



From the editor:

I want to take this opportunity to thank the TOC BOD for nominating me for the OI Making a Difference Award. I was very surprised and pleased when I was selected winner for the Southwest Region of OI! Whatever I have done on behalf of the club, district and OI since becoming an Optimist, it is because I derive immense pleasure from volunteering my time and skills for the support of optimism. Sincere thanks to you all!

Nancy DeNiro

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## From the Prezes...

It was so good to see many Tamarac members in person at the Living Estate Sale. Nothing beats live, person-to-person interaction. ..And conversations that flow seamlessly because we can watch the speaker's face to know when she is finished speaking and we can avoid interrupting each other... And sound reaching everyone at the same time. Reminds me of the good ol' days.

Nostalgia won't keep us moving forward, however. We have made a good start on different projects like Sweet Dream in a Bag. We are going to add two new projects that will reach a different demographic since we cannot do our usual activities in the schools right now. Both of the projects focus on the needs of seniors who are missing companionship and entertainment

The first project is to bring our pen pal skills to a different audience – people in senior residences. At this writing we do not know how many will want to participate, but we will start small. These letters will be quite different from those we have written to 5<sup>th</sup> graders. We might even have some life stories in common with the recipients.

The second project is to supply some books to the residents of Eastern Star Assisted Living.

**Types of books requested:** (no small print please)

True Crime      Mysteries      Westerns      Coffee Table books on travel      Fiction

Best sellers within the past 3 years      Nonfiction

Stay tuned as we gather a committee for each project and move forward.

Optimistically,

*Linda & Kathy*

## Tamarac Ladies Volunteer at Clothes to Kids

On October 2, six Tamarac ladies converged on Clothes to Kids to spend the morning sorting donations, and restocking the store. No appointments were scheduled for that day, which allowed everyone access to every department. This is a very important process that allows CTKD to service all the families with preschool through high school students with wardrobe needs. There is also a section for babies, and the picture of Dee sorting tiny clothes shows this area. **L-R: Ruth Larsen, Sandy Middleton, Dee Carsten, Diane Young, Lois Jean Gallaway and Bonnie West.**



Sandy & Bonnie in Shoes



Diane in Girls



Dee in Babies



Nancy Saunders	10/1
Sandi Chamberlin	10/5
Lori Grohskopf	10/7
Judy Hein	10/10
Linda Williams	10/10

Diane Zitek	10/25
Dee Carsten	10/28
Mary Dealy	10/30
Donna Otten	10/31
Loretta Blessinger	10-31

## September/October Meetings

### September 24th

The installation of Tamarac Leadership took place via Zoom at the evening meeting. Outgoing Lt Gov **Abigail Nicholas** installed incoming Co-presidents, **Linda Williams** and **Kathy Sullivan**, Secretary, **Loretta Blessinger**, Treasurer, **Nancy DeNiro**, and Past Pres, **Cindy Eley**, Directors-**Carolyn Bamford**, **Claire Merrill**, **Nancy O'Brien**, **Nancy Kennedy**, **Bonnie West**, **Nora Kantwerk**, and **Toni Willhite**,

### October 1



**Jeneen Klippel**, Director of Development and Public Relations for Gateway Domestic Violence Services

### October 8



#### Dusty Barner

Tanking on the N. Platt - future GOG trip



### October 8



#### Linda Rhea

Santa Claus Shop distribute toys each year. This year the process will be different because of

COVID. We can help to bag up toys in October. The bagging will take place in a large warehouse at So Broadway & Wesley with COVID measures in place. Dates: 1/12 (10-12), and 10/15 (4-6pm)

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## SAVE THE DATE!!

