and humble responsibility to care for the elderly in our trust, and we take our Mission very seriously.

As always, thank you for all that you do!

Jon & Andrew

The FINGER Model

The FINGER model is based on scientific evidence showing that simultaneous lifestyle measures in five areas can help prevent and delay the development of cognitive decline.

Several different risk and health factors can affect our likelihood of developing cognitive impairment and dementia. It is therefore important to involve all five "fingers" daily. Since the processes that may lead to dementia can start 20-30 years before a diagnosis, it is never too early to start implementing these good habits. The same factors can also help in slowing down these processes, so it's also never too late.

1. HEALTHY FOOD What is good for your heart is also good for your brain. The FINGER diet model follows the Nordic Nutrition Recommendations, which are similar to the Mediterranean diet.

2. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY Regular exercise is essential for our mental and physical health. Physical activity is one of the dementia-preventive factors with the strongest evidence, and it is most beneficial when it includes both cardio exercise and muscle strength training.

3. MENTAL STIMULATION Our brains can and should be exercised throughout our lives. In the FINGER

study, cognitive training was computer based and focused on working memory, long-term memory, attention, and speed. Activities like playing games, attending courses, reading books, going to theaters or museums, and being active in associations all stimulate our brain.

4. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES Many studies have shown that social activities and social engagement can reduce the risk of cognitive impairment. It is good for our brain health to socialize with friends and feel part of a social context. Close relationships may be more important than the size of our social network.

5. CONTROL OF CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTORS Having control of cardiovascular risk factors like blood pressure, cholesterol, blood glucose, and body weight is very important also for our brain health. Again, what is good for our heart is good for our brain.

AJAS Don Shulman Legacy Award



We are thrilled to share that the Don Shulman Legacy Award at this year's AJAS Conference was awarded to Ray Hays. After receiving her Master's degree from George Washington University, Ray knew that she wanted to pursue a career in senior living. Through a mutual connection with the former CEO of AJAS, Don Shulman, Ray was introduced to Mozaic Senior Life President & CEO, Andrew Banoff. After an initial "zoom" meeting, they explored the idea of Ray experiencing a one year Administrative Fellowship at our organization. This commenced in May of 2023 and her role in the organization began to flourish. Ray

The Women's Auxiliary Gift Shop

The Women's Auxiliary Gift Shop has moved to a new location, across from Bennett Hall and next to the café! The Gift Shop



spent time in every department learning the operations of a senior living organization and also worked on special projects. By the time her year was nearly over it was clear that she wanted to stay with Mozaic Senior Life, and vice versa. She accepted the role of Marketing Coordinator of Mozaic Concierge Living in Stamford and has now served in that capacity for nearly one year. She is technically very strong, emotionally very mature, and dedicated to our Mission. We are so proud that Ray is the FIRST recipient of the Don Shulman Legacy Award! offers many items such as scarves, jewelry, hostess gifts, handbags, Judaica, home accessories, cards, and more, and is currently open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM.



SLICE OF LIFE





































1. Mozaic Adult Day client Michele Russell hugs Fedeline Whyte, Mozaic Adult Day Program Associate, and 2. Mozaic Assisted Living Residents Dan and Ruth Wolinsky also celebrate National Hug Day. 3. Adriana Vincenzi, Mozaic Adult Day client, shares her project after a visit from the Fairfield Garden Club. 4. Residents Phil Neufeld, Joann Rossi, Toni Marcy, and Joan Sepot enjoy a festive Chinese New Year meal. 5. Pasta Day with Residents Michelle Weiner, Ed Yergeau, and George Kelly. 6. Ellen Ashkins, Director, Resident Life, and "Father Time" Resident Phil Neufeld along with 7. Resident Mary Mitola bring in the New Year. 8. Jessica Witherspoon, Clinical Nutrition Manager, hands out herbs to Residents for a "Guess that Herb" game. 9. Residents Brenda Mandell, Robert Pate, 10. Elizabeth Petro-Roy, Phil Neufeld, Agnes Lazor, 11. and Michelle Weiner enjoy Casino Day in Bennett Hall. 12. Rabbi Stephen Shulman leads a prayer service for Residents and staff to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. 13. Residents Jack Rice and Harry Silvern relax at a Resident Men's Club lunch. 14. Mozaic Adult Day client Michele Russell displays a framed puzzle that she completed. 15. Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy students lead the Purim Megillah reading for Residents. 16. Resident Diana Goomrigian enjoys the fruits of her labor – hamantaschen! 17. Residents enjoy the Purim Parade, including many colorful costumes and Elvis! **18.** Tracey Hamulak, Therapeutic Recreation Director, and Resident Sydelle Schlesinger are dressed and ready for Purim.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Upcoming Event – Spring Luncheon & Boutique



