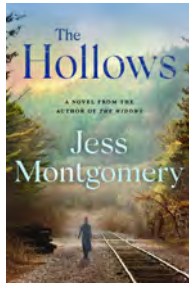




ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jess Montgomery is the author of the Kinship Historical Mysteries, set in 1920s Appalachian Ohio and inspired by Ohio's true first female sheriff. Under her given name, she writes the "Level Up Your Writing (Life)" column for *Writer's Digest* and teaches for Writer's Digest University. She was formerly a newspaper columnist, focusing on the literary life, authors and events of her native Dayton, Ohio for the *Dayton Daily News*. She is a three-time recipient of the Individual Excellence Award in Literary Arts from Ohio Arts Council, a two-time recipient of the Montgomery County (Ohio) Arts & Cultural District (MCAD) Artist Opportunity Grant, and has been a John E. Nance Writer in Residence at Thurber House (Columbus, Ohio).



The Kinship Series

Thank You!

The One Book, Many Communities committee would like to thank the presenters, facilitators, and our communities for making this community read possible. Check with your local library in the Fall to vote for the 2024 community read!

2023 COMMUNITY READ EVENTS



ONE BOOK Many Communities



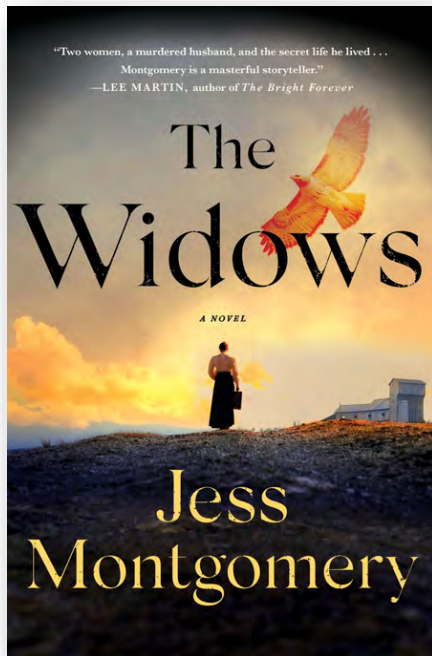
One Book, Many Communities is pleased to return with in person programming, for this, our third year. While the program had to be postponed due to the pandemic, we were still able to present a thought-provoking, live-streamed panel discussion in July of 2020 on the Dayton Literary Peace Prize winning book for non-fiction, *Rising Out of Hatred*.

For 2023, local libraries involved invite you to read *The Widows* by Jess Montgomery (or any book in the *Kinship* series) and participate in the programs focused on themes from the books. You will find scheduled events for all locations in this booklet including an opening program at St. Paris Public Library and an exciting grand finale event with author Jess Montgomery and WYSO's Vick Mickunas at Edison State Community College!

For more information contact your local participating library.

"Inspired by the true story of Maude Collins, Ohio's first female sheriff, and prominent labor and community organizer Mary Harris 'Mother' Jones, Montgomery's debut novel features two tough-as-nails, strong-willed women whose empathy leaves a lasting impression. A simultaneous examination of women's rights, coal mining, prohibition, and Appalachian life, make this a fantastic choice for historical fiction fans."

—*Library Journal*
(Starred Review)



Want to attend a
book discussion?
Look for the
open book!

Interview with Jess Montgomery with host Vick Mickunas

at Edison State Community College
1973 Edison Drive, Piqua, OH 45356

Wednesday, April 19th

- 5:30 p.m.

Meet and Greet and Book Signing with the author

- 7:00 p.m. 

Vick Mickunas, host of WYSO's *Book Nook*, will lead a discussion with the author about her book, *The Widows*. There will be time for Q&A from the audience and also from submitted questions from participating libraries.

For those that can't be at Edison State, the event will be presented as a Facebook Live stream for participating libraries. Check with your local library for details.



Vick Mickunas

Vick Mickunas introduced the *Book Nook* author interview program for WYSO in 1994. Over the years he has produced more than 1500 interviews with writers, musicians, poets, politicians, and celebrities. Listen to the *Book Nook* with Vick Mickunas for intimate conversations about books with the writers who create them. Vick Mickunas reviews books for the *Dayton Daily News* and the *Springfield News-Sun*.



