

# UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Founded by Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founding Editor/Writer  
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<http://www.uchistoricalmuseum.org>

Vol. 18 No. 3

November 2015

**Mission Statement:** *The Union City Historical Museum is a non-profit organization committed to the preservation, maintenance and protection of, and the education of the public about the architectural, cultural, natural and historical heritage resources of the City of Union City.*

**Three Components:** (1) Museum & Artifacts, (2) Oral History (3) Preservation of Historical Homes

**Board Meetings:** Museum Board meets quarterly at the Museum at 7:00pm

## UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA 94587

Announcing my new release "Union City, California  
Chronology of Events from 1770 through 2015".

This contains all the happenings in Union City from  
that date to present.

It is now available at the Union City Historical  
Museum.



**CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS - 1770-2015**  
**Union City Historical Museum**  
**By Myrla Raymundo, MBA**

## Alvarado Historic District Arts and Wine Fest: October 11, 2015

The Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association is having an Arts & Wine Festival on Sunday, October 11, 2015. The event will be from 10am - 5pm and will be held at Old Alvarado/Cesar Chavez Park. The event website is <http://www.ahdfest.org>. It'll be a fun-filled event for all: KidZone, wine, art, live music, performances, demonstrations, vintage cars and newer model cars. Come one, come all!!

### ALVARADO HISTORIC DISTRICT ARTS AND WINE FEST

OCTOBER 11TH, 2015  
10AM-5PM

OLD ALVARADO/CESAR CHAVEZ PARK  
3871 SMITH STREET, UNION CITY

#### LIVE MUSIC FROM

Native Elements  
Mas Mojo  
Herman Roque & Latin Expressions

#### FOOD TRUCKS & WINERIES

Bishop Vineyards  
Carica Wines  
Roll Revolution  
Mustache Mike's Italian Ice  
AND MORE!

#### PERFORMANCES BY

AES Ballet Folklorico  
Pagmamalaki Pilipino Folk Dance  
TruDance  
Nativ Sun  
Tehani Dance Studio  
Union City Aztec Dancers  
Dragons Den

#### FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

Face Painting  
Balloon Art  
Art Display  
Pumpkin Painting  
Paint-a-Picture  
Car Show - AND MUCH MORE!

PRESALES  
AHDFEST.ORG





# Happenings in Union City

## 11th Anniversary SISTER CITY FESTIVAL: August 30, 2015 at Mark Green Sports Center

Union City is one of the few cities with a very active Sister Cities program. Most other cities have only one sister city, but Union City has seven, namely: Pasay City, Philippines; Baybay, Philippines; Santa Rosalia, Mexico; Chiang Rai, Thailand; Jalandhar, India; Liyang, China; and Asadabad, Afghanistan.

The main activity of the Union City Friends of Sister Cities is holding the annual festival to honor and celebrate our similarities and differences. Pat D. Gacoscos is the President of the Board 2015-2016.



The attendees:



## ALVARADO BLOCK PARTY: September 12, 2015 at Old Alvarado/Cesar Chavez Park

With the objective of "Meet Your Neighbors", different groups in Union City staged a Block Party. There was a Bounce House, Classic Cars, Community Resources, Live Music and Free Food.



Truly, we all met our neighbors and had lots of fun!





Union City Library President Myrla Raymundo, in their monthly meeting at the Library. "The Friends of the Union City Library" helps in the funding of different activities in the Library.



Myrla Raymundo and some members of the California Writers Club (Fremont Branch) in their monthly meeting at DeVry University in Fremont.



Museum members are also members of St. Anne's Catholic Church. They helped the seniors of St. Anne's.

## "That Union City of Mine"

By Myrla Raymundo, MBA

Do you know that Union City now has something in common with San Francisco, New York and Chicago? We have an official song.

In 1991, Union City adopted "Oh that Union City of Mine" as the City's anthem, and they presented it to the public on the Fourth of July. The song mentions this small city and its landscape, the weather, streets, the hills, the BART station, City Hall, the pond in front of City Hall, the seasons, ethnic diversity and agriculture.

