



## Clara Ann Simmons

June 20, 1923 - April 27, 2008

Clara Ann Thomas Simmons passed away on April 27, 2008. A native of Johnstown, PA, she attended George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and worked for the OSS during World War II. After the war, she attended and graduated from Miami University of Ohio. Clara Ann moved to Chestertown in 1951, soon beginning her life of community and volunteer service.

Her first volunteer effort was with the Welcome Wagon program. She was also involved with the Nearly New Shop of the Kent and Queen Anne's Hospital Auxiliary program. From the late 1950's to mid 1960, she ran the Selective Service Office in Chestertown. In 1963, Clara Ann opened The Village Toggery, a clothing store for children and women, located in Chestertown, which she owned until the late 1970's. During that time, Clara Ann was very actively involved with the Downtown Chestertown Association. The farmer's market, held in Fountain Park was her idea. The original re-enactment of the Chestertown Tea Party was largely due to the efforts of Clara Ann, Louis A(nthony, Walt Volker, and Sonny Usilton. Clara Ann had then Maryland Governor Harry Hughes and his wife in the first Tea Party parade. Annually she watched the parade, cheering always for the Kent County Community Marching Band. The downtown Crazy Daze Sale, held each year, was another of Clara Ann's planning efforts.

Clara Ann was one of the original Friends of the Kent County Public Library and also was a former president of the Kent County Bird Club. An avid gardener, she designed her gardens to attract both birds and other wildlife. In the late 1970's, Clara Ann began a career with the Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C., commuting from her home in Chestertown. In 1985, Clara Ann earned her well deserved retirement, yet she worked part-time at the White Swan Tavern from the late 1980's to the mid 1990's.

An avid reader and lover of the English language, Clara Ann was involved for several years in teaching adults to read through adult literacy programs. She also read to children in an area day care center for two years. Writing throughout her life, Clara Ann was a published author of several children's books.

Clara Ann was predeceased by a sister, Elizabeth H. Thomas, and a brother, William R. Thomas, III. She is survived by her daughters, Elisabeth M. Simmons of Wilmington, DE and Ellen C. Simmons and her husband, Kenneth D. Ross of Chandler, AZ.

Donations may be made in her name to the Queen Anne's County Arts Council, P.O. Box 218, Centreville, MD 21617. A memorial service will be held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Church Hill, MD on Saturday June 14, 2008 at 11AM. Arrangements by Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home Chestertown, MD.

# Previous Events

## Service

JAN 1. 12:00 AM (ET)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
401 Main Street  
Church Hill, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ Clara Ann Simmons

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ Clara Ann Simmons

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Clara Ann Simmons

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ Ellen:

*I was so sorry to learn of your mother's passing. She was such a classy lady. I know you will miss her terribly. My sincere condolences to you and Beth.*

*Love Eleanor##imported-begin##Eleanor Loos##imported-end##*

May 09, 2008 at 04:02 PM



“ Dear Ellen: I was so very sorry to hear of your mom's passing. Eleaner called me yesterday to tell me the sad news and my memories of your mom immediately came to mind. She was a remarkable woman, so charming and talented; I know she will be sorely missed. Boyd and I send you our deepest condolences.

With fond regards,  
Toby###imported-begin##Toby Bishop###imported-end##

---

May 09, 2008 at 11:43 AM



“ Beth,

My deepest sympathies to you in the loss of your Mother. God's peace go with you.

In Christ,  
Cecelia###imported-begin##Cecelia Hudson Frame###imported-end##

---

April 30, 2008 at 11:14 PM



“ Beth and Ellen,

Our entire family is saddened by your loss. As each of you know, our family's go back a very long way. Your Mother was a wonderful LADY, and we will miss her. All of you are in our prayers. Please let us know your plans for the memorial service.

The MacGlashan Clan###imported-begin##Carolyn & Scott MacGlashan###imported-end##

---

April 29, 2008 at 03:46 PM