

Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY-JUNE 2017, VOL. 9-10

SCHS Fundraiser

Celebrate the History of the Sacramento Kings

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 6 PM (or 4:30 to view NBA Draft Lottery)

Golden 1 Center, One David J. Stern Walk (5th & K St.), Sacramento



It's hard to believe that the Kings basketball franchise has been in Sacramento for 32 years. Since its 1985 move from Kansas City, the team has had its ups and downs, but a vocal fan base has not wavered in its support. A new deep-pocketed owner and the 2016 opening of a state-of-the-art arena financed by a public private partnership may be good indications that the Kings, the oldest continuously operating basketball franchise in the NBA, are here for a while.

Although the logos pictured at the left begin in 1945 with the Rochester Royals, the team actually had its start in 1923, when businessman Les Harrison organized and played for the semipro Rochester Seagrams, sponsored by the Seagrams distillery. More Kings history follows on page 3.

The History of the Kings fundraiser will include photos, video clips, and reflections shared by former players, media members and original Kings Managing Partner Gregg Lukenbill. There will be options for groups to purchase tables with varied levels of sponsorship. Individual tickets are \$95 for SCHS members and \$125 for others at www.kingshistory.brownpapertickets.com or get more information at www.sachistoricalociety.org.

SCHS Presents Lynn Downey

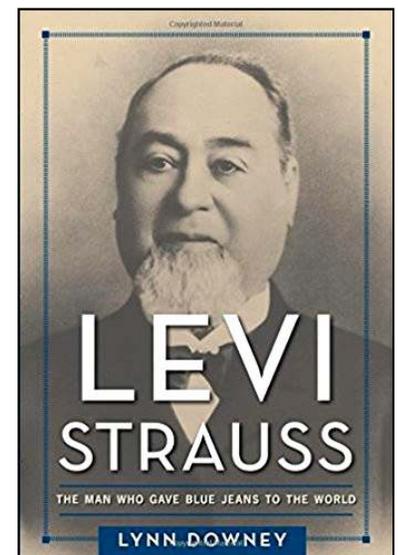
Levi Strauss: The Man who Gave Blue Jeans to the World

Tues., June 27, 7 PM (Social Time, 6:30)

Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building, 5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento

Our June SCHS speaker will present her research on a very important San Franciscan, whose original store was located at 90 Sacramento Street. Besides, what would Sacramento's railroad workers and the valley's farmers have worn if it were not for blue jeans? Now that the Sacramento County connection is clarified, please join us to hear historian Lynn Downey share her knowledge of an extraordinary American. More than just the man who brought us the blue jean, Levi Strauss contributed to the rise of modern San Francisco and created a philanthropic legacy that his descendants and his company still follow today.

A fifth generation Californian from Sonoma, Lynn Downey worked for 24 years as corporate historian at the Levi Strauss Company in San Francisco. That she wrote or edited five other books prior to this one may hint that compiling the research on Mr. Strauss was far from a sure thing. The 1906 earthquake destroyed almost all of the company files and most of Strauss's private papers. Relying on newspapers and some personal reminiscences, Downey has written the first full length biography of Strauss, the inspiring story of a man who ultimately transformed modern fashion. It is a quintessential immigrant story with fascinating insights into American history.



Guests are welcome but will be asked to make a \$5 donation, as seating is limited.

Reminder: This is the last newsletter until September, as SCHS goes on holiday in July & August. Please see page 2 for more changes coming to this newsletter.

Changes Coming to Golden Nuggets

The *Golden Nuggets* editorial torch is about to be passed. After 12 years as newsletter editor, I will turn the job over to Jenan Saunders beginning with the September issue. Jenan will introduce herself below, and you will see that the *Nuggets* could not be in better hands. I have worked with her on some writing projects at California State Parks, and I am certain she will do an excellent job. As for me, I hope to finally focus on trying to write the biography I have been threatening to write for years. I shall miss the feelings of satisfaction at each newsletter's completion, and the occasional kind comments from people out there who were actually reading these missives.

The bigger change has to do with the newsletter delivery method. Prompted by the increasing costs of printing, paper, and those little mailing seals, as well as the ever-changing and more demanding rules of the bulk—aka “business”—mailing process, the SCHS Board has decided it is time to go all digital. **Beginning in September, a link to the current newsletter will be emailed to members in lieu of hard copy.**

The link will take you to the newsletter, located on an SCHS web page. It will be as simple as following links to see articles friends email you. You will not have to download any software. If you want, you can even print your own copy on standard 8.5x11” paper. Those 16 or so members who either don't have email or aren't admitting it, will be mailed paper copies of the newsletters, as will any libraries who prefer hard copies. We'll have to mail those first class but unless lots of people suddenly stop having email, we expect to avoid any cost increase at this time.

