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***Food for Thought* Offers Historical Film with Modern Day Lessons**

Sacramento – The California State Library’s January event in its monthly evening cultural series, *Food for Thought: Thinking and Talking at the California State Library*, will be held **Thursday, January 22**. The free 5:00 to 8:30 pm gathering includes hearty refreshments, a thought-provoking historical film, a film-commentary, and a lively, post-film discussion.

This month’s special guest will be Rick Wartzman, author of [*Obscene in the Extreme: The Burning and Banning of John Steinbeck’s The Grapes of Wrath*](#), offering commentary on the novel that inspired this month’s film. Wartzman will share insights from his in-depth study of Steinbeck’s Pulitzer Prize winning book, describe some little-known and surprising public reactions to the book’s publication in 1939, and tell the **story of one very courageous librarian!**

The dire implications of poverty and tough working conditions are captured in this month’s *Food for Thought* film. Released in 1940, this movie graphically depicts what happened to ordinary workers and families when Wall Street and the broader economy collapsed during the Great Depression. The film deftly addresses themes of basic human needs and the dangers inherent in having a huge wealth gap in any society. The parallels between the impact of economic collapse portrayed in this film and the realities of our present-day economy (Great Depression II?) are disturbing. However, despite the depressing Depression context, the film’s message is ultimately the timelessness of human kindness.

The California State Library launched *Food for Thought* because it believes that libraries and the free expression of ideas are essential to a healthy democracy. *Food for Thought* is a unique monthly venue where film buffs and thinking people talk freely about ideas and issues. By ensuring that California’s people stay intellectually invigorated, the California State Library is taking an active role as a positive shaper of the future of this great state. Its monthly *Food for Thought* evenings remind busy Sacramento audiences that we all need to slow down enough to consider and discuss issues that have shaped our past and affect our collective future, so that we can build a preferred tomorrow.



Join us on January 22nd from 5:00 to 8:30 pm at 914 Capitol Mall, Room 500 in the Stanley Mosk Library & Courts Building. The movie shows at 6 pm with time for discussion afterward. Metered street parking is free after 6:00 pm; 8th and O light rail access. Space is limited so **attendees must RSVP** to Angela Kwong at (916) 653-1330 or at akwong@library.ca.gov .

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