

# The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence

## Resident Spotlight

This month, I would like to introduce everyone to Irma, a valued resident of Tamarisk.

Q- How long have you lived at Tamarisk for and why did you choose to move here?

A- A year and a half. I wanted a place that was friendly. The people here are quite nice. I knew I made the right choice as soon as I arrived.

Q- How has the transition been for you?

A- It has been very easy. My family helped me. They hired a mover and coordinated with the Tamarisk staff to help me acclimate.

Q- What has been your biggest surprise since moving into Tamarisk?

A- How nice everybody is. I found it easy to make friends and all the residents opened their arms to welcome me.

Q- What is your favorite activity?

A- I like playing bingo. Tamarisk has activities that help keep me busy. I do like winning gift certificates to the country store!

Q- What can you say about the staff during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A- They have been very helpful. They always bring me my medication on time. I never have to worry about any of my needs.

Q- What would you like to say to your family who helped you with moving from your home to Tamarisk?

A- They have been fabulous, all of them. What made me proud was they all worked together. As a mother, what more could I ask for? I am blessed to have my wonderful family in my life.

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

Call us for a tour! (401) 732-0037

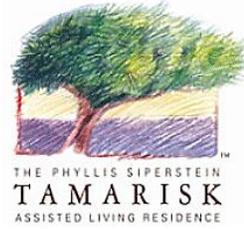


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Irma stopping in to have a conversation with the marketing team.

# Message From Our Executive Director



## Roberta Ragge, MS ALA Executive Director

*"There are times when you run a marathon and wonder, "why am I doing this?" But you take a drink of water, and around the next bend you get your wind back, remember the finish line and keep going." - Steve Jobs*

We are inching closer and closer to the finish line here at Tamarisk! As of February 12<sup>th</sup>, residents and staff will have received both vaccines to combat COVID-19. The back page of the newsletter shows photos from our vaccine clinic. You will see the excitement on everyone's faces. It was an honor to be witness to this, especially when our 101 and 104 year old residents showed up ready to roll their sleeves up!

As a community, we have kept on going together. To me, "together" is the key word. With the vaccine provided, our guard still needs to be up with regards to wearing masks and following the guidelines set forth by the RI Department of Health, but life is slowly getting back to normal and family members have been kept apprised every step of the way.

The following is a note I received from a family member:

*Thank you Roberta. We certainly appreciate all that you and the staff are doing to facilitate a sense of normalcy at Tamarisk and we appreciate you for it!*

*Warmly,*

*Judy and Jason*

Notes like this from families warm my heart and bring a smile to my face. The responsibility of keeping both staff and residents safe has been on my mind 24/7 since March. Judy, Jason and all of our family members, thank you for allowing us to take care of and guide your loved ones during this "marathon."

Stay Well,

**Roberta Ragge, MS ALA**  
**Executive Director**

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# Spotlight On Staff

## *Director of Marketing & Outreach*

### Susan Adler

For over 21 years, Susan Adler has been employed by Jewish Collaborative Services. Susan started out in January of 2000 as the Information and Referral Specialist for InfoQuest for the agency. She was then promoted to the Director of Jewish Eldercare of RI (JERI) program for sixteen years. During this time, Susan saw a need for the community to have a kosher food pantry. Under her leadership, the Louis and Goldie Chester Food Pantry opened its doors to the community over 10 years ago. One of Susan's strong points is she does not take the word "no" easily, and with the guidance and support of the community, she opened the food pantry up in five months.

While the Director of the JERI program and the food pantry, Susan stepped in as the interim Director of the To Life Center Adult Day Services, a position that soon became permanent. She always credited her staff and oversight committees for their guidance and support.

In 2015, Susan was diagnosed with breast cancer for a second time.

While on medical leave, she had several surgeries and treatments of chemotherapy. When returning to work, the opportunity presented itself in September of 2016 to become the Director of Marketing & Outreach for Tamarisk. "I was excited about the challenge of trying something new within the agency. My second cancer experience taught me not to be afraid of accepting new challenges," Susan said of the opportunity.

Erin Minior, the President and CEO of Jewish Collaborative Services had the following to say about Susan Adler. "I have had the pleasure of working with Susan for many years. She is a resource, advocate and friend to every senior in RI, both within and outside the Jewish community. We are fortunate to have her as part of the Jewish Collaborative Community."

Susan has received the following awards for her dedication and service to the senior population.

- 2011 Rhode Island State Council of Churches Hero of Faith Award
- 2015 Bristol Elder Service's Gerontology Service Award
- 2016 Presidential Award Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island

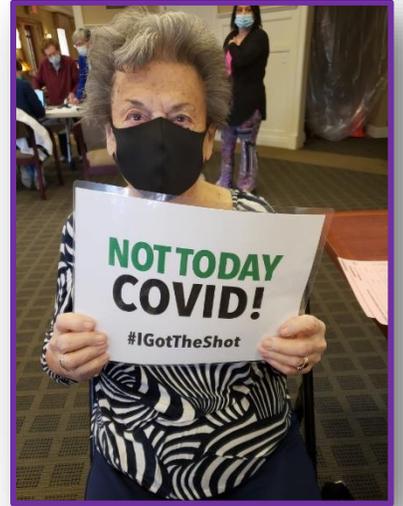
What makes Susan shine is her dedication to the community she works in. Her endless hours spent with family members, residents and those who work in the community is one of her many strong points. When Susan was asked why she gets so much pleasure out of working with seniors, her answer was heartfelt. "My father passed away almost 36 years ago when I was 21 years old. I will never have the opportunity to advocate or take care of him as a senior. I dedicate my job with love and in honor of my father Sol Popper. I look to each senior as the opportunity to thank my father for all the lessons he taught me."

Thank you Susan for your service and dedication to the agency, 21 years strong!



**Susan shares a moment with our resident Honey.**

# COVID-19 Vaccination Day!



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