

## Rancho Los Alamitos Historic Ranch and Gardens

Rancho Los Alamitos  
6400 Bixby Hill Road  
Long Beach, California 90815  
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### For Immediate Release

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### **BIRDS, BEES AND BLOSSOMS Story Times and Summer Fun in the Gardens**

**Children's Story Times in the Gardens presented by  
Rancho Los Alamitos and Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden  
Wednesdays in July  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

LONG BEACH, CA -- Earl Burns Miller (EBM) Japanese Garden at California State University, Long Beach and Rancho Los Alamitos (RLA) welcome children ages 5 to 9 years into the gardens to hear stories of celebration and nature. Story Times presentations will be held from 10:00 a.m. – noon at EBM Japanese Garden on July 7 and July 21 and at Rancho Los Alamitos on July 14 and July 28, 2010.

On the first Wednesday in July at Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden, children will celebrate ***Tanabata - "The Star Festival,"*** a traditional Asian tale about two constellations who were separated by the Milky Way after forgetting their celestial duties. Participants will learn to write Japanese calligraphy and their own wishes on colorful strips of paper to hang on branches of bamboo. Each child will be able to take home his branch of wishes.

Wednesday, July 14, the venue will change to Rancho Los Alamitos where children will solve the **“Mystery of the Secret Garden.”** They will be detectives in an original story written by David Lewis. Participants will watch, listen and perform in a story that unfolds as they adventure along the Rancho’s pathways and gardens. They will meet characters who will tell parts of the story that give hints and clues to finding surprises and answers to the mystery.

Wednesday, July 21, Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden will host the Story Times presentation of **“The Origami Master.”** Participants will have fun learning how to fold paper into *origami* creations from a real paper artist expert just like in the story “*The Origami Master,*” by N. Lachenmeyer. Each child will make his own *origami* bird and collect garden leaves and twigs to outfit the *origami* nest to take home. This tale teaches the true meaning of friendship.

Wednesday, July 28, Rancho Los Alamitos will host the final session of the season with **“Water, Water Everywhere” - A Splash of a Good Time!** The high seas will come alive as Balladeer Bill Dempsey presents fish tales and sea shanties. Children will make a boat to float down stream and will splash around with paint and big bubble fun. Participants should be sure to come dressed to get wet!

Children must be accompanied by an adult. The price of general admission is \$8.00 per session. Admission for the children and grandchildren of individuals who are members of the EBM Japanese Garden or Rancho Los Alamitos is \$6.00 per session. There is no fee for the adults who are accompanying children.

Please note that there is limited ticket availability and advance reservations are required. Telephone reservations are accepted when purchased with a credit card. Tickets are held at the door and are transferable, but we are unable to issue refunds.

The EBM Japanese Garden is located on the campus of CSULB on Earl Warren Drive across from Lot 16. Parking paid at Lot 16 at the Japanese Garden for participants. For directions or other information regarding the Japanese Garden call (562) 985-8420.

Rancho Los Alamitos is located at 6400 Bixby Hill Road in Long Beach. To access the Rancho, please enter through Bixby Hill residential security gate at Anaheim and Palo Verde. Parking is free at the Rancho.

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Rancho Los Alamitos is owned by the City of Long Beach and operated by Rancho Los Alamitos Foundation as a public/private cooperative venture under the auspices of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine. The site is open for tours Wednesday through Sunday from 1-5 p.m. School tours and Native American Children's Cultural Workshops are scheduled weekday mornings. Admission is free and parking is normally available on site. Enter though Bixby Hill residential security gate at Anaheim and Palo Verde. For information about the site, tours, or special events and programs, go to [www.rancholosalamitos.com](http://www.rancholosalamitos.com).

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