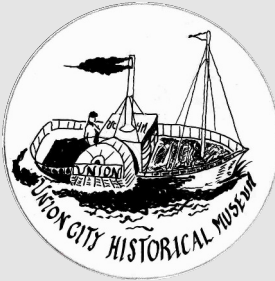


UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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.

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

Visit Us Online:

<http://www.unioncityhistoricalmuseum.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/UCMuseum>

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INSTALLATION OF MUSEUM OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS



Union City Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci conducted the Installation of Officers/Directors of the Union City Historical Museum for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 last July 11, 2016. Congratulations to the new slate of Officers/Directors headed by President Dennis Jeffrey, PhD.



The reception prepared by Hugh and Josephine McNamara.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dennis Jeffrey, PhD

As we dive into the first quarter of this new fiscal year at the Museum, I remain excited about the present and future of the Museum in our community. Just this morning when I dropped by the Museum on a sunny Saturday, it was wonderful to see so many active and excited volunteers buzzing around the Museum helping with various activities to keep the Museum going strong. As always, Myrla was there skillfully directing all the activities of the volunteers and helping to foster an environment of fun and joy among all the people there.

Our mission at the Union City Historical Museum is to preserve, maintain, and protect the history of our City, as well as to educate the community about it. But even more generally, I look to the Museum as a vital resource that brings significant benefit to our community -- we just choose to do that *through the history of our City*. And we're extremely fortunate to have a really diverse set of volunteers who have in one way or another been inspired by the Museum's mission and have taken action to help.

During this next year, there are 2 main areas of focus on which I feel we as a community can work together to help make the Museum even more successful.

First, I believe **we need a plan to ensure the Museum can continue to operate for many years to come**. The Museum is a strong entity, no doubt. But I believe its existence may also be fragile in that it's largely driven by the extraordinary passion of a relatively small group of folks. How can we make sure the Museum can continue going strong 1 year from now? 5 years from now? 20 years from now?

Second, I believe **there's much we can do to significantly increase the positive influence that the Museum brings to our community**. I can feel the positive influence of the Museum every time I stop by when I see the excitement of the volunteers, witness the smiling faces of visitors as they are taken on tours of the Museum, and hear about elementary school students who visit the Museum on field trips to learn about Union City's history. That said, I feel we have a huge opportunity here to do even better, and we should work on this. Indeed, what I really hope we can achieve together here is a much more effective *virtuous circle*, in which the Museum can more effectively invest in our community, and our community in turn will come back in even greater force and -- like what our current volunteers are already doing -- invest back into the Museum.

If you've never been to the Museum, definitely come visit as soon as you can. Even if you've already visited in the past, come back and visit again. Chat with Myrla or one of our volunteers for awhile. Get inspired. Take action. And help make Union City and our community a better place. You're always welcome here. We'll see you at the Museum!

ADOBO FESTIVAL

The annual *Adobo Festival* (Celebrating Filipino Food and Music), presented by JSCamins Productions, was held last June 18-19, 2016 at Kennedy Park in Union City. Special guest was Jessica Sanchez, American Idol Season Finalist.



PURE JUICE & SMOOTHIE LOUNGE

Derrell Platt-Blackburn announces the opening of the *Pure Juice & Smoothie Lounge* located on Smith Street. Please come and enjoy the different delicious juices and smoothies.



Police Chief McAllister, Myrla Raymundo and Derrell Platt-Blackburn.

ALVARADO SCHOOL STUDENTS WALK INTO UNION CITY HISTORY

The annual Walk Into Union City History event for 4th graders was held last June 2, 2016. Teacher Mr. Partridge brought around 200 4th graders to the Union City Historical Museum. Myrla Raymundo, Founder/CEO, gave the students the Union City Historical Tour in the Museum and showed them a PowerPoint presentation on the history of Union City. The students then had a picnic at the nearby Alvarado Park.





Rita McBride, a retired *Alvarado Elementary School* (AES) teacher, shows her work of art (an AES quilt). The quilt is made from a collection of her T-shirts through the years. A *Logan High School* student, Maria, helps her in the display.

From 1970, Rita taught at *El Rancho Verde School*, *Searles Elementary School* and *Alvarado Elementary School* and retired in 1974. She lives in Fremont and now enjoys square dancing and golf.

Logan High School Students Manning the Museum Book Sale



NATIVE AMERICAN DESCENDANTS

For so many years, this Editor had been waiting for descendants of the very first people in Union City, the Native American Indians, to come to the Museum and announce, "Hi there, I am a descendant of the very first people in this City." When that happens, this Editor will quickly grab her writing pad/pen and interview them.

Well, after fifteen years of waiting, a great thing happened. Two people, one a *Logan High School* student and the other a *Project 22* volunteer, came to the Museum for volunteer work. They are descendants of the Native American Indians.

