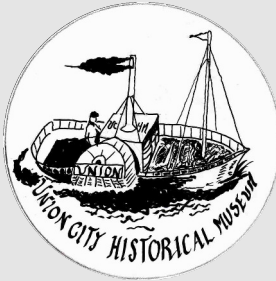


UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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:

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Vol. 19 No. 3 • October / November 2016

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS OF THE ALVARADO HISTORIC DISTRICT MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION (AHDMA)



The Honorable Union City Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci performed the *Installation of Officers Ceremony* of the *Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association (AHDMA)* last August 11, 2016. The Officers are: Derrell Blackburn, President; Sarah Lantimo, Vice-President; Jeanelle Singh, Treasurer; Teresa Serrano, Secretary; and Directors Lu Tipping, Myrla Raymundo and Adrienne Realiza.

From left to right: Lu Tipping, Director; Myrla Raymundo, Director; Teresa Serrano, Secretary; Jeanelle Singh, Treasurer; Derrell Blackburn, President; Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci.

CONGRATULATIONS ROBERT SWARTZ



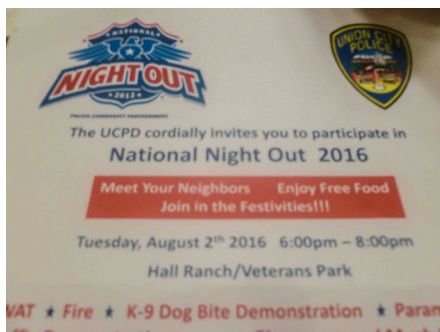
Robert Swartz, former director of the *Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association (AHDMA)*, was recognized last August 11, 2016 with a *Certificate of Appreciation* for his tireless efforts with the organization.

From left to right: Teresa Serrano, Myrla Raymundo, Derrell Blackburn, Robert Swartz, Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci, Lu Tipping, Jeanelle Singh.

HAPPENINGS IN UNION CITY

National Night Out 2016 was held last August 2, 2016 at the Hall Ranch/Veterans Park.

Tom Cebulski was the Block Captain.





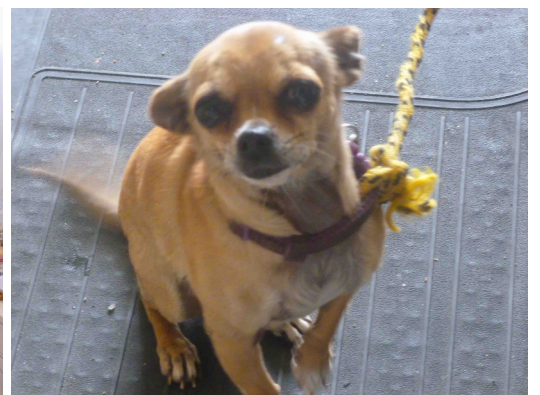
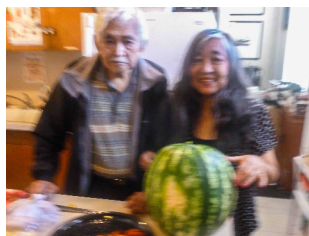
The St. Anne's Filipino Senior Association celebrated the birthday girls and boys at the monthly meeting on August 8, 2016.



The retired organization, St. Anne's Filipino Group, had a reunion last July.



The big watermelon is a product from the Museum backyard. We have tomatoes too. Shown in the pictures are the Museum Landscaper, Ed Roldan, and the tasters Ray and Myrta Raymundo. Sweet Pea likes it too.



SISTER CITY FESTIVAL

The 12th Anniversary of the *Sister City Festival* was held last August 21, 2016 at the Mark Green Sports Center in Union City. Our Sister Cities are: Santa Rosalia, Mexico; Pasay City, Philippines; Jalandhar, India; Chiang Rai, Thailand; Liyang, China; Asadabad, Afghanistan; and Baybay, Philippines.

Union City Councilmember Pat Gacoscos is President of Sister Cities.



