

René (Chait) Sidley

After leaving Northview, I attended Technical College for a very short time, and then because of financial difficulties at home, had to leave and go and work.

I worked for two years and then went off to London for a year, travelled around Europe in a beaten up old 1956 Vauxhall Cresta for 3- 4 months, and then back to London to work. I came back to South Africa, met my husband, Clive Sidley, who was in final year dentistry, and when he graduated, we went back to London for two years.

We came back to South Africa in 1969 and in four years, I had three children, two daughters and a son. After several years as a housewife, I decided to go back to work and worked in the top art gallery in South Africa for 10 years, During that time, I went to Unisa and did a Bachelor of Arts, with English and Psychology as my majors, and my biggest regret is that I didn't take it further. I did several other diploma courses, Human Resources, Public Relations, and the latest one, just two years ago, Divorce Mediation.



After the Gallery I worked as a P.A. for one of the top brokers at Liberty, and left because my middle daughter had a serious motor car accident and I needed to take care of her. Fortunately apart from losing her spleen, she made a complete recovery.

I found a couple of other jobs, which did not last too long, but for the past 10 years have been working at the Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre, where with one colleague, we run a cultural programme, offering lectures, documentaries, films etc. at least two nights a week, and then two mornings a week we run supervised bridge classes. I also run an art gallery on the premises, so it's a very full life.

After 40 have never the most girl, form my daughter. mommies had their guitar and is dream, but then



years of marriage, I got divorced and been happier. My girls have given me delightful grandchildren – a boy and eldest and a boy from my other Both at this stage are stay at home as their children are young. They both first children at 40. My son plays a a musician, which is fulfilling his doesn't make much money for him, how many of us get to live our dream.

I was in London for the last reunion and meeting up with Elaine Oppenheimer, Brian Eisenberg and Joel Bernstein was a treat. I am determined to do something in Johannesburg in the New Year.



Enclosed is a couple of pictures, me and my grandchildren. How lucky can a person get!!

René

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