



**Janis F. Kearney**, a native of Gould, Arkansas and daughter of cotton sharecroppers, graduated from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville with a B.A. in Journalism and earned more than 30 graduate level hours in Public Administration and Journalism. She spent nine years serving in management level communications positions with the state of Arkansas before going to work for Daisy Gatson Bates, as her managing editor, at the historical **Arkansas State Press** Newspaper.

In 1988 she purchased the newspaper from Mrs. Bates and served as publisher/owner for the next five years. In 1992 she took a sabbatical from the newspaper to work in the communications office of the Clinton/Gore Campaign. In 1993 she was invited to work in the Clinton white house's Media Affairs office. After serving a short time as a White House media affairs specialist, she was appointed as Director of Public Communications for the U.S. Small Business Administration. In 1995 she was hired as the first-ever Personal Diarist to the President. In that role she documented and chronicled the President's days, creating a daily diary of the Clinton Presidency.

In 2001 Kearney began her life mission of creating books. In 2004 she and her husband Bob J. Nash established the Writing our World Press, a small publishing company in Chicago. The company has produced seven books as of 2012 – including her first memoir, *Cotton Field of Dreams*, and her most recent, *Daisy: Between a Rock and a Hard Place*; a biographical memoir chronicling the life and times of Daisy Lee Gatson Bates, one of the American South's premier female Civil Rights leaders.

Kearney and her husband Bob J. Nash are parents to three children and have three grandchildren.