



*Senior Choice at Home®*

# NEWSLETTER

*Issue 15*

**Senior Choice at Home**, administered by Jewish Senior Services, is a comprehensive membership-based program that provides, coordinates and pays for long-term care for adults 55 and over for the rest of their lives. It is designed to provide protection for independent individuals or couples who wish to remain in their homes, ensure their care is paid for, and protect their assets as their healthcare needs evolve. Should a Member need to live in an assisted living community or receive nursing home care, the program will provide for these too.

**Interested in learning more?**

**Call us at 203-365-6491.**

**SeniorChoiceHome@jseniors.org**  
**SeniorChoiceHome.org**

## **Jewish Senior Services**

### **A Leader in Elder Care for 50 Years**

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## **Goodbye 2022...Welcome 2023!**

As we reflect on 2022, it was an exciting year that saw us regain a sense of normalcy. For Senior Choice at Home, it allowed us to return to hosting many wonderful in-person events with the Members, such as luncheons, theatre outings, and on-campus workshops and more.

In October, we hosted a Member luncheon at Pasquale's in Norwalk. To energize the group and kick things off, we played a round of "Name that Tune", taking a step back in time with a playlist of songs ranging from artists such as Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, Doris Day, Julie Andrews, and Dean Martin. It was impressive to witness the Members recognize many songs after just a few seconds of listening.

As the calendar approached Thanksgiving, the Senior Choice at Home team hosted an "Introduction to Genealogy" workshop and luncheon at the Jewish Senior Services campus. The speaker (Sarah) shared many helpful resources - both free and paid services - to help those who want to research their own family history. It was most informative and helped to point us in the right direction to build our own family trees. What a great winter project!

To close out 2022, we hosted a Member holiday luncheon celebration at Ralph 'n' Rich's Restaurant in downtown Bridgeport, where great food, great conversations, and great company was had by all. The holiday vibe was in the air and the Members and staff exchanged stories about holiday traditions, which many expressed they may try at their own family gatherings. It was a great way to end the year and reminded us how lucky we are to have so many wonderful, special Members!

As we launch into 2023, we want to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. Among the many benefits and services which we commit to providing the Members, one of our goals is to continue with a fun-filled schedule of events throughout the year. We always enjoy seeing and talking with the Members, plus many Members truly seem to enjoy the events, seeing their Member-friends, and having a good excuse to get out of the house!

Stay safe and healthy. We look forward to spending time with you in 2023!



*Senior Choice Members enjoyed lunch at Ralph 'n' Rich's in Bridgeport.*

***The Senior Choice at Home Team***

# Member Spotlight: Mimi Roth

So, how does a girl from Brooklyn become a professional country music performer?

Mimi Roth was born Miriam Lapolito in the Bronx, New York in 1934. At the age of two, her family relocated to California where they owned and operated an Italian restaurant. One could say this is where it started for Mimi, who would regularly come downstairs to the restaurant and sing for the patrons. Mimi's mother was a dancer with the Radio City Rockettes, so it is not hard to figure out from where her performing "gene" came.

When Mimi was 10, her mom remarried (to Max Rothman) and headed back to New York, this time to Brooklyn. Her stepfather had a love for horses and would buy and house them in stables near Coney Island. Mimi, too, developed a love for horses and would spend as much of her free time riding as she could. It was around the same time Mimi also discovered a love for country music. She listened to Hank Williams records as well as any country radio station she could find, which wasn't an easy feat in Brooklyn. As a young teenager, Mimi realized singing country music was something she wanted to pursue and taught herself how to play the guitar. As a teen, she competed in the Paul Whiteman TV Teen Club contest in Philadelphia, where she performed Hank Williams' "Weary Blues from Waitin'"...and won!

Mimi also competed in the Madison Square Garden Rodeo for several years, where she won in her third attempt! It was at the rodeo where her name change evolution continued. She learned that one of the rodeo officials was antisemitic and was encouraged to change her name so it sounded less Jewish. As a result, she dropped the "T" in



*Mimi Roth, The Brooklyn Cowgirl, in 1955?? and today.*

Rothman, and Mimi Rohman it was for the time being. (Later in her career, when she signed a recording contract with Decca Records, it was suggested she drop the "h" in her name and just go with Roman... see the name on the neck of her guitar in the photos.) As a result of her winning, she was awarded a contract to perform with the star of the show... none other than Gene Autry!

Mimi's singing career took off from there. She auditioned for TV shows such as Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts (which she won) then the Midwestern Hayride, the one that opened the door to her signing a contract with Decca. Mimi opened for Johnny Cash as well as other country music stars, and performed for audiences in excess of 10,000 people. She also played at the Grand Ole Opry and was making quite a name for herself with young musicians such as June Carter, the Everly Brothers and Elvis Presley, who she knew would make it big as she had a great ear for talent. When she was back in New York, Mimi was among the first they called when they travelled up north.

Mimi met Elvis in 1955 in Nashville. He was 20 years old and just starting to make a name for himself,

but had not yet reached celebrity status. Mimi and Elvis formed a great friendship; they would go to movies together and just hang out. It was rumored there was a romance between the two. Mimi said there was no truth to the rumor, and he was more of a "kid brother".

In her early 20s, Mimi joined the Philip Morris Country Music Show, which put her on the road for 13 weeks at a time, travelling in a bus, doing shows with other artists around the country. She did this for several years, and vividly recalls one tour in the South where audience segregation was a requirement at many venues where they played. At the tour stop in New Bern, North Carolina, the show was held in a vacant tobacco warehouse, where all one had to do was show a pack of Philip Morris cigarettes to be admitted. The tour bus literally drove into the warehouse, the artists (including Mimi) got out and played, and the entire audience stood throughout the three-hour performance as seating was not available. As a result, segregation was not enforced. When the show ended and the tour bus headed out of the warehouse, the Klu Klux Klan was there waiting and followed

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# A Care Coordinator's Life Lesson

by Pam Badger, Registered Nurse



"Bad luck, good luck, who knows?" This is an often-heard family expression. It's a reminder that we never know what lies ahead and often something that seems like bad luck may actually be the catalyst needed for good fortune in the future. My most profound example of this is the morning I woke up dreadfully ill and needed to take my infant daughter to a medical appointment. My husband had to miss a meeting with his biggest client to help me because I was too weak to go alone. It seemed like bad luck for my husband, but that was on 9/11/2001 and my husband worked at the World Trade Center. Undoubtedly, good luck.

This summer I had another bad luck, good luck experience. I was on my way to a Member's home and it seemed as though the universe was against me. I was stuck behind the slowest of drivers, there was construction on the highway, and I hit every red light possible. It seemed I was having bad luck.

As I turned a corner, I came upon a car that had clearly just been in an accident. No emergency crews had arrived yet. The car had drifted off the road into a muddy river and flipped onto its side. The driver was barely conscious with the seat belt across her nose and mouth, restricting her breathing. Two men, who I believe to be landscapers, came to assist, and smashed the back window of the car at my request. They wanted to pull the driver out

through the window. I stopped them (I can be bossy!) and told them in no uncertain terms not to touch her. I was able to hang through the window, very gently remove the seatbelt from the driver's face, and tell her not to move. I assured her that I was a nurse, 911 had been notified and on their way, and I would not leave her until help arrived. By this time, a crowd had gathered, but I continued to hang upside down through the smashed window and comfort the driver. I stayed there until EMS arrived. Once they were ready to cut open the car with the jaws of life, I left the car and called the driver's daughter as she requested. I stayed until I saw her being safely taken away in an ambulance.

Although this happened 45 minutes from my home, it turns out that the driver's daughter lives around the corner from me. She later called to tell me that her mom had been released from the hospital after an extended stay and would like to meet me. On Thanksgiving morning, we were reunited. Many hugs and tears ensued. The driver said she had broken her neck in two places and every doctor told her if she had not kept still, she would have been paralyzed, or worse. I cannot imagine better luck than being able to help this kind, strong woman.

