Romance Writers of America National Conference

The Romance Writers of America held their annual conference in New York City on July 22-25, 2015. After attending more than 150 workshops the authors and industry professionals look forward to a magnificent award ceremony where the following books were recognized as the Best Romance Books of 2015:

Best Contemporary Romance (long): Baby, It’s You by Jane Graves - Runaway bride Kari Worthington gets more than she bargained for when her search for a job — and a new life — brings her to the doorstep of a gorgeous winery owner in Texas hill country.

Best Contemporary Romance (mid-length): One in a Million by Jill Shalvis - Wedding planner Callie, the founder of TyingTheKnot.com, returns home to Lucky Harbor where she, after an encounter with her still sexy high school crush, rethinks her decision to remain single.

Best Romantic Suspense: Concealed in Death by J.D. Robb - When her husband discovers evidence of 12 murders while demolishing a former New York shelter for troubled teens, Lieutenant Eve Dallas tracks down the stories of each victim only to realize that they are connected by someone Eve knows.

Best Historical Romance: Fool Me Twice by Meredith Duran - When Olivia Mather realizes that the Duke of Marwick might hold the secrets of her family’s past, she does the unthinkable, infiltrating his household as a maid, and gets unexpected results.

The following link provides more information about the conference and a complete list of of winners: https://www.rwa.org/p/cm/ld/fid=1640

All summaries are from the publishers. - Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Service Librarian

A National Treasure Reopens

Sagamore Hill, home to our 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt from 1885 until his death in 1919, reopened on July 12, 2015 after a 3 year 10 million dollar renovation. Dubbed the “Summer White House” while T.R. was in office, this National Historic Site sits on 83 acres in beautiful Oyster Bay, NY.

The project included restoring the old mansion’s leaking roof and cracked foundation. Approximately 13,000 items owned by Roosevelt including 10,000 books were removed from the 28 room home and repaired. The Visitor Center at Sagamore Hill is open 7 days a week 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; tours of T.R.’s home are also offered 7 days a week from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and would make a great outing for your book club. For additional information regarding admission fees and tickets please visit www.nps.gov/sahi/.

(continued on page 2)
Celebrate International Women’s Friendship Month

Sue Margolis, author of Coming Clean, Best Supporting Role and most recently Losing Me, offered a new perspective on why being unhappy is sometimes okay and even warranted. “Having to be constantly happy is one pressure too many and I refuse to pretend anymore,” she recently stated in an article on the website http://dearreader.typepad.com/. Margolis also said, “So that’s what I’m trying to teach myself – to enjoy and remember small moments of happiness and to stop aiming for an all over happiness tan, which most likely isn’t there to be had...” Whether we agree with Margolis’ view or not, it is true that finding people to turn to in difficult times can really make a difference.

For many people, friendships become the coping mechanism to help with the unhappy times life sometimes offers. Interestingly, September is International Women’s Friendship Month, and it might be a good time to have your book discussion read a book on the topic. Here are some suggested titles you may find interesting to commemorate International Women’s Friendship Month:

Blue Stars by Emily Gray Tedrowe
Ellen, a Midwestern literature professor whose legal ward is a Marine, and Lacey, a proud Army wife and young mother, form an unlikely friendship at the Walter Reed Army Hospital as they each care for their wounded soldiers.

NW by Zadie Smith
Growing up in the same 1970s urban planning development in Northwest London, four young people pursue independent and reasonably successful lives until one of them is abruptly drawn out of her isolation by a stranger who is seeking her help.

Firefly Lane by Kristin Hannah
Inseparable best friends Kate and Tully, two young women who, despite their very different lives, have vowed to be there for each other forever, have been true to their promise for thirty years, until events and choices in their lives tear them apart.

The Interestings by Meg Wolitzer
Forging a powerful bond in the mid-1970s that lasts throughout subsequent decades, six individuals pursue respective challenges into their midlife years, including an aspiring actress who harbors jealousy toward friends who achieve successful creative careers.

The World We Found by Thrity Umrigar
Follows four friends who met as university students in Bombay in the late 1970s as they struggle to reconnect and reunite at the deathbed of one of their group.

A National Treasure Reopens (continued from page 1)

Here are some noteworthy books on Theodore Roosevelt your book club may wish to explore:


The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt’s Darkest Journey by Candice Millard

Theodore Rex by Edmund Morris


The Roosevelts: An Intimate History by Geoffrey C. Ward (based on the documentary film by Ken Burns).

“A BULLY!” - Theodore Roosevelt