

CHAILIGHTS

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The Year in Review 2024 ChaiLights



JANUARY

Mozaic Senior Life Residents, staff, and volunteers honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



FEBRUARY

Dr. Ken Fine, Mozaic Senior Life Chief Medical Officer, receives award at AJAS 2024.



MARCH

Annual Centenarian Brunch celebrating the lives of 14 Residents, aged 100-106.



APRIL

Mozaic Jewish Home Residents and Mozaic Child Development Center children gather for a Gee's Bend intergenerational event, discovering the culturally rich history of these creative quilts.



MAY

19 staff members of the Mozaic Senior Life Leadership team become the latest class to graduate from the Dale Carnegie program.



JUNE

Recruiting and Career Fairs throughout the year result in 49 new hires.

JULY

Mozaic Jewish Home Residents, families, and staff are entertained by The Barnum Festival and Honorary Ringmasters Residents Randy Kalfus and Jack Rice.



AUGUST

Mozaic Jewish Home Residents feel the spirit of the summer games during Resident Olympics.



SEPTEMBER

The DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Committee brought the Unity Art Project to campus.



OCTOBER

Mozaic Concierge Living, the Stamford Independent Living community, reaches 100 Charter Members.

DECEMBER

Mozaic Senior Life is named a Top Workplace for 2024!



NOVEMBER

Another wonderful group of Mozaic Senior Life CNA graduates.



For more information on Mozaic Senior Life services call 1-833-MSL-LINK (675-5465)

Visit our website at mozaicsl.org

Chairperson and President's Remarks



Jon August

As we come to the end of 2024, we are so grateful to our Mozaic Senior Life family and community. This has been another extraordinary year of service to seniors and their families, and we are humbled by the trust that you put in our organization. There have been countless celebrations and milestones that have been recognized in this and previous issues of *ChaiLights*, and it is with tremendous pride that

we thank the more than 900 employees and hundreds of volunteers who make this all possible.

As we look forward to 2025, it promises to be another milestone year as we begin construction in Stamford on Mozaic Concierge Living, our

new Life Plan Community that will soon start to take shape on Long Ridge Road. We will continue to do our best to care for the nearly 1,000 clients in all levels of care and support that we are privileged to serve. We are thankful for our ongoing support from the donor community, the Women's Auxiliary and Men's Club, and all of the family members and friends who help to support all that we do.



Andrew H. Banoff

Wishing you a happy and healthy new year.

Jon & Andrew

**TOP
WORK
PLACES
2024**

HEARST CONNECTICUT
MEDIA GROUP

We are a Top Workplace!

Mozaic Senior Life is thrilled to announce our current standing as a 2024 Top Workplace and our national recognition as an Employer of Choice. The Top Workplaces program has a 17-year history of surveying and celebrating people-first organizations nationally and across 60 regional markets. We are proud of this award and consider it a badge of honor, especially because it came authentically from our employees.

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 — one envelope at a time!

workactivity
@mozaiccl.org
203-396-1008

SERVICES INCLUDE:

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

Mozaic Concierge Living Update

Since our last issue of *Chai Lights*, there has been tremendous progress towards the development of Mozaic Concierge Living in Stamford. We are so pleased to share that we have surpassed the 70% milestone of deposits on specific residences that are necessary to achieve financing for construction. This happened in November, as we achieved this goal more than 6 months ahead of our initial schedule. The response from the marketplace confirms our belief that the design of a luxury senior living community in the heart of Stamford is desired by those who are planning for their future.

We have also completed the work with our construction partner, KBE Building Corporation to finalize a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) contract that gives us tremendous confidence in the project moving forward. The financial model, market research and all of the deposits are being audited by Forvis Mazars as part of the Financial Feasibility Study that is required by the investment bankers and eventually the bondholders for the project. We expect that work and all of the legal preparation of the bonds – to be issued in a Preliminary Official Statement (POS) – to be completed in the first quarter of 2025. Once that work is completed, and the City of Stamford Building Permit is issued, we will complete the financing and commence construction!