As I had mentioned, the "Speedy Gonzales" grabbed her notebook and pen and started interviewing them. Here goes:

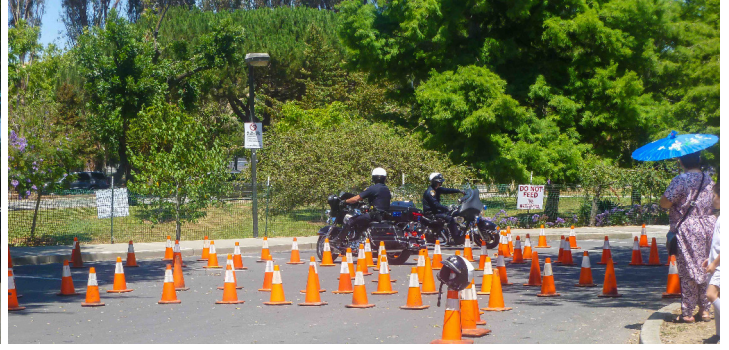


Roberta Moniz Chew was born in Oakland and now lives in Union City. Their Indian tribe is *Amah Mutsun*. Her whole family was active in the tribe. They meet and do their tribal songs and dances.



Jose Gonzales was born in Santa Rosa, California and now lives in Union City. Their Indian tribe is *Yurok*. His father Ricardo Gonzales is Mexican and his mother Christian Hill is Native American Indian. Their tribe meets and does their dances and songs.

UNION CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT 50TH ANNIVERSARY JULY 2, 2016 AT THE WILLIAM CANN CIVIC CENTER PARK



Filipinos in Alvarado

Contributed by Anthony Gualco



The story of Filipino Independence is fragmented with war and conquest among the disparate ethnicities in the island nation archipelago. The first to come were the Spanish who brought their religion and their architecture to the nation in the 1500s and ruled with an iron fist. In 1898, Spain ceded the islands to the U.S. in the Treaty of Paris as a result of the Spanish American War. In 1935 the Philippine Islands were granted Commonwealth status by the U.S. with the aim of eventual independence for the Islands. But this was interrupted by World War II and the overrunning of the Islands by Japanese military forces.

During the war to liberate the Philippines from Japanese occupation, Filipino nationals fought bravely alongside the American boys in the effort to free the Islands. The final effort to push the Japanese from the Islands, which was led by General Douglas MacArthur, was followed closely by people in the states. The American people admired MacArthur and the Filipinos who fought bravely with him.

Just two days prior to Pearl Harbor, the Luneta Social Club of Alvarado was formed and applied to the Secretary of State for articles of incorporation as a non-profit sharing, non-stock organization. Named as directors (all from Alvarado) were: Mac Armenio, Romaldo Cabales, Pedro Gonzales, Luciano Bernardo, Felix Diangson, Alfred Siason, Joe Tobang, Pacifico Timiman, Dissdao Cawaling, Alvino Manilary, Librado Tobang and Pacifico Yerro. The society was formed "to promote the general welfare of members of the Filipino race through education, economics and athletics; and to further Justice in cooperation with organizations local to the town of Alvarado."

The Filipino community in Washington Township at this time was fewer than 90 persons, 53 of which lived in the town of Alvarado. Their accomplishments in Alvarado during the war far outweighed their numbers. The Filipino community in Alvarado, led by Felix and Domenica Diangson, worked alongside Alvarado citizens in raising money for War Bonds and the War Chest Drive.

That the small town of Alvarado would become the center of Filipino activity in Alameda County is quite remarkable. What is equally as remarkable is the enthusiasm the citizens and merchants of Alvarado showed in their willingness to share their Independence Day celebration with the Filipinos of Alameda and Contra Costa County who had chosen to celebrate their freedom from the Japanese occupation on July 4, 1946 in Alvarado. Here is that story:

I found that three persons were active in the Eden-Washington Township area during the war years that were concerned with the Filipino well being. One was Frank Bolima, Mt. Eden farmer, who was president of the NE Alameda & Contra Costa Counties Filipino Association. Frank was not only a member of the association but he also looked out for the welfare of local Filipino residents.

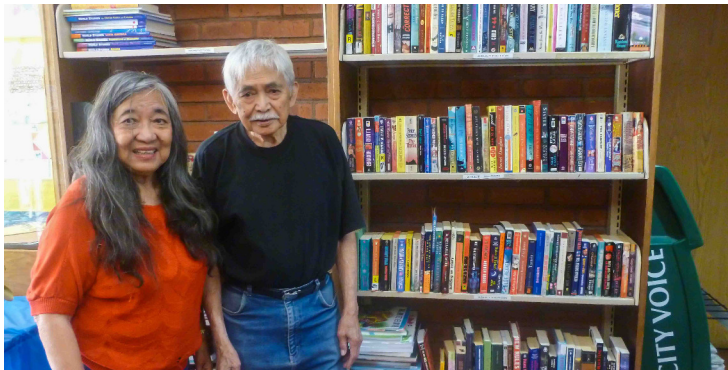
Another person, also from Mt. Eden, was Alex Biete who was also concerned with Filipino welfare during the war. As early as October 1941, Alex had received permission from the Board of Supervisors to hold dances at the I.D.E.S. Hall in Alvarado.

