



Beyond the Book Austin

Texas Memorial Museum, University of Texas at Austin

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Panelists



Jan Reid grew up in the ranching and oilfield country of north Texas. Now living in Austin, he is a writer-at-large for *Texas Monthly* and has written for *Esquire*, *GQ*, *New York Times Magazine*, *Men's Journal*, and *Slate*. His writing has been anthologized in *Best American Sportswriting*, *The Slate Diaries*, *The Best of Texas Monthly*, and *Texas Short Stories*, and has won awards and grants from PEN, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Texas Institute of Letters. His first book, recently reissued by the University of Texas Press and which updates the 1974 edition, was *The Improbable Rise of Redneck Rock*. His subsequent eight books include a novel, *Deerinwater* (1985) and nonfiction of focus and range from Willie Nelson to George Foreman, Karl Rove to the Rio Grande. A much-praised memoir of his marriage, friendship with a young boxer, and fight back from near-paralysis and a Mexico City robbery is *The Bullet Meant for Me* (Broadway 2002, University of Texas Press re-issue this fall). His next book will recount Eric Clapton's recording with Derek and the Dominos of *Layla and Assorted Love Songs*.



Elijah Wald is an author and musician currently based in Los Angeles. His books include *Escaping the Delta*, a re-examination of blues history centered on the legendary Robert Johnson; *Narcocorrido*, a visit with the Mexican balladeers of drug trafficking, immigration and politics; and the award-winning biography *Josh White: Society Blues*. His newest is *The Mayor of MacDougal Street*, Dave Van Ronk's memoir of the New York folk revival, and his next will be *Riding with Strangers*, about a cross-country hitchhiking trip. He was the *Boston Globe's* world and roots music critic for many years, and won a 2002 Grammy for his notes to *The Arhoolie Records 40th Anniversary Box*.



Robert Cochran is professor of English, chair of American Studies, and director of the Center for Arkansas and Regional Studies at the University of Arkansas. Prof. Cochran is hailed as the state's leading folklorist by the *Arkansas Times*. Among his many published books are *A Photographer of Note: Arkansas Artist Geleve Grice*, *Vance Randolph: An Ozark Life*, and *Singing in Zion*. His most recent book, *Our Own Sweet Sounds: A Celebration of Popular Music in Arkansas*, was published in March 2005 by University of Arkansas Press.

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Jerma Jackson is associate professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her main research interest is twentieth century social and cultural history, with a special emphasis on African American life, religion, music and women's history. Her book *Singing In My Soul: Black Gospel Music in a Secular Age* (University of North Carolina Press, 2004), traces gospel from its beginnings as a mode of worship to its emergence in commercialized culture during the forties and fifties. Prof. Jackson uses the music to examine some of the mounting changes that unfolded in the 20th century—expanding industrialization and urban migration, the growth of consumer values and materialism and the emergence of mass produced culture—and how African Americans gave meaning to these developments.



Christopher Kenneally is an award-winning journalist and author of *The Massachusetts Legacy*, who has reported on education, business, travel, culture and technology for the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Independent of London*, and many other leading publications. Mr. Kenneally has also reported for WBUR-FM (Boston), National Public Radio and WGBH-TV (Boston), and has appeared as a guest on numerous radio and TV public affairs programs. He serves on the Steering Committee of the National Writers Union (NWU) Boston Local, and is a member of PEN New England, and the Authors Guild. Mr. Kenneally is also a co-founder of the Writers League of Boston, and an Advisory Council member of the Boston History Collaborative.

Before joining Copyright Clearance Center in 2001 as Director, Author & Creator Relations, Mr. Kenneally was a corporate communications consultant to foundations and emerging businesses.