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Obituary for Rosa Lechner Schupbach

Albert Winkler

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**Rosa Lechner
Schupbach
1928-2022**

*In Memoriam by
Albert Winkler*



A dear friend and faithful member of the Swiss American Historical Society, who served as vice president of the Society for many years, passed at her home in New York City on January 11, 2022. Her health had been in decline for many months. She complained of pain in her lower back and later discovered that she had a fracture in one of her vertebrae. This caused her great discomfort. She sought treatments but was never fully cured. She spent much of her last months in a hospital in Zurich but was also allowed to return to her home in New York City.

One of Rosa's friends, Julia Gerber Rüegg of Wädenswil, gave further details:

“Dear friends and relatives of Rosa Schupbach,

I am sorry to have to make a sad announcement to you. Rös [Rosa] passed away peacefully yesterday in her home in New York. This after several months of suffering and hoping for recovery, but at the same time steadily increasing loss of strength and autonomy. An enormous challenge for a freedom-loving and strong woman like Rosa.

The thoughtful and kind care provided by Care Givers of Homeinstead allowed Rosa to remain in her own home until the end. Beverly Bartlett, the minister of the Presbyterian Church, to whom Rosa had been a friend for many years, accompanied and comforted her in her final hours. Our heartfelt thanks go to her. According to her last will, Rosa will be cremated and buried in the Presbyterian Church in her home neighborhood in New York. In view of the epidemiological situation in Europe and the USA, it will also be possible to hold her funeral there on May 14, 2022.

Best regards Julia Gerber Rüegg”

Rosa was born in Zurich on June 19, 1928. Always adventurous, she emigrated to New York City in 1959. She went to school and earned degrees in economics from Columbia University. There she met Leo Schelbert who introduced her to the Swiss American Historical Society to which she made numerous contributions for many years.

Rosa met and married Edmund Schupbach, whom she cared for lovingly during his debilitating illness until he died in 1973. She worked for many years at the National Bureau of Economic Research until her retirement in 1990. She was a member of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church located near where she lived. Beginning in 1980, she became a member of the New York Police Department as an auxiliary police officer where she served for over forty years. Her fellow officers regarded her highly. A statement from them frankly admitted, “Rosa will be sorely missed.”

Rosa was a kind, efficient, and a friendly person, and she was a great help to the Swiss American Historical Society. On every third year, the Society would meet in New York, and Rosa always invited all the office holders to meet at her home, where she was a gracious host. She also arranged for the Society to meet at the Swiss Consulate for its annual meeting in New York. In doing so, she always stood by the entrance of the Consulate to make sure everyone was allowed to get inside to attend the meeting. Rosa was a very feisty person who did well

in her work with the police department. She told me about a fellow who ran into her with his bicycle on the street, and she demonstrated how she dragged him into the police department, by grabbing onto my collar and pulling me in a show of force. Rosa was always proud of her service with the police department, and she showed her badge when purchasing railway tickets, so she could get a discount.

Rosa was very outgoing and told me about boarding cruises in London to take her to South Africa. When I asked her if a friend would go with her, she said that she would meet people on the ship and make friends with them at that time. She had many friends in many countries and often visited them in London and Switzerland. Sometimes, she came to see them before they died. Rosa said that her father wisely purchased an apartment building in Zurich, so she had an additional source of income. She visited Zurich often. At times, she had to appear in court in Zurich because of issues with the apartment building or to eject deadbeat tenants.

Rosa was kind and moral and willing to help others. She was compassionate and worked with the homeless in New York and found them places to sleep in her church. As vice president of the Swiss American Historical Society, her experience, expertise, and talents came in handy. She remembered precedents and was an expert on the SAHS bylaws, both of which helped keep the Society functioning well. As a valued member of the Society and as a dear and loving friend, she will be sadly missed.