

Stanley Eberlin b 1942



Stanley, who will be 80 this year, writes in February 2022: I was born in Kimberley on the 8th of May 1942 (VE Day was to be celebrated 3 years later)! My father was Harry Eberlin, born in Cape Town in 1903. My mother Phoebe was born in Manchester and arrived in South Africa as a baby.

My sister who is seven years older than I am, is Dorina.



We lived in a flat in the Edwork's Building right in the very centre of town, on the corner of Dutoitspan Road and Jones Street.

Here is a picture of the building that we took in 2017, on my nostalgic trip to Kimberley arranged by my wife Maureen as a surprise for me and to retrace my footsteps together.

My parents owned a ladies clothing store named Annette's on the corner of Dutoitspan Road and Chapel Street.

Three words that exemplify Kimberley for me are:

School Cheider Cricket



In this picture, I am aged 8, standing somewhere in the line of the Bnei Zion children on parade in the shul grounds in 1950, waiting to greet the Mayor, who was coming to open the new and larger Communal Hall and cheder classrooms. In the background is the original Minor Hall where we had kiddushim after services.

In 1954 on 2 April, my Dad died suddenly of a heart attack. I was 11 years old. Dorina was in her first year at Wits in Johannesburg and immediately came home.

He is buried in the Kimberley cemetery.

My Mom Phoebe sold the business later that year and she moved with my sister to Johannesburg. (My mother died at age 87 in 1989 and is buried in Cape Town.)

I stayed behind in Kimberley with our cousins, Mossie and Sadie Shapiro and children Josie, Ronnie and Rosemary. This was from August, until December when I finished Standard 5, my primary schooling, at Kimberley Boys' High. I then joined Mom and Dorina and started at Parktown Boys' High in 1955. I matriculated at Damelin College.

In 1964 I married Nita Bron. We had three children. Our eldest son Barry was born in 1965. Tragically he died in car accident on 3 April 1986. He was only 20 years old.



Our daughter Karen, born in 1967 lives in Modi'in Israel. She works in the IT Industry. She has four children, three sons and a daughter, ages, ranging from 16 to 30. Our third child Jeff was born in 1970. Jeff lives close to us in Johannesburg. He married Jodi Gosher who was divorced with three children. He works in the Retail Petroleum Industry. Jeff lives here in Johannesburg. We see each other regularly and before Covid, we had lunch together nearly every Friday.



My sister Dorina is nearly 87. She lives in Swiss Cottage in London. Sadly, she has severe dementia. Her husband Dave passed away last year at 93 and that adds to her distress. We used to visit them regularly, but our February visit in 2020 was and still is a Covid non-starter. Our phone calls are very difficult. On the left is a picture of Dorena and me in happier times. Some Ex-Pats particularly those that went to Girls' High, may remember Dorina.

In 2011 my dear wife Nita was diagnosed with Cholangial cancer with a tumour in the bile duct and she passed away on 2 April, after only five weeks. We had been happily married for 47 years and in a flash my life and lifestyle had changed. It is a ridiculous coincidence that I lost a wife, a father, and a son on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of

April.

The tragic circumstances were that Nita's funeral was on Sunday 3 April 2011 and Jeff's wedding had been planned for one week later Sunday 10 April. What a situation, his mother's funeral on Sunday and his wedding the following Sunday.

We were determined that their wedding day should be what it had always been intended to be, special. So, with so many memories and mixed feelings, we had the Chupah and the brunch reception as planned. What a rollercoaster of emotions for us as a family and of course for all our friends.

A new life ...

In 2012, I met Maureen Slabe, who had lost her husband Allan after 44 years of marriage. We had so much in common. The coincidences in our previous lives were such, that if in a movie or book would be regarded as implausible. Just a couple of examples:



- Nita's sister was in Maureen's high school class.
- My in-laws were at Mau's wedding.
- Her in-laws were at my wedding.
- I knew her late husband Allan, but I had never met Mau!

We married in 2014, and we both now have a full and happy life again, for which we are grateful beyond belief.

'I retired after spending 45 years in the watch industry in a sales and marketing role. Maureen is also retired having taught for 40 years, 36 of them at King David Victory Park Primary School.

'You Geraldine, were kind enough to give Maureen Barney's contact details when she planned a Kimberley visit to surprise me for my 75th Birthday. What a trip down Memory Lane that was! We visited Boys' High and the building in which our flat was in Dutoitspan Road (Edworks' Building).

'We visited my dad's grave at the cemetery and of course the beautiful Kimberley Shul where in the picture ,right, I am sitting in my Dad's old seat.

'The Zoom meetings you held for Kimberley Ex-Pats were special as I remember many names but was so young when I left that they were mainly names only. Dorina would have loved to be able to take part. Stan says: 'Should any of my



old friends with whom I've lost contact with, wish to get in touch, I'd welcome a 'Catch-up' on Stanley Eberlin staneb8@gmail.com'

Maureen Eberlin, Stanley's new wife of three years then (now married for 8 years) wrote to me in May 2017 saying: We are going back to Kimberley as a gift from me to him

This is for his 75th birthday. I thought I wanted to give him something that money can't buy – to retrace his footsteps. I also wanted to

share in his past and his early formative years. Stan and I have only been married for 3 years. Stan lost his wife after 47 years of marriage and I lost my husband after 44 years of marriage. We were so blessed to find each other. That's our first sad/happy story. Kind regards, Maureen.

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**Stanley Eberlin Story, compiled by Geraldine Auerbach MBE, London, February 2022** from pictures and stories from Stanley and Maureen Eberlin, Johannesburg.