Stay tuned for further information about the groundbreaking ceremony and future events about this exciting Life Plan Community. For those that are still interested, it is not too late to join us – as many wonderful residences are still available and pre-construction pricing is in effect for a short time longer. For further information, please contact Amy Ferrarie, Director, Sales & Marketing, at aferrarie@mozaiccl.org or our website at mozaiccl.org.



It's a Fine Retirement



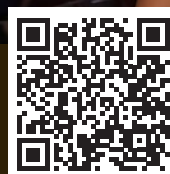
After an incredible career including the last 17 years at Mozaic Senior Life, December 31, 2024 marks the end of an era as our beloved Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ken Fine, retires from the practice of medicine. He has done so much to support our beloved Residents, their families, staff and volunteers, and of course our entire organization throughout his tenure, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic which forced us to address the unknown on so many levels. Dr. Fine's calm demeanor, standards of excellence, and overall commitment to the highest possible quality of care for everyone was well known to everyone who was fortunate to work with him.

Dr. Fine was honored at this year's Women's Auxiliary Fall Gala with the Louis Lotstein Award for Distinguished Service. To view photos and the commemorative ad journal from the event, please visit mozaiccl.org/foundation/special-events.

TOGETHER,



beautiful things happen.



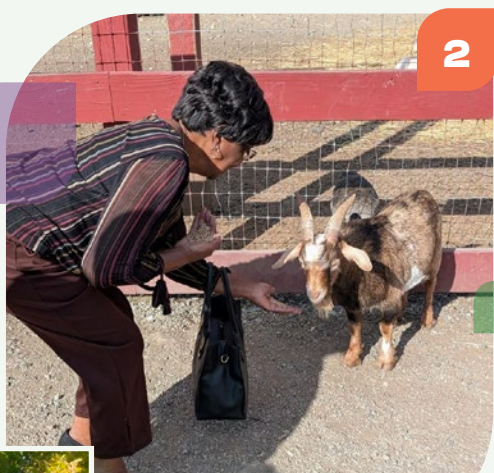
mozaiccl.org/donate/annual-campaign

As we begin our 52nd year of senior care, we embrace the many memories and lessons learned over the decades — each a stone in our ever-changing mosaic. A mosaic that honors the generation that came before us — serving our seniors with dignity, respect, and compassion.

ADD TO THE BEAUTY

Because of community support, Residents and clients of all faiths will always get excellent, loving, and compassionate care. Please consider making a gift to the Annual Campaign. Be one of the precious stones in our mosaic. *Make beautiful things happen.*

