

October 2025



Elly Bauman
Director of Institutional
Advancement

Reflecting on this past year at Park Plaza Senior Living, I am grateful for the generosity, compassion, and commitment of our residents, families, staff, and supporters. Through our shared spirit of giving and resilience, we made meaningful progress and deepened our community connections.

Celebrating Impact

Thanks to your support, we achieved several key milestones in 2024:

- We raised over \$21,000 through donations. Every dollar made a real difference by improving programs and services for our residents.
- Your gifts helped fund weekly Kiddushes, purchase choir robes, and sponsor monthly birthday parties. They also helped residents attend outings.

Every act of support, whether large or small, has contributed to improving the quality of life for our residents. Moreover, it has deepened our sense of connection and purpose.

As you will see, Park Plaza Senior Living is not just a place to live but a community. We strive to enhance the value-added amenities and services that improve the lives of our residents.

The Heart of Our Community

At Park Plaza Senior Living, what matters most is our shared commitment to dignity, independence, and joy at every stage of life. This commitment drives our work and inspires me every day. I've seen how even a single thoughtful donation, a handwritten note, or a few hours of someone's time can brighten a room and lift a spirit.

Our community does more than give; our community belongs here. You are an essential part of the story we are creating together.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the year ahead, we are excited to build on this momentum. We are preparing to launch a strategic plan, and we hope you'll continue to walk with us as we shape the future of Park Plaza Senior Living with innovation, inclusion, and love.

On behalf of the staff and board of directors, thank you. Your trust and partnership mean the world to us.

With warm appreciation,

Elly Bauman

Elly Bauman, Director, Institutional Advancement

Shana Tova 5786!

Announcements

October Birthdays

Nancy Provorny	10/05
Phyllis Reifer	10/06
Sol Harris	10/09
Joe Goldstein	10/14
Gloriann Levy	10/20
Morton Harris	10/23
Sally Jablo	10/27
Sheila Dallal	10/31

Welcome to Park Plaza

Sharon Shattan
David Novak



Mazel Tov

-  Residents Jan Harris and Stuart Zelden on their marriage.
-  R. Sorel, "Bitsy" Simon on the birth of a great-granddaughter.
-  Corrine and Phil Cutler on the marriage of their granddaughter
-  Dr. and Mrs. Phil Rosen on the upcoming marriage of their granddaughter
-  Phyllis Reifer on the upcoming marriage of her granddaughter
-  Shulamis and Benny Weinfeld on the birth of a great grandson.
-  Devorah and David Stern on the double engagement of their granddaughter and grandson.
-  Carol and Dr Feivel Rosen on the marriage of their granddaughter.
-  Simmie Shandolov on the engagement of her granddaughter.
-  Esther Lichtshien on the birth of twin great-grandchildren and the birth of another great-grandson.
-  To volunteer Lois Lefton and her husband, Rabbi Charles Lefton, on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson.
-  Josie and Joel Meyers on the birth of a great-granddaughter.
-  Michael Perl on the Bar Mitzvah of his grandson.

Park Plaza's Centenarians

The U.S. is home to an estimated 101,000 centenarians, or people living who are 100 years or older, according to the Pew Research Center. People aged 100 and over make up only 0.03% of the United States population. At Park Plaza Senior Living, we are fortunate to have five residents who are part of that 0.03% in the United States.

Bessie H.- 100 years old

Etta K.- 102 years old

Lothar K. - 101 years old

Mort H. - 102 years old

Nate R. - 101 years old

These extraordinary residents have lived through so many remarkable moments in history and show the perseverance and determination needed to live to 100 years. Our centenarians are all remarkable people that we have the pleasure of knowing every day. Their lives are storied and show us the resilience we all may need to reach 100 years old. We are deeply grateful to have the opportunity to know and interact with every Park Plaza resident. Read on for stories of some of these amazing residents' lives.



A Century of Life - Etta Katz

At 102 years old, resident Etta Katz has lived a storied and astounding life. She was born in 1923 in Veliké Loucky, Czechoslovakia, to a family of seven, including her mother, father, two sisters, two brothers, and herself. Her father worked as a cattle dealer, selling cows and other animals to support the family. Etta is a survivor and was taken from her home at 21 years old, sent to Auschwitz, and then to Bergen-Belsen. While there, she was determined to live, marry her husband, and have a family. She was ultimately liberated from the camp in 1945.