The bonuses of digital newsletters for readers include seeing things in color, easy access to forms and, quite possibly, the ability to fill in and return forms electronically. More than four pages might be possible on occasion. For the editor (in addition to lower costs) the time saved not having to fold, seal, label, sort by zip, pack in special postal crates, fill out a mailing form and go to the West Sacramento Business Mail Entry Unit post office will be much appreciated. My friends, family, and neighbors will also appreciate not being roped into helping with the above.

And now, here's Jenan:

Beginning in the fall, the SCHS newsletter will have a new editor, Jenan Saunders. Jenan had been serving as Membership Chair for SCHS since 2008, and most recently helped with developing

the society's new volunteer program.

In her working life, Jenan is the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for California. She has been serving in this position since February 2010. Prior to this assignment, Jenan worked in the Interpretation and Education Division of California State Parks since 2001. There she served as the manager of that division's Planning and Programs Section and Photographic Archives, and previous to that was the supervisor of the Interpretive Publications Section. In addition to her management duties at the Interpretation and Education Division, Jenan was responsible for statewide issues and programs related to school group programming, evaluation of interpretive staff, and accessibility as it relates to interpretive services.

Previous to her position with the Interpretation and Education Division, Jenan served as a State Historian with the California Office of Historic Preservation where she first worked in the Registration Unit, coordinating the California Register of Historical Resources program, and then in the Local Government Unit. While with the Local Government Unit, Jenan handled CEQA review of local agency projects and also assisted with administration of the Certified Local Government program. She additionally coordinated OHP's publications program, designing the 1997 State Plan report, “Forging a Future with a Past,” and creating the design for the office's Technical Assistance Series.

Jenan has extensive experience in public history, having worked as a student volunteer and graduate student assistant with the California Gold Discovery to Statehood Sesquicentennial, and as a private research consultant, program director for a non-profit organization and public agency employee.

She has been a member of the Board of Directors for the California Council for the Promotion of History (CCPH) and also served as that organization's president. For more than ten years, she edited and designed CCPH's *California History Action* newsletter.

Jenan received her B.A. in History with Honors from UC Davis, with an emphasis on 20th century U.S. and Latin American history, and her M.A. in Public History from CSU Sacramento.

She lives in East Sacramento with her husband, Kevin, and their two dogs and three cats. Jenan and her husband also spend time at their cabin outside of Placerville in El Dorado County. Her hobbies include reading, cooking, and photography.

A Brief Pictorial History of the Sacramento Kings by Gregg Lukenbill



The Sacramento Kings are the oldest continuously operating basketball franchise in the NBA, founded by Lester Harrison in 1923 in Rochester, New York, originating as the **Rochester Seagrams**. There were many professional barnstorming teams and numerous leagues that began and folded in the early formative years of professional basketball, which were severely impacted by the depression of the 1930's and by World War II.

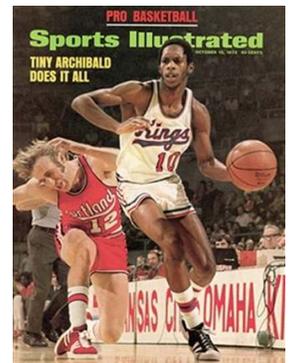


In 1945, Harrison and his brother Jack paid \$25,000 to join the National Basketball League (NBL) as the **Rochester Royals**, the name chosen from a newspaper contest, for the three seasons from 1945 thru 1948, switching to the Basketball Association of America (BAA) for the 1948-49 season. In August 1949 the NBL and BAA merged into the NBA. During its time in Rochester, the team played in five increasingly larger buildings. As the Royals, the team was often successful on the court, winning the NBA championship in 1951. However, they found it increasingly difficult to turn a profit in the comparatively small market of Rochester, and relocated to Cincinnati in 1957, becoming the **Cincinnati Royals**.



The Cincinnati teams featured perennial All-Stars Bob Davies, Oscar Robertson and Jerry Lucas. In the final game of the inaugural 1957-58 Cincinnati season a tragic head injury concussion to rising 3rd year superstar Maurice Stokes, ended his career, and forever altered the competitive course of the franchise. The addition of future Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson in 1960 began the team's resurgence as a championship contender. The team played in the tough NBA East division, dominated by the Bill Russell led Boston Celtics, even as a Baltimore team played in the West Division for three years, denying the Royals likely visits to the NBA Finals.