The third was Felix & Domenica Diangson from Alvarado, who were members of the NE Alameda & Contra Costa Counties Filipino Association and probably had a profound influence on bringing the celebration to Alvarado.

But it was still a pleasant surprise to the people of Alvarado that the Filipino Association had chosen Alvarado to hold their Fourth of July celebration day with the citizens of Alvarado.

In the next newsletter I will share the events that led to planning and execution of the U.S./Filipino joint Independence Day celebration in Alvarado on July 4, 1946.

UNION CITY LIBRARY



Myrla Raymundo, President of the *Friends of the Union City Library*, is inviting the community to visit the Union City Library. We are selling books at the Union City Library lobby. Please come and buy the books. Proceeds will help the different Library activities.

UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA 94587

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS: 1970-1977

1970 - Town & Country Shopping Center opened on Whipple Rd.

1970 - Opposition grew to \$8.5 million school bond because of housing issue.

1970 - Bond failed to draw 50% of support.

1970 - City Manager Job Geoghegan resigned.

1970 - City Clerk Bill Newton named temporary replacement.

1970 - 5-way race began for two (2) council seats.

1970 - Leo Alvelais re-elected, Don Miller won seat.

1970 - Kitayama failed after 11 years on council.

1970 - Council appointed Kitayama and Marshall Stone to Planning Commission, removed Dan Lopes.

1970 - Federal judge rejected SASSO appeal, but they threaten bringing the referendum before Supreme Court.

1970 - Sharon Rosal was chosen Maid of Union City.

1970 - Logan students marched on Pacific States Steel, which then installed \$2 million bag machine ending pollution.

1970 - Second school bond, this one for \$5.1 million: Jr. High received majority, but not by 2/3 vote.

1970 - In temporary suspension, Bank of America opened Union City Office.

1970 - Bill Newton resigned City Manager post; to be replaced by William Zaner.

1971 - Kennedy Community Center was built.

1971 (July 13) - The Union City Women's Club started on July 13, 1971, with Mrs. James Gallagher as the President. The club operated from 1971 through 1992.

1972 - Union City BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) opened.

1974 - Tom Kitayama was elected Mayor in Union City's first direct mayoral election.

1974 - City Bus Service "The Flea" started.

1974 - Police Chief William Cann was shot and killed.

1974 - Centro de Servicios, headed by Jaime Jaramillo as Executive Director and serving the Latino population, was established in Decoto.

1974 - The Union City Teen Workshop was established.

1974 - Rev. David Joe Brown, Sr. was the pastor of the Brown Temple, which started in 1974. His son, Rev. Jerome Brown, Jr., followed in his footsteps.

1976 - Guy Emmanuelle was hired as the New Haven Unified School District Superintendent.

1976 - Union City's Civic Center was built.

1977 - The Holly Sugar Mill smokestack was demolished.

1977 - Pacific States Steel closed.

1977 - The Decoto Fire District (formed in 1925 as a special district with the purpose of providing fire service to a major portion of the land) was transferred to what is now part of Union City and approximately 2,700 acres of hill land east of Mission Boulevard. Since that time, incorporation of the city and various annexations by both Union City and Hayward has reduced the area of the District to 1,766 acres.

FOUNDER'S NOTES



Myrla Raymundo, MBA
Founder/Chief Executive Officer

I welcome the new officers and directors to the Union City Historical Museum Board. I am very sure they will be the movers and shakers and who will work on improvements to the Museum and take action on their plans for the year.

As we begin our new term, we are facing many challenges. How can we get funding for the Museum? How can we better present our community with more exciting Museum displays? How can we attract more people to visit the Museum? How can we increase our membership?

I enjoined the new Board of Directors to think of ways to help our Museum survive the coming year and all the years to come.

Let us all keep up the good work.

THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founder/CEO

Officers: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Dennis Jeffrey, President
Anthony Lorenzo, Vice-President
Mariza Dyziong, Secretary
Carlen Gregorio, Treasurer

Directors:

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2018

Dom Filardo
Fely Garcia
Sarabjit Cheema
Lagrimas Bundang
Ed Roldan
Angel Villorente

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2017

Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo
Rey Mendiola
Anthony Pabros
Hugh McNamara
Oliver Olano

EDITORIAL BOARD

Myrla Raymundo, MBA
Dennis Jeffrey, PhD
Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Roberta Moniz Chew
Gurmeet L. Sidhu
Michelle Mo, O.D.

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
Ann Bess Chanco
Ed Roldan
Evelyn Abellera