

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 6, 2018

**Local Author Earns International Honor Award for Debut Novel,
*Freedom for Me: A Chinese Yankee***

Skipping Stones magazine has recognized ***Freedom for Me: A Chinese Yankee*** by Stacie Haas with its [2018 Honor Award](#) for multicultural teen fiction. *Freedom for Me* is a historical novel for ages 10 to adult about a Chinese teen who fought in the American Civil War. It was published by 50/50 Press, a Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators PAL publisher.



Now in its 29th year, the Skipping Stones Honor Awards promote respect for ecological richness and cultural diversity in the world. The 2018 awards recognized 29 books and four teaching resources as winners. Skipping Stones is an award-winning, international, nonprofit magazine for youth that encourages communication, cooperation, creativity, and celebration of cultural and environmental richness. Young readers of Skipping Stones, ages 7 to 17, hail from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

“These books promote an understanding of cultures, cultivate cooperation, and/or encourage a deeper awareness of the world’s diversity,” according to the Summer issue of the *Skipping Stones* magazine. “They also foster respect for multiple viewpoints and closer relationships with human societies. The honored titles offer many ways to explore and understand families, cultures, places, societies and their histories for readers of all ages—from the very young readers to high school seniors and adults.” The [review](#) of *Freedom for Me* by *Skipping Stones* Executive Editor Arun Toke, called it, “a good read that takes us back to Civil War times.”

Freedom for Me: A Chinese Yankee is based on a real-life Chinese Yankee named Joseph Pierce, who was rescued from slavery by an American merchant sailor and later fought for the Union with the Fourteenth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. Corporal Pierce saw action at the battles of Antietam and Gettysburg and survived the war.

Freedom for Me: A Chinese Yankee also earned two [Royal Butterfly Award](#) Honorable Mentions from Story Monsters, Inc. for cultural diversity and historical fiction as well as the [LitPick Top Honor Award](#) for multiple five-star student reviews. *Freedom for Me: A Chinese Yankee* is available from [Amazon](#), Barnes & Noble, and select independent bookstores around the country. A Freedom for Me Curriculum Guide for grades 4-8 and information about the author is available at www.staciehaas.com. The publisher’s website is www.5050press.com.

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