

About the Author

Janice S. Ellis, M.A., M.A., Ph.D., a native daughter of Mississippi, grew up and came of age during the height of the Civil Rights Movement and the Women's Liberation Movement. Born and reared on a small cotton farm, she was influenced by two converging forces that would set the course of her life.

The first was the fear and terror felt by Blacks because of their seeking to exercise the right to vote along with other rights and privileges afforded whites. She became determined to take a stand and not accept the limits of that farm life nor the strictures of oppressive racial segregation and gender inequality. She aspired to have and achieve a different kind of life—not only for herself but for others.

The second was her love of books, the power of words, and her exposure to renowned columnists Eric Sevareid of *The CBS Evening News* with Walter Cronkite and Walter Lippmann, whose column appeared for more than three decades in over 250 major newspapers across the United States and another 50 newspapers in Europe.

It was the study of Lippmann's books and commentary that inspired her to complete a Master of Arts degree in Communication Arts, a second Master of Arts degree in Political Science, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Arts, all from the University of Wisconsin. It was during her course of study that her unwavering belief—the belief that the wise use of words is what advances a good society—was solidified.

Dr. Ellis has been an executive throughout her career, first in government, then in a large pharmaceutical company, later as President and CEO of a marketing firm, and as President and CEO of a bi-state non-profit child advocacy agency. Along with those positions, she has been writing columns for nearly four decades on race, politics, education, and other social issues for a major metropolitan daily newspaper, *Kansas City Star*; a major metropolitan business journal, *Milwaukee Business Journal*, and for community newspapers *The Milwaukee Courier*, *The Kansas City Globe*, and *The Kansas City Call*. She wrote radio commentary for two years for one of the largest ABC radio affiliates in Wisconsin and subsequently wrote and delivered a two-minute spot on the two largest Arbitron-rated radio stations in the Greater Kansas City area. She has also written for several national trade publications, focusing on healthcare and the pharmaceutical industry.

Currently, she is a columnist for the [Missouri Independent](#). She has her own website, [JaniceSEllis.com](#), which houses a collection of her writings and where she continues to write a commentary.

Dr. Ellis' most recent book, *From Liberty to Magnolia: In Search of the American Dream – New Edition* (2023), is receiving great reviews, and is a finalist for several awards to be announced. *USING MY WORD POWER: Advocating for a More Civilized Society* (2022), has received great editorial reviews and was a First-Place winner of the Nellie Bly Nonfiction Journalism Award. *Shaping Public Opinion: How Real Advocacy Journalism™ Should Be Practiced* (2021) won the Nellie Bly Nonfiction Journalism Award and the Gold Medal Award for nonfiction books from

the Nonfiction Authors Association. It has received great national editorial reviews and continues to receive great customer reviews.

The first edition of ***From Liberty to Magnolia: In Search of the American Dream*** (2018) has received several national and international awards since its initial release. Among them: Independent Press Award for Race Relations (May 2020); New York City Big Book Award for Women Issues (November 2019); the Grand Prize Journey Award for Nonfiction (April 2019) from Chanticleer International Book Reviews; the Gold Medal Award for Nonfiction Books from the Nonfiction Authors Association (May 2018), the highest award bestowed for nonfiction authors. ***From Liberty to Magnolia*** received a notable editorial review and honor from Kirkus Reviews, one of the oldest and most credible reviewers of books for libraries, schools, bookstores, publishers, agents, and other industry professionals. In bestowing the honor, Kirkus noted, "*From Liberty to Magnolia* was selected by our Indie Editors to be featured in *Kirkus Reviews* April 15, 2018 Issue. Congratulations! Your review has appeared as one of the 35 reviews in the Indie section of the magazine which is sent out to over 5,000 industry professionals (librarians, publishers, agents, etc.) Less than 10% of our Indie reviews are chosen for this, so it's a great honor." The book continues to receive great customer reviews.

Follow her on [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#) [YouTube](#)