Georgia Hunter will be the featured speaker at the Women's Auxiliary Spring Luncheon & Boutique on Monday, May 5, at the Inn at Longshore in Westport. A New York Times best-selling author and executive producer, Georgia's compelling work focuses on personal history, resilience, and survival. Led by co-chairs Lydia Gerard and Betsy Baron, the event committee has been hard at work for months.

At just 15 years old, Georgia interviewed her maternal grandmother for a school assignment about her family's history. During this research, she uncovered the extraordinary story of her grandfather's family who were Jewish Holocaust survivors originally from Poland. Her grandfather had lost contact with his parents, two brothers, and two sisters during the war. In pursuit of understanding her roots, she traveled to Italy, England, Austria, Brazil, the Czech Republic, and Poland, conducting interviews, combing through archives, and exploring key locations. Her bestselling book We Were the Lucky Ones chronicles the remarkable journey of her family's survival during the Holocaust.

Georgia's newest historical fiction, One Good Thing, released in March 2025, follows a similar theme, drawing on the era of the Holocaust. This novel tells the powerful story of a young woman who must rely on her inner strength to survive in a world turned upside down. Like her first book, One Good Thing weaves themes of survival, friendship, romance, and motherhood.

In addition to her novels and a Hulu miniseries adaptation, Georgia maintains a website dedicated to providing resources related to the Holocaust and the Second World War, serving as a companion to her literary works. Georgia, her husband, and two children live in Rowayton, where her parents, Isabelle and Thomas Hunter settled.

The Spring Luncheon & Boutique hosts a fabulous upscale boutique with 20 vendors, offering the perfect opportunity to shop for Mother's Day, graduations, or just because! The confirmed vendor list is below. Join us at a special Ambassador reception and engage in conversations with Georgia.

For over 50 years the community's generous support has helped us to sustain our mission of providing a safe, secure, and beautiful Jewish home, while also bringing the quality programs and activities to Residents that are so vital in enhancing their lives.

For more information about the Spring Luncheon & Boutique or to purchase tickets, please contact Beth Tepper, Development Associate, at (203) 396-1000 or btepper@mozaicsl.org, or www.mozaicsl.org/ donations/womens-auxiliary-donations/spring-luncheon. Reservations range from \$150 to \$300.

2025 Boutique Vendors

Adorn Accessories	Excesso
Blank Canvas	Gioiella
Chick Magnets	Hopscot
The Chintz Giraffe	JI Rocks
Delavignes Gourmet Foods & Gifts	The Lad

rize tch y Ming Collection

Peace Love Light Pure by Shasha Scents of Empowerment Sunny Collins Suzanne Einstein Collection Two B's Accessories Well-Comb Home Wonnaful Wood Ethos

Better Together

The Residents at Mozaic Senior Life are benefiting from a unique and enriching partnership with the students at Merkaz High School for Judaic Studies. This collaborative effort allows students to directly engage in weekly, teacher-led educational experiences with the Residents. The program is supported by a generous Women's Auxiliary grant and fosters these special intergenerational connections.

Throughout the year, the students partner with the Residents, learning from their life experiences and gaining valuable insights. This interaction helps students develop a deeper sensitivity and respect for aging and allows the Residents to have more friendly visitors engaging them in Jewish life. for all involved.

