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February 11, 2009

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***Food for Thought* Focuses on Sports Hero Who Transcended Racial Barriers**

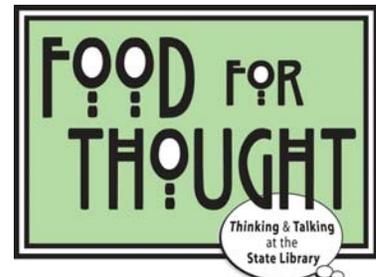
Sacramento – The California State Library’s February event in its monthly evening cultural series, *Food for Thought: Thinking and Talking at the California State Library*, will be held **Thursday, February 19**. The free 5:00 to 8:30 pm gathering includes hearty refreshments, a thought-provoking film, and a lively post-film discussion.

This month’s screening features a sports hero who overcame racial and societal barriers in an era of suspicion and intolerance following World War II. The film is *Transcending: the Wat Misaka Story*, a documentary by award-winning filmmakers Bruce Alan Johnson and Christine Toy Johnson. Misaka, the country’s first Asian-American pro basketball player, was born and raised in Utah. A star player for the University of Utah championship teams in 1944 and 1947, Misaka left college for two years to serve in the US Army. In 1947, he was the first draft pick of the New York Knicks.

Misaka inspired friends, family, and Nisei friends, including those in internment camps, with his perseverance and loyalty. Many considered him both a role model and personal hero. *Transcending* features interviews with Misaka, his teammates, family, and sports figures, as well as video clips from championship games in 1944 and 1947.

This film was awarded two consecutive grants from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP), a grant program administered by the California State Library. For more information about CCLPEP, visit <http://CivilLiberties.library.ca.gov>

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 February 19th 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 akwong@library.ca.gov.

***Food for Thought* is made possible by generous donations from the
California State Library Foundation**

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