

Pierette Domenica SIMPSON

Author, Speaker,
Voyager, Survivor

Journeying from Tragedy to Transcendence

Topics

The Last Crossing of the *Andrea Doria*: A Survivor's Saga

Andrea Doria shipwreck survivor/author unveils her harrowing immigration experience. As retold in her award-winning book, **ALIVE ON THE ANDREA DORIA!** the audience is led to a logical conclusion about who was responsible for the calamity, one that debunks all previous theories. A compelling first-hand account is enhanced by its message: in spite of adversities, the American dream is within our reach if pursued with courage, gusto, and gratitude. (wide appeal)

What Others Are Saying . . .

"Outstanding presentation! Pierette's explicit recount of that horrifying night and her determination to survive, gave the audience a bone chilling, hair raising experience that will not be forgotten."

Ronald A. DiBartolomeo President,
Italian American Chamber of Commerce of
Michigan

"Thank you for your wonderful lecture! It was enthralling and everyone that attended sat spell-bound to their seats as you told your amazing story . . . everyone loved you! Your presentation was emotional and from the heart but it was also extraordinarily informative."

Will Roseman, Co-chairman *Sea Stories*,
Explorers Club of Manhattan, NY

"The ultimate author experience occurred in March, 2008 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Michigan. Ms. Pierette Domenica Simpson visited Pageturners, our college book club, and interacted with over 150 members of the audience. We were all impressed with her captivating presentation style, her warmth, and her sincere interest in our students. Our students, faculty, and staff are still talking about her visit."

Elzbieta Rybicka, Pageturners Coordinator,
Assistant Professor, English, Schoolcraft
College

"At the ALA annual conference, I had the wonderful opportunity of hearing Pierette relate firsthand the story of the *Andrea Doria*. Both her story and presentation had me enthralled! I recommend that her book, *Alive on the Andrea Doria* be in every public, academic, and high school library."

Sally Garner Reed, Executive Director
ALTAFF (American Library Association)

***Andrea Doria*: The Life, Death and Rebirth of a Floating Art Museum**

From masterful architecture to priceless art, the luxury Italian liner was a floating art museum—until it was rammed and sunk by another liner. Then nine years old, survivor Pierette recalls the *Doria's* beauty and its horrific demise on the Atlantic. Diver John Moyer, who was granted exclusive salvage rights, will describe his dives to the honored archeological dig and the recovery of artifacts including rare works of art. The partnership of survivor and salvor—via an array of photographs and DVD segments—will transport participants to a by-gone era. An exhibit of Moyer's artifacts is also available, depending on the venue. (Wide appeal, with high interest for museums, art collectors, academia, maritime and historical organizations)

Writing Memoir: A Journey from Tragedy to Triumph

Ms. Simpson will reveal the healing powers of rewriting one's own script. New and established authors will gain insights into seeking and disclosing personal information. Valuable sources will be shared. Everyone has a story; what's yours? (Can be directed to all ages)

I Survived a Shipwreck to Tell about It: The *Andrea Doria* – Stockholm Collision

Ms. Simpson's personal account was published in "Cricket Magazine", October 2009. In academic settings, the survivor/author/educator implements critical thinking skills in pre-reading, discussion, and follow-up activities. The presentation will enhance students' appreciation of sea safety, marine archeology, and seeking justice and truth. In addition to the author's personal experience and scientific discoveries, topics across the curriculum can be addressed: weather, geography, immigration, grand parenting, writing, survival, gratitude, character education, etc. Ms. Simpson can deliver presentations in French and Italian as well. (The author will individualize the presentation for suitability at all grade levels.)

