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News & Reviews by Roz Weedman
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What's new in August

This month we have two non-fiction books dedicated to a great friend of the library plus fiction across the spectrum.

Melinda Gates' book, **The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World**, isn't a brand-new book, but it is the library's newest Book Club Kit, this one dedicated in memory of Dena Hayden, a friend of many of us who met her at the library. Her loss will be felt for a long time. As Director Pamela Williams said, "This book is one that Dena would have wanted everyone she knew to read," and I agree. Gates relies on two things she knows well, data and women's stories around the globe to show that when women prosper, they lift all those around them. Ask any librarian for details on checking out the kit of ten books for your group to read.

A second non-fiction book, **Officer, Nurse, Woman: The Army Nurse Corps in the Viet Nam War** by Kara Dixon Vuic, was donated by Mary and Tim Chasseur in memory of Dena. In fact, this book literally is about Dena who was an Army nurse in Viet Nam (where she met her husband, John). Vuic, an historian, tells the stories of nurses, barely more than girls, who put themselves at risk to do the best they could to save lives in a controversial war and "in a man's world during a growing feminist movement." (I'm looking forward to reading this one.)

Turning toward new fiction, Kate Atkinson has finally published a new Brodie Jackson book, **Big Sky**. This is the fifth book in the Jackson series, and Atkinson's writing is so finely honed, none of her books has one false word. I listened to this one but am not sure I recommend that – her plotting is a little complex for something like listening if you can't give it your full attention. But it is in both audio and print. Atkinson fans will be pleased. Anything I say about the plot could be too much, but let's say that Jackson is retired and taking private eye jobs checking on faithless spouses, until he is back in the chase of a dark web of criminals. New to Atkinson? I suggest starting with her first Jackson book, **Case Histories**.

Brad Thor's **Backlash** is the 19th book in the Scott Harvath series. Harvath is described as "an intelligence operative, military agent, and assassin." In this newest book, Harvath is alone, surrounded by the enemy, and has been "badly crossed."

Elin Hilderbrand, dubbed Queen of the Summer Novel, has written her first historical fiction, **Summer of 69**. There was so much going on that summer fifty years ago between the moon landing, Woodstock, the Viet Nam war, Ted Kennedy driving a car off a bridge, and more,

that it's hard to top reality. But placing a family of four now grown or nearly grown kids amidst this historical setting does show promise.

Since we're thinking about 1969, let me depart a second from the new and also recommend another novel set in 1969 but written in 1974, **The War Between the Tates** by Alison Lurie. Critically acclaimed an excellent comedy of manners, I had a hard time putting this book down. Like all comedies of manners, the plot sounds pedestrian (unfaithful husbands, annoying adolescents, uncertain women), but the 1969 setting on a university campus and the spot on writing of Lurie where each sentence can take an expert turn, make this story far from pedestrian. We have a page turner.

Nothing calling your name here? We have so much more for you. Stop in and check it out for yourself.

See you at the Library!

Upcoming Events: Tuesday, August 16 at 12:30 – **Books for Lunch** resumes. Keep track of events on FB and our website, www.wicksonlibrary.org.