So as life throws various roadblocks and challenges at me, I try to just go with the flow. I have learned that many challenges have a silver lining in the end. Because you never can tell... bad luck, good luck, who knows?

Senior Choice at Home is proud to have experienced, dedicated staff such as Pam Badger. She is an RN and the Care Coordinator for Senior Choice at Home. Her knowledge helps ensure people get the best care at the best time – and that's not limited to just Members!

## Member Spotlight: Roth

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them. They were escorted by the police to the state line. Mimi said that may have been the single scariest of all tours.

Following her touring days, Mimi found herself in the studio, which she found most enjoyable. She worked with some great songwriters of the 60's singing demos for Screen Gems, a top publisher of hit songs. She also sang demos for Broadway musicals, including *The Fantasticks*, *Chicago*, and *Funny Girl* to mention a few. She also enjoyed singing jingles for television commercials for brands such as Clairol, Doublemint Gum, Sprite, and Coca-Cola.

Over the years, Mimi found herself working in other aspects of the entertainment industry too. She disc jockeyed for WDJZ in Bridgeport, was an extra in movies for several years (look for her in *Tootsie*), and was a personal assistant to singer/songwriter Michael Bolton.

Mimi's legacy in country music continues today, where she continues to be sought after for interviews and regularly receives fan mail from people requesting autographed photos, to which she always obliges. Recently, a documentary was produced about her fabulous and interesting career and can be seen on YouTube (search "Mimi Roman Documentary" and you'll find it).

Although Mimi had an amazing career as a musician and entertainer, she jokes that one of the things she is most proud of is that she is "the only one in her family who was not a waitress." No worries there, Mimi. You've served up some great memories and left your mark on the country music/rockabilly world. Perhaps we'll get an encore performance by The Brooklyn Cowgirl one of these days.





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*Senior Choice at Home®*

**It's Like Long-Term Care Insurance, Only Better.**

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## New Stamford Life Plan Community & Senior Choice at Home

You may have heard the great news that Jewish Senior Services is in the early stages of building a Life Plan Community in Stamford - **Mozaic Concierge Living**. We are now formally embarking on sharing details for this exciting opportunity.

We have received zoning approval from the City of Stamford to build 168 Independent Living apartments plus 42 units in the Health Center (Skilled Nursing, Assisted Living and Memory Care). In order to achieve construction financing, we must achieve 10% deposits on 70% of the Independent Living apartments. Therefore, special benefits will be available for the first 118 Priority Reservation Members, as an incentive to help us begin construction as soon as possible.

We are now accepting \$1,000 fully refundable deposits for the

Priority Reservation Program which will enable individuals or couples to secure their place on the list when we begin to accept 10% (of Entrance Fee) deposits in the Fall of 2023. It is at that time that future Residents will secure their specific unit in the community and gain access to all the Priority Reservation Membership benefits. This is a date sequenced list – so the earlier you secure your place the earlier you will have access to select a unit!

So, how will this Life Plan Community intersect with Senior Choice at Home? It's actually quite simple. If Senior Choice at Home Members choose to move to the new Community, they would cancel their existing Membership, and the initial Membership Fee they paid when they joined the program would be used as a credit towards

the Life Plan Community Entrance Fee. They are essentially trading one life plan for another. It gives Members another option if they prefer the benefits and lifestyle of living in a Life Care Community.

Naturally, you will have many questions. Several informational luncheon sessions have been scheduled in the coming months, beginning in February. To reserve your spot at one of these sessions, or to speak directly with someone about the community, please contact us at 203-365-6441 or [aferrarie@jseniors.org](mailto:aferrarie@jseniors.org)

Whether you become a Member of Senior Choice at Home, move to the Life Plan Community, or take another route, we look forward to working with you to plan your future!