



CLAYTON BRANCH NEWS

AAUW promotes education and equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive social change.

December 2006

Inside this Issue

- President's Message
- Legal Advocacy
- Member Profile
- Education as a Gateway to Women's Economic Security
- Other Stuff

December Holiday Party:

**Sun., Dec. 3rd 5:00pm
at the Krane's**

1923 Green Valley Road, Alamo

Spouses & friends welcome. \$8.00 per person to cover beverages, supplies and entertainment. Bring a hearty appetizer to share. **Entertainment begins promptly at 5:15.** Optional: Bring a nonperishable item for the Food Bank of Contra Costa, or write a check to the 'Food Bank of Contra Costa'. For every \$1 donation that they receive, they are able to purchase \$6 worth of food.

Driving directions to the Krane's:
<http://www.claytonaauw.org/xmas2006party.html>

AAUW membership is open to all people of any gender who hold an associate degree or higher. Students working toward a qualifying degree may become student affiliates. In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks members of every race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, and level of physical ability.

Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Jay

Members may submit articles, quips & photos, which are subject to editing and condensation. January issue deadline: 12/22/06 5:00pm. E-mail to JJay925@comcast.net or mail to: 366 Blue Oak Lane, Clayton, CA 94517.

President's Message

Rosemary Harwood, President

On November 28th, AAUW celebrated its 125th anniversary. Our own Clayton Branch commemorated the event with a small celebration of our own at our November 27th general meeting.

In 1881, 17 like-minded women, who had defied society's standards by earning college degrees, met in the home of Marion Talbot in Boston, MA.

These "founding mothers" had earned degrees from 8 different colleges: Boston University; Cornell University; Oberlin College; Smith College; the University of Michigan; the University of Wisconsin; Vassar College; and Wellesley.

Each of these progressive women envisioned an organization in which women college graduates could band together to open doors of higher education to other women and to find wider opportunities to use their training.

Looking back in history to 1881, it is difficult to find much news about women promoting higher education and equality for women. One exception of note was the publication of *History of Women Suffrage* by Susan B. Anthony.

Another formidable woman, Lucy Hayes, the wife of president Rutherford B. Hayes, was well-known in her day as the most idolized woman in America. She is perhaps remembered now with a smile as the person who introduced the custom of Easter egg rolling on the White House lawn. However, she was educated at Ohio Wesleyan University and was the first American First Lady to graduate from college.

Though neither of these women belonged to AAUW, there have been many women of note who were members. Some of these include: former congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to congress; Betty Friedan, a leader of the women's movement and author of *The Feminine*

Mystique; Coretta Scott King, the first lady of the civil rights movement; former congresswoman Patsy Mink, a key leader on the passage of the landmark Title IX legislation; Janet Reno, first woman Attorney General of the United States; and Ann Richards, former governor of Texas, educator, civil rights and economic justice advocate.

Today, what started out as the Association of Collegiate Alumnae in 1881 has grown into a powerful network of more than 100,000 women who have influenced and shaped the debate over equity in education.

As AAUW celebrates its 125th anniversary, it is important to recognize the significant gains which women and girls have made in the fight for equity, but it is also important to remember that the work of AAUW is far from complete — because **equity is still an issue.**

And so, Happy 125th Birthday AAUW and hat's off to the thousands of women who continue to support the mission of AAUW 125 years later.



In 1969, the Educational Foundation launches the Coretta Scott King Fund, providing opportunities for black women to study African American history and culture, social change, and peace.

For more historical photos and tidbits on AAUW, visit the AAUW Online Museum at <http://www.aauw.org/museum/welcome/index.cfm>

Legal Advocacy Fund

Diane Rogers, LAF VP

LAF is celebrating its 25th anniversary!

In the late 1970's a group of women professors and coaches at Cornell University decided to take action to deter the sex discrimination they were experiencing at the University.

AAUW's Ithaca, New York Branch supported these women, providing them with financial support and volunteers, as five of them instituted a lawsuit, *Zahorik v. Cornell University*. The branch then sought permission to raise funds under the name of AAUW as the number of plaintiffs grew to eleven.

Finally, in the summer of 1981, the AAUW Board voted to establish the Legal Advocacy Fund. Now, 25 years later, the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund is the nation's largest fund focused solely on sex discrimination in higher education. Through the years it has supported more than 100 litigants seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination in higher education. As a result of our continuous support, LAF has made a difference.

Member Profile:

Esther Nicaastro-Capon

Born and raised in Boston, MA, Esther Nicaastro-Capon graduated from Boston University with a B.S. and Ed.M in education. In the early seventies after five years of being divorced and raising six children she met and married Edwin, a clergyman.



Esther Nicaastro-Capon

They were married two years when Edwin retired as the Dean of their church Seminary and accepted a Pastorate for their church in Michigan and from there in San Francisco. In 1987, Esther graduated from Golden Gate University Law School in San Francisco with J.D.

After passing the California State Bar, she practiced in the fields of Business law and Family law. She then decided that she wanted to work for Legal Aid and became an Attorney with Legal Services for the Elderly in Richmond California.

Her husband accepted a Pastorate in her St. Paul Minnesota church. This is where she first became a member of the AAUW. After Edwin retired they moved back to

the Bay area.

Esther then did pro bono work for Stand which was then called the Battered Women.

Three and a half years ago, they were in an automobile accident in which Edwin was seriously injured causing Esther to now give up the practice of law to be his caregiver.

She is presently a volunteer for the Contra Costa County Advisory Council for the Aging, a member of the Legislative Workshop and a Commissioner for the Concord Commission on Aging.

Welcome to Clayton Branch AAUW, Esther!

Other Stuff....

Mon. Jan. 8th 7:30 p.m.
Board Meeting @ Rosemary's
No Board Meeting in December

Please update your Clayton AAUW directory for Beverly Voelker's e-mail address: alpha341@astound.net.

If you want an event announced in our January newsletter, send to Jennifer by 12/22/06.

Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security...

What is Elder Financial Abuse?

It is a crime. According to California State Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 15610.30, financial abuse is "a situation in which a person, including but not limited to, one who has care or custody of or who stands in a position of trust, of an elder or dependent adult, takes, secretes, or appropriates their money or property, to any wrongful use, or with the intent to defraud." Financial abuse also includes the illegal or improper use of an elder or dependent adult's financial resources. Financial abuse is one of the most destructive forms of abuse because elders are generally unable to recoup their losses and may lose their ability to live independently or even die from resulting depression.

What is an elder?

According to the Welfare and Institutions Code, an Elder is a person over age 65 who resides in the State of California. (The definition of an elder can vary from state to state.)

How does financial abuse of the elderly occur?

Financial abuse of the elderly can happen in many ways. Here are some typical crimes:

- ❖ Stolen ATM, Debit, and credit cards by caregivers or family members
- ❖ Deceiving an elderly person to sign loan papers or withdrawal slips
- ❖ Elders who are deceived by relatives
- ❖ Elders who are deceived by contractors
- ❖ Abuse of Power of Attorney authorization (This is the one of the fastest growing crimes in America.)
- ❖ Telemarketing & sweepstake scams
- ❖ Investment fraud
- ❖ Predatory lending
- ❖ Identity Theft

How to Report Suspected Abuse

To report suspected elder abuse or financial exploitation, call the California State Attorney General's toll-free hotline at 1-888-436-3600 where you will be connected to your county's Adult Protective Service agency.