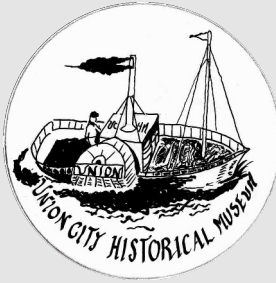


UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Founded by Myrla Raymundo, MBA • Founding Editor/Writer • raymundomyrla@gmail.com

3841 Smith Street, Union City, CA 94587 • Telephone: (510) 378-6376



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.*

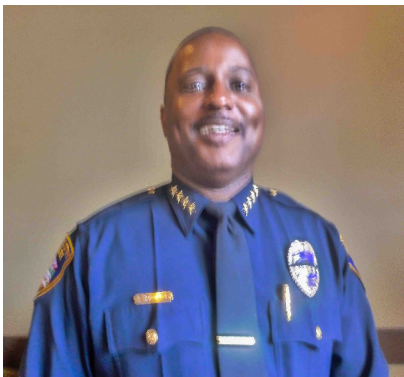
Three Components: (1) Museum & Artifacts; (2) Oral History; (3) Preservation of Historical Homes.

Museum Board meets quarterly at the Museum at 7:00pm.

Visit us at <http://www.unioncityhistoricalmuseum.org>
Dennis Jeffrey, PhD, Webmaster.

Vol. 18 No. 5 • February / March 2016

UNION CITY POLICE CHIEF RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NAACP AWARD



Union City Police Chief Darryl McAllister was the recipient of the prestigious South Alameda County NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) as its *2015 Person of the Year* last November 6, 2015 at the Marriott Fremont Silicon Valley. The award, which is in its 37th year, recognizes individuals who have strengthened their communities through justice, trust, and collaboration.

The South Alameda County NAACP has selected Chief McAllister for this prestigious award because of his profound impact on the Southern Alameda County community over the course of his 34-year career in law enforcement.

Congratulations Chief McAllister and more power to you!

ALVARADO MIDDLE SCHOOL RENAMED IN HONOR OF FIL-AM LABOR LEADERS

On December 18, 2015, Alvarado Middle School (in the Alvarado District) was renamed ***Itliong-Vera Cruz Middle School*** in honor of Fil-Am labor leaders. This is a historical moment for Filipino-Americans in the United States.

Johnny Itliong, son of Larry Itliong, said, "We're very honored. We're also honored to have Philip Vera Cruz's name alongside Larry's even though they didn't see eye to eye on many occasions. But they both stood up for the rights of people, first and foremost of their Filipino brothers and sisters, the manongs, and then for all others."

Itliong and Vera Cruz were key leaders who helped organize the United Farm Workers Union in the 1960's and led Filipino farm workers who were the first to walk out in the Delano Grape Strike on September 8, 1965.

15 YEARS OF SAVING HISTORY



A commemorative reception honored 15 years of saving history in the Union City Historical Museum last February 20, 2016. Assembly Member Bill Quirk and some of the Union City and Fremont Officials attended the occasion as the Museum celebrated the preservation and promotion of the heritage and culture of Union City.

Established February 23, 2001, the Union City Historical Museum strived to maintain a presentation of city artifacts and historical documents, record oral histories from local community members, encourage the preservation of historical homes and buildings, and serve to educate the community about their rich history and leave a legacy for future generations.

The public helped mark their 15 year milestone and enjoyed finger foods and drinks, speeches, and a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Walk into Union City History."

HAPPENINGS IN UNION CITY

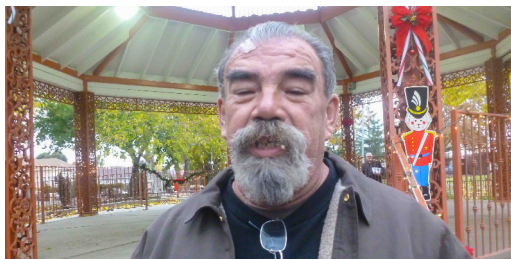
Christmas Tree Lighting at Alvarado Historic District: December 5, 2015, presented by the Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association.



These residents are Union City old timers.

