



As we end the year, I would like to extend my thanks to all of the staff at Park Plaza for their hard work this past year. Without our outstanding staff, we would not be able to provide so much to our residents and have such a vibrant community within our building. I thank the staff for the support, care, patience, compassion, and resilience they put into their work every day.

Let us take a look back on all of the tremendous work our staff has done in 2025.

- **Housekeeping:** Our housekeepers clean each apartment, common area, lobby, hallways, meeting rooms, and public bathrooms, 52 weeks a year.
- **Maintenance:** The maintenance personnel process an average of 100 work orders a month in the apartments, in addition to maintaining the entire building and setting up programs daily.
- **Drivers:** Our drivers provide approximately 3,100 round-trip bus/van rides a year.
- **Kitchen:** The kitchen prepares and serves an average of 120,000 meals annually.
- We hold an average of 50 **activities and programs** at Park Plaza each week.
- **Front Desk:** Staff at the front desk answer approximately 20,000 phone calls per year, assist with upwards of 65 resident requests per day, deliver around 40 packages per day, and help in ways big and small.

Thank you for being a part of Park Plaza,
Hillel

Candle Lighting Times

December	Candle Lighting	Havdalah
12/5 - 12/6	3:59 - 4:19 pm	5:06 pm
12/12 - 12/13	3:59 - 4:19 pm	5:07 pm
12/19 - 12/20	4:01 - 4:21 pm	5:09 pm
12/26 - 12/27	4:05 - 4:25 pm	5:13 pm

Announcements

December Birthdays

Mark Zissman	12/02
Marvin Cohen	12/03
Simi Shandalov	12/03
Bea Wyetzner	12/09
Roberta Lavi	12/12
Sol Rosen	12/18
Corrine Cutler	12/19
Harriet Richtman	12/22
Jerry Hershtein	12/25
Sharon Skidelsky	12/27
Bernie Bromberg	12/29
David Nathan	12/29
Miriam Levinson	12/30

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

In Memoriam



Joe Goldstein

Mazel Tov



R. Lee Glickman on the Bar Mitzvah of three of her great-grandsons, the engagement of her great-granddaughter, the birth of a great-grandson, and the birth of a great-granddaughter.



Phyllis Reifer & Shulamis and Benny Weinfeld on the birth of a great granddaughter.



Devorah and Dovid Stern on the marriage of their grandchild.



Esther Lichtshein on the birth of a great-granddaughter.



Evelyn Yellen on the birth of a great grandson



MAZEL TOV

**Welcome to
Park Plaza**
Bernie and Joan Gould

wishing you
**A HAPPY
HANUKKAH**

From the Rabbi's Desk



Rabbi
Eitan Allen

As Winter fully descends on Chicago, we reach the month of December and Kislev, awaiting Chanukah. We often get used to our own narrative and take history for granted. However, if you stop and think about it, Chanukah is miraculous in many ways. The ability of a ragtag band of untrained priests to defeat the most powerful army of the day is nothing short of a miracle. The Maccabees' defeat of the Greeks never ceases to amaze me. It is worthwhile to reflect on the power of faith and the strength of our beliefs. How are we able to persevere after all these centuries? How is it that the threat and scourge of Antisemitism does not swallow us up? The Maccabees taught us that the weak can yet overcome the strong and the many are not destined to overtake the few. We may be small in number, but our faith is strong, and with Hashem's help, we can see miracles. On this Chanukah, when the world is dark and winter abounds, let us hold on tight to our faith and keep the flame of the menorah burning in our hearts. Let us not give in to the winds of hate, and let us stand proud for the world to see. Wishing you a light-filled Chanukah, filled with many blessings.

Rabbi Allen



Someone You Should Know - Chester & Yolanda



Park Plaza is not just a place to live or work; we are a wonderful community, and no one in our community proves that more than our two long-time front desk staff, Yolanda and Chester. These two treasured team members have devoted decades to making Park Plaza a tremendous community and a place that feels like home. Both Chester and Yolanda give the same reasons for their longevity at Park Plaza: the people—the residents, families, and coworkers who shape each day with purpose and connection.

Yolanda joined Park Plaza back in 1995, immediately sensing “a total family feel” in the community. Over the years, she has held nearly every role in the building, “everything except maintenance,” she likes to joke, each role strengthening her bond to residents and staff.

Chester came to Park Plaza 24 years ago after working as a wood refinisher. Tired of seasonal work, he was looking for stability when a friend who already worked here encouraged him to apply. He quickly discovered that Park Plaza offered more than steady employment, “it’s like a second home.”

One memory both recall vividly is a blizzard years ago, when staff were offered overnight stays in temporary rooms because they did not feel roads were safe enough to get home and return in the morning. Staff members did not just feel they were taken care of and given a safe place to stay; they also wanted to ensure they were here the next day to do their jobs and to make sure residents remained cared for and safe. Moments like these, they say, solidified the deep sense of commitment woven through the community.

Chester's days are filled with humor and heart, calling residents "young man" or "young woman" just to make them smile. He fondly remembers chauffeuring a group of ladies to the salon weekly, affectionately dubbing them "the beauty queens." Although both try to keep emotional boundaries, they admit it's nearly impossible. And on tough days, it's often the residents who lift their spirits. "We're all going to get old someday," Chester says. "So treat people how you'd want to be treated."

