

## Favorite Fall Traditions

By Toms River Full-Service Program

### What is your favorite Fall Tradition?

- Going to minor league baseball. I go to the Phillies Camp.
- Watching the Mets and the World Series.
- Football. The Giants are 2-0 now. (at the time of writing the article)
- Halloween. It's scary.
- Going to a casino.
- Holiday baking. I bake Italian cakes and cookies.
- To me, the Fall is the Gateway to my Soul!
- The weather is chilly in the mornings, the colored leaves, the pumpkins, the corn stalks, and the world is alive. I drive to the mountains and the countryside with the beautiful woods, trees, and fields with gold rods.
- And yes, I also walk my setter dogs to hunt the pheasants in the Fall.



**Toms River Group**

## Hi, I'm Greg

By Greg S., Maywood Member

My name is Gregston Springer and I was born in Barbados. My wife and I have a daughter named Jacqui Springer who is a psychiatrist. I had a stroke a few months ago.

I worked at the Blood Center of New Jersey and in the Bronx for many years. I enjoyed playing cricket in Barbados and love to watch football on television.

There is more I'd like to tell you about myself so stayed tuned.



**Greg S.**

## My Immigration Story

By Abe B., West Orange Member

I would like to tell you my immigration story. In 1980, before leaving Latvia, everyone had to be cleared by the KGB (state security police) to make sure they were not leaving with national secrets. I had developed a photocathode sensitive to nuclear radiation. I had 3 appointments at the KGB office and finally received a letter of clearance to leave the country. Also, at a meeting of the Energy Institute where I worked the authorities had to publicly declare that I was fired from my job. This was also necessary to apply for emigration.



**Abe B.**

We got our visas and left Latvia in the spring of 1981 by train to the border city of Chop. In Chop the border patrol was looking for diamonds and gold. They thought we were hiding these jewels. They emptied all our suitcases, checked our clothing, and even squeezed out the toothpaste! My family did not have anything. We were allowed back on the train and traveled to Vienna, Italy and eventually to the U.S.

When we decided to emigrate to the U.S from Latvia in 1981, my family and I went to Cincinnati first because that is where the Jewish community was welcoming. With the help of personal contacts through my wife, cousins named Lila and Eduquard Kirshtein, my family was sponsored to come to the U.S. I was well known in my professional field, even taking part in writing a well-known book in physics, before deciding to emigrate from the USSR to the U.S. My personal contacts here, some professional contacts and the Jewish community helped with finding the first interviews.

The Jewish community in Cincinnati helped us with jobs, apartments, English classes, and even money to buy a car. All monies were repaid from our first salaries. I enjoyed my time in Cincinnati and found that the people were very friendly there. We were there for 3 months.

My wife and I went to New Jersey the same year and I got a job at the British Oxygen Corporation (BOC), Gas Division in Murray Hill, NJ. I enjoyed being in New Jersey so much that I have stayed ever since! That facility was closed sometime around 1999-2000 and my lab was moved to Stevens Institute of Technology. I worked at Stevens Institute of Technology for 15 years. After that I had my own consulting company for 15 years, Abe Belkind and Associates. Now, I have spent more of my life in the U.S. than in Latvia and I am fond of my time here. I have been thinking about writing another book about my immigration experience and life afterward.

## First Impressions of the Aphasia Communication Group

By Members of the Maywood ACG

What was your first impression of the Maywood Aphasia Communication Group?

Very friendly. I wanted to sit here and wait. I was afraid to talk. I can't talk right. I noticed a lot of people couldn't talk right. I feel more comfortable talking [now]. Speech or no - I'm here! Too bad you can't understand [me].

—Marge

Very nice. People were friendly. I don't speak well, so I constantly go in try different things. I like coming here.

—Cathy

I came. Nothing, blank [expectations].. So far, I like it. Hopefully, something like this is gonna help me.

—John

Speech therapists here who are wonderful. We were talking about San Francisco. The group was jolly.

—Sarah

I don't have people around me. I live by myself. I think they're [the members] pretty good.

—Ed

### Programs offered throughout the state of New Jersey:

- **Maywood Campus:** [kcastka@adleraphasiacenter.org](mailto:kcastka@adleraphasiacenter.org)
- **West Orange Campus:** [sqlaser@adleraphasiacenter.org](mailto:sqlaser@adleraphasiacenter.org)
- **Toms River Campus:** [brein@adleraphasiacenter.org](mailto:brein@adleraphasiacenter.org)
- **Aphasia Communication Groups (9 sites in NJ):** [gzsabo@adleraphasiacenter.org](mailto:gzsabo@adleraphasiacenter.org)

### MEMBER NEWSLETTER DISCLAIMER:

This Adler Aphasias Center Newsletter is written by our members with aphasia and from their personal perspectives. The stories featured in this Newsletter are intended for its readers' general information and education. Adler Aphasias Center does not endorse nor recommend any commercial products or services that are featured in this Newsletter. Views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily state or reflect those of Adler Aphasias Center and shall not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes.

Adler Aphasias Center, a non-profit organization with three full-service facilities based in Maywood, West Orange, and Toms River, NJ and nine Aphasia Communication Groups located throughout the state, is an innovative post-rehabilitative 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, West Orange, or Toms River, NJ, or for information about our Aphasia Communication Groups in Bridgewater, Haddonfield, Hammonton, Maywood, Monroe, Scotch Plains, Toms River and Virtual NJ Group, visit our website at [www.adleraphasiacenter.org](http://www.adleraphasiacenter.org) or call 201.368.8585