The students take part in holiday Oneg celebrations three times a year and interview our centenarians before our large annual celebration. This program was a lifeline for the Residents during the early days of COVID-19. The students organized car parades, collected cards and games, handmade raised garden beds and filled them with flowers, and donated food in recognition of our staff.

This partnership not only enriches the lives of the students but also brings the generations together, creating lasting memories and a sense of community





Game Day

A fun-filled day of games took place on Monday, January 27, at the Women's Auxiliary Winter Game Day. Over 50 participants joined in, raising more than \$1,200 to directly support the Residents and clients of Mozaic Senior Life, enhancing their quality of life. The day was filled with laughter, a delicious lunch, and tiles clacking! Be on the lookout to join us for the next Game Day experience on August 4, 2025.



FOUNDATION



Centenarian Brunch Celebrating 20 Seniors

On March 2, Mozaic Senior Life hosted a special Centenarian Brunch to honor 20 remarkable seniors who range in age from 100 to 107. The event was a heartwarming celebration of longevity, wisdom, and the rich life experiences of those who have lived for a century or beyond. It brought together Residents, families, and local dignitaries including Senator Richard Blumenthal, Department of Public Health Commissioner Manisha Juthani, Fairfield State Senator Tony Hwang, Fairfield State Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Fairfield State Representative Sarah Keitt, Bridgeport State Representative Anne Hughes, Trumbull First Selectwoman Vicki Tesoro, and Bridgeport Mayor Joseph Ganim. Guests enjoyed delicious food, speeches filled with admiration, and a video capturing some life reflections by the centenarians.



Senator Richard Blumenthal shares remarks at the Centenarian Brunch.



What is your best advice for a young person?

Find a career that you enjoy.

Keep active in whatever you like to do. Whatever you do for a living, make sure you enjoy it. Plan for retirement.

What should I do so I can also live a long life?

Eat properly and stay away from unhealthy habits. You need good genes. Sleep well, eat right,

and take care of your health. Do whatever you feel is right.

Some words of wisdom from the Centenarians.

SAVE THE DATE

THE JOEL AND LOIS COLEMAN LECTURE SERIES

Tuesday, June 10, 2025



With Guest Speaker SCOTT GOTTLIEB, M.D.

Physician, served as the 23rd Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, currently a Senior Fellow of the American Enterprise Institute, and is a partner at the venture capital firm New Enterprise Associates

Mozaic Senior Life, 4200 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT Visit mozaics1.org/foundation/special-events for more information.



Very e created more than just a campus: we've built a thriving community where individuals

The Men's Club of Mozaic Senior Life GEORGE LIPTON GEORGE LIPTON INVITATIONAL

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025 ROCKRIMMON COUNTRY CLUB • STAMFORD, CT LUNCH • AFTERNOON GOLF • PICKLEBALL • COCKTAILS • AUCTION • DINNER





FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER,

PLEASE CALL 203-396-1000, EMAIL BTEPPER@MOZAICSL.ORG OR VISIT: MOZAICSL.ORG/DONATIONS/MENS-CLUB-DONATIONS/GEORGE-LIPTON-GOLF-INVITATIONAL

For Further Information

...on how to become involved with the **Women's Auxiliary** or the **Men's Club**, please contact Dayna Hayden, Development Director, at 203-365-6409 or dhayden@mozaicsl.org.

are cherished and supported, where life is celebrated, every day.

For over 50 years, our goal has been to continuously elevate the standards of excellence in caring for our elders. We are committed to providing every senior with the opportunities to pursue their passions and live life fully. We set a high standard for the quality of care that a senior services organization should offer.

Your support is crucial to ongoing superior care for our loved ones and possibly one day, ourselves. If you're able, please make a donation to the Annual Campaign and help Mozaic Senior Life continue on its path of excellence.

THANK YOU. TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



MOZAICSL.ORG/DONATE/ANNUAL-CAMPAIGN

Women's Auxiliary Annual Membership dues are \$36, Life Membership is \$250, Sterling Life Membership is \$500 and Gold Life Membership is \$1,000 (all Life Memberships are payable over three years).

