

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

## Adler Board

By Crystal B.

Several weeks ago, I was asked to become a board member of the Adler Aphasis Center by Chantelle Walker, the President and CEO of the Center. I was flabbergasted and speechless because to me it's such a great honor. I have been trying to find a purpose and goal for my life and I finally have one now.

I was confirmed on April 9th and I will be doing my best to advocate for aphasia and the Adler Aphasis Center. Aphasia affects approximately 2 million people in America and those affected have probably suffered a stroke or a brain injury. It impairs a persons ability to communicate, sometimes you can't speak at all, sometimes it's only one word and sometimes it may seem like gibberish. It also affects reading ability, mathematical ability and comprehension. The inability to communicate is stressful and can lead to depression.

The Adler Aphasis Center gives me a new and beautiful family of people (members, staff, and volunteers) who uplift each other, laugh with each other and at each other and a place to voice any emotions you are going through. We communicate at the center with words, pen and paper and visual aids. This a beautiful place to be and I'm so thankful.



**Crystal B.**

## Aphasia Access

By Mike H.

Last month I drove to Baltimore to help present our poster to hundreds of speech therapists and doctors at the annual Aphasia Access Leadership Summit. There were people from all over the country and even the globe. I was a little nervous.

Our poster talked about how aphasia groups help people to overcome the isolation and depression that follows a stroke or other brain trauma. These groups enable people to find new friends and communities.

People with aphasia like their groups. They want to spend more time at their groups, especially one-on-one time with speech therapists. They also want more outdoor activities, such as having breakfast outside, hiking, going to museums, or going to the movies.

I was nervous about talking to people at first. But after the first 15 minutes, the butterflies were gone, and the time flew by. I talked to lots of people and had a fantastic time. We can't wait to see how the Adler Aphasis Center will be even better, thanks to our poster work!



**Mike H.**

## My Award

By Art M.

When I was 10 years old, in 1959, I won an award. It was for a report I wrote on fire prevention. The Mayor of New York City, Robert F. Wagner, Jr., gave me the award. It was a medal. My picture was in the newspaper called "Sweep." I still have the medal.

The contest is held every year. Many years later, I presented the award to the winner. I wore my medal that day.

I did a lot of research for the report. I use what I learned everyday.



**Art M.**



**Art as a child receiving an award from Mayor Wagner**

## Comedies for Kids

By George F.

When I worked at IBM, once a month I showed cartoons and comedies to kids. Before I showed a movie, I had to preview it to make sure it was appropriate for the children.

I had the pleasure of showing them Dumbo, Bambi, and Davy Crockett.

We saw them in the IBM cafeteria in Franklin Lakes. We had 75 kids! They ate popcorn, candy and soda, all for free. The kids' parents all worked at IBM and dropped them off in the afternoon for a few hours.

My daughter, Valerie was 10 years old and she came too. Some parents stayed with their kids during the movie and helped me. And some didn't. We all had a good time.

It was a joy for me to show the Disney movies and cartoons.



**George F.**

## Oklahoma! Take 2

By Alyson B.

What a great day we had! My friend, Ed and I had a wonderful day watching “Oklahoma!” on Broadway. I didn’t know what to expect. I had heard that this version was brought into modern times.

We sat in the seats and we watched “Oklahoma!” “Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin’” and “People Will Say We’re in Love”, were highlights for me.

Following the performance, we saw parts of the terrific cast. Curly, played by Damon Daunnon in this version, and Ed, who played Curly in the Adler Aphasias Center shared a laugh. Jud, who was played by Patrick Vaill, in this Oklahoma version, was played by Mike H. in Adler’s version. Many cast members were outside the building. It’s so awesome to meet them.

Ed and I could not believe what a great time we had. We had a fun-filled day.



**Alyson B.**



**Alyson and Ed**

## My Wonderful Family

By Lisa G.

I am a lucky woman. My children and grandchildren all live very close to me. I have a son and a daughter.

My son, Jason, is married with three children, all girls. They are 7, 11, and 19. They are the light of my life.

My daughter, Crystalynn, is married and has 4 stepchildren, two sets of twins, twin 11 year old girls and a 14 year old boy and girl.

I also have three brothers. One lives in Bayonne, one in Florida and one in Kansas City. I love them all.



**Lisa G.**

## Member Spotlight

### Meet our members Bob K. and Mary N.

**Hobbies:** Likes to watch old western movies

**Favorite Sports Team:** NY Rangers

**Grew up in:** Ramsey, NJ

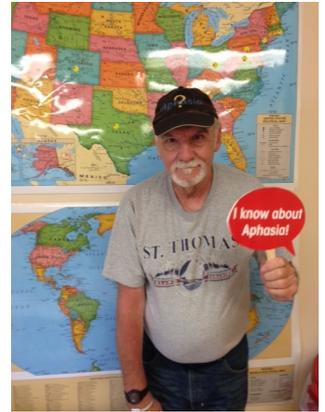
**Acquired Aphasia:** 2005

**Favorite Music:** Rock & Roll

**Favorite Food:** Spaghetti

**Job:** Electrician

**Family:** 2 sons, 1 daughter and 3 grandchildren



Bob K. at AAC Maywood

**Hobbies:** Baking, Board Games and Reiki Healing

**Favorite Bands:** The Beatles, IZ, Stevie Wonder

**Favorite Vacation Spot:** Hawaii

**Favorite Food:** Pizza

**Grew up in:** Maryland

**Job:** Physical Therapist

**Acquired Aphasia:** 2018

**Family:** Has 2 daughters

**Interesting Facts:** Climbed Mt. Fuji in Japan & Diamond Head in Hawaii



Mary N.

## Highlights from our West Orange, NJ Location

### Meet our member Mario G.

**Hometown:** West Caldwell, NJ

**Grew Up in:** Vallata, Italy

**Family:** Is a widower, has 1 daughter and 1 son. Also has 5 grandchildren.

**Education:** Master Craftsman – jack of all trades including carpentry, plumbing. He even knew agriculture since his family owned a farm and orchard in Italy when he was young.

**Proud Accomplishment:** Running a family business, Arcade Marble Works, with his brothers, carrying on family tradition working with marble and other natural stones. Arcade Marble Works is a marble and granite fabrication company.

**Guilty pleasures:** Loving fast cars – He has owned several high-end fast cars throughout his life and loves to go out for a fast spin on beautiful days.

**Acquired Aphasia:** April 2015



**A happy Mario at his newest granddaughter's Christening party.**

### Aphasia Communication Groups (ACGs)

**There are ten ACGs throughout New Jersey!**

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#### MEMBER NEWSLETTER DISCLAIMER:

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Adler Aphasia Center, a non-profit organization with two full service facilities based in Maywood and West Orange, NJ and ten Aphasia Communication Groups located throughout the state, is an innovative post-rehabilitative therapeutic program that addresses the long-term needs of people with aphasia and their families. Aphasia is a communication disorder that impairs the expression and understanding of spoken language, reading and writing. It occurs most often from a stroke or other brain injury. It affects a person's ability to communicate, but not his or her intellect. For more information about our programs and services in Maywood or West Orange, NJ, or for information about our Aphasia Communication Groups in Bridgewater, Haddonfield, Hammonton, Maywood, Monroe, Morristown, North Bergen, Scotch Plains and Toms River, NJ, visit our website at [www.adleraphasiacenter.org](http://www.adleraphasiacenter.org) or call 201.368.8585