

Merle Gordon Waksman 1963 ---- to-present time

After leaving school I went to Wits to do a BA .This was followed by a further year of study in 1966 at the Teachers' Training College. I was actually thrown out of college because I got married after completing my BA, but they decided to let me complete my course.

I then applied for a post(1967) and again like all married women graduates was refused any position available. The late Eric Harrison organised a position for me at Northview and I taught there for a year but did not received a bonus that year; - Reason?you guessed it - I was married! The late Ann Gordon was my mentor and funnily enough my mom's name was also Anne Gordon.

I then left to have my children and did an odd locum here and there and my private lessons took off.



Mrs McCorkel (aka: Miss Leslie) came to my home one day. She was teaching at the Gresswold Remedial School and they were short staffed. I was so petrified of her that I even went to teach with her!



I taught Afrikaans up to and including matric level and because of this I came into contact with some of our colleagues again - when I taught their children! I loved teaching teenagers - especially then. They were such fun even if they hated Afrikaans!

In the interim my own children grew up ,completed school, the army, varsity etc.

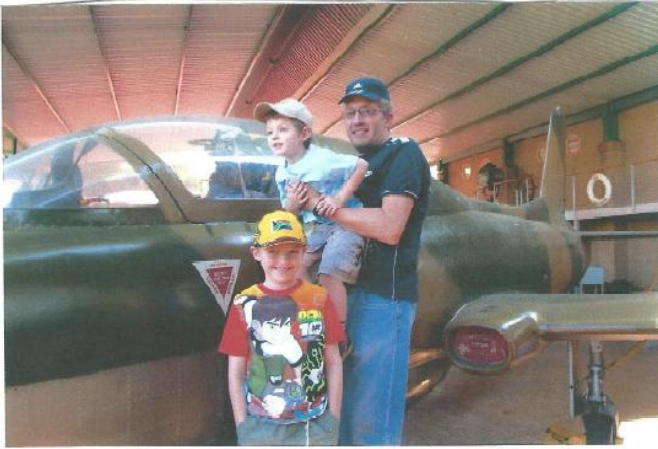
In 1996 Hilary Benjamin's (Class of '61) husband, a principal at Yeshiva College asked me to come and help out at the school. My short stay lasted 7 years!. During this period of my life (2000 -2001) all 3 of my children got married (3 weddings in 10 months). I retired in 2002 by which time I could not mark another portfolio or exam.



I took a gap year as I felt that I needed to experience a world outside of teaching and became an estate agent. I did quite well, but wasn't that mad about the hours so I gave it up. I did my last locum ever at King David High and went to visit my daughter in Melbourne.

On my return the mother of a former pupil bumped into me and asked me to come for an interview at the Chevrah Kadisha (Johannesburg Jewish Helping Hand). I am still there 7^{1/2} years later. This is an amazing organization; my work is demanding, heartrending and yet uplifting!

I now have 5 grandchildren, two of whom are Australians and am so busy that my husband is the one helping with the local lift schemes!



--- /// ---