Steve King Stewart, the writer of the song, describes to his love why he has found home in Union City after so many years of "roaming around." Here's the song:

***Well I'm the kind of guy that likes to roam around some, and baby I've been around.***

***But now I'm in a town where no one's ever lonesome, and, oh, won't you look at what I've found.***

***Why there are rows and rows of gladiolas rising up to the sky, with smiles on faces from so many places. Let me show you why.***

***Meet me at the park near Union City station some day at quarter to 9. We'll walk along the boulevard and you will fall in love with that Union City of mine.***

***And we'll be together in that sunny California weather and maybe forever I'll be holding your hand in mine.***

***Come and have a look around, the people and the places. There's so much I'd like to see. Just ask anyone in town, those old familiar places are waiting for you and for me.***

## "Transportation"

Contributed by Anthony Gualco



One of the earliest modes of transportation in Washington Township was by the Alameda Creek and sloughs. The San Francisco Bay had formed many inlets along the western edge of Washington Township. The major landings included: Warm Springs Landing on the Coyote Slough, Mowry's Landing near the end of today's Mowry Avenue, Plummer's Landing southwest of Mowry's Landing, Jarvis Landing just north of Mowry's Landing, Beard's Landing on the Coyote Hills Slough and the Horner/Benson Landing (also known as Barron's Landing).

*The History of Washington Township* by the ladies of the Washington Township Country Club wrote that, "...in 1822 the Russians began to come down to the Missions from Fort Ross to trade such goods for hides and tallow, wheat and pelts of deer, bears and foxes brought into the mission by the Indians or wandering hunters. This trading continued until Fort Ross was abandoned in 1841 when it was taken up by the great traders from Europe and the far east, and

as the Russians had done, so did they anchor off what was later known as Beard's Slough and also off Mowry's Landing. The padres owned boats at both landings, capable of carrying one thousand hides, and all bartering was done on board the ships, the Indians taking the goods back on their shoulders, as they had taken their goods there for exchange. Sometimes the padres drove to the landings in a "calesa" or "volante," a crude two-wheeled cart, which they used on all their excursions. They drove six white mules, mules being much prized, and white mules were rare."

It was also known that many schooners and sloops of the San Francisco Bay carried passengers and freight to the various landings as was required. All of the landings were important to the Township but two were particularly different from the others.

The Warm Springs Landing (then known as the Harrisburg Landing) was on an inlet arm of the Coyote Slough near the Alameda-Santa Clara County Line. Just before reaching the Harrisburg Landing was a spot of land sitting in the middle of the creek, from which the waters of the slough flowed on both sides of this spot. In 1872 the State legislature named the Coyote Slough as a navigable waterway. This meant that water traffic could not be impeded in any fashion on either side of this spot of land.

When the South Pacific Coast Railroad went through Alvarado on its way to San Jose and Santa Cruz, it went directly through the land in the middle of the Coyote Slough. But water traffic could not be impeded in this waterway so the railroad was obliged to put up drawbridges at each end of the spot of land. They also had to man the drawbridges for water traffic. The railroad called this spot "Station Island" but it later became known as the town of "Drawbridge" and was accessible only by the railroad.

The place became a popular place for duck hunters. The well-to-do duck hunters from Oakland and Alameda had soon erected duck blinds and laid out duck hunting clubhouses. With the duck hunters came the hospitality businesses and because of the difficulty of reaching this place it became particularly popular as a getaway resort in the Prohibition Era of the 1920's that was outside the arm of the law.

But after Prohibition and with the continued popularity of irrigating nearby farmland, the town of Drawbridge started sinking into the mud. By the middle of the 1950's, Drawbridge was nearly deserted and a couple of holdouts lasted until the late 1970's. The elevation of drawbridge is stated as 7 feet and sinking.

Another popular point was at the Devil's Elbow on Alameda Creek. At this point of land on the Alameda Creek, large numbers of Spanish cattle were slaughtered for their hides and tallow, which were carried to San Francisco by whaleboats.

Later the padres from the Mission San Jose established an embarcadero here to trade with Yankee whalers who would come down the Alameda Creek in their long boats.

This was done before the towns of Union City or New Haven/Alvarado were founded. Later this was one of the items that first marked this area of Washington Township as a growing town. At that time there was deep water in the creek and schooners of from fifty to one-hundred tons regularly plied from the landing at Union City to other bay ports.

One of the reasons the landing on the Alameda Creek was favored was because it was fed by fresh water from the Alameda Creek Watershed, a 630+ square mile bowl behind Mission Peak. For this reason there was usually water running at a considerable depth in the creek, while the sloughs depth were totally dependent on tidal action from the Bay.

Farley Granger Sr., longtime Alvarado resident, recalled seeing large steamers and ships that once came up to Union City in the 1850's. He recalls having seen them lying at the landing loading grain and unloading all sorts of merchandise.

John Horner's steamer the "Union" ran a regular schedule from September 1851 to October 1854 before the ship was seized by the San Francisco Sheriff to settle a debt in October 1854. Thereafter it continued to come to Union City for a few months under new management but was then rerouted to Alviso in Santa Clara County. By the end of 1855 the "Union" had disappeared from view.

At the end of 1853 the "Union" had competition from the steamer "San Jose," which ran a regular route between San Francisco and Union City. But this route did not appear to last into 1854.

