



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Night at the State Library presents: *Culinary California*

SACRAMENTO - On Wednesday, November 14, **A Night at the State Library** presents *Culinary California*. Ever since the Gold Rush, California has been considered one of the leading culinary centers of the world.

In keeping with that theme, one of California's leading culinary artists, Kotaro "Taro" Arai will be our featured guest speaker. Taro, owner of Mikuni Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar in Sacramento, is one of the top sushi chefs in California. Twenty-five years ago, his parents, who had recently emigrated from Japan, opened their first Mikuni restaurant in Fair Oaks. Today, there are eight Mikuni restaurants in Northern California. One of the reasons for their success is the culinary genius of Taro. His inspired creations include both the traditional Japanese style sushi as well as his eclectic, creative variations that appeal to the American palate.

In addition to this presentation on new California cuisine, Principal Librarian Emeritus for Special Collections, Gary Kurutz, will speak on our great collection of culinary treasures here at the State Library and specifically about our November exhibit. Taken from the library's California History Section's diverse collection of rare cookbooks, bartender's guides, menus, and wine labels, this exhibit will include some unique and fascinating memorabilia about California's eating and drinking appetites from the Gold Rush to present day. A few of the gems highlighted in the exhibit will be *Cocktail Boothby's American Bartender*, published in 1891 in San Francisco; *What Mrs. Fisher Knows About Old Southern Cooking*, the first cookbook by an African American in the U.S., printed by San Francisco women in 1881; and a manuscript cookbook from the Gold Rush by Kezia Curtis written in 1851.

WHERE: 900 N Street in Sacramento

WHEN: Wednesday, November 14. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Program begins at 6:00 p.m. The event is free with RSVP. Light refreshments served.

RSVP: rfontaine@library.ca.gov or 916.653.9942

A Night at the California State Library continues the 162-year tradition of successfully connecting Californians to our collective history through its special event and is made possible by generous donations from the California State Library Foundation.