SLICE OF LIFE



1. Janet Rospars from Mozaic Adult Day Program shares her Hands on Pottery project. 2. Mable Dumas feeds the goats during a Mozaic Adult Day Program trip to Silverman's Farm. 3. Mozaic Assisted Living Residents enjoy a day trip to The Cheesecake Factory. From left to right: Mona Bonsu, Caregiver, Residents Jack Rice and Mary Tarczali, Felicia King, CNA, Louissaint Pierre, Driver, along with Residents Phyllis Klein, Joan Fox, and Rosemary Baclawski. 4. Mozaic Assisted Living Residents gather for a sweet treat with ice cream sundaes. 5. Mozaic Senior Life staff, family, and friends join the efforts in the Walk to End Alzheimers. 6. Palliative Care Training attendees, from left to right: Selina Ng, Social Worker, Mozaic Hospice, Veroncia Webb, Social Worker, Mozaic Hospice, Lynn Sickles, Case Manager, Mozaic Hospice, Regina McCluster, Case Manager, Mozaic Hospice, Liza Mitchel, Clinical Director, Mozaic Home Care, and Kelly LaFrance, Case Manager, Mozaic Hospice. 7. This year's trip to CitiField for a Mets Game, sponsored by the Men's Club of Mozaic Senior Life. 8. Residents, staff, and volunteers join together in prayer to remember the hostages on the one-year anniversary of October 7. 9. Eileen Caldwell is happy with her wreath creation during a Mozaic Assisted Living activity. 10. Residents Toni Ann Marcey, Randy Kalfus, Sandra Kochiss, and Joan Sepot enjoy a game of ping pong during the Mozaic Jewish Home Resident Summer Games. 11. Anna Demasi takes in some sunshine during a Resident summer BBQ. 12. The newest member of the Mozaic Senior Life family, Shaggy! He will be a daily visitor to Residents and rehab clients as our new therapy dog. Shaggy is pictured with his handlers, Allison Brown, Clinical Supervisor, Rehabilitation Services, Veronice Webb, Social Worker, Mozaic Hospice, and Sally Agron, Social Worker, Second Floor. 13. Residents Agnes Lazor, Marion Dluznieski, and Diana Goomrigian sport lovely summer hats during a Resident summer BBQ. 14. Lisette Amodeo, Nursing Supervisor, Fourth Floor, Nancy Meliso, Assistant Director, Nursing, and Jackie Brown, Transporter, participate in the DEI Unity Project on the front lawn. 15. Resident Steven Brieger, Tracey Hamulak, Therapeutic Recreation Director, and Resident Edward Koenigsberg proudly celebrate Veterans Day. 16. The Mozaic Senior Life DEI Team collected an abundance of food donations from staff and family members throughout the month of November, resulting in 23 Thankgiving baskets which were given to staff members in need. DEI members Ninika Bohannon, Recruiter, Katie Pearce, Director, Post Acute Services, Sherry Mercer, Director, Nursing, David Magner, Supervisor, ADC Therapeutic Programming, Mozaic Adult Day Program, and Kara Rodriguez, VP & Chief Human Resources Officer proudly stand with the baskets. 17. Better Together student Jonathan Klein and Mozaic Jewish Home Resident Philip Neufeld enjoy crafting together. 18. Resident Herbert Levine sports his new Mozaic Senior Life hat, a Chanukah gift from the Women's Auxiliary.



FOUNDATION

2024 Fall Gala

The 2024 Fall Gala was a resounding success, with more than 170 community members gathering to support Mozaic Senior Life's Women's Auxiliary. The event, held on Wednesday, October 30, at the Inn at Longshore in Westport, celebrated the outstanding achievements of Patti and Alan Masarek and Dr. Kenneth Fine.

Tri-chaired by Cindy Epstein, Vivian Epstein, and Vanessa Rosenberg, the evening was truly unforgettable. Janet Freedman honored Patti and Alan Masarek for their leadership and dedication to the community, presenting them with the Arthur and Gladys Lunin Humanitarian Award. Andrew H. Banoff, President & CEO of Mozaic Senior Life, bestowed the Louis Lotstein Award for Distinguished Service upon Dr. Kenneth Fine, recognizing his years of compassionate care for the Residents, families, staff, and clients during his tenure as Chief Medical Officer at Mozaic Senior Life. Guests enjoyed an engaging live auction led by auctioneer Jay Cash, bid on exciting items at the silent auction, admired the beautiful commemorative journal, and appreciated the stunning décor by Ruth Ridgeway Designs. The event raised over \$240,000 to support vital programs for the Residents, including \$39,000 designated for Mozaic Center for Elder Abuse Prevention.



Photo credit: Regina Madwed, Capitol PhotoInteractive

Thank You!

Thank you to all those who supported the Fall Gala - Mozaic Senior Life is extremely grateful for your continued support.

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Thank you to the 2024 Fall Gala Auction Donors

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The Mets Organization • Tina Dragone • Valentine's Diamond Center Inc. • Westchester Knicks
Westport Country Playhouse • Westport Yarns • Wonnaful • Sandy Young

FOUNDATION



Family Day 2024

The beloved Family Day Picnic, sponsored by the Men's Club, was a great success. The weather was perfect as hundreds of Residents, family members, and friends gathered to spend the fun-filled, festive day together. Guests enjoyed the homage to New York City, live music from the Captain Obvious Band, Mike Pelligrino, Mary Merillo, and Ann Swietnicki, magic and bubbles from Mr. Bungles, balloon creations by Melissa Russo, face painting, and a special appearance from the Statue of Liberty! A very special thank you to Rockwell Dance Center of Trumbull who was honored to perform through their partnership with Soar Together CT's Acts of Kindness Program. Seeing the joy on the faces of the Residents as these young dancers performed and seeing the joy in the dancers' faces as they went into the crowd and danced with the Residents was a true highlight of the day.



