

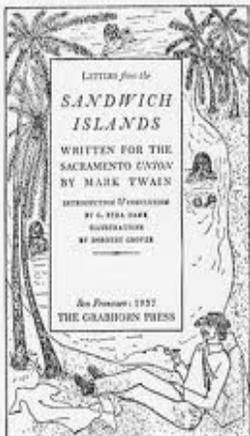
Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May-June 2013, NO. 5-6

Tuesday, May 28, 7 PM (Social Time 6:30)

Arianne Laidlaw: Mark Twain's *Letters From the Sandwich Islands*
Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building, 5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento



In February of 1866, Mark Twain persuaded the Sacramento Union to hire him as “special correspondent” to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii). In March he sailed, planning to stay just one month. He stayed four and wrote 25 letters, about 90,000 words, published in installments. The highlight was his scoop on the sinking of the clipper ship *Hornet*. These letters launched his fame as a serious journalist, travel writer and lecturer. “I was there for four or five months and returned to find myself about the best known man on the Pacific Coast.”

Read in their entirety, the letters teem with fascinating characters, flora and fauna, native Hawaiians in catastrophic decline, unparalleled beauty, squalor and cats—hundreds of cats. Relentlessly searching for stories, his endless horseback riding laid him up with saddle sores. He surfed among nude women, (who immediately left the water upon his approach) and scaled the summit of the volcano Kilauea during an eruption.

Mark Twain scholar Arianne Laidlaw, who prefers to call herself an obsessed amateur, will share her decades long obsession with this eternally fascinating author, Tuesday, May 29th at 7 PM. Who hired him to write the *Letters from the Sandwich Islands*? How and why did they make such a difference in his life and work? Her talk will answer those questions and offer a glimpse of the importance of the Sacramento Union in the mid-1860s.

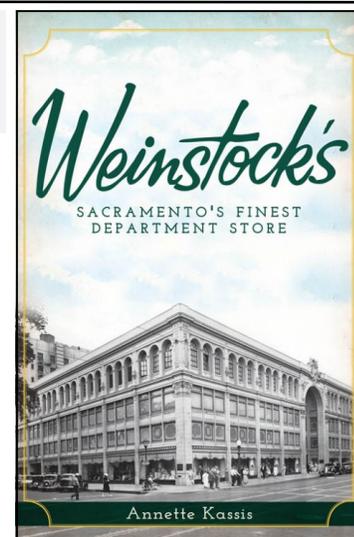
Tuesday, June 25, 7 PM (Social Time 6:30)

Annette Kassis: *Weinstock's: Sacramento's Finest Department Store*
Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building, 5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento

In 1874, David Lubin hung a provocative sign over a ten by twelve-foot space on the corner of Fourth and K Streets in Sacramento, California: “D. Lubin: One Price.” Thus began the dry goods store that would evolve into Weinstock, Lubin, and Co., one of Sacramento’s landmark businesses and eventually a regional giant. While many Sacramentans will remember Weinstock’s spectacular Christmas displays, the signature children’s milk bar and the gala openings of suburban stores at Country Club Plaza and Sunrise Mall, historian Annette Kassis went beyond the storefront to uncover the philosophy that placed Weinstock’s at the forefront of business innovation. More than a retail establishment, Weinstock’s one-hundred-year legacy brought high fashion, progressive politics and the leading edge of modernization to California’s Capital City.

Annette Kassis’ background in advertising and public relations combined with her studies of journalism and history would seem to uniquely qualify her to do a book such as this. She recently received the SCHS Award of Excellence for Publications for her work, which was published by the History Press in 2012. Books will be available for purchase. Both programs will start at 7 PM and are open to the public.

Please note that these will be our last scheduled programs, and our last newsletter, until September.



Grow Cook, Savor Showcases Sacramento Food Heritage

Contributed by Maryellen Burns

The diversity and bounty of Sacramento's food, wine and beer heritage is center stage at *Grow, Cook, Savor* on Saturday, June 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria at the Central Library, 828 I Street in downtown Sacramento. Admission is \$25.

The daylong event will seem like a food midway featuring the riches of Sacramento Country. Talks, demonstrations, exhibits and tastings will continue in seamless presentations by native born chefs, Sacramento-centric craft-beer purveyors, wine growers, regional food historians and scholars. Guests are invited to share their favorite "food" memory at a recording area called the StoryStation. A time-line and culinary map of Sacramento's food-drink-restaurant history will also be unveiled.

