

The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence

The Heart of Tamarisk: Our Residents

Our residents are truly the beating heart of Tamarisk. I would like to introduce everyone to Florence, Tamarisk's longest tenured resident.

Q: Florence, how long have you lived here at Tamarisk?

A: Coming on 13 years.

Q: What were the key factors that resulted in you choosing Tamarisk as your next home?

A: I chose to move to Tamarisk for a number of reasons.

1. I was moving closer to my children.
2. I liked the fact that Tamarisk was kosher.
3. When I first walked through the building, I could not get over how clean it was.
4. I had a close friend named Helen that I went to college with who also lived here.

Q: How did you find the adjustment moving into Tamarisk?

A: I found it easy. I volunteered at Tamarisk two years prior to moving in which helped.

Q: What do you like about volunteering in our Country Store?

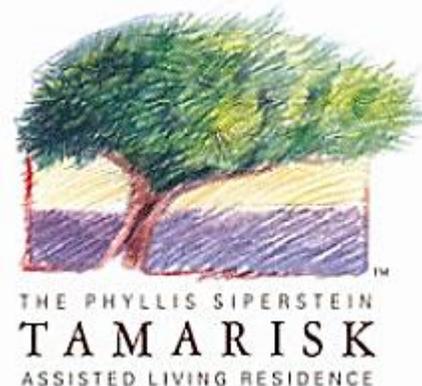
A: I worked in a department store before I was a teacher. It is only natural that I would want to help out. When people need something that the store does not have, we make sure the next time it is open they have it.

Q: What would you like to say to your children about suggesting you live here almost 13 years ago?

A: I will tell them that I am thrilled that I made the decision to live at Tamarisk. I have always found myself to have been happy, safe and most importantly, healthy.

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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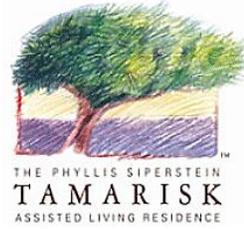


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Florence volunteering her time working in Tamarisk's Country Store.

Message From Our Executive Director



Roberta Ragge, MS ALA Executive Director

In the musical *Hamilton*, one song in the show is a catchy tune that has taken on real time meaning for all of us at Tamarisk. The song opens with Hamilton singing, "I am not throwin' away my shot." I am singing these lyrics along with my staff and residents; we are not "throwin' away our shot."

The excitement has been building in anticipation of the COVID-19 vaccination and I am so proud of my staff and residents for working together to keep us safe and healthy throughout this pandemic. As a board member of the Rhode Island Assisted Living Association, I have been working closely with the Rhode Island Department of Health, being in the forefront of conversations about policy, the vaccine itself and what is best for Tamarisk.

"Zooming" is a new verb that I've used a lot over the past year. Many hours of Zoom meetings have allowed me to keep my Tamarisk team, residents and family members apprised each and every step of the way. Remaining informed and educated has been important to everyone.

"Every worthwhile accomplishment big or little, has its stages of drudgery and triumph: a beginning, a struggle and a victory" -Mahatma Gandhi. This quote embodies how we all have been feeling since last March. We finally see the victory line.

While we just celebrated New Years, I think we need to have yet another celebration! When every staff person and resident is finally vaccinated, we will play the music from *Hamilton* and let the confetti fly. Here at Tamarisk, we took our shot and never threw away that opportunity for a healthy and safe 2021.

Looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Sincerely,

Roberta Ragge, MS ALA
Executive Director

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Spotlight On Staff

Project Manager

Sean Ledford

Project Manager Sean Ledford is one of the most beloved staff members of the Tamarisk residents. Sean is 27 years old and has already worked in the assisted living industry for nine years. Sean started out working in the kitchen as a server. His personality and interaction with the residents caught all of our attention.

While working as a server, he graduated from Rhode Island College with a Bachelor's of Science in Health Care Administration. Sean is currently in pursuit of his of Master's of Science in the same field of study. His master's thesis study is based on introducing adaptive reading textbooks to various residents within our *Renaissance* Memory Support Program and analyzing the effects that has on enhancing their engagement skills.

Sean spent a summer working with the maintenance team to learn the ropes at Tamarisk. Executive Director Roberta Ragge saw the potential and drive in Sean Ledford and as a result he was promoted to Project Manager/Marketing Assistant.

As the Project Manager of Tamarisk, Sean works closely with each department in the building, taking on an array of different tasks and projects. On a daily basis he uses the skills that he has learned both through his educational experiences, as well as from his training at Tamarisk.

Director of Marketing and Outreach Susan Adler enjoys working side by side with Sean. "It has been a pleasure sharing an office with Sean and having him as a vital team member in the marketing division" she said. "To see his growth and his continued devotion to our resident population is something that I know is making his beloved pépé who recently passed away so proud."

Creating relationships with new residents is an aspect of Sean's job that he finds most rewarding. "One of the most enjoyable responsibilities I have working at Tamarisk involves welcoming new residents," he said. "Building strong tightly knit relationships with them, while at the same time creating a sense of trust and reliability, helps to make an already difficult transition much easier."

Sean recognizes the greatest generation of people who have both overcome and achieved so much in their lives are those who reside at Tamarisk. "The amount of knowledge that has been passed on to me by the countless residents I've had the pleasure of interacting and building a relationship with at Tamarisk is endless," he said.

We thank Sean for being such a valuable member of Team Tamarisk!



The Many Faces Of Our Culinary Team

We have all heard since the beginning of time how breakfast is the most important meal of the day. That philosophy is something that we believe in here at Tamarisk. The other strong philosophy we believe in is the bond between the staff and residents.

Residents at Tamarisk have a variety of options they can choose from for breakfast such as pancakes, fruit, eggs any style, muffins, yogurt, oatmeal, cereal and bagels with lox. If the residents do not see something they want on the breakfast menu, our Executive Chef, Deb Blazer always accommodates their requests.

Our dedicated breakfast team arrives at Tamarisk early in the morning seven days a week. The chef gets the muffins in the oven first thing in the morning along with heating up the grill.

With two wait-staff members on, as well as our dishwasher, the day is ready to begin. While the coffee is being made and juice is being poured, our team works closely with the chef to make sure all orders are correct.

Our breakfast team are one of the first to see our residents in the morning. They know their routine and if something does not seem right with a resident, they report it immediately to the Wellness team. Working hand and hand to keep our residents healthy and safe is a philosophy Tamarisk embodies.

“Always showing up to work with a smile on their face is something that I appreciate and when I want a cup of coffee, they always know how I take it. Both myself and many other residents have been able to build strong relationships with the culinary team,” remarked Susette, a resident of Tamarisk.

Our Executive Director Roberta Ragge, who likes to use the phrase, “teamwork makes the dream work,” agrees that this applies to our dedicated morning team.

We thank each and every one of them who show up to brighten the days of our residents while making sure they receive a nutritious meal. We are so lucky to have a team that does this with a smile on their face that can even be seen behind their masks! What stands out to all of us is the love and concern they have for every single Tamarisk resident.



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