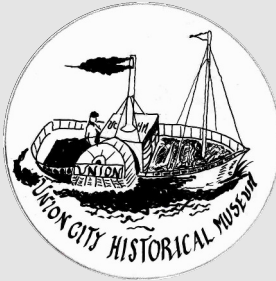


UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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:

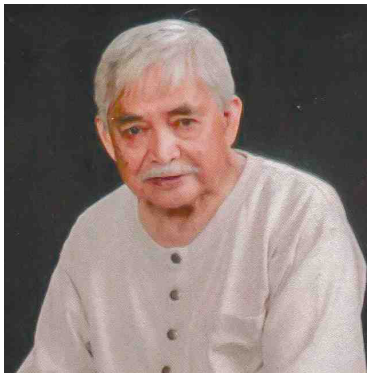
• <http://www.unioncityhistoricalmuseum.org>

• <http://www.facebook.com/UCMuseum>

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IN MEMORIAM: OUR MUSEUM SAYS GOODBYE TO THREE WONDERFUL PEOPLE

Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo



Museum Officer, Director, and Past President
November 12, 1929 - November 18, 2016

Loving husband of Myrla Raymundo, Ray (as everyone called him) worked for 17 years training the US Naval Base fleet personnel at the US Naval Base, Subic Bay, before moving from the Philippines to the United States. In 1971, Ray and his family moved to Alameda, California, and then later to Union City. Ray worked at a printing and publication company and was also Executive Director at an insurance company. Deeply engaged in community involvement, Ray was the founding president of the Subic Bay-Olongapo Association, a Director of the Fil-Am Council of Union City, and a Director of the Filipino-American Association of Alameda County. He was also a vital member of the Museum, having served continuously over the years as Officer, Director, and President.



Frank Joseph Borghi, Jr.



Museum Lifetime Member
February 22, 1924 - November 12, 2016

Loving husband of Elvamae Borghi, Frank was born in Niles and worked with various family dairy operations before serving as a New Haven Unified School District bus driver for 25 years. He was the Decoto Fire Commissioner prior to Union City incorporation, and served for 36 consecutive years in tri-city governments. He was a member of the Chaparral Country Club in Palm Desert, California; a 55-year member of the Fremont Elks Lodge; a member of Sons of Italy, Sons in Retirement Lodge, The Native Sons of the Golden West, The Martin C. Kauffman 100 Club of Alameda County, the Stanford Buck Club, and the Knights of Columbus.

Our Museum member, **Antoinette Elizabeth Pinto**, passed away peacefully at the age of 99 last September 19, 2016. Antoinette was born in Alvarado on Smith Street in a house that is still in the family. She was actively involved in the Catholic Church and the Portuguese SPRSI of Alvarado.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS IN THE UNION CITY ELECTION: NOVEMBER 8, 2016

Union City Council:

Carol Dutra-Vernaci: *Re-elected Union City Mayor*
Gary Singh: *Union City Councilmember*

NHUSD School Board:

Lance Nishihara
Jeff Wang
Sharan Kaur

HAPPENINGS IN UNION CITY

ACWD DEDICATION CEREMONY: The Alameda County Water District had the Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony for APPIAN TANK, located at the Top of Appian Way in Union City, last April 28, 2016. Special Guest was our very own Museum member, **Frank Borghi**.

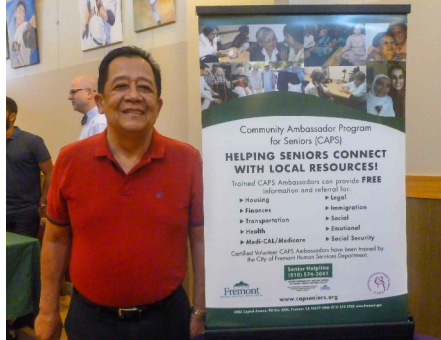
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ORDINATION CEREMONY: Rev. Father Rosendo R. Manalo, Jr., Pastor of the Saint Anne Catholic Church in Union City, celebrated his 22nd Anniversary of Ordination last August 27, 2016. There was a celebration of the mass and a reception afterwards.

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COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM: The Community Ambassador Program for Seniors was invited to have a table at the Senior Fitness Day at the Mark Green Sports Center last September 6, 2016. CAPS Ambassadors **Myrla Raymundo** and **Carlen Gregorio** helped in the outreach to the seniors.

The Community Ambassadors:



ARTS AND WINE FESTIVAL: The Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association once again held an ARTS AND WINE FESTIVAL last October 8, 2016 at the Old Alvarado Park. It was a huge success with a lot of people attending.