Hosted by the Sacramento Public Library, Capital Public Radio, the Sacramento County Historical Society and other local partners, the event is the highlight of *We Are Where We Eat*, a yearlong project by director Maryellen Burns and food journalist Elaine Corn that captures the stories of the people who grow, cook, serve, and yes, eat and drink in Sacramento County. Events types include the following:

- **Cooking Demonstrations** hosted by Master of Ceremonies Rick Kushman, with homegrown chefs Kurt Spataro, David Soohoo, Doug Silva, Richard Pannell, and Ed and Janelle Roehr.
- **Craft Beer Tasting** moderated by Sacramento Bee writer Chris Macias.
- **Exhibits, Tastings and Conversations** with local wine and beer makers, food purveyors, historians, growers, authors and culinary professionals.
- **Discussions** with agricultural and food historians William Burg, Ken Albala, Robin Datel and Darrell Corti.
- **Record Your Favorite Food Memory** at our Story Station.

"If we are *what* we eat, it follows that *where* we eat is even more influential," says Elaine Corn, Contributing Food Reporter for Capital Public Radio. "In Sacramento, it starts with early helpings of caviar and oysters to today's revival of traditions in beer and new respect for agriculture."

For more information and to buy tickets, contact Maryellen Burns at wearewhereweeat@me.com, (916) 768-6077, or www.we-are-where-we-eat.com. Tickets can be purchased in advance at wearewhereweeat.brownpapertickets.com.

We Are Where We Eat was made possible with support from Cal Humanities, an independent non-profit state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Sacramento Public Library, with additional support from Capital Public Radio, Sacramento River Delta Historical Society, Sacramento County Historical Society, and California Agriculture in the Classroom.

Springtime in Sacramento Is Walking TourTime

Now that normal Spring temperatures are here, it's a great time to get out of our cars and take a closer look at our city. It's amazing what you can discover when you look from the sidewalk. There are many interesting tours available, both guided and self guiding, that focus on historical and cultural highlights so there are bound to be some that meet varied interests and time frames.

One of the newer tour programs comes from the Downtown Sacramento Partnership who received an SCHS Award of Excellence for their efforts (page 3). Tours cost \$10—drinks extra—and include an Old Sacramento Speakeasy Tour and a Rock and Roll History Tour (both with pub stops) as well as Tales of the City/An Overview of Early Sacramento History, a tour on Sacramento's Art in Public Places, and one called Sacramento Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. Two architectural history tours are offered seasonally.

All tours last from 1-2 hours. Some tours are offered at regular times but many are available by reservation only. More information and tickets purchases at 916-442-8575 or online at downtownsac.org/venture-out/downtown-tours.

A wealth of self-guided tours are also available using maps and/or brochures that can be downloaded from the Sacramento Heritage website. Tours cover the City Hall Area, the J&K Street Commercial Area, Historic K Street Buildings, Old City Cemetery, Oak Park, Boulevard Park, Midtown Modern Commercial, and three Curtis Park neighborhoods! More details at sacheritage.org/walking.html.

Finally, don't forget to check out the expanded Sacramento Underground Tour programs at www.historicoldsac.org/programs/programs-underground.asp. Get walking! See you in September.

SCHS Awards of Excellence Recipients



L to R: Mike Munson, SCHS VP Bill Burg, Shawn Peter, Education award for Downtown Sacramento Partnership Tour Program



Preservation Award Recipients Carina Lampkin family along with SOCA President and SCHS VP Bill Burg



Left: Annette Kassis, Publications Award Recipient, with SCHS President Greg Voelm; **Above:** SCHS Pres. Greg Voelm, President's Award Recipient Maryellen Burns, and Past SCHS President Pat Turse

SCHS Membership Form

Please, circle your membership level

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Educational

Library* \$50
 *Non-voting

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Make checks out to SCHS and mail to PO Box 160065, Sacramento, CA 95816-0065 Thank You!



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Out & ABOUT

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE & CONTACT
Wednesday May 15	8 AM to 2 PM	Sac Heritage, Inc., Gladding McBean Tour Learn about architectural terra cotta production process, see factory floor in action, and view a presentation on current rehab projects using GM products. Limited to 20, \$65 bus & lunch included	Bus departs from Page & Turnbull 2410 C St., Sacramento Buy tickets online only gmbtour.brownpapertickets.com
Thursday May 21	7:30 PM	Locke and the Sacramento Delta Chinatowns by Lawrence and Brian Tom, featuring over 200 vintage photos. One of Arcadia Press' latest. Copies available for sale and signing.	Jean Harvie Center 14273 River Road, Walnut Grove Information: 916-871-4060 srdhs@riverdeltawireless.com
Saturday June 1	10 AM	A Dozen Ways to Die Hear about death by omnibus, by fashion, by elephant, and 9 other fascinating ways the dear departed made their exit	Sacramento Old City Cemetery 10th & Broadway, Sacramento 916-264-2651 www.oldcitycemetery.com
Friday July 13	8 AM to 6 PM	Tour of Angel Island Immigration Station The Chinese American Council of Sacramento (CACs) announces a bus/boat/shuttle trip to newly refurbished immigration Station. \$65pp Check to CACS, POB 22583, Sacramento, CA 95822 by June 15. Bus departure point TBA	Brenda Fong bjfong1950@yahoo.com 916-392-0511