Who Was Mother Jones?

The most famous female labor activist of the nineteenth century, Mary Harris Jones — aka “Mother Jones” — was a self-proclaimed “hell-raiser” in the cause of economic justice.

Jones first displayed her oratorical and organizing abilities in Pittsburgh during the Great Railroad Strike of 1877.

Beginning in 1900, Jones focused on miners, organizing in the coal fields of West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Michals, Debra. "Mary Harris 'Mother Jones.'" National Women's History Museum. 2015. www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/mary-mother-jones-harris.



Character inspiration, Mary Harris Jones, 1837-1930



302 East High Street
Ashley, OH 43003
(740) 747-2085

M to Th • 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sat • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Closed Friday & Sunday
www.wornstafflibrary.com

Wornstaff Memorial Public Library Events



Able's Books

Tuesday, March 21st at 7 p.m.

Borrow a copy of *The Widows* by Jess Montgomery and meet at the library to discuss.

The Railroad and the Village of Ashley

Wednesday, April 5th at 11 a.m.

Elizabeth Barker, former Wornstaff Library Director, will be presenting the history and importance of the railroad to the village of Ashley.



127 East Main Street
St. Paris, OH 43072
(937) 663-4349

M to Th • 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
F • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sat • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Closed Sunday

www.stparispubliclibrary.org

St. Paris Public Library: Opening Event

A History of Bluegrass Music with Bill Purk and Reed Jones

Thursday, March 9th at 6:30 PM — St. Paris Public Library

Join musicians Bill Purk and Reed Jones for their *History of Bluegrass* program. From Bill Monroe's first spot on the Grand Old Opry in 1939, up through Flatt and Scruggs, the Stanley Bros. and more, bluegrass pioneers are given a tip of the Stetson. Using guitar, mandolin, banjo and vocals, the audience will come away with a deeper understanding of America's bluegrass music. *For more information contact the library at (937) 663-4349.*





101 West North Street, Arcanum, OH 45304 | (937) 692-8484
 Monday-Thursday • 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. – Friday • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sat • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed Sunday - www.arcanumpubliclibrary.org

Arcanum Public Library Events

Arcanum in 1925 Date and Time TBA

Join us for this fascinating step back in time to what Arcanum was like in 1925.



Who Was Maude Collins?

Maude Collins was the happily married young mother of five in 1925. She served as a small-town jail matron working alongside her handsome husband Vinton County Sheriff Fletcher Collins until he was shot at close range and killed while arresting a man on the charge of speeding.

While the tragedy of Fletcher's untimely death shattered the world Maude had known, it also put her in a position to make history. She was eventually appointed to fill the vacancy left by her husband's death, and in 1926 was formally elected in a landslide vote that made her **the first female sheriff in the State of Ohio**.



Character inspiration, Maude Collins
 1894-1972

— taken from Vinton County CVB – [History - Vinton County CVB \(vintoncountytravel.com\)](http://History-VintonCountyCVB.vintoncountytravel.com)



419 West Main Street
 Troy, OH 45373
 (937) 339-0502
 M to Th • 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Friday • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Saturday • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sunday • 1p.m. to 5 p.m.
www.tmcpl.org

Troy-Miami County Public Library Events

The Long Gone Forgotten Women of Troy

Thursday, March 30th at 6:30 p.m.

If you have spent any time around Troy, you've no doubt heard of Mary Jane Hayner. But do you know about Jean Neal Cosley? Join us as we learn of The Long Gone Forgotten Women of Troy and their important roles they played before 1920. Presented by Judy Deeter of the Troy Historical Society and Sandy Gurklies and Megan Bradshaw of the Local History Library. For more information, call (937) 339-0502 ext. 117.

Book Discussion

Monday, April 17th at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a discussion of *The Widows* by Jess Montgomery at Troy-Miami County Public Library. This book club meets monthly on the 3rd Monday and new attendees are always welcome!



