



# Valley Voter

League of Women Voters  
Livermore-Amador Valley

September 2005

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## Luncheon Speaker, Dr. Daniel Kammen: “Energy and the Environment”

Join us for lunch on Saturday, October 22, at Girasole Restaurant in Pleasanton, with Dr. Daniel M. Kammen, Professor of Public Policy, Goldman School of Public Policy; and Director of the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Kammen sees value in greater emphasis on renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind power, and biomass, not only because it is better for the environment, but also because it would improve our nation's security by lessening reliance on imported oil. He also argues that renewables are a better investment than highly touted but uncertain exotic new technologies such as hydrogen fuel.

Now, more than ever, energy is the topic of the hour. It is also the subject of the state study to be undertaken soon by all the Leagues in the state. The information brought to us by Dr. Kammen will help us better understand the issues involved.

[See page 6 for time, location, menu, and other details. Note that Chuck Hazen needs menu orders and checks no later than October 18. (If you receive this Voter electronically, print out the luncheon order and send it to Chuck by U.S. mail.)]

## President's Message

If you are concerned about the environment, you'll want to attend the Know Your Bay Area Day on Saturday, September 24, in Fremont. Registration information is on p. 3.



The Livermore-Amador Valley League is planning a very special Kick-Off event in October to introduce the League State Energy Study (see p. 1). Then, in the following months you will want to attend the unit meetings to participate in formulating our League's response to the study.

Although all of us will be studying the state initiatives that will be on the November 8 ballot, our Livermore members will also be busy with several other matters: electing a Mayor and Council members, deciding whether to expand participation in the LAVWMA pipeline with Pleasanton and Dublin, and weighing the pros and cons of the Livermore Trails Development. Vivian Thorson, our Voter Service Chair, has arranged a series of forums to help voters become informed. Mary Ann Hannon has worked with representatives of both sides to prepare Pros and Cons for the Livermore Trails Development. And Dolores Bengtson has arranged for the design and display of a "Just Vote" banner for Livermore. Look for it in September on the Livermore Avenue underpass.

We are grateful to the Lovells for registering voters at the Livermore Farmers' Market and to Vivian and others who are registering voters at the Pleasanton Farmers' Market. Stop by and see them when you're out buying produce. Or, better yet, call Vivian at 846-5001 and volunteer to help register voters.

*Barbara Hempill*

## Our Newest Board Member

Meet our new LWV-LAV member, Julice Winter, who transfers from the Fremont-Newark-Union City League, where she held office and worked on many issues. Before she even arrived, members of the Fremont League made sure to inform us that they were losing a valuable member!

Julice agreed to lead the LWVC energy study, and at the August Board meeting was appointed to be a Director on our Board, replacing Robin Morgan who resigned for health reasons. Julice says her main interest is the environment, which is why she wants to know more about energy policy. Hiking is a hobby; in July she spent a week in Yosemite as a volunteer. Welcome, Julice.

*Pat Mann*

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## What Could Be More Timely?

The League is preparing to update the LWVC Energy Position; the last update was in 1980. We are made aware daily of serious energy questions. The weather assaults us, energy bills work their way through state and national legislatures, and it costs more and more to drive our cars. The Update Study cannot address all the ramifications of energy policy, but in League fashion we will build on what we have and dig into more recent information to form a new position.

If you are interested in being on the Energy Study Committee this fall, please call Julice Winter at 373-6623 or email her at [julicew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:julicew@sbcglobal.net)

## U.S. League Web Site

The new LWVUS Web site is nearly complete. Although most of the information will be available to the public, some information is limited to members. To keep that information secure and accessible only to members, there is a new login feature. Key to this procedure is the *use of your own email address* as your personal identifier. The LWVUS urges all members to be sure they have your current e-mail address. You can be confident this information will not be shared.

The first time you log into the new Web site, you will go through an initial login process to set up your own password. If your e-mail address is in the database, that process will generate a security key that will be e-mailed to you. *If your email address is not in the database, there will be a delay in your ability to log in.*

Once you receive your security code, you can log in and access your own profile page. You will also be able to set your own password.

*Barbara Hempill*

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## Thanks to Anne White

Thanks to member Anne White for so capably representing us on the County Council Study Committee. The study has been undertaken to determine whether election or appointment of the County Superintendent results in a more efficient, effective, and equitable balance of responsibility and authority between the two levels of governance.