In 1946, she moved to the US with her then fiancé, Ernest, also a survivor, saying she “went to the US 10 days after him.” Once in the US, Etta and Ernest married. Etta worked in a factory making dresses until she had children, while Ernest worked as a buyer for Vienna Sausages. They had three children, Jerry, Marshall, and Steven. After becoming a mother, she devoted her time to caring for them.

Etta was blessed with a large extended family – 10 grandkids and 18 great-grandkids. She loves it when she can see her family, especially the little ones. Although some of her family are all over the world, most still live in Chicago. She enjoys getting visits from her loved ones. Since many of them are busy with their own families, she doesn’t get to see them as often as she would like.

When asked about living to 102 years old, she said that her family helps her a lot, but “there is no secret.” She wants to live, fought to live, so she does. She thinks that you should not give up hope because things can always change and get better. Not every day will be the best, but it can always get better.



A Century of Life - Nate Rubenstein

Nate Rubenstein was born, raised, and has lived in Chicago for 101 years. Nate grew up on the West Side of the city, in what is now known as North Lawndale. With a brother 12 years his senior and a sister 4 years his senior, Nate was the baby of his family. His parents were immigrants from Poland. His father worked as a tailor, and his mother was a saleswoman at a clothing store. During the Great Depression, at the age of 14, Nate left the Yeshiva to work at his first job, filling, sealing, and labeling bags of split peas. He earned \$3.75 a week, giving \$3 to his mother and keeping \$0.75 for himself. After that, he was never out of a job.

In February of 1943, he was drafted into the army and stationed at Camp Callan in California. In the army, Nate served as a soldier and an associate and attended school to become a searchlight maintenance man. Before Camp Callan, he was at Fort Sheridan. When Nate first got off the train at Fort Sheridan in Illinois, it was 12 o'clock, time for lunch. They took the soldiers into the mess hall to eat. Nate, feeling extremely hungry, looked up and said, "Thank you, Hashem." Then he looked at the meal for soldiers, pork chops. He cut off a piece of the pork chop and said, "I have no choice, Hashem." He put the pork chop up to his mouth and gagged, but he was so hungry and needed to eat. Nate tried to eat another piece of pork chop, but it was the same thing; he couldn't eat it, so Nate went to the service club and got a sandwich. After arriving in California to be stationed at Camp Callan, Nate encountered the same issue with the mess hall serving pork. One day, when he went to the mess, his sergeant said, "Rubenstein, come here. Are you trying to observe the dietary Jewish laws?" Nate responded, saying he was "doing the best he could, given the circumstances." His sergeant, a devout Catholic, appreciated someone who honored their religion. From then on, whenever the mess served pork, he would make sure Nate had something different to eat. Nate never forgot this kindness.

Nate met his future wife at a picnic. When Nate called to ask her out on their first date, he could hear her on the other end of the phone, telling her mom that she was unsure about going on a date with him because "he was skinny, blonde, and didn't really look Jewish." Her mom told her to go on the date, she said, "You're not going to marry him – just go on the date." They went on that date, had two sons, and were married for 71 years. Nate and his wife would never go to bed without talking to each other. They always did things together and loved each other's company. Unfortunately, Nate's wife and one of his sons have both passed. He has a large extended family with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren all over the world, and loves it when a large portion of his family can be together celebrating a simcha.





Nate always tried to stay busy working, either in inventory or accounts payable. He worked until he was 95 years old, saying that he worked with the greatest people, and would still be working if he could. Nate believes everyone should be fortunate enough to work with such a fantastic group of people. He also loves sports and being active; he used to golf, bowl, and play softball. He has always tried to exercise and stay in shape, regularly golfing and bowling, until he was 95 years old. Although he no longer actively plays any sports, as a fan, he still tries to keep up and enjoys watching golf, but finds baseball too slow, which sometimes causes him to fall asleep. However, he does like sleeping, so that might not be a bad thing.

Nate loves the people, accommodations, and friendly and helpful atmosphere at Park Plaza. He said he would be happy to take on any menial job available in the building, as he likes to feel like he has accomplished something and tries to make it a goal throughout his days. He also tries to live by Jewish law and tries to be observant. He wants to acknowledge and thank family and friends who do so much for him.

