



**T. K. Thorne** speaks passionately about her book, *Behind the Magic Curtain: Secrets, Spies, and Unsung White Allies of Birmingham's Civil Rights Days*, which peels back history's veil to reveal untold/forgotten stories with an intriguing cast of characters that includes not only progressive members of the Jewish, Christian, and educational communities, but also the ironic twists of a racist businessman and a Ku Klux Klan member who helped bring about justice and forward racial equality and civil rights. Though anyone who spoke or stood up against segregation became a target, the Jewish community, in particular, found themselves caught between the pressures of assimilation and the desire for an equitable world.

Woven throughout the book are the firsthand recollections of a reporter with the state's major newspaper of the time. Embedded with law enforcement, he reveals the details of their secret wiretapping and intelligence operations. With a deft hand, Thorne offers the insight that can be gained from understanding little-known but important perspectives, painting a multihued portrait of a city that has figured so prominently in history, but which so few really know.

#### Bio:

T. K. Thorne has been passionate about storytelling and writing since she was a young girl, and that passion only deepened when she became the first Jewish police officer in the Birmingham Police Department. Thorne served there more than two decades in the Birmingham police force, retiring as a precinct captain and then as the executive director of a downtown business improvement district focused on safety, retiring to write full time. Her books and essays include two award-winning historical novels (*Noah's Wife* and *Angels at the Gate*); two nonfiction civil rights era works (*Last Chance for Justice* and *Behind the Magic Curtain: Secrets, Spies, and Unsung White Allies of Birmingham's Civil Rights Days*); and a dally with murder, mystery, and magic in *House of Rose* and *House of Stone*, and *House of Iron*, a Magic City Stories trilogy. She writes from her mountaintop home northeast of Birmingham, often with a dog and cat vying for her lap and three horses hanging out in the yard. [TKThorne.com](http://TKThorne.com)