FILIPINOS IN ALVARADO

Contributed by Anthony Gualco



The decision to celebrate a Filipino Independence Day on July 4, 1946, the same day as the American Independence Day, was made among the people of the Northeastern Alameda County and Contra Costa County Filipino Community. The Filipinos were celebrating their independence from the Japanese yoke and they chose July 4th to celebrate in the United States for its help in freeing the Filipino populace from Japanese tyranny.

In early June 1946, Frank Bolima of Mt. Eden, Frank Macahilas and Dalmecio Carrillo of Alvarado appeared before the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce asking that the Filipino community of Northeastern Alameda County and Contra Costa County be allowed to join with the town of Alvarado to celebrate a joint Independence Day celebration.

The Alvarado Chamber of Commerce realized the importance of cooperating with our Filipino friends and immediately set up a Chamber committee to cooperate in every way. The committee suggested that the streets in town be decorated for the event and that a parade be organized for the joint celebration. It was also suggested that a big program be planned for the afternoon including an appearance by the Mayor of Hayward, to be followed by a dance to be held at the S.D.E.S Hall on Watkins Street that evening.

Besides the prestige of hosting the Filipino's Independence Day celebration, the citizens of Alvarado also wanted to show their appreciation for the work the Filipinos did in fighting alongside our boys in the Islands, and also for the appreciation of what Filipino-Americans did on the home front in the East Bay in raising food in the fields, buying War Bonds and helping the Red Cross.

The Chamber of Commerce raised \$225 for street decorations for Alvarado. Although this figure sounds somewhat paltry today, you must remember that in 1946 you could buy a new home for \$5,200 or a new Chevy for \$1,200 (with a radio and a heater!).

As the Fourth of July drew closer and closer, the program for the joint celebration grew larger and larger. The next installment of this story will be the July 4th celebration at Alvarado in 1946!

UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA 94587 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS: 1978-1997

1978 - (March) Kitayama won the mayor's election.

1978 - (April) The annual golf tournament and dinner sponsored by the Union City Chamber of Commerce was held at the Sunol Valley Golf Course.

1983 - (June) Union City's *Holiday Inn*, a 180-room facility at Highway 17 and Alvarado-Niles Road, opened.

1983 - (June) A new community center and fire station complex was built at Alvarado Blvd. and New Haven Road. It is called the *Holly Community Center and Fire Station*.

1983 - (June) City of Union City Mayor Tom Kitayama's son was killed in a hang-gliding accident when his glides went out of control.



**By Myrla Raymundo, MBA
Founder/CEO
Union City Historical Museum**

1984 - Holly Community Center was built.

1984 - The Alvarado Fire Station closed.

1984 - Tom Kitayama finished as mayor.

1985 - *TRI-CED Community Recycling* was founded under a pepper tree on Mission Blvd.

1985 - Union City's First Annual *Gladiola Festival*. Bessie Borghi, mother of Frank Borghi, Jr., New Haven Unified School District Trustee for many years, graced a float as the oldest person in Union City at the first Gladiola Festival Parade. The Gladiola Festival was an annual celebration in Union City.

1985 - Chief Kenneth Garcia retired and Chief Mike Vonada was hired.

1986 - City Council and the community partnered to revitalize the E Street Corridor.

1986 - Over a 9-year period, each school in the New Haven Unified School District is named a *Distinguished School* by the California Department of Education.

1987 - Voters in New Haven Unified School District approved the first of three bonds totaling \$101 million to remodel every school in the district and to build new schools.

1988 - (March) The *Union City Senior Citizens Association* was founded. It was active from March 1988 to December 2003.

1991 - Tom Kitayama retired as Mayor of Union City.

1991 - (May 20) The song "That Union City of Mine" was adopted by the City Council of Union City as the official song for Union City. It was written and produced by Steve King Stewart and Byron Allred.

1993 - *Kaiser Permanente* began its outpatient medical facility in Union City, and has expanded it with a second building in 1996, and a third in 2001. It is a three-story, 138,000 square foot medical office building on 8.4 acres along Union City Blvd. It serves Union City and the outlying areas.

1993 - Mark Green was elected Mayor of Union City.

1994 - The City decided to merge their fire department with Fremont Fire Department because of financial difficulties.

1996 - Neighborhood residents petitioned the City Council to remove handball courts on 10th and G Streets. City residents and Union City staff partnered to create *Fred Castro Park*.

1997 - Extended Day Care Program began in New Haven Elementary Schools.

1997 - In the summer of 1997, the City launched the first season of the *Farmers' Market and Concert Series*. It is held each year at the Cesar Chavez/Old Alvarado Park on Saturdays from May to November. The Farmers' Market and the concert provide venues for the entire community to enjoy and help bring businesses to the area. The concert series is held at the gazebo in the park during Farmers' Market days. They usually include 11 concerts from June to August and feature international music, jazz, blues, big band, rock and disco.

1997 - (April 26) A park located at 10th and G Streets in the Decoto District was named after Fred Castro, who served as a Park and Recreation Commissioner for 32 years.

1997 - Carol Dutra-Vernaci won a seat on the City Council. She is still serving the city.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dennis Jeffrey, PhD

Hi everyone! Welcome to fall: a time of shortening days, cooling temperatures (sooner or later), new beginnings for students who are starting the new school year, and -- here at the Museum -- a time for jumping head-first into the first quarter of our new fiscal year. This is a great time for setting up the year ahead: brainstorming ideas to improve the Museum; discussing and prioritizing tasks; and starting to implement those ideas to actually make a lasting impact.

I'd like to discuss the first step: brainstorming ideas. You may recall in the previous newsletter issue I had proposed 2 key focus areas that may help to chart our course for the coming year: (1) developing a plan to ensure the Museum can continue to survive for many years; and (2) significantly increasing the positive influence the Museum brings to our community. For the latter focus area, it helps to frame potential impact

according to the 3 main components of our Museum: the Museum and its artifacts; oral history; and preservation of historical homes and buildings.

Let's look at just the first component: the Museum and its artifacts. This is really the lifeblood of our Museum: it's a physical embodiment of our City's history and the place where we all meet in person and interact to carry out the work of the Museum. What are some ideas to better leverage our Museum and its artifacts to more positively influence our community? Perhaps we can start with *getting more folks to experience it*: advertising through local channels; making available an exciting Museum brochure/hand-out; maintaining a presence at various local community events throughout the year. We can also look at *more efficiently conveying our City's history through our artifacts*: making sure artifacts are properly labeled in the Museum and have clear stories associated with them; keeping the artifacts clean and well-maintained; displaying artifacts on a rotating schedule to keep things fresh over time; perhaps writing a book or even developing a mobile app to convey the facts and stories about each Museum artifact to both young and old in our community.

The ideas above are merely a small sampling of what we can possibly do to improve just one aspect of our Museum. As you can see, we've got a lot of opportunity here to build something great for our community, and we could really use your help and would love for you to be a part of it. You're always welcome here. We'll see you at the Museum!

FOUNDER'S NOTES



Myrla Raymundo, MBA
Founder/Chief Executive Officer

As you all know, the Union City Historical Museum has three components. First is the *Artifacts*, the second is the *Oral History*, and the third is the *Preservation of Historical Homes and Buildings*.

For now, I would like to talk about the Oral History component.

Everybody likes to read stories of other people and have done so almost since the beginning of writing. Whether it be the historical figure in the Old Alvarado District or the latest profile in our city, oral histories have long fascinated the reading public.

There are many reasons why we are very interested in other people's stories.

First, we are naturally curious about anybody. People's stories, especially from our City, inspire us by showing great examples of men and women who accomplished much, often against great odds.

Second, we continue to write stories of people, we rejoice in their success and we profit from their mistakes and reap a wealth of experiences and knowledge about life.

Finally, our people's stories widen our horizons mentally, as well as socially and ethically.

We will continue to write stories about people and publish them in our newsletter and eventually in our next book.

Therefore, if you love talking with people and learning about their unique stories, I need your help.

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



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