In September 1855 the "E. Corning," another steamer, took over the "Union's" route and continued to regularly ply between Union City and San Francisco until the end of 1855.



After this, regularly scheduled routes to Union City/Alvarado seemed to end. However in 1870 the Union City route was again active when the steamer "Rosa" of the Alvarado Sugar Mill regularly plied Alameda Creek laden with refined sugar. A drawbridge stood at the entrance into Alvarado as the Alameda Creek then came down as far south as Maiden Lane in the early days. The drawbridge was used to allow the "Rosa" to pass through Alvarado on its way to Union City and the Bay. In 1873 the Rosa's trips ended when the Alvarado Sugar Mill folded.

It was reported that in 1872 a steamer, provided with passenger accommodations, had been put in service between S.F. and Alvarado. But it was only mentioned in this one article and no further evidence of its existence could be found.

Throughout this period there was also much activity in the non-scheduled freight and passenger business between S.F. and Union City. The landing at Union City regularly had boats loaded with grain and produce on various boats for delivery to San Francisco as well as boats that brought in supplies like lumber and various mercantile items.

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**2015 - 2016**  
**Museum Meetings**  
**Mondays 7:00pm at the Museum**

**July 6, 2015 (Induction of Officers/Directors)**  
**October 5, 2015 • January 4, 2016 • April 4, 2016**  
**June 6, 2016 (Election of Officers/Directors)**

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## President's Message



**Dom Filardo**

It is hard to believe how time flies so fast especially if you are really busy on work and activities.

This is our second quarterly meeting for this year and I am pleased to report some excellent achievement that was accomplished by the Museum these past months. As most of you know, the casino fundraising trip has been a great success. The yard sale during Saturday morning has been producing some income for the Museum expenses. Some other fundraising activities initiated by some officers are currently underway. Donations from other establishments are also upcoming. The Museum really welcomes the financial support and generosity from everyone since we are a self-funding non-profit organization.



11th Annual Union City Sister City Festival with guest speaker his Excellency Consul General Henry Bensurto of the Philippines.

The Union City Historical Museum would like to thank each and everyone who has shared their continued support and confidence in our undertaking and services as we look forward to serving you in the future.

Last August 30th, yours truly together with our CEO, Mrs. Myrla Raymundo and some members of the Board of Directors, attended the 11th Annual Union City Sister City Festival. It was held at Mark Green Sports Center here in Union City. It was a very colorful event and very well attended. Participating countries were the Philippines (with 2 cities), Mexico, Thailand, India, China and Afghanistan. Attendees included the Mayor, all the council members, City Managers, Department Managers and their staffs, guests from the various representing countries and the Union City community. The guest speaker was his Excellency Consul General Henry Bensurto of the Philippines.

The next Museum meeting will be on October 5th. Best wishes for a Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving!

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**Myrla Raymundo, MBA**  
**Founder/Chief Executive Officer**

## Founder's Notes

**"UNION CITY THROUGH THE YEARS": By Myrla Raymundo, MBA**

I had written a careful and detailed accounting of the very first beginnings of the community known as Union City. I had described the significant people, industries, events and places that made up the culture of Union City. People such as Ezra Decoto, E.H. Dyer, John M. Horne, and Henry Smith all belong to the heritage that can be seen in Union City today. I believe that every resident, especially the young people, should be exposed to the rich history of his or her community.

Also included in the book are the recent happenings and development in

the city of Union city, such as the Union Landing, the commercial and business establishments, the big and beautiful homes and the people that now comprise Union City.

The book is available at the Union City Historical Museum.

**"UNION CITY ORAL HISTORY": By Myrla Raymundo, MBA**

I had written another book, which tells about the lives of the people in Union City.

A lot of people have changed Union City in many ways. They were the first people in Union City, the pioneers, the residents, the builders, and the business people.

This book tells about the early people who came to Union City. This book also tells stories of the people who are continuously forming the course of history in our city.

This book yields a bounty of information on these people whose lives are chronicled on these pages. They are the people who inspired us with their words, their deeds and their sheer guts. By writing their life stories, I hoped to discover how they overcame obstacles, how they conquered their fears, and how they accomplished what they did.

Their biographies are more than just list of facts. They are a window into their personal characters.

This book is also available at the Union City Historical Museum.

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## THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Estrella Orbita-Mish  
Vannesa Suntay

### MUSEUM LIFETIME MEMBERS

Phil & Leila Verzola  
John & Cathy Tester  
Eva Kamakea  
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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founder/CEO**

**Officers: July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016**

Dom Filardo, President      Adrienne Realiza, Secretary  
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Carlen Gregorio      Anthony Pabros  
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