Dennis Goldman – My life after Northview

I spent 6 months in the army in Potchefstroom after I left school. The late Leslie Lasker was in the same regiment as me and remember fairly vividly the times we had together and our AWOL weekends spent in Jo'burg.



I studied electrical engineering at Wits from 1964-1967 but never completed the course. I met my first wife Myrtle in September 1967 and that put an end to my studies. We were married in September 1968.

I joined my father's electrical contracting business after a short career with Unilever's management services division.

Myrtle and I started our married life on the Cyrildene side of Linksfield Ridge, the 'poor man's' side. Irwin, our first son, was born in May 1970, Warren in Dec 1971 and Sharna in February 1975.

We moved from Cyrildene to Rembrandt Ridge then onto Orchards and after that, in 1978 to Rustenburg where our company had been appointed to carry out an electrical installation. Unfortunately the tight deadlines and long hours proved to be too much and we liquidated the company in 1981.

I joined a consulting practice in 1981 and we relocated to Kew in Johannesburg and in 1985 two of my fellow engineers and I took over the practice.

Myrtle died of Leukaemia in 1986 after 8 months of suffering and 3 courses of barbaric chemotherapy.

I married Beverley Falkof (nee Saffer), a divorcee, in May and July 1988. Two weddings (!!) - I wanted to make sure; one was a civil wedding and the other a religious wedding.

After that we moved into an 18 roomed house in Parkwood – the only accommodation we could find to house our merged family of 7- she has two children.



My stepson is a top lawyer in London, now relocated to Paris, and my stepdaughter, capped as a PhD graduate in cultural studies at a London University is currently a senior lecturer in media at Wits.

My son, Irwin, married beautiful rabbi and was posted the downturn in the the outreach program where he is currently



in Israel in 1996 and we have 6 grandchildren. He was ordained as a to Seattle for 9 years. Unfortunately US economy and reduced funds for forced them to relocate to Israel studying at a Yeshivah.



Sharna, my daughter lives in Cape Town with her husband and 3 beautiful children. She composes and sings her own songs and took the lead role in a couple of shows a few years ago. She has opened a dance studio in her converted garage.

In 1996 I left my consulting practice and ventured into manufacturing lightning and surge protection units while at the same time running my practice. Unfortunately it was a disaster and I was forced to close the manufacturing division in 1999.

I continued my consulting practice and was bought out by Standard Electrical, a public company, for whom I worked for 2 years developing computerised energy management systems.

My son Warren was killed tragically in a motor car accident in 1999 when a drunken driver careered into his car at 160 km/hour. Time has not healed the wound but I have slowly learned to live with the loss.

I left Standard Electrical in 2001 and went into partnership with another ex member of the firm. The timing was bad however and after 3 years went back to the practice I'd left in 1996 and then repeating history, in 2011, I left again to join my major client as chief engineer. We have approximately 700 properties spread amongst 5 property portfolios and aside from the day to day problems dealing with aging electrical installations in the properties, my main focus is energy management, smart metering and smart grids

I have had two hip replacements which put paid to my squash playing days but continue to conduct the choir at our local synagogue.

Dennis

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