Photo credit:
Regina Madwed,
Capitol PhotoInteractive



Photo credit:
Regina Madwed,
Capitol PhotoInteractive

Men's Club Celebrity Breakfast

The 9th Annual Celebrity Breakfast, hosted by the Mozaic Senior Life Men's Club, was held in September. Over 170 guests filled Bennet Hall to hear Marty Lyons, retired NY Jets quarterback, share highlights from his career, his connection to the community, and the values he supports. Co-chaired by Perry Wasserlauf and Marc Levey, the event was supported by 18 waiters and nine generous sponsors, including Building and Land Technology, Butler Tibbetts, Greenbrier, Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder, LevLane, MarshMcLennan, Miller Rosnick D'Amico August, Morrison Living, and Perkins Eastman. The Men's Club raised \$50,000 to support their initiatives.

Women's Auxiliary Annual Membership Meeting

The Women's Auxiliary Annual Membership Meeting, co-chaired by past President Barbara Kauders and new Board member Mazi Scherban, took place in September. The Women's Auxiliary proudly inducted new co-presidents, Marlene Polansky and Sherry Sopin, for the 2024-2026 term. Both women, deeply committed to Mozaic Senior Life, bring years of professional and personal dedication to the community. In addition, the Women's Auxiliary welcomed new Board members Betsy Baron, Lisa Becker, and Annie Block. The evening continued with an engaging lecture by Dr. Allison Ostroff, Chief Medical Officer of Mozaic Senior Life, who led a discussion specific to women's health and aging. We have many exciting programs and activities in store for the coming year-join us in the planning! Contact Beth Tepper, Development Associate, at 203-396-1000 or btepper@mozaicsl.org.



For Further Information

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

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).



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Employee Spotlight



Stacey Rodriguez, RN joined Mozaic Senior Life in 2022 and became part of the Mozaic Home Care team in 2024 as the Admission Nurse. This specialized role requires expert assessment skills, which Stacey developed over the 24 years she has worked in the field of geriatrics and home health care. As the first clinician to visit new patients, Stacey develops the initial plan of care that the home care clinicians then follow.

Stacey began her career as a CNA, progressed to LPN, and with further education obtained her RN license. Stacey's inspiration to be a nurse came from her mother who was a CNA. Likewise, she attributes her father's service to others as the foundation for her life's work. Stacey's compassion and caring heart make her a valuable asset to Mozaic Senior Life. She is described by others as someone who always puts patients first and shows how much she cares by her actions every day.

SHARF 2
Senior Health And Resource Expo

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025
Mozaic Senior Life • Bennett Hall

Watch for a complete exhibiting vendor list and more details!

Community Fairs

Mozaic Senior Life has been out in the community helping seniors and their families learn more about the caregiving journey and sharing information about our services. Mary Pruzinsky, Community Outreach Liaison, coordinates our participation at events that offer information on Mozaic Jewish Home, Assisted Living, Short-Term Rehab, Home Care, Companions & Homemakers, Hospice, Outpatient Therapy, Adult Family Living, Adult Day Program, Memory Workshop, Institute on Aging, Geriatric Medical Practice, Mozaic at Home, Mozaic Concierge Living, Child Development Center, B'Tayavon Catering and JFitness center. For more information on any of our services, call 1-833-MSL-LINK (675-5465).



Expanding to Popular Podcast Platforms!

