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For immediate release

Fresh Water Press Celebrates America's 250th with Publication of *Bicentennial Eve*

Manitowoc, WI —When [Fresh Water Press](#) Editor Tara Huck discovered author Julie Jacob's story about a Wisconsin family preparing for the bicentennial celebration in 1976, she was instantly intrigued. With all the excitement surrounding next year's 250th Birthday of the formation of the United States, it is an interesting time to revisit the idea of patriotism and family life from another era.

The novella, *Bicentennial Eve: A Wisconsin Novella*, is a gentle, slice-of-life tale of a family gathering for the fireworks on the eve of Independence Day. As the cast of characters go about their day, each of them struggles with their own passing of time. From Grandma Kitty's quest for some adventure to young Skylar's search for a taste of first love, each member of the Ames family is looking for a little independence of their own against the backdrop of a changing country.

"The author has created a believable world in the fictional, Wisconsin Lakeshore community of Middleport. Her writing is impeccable, drawing the reader into the story with great attention to the cultural details of the times. *Bicentennial Eve* is more than a nice story; it is a testament to the lasting values that make up family and a look into the communities that make up America," says Huck. The novella will be published in May 2026 and will be available to order at freshwaterpressllc.com

About Fresh Water Press

*Fresh Water Press is a women-owned publishing company founded in 2024 that elevates local writers by publishing their work and by promoting a rich literary landscape on the Lakeshore. The Press publishes multiple genres with a unifying mission to promote the voices of Northeast Wisconsin. While the subject matter or setting need not be limited to this area, the authors themselves must have a tie to this beautiful part of the state. Recent releases include *Radio Starr*, *Dial Down*, and *Ghosted Woman*.*

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About the author

When Julie A. Jacob was a child, she decided she wanted to be a writer, and she's been writing ever since. She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from UW-Madison, a master's degree in journalism from Marquette University, and an MFA in creative writing from Roosevelt University. Her professional career has focused on health care writing and communications, but, through the years, she has kept freelancing and writing creatively in her spare time. Her creative non-fiction essays have been published in *Midwest Prairie Review*, *On Wisconsin*, *Open*, *Under the Sun*, and several editions of the TallGrass Writers Guild annual anthology. In 2020 she self-published an essay collection called *Two States of Single: Essays on Family, Love, and Living Solo*. *Bicentennial Eve* is her first novel. She lives in Wisconsin with her poodle and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Upcoming author events

May 19: Publication date

May 21: Launch party at Manitowoc Historical Society, 924 Pinecrest Road, Manitowoc

May 22: Author appearance at WordHaven Bookhouse, 921 N. 8th St., Sheboygan

June 19: Made in Racine podcast appearance

June 27: Reading at Arnett and Son Books, 3310 Washington Ave., Racine

July 11: Reading at Vintage and Modern Books, 410 Sixth St. Racine

Learn more about the U.S. Bicentennial

American Bicentennial Celebration. Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

<https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/digital-research-room/topic-guides/american-bicentennial-celebration#event-number-1498>.

United States Bicentennial. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Bicentennial

United States Bicentennial Celebrations. Freedom's Way National Heritage Area.

<https://monuments.freedomsway.org/stories/united-states-bicentennial-celebrations/>