Men's Club Annual Membership dues are \$75, Life Membership is \$1,000 and Lipton Fellow Membership is \$2,500 (both payable over three years).

A special thank you to our Federations

Mozaic Senior Life is a recipient agency of the following community organizations. We thank these organizations and the communities for their support.

Jewish Federation of Greater Fairfield County • UJA-JCC Greenwich



Community Services

Support Groups

Support groups offer a powerful space for individuals facing similar situations to connect, share experiences and find mutual support, fostering a sense of community and promoting healing and growth. At Mozaic Senior Life, our team offers caregiver support groups and grief support groups to assist our community while they are going through a challenging time.



We invite you to join us in this safe and compassionate space to share feelings, experiences, and struggles with others who are navigating similar losses. Led by a trained facilitator, these groups offer emotional support and practical tools for coping with grief to help you feel less alone, find healing, and move forward at your own pace.

THURSDAYS May 8, June 5, July 3, and August 7 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Sessions takes place at B'nai Israel, 2710 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT Please note: dates are subject to change.

Please RSVP to Selina Ng, Bereavement Coordinator, at 203-396-1136 or sng@mozaicsl.org at least one week prior to the session you plan to attend.



Contact us at: 203-396-1066 or navigation@mozaicsl.org



Second Annual SHARE Event

Mozaic Senior Life hosted the second annual community-wide event on April 6 -- SHARE: Senior Health And Resource Expo. It was a successful event that provided many senior resources to over 150 attendees. 20+ organizations from the Fairfield County area participated and provided information on topics such as elder law, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, medical equipment, senior centers, transportation, long-term care, rehabilitation, home care, assisted living, and more. We look forward to hosting the third annual SHARE event in April 2026!

Employee Spotlight



Nicholas Price recently joined Mozaic Senior Life as a Care Coordinator for the Mozaic at Home program. Prior to joining Mozaic Senior Life, Nicholas served as a Transitional Coordinator at Yale New Haven Health – Bridgeport Hospital. In that role, Nicholas was responsible for collaborating with

healthcare teams to create safe discharge plans for patients

Anna's Mozaic Hospice Journey

Anna, age 78 is suffering from heart failure and diabetes, and has been given a prognosis of five months to live.

While initially skeptical about hospice, Anna learns she can stay at home, be supported by a care team, and maintain a high quality of life.

Anna is able to remain on insulin to keep her diabetes stable.

A hospice volunteer visits Anna's home once a week. Anna's family appreciates the support and companionship Anna receives.

With the assistance of the interdisciplinary team Anna is able to attend her grandson's wedding.

One night, Anna falls in her home. She calls the hospice phone number and a hospice nurse arrives quickly to examine Anna, avoiding an unnecessary trip to the hospital.

Anna's health begins to deteriorate, causing her family emotional distress. The hospice social worker and chaplain are able to counsel and comfort them.

As Anna's condition continues to decline, the hospice team helps Anna's family begin the process for her death, according to her wishes and plan of care.

Anna dies peacefully in her home, surrounded by her family, just like she wanted. She spent 68 days under hospice care.

For one year after Anna's death, her family continues to receive bereavement care from hospice.

Did you know...



transitioning to skilled nursing facilities or to their home and was the Liaison with patients and families to provide support through the hospital discharge process. He has worked as an advocate for patients and prides himself on caring for the individual and their family. Nicholas will work with Mozaic at Home Members to ensure that they have the best health care assistance they need and is passionate about working with individuals and getting them the care they deserve.



Expanding to Popular Podcast Platforms!

Look for *Senior Sense: Navigating Your Journey* on these podcast platforms -- Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Music, Samsung Podcast, Pandora, iHeart Radio, Deezer, and also on the Mozaic Senior Life website at mozaicsl.org/podcasts.

- A patient is eligible for hospice if two physicians determine that the patient has a prognosis of six months or less to live.
- Hospice care is provided wherever the patient lives.
- Patient chronic medical needs are still met, to maintain a high quality of life.
- Less aggressive care and earlier hospice referral is associated with better patient quality of life near death.
- Hospice enrollment is associated with significantly fewer hospital and ICU days.
- Hospice staff is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Over 90% of families of hospice patients report that the care their loved one received was very good or excellent. 96% of families reported that their loved one was always treated with respect.

