

May 2024

Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



Strawberry Farmers Yasuko Nose and May Takahashi in 1954, Garden Grove, CA.

Photo courtesy of WalktheFarm.org.

Rancho Los Alamitos worked closely with nearby Japanese Tenant Farmers, who were successful in growing a variety of crops. Visit [Walk the Farm](#) to learn more about Japanese-owned farms in Southern California, many of which were lost after President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 in 1942, authorizing American military personnel to incarcerate Japanese Americans in the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Researchers with the Irei Project have recently published the names of 125,284 wrongfully imprisoned Japanese Americans. View the names [Here](#).

Why Long Beach? How a growing Cambodian Community came to call Long Beach Home.

Join us on Thursday, June 27th for our next lecture. Guest lecturers Mrs. Sithea San and Dr. Susan Needham will present how Long Beach became home to the largest community of Cambodians outside of Southeast Asia.

Tickets are \$10 per person; free for Rancho members.

[Get Tickets](#)

RLA Lecture:
Why Long Beach? Tracing the Cambodian Journey to CA

with Guest Lecturers:

Mrs. Sithea San Dr. Susan Needham

Thursday, June 27, 2024
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Rancho Room

2024 RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS
LECTURE SERIES

Celebrating the 12th Annual Cottonwood Award Luncheon

12th Annual Cottonwood Award Luncheon Thursday, May 30, 2024

Tickets are \$250 each
Ad and Sponsorship Opportunities are still available.

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rancho
LOS ALAMITOS | a place for all time

Honoring:



Cottonwood Award for Leadership

*Skip Keesal and
Keesal, Young & Logan*



Special Recognition for
Service and Commitment

*Gloria Cordero,
Community Leader*

11:00am-1:00pm
Rancho Los Alamitos
6400 E. Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach, CA 90815
Parking available at CSULB Lot G13

Join us in celebrating the achievements of this year's honorees, as well as:

- **Mouth-Watering Barbecue! Fabulous Friends! Toe-Tapping Tunes! Unparalleled Location!**
- **Tours of historic Adobe Ranch House, Gardens, Barns, and Rancho Learning Center Available**

Event is outdoors and on uneven surfaces.

Contact Erin Wilson, Director of Development, at erinwarancholosalamitos.org or (562) 221-6726 with any questions.

Visit RanchoLosAlamitos.org to learn more

Learn more about our honorees!

We look forward to welcoming guests to this year's Cottonwood event, where we will celebrate the contributions of Skip Keesal and Gloria Cordero, set to receive the 2024 Cottonwood Awards on May 30th. This highly anticipated Long Beach tradition offers abundant networking opportunities over a barbecue lunch on the Rancho's barnyard lawn, a setting alive with history. Learn more [here](#).

Upcoming Public Programming

RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS PRESENTS
**SUMMER
CONCERT SERIES**
Sunday, June 30
Sunday, July 28
Sunday, August 25
Doors Open at 4:30 pm; Event 5 PM - 7 PM
FREE ADMISSION. RSVPS ENCOURAGED.

Rancho Los Alamitos proudly presents our 2024 Summer Concert Series! We are opening our grounds after hours, so grab your lawn chairs and a picnic dinner and join us for a night with family and friends amid our lush historic grounds. **Our first performance is on Sunday, June 30th with South Bay guitar legend, Kid Ramos!**

Parking for each concert is at CSULB Lot G13, and we will have a shuttle service running to and from the Rancho. There will be no onsite parking on the Rancho grounds. Doors open and shuttle service starts at 4:30 pm. Shuttle service will end at Lot G13 at 6:30 pm and the event will end at 7:00 pm.

Free admission but RSVPs are highly encouraged. We can't wait to see you!

Make Reservations

2024 Cool Crafts Roundup Season

On the Barns Lawn from 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Cool Crafts Roundup

Join us for hands-on crafts and storytelling on our Barns Lawn!

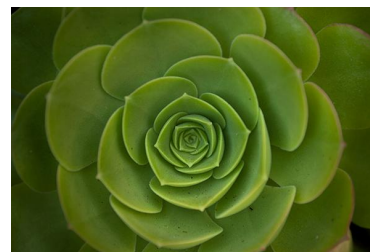
Dates:
June 13
July 11
August 8

1:30 pm - 4 pm

FREE! 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH



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Garden Talk with our Plant Whisperer, Andrew Chaves

When we think about the Rancho Gardens, a significant portion of it came from Florence Bixby's interest in her surroundings, who had the financial means to achieve what pleased her. How are the plants chosen here over a century ago and the sustainability we strive for today connected?

While the circumstances surrounding the creation of the Rancho Gardens may not align perfectly with all aspects of sustainability, they do illustrate the interconnectedness of wildlife and plants!

On the surface, the discovery of oil might seem antithetical to environmental sustainability

due to its association with pollution and carbon emissions. However, the gardens themselves could be seen as contributing positively to environmental sustainability. Gardens, especially well-designed ones like the Rancho gardens, can serve as green spaces that provide habitat for wildlife, and contribute to local biodiversity. Additionally, gardens can inspire people to connect with nature and develop a deeper appreciation for the environment, fostering a sense of stewardship. Today, the gardens provide a space for community engagement, recreation, and education.

To learn more about sustainable gardening, visit calscape.org

What's For Lunch in the Ranch Hand Dining Room?

The menu in the men's dining room now features a hearty breakfast sufficient to fuel the ranch hands for their morning work. While the cows and horses feasted on beet tops, hay, and grain, the workers got pancakes, fried eggs, bacon, biscuits, and oatmeal.

Surely, in 1934 the pantry held ingredients for Mrs. Shinkle's culinary delights. Today it holds faux fruit, vegetables, and desserts. Thanks to the special talents of our Faux Foodie volunteers, those peaches look ready to eat!



Photos by Doug Cox

Sugar Beet Farming on Rancho Land



From the late 1800s until after World War II, sugar beets were grown in Los Alamitos, including by tenant farmers on RLA land. Several Belgian families farmed land that stretched from Palo Verde near Atherton into Los Alamitos in Orange County. Fred Bixby and the Bixby Land Company played an important role including land sales and getting the Los Alamitos sugar factory built. The factory was located near where Ganahl Lumber stands today.

Docent Tom Taylor (lower) wanted to learn more about the sugar beets that were grown here. He planted sugar beet seeds in a barrel and waited to see what would happen. Not surprisingly, they sprouted and grew. A large demonstration bed is currently being built for viewing. We thank Tom for his curiosity and tenacity, as



well as for sending seeds to the Los Angeles County Fair for its Heritage Garden. Story by Roxanne Patmor, Photos by Doug Cox



There are Many Ways to Support Rancho Los Alamitos!

- Ask your employer if they have a matching program
- IRA Distribution or DAF Account
- Securities and Stock Gifts
- Payroll Deductions
- Legacy and Estate Giving

[Learn More About Charitable Giving](#)

Rancho Los Alamitos Historic Ranch & Gardens

Educating and engaging visitors by sharing our rich history, compelling stories, and authentic connections to California's past.

Rancho Los Alamitos is located within the gated community of Bixby Hill. Enter via the security gate at Anaheim Road and Palo Verde Avenue.
Open Wednesday - Sunday, 1:00 pm- 5:00 pm, free admission

Your support allows Rancho Los Alamitos to offer cultural and educational programs and tours for the entire community at no charge!

[Make a Donation](#)

[Become a Member](#)

