

The “imagination kit” is a tested, proven way to foster imaginative and story-based activities among diverse groups and families, especially care partners of loved ones and those experiencing dementia and Alzheimer's, from Anne Basting. Based on Basting's twenty-five years of research, this "imagination kit" makes it easy for families, friends, and caregivers to make meaningful connections with elders and others dealing with physical, cognitive, or emotional challenges, including memory loss. Here is the story we created together during the Memory Café on February 12, 2025:



Carmella Sue is Paul's wife. Carmella is a dancer. Carmella is excited to dance with her friends. She learned to dance in Lake Tahoe at the Sahara. Since Carmella is from Mexico, she only dances when it's warm. That's why she dances at festivals like Mardi Gras and Carnivál. The only way to get into these festivals is by wearing a crazy hat! People call Carmella “one of the wild ones” because she dances like nothing you've ever seen. She skips work to come dance at festivals because she loves spreading exuberant joy. She hopes her dancing makes people say “I want to do the same thing.” You may think her smile is part of the act because everyone around her looks so serious, but Carmella Sue is excited about the feathers in her hat. They make her head hot. The colors are in honor of Philadelphia winning the Super Bowl. However, no eagles were harmed because Carmella Sue celebrates animal rights with faux feathers. So no need to be sorry for the birds. Carmella Sue and Paul continue to live happily after festivals.