To arrange for care or to speak with a member of our Hospice team, contact us at 203-396-1136 or hospice@mozaicsl.org.

Sources: National Data set and/or NHIPCO member database, facts and figures: hospice care in America 2015; Kelley as. Deb.et al hospice enrollment saves money for Medicare and improves care quality across a number of different lengths of stay. Health affairs, 2013:32(3) 552-561; Wright AA Zhang B. Ray et al associations between end of life discussions. Patient mental health, medical care near death, and caregiver bereavement adjustment. Jama: The journal of the American medical Association 2008; 300 (14). DO1:10.1001/Jama.300.34.1665; NHPCO analysis of 2014 family evaluation of hospice care (FEHC) data.

EMPLOYEE NEWS





Introducing Our New VP

Kathy DellaMura recently joined the Mozaic Senior Life team as the Vice President of Community Services and Business Development. With a background as a Registered Nurse and experience in leadership roles - most recently as the Vice President of Clinical Services at Hartford Healthcare at Home – she's excited to bring her passion for healthcare innovation and community-driven solutions to the table.

When Kathy isn't working, you'll likely find her staying active with yoga, spinning, or enjoying walks with her golden retriever, Jackson. She is looking forward to collaborating and helping Mozaic Senior Life grow, thrive, and make a lasting impact in the community.

Employee Appreciation Day



Thank you to everyone who took the time to share a note for Employee Appreciation Day on March 7. Your kind words and thoughtful messages truly made the day even more special. It's a reminder of the incredible culture of support and appreciation we have here at Mozaic Senior Life. Thank you for making a difference—not just in the work you do, but in the way you uplift and recognize one another.

Caring Hands Awardees

Please join us in congratulating three Mozaic Senior Life CNAs recognized at the LeadingAge Caring Hands Award Ceremony in March. The Caring Hands Award is a celebration of outstanding nursing aides. The honorees are Harmenta Brainsford, Mozaic Jewish Home, Barbara Harris, Mozaic Assisted Living, and Fedeline Whyte, Mozaic Adult Day Program.



JOINOUR TEAM! AN AMAZING CAREER AWAITS YOU

Looking Ahead: National Nursing Home Week at Mozaic Senior Life!

We are excited to celebrate Senior Care Week, this year taking place from May 11 to 17. This special week is dedicated to honoring our Residents, staff, and the entire Mozaic Senior Life community. This year's theme, Tapestry of Life, highlights the vibrant and meaningful stories that we weave together. A hot dog truck and ice cream truck will be on campus, as well as other planned fun activities to show appreciation for our incredible team and the wonderful individuals we serve. Thank you for all you do to make Mozaic Senior Life a place of warmth, care, and support.

A special thanks to MarshMcLennan Agency and KBE Building Corporation for their continued generosity and support to Mozaic Senior Life and employees.





Voted Top Workplace, Again!

We are thrilled to share that Mozaic Senior Life has been recognized as a USA Today Top Workplace! This incredible honor is a testament to the dedication, passion, and teamwork of our amazing staff. This achievement is significant, especially because it was driven by staff feedback. Their commitment to creating a supportive, compassionate, and inspiring workplace makes Mozaic Senior Life a truly special place to work and serve. Thank you to our entire team for making this recognition possible.

Join us at our next CAREER FAIR - MAY 22, 2025

Scan this QR code for a current list of job opportunities



Or visit: mozaicsl.applicantpool.com/jobs/

MAILING SERVICES with Experience and Care

At the Mozaic Jewish Home's Work Activity Center, we proudly employ a talented team of Residents who bring a wealth of knowledge and reliability to every project. We understand the importance of getting your message across, and we're here to help! workactivity @mozaicsl.org 203-396-1008

