DISCUSSION GUIDE
_The Food of a Younger Land_ by Mark Kurlansky

1. How has American cuisine changed in the 70 years since the Federal Writers’ Project? What remains the same?

2. What role does cooking and eating play in your social life? Has that role changed during your lifetime?

3. Which region’s culinary traditions appealed to you most? Least? Why?

4. Which foods or food traditions were most unfamiliar to you? Which did you find most intriguing? Repulsive?

5. Which debates or disagreements persist today (for instance, red or white chowder)?

6. What is the difference between a chef and a cook? What do you think about the celebrity chefs of today?

7. Could another _American Eats_ be written today? Why or why not? What role does the Internet play?

8. These pieces were written at a time when food was, for many people, scarce. How is scarcity represented in the exhibition? How is plentitude represented?

9. How would you describe America’s current relationship with food? How regional is it?

Suggested further reading and viewing:
- M.F.K. Fisher
- Michael Pollan
- _Tender at the Bone: Growing Up at the Table_ by Ruth Reichl
- _Julie and Julia: My Year of Cooking Dangerously_ by Julie Powell
- _Julie and Julia_ (2009)