Local Author Fair

Saturday, April 15th from
 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

As we celebrate the work of Dayton author, Jess Montgomery; Troy-Miami County Public Library is proud to offer an opportunity to meet other authors from the community with our Local Author Fair. We will be showcasing 13 published authors representing a broad range of genres which includes fiction, non-fiction, history and graphic novels. This will be a unique opportunity for the public to engage directly with the authors, support their work, and learn more about their inspiration for writing, and journey to their published work.





11 East Main Street
Tipp City, OH 45371
(937) 667-3826

M - Th • 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
F • 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday
www.tippcitylibrary.org

Tipp City Public Library Events



Overdue for a Brew: Women and the Past, Present & Future of Beer Wednesday, March 8th at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun and educational beer tasting as beer writer, David Nilsen talks about the past, present and future of women in the brewing world for Women's History Month. Since ancient times, women have had a major role in brewing beer. While the majority of today's craft brewers are male, at many points in history, women were the primary brewers. The craft brewing industry is once again becoming more diverse and more and more women are joining the ranks of professional brewers. This event is 21 & up only. The event is free, but registration is required. Visit tippcitylibrary.org for more information.

Tipp with a Twist: Indian Creek Distillery March 15th at 6:30 p.m.

Journey with Staley Mill Farm and Indian Creek Distillery proprietor Missy Duer to experience the heritage of her family, the Staleys, and the history of the distilling operation that originated over 150 years ago. Join us for a sample tasting of three of their legendary Ohio frontier whiskeys, and a toast to local history! This event is 21 & up only. The event is free, but registration is required. Visit tippcitylibrary.org for more information.



Unwind and DIY Take Home Craft Kit March 20th

Spend some time unwinding with a memory DIY craft kit! Each month we will provide a DIY for you to create and display in your home. March's DIY is Window Transparencies. Visit tippcitylibrary.org for more information.



Page Turners Book Club Monday, March 27th at 7 p.m.

Join us for a discussion of *The Widows* by Jess Montgomery. Copies are available for request. Email info@tippcitylibrary.org for more information.



Main Library
1060 Scioto Street, Urbana, OH 43078
(937) 653-3811
Monday-Thursday • 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday

North Lewisburg Branch
161 Winder St. North Lewisburg, OH 43060
(937) 747-3043
Mon.-Wed. • 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Thurs. & Sat. • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Closed Friday and Sunday
www.champaigncountylibrary.org

Champaign County Library Events



Tuesday Book Talk

Tuesday, March 21st at 7 p.m. — Main Library

Join us for a discussion of *The Widows* by Jess Montgomery.

Genealogy Basics

Thursday, March 23rd at 6:30 p.m. — Main Library

Learn the basics of researching your family tree.

Old-Fashioned Rag Art

Wednesday, March 29th at 6 p.m. — Main Library

Teens and adults are invited to make a simple rag art craft to take home. All supplies will be provided.

Women of Champaign County and Beyond

Monday, April 3rd at 6:30 p.m. — Main Library

Learn about some of the fascinating women of Champaign County and beyond (prior to 1960). We've all heard of Annie Oakley or Harriet Beecher Stowe; now let's learn about some of the other women that have left a mark on the world.



Matters of the Heart: Therapy Dogs in Law Enforcement

Thursday, April 13th at 5:30 p.m. — Main Library

Participants will learn about the purposes and benefits of Therapy Dogs within law enforcement and get an opportunity to meet "Deputy" Duke from the Champaign County, Ohio Sheriff's Office.

The Buttermilk Biscuit Boys at Urbana Brewing Co.

Saturday, April 15th at 6 p.m. — Urbana Brewing Co., 35 Monument Square
Traditional bluegrass music at the Urbana Brewing Co. on Monument Square in downtown Urbana.

Digital Conversion Demonstration

Monday, April 24th at 6 p.m. — Main Library

Save your memories and music by learning how to convert old slides, records, and more into digital files by using equipment available at the library.



Main Library
201 South Fountain Avenue
Springfield, OH 45506
(937) 328-6903

M - Th • 9 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
F • 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat • 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sun • 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
www.ccplohio.org

Clark County Public Library Events



Adult Reading Discussion: *The Widows*

Tuesday, March 14th at 6:30 p.m. — Houston Branch, 5 W. Jamestown Street, South Charleston, Ohio (937) 462-8047

Join us for a discussion of *The Widows* by Jess Montgomery.

