

## Vicki Hedwig Burkhard

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I grew up in Hattenhausen, Thurgau, Switzerland, near Lake Constance. After completing my apprenticeship, I went to school in Bournemouth, England, to study English. There, I met Lily Kraft, now also a fellow Swiss American Club Board member. Our 48-year friendship began during those days.

Returning to Thurgau after my studies in Bournemouth, I worked as an industrial photographer at Mowag and later as a product manager at Bernina International while earning my "Eidg. Dipl. Marketingplaner" degree. Inspired by a spirit of adventure, Lily and I emigrated to Hawaii, where we co-founded The Swiss Café. After one year, I married and later relocated to California, where I built a corporate career in high tech, launched my own consulting business, and served for 12 years on the Board of the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce in Los Angeles.

Now settled in Fort Myers and semi-retired, still managing vacation rental apartments in Switzerland and a B&B in Montego Bay, I recently co-authored a book with Lily. I'm proud to have served as Secretary of the Swiss American Club Board for the past three years and remain dedicated to continuing my service. I look forward to collaborating with my fellow board members to ensure our club remains vibrant, active, and strong for years to come.