Indeed, were we only to have the story of Rancho Alamitos at hand, we might still be able to reconstruct the outlines and successive phases of this [Southern California] history.

–Kevin Starr, University Professor and Professor History, University of Southern California; State Librarian of California

Rancho Los Alamitos has always been a place of gathering, a home of new beginnings for those with dreams tied to a generous land. Rooted in its resilient diversity, the place has retained the distinctive flavor and grace of an older California while living in the times. This is Rancho Los Alamitos – ever changing, always the same.

About the Authors

Claudia Jurmain is Director of Special Projects and Publications at Rancho Los Alamitos Historic Ranch and Gardens in Long Beach, California. She began her work at the Smithsonian Institution as a research historian in the National Portrait Gallery and since then has developed and produced awarding-winning projects for museums, sites, and educational institutions across the country, including the Rancho.

David Lavender, the renowned author of over forty books on the American West, was nominated for Pulitzer Prizes for his works Bent's Fort and Land of Giants. Admired for their scholarship and verve, David Lavender's books echo his ready familiarity with the places and people he wrote about and are an enduring contribution to western history.

Larry L. Meyer is a Professor Emeritus of journalism from California State University, Long Beach, where he headed the department's Magazine Option for fifteen years. Prior to that he held the position of Editor in Chief at Westways and Colorado magazines.

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This extraordinary work is ground breaking innovation in the writing of local history. Its subject is bound in geographical and temporal space, but its rendering soars to levels of interpretation that are transcendent. From one locale, the authors have managed to tell a story fascinating in both its particularity and universality.

In form and content, this book is a seminal contribution to the history of California Dr. James J. Rawls, Reviews Editor, California History: The Journal of the California Historical Society

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