

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### A FEAST OF EXCESS: CAL POLY PROFESSOR FEATURED IN SLO LIBRARY FOUNDATION BOOK & AUTHOR SERIES

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San Luis Obispo, CA - Cal Poly Professor Emeritus George Cotkin will discuss his latest book *Feast of Excess: A Cultural History of the New Sensibility* on June 21, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the SLO Library Community Room at 995 Palm Street. The event is free and open to the public. Cotkin's appearance is the third and final program in the SLO Library Foundation's 2015-2016 Book & Author Series. Wine will be provided by Claiborne & Churchill. Attendees can register to win two free tickets to a VIP event with author T.C. Boyle on May 7, 2017, at the Performing Arts Center.

*Feast of Excess* is a brisk survey of American cultural history from World War II to Watergate, and captures the excitement of liberation in American culture. The roots of this release, as Cotkin demonstrates, began in the 1950s, boomed in the 1960s, and became the cultural norm by the 1970s. The book features lively profiles of flamboyant figures in rock music, visual art, poetry, journalism and fiction, including John Cage, Patricia Highsmith, Allen Ginsberg, Andy Warhol, Anne Sexton, John Coltrane, Bob Dylan, Erica Jong, and Thomas Pynchon. George Cotkin presents their bold, headline-grabbing performances and places them within the historical moment. Bookforum called *Feast of Excess* "...a rich understanding of how and why postwar artists and writers revolted against social norms that constricted desire." The Boston Globe calls it a "...dazzling work of cultural history... the book fascinates on every page."

George Cotkin is Emeritus Professor of History at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. His previous books include *Existential America*, *Morality's Muddy Waters*, and *Dive Deeper: Journeys with Moby-Dick*.

The Foundation for San Luis Obispo County Public Libraries is a non-profit public interest corporation which conducts advocacy, fundraising and program activities to support and strengthen the County's public libraries. For more information on the Foundation, or to make a donation to one of its programs, go to [www.slolibraryfoundation.org](http://www.slolibraryfoundation.org). A donation of \$10 to the Library Foundation is suggested for this event.

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