

PRESS RELEASE – FOR RELEASE BY JUNE 18, 2010

Shipwreck Survivor Pierette Domenica Simpson to appear at the Novi Public Library's opening celebration festivities on June 26.

June 9, Novi: Novi resident, author, and shipwreck survivor Pierette Domenica Simpson will be the featured speaker at the new Novi Public Library's opening celebration on June 26. Simpson is the internationally acclaimed author of *Alive on the Andrea Doria! The Greatest Sea Rescue in History*, the only complete shipwreck book in history written by one of its survivors.

Published in the U.S. in 2006 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the sea collision, Simpson's novel exonerated the ship's Captain and brought closure to an international scandal that began when the Swedish motorship *Stockholm* harpooned and sunk the Italian oceanliner *Andrea Doria* on July 25, 1956, as 9-year-old Pierette and her grandparents were immigrating to America.

Since the book's release, *Alive on the Andrea Doria* has inspired several documentaries, including a PBS special that dispelled previous misinformation touted by other historians. Simpson herself has become an expert in sea survival and maritime law, as well as the gatekeeper of Andrea Doria survivor stories. Her firsthand experience of the *Andrea Doria-Stockholm* collision and her extensive research to reveal the true story captivates audiences of all ages.

Simpson's appearance at the Novi Public Library opening celebration (from 11am to 4pm) will provide an up-close and personal glimpse of her survival experience. An opportunity to purchase her print and audio books for signing will follow. The author will also show historic photographs, artifacts from the wreck, a short film clip of the historic sinking, and provide activities for children. The event, at 10 Mile and Taft, is free of charge.

NPL director, Julie Farkas, expresses her enthusiasm for hosting the author: "Ms. Simpson has been an amazing supporter of the Novi Library over the years. Being able to showcase a local author with a book of international importance in our new library is very exciting for us; it allows us to connect our patrons with not only the written page, but the master behind it. Her book, *Alive on the Andrea Doria*, tells a fascinating story which will intrigue readers of all ages."

Simpson is currently working toward a feature film for which *Andrea Doria* survivor and world famous composer Mike Stoller has offered to write the musical score. Stoller is known for such hits as "Hound Dog", "Jailhouse Rock" and "Stand By Me" and his Broadway musical "Smokey Joe's Café." He recently released the autobiography, *Hound Dog*, co-authored with his music partner, Jerry Leiber.

For additional information on Ms. Simpson's upcoming appearance or projects, contact Jenn Oddo or visit www.pierettesimpson.com.

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