RITA Award Winners Announced
The purpose of the RITA award is to promote excellence in the romance genre by recognizing outstanding published romance novels and novellas. Since the award winners have just been announced, your book group may be interested in one of these selections. For a complete listing of winners, please visit https://www.rwa.org/page/the-rita-award. Here are the winners from 2018 and 2017 in mainstream fiction with a central romance and historical romance, long:

Mainstream Fiction with a Central Romance

Now That You Mention It by Kristan Higgins
(2018 Winner)
Returning to her hometown in the hopes of reconciling with her estranged family, a woman who recently survived a brush with death makes discoveries with the potential to heal the rift or permanently separate her from her surviving relatives.

The Moon in the Palace by Weina Dai Randel
(2017 Winner)
In seventh-century China, concubine Mei wins the attention of the Emperor with her intelligence, but a dispute over loyalty in the court leads to a palace coup and Mei must use all of her alliances if she is to survive.

Historical Romance, Long

Between the Devil and the Duke by Kelly Bowen
(2018 Winner)
When he catches Angelique Archer counting cards at his vingt-et-un table, club owner Alexander Lavoie gives this blonde beauty an offer she can’t refuse – until their business arrangement turns into a game of love that neither of them want to lose.

No Mistress of Mine by Laura Lee Guhrke
(2017 Winner)
Lord Denys Somerton is determined to settle down and find a respectable wife, until an unexpected inheritance brings Lola Valentine, the socially unacceptable American with whom he shared a passionate romance, back to London.

All Summaries are from the publishers.

Jean Simpson, Readers’ Services Librarian

“Many people, myself among them, feel better at the mere sight of a book.” — Jane Smiley
Looking Ahead to September...Back to School
Summer is ending and your book club might want to leave the beach reads behind and get serious. The end of summer also means the start of the school year and reading for school has sometimes meant reading a classic. A fun yet serious book club meeting would be discussing both a classic book and its movie adaptation. It’s not necessary to watch the film together, just read the book and watch the film on your own and come to the meeting prepared to discuss both. Here some suggested pairings (some of the books have more than one movie adaptation, we have only included one for each):

- Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier
- East of Eden by John Steinbeck
- A Room With a View by E. M. Forster
- Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
- Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen
- The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton

New to Book Club in a Bag:

Commonwealth by Ann Patchett  #1 New York Times Bestseller

The acclaimed, bestselling author – winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award and the Orange Prize – tells the enthralling story of how an unexpected romantic encounter irrevocably changes two families’ lives.

One Sunday afternoon in Southern California, Bert Cousins shows up at Franny Keating’s christening party uninvited. Before evening falls, he has kissed Franny’s mother, Beverly – thus setting in motion the dissolution of their marriages and the joining of two families.

Spanning five decades, Commonwealth explores how this chance encounter reverberates through the lives of the four parents and six children involved. Spending summers together in Virginia, the Keating and Cousins children forge a lasting bond that is based on a shared disillusionment with their parents and the strange and genuine affection that grows up between them.

When, in her twenties, Franny begins an affair with the legendary author Leon Posen and tells him about her family, the story of her siblings is no longer hers to control. Their childhood becomes the basis for his wildly successful book, ultimately forcing them to come to terms with their losses, their guilt, and the deeply loyal connection they feel for one another. –from the publisher

Please contact Readers’ Services, 921-7161, ext 239 to reserve a book for your Book Club.

-Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian