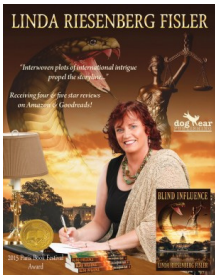




## Author Linda Riesenbergs Fisler March Speaker



Linda Riesenbergs Fisler will address our group at 10:30 am on Saturday, March 12, at the Woodside Cemetery Community Room. Linda is an artist, art chat host, and author, whose books include fiction and non-fiction. Her fictional "Blind series" includes the books *Blind Intention* and *Blind Influence*, and she is currently writing *The Art of Oppression*. Don't miss this book brunch with a very interesting "creative entrepreneur".

Our April meeting will be combined with a final review of the book sale. On Monday, April 4 we will meet at the book sale site between 4:00 and 6:00 pm to preview and help, and will then move to another location (TBD) for supper and meeting. Please contact Michelle Piepgrass (mvpiepgrass@gmail.com, 465-4932) to let us know what you can bring for supper. We welcome finger foods, soups, salads, breads, desserts, or anything else you wish to bring.

## Voluntary Simplicity

Please come enjoy an evening with our Voluntary Simplicity group. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, at the home of Rose Grau, 4312 Walton Court, Middletown. Our topic for the evening will be about something we all experience: Life's Transitions. The discussion leader will be Barb Balsmeyer. Please rsvp to Rose Grau: edrosegrau@cinci.rr.com or 424-1969.

## 60<sup>th</sup> Annual AAUW Middletown Used Book Sale

The Book Sale Committee is pleased to announce that work is well underway on the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Sale to be held April 7-10 at 421 S. Breiel Blvd. There is plenty to do and response has been terrific, so if you are available Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday mornings from 10:00 to 12:00, please consider helping and joining in the fun and fellowship.

Bookmarks are available for you to hand out as you go about your daily errands! Now is the time to contact friends, family, and neighbors for donations. If you have any questions, please contact Tina, Sharon, or Libby.

Hand out  
bookmarks!



## Calendar of Events

### March Branch Meeting & Program

Saturday, March 12, 10:30 am  
Woodside Community Room  
Linda Fisler, Author & Artist

### Voluntary Simplicity

Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 pm  
Rose Grau's Home

### Joy Luck Book Club

Thursday March 17, 7:00pm  
*If Ever I Return, Pretty Peggy-O*  
by Sharyn McCrumb  
Host: TBD

### Board Meeting

Monday, March 21, 7:00 pm  
MidPointe Library

### Used Book Sale

Middletown Shopping Center  
Thursday, April 7  
Friday, April 8  
Saturday, April 9  
Sunday, April 10

stay connected

[aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

[aauwoh.org](http://aauwoh.org)

[middletown-oh.aauw.net](http://middletown-oh.aauw.net)

## “Joy Luck” Book Club

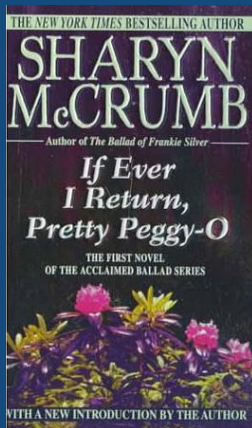
Thursday March 17, 7:00pm

*If Ever I Return, Pretty Peggy-O*

by Sharyn McCrumb

Host: TBD

This the first in the “ballad” series of Appalachian novels by New York Times best-selling author Sharyn McCrumb. It is a mystery set in the 1980’s that began with a speculative question (“I wonder who lives in that house?”) that McCrumb posed to herself on a drive through North Carolina. To read more about the genesis of her popular series, visit <http://www.sharynmccrumb.com/peggyo.html>



### Peggy-O Song Lyrics Excerpt

*As we rode out to Fennario, as we rode on to Fennario*

*Our captain fell in love with a lady like a dove*

*And called her by a name, pretty Peggy-O.*

*Will you marry me pretty Peggy-O*

*If you will marry me, I'll set your cities free*

*And free all the ladies in the area-O.*

*I would marry you sweet William-O*

*I would marry you but your guineas are too few*

*And I fear my mama would be angry-O.*

*What would your mama think pretty Peggy-O,*

*What would your mama think if she heard my guineas clink*

*Saw me marching at the head of my soldiers.*

*If ever I return pretty Peggy-O*

*If ever I return your cities I will burn*

*Destroy all the ladies in the area-O.*



## Nita Driscoll, Middletown Branch President

It's that time again-our 60th year of the used book sale. To the book sale committee, Tina Newlin, Sharon Dowden and Libby Abele, much applause, sincere thanks and appreciation for all your effort in securing a venue and processing books and etc. They are still looking for more books and volunteers.

