

I grew up in a really neat little town, Woodbine, in Cape May County, New Jersey. My great grandfather and father maintained a small farming operation on land that was originally provided to Russian Jews escaping the Cossacks in the 1890s. Many people in this small community took advantage of all opportunities for their children to go off and learn trades and professions well beyond the little town of Woodbine. I took it very seriously that I would go into academics that would get me out in the world and off the farm. No more picking corn and rotten potato fights with my older brother! I ended up going to Rutgers Law on a full tuition scholarship.

After law school I joined a law firm specializing in insurance defense litigation. And later I was elected as a member of the Woodbine Council and served there for 15 years. Having had the experience of a fine 50-year career I think was part of my growing into the person I am today.

I became certified as a basic scuba diver at the tender age of 39. Most of the diving I did was exploring shipwrecks up and down the east coast. I later became a certified dive master and assisted folks on the dive boats in getting ready for wreck dives miles off the coast. Often, I would accompany divers on tours of the wrecks. The dives were fascinating.

My wife Margaret and I found ourselves thinking about retiring a few years ago. It was through our son Joshua that we were introduced to Tucson and Academy Village. Sure enough, we found ourselves walking the Village streets with famous names like Galileo and Langtry. It wasn't lost on us that our Westie was aptly named to become Lily of Langtry Lane. We realized we were hooked on the neighborly and unique nature of Academy Village.

In addition, I have had experience relating to a 501c3 organization which was set up to help institutionalized developmentally disabled women move out and have a greater degree of independence. My experience leads me to consider how the type of care being offered by the Villas, our assisted living buildings, especially through a 501c3 facility, is personally fascinating to see how it's working out here.

This community has a wealth of interesting people that Margaret and I are both delighted in getting to know. And it doesn't hurt that the Village is situated in an absolutely drop-dead beautiful area.