Although not Jewish themselves, both have developed a deep appreciation for the Jewish traditions that shape life at Park Plaza. Matzah pizza is a shared favorite, and Chester especially loves matzah ball soup. On Fridays, they love the hustle and bustle of getting ready for Shabbos. Chester looks forward to all the holidays and the preparation that goes into them. But Yolanda has a special fondness for the high holidays. She enjoys the spirit and reflection that people have during Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

Chester still thinks often of the residents he bonded with when he first began at Park Plaza. With decades of experience comes the gift of watching families grow, children who once visited grandparents now return as adults, and remember the friendly faces at the front desk.

Yolanda and Chester believe deeply in giving others grace. Behavior often stems from hurt, and listening with compassion helps preserve each person's dignity. It's one of the greatest lessons they've learned in their years at Park Plaza.

Above all, Chester and Yolanda take pride in their longevity at Park Plaza, an accomplishment earned through decades of service, kindness, and unwavering commitment to the residents. Park Plaza would not be the fantastic place it is without caring and generous staff like Chester and Yolanda.

Their stories remind us that Park Plaza is more than a place to live or work—it's a wonderful and lively community.

December

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday



1

2

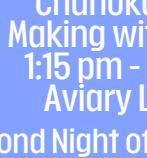
7
Family Channukkah Party: Featuring The Amazing Bottle Dancers @ 2 pm - Multi-purpose Room

8
OUTING: Kosher Taste of Chicago: Tel Aviv Pizza & Shopping at Dollar Tree @ 12 pm - Sign up at the Front Desk

9
Boutique with Sheryl's Apparel (Sheryl Palmer) @ 11 am - TV Room
Town Hall Meeting @ 1:45 pm - 2nd Floor Aviary Lounge
Theater Outing: A Million Dreams @ 6:15 pm - Sign up at the Front Desk

10
Shopping Village @ 2 pm at Front Desk
Singer/Guitarist Mottet @ 6:45 pm - Back Dining Room

14
Chanukah Musical @ 2:30 pm - 2nd Floor Aviary
 First Night of Chanukah

15
Blood Pressure Clinic Hosted by FOX Rehabilitation @ 11 am - Front Lobby
 Chanukah Card Making with Elise @ 1:15 pm - 2nd Floor Aviary Lounge
 Second Night of Chanukah

16
Festive Chanukah Songs with Cheder Lubavitch Boys @ 11:15 am - Front Lobby
 Third Night of Chanukah

17
OUTING Theater It's A Wonderful Life @ 2 pm - 2nd Floor Aviary Lounge
 Fourth Night of Chanukah

21
Carlbach Combo @ 1:45 pm - Back Dining Room
 Park Plaza Art Show - Meet the Artist @ 3 pm - Long Hallway
 Eighth Night of Chanukah

22
Shopping at Trader Joes @ 2 pm - Sign up at the Front Desk
Karaoke with Angel Home Health Care @ 6:45 pm - Activity Room 104

23
Guitarist Aaron Shapiro @ 6:45 pm - Back Dining Room

24
Kosher Taste of The Sandwiches @ 11:30 am - Sign up at the Front Desk
Lecture with Matanky @ Activity Room 104

28
Pianist Yan Skladman @ 1:45 pm - Back Dining Room
Student Piano Recital @ 3:30 pm - Multi-purpose Room

29

30

31
Happy New Year @ 12 pm - Back Dining Room with a Bell Toast, and



esday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

g: Wicked For
t 2 @ 12 pm -
e Crossing
n Skladman
om - Back
g Room

4
Qigong with Regina
Wolgel @ 3:45 pm -
2nd Floor Aviary
Lounge



at Lincoln
2 pm - Sign
ont Desk
itarist Ken
6:45 pm -
ing Room

11 Chanukah Winter Sale
with Ronia @ 11 am
December Birthday Party @
1:45 pm - Front Dining Room
Lecture with Rabbi Baruch
Tuman: Chanukah Highlights -
A Prep Class for the Meaning
Behind Chanukah @ 3:45 pm -
Activity Room 104



G: Oil Lamp
r Presents:
nderful Life:
Live Radio
Play - Bus
parts: 2 pm
ight of Chanukah

18 Making Potato Latkes with Hillel
and Crew @ 2 pm - Activity
Room 104
Lecture with Professor Charlie
Abrams: Recent Breakthroughs in
Science @ 3:45 pm -
Activity Room 104
Maxwell Klezmer
Chanukah Concert @ 6:45
pm - Back Dining Room
Fifth Night of Chanukah



e of Chicago:
wich Club @
sign up at the
Desk
with Rabbi
@ 1:45 pm -
Room 104

25
Chicago Women's
Charity Players
Presents: A Taste of A
Million Dreams at Park
Plaza! @ 3:45 pm -
Activity Room 104



oon-Year!
n - Lobby
Ball Drop,
nd Music



Resident Meet. & Greet



Resident Meet & Greet



Veteran's Day



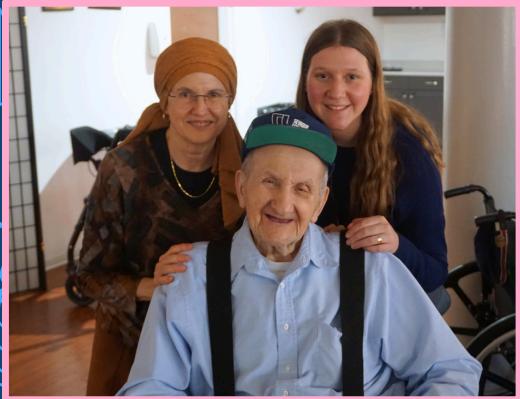
Qigong with Regina Wolgel



Volleyball



Happy Birthday!!



Birthday Party!