For the past year, the Mozaic Senior Life Podcast Series - **Senior Sense: Navigating Your Journey** has been exclusively on the Mozaic Senior Life website. In an effort to

broaden our audience, we added the Senior Sense podcasts to some popular podcast platforms. Every day we are asked questions about aging, Alzheimer's Disease, Home Care, and all aspects of the senior care navigation process, so we hope these podcasts will give listeners valuable information that can assist families in their journey.

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

One Man's Hospice Journey

Dan was a 72-year-old living with his wife and a supportive family nearby. Dan was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2021, where he followed the guidance of his oncology team and completed chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and radiation. Over the years, he was able to retire, enjoy vacations with his family, and golf with his friends. Over time, Dan's symptoms became more burdensome to him and traveling became challenging for him and his family. He had intermittent hospitalizations, where Dan would get treatment, go to short-term rehab, and return home, though his pain, fatigue, and anxiety became more prominent. Hospitalizations caused sadness for Dan as he was away from his wife, children, and grandchildren. Dan eventually had a conversation with his oncology team and palliative care team, where he described his goals of care being symptom management, comfort, and quality of life at home. His oncologist recommended hospice care, where an interdisciplinary team would come to his home to ensure his comfort and support. Dan was then admitted to hospice at home, where the team brought him a bed, wheelchair, and walker. Dan's family was given the social work support they needed, and the therapy dog did wonders for his grandchildren. As Dan's symptoms became managed, he was able to attend his daughter's wedding and see his newest grandson's birth with 24/7 support of the hospice team. As the months went on, Dan was able to pass peacefully at home surrounded by his family. As Dan's family adjusted, the hospice bereavement social worker provided 13 months of support ongoing where they attended support groups and had one-on-one support through their grief journey.

Each person's journey through hospice is unique, shaped by their own experiences, values, and needs. At Mozaic Hospice, our compassionate team is here for people facing a life-limiting illness or injury. Services include medical care and oversight of pain/symptom management, specialized registered nurses, therapists, home health aides and social workers, emotional support and spiritual guidance, grief/loss counseling and pet/music therapy. We support you every step of the way, offering care tailored to your individual situation and to help make this journey as peaceful and meaningful as possible. Contact Mozaic Hospice at 203-396-1136 or hospice@mozaicsl.org.



Employee Awards

This year's Employee Awards was a fun evening honoring all staff. Mozaic Senior Life was fortunate to honor 83 employees celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of dedicated service. Special recognition was given to the employees listed below. Thanks to MarshMcLennan Agency for their contribution to the event.

Chairperson's Award

Erma Chambers
Jaclyn Dias
Marie Paulemon
Wilhel Rowe

Charney Family Award

Cynthia Trevino

Sadie Freeman Award*

Melvin Williams

Marie Cayo Humanitarian Award*

Marvalyn Crosdale

Ciszkowski Family Journey Award

Miles Randall

Jacqueline Purcell Nursing Award*

Kassandra St Hilaire

Community Service Award

Lyn Maack

President's Leadership Award

Amy Jackson

Mary Williams Nursing Assistant Award*

Tawana Williams

Elaine "Laney" Pollack Award*

Andrew Kloter

*Award in memory of a dedicated employee



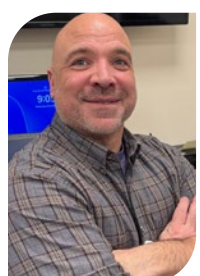
Employee Holiday Party

Employees embraced the holiday spirit with an evening filled with music, dancing, singing, raffles, and plenty of laughter. The celebration was made even more memorable with a delightful spread of delicious food and treats, expertly prepared by our talented Dining Services team. "This event is truly a highlight of the season, offering a wonderful chance to show our appreciation for the incredible team members who dedicate themselves to serving our Residents, clients, and the community," shared Andrew Banoff, President & CEO.



Milestone Celebration

In early November, Mozaic Senior Life celebrated the 173 employees who have dedicated 15 or more years of service to our organization with dinner, dancing, and lots of camaraderie at Mohegan Sun.



