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Food for Thought Cruises Main Street with Classic George Lucas Film

Sacramento – The California State Library's cultural series, ***Food for Thought: Thinking and Talking at the California State Library***, launches its fall lineup on Wednesday, August 18 with a free evening program that includes refreshments, a presentation on classic cars, screening of a critically-acclaimed, nostalgic film, and a lively post-film discussion.

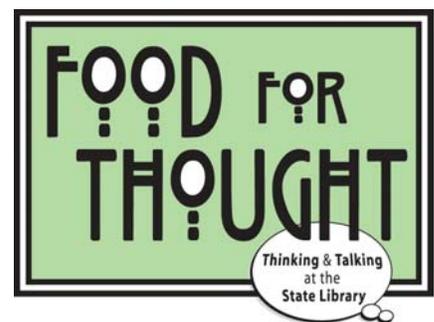
The featured film is *American Graffiti*, George Lucas' ode to the innocence and naiveté of small-town America in the early 1960s. The film chronicles a long summer night in the life of four high school chums on the cusp of departing for college or remaining cocooned in a safe, if stifling, small town.

Dubbed the film that launched a thousand careers, *American Graffiti* stars Harrison Ford, Richard Dreyfuss, Ron Howard, Charles Martin Smith, Cindy Williams, Mackenzie Phillips, and Suzanne Somers. Set in Modesto, the backdrop to the film is all chrome and neon and cars in motion, and the sound track, says critic Roger Ebert, "is papered from one end to the other with Wolfman Jack's nonstop disc jockey show, that's crucial and absolutely right."

American Graffiti, continues Ebert, acts almost as a milestone to show us how far (and in many cases how tragically) we've come, with November 22, 1963 as the great divide. "Whole cultures and societies have passed since 1962. *American Graffiti* is not only a great movie but a brilliant work of historical fiction, helping us remember exactly how it felt to be alive at that cultural instant."

Bruce Woodward of the California Auto Museum will open the program with a brief talk about the museum and the classic cars in the film, and will help lead the discussion afterward.

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, August 18** 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; 8th and O light rail access is nearby. Seating in this venue is limited, so attendees must RSVP to Rebecca Ann Fontaine at (916) 653-9942 or fontaine@library.ca.gov.

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

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