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California Polytechnic State University

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Kennedy Library

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Cal Poly Kennedy Library To Sponsor Steinbeck Centennial Event Oct. 17**

SAN LUIS OBISPO - As part of a nationwide celebration of Nobel Prize-winning author John Steinbeck's centennial, Susan Shillinglaw, director of the Center for Steinbeck Studies at San Jose State University, will present "John Steinbeck -- Naturalist or Spiritualist: Music, Migrants and Storytelling" on Oct. 17 at Cal Poly.

The free public talk will be at 11 a.m. in Philips Hall in the Christopher Cohan Center.

Shillinglaw's appearance is sponsored by Cal Poly's Kennedy Library and is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The library will also mount a small exhibit of Steinbeck first editions and other related materials.

Numerous exhibitions, public programs and publications on the life and work of John Steinbeck (1902-1968), also known as "the Bard of the People," are being coordinated by the Mercantile Library of New York, the Center for Steinbeck Studies at San Jose State University, the National Steinbeck Center, and academic and public libraries, as well as other cultural institutions across the country

San Luis Obispo County events are sponsored by the Kennedy Library, the San Luis Obispo County Library, the Paso Robles City Library, Cuesta College and the 2002 San Luis Obispo International Film Festival. Additional events will include book discussions in English and Spanish on "The Grapes of Wrath" (the original film version of the book), as well as several video screenings, lectures by Steinbeck experts, and celebrations of Steinbeck in stories and song. To commemorate the events, local artist Tracy Taylor has created a painting and banner titled "Blood Orange."

For information, visit the Kennedy Library's Web site at  
[www.lib.calpoly.edu/steinbeck](http://www.lib.calpoly.edu/steinbeck).

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