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### **Food for Thought Screens Quintessential American Western**

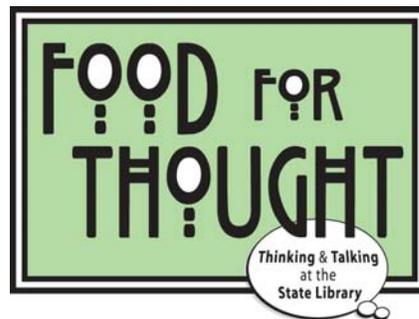
**Sacramento** – The January event in the California State Library’s cultural series, ***Food for Thought: Thinking and Talking at the California State Library***, will be held on **Wednesday, January 20**. This free evening event includes refreshments, a classic film, and a lively post-film discussion.

This month ***Food for Thought*** presents *Stagecoach*, the quintessential American western. Many “oaters” were filmed before *Stagecoach*, but this influential film by Director John Ford became the template for all westerns to follow. Instead of the usual good guy vs. bad guy story, Ford loaded nine distinct characters, a cross-section of society, into a stagecoach headed across Apache territory in 1880. The respectable folks on the stage looked down on the social outcasts, but by day’s end, the outcasts emerged as the true heroes.

“*Stagecoach*,” said critic Mark Deming, “offers plenty of cowboys, Indians, shootouts, and chases, aided by Yakima Canutt’s remarkable stunt work and Bert Glennon’s majestic photography of Ford’s beloved Monument Valley.” *Stagecoach* was Ford’s first sound western and John Wayne’s breakthrough role, launching him from B-grade actor to A-list star. A box office and critical hit, *Stagecoach* won two Academy Awards in 1939 and reinvented the genre of adult westerns.

Discussion after the film will be facilitated by Dr. Bob Chandler, Vice President of Historical Services at Wells Fargo Bank. On staff at Wells Fargo for more than 30 years, Dr. Chandler is widely recognized as an authority on California and San Francisco during the Civil War. He has written numerous articles and books, including *Wells Fargo*, an illustrated history of the storied company.

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.



Join us on **Wednesday, January 20** from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the California History Room, Room 200, Library & Courts Building II, 900 N Street, 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 venue is limited, so attendees must RSVP to Rebecca Ann Fontaine at (916) 653-9942 or [fontaine@library.ca.gov](mailto:fontaine@library.ca.gov).

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

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