

Katrina Shawver

Author. History geek. Speaker. Relentlessly curious.



Short Bio

Katrina Shawver is a writer, experienced public speaker, and history geek. She wrote for the *Arizona Republic* newspaper for eleven years. During that time, she met Henry Zguda, a Polish Catholic survivor of German concentration camps, and soon offered to write his incredible story. She is the recipient of the 2018 Polish Heritage Award and many other accolades.

Long Bio

Katrina Shawver is an experienced writer, speaker and long-time history geek. As a journalist, she wrote for *The Arizona Republic*, *Arizona Parenting*, *Phoenix Downtown*, and other publications for many years. In 2002, she met Henry Zguda, a Polish Catholic survivor of German concentration camps, and soon offered to write his incredible story. She spent over ten years researching Poland, World War II, and the Holocaust. Her award-winning book, *Henry: A Polish Swimmer's True Story of Friendship from Auschwitz to America*, is available in English, Polish, and Czech.

The Polish American Congress - Arizona division awarded Katrina their 2018 Polish Heritage Award for “her contribution to the documentation of the suffering inflicted on Polish people during the Holocaust.” It stands as her most treasured award among many others received. Katrina is a seasoned Toastmaster and has presented to many audiences. She served as a writer in residence at the Glendale Public Library in Glendale, Arizona.

In previous lives she worked as a project manager in software support, a paralegal, a tax preparer, answered phones for a forensic psychiatrist, hiked the Grand Canyon three times, and still wishes sweet potato fries counted as a vegetable. Her experiences have taught her the power of resilience, the importance of kindness, and true leadership begins with saying yes to opportunity. Give her a good book, cozy chair, and a glass of Merlot and she sighs contentment. She lives in Phoenix, Arizona with her husband, Rick.