 **DTC Optimist Club Presents** 

# Online AUCTION

Place your bids

## JOIN US!

### November 13th 5pm -22nd 9pm

Online auction website address will be:  
[www.32auctions.com/dtcoptimist](http://www.32auctions.com/dtcoptimist) to see available items, but the site will not be available for Bidding until 5pm Nov 13

 **Shiloh House**  

Proceeds from this online charity auction will support DTC's programs, scholarship funds, Shiloh House, American Diabetes Assoc, research for JDRF, and Childhood Cancer

## Get to know your members... (In their words)



**Beda Collins:** Born in Omaha, NE and moved from NE when I was 4 and grew up in Casper, WY.

I attended high school in Casper and then went to the U of Wyoming in Laramie the fall of 1962, majoring in Business Administration. After marrying my husband, Ed, in 1968, we were in Arlington, VA, while he finished up his active duty with the U S Navy. We were there for nearly 2 years and then moved back to Denver.

**Significant events in my life were watching the Bay of Pigs on the TV news at the sorority house, Elvis' TV performance on the Ed Sullivan Show, watched The Beatles 1st US performance on TV, and experienced my campus' reaction to Kennedy's assassination in '63. My move to Denver with a friend after leaving Laramie was huge and we had a pretty wild and crazy year.**

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**Kathy Sullivan:** Born in Nebraska City, Nebraska. I grew up in Littleton, Colorado. I attended school & college at Littleton High, Arapahoe Community College, and Western State College.

**Significant events that influenced me or happened to me:** I had a wonderful Childhood with supporting parents. The values they taught me have helped me through my life. I lived in a great neighborhood with lots of friends and true friendships are very important to me. Jobs I have held: Teacher College Admissions Officer, Santa's Helper at the North Pole. My hobbies include Crafts (especially with my Grand kids), singing, and Family game nights.

Another organizations I volunteer for is Eastern Star. **When and why did I join Tamarac? I joined in 1997 or about then. I wanted to help in the community, and enjoyed the friendships I have made through the club.**

One thing I have done that is unique - When our boys were at TJ, we were very involved in the parent organizations. One year we served together as presidents of both parent bodies. It was fun, however I don't think the boys liked it.

## Get to know more members... (In their words)



**Carol West:** Born and grew up in Nebraska City, Nebraska, then family moved to Denver when I started high school at Littleton HS. I attended college and received a B.A. in History, University of Colorado, Boulder, 1966 – M.A. Counseling and Guidance, University of Denver, 1972. Additional graduate work at Trenton St. College, University of San Diego, S.U.N.Y. Buffalo, U. of Alabama, Metro State, Virginia State College, Norfolk, VA

Other places I have lived: Jamaica, Brazil, Ecuador, Kuwait, Philippines, Syria, Egypt, Taiwan

**Significant events that influenced me or happened to me: Being a Peace Corps volunteer for 2 years dramatically changed my life style. No more living and working in Colorado – the world and all that is in it was my new location.**

Jobs I have held: Teaching 9<sup>th</sup> grade Civics at Longmont Jr. HS; Counselor and teaching 6 different subjects at South Park HS, F;airplay; Counselor at Machebeuf HS, Denver; Counselor at Chapel School, Sao Paulo, Brazil; Counselor at Academia Cotopaxi, Quito, Ecuador; Counselor at Universal American School, Kuwait; Counselor at International School Manila, Manila, Philippines; Counselor at American International School, Kuwait; Counselor at Damascus Community School, Damascus, Syria; Counselor at American International School, Cairo, Egypt; Counselor at Academy of Charter Schools, Denver; Counselor at Kaohsiung American School, Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Peace Corps position in Jamaica was that of Secondary School Guidance Counseling with the Ministry of Education.

Hobbies - Walking Niko I volunteer for: Clothes to Kids laundry prior to Covid 19

**When and why I joined Tamarac: 2010. My sister (Kathy Sullivan) was a member and seemed to enjoy the activities. I was pretty much done with the international forays and an active organization seemed logical to check out.**

What I have done that is unique, strange and interesting:

Just my lifestyle has been a bit unique, sometimes strange, and most definitely interesting. Living and working in 8 different countries for 22 years meets all of those. I've seen and been stopped by armed militia on streets, was made a refugee when Kuwait was invaded in 1990, had my school trashed by anti-American riots in Damascus, ran a 15-mile half-marathon in Kuwait, and just simply having been a foreigner for those 22 years overseas. I've also traveled a lot and been in over 40 countries, had my hand held by a little monkey in front of the Taj Mahal, and have dipped my toes in the Dead Sea.



