

READING THE WALLS

THE STRUGGLE OF THE HARADAS, A JAPANESE AMERICAN FAMILY

EVACUATED ON MAY 23, 1942 SAT. 7AM
Sleep

Under the stewardship of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum, the National Historic Landmark Harada House is among the most significant and powerful civil rights landmarks in California. This site and the story of the Harada family embody local, state, national, and international issues of civil and individual rights, democracy, immigration, assimilation, and citizenship.

Reading the Walls: The Struggle of the Haradas, a Japanese American Family tells the nearly 100 year history of one immigrant Japanese family and their quest for the American Dream. That dream was partly fulfilled when their ownership of the home, bought by family patriarch Jukichi Harada in the names of his American-born children, was contested in court in the landmark State of California vs. Jukichi Harada, et al. The Riverside County Superior Court upheld the children's ownership under the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution, essentially proclaiming that as natural-born citizens of America they had every right to own property.

Until 1941, the Haradas prospered, operating a series of restaurants and boarding houses in Riverside. Jukichi Harada and his wife Ken watched proudly as their seven children grew and worked and went to school and began families of their own. The realization of their dream was shattered in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor and the advent of World War II. With the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin Roosevelt, 120,000 Japanese Americans were dispossessed of property and stripped of their civil rights. Their story is a California story and a truly American story. It is a saga of hardship and struggle to achieve the American promise of freedom, citizenship, and a better life.



January 29, 2009 - January 3, 2010

Opening Reception
Thursday, February 5, 2009, at Arts Walk
6:00 - 9:00 pm, Free
Taiko Drum Performance by TaikoMix
Sushi Demonstration by Oishii
Ikebana (Japanese Floral Arranging)

First Sunday: Reading the Walls
Sunday, March 1, 2009
1:00 - 4:00 pm, Free
Learn how Japanese American families in Riverside lived during the time of World War II through the story of the Harada Family. First Sunday is a monthly series of family programs that feature activities for children and families.

Arts Walk: The Art of Origami
Thursday, March 5, 2009
6:00 - 9:00 pm, Free
Learn the art of Japanese paper folding and make a crane for the Paper Crane Peace Memorial Project.



RIVERSIDE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM

Nature • Culture • History

3580 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 826-5273 • www.riversideca.gov/museum

Museum Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 - 5:00 pm
Thursday 9:00 - 9:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 - 5:00 pm
Sunday 11:00 - 5:00 pm
Closed Mondays & Major Holidays

Nature Lab Hours

Tuesday - Saturday 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Gift Shop Hours

Tuesday - Saturday 11:00 - 4:30 pm
Sunday 1:00 - 4:30 pm
During Arts Walk 6:00 - 9:00 pm