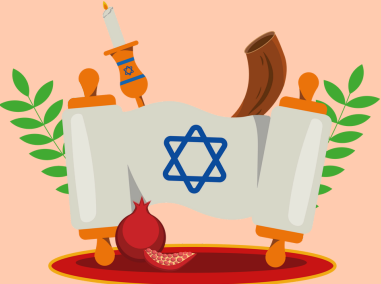
The best decade of Nate's 101 years was the 1940s, when he married his wife and they had their two boys. It is unbelievable how much the world has changed during his life. One of the hardest things in his life was losing his wife, 8 years ago. He and his wife did everything together, and that is what made their marriage work; so, losing her was incredibly difficult. Seeing family happy, well, and together is one thing that brings him the most joy in life.

Nate advises younger generations not to judge an individual by the group, to avoid stereotyping or segmenting people, and never to underestimate others. He hopes people will know the good things about him and that they should not be afraid to help someone in need. He believes people should take things one day at a time, treat others with kindness, and that it's possible to get along with many people.

When asked about living to be 101 years old, Nate says, "Who would have ever imagined living this long?" Sometimes, he asks Hashem why he gets to live so long and why he keeps Nate around for so long. Nate says that he must have done something right in his life to live this long. As for the future, Nate is still taking it one day at a time, but he would like to see an end to the current wars and hopes to walk naturally again in the future, now that he has recovered from his hip injury. He is working hard with his physical therapist to get back to walking. Fortunately, he still has enough energy to get up and do something, but he would like to have a bit more. But as his doctor tells him, "Everything goes with aging."

Mizrahi Grill & Ravinia Outing



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			 1 9 CANDLE LIGHTING 6:11 - 6:23 PM Erev Yom Kippur
5 13 Tishrei Carlbach Combo @ 1:45 pm - Back Dining Room Sukkah Decorating with TOV Volunteers @ 3 pm - Outside in the Sukkah	6 14 Tishrei CANDLE LIGHTING 6:03 - 6:23 PM  Erev Sukkot	7 15 Tishrei CANDLE LIGHTING 7:05 - 7:25 PM  Sukkot I	8 16 Tishrei CANDLE LIGHTING 7:05 - 7:25 PM  Sukkot II
12 20 Tishrei Sukkah Activity @ 3 pm - Outside in the Sukkah	13 21 Tishrei CANDLE LIGHTING 5:51 - 6:11 PM  Hoshana Raba	14 22 Tishrei CANDLE LIGHTING 6:52 - 7:12 PM  Shmini Atzeret	15 23 Tishrei CANDLE LIGHTING 6:52 - 7:12 PM  Simchat Torah
19 27 Tishrei Daniela Bisenius Duo @ 1:45 pm - Back Dining Room	20 28 Tishrei Karaoke Night with Al from Angel Home Health Care @ 6:45 pm - Activity Room 104	21 29 Tishrei Vaccine Clinic @ 9 am - Activity Room 104 - Ask the Front Desk for Sign Up	22 30 Tishrei Outing: On the Theater in the Presents: Guitars - Bus Departure Sign up at the Desk
26 4 Cheshvan Marlene and Company @ 1:45 pm - Multi- purpose Room	27 5 Cheshvan	28 6 Cheshvan	29 7 Cheshvan Outing: Skokie 2 pm - Sign Front Desk Guitarist Stu 6:45 pm - Back Room

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

9 Tishrei
CANDLE LIGHTING
5:11 - 6:31 PM



Yom Kippur

2 10 Tishrei
HAVDALAH
7:15 PM



Yom Kippur

3 11 Tishrei
CANDLE LIGHTING
6:08 - 6:28 PM



4 12 Tishrei
HAVDALAH
7:08 PM



16 Tishrei
HAVDALAH
7:02 PM

Shmini Atzeret II

9 17 Tishrei
Pizza in the Hut
@ 2:30 pm -
Outside in the
Sukkah

10 18 Tishrei
CANDLE LIGHTING
5:56 - 6:16 PM



11 19 Tishrei
HAVDALAH
6:57 PM



Guest Lecture: Rebbetzin
Mindy Reis @ 4 pm -
Outside in the Sukkah

23 Tishrei
HAVDALAH
6:51 PM

Simchat Torah

16 24 Tishrei

17 25 Tishrei
CANDLE LIGHTING
5:45 - 6:05 PM



18 26 Tishrei
HAVDALAH
6:46 PM



30 Tishrei
Oil Lamp
in Glenview
GASLIGHT
starts: 10 am -
at the Front
desk

23 1 Cheshvan
October 7th
Commemoration @ 1:45
pm - Back Dining Room
Qigong with Regina
Wolgel @ 3:45 pm - 2nd
Floor Aviary Lounge

