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**GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST EMPOWERS IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE**

EVANSTON, IL, October 13, 2004—During the late 1950's, times were still considered “the golden era.” This is a time most baby boomers long to return to—simpler, friendlier and with less confusion. Author and story artist, Susan O'Halloran, has published her latest book, *Memories for the Future: Ten Stories from a Chicago White Girl*. The book explores this more peaceful time by sharing stories of O'Halloran's own childhood and young adult life.

“When I was a child,” says O'Halloran, “we didn't talk about divorce or segregation or poverty except in hushed tones. These were taboo subjects and formulated an entire generation about society's outcasts.” *Memories for the Future* depicts O'Halloran's childhood in vivid detail—from her childhood experiences with air raid drills and her attendance at a Catholic school to her own personal journey discovering that even heroes and role models make mistakes.

“So much of who we are and what we believe is based upon our history and social interaction with others,” comments O'Halloran. “For years I looked at the slums in Chicago and wondered what was wrong with ‘those people’ for living in filth and run-down buildings. That is, until I discovered that ‘those people’ were people who laughed and cried just like me, but didn't have some of the simplest assistance we take for granted.”

O'Halloran's book, *Memories for the Future*, takes a lighthearted and dramatic look into her own past, and challenges it's readers to do the same. States O'Halloran, “I want my stories to entertain *and*

to begin the process to initiate change in attitudes, stereotypes and other inaccurate thoughts. I don't point fingers. I simply address the mistakes of my own past and encourage my audience to explore the possibilities that the future can hold for them when they are honest about the past.”

O'Halloran's stories use humor and drama to explore the complex issues of family, race, politics and social justice. She is author of four books, producer of the videotape *Tribes & Bridges at the Steppenwolf Theatre*, creator of the diversity curriculum, *Kaleidoscope: Valuing Differences* and *Creating Inclusion* and recipient of national and international video/film honors including awards of excellence from the CINDY competition, the U.S. Industrial Film Festival and the Los Angeles Film Advisory Board.

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