Ownership changed hands twice in Cincinnati, ending up with the Jacobs Brothers in 1966, owners of one of the largest food service companies in the nation, Delaware North. For the next six years the Royals played many of their "home" games in neutral sites, Cleveland, Dayton, Columbus, and St. Louis, to benefit the Jacobs food service business. In 1972, the team relocated to Kansas City, Missouri, and split its home games between Kansas City and Omaha, Nebraska. It was renamed as the **Kansas City-Omaha Kings**, since Kansas City already had the Major League Baseball Royals. The team started off well with new star, Nate Archibald, who led the league in scoring and assists in the 1972-73 season.



Kansas City's Kemper Arena roof collapsed in 1979 after heavy rains, but it was unoccupied at the time. Despite that, the KC Kings made the playoffs in 1980 and went to the Western Conference Finals in 1981. The team was sold to a Sacramento ownership group in 1983, with Gregg Lukenbill as Managing Partner, and was finally moved to Sacramento in 1985.



Initially playing in a converted warehouse, the team played its first game to a sellout crowd of 10,000+ on October 25, 1985. In 1988, team ownership was sold to an LA group headed by Jim Thomas and Eli Broad, who in turn sold it in 1999 to the Maloof family, Las Vegas based hotel/casino operators with other entertainment business interests. Meanwhile a series of good trades, free agent signings, and draft choices helped the 2001 and 2002 Kings win consecutive Pacific Division titles. The team featured Chris Webber, Vlade Divac, Peja Stojakovic, Jason Williams, Doug Christie, and a very strong bench. Their exciting, sometimes flashy, style was dubbed the "Greatest Show on Court", but in a tightly contested 2002 Western Finals series, they lost to the LA Lakers. The Maloofs and the Kings developed money problems. In 2011, the Maloofs refused a joint city plan to finance a new arena, instead flirting with moving to Anaheim, Seattle or Las Vegas.

A new ownership group recruited in 2013 by then Sacramento Mayor, former NBA star Kevin Johnson, supported by NBA Commissioner David Stern and others, and featuring Silicon valley software mogul, Vivek Ranadive, managed to purchase the team. They convinced the NBA team owners to allow the Kings to stay in Sacramento— IF the promised new arena was completed by September 2016. A concert by Sir Paul McCartney opened the \$535 million dollar **Golden 1 Center** on September 4, 2016, and the Kings opened their season on October 27. The Kings' history here is still being written, but if the past is any indication, it won't lack for excitement.



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GOLDEN NUGGETS



Published at least bimonthly,
 September to June

OUT & ABOUT

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE & CONTACT
May 5, 6, 7	Vary as shown	Jane Jacobs Walks. Part History tour, part urban planning talk, Sacramento will host 6 FREE walks over the weekend of May 5,6& 7th. Link at right for more details.	Preservation Sacramento P.O. Box 162140 Sacramento, CA 95816 916-202-4815
Fri May 5	6 PM	Downtown Sac Jazz Tour explores sites of lost jazz clubs; starts at Marshall Hotel, 7th & L	www.preservationsacramento.org/jane-jacobs/
Sat May 6	10 AM	Pioneers in Petticoats tells stories of women pioneers from their diaries; Old City Cemetery, 10th & Broadway	Note: Preservation Sacramento is coordinating this annual event, as usual, but it will be a cooperative effort by them, Sacramento Heritage, Inc., the Sacramento County Historical Society and the Old City Cemetery Committee.
	12PM	Broadway: Above and Below explores a whole different world just outside the grid; starts at Old City Cemetery	
	2 PM	Broadway Walking Tour explores this remarkably diverse street, starts from OC Cemetery to Avid Reader Bookstore	
Sun May 7	11 AM	Alhambra Blvd Tour explores the architecture and social history of city's original eastern city limit; starts @ C St & Alhambra site of the Pureta Sausage Factory	
	2PM	Alkali Flat Tour explores Sacramento's oldest residential neighborhood; starts at Naked Lounge coffee, 11th & H	
Wed Aug 30	7PM	Drugs of the Old West. The Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society hosts an encore presentation of SCHS Treasurer Eric Bradner's lively, illustrated talk on some of the tonics and nostrums widely used in the 19th century. Free: reservations required. Mark your calendars.	Sierra Sac Valley Medical Museum 5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento 916-452-2671