



Maryanne Ott Granath '50
'Ann Flood'



Maryanne Ott Granath spent only three years in the Bay Shore school system, but she considers those last three years of high school as the most significant and formative as they prepared her for what has become a rewarding and enriching life. While working at the Brightwaters Beach and Cabana Club after graduation, she became involved with a group who were producing a play at the club. After playing the role of Julie in the play *Liliom* (from which Rogers and Hammerstein derived *Carousel*), the path of her life was changed indefinitely. As a consequence of her performance, she was encouraged to pursue a career in the theater and proceeded to study acting with the drama coach, Claudia Franck, and within a year she was performing professionally.

Her first role was in a television play opposite Peter Cookson, the male lead in the Broadway musical *Can Can*. Her Broadway credits include *Kismet* and *Holiday for Lovers*, which starred Don Ameche and was written by Ronald Alexander, the author of *Time Out for Ginger*. She also appeared in the film *Mystic Pizza*.

However, it is on the “small screen” (at least they were when she began her career) that Maryanne’s work has been viewed primarily. Her television career began during the “black and white” days on programs such as *Kraft Theater*, *Armstrong Circle Theater*, *Sgt. Bilko*, *Goodyear Playhouse*, and *Philco Playhouse*. In 1958, Maryanne began a run on daily Daytime TV series including *The Edge of Night* (23 years), *All My Children*, *Another World*, *Search For Tomorrow*, and *From These Roots*. She was nominated for the Television Academy “EMMY” Best Actress Award twice for her work in *Edge of Night*. During her career, Maryanne has made in excess of three thousand television performances.

In 1958, Maryanne married Herb Granath, a young sales executive, who went on to become a Senior Vice-President of the American Broadcasting Company. He first developed and then became Chairman of ESPN and is now Chairman Emeritus, ESPN. Maryanne and Herb live in Connecticut and their four children and ten grandchildren (with another on the way) live nearby.