

Introduction of Ann Hagedorn

Ann Hagedorn is the award-winning author of five narrative non-fiction books. She was born in Dayton, Ohio. She grew up first in Dayton, then Kansas City, and Cleveland. Travel seemed always to be a part of her life—at various times, she has lived in Detroit, Chicago, Ann Arbor, San Francisco, Lawrence (Kansas), Brooklyn, and Greenwich Village. Ann now resides in Ripley, Ohio.

As a journalist, Ann was a staff writer for *The Wall Street Journal*, *New York Daily News* and *San Jose Mercury News*. Several her stories appeared on the front page.

She has taught writing as an adjunct professor or visiting scholar at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, Xavier University, and Miami University. She holds an M.S. in journalism from Columbia University; an M.S. in information science from the University of Michigan; and a B.A. in history from Denison University. In 2009, she received an honorary doctorate in humane letters from Denison University.

Hagedorn's book, **Beyond the River: The Untold Story of the Heroes of the Underground Railroad**. This book abolishes myths surrounding the Underground Railroad—especially the one about slaves being passive victims. It hails unsung heroes—free blacks and whites, men, and women—who were active in the underground and suggests that blacks and whites worked closely together in the underground movement along the Ohio River.

When not writing, reading, or teaching, she is mentoring students, bicycling, or playing the violin or concertina.