**Discussion Questions: August Books**

The Michelle R. Clayman Institute for Gender Research

**Saving San Francisco: Relief and Recovery after the 1906 Disaster**
Andrea Rees Davies

1. Why do you think the story of the 1906 disaster captures our imaginations, even now?
2. Can you think of other examples where women have gained a public voice by speaking out as wives or mothers? Does speaking out from these gender roles change cultural ideas about what it means to be a wife and mother?
3. According to Davies, the San Francisco disaster ultimately heightened social differences rather than creating social equality. In responding to present-day disasters, what can we learn from 1906 San Francisco?

**America and the Pill: A History of Promise, Peril, and Liberation**
Elaine Tyler May

1. How has birth control affected the lives of women?
2. The federal government saw the pill as a welcome antidote to the “population bomb”. However, recent government policy toward birth control has been less enthusiastic. What factors shape the way that policymakers and the public view birth control?
3. For young women today, the world of sex, birth control, and pregnancy looks different than it did in 1960. What are some of the greatest changes?