

## Memory Lane: Virginia Roth Returns to Africa

Virginia Roth and her late husband, Dennis, were volunteer teachers in Botswana, Africa from 1973 to 1976. There they met and worked with a Pennsylvania couple, Roger and Barbara Eshleman, who were with the same group and volunteering in local agriculture. After returning home, the couples kept in touch, and thirty-five years later in October, 2011, Virginia and a traveling companion, Sylvia, who had never been to Africa, returned with the Eshleman's to Botswana and South Africa for a three and a half week reunion and adventure.



## Then and Now

After an airplane breakdown and an unexpected 2-day adventure in Senegal, the travelers landed in Johannesburg, South Africa. In the 1970's, the Roth's were denied visas to South Africa, due to the complicated landscape of Apartheid. The new South Africa welcomes visitors, and in Johannesburg, this checkered past was revealed to Virginia and her friends through visits to the Apartheid Museum and the Soweto Township. They remembered the turbulent history of this country and were able to fully appreciate the significant changes that have taken place.

The next leg of the nostalgic journey was from Johannesburg to Cape Town on a "compartment" train, little changed in the last 35 years. The spring season was in full bloom, and the desert and the cities were full of spectacular flowering plants and trees. They made the boat trip to Robben Island, the site of Nelson Mandela's 27-year imprisonment, saw African Penguins (who knew!), and enjoyed breathtaking views at the Cape of Good Hope.

### In This Issue:

#### PAGE ONE:

Client Adventure  
Featuring Virginia Roth

#### PAGE TWO:

Client Adventure  
Featuring Virginia Roth (Cont.)

#### PAGE THREE:

Client Adventure  
Featuring Virginia Roth (Cont.)

Speaking of Travel...

#### PAGE FOUR:

Travel Checklist

*(Continued on Page Two)*

## Memory Lane: Virginia Roth Returns to Africa

*(Continued from Page One)*

From Capetown, they rented a car and followed the Garden Route, with its vineyards and orchards, visited the Indian Ocean, and started the trek through the hills and valleys north to Botswana.

Botswana is a relatively stable country, both politically and financially, and though economic progression was obvious, the people seemed little changed, still very friendly and hospitable. Their return to the capital of Botswana, Gaborone, was at first bewildering because of the growth that had taken place, but soon landmarks were recognized, and they felt they were back home again! In Gaborone and in Mochudi (where the Eshleman's had lived), the travelers visited sites featured in the novel series, "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency," by Alexander McCall Smith. Virginia was intrigued by the series, feeling the narrative was truly descriptive of the Botswana way of life.

Near the end of the journey, in the northern part of the country, Virginia was able to return "home" to Selebi-Phikwe, locating the house they had lived in, and the new (in 1975) secondary school site where Dennis, as Vice Principal and Science teacher, had developed a Science Lab. The school is now a much larger institution, but the humble beginnings started so long ago were still there.



An Anthill in Botswana

### Exotic Wildlife

Virginia and her traveling partners visited two wildlife sanctuaries in Botswana. The first was the Khama Rhino Conservatory. Rhinos in the country were on the verge of extinction until this facility was opened. Other forms of native wildlife - zebras, wildebeest, giraffes, warthogs, lots of birdlife - have been incorporated into the sanctuary to bring the area back to what it was originally - a wildlife area in the central desert of Botswana.



They also visited Chobe National Park which has the largest wildlife concentration in Africa! Here they saw all kinds of African animals - elephants, lions, giraffes, zebra, kudu, impalas, Cape buffalo, sable, and many more. One of the highlights was watching a herd of adult elephants supporting a wobbly-legged baby elephant just a half hour old! Another great moment was enjoying breakfast while on a safari amidst a lazy pride of lions!

*(Continued on Page Three)*

## Memory Lane: Virginia Roth Returns to Africa

*(Continued from Page Two)*

Virginia's South African trip was amazing and memorable - returning to Africa, reliving many fond memories, and creating some new ones with her friends of a lifetime! And just to prove Africa is a place that can capture your heart and your imagination, Virginia and Sylvia returned to Africa a little more than a year later in January, 2013 to visit Morocco. Another exciting adventure!

---

## Speaking of Travel.....

As you walk out the door to go on a trip, do you sometimes say to yourself "I know I'm forgetting something."? Do you rush around at the last minute frantically grabbing this and that to toss in the car?

David and his wife, Sandra, have been there, done that, and forgot the T-Shirt. So, they created a spreadsheet to help them get organized for a trip. It is divided into three time segments:

Items to complete days or weeks in advance.

Items to do a day or so in advance.

Last minute "check this or that" just before leaving the house.

Just check things off as you go and then begin your trip feeling confident and calm. Here's a copy. It's an Excel spreadsheet. Call us if you would like it emailed to you. Add and delete items to make it yours. Have a good trip!!

-David Williamson, CFP®

*(See Page Four for Spreadsheet)*

## Speaking of Travel.....

## Trip Checklist

	Early Preparation	Before Departure	Last Minute
<b>Logistics</b>	Contact House Sitter	Clean Office	Car Snacks & Water
	Contact Kennel		
	Stop Mail	Lock Desk	Clean Windshield
	Stop Paper		
	Instructions for House Sitter	Cell Phones & Chargers	Check: Oil, Water, Tires
	Add Cell & iPad Minutes		
		Check Thermostats	Maps
<b>Fresno Errands</b>	Check Prescriptions		
	Hostess Gift	Water Houseplants	Any Food-To-Go in Fridge or Freezer?
	Maps / AAA		
	Cash for Us	Check Sprinkler Timers	Any items to take to Kids / Grandkids?
	Cash for House Sitter		
	Cash for Housekeeper	Check Light Timers	Any Hanging Clothes
<b>Upstairs Packing</b>	Bug Spray	Move Potted Plants to Sprinkler Areas	Leave Garage Opener
	Sunscreen / Lip Balm		
	Coffee Cups	Water Porch / Courtyard Plants	Mailbox Key for House Sitter
	Shower Cap		
	Trip Drawer - Destination Folder	Water Window Boxes	Information Board - Tickets, Passes, etc.
	Exercise Clothes		
	Passports (Check Expiration Dates)	Turn Fountains Off	Take Out Compost & Garbage
	Day Pack		
	Fanny Pack w/ Water Bottles	Add Chlorine Granules to Fountains	Airline Tickets / Boarding Passes in Purse -Not in Luggage
<b>Downstairs Packing</b>	Vitamins	Mapquest Directions	
	Binoculars		Man Purse
	Bird / Flower Books	Print Boarding Passes	
	Umbrellas		iPad & Charger
	Rain Gear	Notify Credit Card Companies of Travel	
	Special Shoes / Slippers / Flip Flops		Litter Box
	Gloves	Notify Neighbors	
	Water Bottle		Sun Glasses & Cases
	Camera & Charger		
	Golf Clubs, Shoes, Balls		Run Dishwasher
	Hats, Golf Hats		
	Deck of Cards		Lock Door
Swim Goggles			
CDs or DVDs for Car		Close Windows	