*Barbara Hempill*

## “Know Your Bay Area Day”

“Reforming the California Environmental Quality Act: How Has It Worked? Does It Need to be Changed?”

Saturday, September 24, 2005,  
9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Fremont Main Library, Fukaya  
Room, 2400 Stevenson Blvd.,  
Fremont.

Registration: \$10 per person.

Please confirm reservations by Thursday, September 22 to [judyacox@comcast.net](mailto:judyacox@comcast.net) or send checks payable to LWVBA to Tam Hege, 80 Florada Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94610



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## League Registration Now at Pleasanton Farmers' Market

Our League is now "up and running" at the Pleasanton Farmers' Market where we offer voter registration to our citizens. Our table is open Saturday from 9 to noon and staffed by League members.



The first day saw much activity at the League's table even though the election is more than two months away. Updating addresses is the most frequently needed service.

And in Livermore the League staffs a Farmers' Market table at 3rd and J Streets each Thursday from 4:00 until 7:00 PM. Activity is picking up as we get closer to the November elections, and we expect to be there each week until then.

*Fred and Audrey Lovell*

## WHO'S WHO IN THE LEAGUE

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## Livermore Election Forums


Don't forget our Livermore Forums! The Livermore Trails (Pardee) Initiative will be discussed on **Thursday, September 29**, at 7 pm, in the Livermore City Council Chambers at 3375 Pacific Avenue. Those favoring and those opposing the initiative will speak.

On **Wednesday, October 5**, we will present candidates for Livermore Mayor at 7 pm and candidates for City Council at 8 pm at the same location.

This is an opportunity for Livermore residents to become better informed about the candidates. Hope to see you at 3375 Pacific Avenue both evenings.

For more information, email or phone Vivian Thorson at [sheldonviv@juno.com](mailto:sheldonviv@juno.com) or 846-5001.

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## League Training Session

The LWVC Bay Area Training Session will be held on Saturday, September 10, at the Hyatt Residence Hotel, 620 Sandhill Road, Palo Alto. Topics will include "League 101" for new and not-so-new members, Voter Service activities, and information about the upcoming Energy Study. Registration needs to be in by September 7. The cost is \$25, which will include lunch. Call Barbara Hempill (846-9739) for more details.


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## Bay Area Voter

The League of Women Voters Bay Area has asked us to forward their *Bay Area Voter* publication via e-mail to our members. If you do not have an e-mail address and would like a copy of the *Bay Area Voter*, please contact Barbara Hempill, 846-9739.

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## CALENDAR

**Saturday, Sept. 10,** LWVC Regional Fall Training Session (see p. 4).



**Saturday, Sept. 24,** Know Your Bay Area Day (see p. 3). Please contact Elteen Stone, 447-3195, if you would like to go with her.

**Thursday, September 29,** Forum on Livermore Trails Initiative. Livermore City Council Chambers, 7 pm.

**Wednesday, October 5,** Livermore Mayoral and City Council Forum, Livermore City Council Chambers. 7pm—Mayoral; 8 pm—Council.

**Monday, October 10,** Board meeting, Dolores Bengston's. 7 pm.

**Monday, October 17,** Local Education Finance Study: Planning Meeting. 5442 Greenfield Way Pleasanton. 10 am.

**Tuesday, October 18,** deadline to register for luncheon on Saturday Oct. 22.

**Saturday, October 22,** luncheon with Dr. Daniel Kammen, Girasole Restaurant, Pleasanton. Noon.

**Friday, January 27,** 2006 Bay Area League Day: State of the Bay Restoration and Access

## Take the Budget Challenge

The State Budget has been signed, but the basic questions of how much money the state has and where it should be allocated still remain. The California Budget Challenge – an online “game”

<http://www.next-ten.org/> lets you roll up your sleeves and create your own state budget for the next ten years. You call the shots on how much to give to schools, health care, prisons, and other areas as well as how to pay for these programs. It has added new policy options for transportation and the gas tax, as well as more information on corporate taxation. And a new section is being added on immigration. It's a great tool to educate yourself and your friends on this most complex and vital issue.



## Smart Voter and the November 8 Special State-wide Election

The Smart Voter website is unparalleled in complete and unbiased information. Help the public learn where to go to become informed voters before Election Day. Eileen Barr, our Smart Voter Coordinator, has tailored articles to our community by including local contests and the participating candidates. For answers to your questions, visit <http://smartvoter.org> today.



