



From the editor: The mere thought of holiday traditions brings smiles to most people's faces and elicits feelings of sweet anticipation and nostalgia. We can almost smell those candles, taste those special meals, hear those familiar songs in our minds. You will enjoy reading this! [Why We Love Holiday Rituals and Traditions: An Anthropologist Explains - UConn Today](#)

President's Corner - Let's Get to Know President Sue Morgan - In her words.....

I was born in Des Moines, Iowa and grew up in Alpena, Michigan. I am the oldest of 3 daughters and had both of my parents as teachers growing up! My mom was my elementary school music teacher and my dad was my HS band director. When I was in 5th grade I started playing the violin and then in junior high taught myself how to play the string bass so I could be in the HS concert band and have dad as my teacher. I played in concert band and stage band and won a scholarship to the Interlochen summer music camp.

After I graduated from Alpena High School and received my B.A. Degree in Sociology from Olivet College in Michigan, I completed an M.A. Degree in Human Resources Development from Webster University. Almost all of my career was spent in Human Resources. I'm grateful to have had the privilege of working with so many dedicated people.

When I first moved to Colorado, I lived in Boulder, then Denver for a short while and after I met and married Bill we lived in Aurora, Elizabeth and now live in Lone Tree.

Leaving Michigan after college was incredibly difficult. It was exciting to be moving to a brand new state, and difficult because I was leaving everything familiar to me, my one town, all of my friends. My parents and sisters had moved here already, so that made it easier.

After graduating from Olivet, I worked for the college as an admissions counselor, and once in Colorado, I worked as a Clerk in the Denver Probate Court, then a Personnel Analyst for the Colorado State Judicial Department, as a Personnel Analyst for Douglas County Government and spent the last 20 years of my career as the HR Manager for the Town of Castle Rock.

I love to run and started running 12 years ago. Since then I've completed 124 races and have hiked 18 of Colorado's 14ers. Growing up I never imagined doing either one of these things! I was, after all, a flatlander from Michigan and was never involved in sports in any way! I also love to read and since retiring have taken up watercolor painting. And of course, we love spending time with our twin grands!

I am a member of P.E.O., and volunteer with 2 non-profits- MS Run the US and Project Limitless.
Continued next page.....

Sue continued...

After I retired, and with encouragement from Claire Young I joined Tamarac. I was so struck by the women and all of the amazing volunteer work this club is involved with.

I am honored to serve as your President as we work together to “Reach New Heights”! My goals for all of us are to be sure we are caring for each other and maintaining our membership, to continue to be an inviting and growing club and participate in engaging projects and programs so we can fully support our Mission and our Creed

Tamarac Holiday Party Was a Festive Affair

The 2024 Tamarac Holiday Party was held Saturday, Dec. 9 at **Duffers Bar and Grille at the Meadow Hills Golf Course**. The Friendship Committee, chaired by Sheryl Overton did a wonderful job planning the party, and providing appetizers and desserts to enhance the catered meal by the Duffers staff. The meal choices were chicken or sausage with pasta, with marinara or alfredo sauce and both were delicious. Thanks to the **Friendship Committee: Toni Willhite, Sherry Pearn, Lea Kushner, Shermalee Eikermann, Sally Evans, Abigail Nicholas, Pearl Meulemans, Sheryl Overton, and Nancy O’Brien.**



Tamarac Holiday Party Photo Album...



Abigail presented everyone with favors of holiday socks! Notice the box has one missing, because Beth couldn't wait to try the snowman socks out! Perfect enhancement to her outfit!



Programs

Nov 14



Roxann Fromm
The Power of Music with a Joyous Singalong

Nov 21



Vicki Drake
Experiences From a Medical Mission to Peru

Dec 5



Barb Althouse
leads caroling
Cookie Swap and Social Time

Dec 12



Swap & Shop

Cookie Swap Was a Winner!

At the December 5 meeting, following Barb Althouse leading us in carols, there was a good old fashion cookie swap. Bring a dozen and leave with a variety!



Carolers waiting to get to those.....Cookies! Tamarac ladies are the best cooks in town!

Mission Viejo 1st Grade Get Bucket Books Marilyn Bower

Santa came early to 83 first graders at Mission Viejo on December 6, when ladies from the Tamarac Optimist Club visited to read and give them a copy of *Have You Filled A Bucket Today*. Many of the students remembered us from kindergarten, or mentioned that older brothers or sisters had copies of the book. They were excited we were there and eager to listen.

