

Edith Joy Baumann passed away peacefully from natural causes on May 25, 2020.

Edith was born in Erlenbach, near Zurich, Switzerland on March 27, 1931. The youngest of three children, she always had “Wanderlust” and as a result, moved as a young married woman to the United States in 1957, first to Norfolk, Virginia. She and her husband soon moved on to Pearl River, New York, where she lived for many years before moving to Cliffside Park, New Jersey in 1976. In 2016, the final move occurred when she relocated to San Diego to be closer to her children. She is the mother of four and grandmother to six.



Edith atop Säntis in Appenzell, Switzerland.

An avid reader and a life-long student, Edith earned a degree in English Literature with honors from Columbia University, graduating in 1975, while raising her children, and went on to earn a Masters and Doctorate degrees in German Literature from Rutgers University. Her love of travel took her around the world. Amongst many adventures she climbed the steep stone stairways of Machu Picchu in Peru, walked alongside the Terracotta Army in China, hiked the Camino de Santiago in Spain, cruised through the Panama Canal and the Fjord's of Norway, and admired Christ the Redeemer overlooking the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Edith was always on the go and loved to walk, taking daily three-mile jaunts well into her 80s. She had a sharp sense of humor and loved to laugh. She also loved the great Italian meals she could find in Italy as well as New Jersey, and a plate of chilled, fresh oysters brought her joy. She passed onto her children a love of literature and the arts,

encouraging all of them to learn an instrument and introducing them to the operas, musicals, and plays New York City had to offer. She loved to dance and passed this on to her children as well. A liberal, progressive thinker, she cared deeply for the underprivileged and neglected in the world and sought to help them as best she could.

Edith is survived and will be greatly missed by her four children, Maya Ziegler of Irvine, CA and her children Alexandra and Jackson Paul, Karin Spruill of Cypress, CA and her children Sabrina and Brandon, Thomas Laemmel and his wife Stacey of San Diego, CA, and his daughter Rebecca, and Christina Laemmel and her daughter Carina of Zurich, Switzerland, as well as many nieces and nephews. Edith also has many friends from her childhood in Switzerland, her adoptive hometowns in the United States, and her many travels, all of whom will miss her greatly.

Position: Teaching Assistant, Rutgers University. Full responsibility for Beginning German 1981 —1983. Full responsibility for Intermediate German, including literature. Fall 1983 — 1984.

Education: Ph.D. – Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., 1992. Field of Study: German literature. Dissertation title: Jörg Mauthes Die Grosse Hitze und Die Vielgeliebte: Zwei literarische Utopien.
M.A. – Rutgers University, New Brunswick, 1983. Field of Study: German literature.
B.A. – Columbia University, NY (Honors in English), Major: English literature, (Member of Phi Beta Kappa Society).

Swiss Lullaby

*I ghöre äs Glöggli
das lütet so nätt.
Dr Tag isch vergange
itz gang i is Bett.
Im Bett tuen i bäte
und schlafe de i.
Dr lieb Gott im Himmel
wird ou bi mir si!*

*I hear a little bell
That rings so beautifully,
The day is done,
Now I go to bed.
In bed I say my prayers
And I sleep there.
The dear God in Heaven
Will be with me too.*