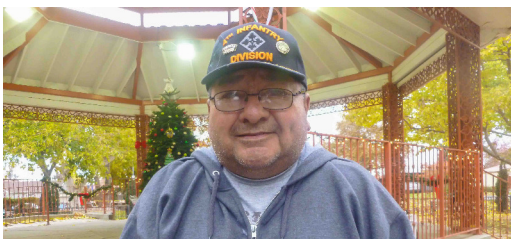


Lance and Tina Nishihara



Paul Uribe

Erika's birthday celebration at the Museum. Erika is a Logan High School Volunteer.



Andrew Bueno



Museum Christmas Party: December 14, 2015.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Dennis Jeffrey, PhD

The Union City Historical Museum is proud to introduce Dennis Jeffrey as one of the members of the Museum Board of Directors and the Museum Newsletter Editorial Assistant. He is also the Museum's Webmaster.

Dennis Jeffrey first saw light in 1981 in the beautiful city of Detroit, Michigan. His family moved to Arizona when he was still very young. He became interested in computers and programming at an early age and chose

to study Computer Science in college. He graduated from the University of Arizona with a Master's in Computer Science in 2005. In 2009, he graduated from the University of California, Riverside, with a PhD in Computer Science.

Dennis moved to Mountain View, California in November 2009 to join Google as a software engineer. In 2012, he married his wife, Smruti, whom he had previously met at UC Riverside. In December 2013, he moved with his wife to their current home in Union City, California.

Besides the software engineering work he does at Google, in his free time, Dennis writes and edits a monthly newsletter for his family, and has been helping the Union City Historical Museum since July 2015.

**THANK YOU
BRIAN GOLDSTEIN**



Brian Goldstein, a Museum volunteer, is the creator of the Museum Logo. As an artist, he also presented us with a painting of the gladiola flowers, the Union City's national flower.

UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA 94587

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS: 1900-1959

1900 - Decoto Volunteer Fire Department founded.

1902 - Alvarado Bank founded by I.V. Ralph. Washington Township's first bank was established at Alvarado with a capital of \$25,000. I.V. Ralph was president, F.B. Granger, vice-president and F.P. Hellwig, treasurer.

1905 - Alvarado Fire Department founded.

1906 - Alvarado Volunteer Fire Department founded.

1906 - Before the Nimitz freeway was built, Alvarado Blvd. and Union City Blvd. were part of Highway 17.

1907 - Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church founded.

1909 - WP Rail Line built in Decoto to BART.

1910 - Decoto population reached 950. Decoto Branch Library opened. Decoto Chamber of Commerce formed. Decoto Station built, moved to San Jose in 1922.

1912 - Henry May was elected President of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce in September.

1920s - Betting parlors, saloons and prostitution houses flourished in Alvarado. By 1930, "Little Tijuana", where Old Alvarado/Cesar Chavez Park is now, burned down.

1924 - New Alvarado School built with 13 classrooms.

1925 - New Decoto School built. Decoto volunteer fire department formed. The Decoto Fire District was formed as a special district with the purpose of providing fire service to a major portion of the land, which is now part of Union City. It was somewhere in 1977 or 1978 that the Decoto Fire District was transferred to Union City.

1925 - Holly Sugar Corporation purchased Alvarado Sugar Company.

1929 - Alvarado Pioneer Newspaper founded.

1930 - Marlo Cannery founded in Decoto.

1932 (September 24) - The Sociada Hispana De Decoto was founded. This club was formed to help raise money during the Depression to help Spanish families pay funeral expenses.

1936 - Mary Janeiro George was appointed Decoto Postmaster.

1937 - Pacific States Steel founded in Decoto. The New Holly Sugar Factory completed. The company operated until 1967.

1937 - Salz Brothers warehouse in Decoto.

1938 - The Decoto Discussion Group was organized for library study at the Decoto branch of the Alameda County Library and had met monthly for 22 years. The group's objective was to bring the women of the community closer together and broaden their lives intellectually and socially.

1945 - The first Chinese farmer, Wah Sing Cheng, purchased land in Union City to farm.

1946 - World War II Memorial dedicated.

1949 - Elva Mae Rose Borghi was the Alameda County Fair Queen.

1950 - American Pipe Company founded (now known as U.S. Pipe).

1951 (August 24) - The United Airlines flight No. 615, enroute to Oakland from the East Coast, crashed above the hills near what was called Decoto, where all 44 passengers and six crewmembers were killed.

