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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Christmas Tree Ship Author to speak at Michigan Maritime Museum.

South Haven, MI – Rochelle Pennington, author of *The Christmas Tree Ship* will be presenting the story of this well-known great lakes shipwreck on Saturday, December 10 at 2:00 PM as part of the Michigan Maritime Museum's winter lecture series. The ship, fully loaded with Christmas Trees and heading for Chicago, went down in the "Great Storm of 1912". It is still loaded with its cargo today and is a popular dive site. "It's a story which exemplifies the best of humanity, said Pennington. "At its heart we find courage, love, generosity, heroism and the importance of family." Signed copies of the book, perfect for Christmas gifts, will be available at the Museum Store along with other maritime and seasonal merchandise.

Pennington's power-point presentation includes many century-old photos of the ship as well as underwater shots of the ship with its trees still visible in the cargo area. Her oral presentation focuses on many of the little known facts surrounding the story including the ship's mysterious disappearance and clues washed ashore in the decades following the vessel's demise up its discovery in 1971. She will also present photos of the "new" Christmas Ship which the Coast Guard has been sailing for over a decade, in memory of the old ship.

Pennington is an award-winning author, newspaper columnist, and speaker whose work has been included in several bestselling series including *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff* and *Stories for the Heart*.

There is no charge for the presentation, and cookies and eggnog will be served. Donations are welcomed.

The Michigan Maritime Museum is dedicated to the preservation of Michigan Great Lakes waterways, maritime history, and culture. Located at the drawbridge in South Haven, the museum is a 501 (C3) organization and donations are tax deductible. For more information call 1-800-747-3810 or visit michiganmaritimemuseum.org.

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