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### **Food for Thought Honors Native American Veterans**

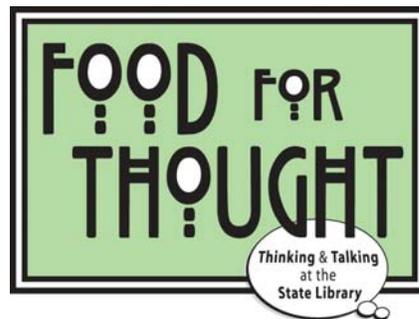
**Sacramento** – The November event in the California State Library’s cultural series, *Food for Thought: Thinking and Talking at the California State Library*, will be held on **Wednesday, November 18**. This free evening event includes refreshments, a thought-provoking film, and a lively post-film discussion.

In honor of Veterans Day, this month’s screening features *Windtalkers*, a film based on the Navajo code talkers of World War II, whose native language served as unbreakable code that helped bring the war in the Pacific to a close.

This 2002 tale follows a platoon of two code talkers and their Marine watchdogs who engage in the bloody Battle of Saipan. As one of the protectors, Nicholas Cage’s grim, shell-shocked sergeant struggles with flashbacks of savage fighting and death at Guadalcanal. He forges an uneasy alliance with a Navajo played by Adam Beach, who matures from well-intentioned youth to warrior as the battle unfolds. The underlying paradox of *Windtalkers*, says critic David Grove, is that “the Japanese want to catch the Navajos and force them to reveal the details of the code, while the Americans, the ‘good guys,’ have orders to assassinate the Navajos before letting this happen.” Though fictional, this plot element underpins the sergeant’s detachment, self-loathing, and ultimate redemption.

Interwoven with the saga of the code talkers are director John Woo’s trademark themes of male bonding across barriers of ignorance and prejudice, the blurring of lines between good and evil, and vivid, pulsing action sequences. These themes provide food for thought in a month whose national holidays honor veterans and offer thanks for hard-fought freedoms.

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 helping Californians stay intellectually invigorated, the California State Library is taking an active role in shaping the future of this great state. Its monthly *Food for Thought* evenings remind busy Sacramento audiences to slow down, consider, and thoughtfully discuss issues that shaped our past and affect our collective future, so we can build a preferred tomorrow.



Join us on **Wednesday, November 18** from 5:00 to 8:30 pm in the California History Room, Library & Courts Building II, 900 N Street, Room 200, Sacramento. Doors open at 5:00 pm; the program begins at 6:00 pm with time for discussion afterward. Metered street parking is free after 6:00 pm; 8<sup>th</sup> and O light rail access. Seating in this new venue is limited, so attendees must RSVP to Rebecca Fontaine at (916) 653-9942 or [rfontaine@library.ca.gov](mailto:rfontaine@library.ca.gov).

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California State Library Foundation**

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