1952 (May 27) - Dr. Harold Schoenfeld was appointed superintendent of the Decoto Elementary School District.

1953 - City of Newark incorporated. Newspaper "Decoto Messenger" started. First Edition 9-03-53.

1956 - City of Fremont incorporated.

1957 - Interstate 880 opened.

1958 - Alvarado population reached 1500.

1958 - Decoto population reached 3500.

1958 - Alvarado and Decoto Citizens Committee formed. It included Tom Kitayama, John Ratekin, Oscar Dowe, Kenneth Garcia, Elvin Rose and others. Committee petitioned for incorporation to keep Hayward from annexing Decoto and Alvarado.

1959 (January 15) - Union City voted to incorporate (837-220 vote). Union City population reached 6,000. City area covered 9 square miles.

1959 (January 26) - The City of Union City council duties began in the Alvarado Fire Department building, now the Union City Historical Museum: Joseph Seane Jr., Joseph Lewis, Tom Kitayama, John Ratekin and Oscar Dowe. "Shorty" Garcia chosen as City Treasurer. Population Count: 6,143.

1959 (January 29) - Tom Kitayama was unanimously elected mayor of Union City by the City Council. Union City operated under a "Council-Manager" form of govt.

1959 (May 26) - The City of Union City hired first Fire Chief, Kenneth Garcia.

1959 (May) - M. Deane Seeger first city manager; Jim Garcia chosen city attorney.

1959 (July 30) - The first City of Union City budget approved at \$300,013.00.

1959 (August 27) - Union City's Council vetoed site of California's attempt to put State College in Union City. College ended up in Hayward.

1959 (September 22) - City of Union City leased first City Hall at 309 H Street. The first Police Department was on H Street and Decoto Road and then moved to Whipple and Central Ave. On April 21, 1979, they moved to the new location in the Civic Center at Alvarado-Niles Road. In July 2000, Chief Randy Ulibarri was sworn in as the new Police Chief.

1959 - The Fire Protection Districts of Alvarado and Decoto merged and became an integral part of the Emergency Services for the City of Union City. Under the direction of Chief Kenneth Garcia, the Fire Department expanded and the new fire station in the central district became a reality.

1959 (October 22) - The local newspaper Union City Leader first edition came out. Dick Folger was the publisher.

1959 (November) - Decoto and Alvarado post office opened. Mary George postmaster.

1959 - The Washington High School Board of Trustees named the new high school in Union City *James Logan High School*, after James Logan, the long-time rancher of Alvarado and Decoto.

1959 - Frank Borghi, Jr., a trustee of the Washington Union High School District and the New Haven Unified School District and director of the Alameda County water district for 32 years, was the Chairman of the Steering Body of the Union City Incorporation Committee in 1959.

The Alvarado Flood of 1854

Contributed by Anthony Gualco



This article was written under the byline "N.H." N.H. wrote in the local newspapers in the late 1880's and early 1890's and he wrote some of the best articles on early Alvarado that exist today. Because of the knowledge he displayed in his writings of Alvarado (which encompassed the County Seat years) I believe him to be Mr. Noble Hamilton, a San Francisco lawyer who had an Alvarado office in 1853 to 1856. This will be the first of several articles written by this gentleman.

"The year 1852 was a heavy winter filling the ground with water, so that in the winter of 1854, which was very much such a winter as the present, when it rained almost incessantly for about four days and nights, the ground being full of water from the previous years and the streams overflowing their banks, the whole earth seemed to be covered with water and travel except in boats or by swimming was almost impossible between Alvarado and Centerville from the overflow of the Alameda Creek.

The entire country south of the road extending to Beard's Landing and the Bay was one vast sea of water as also north of the road to the Alameda Creek was completely cut off from the surrounding country and the only outlet was to San Francisco Bay by Schooners and a little steamer owned by John M. Horner.

The water came down the Niles canyon with such force as it tore up and bore upon the plains large trees, generally of sycamore. The place where the town of Niles now is, which at that time consisted of an old adobe mill and a few small homes, was covered with water so that the inhabitants had to flee to the mountains back of the town.

One man being a little too slow, or concluding to take chances on the flood in the night was compelled, in order to save his life, to climb up into a large sycamore tree and roost there until the water abated. He nearly perished with cold.