**Carolyn Bamford** was born in Topeka, Ks and lived there with her family through her growing up (questionable, has she ever really grown up? aged maybe) years, with a family of five. Graduated from Topeka West HS and Kansas University with BA/masters degrees in elem educ. Spent summers in their cabin near Pikes Peak, where she developed her love of Colorado with its beauty, weather, and countless recreational activities and cultural opportunities.

After graduating she moved to Denver with 4 other friends and began her career in teaching 1st/2nd grade, first in JeffCo for several years, then stayed home for 7 yrs with her two sons early years, then continued teaching in Cherry Creek at Holly Ridge until retirement 6 yrs ago.

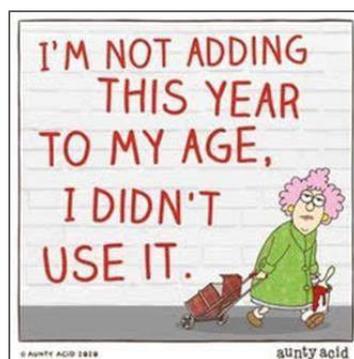
Her family is her A#1 love, consisting of husband, John, sons, Grant and Brandon, fabulous daughters in law, Heather and Haley, stepsons Tad and Tucker, grandchildren twins, Lexi and Brielle, and Ciara. Hopefully more will be added for Brandon was just married.

Her main involvements outside of family and friends, minus career, have been our cherished Optimist Club, where she treasures making wonderful friends, being involved with her now 2nd time on the board and all the ways we participate in our community and club projects and activities. Her other passion has been her association with Schlessman YMCA, where she is actively involved in many exercise classes and it's board and committees.

Being with her family is always her first choice in any way, shape, or form. Since skiing and running have been X'd out of her life, she loves dancing with John anywhere, mostly in the kitchen, any outdoor activities and going on daylong adventures around CO and elsewhere, especially, if running, in their 1969 MGB convertible.

**Finding our Tamarac Club was a godsend through Nancy Steven's coveted volunteering in her classroom for many many years. Even after hearing her constant praising of the club, she had no idea how right on Nancy was until she began her own involvement thus finding our fun devoted sisterhood to each other and our outreach for others.**

Can you identify with these?





**Wilene Lampert** I was born in Lynwood California, and grew up in Pasadena California until high school, one year in North Carolina, then Tucson.

I attended school & college in California, North Carolina, Arizona, and College and graduate school in southern California Other places I have lived are Texas and Connecticut.

**Significant events that influenced me or happened to me: being in 3 states in 4 years of high school made an impact on my school behavior and educational pursuits. Being an abused spouse definitely made an impact. Being a single parent and now a grandmother are such significant events!**

Jobs I have held: CEO of non-profit agencies that work with vulnerable populations: first career working with children and adults who have developmental disabilities. Second career working in the field of child abuse investigation and treatment.

My hobbies are reading, cooking, sewing and needlework, walking/hiking, long conversations with my son. Another organization I volunteer for is Mountain Pine Woman's Club.

**I joined Tamarac to work in community service with women.**

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## Masks to Sweet Dream in a Bag

Thanks to the compassionate Tamarac ladies, we were able to donate 458 children, youth, and adult masks to Sweet Dream in a Bag. A total of 114 Beanie Babies along with crib sheets, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and mugs, were also donated.

**Linda Williams, Kathy Sullivan, Joyce Laman, Loretta Blessinger, and Sandy Middleton** had the pleasure of delivering the items to a very grateful Susie and Wayne Fox on October 1. The Foxes estimated we have helped 500 children.



A big THANK YOU to **Joyce Laman, Jan Dubrick, Nancy Wright, and Jenny Spampinato** who made 50 adult and 50 youth masks using their own supplies with a generous donation of fabric from **Shermalee Eikermann**.

The Sweet Dream Committee: **Sandy Middleton, Joyce Laman, Loretta Blessinger, Shermalee Eikermann, Carolyn Bamford, Diane Zitek, Hatty McGuire, Toni Willhite, Sally Evans, Bonnie West**