Transcending a Shipwreck and Other Life Crises

After having survived the calamitous *Andrea Doria* shipwreck, Ms. Simpson faced a plethora of other challenges: family traumas, immigration, poverty, widowhood, illness, and divorce. By bravely revealing her experiences and how she was able to overcome them, Simpson emphatically inspires students to realize that tough times don't last . . . tough people do; and most of all, that education provides the tools to navigate a path of success. (Appropriate for college students, as well as parents, staff, and other audiences) Note: the message can be individualized to reach audiences outside of academia





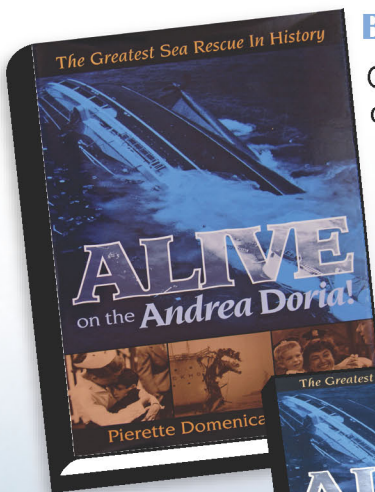
Meet Pierette... In 1956, Piera Domenica Burzio and her grandparents left their Italian village to begin a new life in America. They made their journey on the last voyage of the ill-fated Italian liner, *Andrea Doria*. The family settled in Detroit. For 37 years, Pierette taught foreign languages at every grade level.

Pierette's life purpose changed when she decided to share her amazing story of surviving the most catastrophic collision in maritime history. Her work, ***Alive on the Andrea Doria! The Greatest Sea Rescue in History***, has brought her much recognition: best-selling author, honorable mention from the New England Book Festival for excellence in telling a good story, a global literary award from her native Italy, and The Collegian Award from her alma mater.

Now, Pierette takes pride in inspiring audiences to overcome adversity by recounting her amazing survival experience on the Atlantic Ocean, and a plethora of other life challenges. With her "eloquent", "inspirational", and "magnetic" style, Pierette delivers each talk with a powerful theme: **embrace adversities with courage, vision, passion, purpose, and gratitude**. Moreover, every event includes historic video clips, photographs, and a display of *Andrea Doria* artifacts.

ALIVE ON THE ANDREA DORIA! THE GREATEST SEA RESCUE IN HISTORY

By Pierette Domenica Simpson

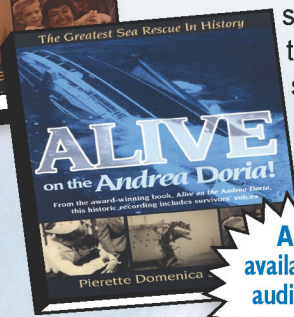


On July 25, 1956, the catastrophic ramming of the *Stockholm* into Italy's crown jewel, the luxury liner *Andrea Doria*, sent shock waves around the world. Eyewitness survivor, Piera Domenica Burzio, exposes the mysterious and controversial calamity that occurred while trying to reach the New World to meet her mother.

The author/survivor sensitively and scientifically recreates the details of her shipwreck—which could have been another *Titanic*. Thanks to the vivid survivor recollections and previously unveiled scientific data from Italy and the U.S., the author becomes the first shipwreck survivor in history to write a complete account of her ship's demise.

"Finally, a riveting first-hand account of the sinking of the *Andrea Doria*. Pierette Simpson's heartfelt, engaging prose and her insight make the reader marvel at the depth of her research and her knack for expressing human emotion with the written word. A real pleasure to read!"

Kevin McMurray, New York Times journalist
author of *Dark Descent and Deep Descent*



Also available in audio CD version

As featured on
"CBS Sunday Morning"
with Charles Osgood,
WGN TV America, and
PBS "Secrets of the Dead: Andrea Doria"

Highlights:

- World film rights secured
- Best seller in three categories on Amazon.com: ships and shipwrecks, maritime transportation, and admiralty law
- The New England Book Festival recognized *Alive on the Andrea Doria* for general excellence, passionate storytelling, and the book's potential to be read by wide audiences
- Recommended for shipwreck research by the marine forensics chairman of SNAME

Other Publications:

- L'ULTIMA NOTTE DELL'ANDREA DORIA (Italian version)
- THANK GOD I...STORIES OF INSPIRATION FOR EVERY SITUATION
- THANK GOD I'M AN EMPOWERED WOMAN
- ITALIANS OF DETROIT
- TITANIC DIARIES

—AVAILABLE AT BARNES & NOBLE, BORDERS, AMAZON.COM, AND FROM THE AUTHOR—
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