Inspired by the true story of Ohio's first female sheriff, Jess Montgomery's powerful, lyrical debut is the story of two women who take on murder and corruption at the heart of their community. Books will be available at Houston's circulation desk, as well as digitally.

1920s Appalachian Music with Lafferty Pike

Saturday, March 25th at 2 p.m. — Houston Branch, 5 W. Jamestown Street, South Charleston, Ohio (937) 462-8047

A local all-girl band, Lafferty Pike plays traditional hard-driving Bluegrass, but with a fresh, positive attitude and a lighter hand on the reins! Come and sit a spell, as they share sounds of 1920s Appalachian music.



Female First Responders — A Panel Discussion

Saturday, April 8th at 2 p.m. — Main Library Gaier Room

Join us for a panel discussion with local female first responders, including Chief of the Springfield Police Division, Allison Elliott, Clark County EMA Director Michelle Clements-Pitstick, Captain Becca Anderson with the Springfield Fire & Rescue Division and Deputy Melany Morton of the Champaign County Sheriff's Office. For more information, contact Community Engagement Manager Sarah Webb at (937) 328-0204.

Selover Public Library Activities Continued

An Evening with Mother Jones

Tuesday, April 4th at 6 p.m. — Selover Community Room

Mary Harris Jones was an Irish immigrant who lost her family to yellow fever and became the self-proclaimed mother and "hell-raiser" for the downtrodden American laborer, especially children. Join us for a living history presentation with Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, the labor organizer who inspired the character of Marvena in *The Widows*.

Kinship Murder Mystery Trail

March 20th — April 20th, 2023

Sheriff Lily Ross has been called to a neighboring town to help solve a murder. Visit Selover Public Library in Chesterville, Cardington-Lincoln Public Library, and Wornstaff Memorial Public Library in Ashley to solve a part of the mystery at each location. Once you solve all three questions correctly, enter your name in a drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card.



127 East Main Street
St. Paris, OH 43072
(937) 663-4349

M to Th • 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
F • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sat • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Closed Sunday

www.stparispubliclibrary.org

St. Paris Public Library Events

The Widows Library Trail — Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

March and April, 2023

Look for details on page 9 of this booklet.



9760 West National Road
New Carlisle, OH 45344
(937) 845-3576

www.tecumseh.k12.oh.us

Tecumseh Local Schools Events

Culminating Event

Date and Times TBA

Jess Montgomery will discuss *The Widows* with Tecumseh High School students. The public is welcome to attend.

New Carlisle Public Library Activities Continued

Movie— Songcatcher (PG-13)

Friday, March 24th at 4 p.m.

In 1907, Dr. Lily Penleric, a professor of musicology, is denied a promotion at the university where she teaches. She impulsively visits her sister, who runs a struggling rural school in Appalachia and discovers a treasure trove of traditional English and Scotch-Irish ballads, which have been preserved by the secluded mountain people since the 1600's-1700's.

Traditional Appalachian Dinner

Thursday, March 30th at 6 p.m.

Join us for a traditional Appalachian dinner of ham and beans, cornpone, buttermilk pie and tea. Participants may dress in 1924 costumes if they wish. Please call to register.

Make a Rag Doll

Wednesday, April 5th at 6 p.m.

Please call to register.

Growing Up in the Hollows of Kentucky

Date and Time TBA

Join Betty Gentry as she talks about growing up in the hills with a mining father. She'll discuss what it was like to live in the 50s and 60s in that area.



31 State Route 95
Chesterville, OH 43317
(419) 768-3431

Tue & Wed • 1 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Thurs & Fri • 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sat • 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday & Monday
www.seloverlibrary.org

Selover Public Library Events



Book Talk

Tuesday, March 28th at 5:30 p.m. — Selover Community Room

Join us in our community room for a discussion of *The Widows* by Jess Montgomery. Refreshments will be served.



