

PRESENTATION IN MEMORY OF MARION HOHMANN

October 25, 2007

Presented by Joan and Donald Reinertsen

Marion Hohmann, born October 27, 1914, in Stony Brook, was a direct descendent of Abraham Woodhull, alias Samuel Culper Sr., chief of Long Island spies under General George Washington. She was raised in Stony Brook, graduated from Port Jefferson High School, and moved to Saint James after marrying her husband, Charles Hohmann.

Prior to and during World War II, Marion chauffeured Alice McLain, whose home is the present site of the Harbor Country Day School in Head of the Harbor. She also made parts for the Grumman Hellcat at O'Berry's (Penney's) Saint James Garage, and was instrumental in getting out the first edition of The Smithtown News in 1945. Besides writing her column, *The News of Saint James*, Marion read and edited copy, sold ads, and delivered the papers. Her affiliation with this newspaper continued for 55 years. She also wrote for The Three Village Herald and The Suffolk Sun.

Marion was a businesswoman. She had her own antiques shop, Memory Junction in East Setauket, from 1972 to 1992, and later took space in a Saint James shop.

One of the community's biggest boosters, she was a member of the Smithtown Historical Society, Three Village Historical Society, Patriotic Instructor of the Saint James VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Chairperson of the Smithtown Bicentennial Quilt Committee, and served on the member committee for restoring the Hoyt House. She was also a member of the Smithtown Township Arts Council, a past member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a member of the Saint James Chamber of Commerce, and the CLEAN Committee. Who can forget Marion playing the role of Miss Pringle in the Smithtown Tercentenary Play and riding her three-wheeler in a past Saint Patrick's Parade as she demonstrated both the spirit of the Irish and her commitment to CLEAN and keeping Saint James beautiful.

In the late 1950s Marion was known as the "Bank Lady" at Saint James Elementary School, where she introduced many children to the concept of

saving. She also was a den mother for her son's Cub Pack, "I think she knew everyone in Saint James," said her son Charlie.

Marion's father, Chester Wood, served as chief of the Stony Brook Fire Dept. Her husband, Charles, served the Saint James Fire Department for 55 years, and she became a 55-year member and trustee of that department's Ladies Auxiliary. Her son, Charlie, and both of her grand children have volunteered at Saint James Fire Department.

Marion continued to support and serve Saint James Lutheran, the church that she loved, for the next 71 years. She enjoyed working on the Altar Guild. To save money, she picked rhododendron at the Libby house to put on the altar. She taught Sunday School, supported the Wartburg Auxiliary, planned for the church reconstruction, put on church dinners and bake sales in the original very small kitchen, sang in the choir, and even participated in the popular Gong Show. We continue to sing the hymn that she wrote for the church's 75th anniversary, "An Anniversary Hymn." Her joy and enthusiasm for life ended on this earth in 2006 at age 91, but we know that she continues to sing sweet alleluias with the angel choirs to her Lord.

Please join me in welcoming Charlie Hohmann, her son, his wife Maureen and their two children Devon and Kate as we honor the memory of our beloved sister in Christ, Marion Hohmann.