

Author Joanie Holzer Schirm

After her parents' death in 2000, Joanie Schirm's discovery of her Czech father's WWII letter cache of 400 letters by 78 writers called her to become a writer. The founding president of Orlando, Florida-based Geotechnical and Environmental Consultants, she retired in 2008 to work full time on what she thought would simply be her family history. As stunning revelations from the letters unfolded, Joanie knew she was given a greater calling by a higher being for a worldwide audience. The importance of Joanie's April 2013 debut book has been described by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright:

"Adventurers Against Their Will is a brilliant and compelling account of men and women caught in the turbulence of war. Part insightful history and part family drama, the book leads readers on a journey into the past, answering many questions and posing new ones along the way. Joanie Schirm has made a fresh and vital contribution to our understanding of World War II's impact on the lives of people in Central Europe." -**Madeleine Albright, Former U.S. Secretary of State**

Companion book, *My Dear Boy - The Discovery of a Lifetime*, is the story of her Czech father's escape from the Nazis after their occupation of his homeland, his courtship of her mother in China, intertwined with Schirm's own story of discovery. *My Dear Boy* will be published in late 2013.

Joanie Schirm is a writer, photographer, community activist, and retired Orlando, Florida award-winning businesswoman. While President of Geotechnical and Environmental Consultants, she became internationally known for her volunteer leadership role of Orlando's hosting of FIFA's World Cup USA 1994. In recognition of her efforts she received the Walt Disney World Dreamers and Doers Award. She was named Orlando Downtowner of the Year and Orlando Businesswoman of the Year and served as the Founding President of the Central Florida Sports Commission and is a Hall of Fame Inductee. She is currently Council member Emeritus of the Florida High Tech Corridor Council and board member for the Chelonian Research Institute, dedicated to the study and conservation of turtles and tortoises of the world. After raising two children, Kelly and Derick, she lives in Orlando with her husband, Roger Neiswender. www.joanieschirm.com