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## The Story You Never Heard About the 1<sup>st</sup> Women to Fly for the US Air Force

Warwick, NY – Keene Publishing of Warwick, NY announces the publication of *Skies Over Sweetwater* by Julia Moberg, a historical fiction novel about the first women to fly for the US Air Force.

Bernadette Thompson (Byrd to her friends) is 18, the year is 1944, and she is about to fulfill her life-long dream: to become an Air Force pilot. Leaving her poverty-stricken Iowa home, Byrd boards a train in route to Sweetwater, Texas—home of Avenger Field—where the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) training camp teaches women how to fly bombers, pursuits, trainers, and utility planes. At camp, Byrd meets Cornelia the rich girl, Sadie the college girl, and Opal the city girl. Together they struggle to master not only handling a plane, but some of life’s most important challenges.

The WASP were the first women in history trained to fly American military aircraft. Still in their teens, these courageous pioneers, heroes in their own right, left their homes to serve their country doing what they loved to do—fly! Their story inspires us all to follow our dreams and find our own place in the world through courage, integrity, and passion. Readers of all ages will love the WASP’s story of achievement, friendship, and patriotism.

Hailing from Michigan and Texas, author Julia Moberg attended NYU where she earned both her B.F.A. and M.F.A. in dramatic writing. Julia learned of the WASP program, and impressed with the courage and fortitude of these pioneering women, she focused her writing skills on bringing this important part of American history to light. *Skies over Sweetwater* captures the essence of their lives and brings the story, in a very accessible format, to today’s readers. Julia continues to be amazed that so few people know that women flew for the Air Force during WWII. She hopes that this book might change that, and give the WASP pilots much deserved recognition. Julia currently lives in New York City, where she works as an editor in children’s book publishing.

“I loved the movie *A League of their Own*,” states Diane Tinney, Publisher. “And when I read the Sweetwater manuscript, it reminded me so much of that movie. I had this very clear understanding of what life was like for women in the 40’s, the sacrifices men and women made during WWII, and the courage it took to pursue individual goals as a young woman at that time in our history. Like Julia, I knew this was a story that needed to be shared, not forgotten.” Founded in 2002, Keene Publishing has published books in the fiction, nonfiction, business, local history, young adult, and, under the Moo Press imprint, children’s fiction and nonfiction categories at a rate of about four to six books a year. Publisher Diane Tinney says, “We are committed to publishing books that matter—books that inform, inspire, and entertain as they provide our readers with a keener understanding of a subject, explored either through fiction or nonfiction. Our books offer readers of all ages an opportunity to grow, to learn, to share.” For review copies of *Skies Over Sweetwater*, to request a visit from Julia Moberg, or to order books, please visit [www.KeeneBooks.com](http://www.KeeneBooks.com) or contact Diane Tinney at [dtinney@keenebooks.com](mailto:dtinney@keenebooks.com) or 845-987-7750.