New Mozaic Leadership

Angelo DiRubba joined Mozaic Senior Life this year at the end of October as the IT Supervisor. Coming from John B. Pierce Laboratory, he is a seasoned System Administrator, with over 25 years of comprehensive experience in information technology. In his free time, Angelo enjoys exploring the vibrant landscapes of Connecticut and Western Mass, engaging in many outdoor activities. He is also a technology enthusiast, often experimenting with new software and hardware to enhance his skills and broaden his knowledge.

Jon August
 Chairperson of the Board
Andrew H. Banoff
 President & CEO / Editor
 Contact us at
203-365-6400
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Jewish Home • Assisted Living and Memory Care Residences • Rehabilitation Services • Adult Day Program • Memory Workshop
 Home Care • Hospice • Institute on Aging • Center for Elder Abuse Prevention • ElderCare Navigation • Adult Family Living
 Long-Term Care Planning/Asset Protection • Child Development Center • Catering • J Fitness Center • Independent Living

Family Mail

I cannot tell you what a difference you have made in my husband's life! He always comes home happy and says what a great day he has had! He truly feels as if he can contribute and has a purpose. You are the best and I truly appreciate all you do.

- L.G., Adult Day Program
 Family Member

With our sincere gratitude to the Mozaic Hospice team for their generosity, help, and guidance. They were gracefully there when we needed them.

- J.S., Mozaic Hospice
 Family Member

Save the Dates

JANUARY

- **THURSDAY, JANUARY 23**
Career Fair
- **MONDAY, JANUARY 27**
Women's Auxiliary
Game Day

APRIL

- **SUNDAY, APRIL 6**
SHARE
Senior Health and Resources Expo
- **THURSDAY, APRIL 10**
Men's Club
Social Event
Foolproof Brewing Co.
Bridgeport

MAY

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

Family Portrait by Leslie Snow

There are those people who believe that we are all beings of one kind or another, randomly floating on this earth, sometimes connecting with each other, sometimes merely bouncing off one another or never even connecting at all; it's all completely hit or miss. Then there are those that are certain there are no coincidences in life, everything happens at just the right time because it is all part of a greater, predetermined plan - our destinies.

During the spring of 1960 two children, one girl, and one boy were born to two separate sets of parents in two different states, New York and Connecticut to be precise.

Leslie and Steve both grew up doing some wonderfully typical childhood things like playing outside with their neighbors, then back out again after dinner during the summer months until the fireflies came out, played sports, took dance lessons, went on to high school and its rites of passage that everyone looks forward to during that time. Each went on to marry their respective spouses, both unions lasting 20 years and producing two children each.

After each was diagnosed with life altering illnesses that left them unable to fully care for themselves in their 50s, they each came to the realization that a nursing home was the logical and necessary next step. Enter admission to Mozaic Senior Life (then Jewish Senior Services).

Steve was quite depressed and saw this as the

final chapter of his life. Leslie imagined the same but was determined to live as long as she was indeed alive. They both started working at the Mozaic Work Activity Center which offers Residents a sense of accomplishment, a routine, the opportunity to socialize in a group setting and earn a bit of money - all a well-needed reawakening.

Steve originally did not like Leslie because he felt she was way too positive and extremely kind to everyone, therefore imagining her to be a phony. He soon found out she was the "real deal", and after asking his boss's advice and receiving his well wishes Steve decided to court Leslie, first as a friend and shortly thereafter romantically; much to the delight of the entire Mozaic Senior Life organization!

One year later Steve proposed to Leslie, and she accepted! They were married by Cantor Scott Harris at Mozaic Senior Life on September 22, 2024, in a beautiful ceremony attended by many employees as well as family and close friends.

Leslie, an avid reader, shared one of her very favorite quotes from the novel *Under the Tuscan Sun* with Cantor Harris, which she said she feels like she is actually living out and he included in their ceremony - "Unthinkably good things can happen, even late in the game; it's such a surprise"!

Accident, coincidence, or destiny? You be the judge!



Leslie in the
Work Activity Center.



Leslie and Steve at their wedding in September.



Steve in Israel, 2023.

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