24 2 Cheshvan
CANDLE LIGHTING
5:35 - 5:55 PM



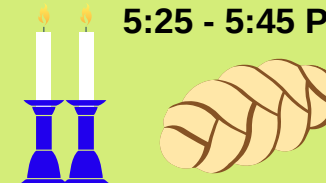
25 3 Cheshvan
HAVDALAH
6:36 PM



4 Cheshvan
Cookie Library @
Sign up at the
Front Desk
Stu Frank @
Back Dining
Room

30 8 Cheshvan
Barb's Boutique @
11 am - Activity
Room 104
September Birthday
Party @ 1:45 pm

31 9 Cheshvan
CANDLE LIGHTING
5:25 - 5:45 PM



1 10 Cheshvan
HAVDALAH
6:36 PM



78 Years Together - Bessie & Mort Harris



The moving story of Bessie and Mort Harris's life together began on the same street on the West Side of Chicago. Living five houses down from each other as kids, they have known each other for 9 decades, and this past June, they celebrated their 78th wedding anniversary, a testament to the enduring power of friendship and love.

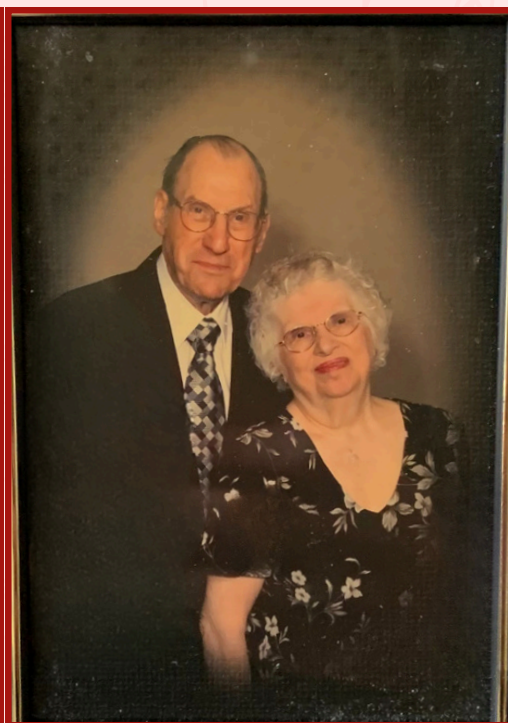
Growing up on the 1500 block of St. Louis Street on the West Side of Chicago, Mort was the third of five boys, right in the middle, as he said. Mort's father was a baker from Europe. When his father lost his arm in a dough mixing machine accident, things started to get rough for the family. Despite these challenges, Mort's resilience and determination shone through as he held many jobs in his youth, helping his dad in bakeries, packing orders, delivering bread and cakes to businesses on State Street, and working in a brewery. When he was young, Mort was very athletic; genes that were unfortunately not passed down, according to his daughter Becky. Mort played lots of sports, including baseball, football, and swimming.

At the age of 20, Mort was drafted into the army during World War II and served for three years. In July 1943, he boarded a ship for overseas duty as a member of the Military Police and was stationed in Iran, then known as Persia. He performed various guard duties and assisted at the stockade, taking prisoners to work and escorting them throughout the camp. While home on furlough, Mort and Bessie went out with some friends, and this was the start of their decades-long romance. After being stationed in the mountains, Mort was transferred to the desert for six months before being discharged. To get home, Mort traveled through the Suez Canal and the Strait of Gibraltar, and his journey ended in New York City. The sight of the Statue of Liberty, returning from his military service, was one of the best things Mort had ever seen. Mort arrived back right before New Year's and, on New Year's Eve, got discharged.

Mort worked for an insurance company for 15 years and then spent 49 years working for Sears. Always wanting to stay busy and help others, Mort volunteered at Skokie Hospital in the ambulatory and surgery units. He would help the patients and get together their paperwork. Unfortunately, he had to stop volunteering at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic because the hospital stopped allowing volunteers. A fun fact about Mort is that he only recently stopped driving; he drove till he was 95 years old.