It was months after the waters subsided before there was any traveling upon what had been called roads, they nearly disappeared, and travelers had to hunt hard ground by turning into fields, breaking down fences and such like.

Charles McLaughlin ran a stage line from Oakland to San Jose. He had a contract for carrying the mail, but it was a long time after waters subsided before he could run a coach, and for a time the mails were carried upon horseback and sometimes on foot with man and horse floundering through the mud, sometimes swimming from one hard piece of land to another, and the time of the arrival of the mail was less certain than the raising of the blockade in the Sierras snow."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

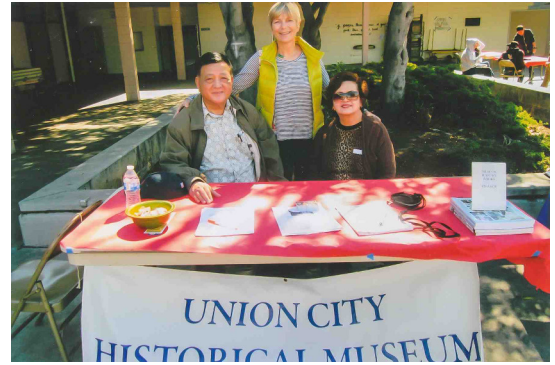


Dom Filardo

The holidays are over and the New Year went by that quick. How time flies so fast especially if you are busy and occupied on many things. I hope everyone had a wonderful time during the holidays.

This year starting January and in particular February was a month of high point with the Museum. We will be in full swing again despite this cold and super-chilly weather.

The Union City Historical Museum celebrated its 15th Year Anniversary with a commemorative reception last February 20th 2016. Everyone enjoyed the celebration and the open house. They learned all about the history of Union City and saw the many historical facts and collections in the museum.



Dom and Bess Filardo at the Union City Historical Museum booth during the Logan High School job fair. Shown with the high school guidance counselor.

FOUNDER'S NOTES



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

Lately, there are so many good-hearted individuals who are assisting in the works in the Museum.

The Museum volunteers helped in the many tasks in the Museum.

They take care of the Museum visitors by giving them Historical Tours of our City.

They work on the collection and filing of historical documents and newspaper clippings.

They help in the computer work and other clerical work.

They assist in the Museum fundraising, such as Garage Sales and Book Sales, thus helping in the operation of the Museum.

We are all trying to improve the Museum. All of you can help. Call us and tell us how you can help. The Museum is ours and we want to make it better.

**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)**

Invitation to Visit the Museum's Website



Here's an invitation to all of you good readers to visit our website:
www.unioncityhistoricalmuseum.org

This website is an introduction to the content and capabilities of the Union City Historical Museum and a welcome invitation for you to visit the Museum.

THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founder/CEO

Officers: July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Dom Filardo, President

Allen Cecil, Vice-President

Adrienne Realiza, Secretary

Fely Garcia, Treasurer

Directors:

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2017

Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo

Carlen Gregorio

Dennis Jeffrey

Rey Mendiola

Anthony Lorenzo

Anthony Pabros

Hugh McNamara

Oliver Olano

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2016

Sarabjit Cheema

Grace Olano

Noel Panlilio

EDITORIAL BOARD

Myrla Raymundo, MBA

Dennis Jeffrey, PhD

Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo

MUSEUM LIFETIME MEMBERS

Phil & Leila Verzola

John & Cathy Tester

Eva Kamakea

Mike dela Cruz

Ligfinio (Ray) & Myrla Raymundo

Gina Lewis

Reiner & Sheryl Glausch

Al & Marsha Badella

Barbara Scheifler

William & Dorothy Pearce Hubbard

Robert & Leslie Swartz

Steve Miller & Diane LaMountaine

Fernando & Helen Cabiles

Allen & Simona Cecil

Frank, Jr. & Elvamae Borghi

Mrs. Angelo dela Cruz

Marcos Jr. & Tessie Gatan

Joey & Vilma Golaw

James Celcer

Sarabjit Kaur Cheema

Emily Duncan

Richard & Barbara Aro Valle

Kathy Logan

Manuel & Lita Abad

Elmer & Vicky Guzman

Alice Robie

Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association

Dennis Jeffrey & Smruti Parichha

Adrian Swartz