60 South Main Street
Mechanicsburg, OH 43044
(937) 834-2004
M - Th • 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
F • 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sun • Closed
www.mechanicsburg.lib.oh.us

Mechanicsburg Public Library Events

Genealogy Basics

Saturday, March 11th at 11 a.m.

Learn the basics of researching your family tree with Debbie Young.

1920s Kahoot Trivia

Tuesday, March 28th at 5:30 p.m.

Show off your 1920s knowledge at trivia! Please download the Kahoot app before coming. If you would like to attend trivia via Google Meet, please email Jennifer at mpl@mechanicsburgohlibrary.org.

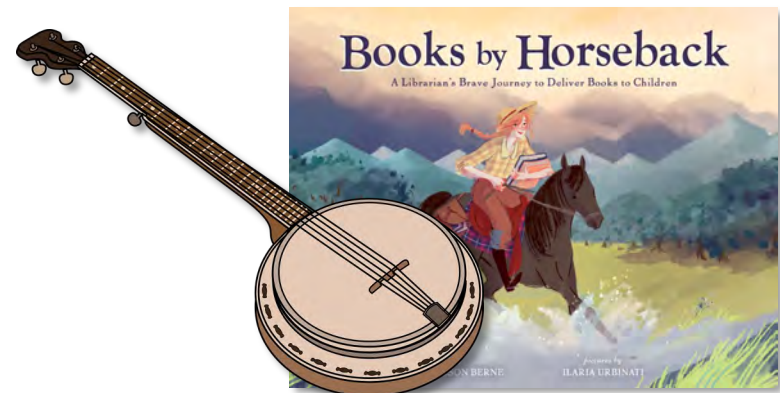
Appalachian Music

Saturday, April 1st at 1 p.m.

Listen to Adam Sorensen's Appalachian music played on the guitar and banjo.

Themed Story Walk

Visit our new Story walk at Goshen Park in March/April to enjoy a story from a similar time in history, *Books by Horseback* by Emma Carlson Berne. Check back for more information: <https://www.mechanicsburg.lib.oh.us/cal>





MILTON-UNION
PUBLIC LIBRARY

560 South Main Street, West Milton, OH 45383 | (937) 698-5515
Monday-Thursday • 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. – Friday & Saturday • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday - www.mupubliclibrary.org

Milton-Union Public Library Events

Local Women Ahead of Their Time

Tuesday, March 21st at 5:30 p.m.

Sandy Gurdleiz of the Troy Historical Museum will tell the stories of Dayton area women who were ahead of their time.



High Nooners Book Club, *The Widows* by Jess Montgomery

Thursday, March 16th at 12 p.m.

Please join us for a lively discussion of *The Widows* by local author, Jess Montgomery.

Kinship Murder Mystery Trail

March 20th-April 20th, 2023

Sheriff Lily Ross has been called to a neighboring town to help solve a murder. Visit Selover Public Library in Chesterville, Cardington-Lincoln Public Library in Cardington, and Wornstaff Memorial Public Library in Ashley to solve a part of the mystery at each location. Once you solve all three questions correctly, enter your name in a drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card.



The Widows Library Trail

The Friends of the St. Paris Public Library would like to invite you to go on an adventure by visiting the One Book, Many Communities programs inspired by *The Widows*.

- Pick up a program pamphlet at any One Book, Many Communities participating library.
- Participate in at least five programs at any of the participating libraries. Ask a library employee at the program to sign and date next to the program in your pamphlet.
- When you have completed the requirements, visit the St. Paris Public Library to turn in your pamphlet and receive your gift.



NEW CARLISLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY
DISCOVER ALL THE POSSIBILITIES

111 East Lake Ave., New Carlisle, OH 45344 | (937) 845-3601
Monday-Thursday • 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. – Friday • 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat • 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. – Closed Sunday - www.newcarlislelibrary.org

New Carlisle Public Library Events



Book Discussion – *The Widows*

Wednesday, March 15th at 6 p.m.

Join us for a discussion of *The Widows*. Each participant will receive a giveaway from the time-period of the book.

The Sounds of the Mountain Dulcimer

Thursday, March 23rd at 4 p.m.

Linda Bowshier will entertain with her mountain dulcimer and discuss the music of the times.