Growing up down the street from Mort, Bessie was the youngest of 4 children, the baby of her family. Her parents, originally from Russia, first immigrated to Toronto, where Bessie's siblings were born, and then later moved to Chicago, where Bessie was born. As a young woman, Bessie worked for the Red Cross, performing secretarial tasks such as taking notes, typing, and using shorthand. While working for the Red Cross, Bessie became friendly with another woman who worked in the office, and they would often eat lunch together. However, unfortunately, Bessie lost touch with this friend once they both left the Red Cross. She and Mort began dating while he was in the army, and she waited for him to return home so they could get married. In 1947, Bessie married Mort. At the time, she worked as a legal secretary but quit when she became pregnant with their daughter, Becky. Bessie stayed at home to care for their daughter and their household until Becky was 10 years old. After returning to work, Bessie began working for a life insurance agent and later transitioned to an administrative role for accountants.

From the start, Mort knew he loved Bessie. He continues to hold her hand and tells her "I love you" every night before they fall asleep. Their wedding, held at a restaurant overlooking a large hall, was a massive celebration attended by many of their loved ones. The entire day was fantastic; no moment or event that day was better than any other. "The whole day was the best, it was incredible." When the Rabbi pronounced them man and wife, Mort said to Bessie, "Hello, Mrs. Harris," told her he loved her, and he hasn't stopped saying it since. That night, they danced to their favorite songs, the Anniversary Song and Always. And they have not stopped dancing.





Mort said that he was never a great dancer, but since Bessie was always dancing and singing at parties and events, "how could he not want to dance with his wife?" While it is more challenging for the Harrises to get up and dance together now, they continue dancing in their seats, so they can always dance together. As a couple, Bessie and Mort enjoyed going to dinner together, taking walks around their neighborhood, and, sometimes, stopping for ice cream on the way home. Even though they were always working, they would try to find time to take trips with their daughter as a family. Some of their favorites were going out to California to visit relatives, as well as Rhode Island, Florida, Atlantic City, and Las Vegas. In 1950, before their daughter Becky was born, they even went to Canada to visit with some of Bessie's cousins.

Living at Park Plaza together since 2018, Bessie and Mort Harris say they enjoy taking it easy. They appreciate the fact that they don't have to cook, have a community of friends right outside their door, and have help when they need it. The community, synagogue, playing Rummikub with friends, musical programs and concerts, as well as bingo, are some of the best parts of living at Park Plaza. As long as an activity is not too far to walk to, they enjoy getting out of their apartment and joining in the lively community here. Living at Park Plaza, Bessie and Mort receive a great deal of help from their excellent caregivers, terrific dining room servers, and amazingly friendly front desk staff. Mort and Bessie were crowned our Prom King and Queen at Park Plaza's Senior Prom this past June, and also celebrated their 78th wedding anniversary that day.

For Bessie and Mort Harris, the key to a happy marriage is staying in love with one another and always telling each other "I love you." That is something you should say all the time if you are married, they say. Spending time together is also essential for a long, happy marriage. Bessie and Mort enjoy spending time together watching TV, exercising, playing games, and sitting together to talk. Even when they went on vacation and Mort would swim, Bessie would sit on the steps of the pool, allowing them to talk and spend time together. They love just being together and enjoy each other's company. Bessie says that, after 78 years of marriage and over 90 years of friendship, "it was meant to be," and nothing else can explain it. They have been able to stay together for so long because they "used good glue to stick together," according to Mort. Having known each other for over 90 years, spending many holidays and great vacations together, to Bessie and Mort, no moment stands out more than any other, because it has all been great.

Flower Arranging



Park Plaza Radio Show



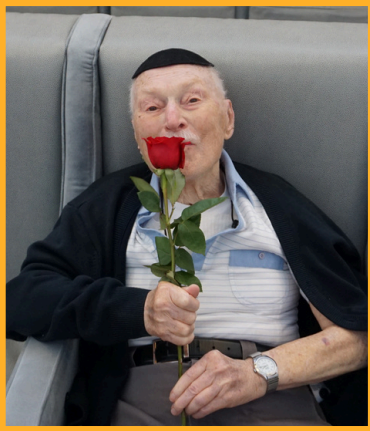
Cooking Demonstration



Cooking Demonstration



Happy Birthday!!



Birthday Party!

