



## May 2024 D'Var Torah

Dear Friends,

It is perhaps no coincidence that on the Sabbath that immediately precedes Senior Care Week in May in synagogues throughout the world we read in the Torah portion from the Book of Leviticus the following verse: "You shall rise before the aged and show deference to the old..." (Lev.19:32). That is our mission here at Mozaic Senior Life as we lovingly give honor to and care for our elderly not only during Senior Care Week but also throughout each and every day of the year!

Some years ago in Jerusalem a 100 year old man got on a bus. A neighbor recognized him and soon everyone on board was buzzing with excitement and awe at his presence in their midst. Children came up to him asking for his blessing which he happily did as he gently placed his hands on their heads. This was truly a holy moment in which this commandment of giving honor to our elderly was so lovingly and beautifully fulfilled.

It is perhaps also not a coincidence that Senior Care Week begins on Mother's Day (May 12 this year) a day on which we honor our mothers (and next month our fathers) who are partners in our creation with the Almighty. The commandment to honor your father and your mother are among the first five of the Ten Commandments (those that mandate our relationship with God) and it is most appropriate that honoring our parents is included in this category of the Decalogue.

May we have a meaningful Senior Care Week and Mother's and Father's Days along with the Israeli and American Memorial Days and Israeli Independence Day occurring during this month as we recall the sacrifices made by so many in defense of these two wonderful democracies.

Thank you and Shalom/Peace,

*Rabbi Stephen Shulman,*  
Pastoral Services