



THE PHYLLIS SIPERSTEIN
TAMARISK
ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE

The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence

Resident Engagement

The holiday season is upon us and collectively we are all waiting for December 31st, the symbolic ball to drop and 2021 to begin.

Now is a good time to reflect on the past year. Some might say don't look back and just focus on the future, but our residents teach us every day that honoring our past is what makes us stronger. This past year showed us the incredible strength that our residents have. They proved that at any age, adapting to change is plenty doable. When family visits had to cease or when residents were being required to quarantine, they taught us so much about the word perseverance. They never asked why, but instead said, "thank you for keeping us safe."

Our staff have felt the love and appreciation from family members with cards, signs and appreciation lunches. These efforts were meaningful to all of us.

Knowing how residents and families would miss one another for Thanksgiving, our team came up with a wonderful way of connecting everyone. Family members sent us pictures and notes of thanks and our team made them into placemats for each resident! The joy on their faces was absolutely priceless.

As we are now in the season of light and hope, we are anticipating the COVID-19 vaccination. Our dedicated team, as well as our residents, are feeling excited for the opportunity of receiving the vaccine and everyone is feeling hopeful for some form of normalcy in 2021.

"Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction." -JFK.

Our staff, residents and family members have shown a tremendous amount of courage in 2020. As 2021 is quickly approaching, the Tamarisk family is forging ahead with purpose and direction.

Wishing all of you a hopeful, happy and safe 2021.

For further information about Tamarisk, Director of Marketing and Outreach Susan Adler can be reached at (401) 732-0037 or susana@tamariskri.org.

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Message From Our Executive Director



Roberta Ragge, MS ALA Executive Director

"Family is not an important thing, it's everything" - Michael J. Fox. This quote is something that I believe in whole heartedly. Spending meaningful time with the ones you love is something that is so important to all of us.

I have been thinking about the holidays this year. Traditional holidays with our family members that we all look forward to are going to be different, with gatherings being restricted and physical hugs not given.

I am driven by ways we can make this holiday season merry and meaningful, capturing the true miracle behind the spirit of giving.

When you walk into the lobby of Tamarisk you get a sense of celebration during the holidays. Our culinary team creates tasty menu options around the holidays for our residents. We have local students who traditionally send holiday cards while decorations line the rooms and hallways!

This year we will be making sure that our family members have the opportunity to maintain tradition. This can hopefully be done during our visitations in person, but definitely via social media. With one of my daughters and grandsons living out of state, I know what it is like to miss a loved one and I am mindful of that every day. Gifts are always given to all of our residents and this year it will be done with extra love and attention!

Our residents, staff and family members are the glue that binds us all together. We have been through a lot together this past year. I am proud of how we all stuck it out! I am hopeful as we inch closer to 2021 that it brings all of us happiness, safety, health and life as we once knew it.

Wishing all of you a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Roberta Ragge, MS ALA
Executive Director

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Spotlight On Staff

Renaissance Activities Director

Cris Larson

Cris Larson has been the Activities Director of Tamarisk's *Renaissance* Memory Support Program for three and half years. She offers a unique perspective to her job based on her experience prior to joining the Tamarisk family.

Cris has a bachelor's degree in Plant Sciences/Ornamental Horticulture from Cornell University. She was a manager of a retail nursery for 5 years, was self-employed as a residential landscape designer for 15 years, and did some graphic design work before coming to Tamarisk for a career change.

Cris' creative and artistic nature has allowed her to develop and implement different arts and craft activities for the residents in our *Renaissance* Memory Support Program. Her plant science and gardening background has allowed her to lead horticulture therapy activities and even "garden club" meetings!

Cris knows how valuable good communication is within *Renaissance*. "My past experiences communicating with clients and others within the landscaping industry helped me acclimate to *Renaissance* where communication, both verbal and non-verbal, is most important when working with the residents," Cris said.

One of the more popular activities held in *Renaissance* is our flower arranging class where residents design their own flower bouquets using flowers both grown in our courtyard and those purchased by Cris. In addition, Cris hosts a program called "sensory explorations" where residents discuss and explore various objects and subjects with their 5 senses. "Memory Lane" is a popular activity where Cris will stream old photographs of Rhode Island from different social media outlets and reminisce about them with the residents. One of their favorite physical activities is playing a modified version of corn-hole! The residents get very competitive about it and a monthly corn-hole tournament is held where a cumulative score and have a monthly winner.

Thank you Cris for being an important part of Team Tamarisk!



The Many Faces Of Our Concierge Team



When you call Tamarisk, the first thing you hear are the inviting voices of our concierge team. They are your first point of contact at Tamarisk, either by phone or in person. The concierge desk is located in our Main Lobby and is staffed seven days a week from 8:00am- 7:00pm.

Our team of Heather, Karen, Lyn and Michele do a wonderful job and have created meaningful bonds with all of our residents. They enjoy speaking with our concierge team, as they are always able to assist with whatever is needed.



Our concierge team have truly stepped up to the challenge during this pandemic. With visitation looking different as a result of COVID-19, they have coordinated visits with ease. Accommodating family members with specific time requests has thankfully been very easy!



Karen Deluty, whose mom lives at Tamarisk, truly appreciates all of our concierge team's efforts. "I find that each and every person I have dealt with has been terrific. When I drop off things for my mom, or if information is needed, they are always happy to accommodate. The front desk sets the tone of Tamarisk; warm and inviting."



The concierge team hands help throughout Tamarisk. They call bingo, work in the country store, take care of our fish "Tam," help residents with their technological needs and much more.

Heather, Karen, Lyn and Michele are a constant in the resident's lives. Their job exceeds answering phones and buzzing people into Tamarisk. They are part of the fabric that gives Tamarisk that home-like ambience.

Thank you Heather, Karen, Lyn and Michele for all that you do!

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