



Joan Manley

January 28, 1935 - October 9, 2025

Joan Manley obituary

Joan (Bergsma) Manley began her life's journey on January 28, 1935 in Grand Rapids Michigan, from where she set forth on her lifetime of adventures, beginning her education as a six-year old kindergarten pupil at the Woodstock School in the mountains of India, where her parents were medical missionaries.

And finishing up with a M.A. in English Lit at Middlebury College's School of English at Oxford University. It could be said of Joan, as with Chaucer's Oxford Clerk, that "gladly would [she] learn and gladly teach."

And teach she did, beginning by teaching village children in a missionary school in Nigeria, and then by teaching high school English at L'Ecole International de Geneve in Switzerland, and at the Awty International School in Houston, Texas.

Joan was ahead highly regarded and well-liked teacher whose clear instruction and patient encouragement taught her students to be discerning readers, and

effective writers.

She herself was a gifted writer, having written several stories and a novel based

upon her experiences as a young student attending school in the Himalayas, a

missionary teacher in Nigeria, and an educator in the international UN city of Geneva. A Lifetime of adventures and travels, having lived on four continents, circumnavigating the globe by ship, and scaling the heights from the green African canopy to the white snow-capped Indian Mountains.

These external travels and internal musings expanded her horizons and enabled

the young school-girl to grow up to become the wise, feisty, caring teacher, wife,

mother, woman we knew and loved.

Her life's journey ended on October 9, 2025 dying peacefully at home in Vallejo,

California, attended by her husband, David, and her daughter, Hope. Joan is now

on her final passage to where her parents and brothers have gone ahead, and is

bidding adieu to husband, daughter, granddaughter Brooke, step-son David, sisters-in-law, Lynda Bergsma and Lily Chu, and the many nieces and nephews who loved "Aunt Joan."