**LUNCHEON**  
**Saturday, October 22, 2005**

11:30 Social Time                                    At Girasole Restaurant,  
12:00 Lunch    3180 Santa Rita Road,  
12:45 Speaker, Daniel Kammen                Pleasanton

**Menu Choices:**

*Pacific Rim:* Hoisin-marinated chicken breast, Napa cabbage, roasted cashews, bell peppers, carrots, rice noodles, ginger soy vinaigrette

*Super Caesar:* Romaine lettuce, sun-dried tomatoes, hearts of palm, garlic croutons, grilled chicken breast

*Super Caesar Vegetarian:* Same as above except no chicken

*Chicken Gorgi:* Grilled breast of chicken, penne, Gorgonzola cream sauce, honey roasted walnuts, fresh grapes

*Chicken Gorgi Vegetarian:* Same as above except no chicken

*Grilled Rosemary Chicken Sandwich:* Kaiser roll, lemon and tarragon aioli, French fries

Entrée price includes unlimited coffee, iced tea, or soda; 8.75% sales tax and 18% gratuity.

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**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 18**

Name/Names \_\_\_\_\_

Please write the dollar amount beside the entrée(s) you wish to order.

\$20	Pacific Rim	_____
\$20	Super Caesar	_____
\$16	Super Caesar Veg.	_____
\$20	Chicken Gorgi	_____
\$17	Chicken Gorgi Veg.	_____
\$16	Chicken Sandwich	_____

Please make check to LAVLWV                    TOTAL -----

**Mail to: Chuck Hazen**  
**720 Adams Avenue**  
**Livermore, CA 94550**  
**Phone: 925-447-7823**

## Initiatives for November

Writing about the propositions on the November ballot is like shooting at a moving target. But here we go! The League recommendations are listed after the Proposition number.

**Prop. 73. (Oppose)** *Termination of Minor's Pregnancy. Waiting Period and Parental Notification.* In March the LWVC Board decided to oppose this proposition. It would amend the California Constitution to prohibit a minor from obtaining an abortion until 48 hours after the physician notifies the minor's parent or legal guardian, except in a medical emergency or with a parental waiver. To obtain a waiver, the minor must file a petition and appear personally in juvenile court. The LWVC believes that parental notification laws are unwise and that the judicial bypass option is unrealistic.

**Prop. 74 (Oppose)** *Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status. Dismissal.* This would be a statute and is still on the ballot.

**Prop 75. (Oppose)** *Public Employee Union Dues. Required Employee Consent for Political Contributions.* This would be a statute and is still on the ballot.

**Prop. 76 (Oppose)** *School Funding, State Spending.* Prop. 76, the "Live Within Our Means" Initiative, would make changes to Prop. 98, School Funding. It would be a constitutional amendment that imposes a new state spending cap, gives the Governor broad power to make budget cuts unilaterally, and changes the formulas for state support of education.

**Prop. 77. (LWVC has not yet taken a position on this initiative)** *Reapportionment/Redistricting.* The LWVC has urged the legislature and the governor to negotiate to place an alternative measure on the ballot. For further information, go to <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/redistrict/>.

**Prop. 78. (Oppose)** *Prescription Drugs. Discounts.* This would be administered by the state and would be voluntary for drug companies. It is an industry proposal. (This is one of two competing measures. Both Prop 79 and 78 would be statutes. The one with the higher number of votes would go into effect.)

**Prop. 79. (Support)** *Prescription Drug Discounts. State-Negotiated Rebates.* Prop. 79 would give discounts to people without health insurance who make less than \$38,280 for an individual and \$77,400 for a family of four.

**Prop. 80. (Neutral because League positions do not cover the issues in Prop. 80.)** *Electric Service Providers. Regulation.* This would be a statute. It was removed from the ballot by the State Court of Appeal because it sought changes that conflicted with the state constitution. Supporters may appeal it to the State Supreme Court.

Barbara Hempill





**League of Women Voters**  
**Livermore-Amador Valley**  
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<http://www.geocities.com.lwvlav/newsletterindex.html>

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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## JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League is open to all U.S. citizens, men and women, age 18 or older. Annual dues are \$55 for one person, \$80 for two people in one household. By becoming a member of the Livermore-Amador Valley League, one also becomes a member of the Bay Area, California, and National Leagues.

Please mail this form with your check, payable to the League of Women Voters of Livermore-Amador Valley, to LWV-LAV, P.O. Box 702, Livermore, CA 94551.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_