

We are so excited to share with you our latest newsletter written by our members with support from our volunteers at The Adler Aphasia Center in Maywood, NJ.

## My First Job

By Charlotte E.

This story is about my first job to make some money to save up for a special winter coat and a few dollars to save and then give to my mother.

I was in high school, about 13 years old. My job was in the Bronx, on Bathgate Ave. I was a sales girl of silk stockings when they first came out. They had become very fashionable. Each pair was about 25 cents to 50 cents a pair. My job was to sell them to women at those prices and there was money left over from those sales to pay my employer. They thought I was a very smart girl and that I would do well for them and myself.

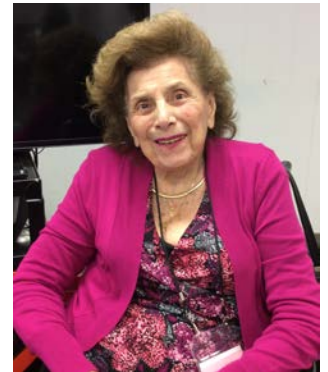
A big part of my job was to inspect the stockings. I couldn't sell them if they had any runs or imperfections. I also had to balance my inventory and the money every day. At the end of each day I turned in either money or merchandise.

Some of the customers were difficult to deal with. They liked to chisel but I was pretty sharp. I watched them and they watched me. They wanted to take advantage of me but they couldn't.

I came to work immediately after school and worked until 5pm. Then I went home I did my homework. I worked usually 3 days a week and more during the holidays.

Although I did save a lot of money from this job I couldn't buy the coat right away but I eventually was able to and I also had some money to give to my mother.

This job exposed me to the real world and taught me how to deal with all types of people.



**Charlotte E.**

## My Trip to the Dominican Republic

By Lisa G

I was with Sonia, my cousin. We went on an airplane and we got our luggage and a van took us to the hotel. We went into our hotel room. The room was horrible. It was full of bed bugs. I said "No way. I am not staying in a room with bugs. Give me another room" So Sonia and me took our luggage and went out to the lobby. The host said these weren't bed bugs but wait — I will give you another room if you don't tell anyone about the bugs. We got a beautiful room but I had to sign that I wouldn't tell anyone. After that we had a good time. We went swimming and we went to eat and to shows.



**Lisa G.**

## Cirque Du Soleil

By Alyson B

The Cirque Du Soleil show, Volta, was fantastic! On Saturday, April 21st, my friends, Becky, Art, Giorgi and myself watched the show, mesmerized by what we had just seen.

VOLTA is a story of transformation. It is about being true to oneself, fulfilling one's true potential, and the power of the group to make that possible.

We started the evening watching rope skipping. Here, a few artists tumbled and went for a handstand through a rope. Another act, shape diving, the performers were jumping through shapes, sometimes feet first, even adding break-dancing and hip hop style moves. In another scene, Hand to Hand, two colorful acrobats perform a daring hand to hand duel while rolling on a unicycle. It was amazing dance moves.

I can't wait to go to Cirque Du Soleil next year!



**Alyson B.**

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## Mel Allen

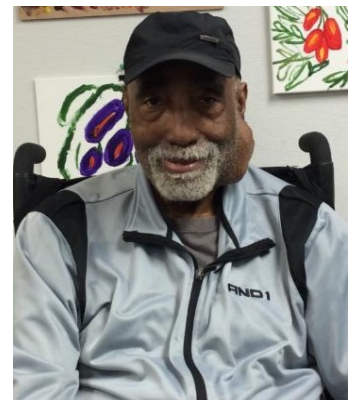
By George F.

Mel Allen was "the voice of the Yankees" in the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's. He was born in 1913 in Alabama. His fellow announcer was Red Barber.

He did ads for Ballantine beer. They were one of the sponsors of the New York Yankees. Any time a player hit a home run Mel Allen called it a "Ballantine Blast".

I worked at IBM and I met Mel Allen at an IBM sports dinner in 1973. The dinner was at a restaurant in Wayne, NJ. I was a host and spent 6 hours with him. It was a night of drinks, good food and lots of stories about Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris, Billy Martin and Yogi Berra. I wish I could share them with you, but this is a PG rated newsletter. I have a good memory of Mel calling the 1960 7th game of the World Series between New York Yankees and the Pittsburgh Pirates. Unfortunately the Pirates won.

In 1961 he called Roger Maris' 60th home run.



**George F.**

## Edgewater NJ

By Peter C.

I love living in Edgewater. People are very friendly, I love walking along the water with my dog, Bosco. He's a Boston terrier and loves walking and riding in the car. We can see New York from the river. I love the shopping. In Edgewater I feel calmer than when I lived in Brooklyn. I live near the movie theater. There are a lot of new buildings and shops.

The Haven restaurant is very good and the food is very good too. I liked the brunch and my favorite dish is lamb shank. I like everything on the menu.



**Peter C.**

## Life's Challenges

By Crystal B.

Life is full of challenges and obstacles and sometimes God gives us angels to help us. I'm inspired by those angels who assist those in need. Some of these angels have overcome trying times and some of them wish to elevate humanity.

My godmother, Mrs. Emily Moore has inspired me to be an example of a strong, independent, caring woman. She has been a shoulder to lean on during my teenage years, she steered me into making responsible decisions as a young adult and as mentor/role model as a woman.

When I was in my 20's, I fell in love with a "bad" guy. I was mesmerized by his presence, he had lots of time for me and lots of money. I was a college student and live with my aunt and I had a curfew. When I started seeing him, I would break curfew, spend the night out and go on frequent vacations. My aunt was a disciplinarian and we started to argue and he suggested we should move in together. Of course, I needed guidance and maybe a place to stay so I needed an angel, and my angel was my godmother.

Mrs. Moore told me that before she got married, she was a single mother. She survived by working hard and having a skill and not be beholden to anyone. She said I need to be able to provide for my own basic necessities and put myself in a position to be respected. Mrs. Moore felt being appreciated means marriage, steady employment and a plan for the future.

In conclusion, although I moved in with him, I continued my schooling and became employed by the New York City Police Department as a 911 Operator. And as a result of Mrs. Moore's strong words and guidance, I'm the powerhouse that I am now.



**Crystal B.**



**Aphasia Communication Groups (ACGs)  
There are ten ACGs throughout New  
Jersey!**

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