A big thank you to L-R: Marilyn Bower, Jeanette Thompson, Nancy O'Brien, and her sister Katy Barber who is a member of DTC Optimist, Kathy Eckhardt, Loretta Blessinger, Kathleen Jenkins, Sally Evans, and Diane Zitek in front for helping bright and early that morning.



Holly Ridge ES 1st Grade Get Bucket Books

Santa also came early to first graders at Holly Ridge on December 16, when ladies from the Tamarac Optimist Club visited to read and give them a copy of *Have You Filled A Bucket Today*. They were excited we were there and eager to listen.

A big thank you to L-R: Sally Evans, Laura Hoch, Loretta Blessinger, Beth Hewlett, Mary Gelb Jo Anne Wingate, and Karen Somes for helping bright and early that morning.



Breakfast Group After the Meeting

Guest Vincenne Buonpane gets to know members at a recent breakfast. L to R - Vincenne, Diane Z., Claire Y., Suzie, Marilyn H., Cindy, Linda, Lois Jean and Joy.

MSOC Christmas Tree Lot Great Fundraising Opportunity for TOC

Every year, (these pics are from last year but the participation is the same) Tamarac ladies provide muscles and organizational skills to help get hundreds of fresh cut Christmas trees ready for sale at the MSOC tree lot. We are also able to sign up for cashiering duties during the sale days until Christmas Eve or they are sold out! We help unwrap the trees shipping net, measure height of trees, make identification tags with type, size and price, and affix the tags to the tree branches. Here are pics of Tamarac in action!



L-R: Laura, Toni, Karen, Sue Shurgot



Carolyn - Hi-Ho Silver!!



TOC Received Recognition at District for Accomplishments last year....



Tamarac Donates Books to McMeen Bonnie West

In October at the annual **Past Presidents brunch**, we had a generous donor pay for our meal. As we chatted over breakfast, **Joyce Thompson talked about the book needs she had been made aware of at McMeen Elementary. Roxie Strong suggested we donate the cost of our meal to buy books.** With that money, more money collected at a meeting with a cookie incentive, even more money collected at a bunco night, and my slim bunco stash, **the total was \$438.**

I contacted the principal and got the go ahead. Eventually

teacher,

Hammond. She and her team picked out 38

delivered

Monday, December 9 in front of a class of 20

Kindergarteners. Bonnie

If you drive by McMeen on Holly at Cherry Creek Drive South,

inside the first temporary building you see as you approach

school, your books are at work. Thank you.

reached

books from



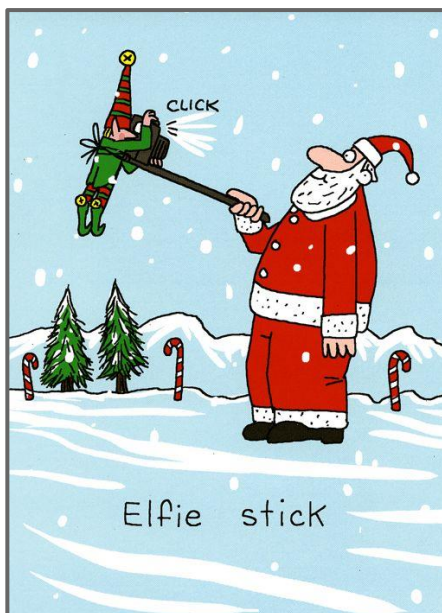
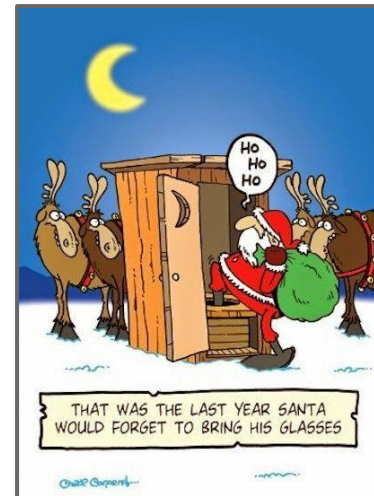
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Groaners to End the Year

- Everyone told Sam not to sing, but Sam-sung anyway.
- Sign on a septic tank truck: "Yesterday's meals on wheels."
- Sign on an electrician's truck: "Let us remove your shorts."
- What's a chimney sweep's most common ailment? The flu.
- Have you seen the twin witches? I can't tell which is witch.
- What do you call a witch that lives at the beach? A sandwich.
- The doctor told the tree he was healthy. Oh boy, what a relief..
- Doctor, what should I take when I get run down? The license number.
- Congress finally had a meeting to discuss Daylight Savings. It was about time.



Feel Good Page:



This is the editor's favorite