

Lily Kraft



I was born and raised in Goldau, Schwyz in Switzerland. After completing school, I pursued an apprenticeship in Office Administration. Eager to broaden my horizons, I went to Bournemouth, England, to study English. During this time, I met Vicki Burkhard, who became a lifelong friend. Upon returning to Switzerland, I ventured into entrepreneurship by opening an Office Supply Store while working part-time for various companies. In 1991, seeking new adventures, Vicki and I moved to Hawaii and opened The Swiss Café. It was an exciting chapter of my life, and it's where I met my late husband, Peter. After Vicki left the islands, Peter and I started a cleaning business together, and we spent 15 wonderful years building a life in Hawaii.

Eventually, it was time for a new chapter. We relocated to California, where I attended Pet Grooming School in Santa Clara. After graduation, I bought a grooming shop in Vacaville, CA, which I ran successfully for 13 years before selling it to one of my loyal customers. Retirement brought us to sunny Fort Myers, Florida, where the warm climate felt like home, much unlike the chilly Swiss winters that had spurred my departure years ago. Though I embraced retirement, I quickly realized that a completely idle life wasn't for me. I resumed pet grooming from home and stayed active by joining the Swiss American Club. I was honored to join their board and now enjoy organizing fun events for our community. Seeing people come together and share joy brings me happiness. Vicki and I dedicated countless hours working on our memoirs, reflecting on our extraordinary journey. Boredom is a word that simply doesn't exist in my vocabulary. Life, for me, has always been about growth, creativity, and staying connected with others.