Katie McNeil is chairing the nominating committee for 2016-17 with Emily Pheanis and Beth Miller. Please consider a board position if you are asked. It's fun and a great learning experience. The two positions not re-electable this year are finance and membership.

Looking for a fun weekend getaway. Mark your calendar for Friday and Saturday, April 8-9 when the AAUW Ohio Equity Day and Convention will be held at the Intercontinental Crown Plaza in Columbus North-Worthington, Ohio. You can register online.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 16 at Miami University Middletown Community Room. AAUW will be given 4 complimentary tickets (value \$120.00) for our sponsorship. If you would like to attend please let me know as I will be making the reservations.

In keeping with the celebration of The National Women's History Month a suggested read is *Grace and Grit* by Lilly Ledbetter. Her fight for equal rights in the workplace created the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act. Her namesake was Barack Obama's first official piece of legislation signed as president.



Lilly Ledbetter is a member of AAUW-with an honorary degree. She gives much credit to AAUW for their support of her through more than eight years of her trials all the way to the Supreme Court. Lilly was a speaker at the National Convention last year and I had the pleasure of meeting her. We need more individuals like Lilly Ledbetter.

Our January speaker, Fran Reese (below middle between Beth Miller and Debbie Worbis) from the Dove House Protective Shelter spoke about domestic violence. Members donated toiletries for the shelter.



## Review of Title IX in the Area

AAUW is encouraging branches to contact their area k-12 school districts to see that the Federal Title IX law for equity of girls in academics as well as sports in our K-12 schools is being evaluated and improvement is being made. The Middletown Branch is contacting area schools to see who the coordinator is for the district and if a study had been made regarding compliance. This report will be made available this spring to the communities.

If you are interested in helping with this project as well as learning more about Title IX, please contact me.

Katie McNeil,  
Middletown Branch public policy chair

## Branch Directory Changes

Two of our active members have moved to Mt. Pleasant; please change their addresses and phone numbers in your Directory.

**Barbara Balsmeyer**  
260 Seminary Dr.  
Monroe, OH 45050  
513-402-7374

**Elizabeth (Betty) Patterson**  
43 B Miami Dr.  
Monroe, OH 45050  
513-402-7434  
513-465-5963-cell

## AAUW Ohio Equity Day & Convention

Friday, April 8: 3-10 p.m.

Saturday, April 9: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Columbus North-Worthington  
6500 Doubletree Avenue, Columbus, Ohio

Cost for both days: Register by March 11 for Early Bird Rate of \$123

Register March 12-18: Add \$10 to the Early Bird rates.

Register March 19-April 2: Add \$20 to the Early Bird rates.

All registration is being done online.

## March is Women's History Month

The National Women's History Project is sort of a clearinghouse for Women's History. Visit the following website to learn more. Many AAUW Branch members helped across the country to help make this recognition happen.

<http://www.nwhp.org/womens-history-month/womens-history-month-history/>



## National Women's History Month

By 1986, 14 states had already declared March as Women's History Month. This momentum and state-by-state action was used as the rationale to lobby Congress to declare the entire month of March 1987 as National Women's History Month. In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity. A special Presidential Proclamation is issued every year which honors the extraordinary achievements of American women.

### National Women's History Month 2016 "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government" \*

The National Women's History Month theme for 2016 honors women who have shaped America's history and its future through their public service and government leadership. Although often overlooked and undervalued, collectively they have dramatically influenced our public policy and the building of viable institutions and organizations. From championing basic human rights to ensuring access and equal opportunity for all Americans, they have led the way in establishing a stronger and more democratic country. Each of these public leaders succeeded against great odds. The diversity of their experiences demonstrates both the challenges and the opportunities women in public service have faced. Their ability to use the art of collaboration to create inclusive solutions and non-partisan policies, as well as their skill and determination, serve to inspire future generations. The tenacity of each Honoree underlines the fact that women from all cultural backgrounds in all levels of public service and government are essential in the continuing work of forming a more perfect union.

In recognition of this National 2016 theme, a letter from the Middletown AAUW Branch is being sent to women in Butler County elected to public office.

