The tradition on a one year anniversary is to give a gift made of paper, and it is our upmost pleasure to share with you our one year anniversary edition of the Tamarisk newsletter! We initially started this newsletter last August as a way to reintroduce Tamarisk to the community and it has truly been a pleasure to share with you the accomplishments of both our staff and residents. For us, the journey together has been an extraordinary one.

In our debut newsletter, Tamarisk Executive Director Roberta Ragge spoke about the personalized care and services provided for our residents. “We believe our philosophy is unique because we take the time to incorporate each resident’s wealth of knowledge, experience, talents and desires to create a lifestyle plan that allows them to continue leading active and fulfilling lives,” Roberta said.

Our September issue highlighted the array of services Tamarisk has to offer. Tamarisk is built around the concept of “optimal living for seniors,” which supports our philosophy that an individual’s life is defined not by functional ability, but by the environment that responds to his or her needs and aspirations.
Tamarisk’s October issue focused on collaborations. As Helen Keller once said, “Alone we can do so little: together we can do so much.” Tamarisk is proud to be a community of Jewish Collaborative Services. For further information about all that JCS has to offer, please visit www.JCSRI.org.

The November newsletter highlighted what both Tamarisk staff and residents are thankful for. Irma B, a resident of Tamarisk, was and still is quite thankful. “I am thankful that I feel safe at Tamarisk. I enjoy the friendships that I have made since I moved in. It is comforting that my children are able to visit me here at Tamarisk.” This sentiment still stands the test of time.

The December issue highlighted the many faces of the concierge team. Karen Deluty, whose mom lives at Tamarisk, offered the following in the December issue. “I find that each and every person I have dealt with has been terrific. When I drop off things for my mom or if I need information, they are always happy to accommodate. The concierge sets the tone for Tamarisk.”

The January newsletter started our series of highlighting the residents of Tamarisk. We had the honor of first highlighting Florence, who has lived at Tamarisk for 13 years. When Florence was asked why she moved to Tamarisk, she reflected on what made this decision so easy for her. “I made the move so I could be closer to my children, however I really liked the fact that Tamarisk was kosher and how clean the building was when I first walked through it.”

Tamarisk’s February newsletter highlighted our Director of Marketing and Outreach Susan Adler, who has been with the agency for over 21 years! 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.”
The March edition shared helpful hints about how to successfully communicate with people managing dementia. Tips the likes of agree: never argue, reassure: never lecture, distract: never shame and encourage: never condescend were presented.

In our April issue, Executive Director Roberta Ragge covered a daughter’s perspective with regards to her mom who lives at Tamarisk. “Mom’s personality has blossomed” Roberta said. “She has several friends and is very involved in the home theater and book club. She told me that she feels like she’s back in high school laughing and gossiping with the girls.”

The May issue highlighted one of Tamarisk’s sweetest residents, Miriam. When asked what her favorite activity is, Miriam spoke glowingly about wordplay. “My favorite activity is word play because I find it to be very stimulating. Bob Gold, who leads the group, makes it fun and interesting. I appreciate all of his time and efforts.”

The June newsletter reflected on how we celebrate life at Tamarisk. One of our residents Susette summed it up best. “I am enjoying life here at Tamarisk. I enjoy the new friends I have made and renewing those friendships from years ago. I could not imagine a better place to celebrate life.”

The July issue focused on the dietary team and the dishes they have created for our residents. Each picture told a beautiful story about how our kitchen team creates attractive and tasteful dishes.

Here we are a year later, still looking forward to how our residents, staff and families will continue to change our lives. Tamarisk represents so much more than just brick and mortar. Our activities, based upon both wellness and social needs, help build the foundation that allows Tamarisk to grow each day, month and year. We wish ourselves a happy one year anniversary with this newsletter. Moving forward, we are excited to announce that our newsletter will now be published quarterly. More news and updates can still be found on our website www.tamariskri.org, as well as our Facebook and Instagram accounts at @tamariskassistedliving. Like and follow us on each platform for more!
How Assisted Living Residences Differ From Nursing Homes

• Assisted living residences offer a home-like environment for individuals who do not require 24-hour complex medical care.

• Residents in Rhode Island assisted living residences usually maintain a relatively high degree of independence along with having privacy in their own personalized apartments.

• In assisted living, residents live in private apartments with a kitchenette and have full access to the community’s common areas and external grounds.

• Tamarisk works directly with nursing homes throughout the state to ensure a smooth transition for not just our own residents, but those in need of assisted living services as well.