

# Best Selling Novelist to deliver Dekaban Lecture

A lecture by best selling Polish American novelist Suzanne Strempek-Shea will be presented by the Piast Institute on Thursday, October 26th, 2006 at 6 pm. The lecture is being presented as part of the Institute's fall lecture series. Ms. Strempek-Shea's lecture will be titled "Writing Polish American Lives".

Ms. Strempek-Shea's lecture is sponsored by American Axle Manufacturing (AAM). The grant to the Piast Institute to underwrite the program is part of AAM's continuing commitment to the cultural enrichment of the area and its partnership with the Piast Institute in that endeavor.

The lecture will be hosted by the Slavic and Germanic Studies Department of Wayne State University. It will be held at the Bernath Auditorium on the first floor of the undergraduate library on the Wayne State University campus.

The presentation will be the fourth in the Piast Institute's Dekaban Lecture Series named in honor of Dr. Anatol and Pamela Dekaban who endowed unique

ongoing faculty exchange programs between the universities of British Columbia, Michigan and Glasgow and counterpart universities in Warsaw. The Piast Institute oversees these programs on behalf of the Dekaban Foundation.

Ms. Strempek-Shea's novels of Polish American life have been consistently on the New York Times bestseller lists. They include *Selling the Lite of Heaven*, *Hoopi Shoopi Donna*, *Lily of the Valley*, *Becoming Finola*. All were published by Washington Square Press, winner of the 2000 New England Book Award which recognizes a literary body of works' contribution to the region. She has also written two memoirs: *Songs from a Leadlined Room: Notes - High and Low - From My Journey Through Breast Cancer and Radiation* and *Shelf Life: Romance, Mystery, Drama and other Page Turning Adventures From a Year in a Bookstore*.

She has also freelanced for publications including *Yankee Magazine*, *The Boston Globe*

*Magazine*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Organic Style*, *The Bark* and the former *New England Monthly*.

Suzanne is a member of the faculty at the University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast MFA program in creative writing. She has also taught fiction and memoir writing in the MFA program at Emerson College in Boston. A native of western Massachusetts, she still lives there in the village of Bondsville.

Ms. Strempek Shea's books will be available for purchase at the lecture. She will autograph copies for purchasers. For more information, call Ms. Virginia Skrzyniarz at 313-664-0321.