SERVICES

 Labeling of Newsletters, Invitations, Flyers, Postcards, Direct Mail, etc.
Collating, Folding, Stuffing, and Sealing Envelopes = Bar Coding
Letter Personalization = Packaging
Establishing Pre-Sort Rates = Statement Production
Kit Assembly and Packaging = Pick Up and Delivery



Jon August Chairperson of the Board

Andrew H. Banoff President & CEO / Editor

> Contact us at 203-365-6400 mozaicsl.org

For address changes, to add a friend or be removed from the mailing list email us at chailights@mozaicsl.org or call 203-365-6494

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Family Mail

On behalf of our entire family, I am expressing our sincerest gratitude to the entire organization at Mozaic Senior Life. The name of your facility truly says it all, "Senior Life." The staff treated our loved ones with dignity and compassion in a clean, safe environment.

- A.T., Mozaic Jewish Home **Family Member**

Thank you to the special people that have helped with our mom. You have listened without judgment. You have helped without conditions. You have understood with empathy. You have loved her no matter what. We feel so blessed to have you in our lives.

> - D.G. and Family, Mozaic Adult Day Program **Family Members**

Save the Dates

MONDAY, MAY 5 Women's Auxiliary Spring Luncheon & Boutique Inn at Longshore, Westport

Family Portrait – Peter Haile by Rebecca Swanson

Recently, I asked my father, Peter Haile, a question: "Daddy, if somebody who didn't know you were to hear your life story, what would be the most important thing you would want them to know about you?" Peter immediately looked up and answered in his characteristically strong voice, "That I know and love God."

This theme is woven through Peter's life – an eventful one lived on three continents. He was born in 1925 at the Tiger Kloof School in Vryburg, South Africa. Tiger Kloof was a mission boarding school run by the London Missionary Society for the purpose of educating black South Africans. Peter's father, A.J. Haile, was the principal of the school for over 40 years. Peter was educated at home until the age of 10, when he was sent to England to continue his education.

Peter lived with his aunt in southeast London and attended a local school. Everything changed when Hitler's bombs began dropping on London in September 1940. Like other children, Peter was evacuated, spending three happy years at Monkton Combe School in Bath, away from the bombs. In high school, Peter was quite an athlete, competing in field hockey, rugby, and cross-country. He could not have been more thankful for God's providence.

Upon graduation, Peter immediately joined the Royal Navy and spent three years on destroyers in the Mediterranean, mopping up the remains of the navy of the Third Reich. He had not seen his parents since the age of 10 and was able to arrange his military discharge in South Africa. He took a flying boat down

the full length of the continent from Cairo to Capetown to be reunited with them in 1947. This reunion brought him a joy he would cherish throughout the rest of his life.

Following his naval service, Peter "went up" to Jesus College, Oxford, where he read Modern History and earned his teaching certificate. His gratitude for God's grace led him to the Oxford Christian Union, which in turn led to a mission year in the United States.

During that year, he met Jane Hollingsworth, a woman from Augusta, Georgia, and they were married in 1953. Two children followed, myself and my brother, John, and the Hailes began a 29-year stint at The Stony Brook School on Long Island, where Peter served as English teacher, chaplain, and assistant head. After retiring from Stony Brook, Peter spent 10 years as assistant pastor at the Three Village Church in Setauket, NY.

After finishing his time in the ministry, Peter retired to Westport, CT, where he lived for 15 years before joining the Mozaic Jewish Home community. His life here has been a gift to our family, and he remains thankful and grateful, seeing it as one more example of God's gracious provision for him.

This year, Peter marked his 100th birthday at a special gathering surrounded by his entire family, spanning four generations of Hailes, including his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. In early March, Peter and 19 other centenarians were all honored at Mozaic Jewish Home's Centenarian Celebration.

- FRIDAY, MAY 16 Women's Auxiliary **Special Israel Shabbat Celebration Mozaic Senior Life**
- THURSDAY, MAY 22 **Career Fair Mozaic Senior Life**

JUNE

• TUESDAY, JUNE 10 **Coleman Lecture Series Mozaic Senior Life**

MONDAY, JUNE 30 Men's Club George Lipton Golf Invitational **Rockrimmon Country Club** Stamford, CT