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MASJID AT HUDA OPEN HOUSE: The Open House of the Masjid At Huda, located in the Old Alvarado area, was held last October 23, 2016. There was an Open House, a tour of the Masjid, and a reception afterwards. A lot of people attended the event.



**Alvarado
School
Children on
a Union City
History Tour**

THE WAY TO THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

As you pass through Smith Street from Union City Blvd., you will be led to the Union City Historical Museum by a large sign.



This is an old sign on Smith Street where people can park to visit the Alvarado area.

THE ALVARADO FARMERS MARKET



The Manager of the Alvarado Farmers Market busy managing the Farmers Market.



NEW BUSINESSES IN ALVARADO



Museum member Michelle Mo, O.D. and her assistant at the Eyes of Vision Optometry.



The Beauty Parlor.



The Juice Bar and the Coffee Shop next door.



The Worlds Yoga.

AWARD PRESENTATION



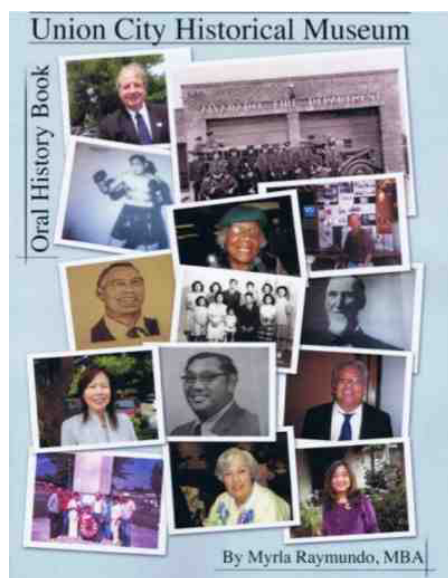
Myrla Raymundo was awarded the MADIC (Making A Difference in the Community Award), given by the Union City Human Relations Commission last October 26, 2016.

Commissioner Jaime Patino, who picked her as the recipient, said, "This year, I am proud to announce that I have chosen Myrla Raymundo to receive this year's MADIC Award.

Mrs. Raymundo has worked hard over the years to make Union City a great place to live. Her hard work at the Union City Historical Museum has given us a link to our past as we forge on into the future. She has made sure that our past is preserved not just for our children, but for their children as well. For that, we owe her an enormous debt.

Thank you for all that you have done, Myrla. And congratulations on receiving the MADIC Award."

BOOK REVIEW BY ROBERT A. GARFINKLE, FORMER UNION CITY COUNCILMAN



"Union City Oral History Book"

By: Myrla Garduque Raymundo

Paperback; 214 pages; \$20.00

ISBN-13: 978-0-9715211-6-2



Robert A. Garfinkle

Local historian **Myrla Raymundo** has published her second book on the history of Union City, California. This book is primarily a collection of about 200 interviews that she conducted with Union City leaders, City staff members, and civic-minded people both past and present. For the early founders of what is now Union City, she of course had to rely on documents in the Union City Historical Museum and/or reference materials given to her by living relatives of these pioneers. Myrla is the founder and current Chief Executive Officer of the museum, so access to its collection of materials on Union City historical figures was right at hand. For almost all of the people in the book, she includes a photograph of the interviewee.

The author opens the book with a brief history of the Costanoan Indians who lived in this area prior to the settlement by the Spaniards and Yankees in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The next part of the book covers the pioneers of Union City. I found it interesting to be able to put a name, face, and biography of people who are familiar to me, solely because a street (or area) bears their last names, such as Ezra Decoto and John B. Alvarado along with Henry Smith, John C. Whipple and Ebenezer H. Dyer among others.

Myrla then covers additional early settlers and industries in Union City and gives information about some of the landmarks and a general overview of the city. The seventh part of the book consists of the oral histories, given in alphabetical order. I found this to be a fascinating read. Having been actively involved in Union City politics since the late 1970s, I personally know many of the people Myrla interviewed. Now I know something about their lives and accomplishments.

I recommend this book to anyone who loves to read local history or may be related to one of the people whose lives are told in this work.

I know that this book will also be a great asset to future historians studying the history of Union City. The book is for sale at the Union City Historical Museum on Smith Street in Union City.

ALVARADO PREPARES FOR JULY 4, 1946

Contributed by Anthony Gualco



July 4, 1946 was chosen by Filipino communities throughout California as Independence Day for Filipino citizens in the State of California. In Ventura County, a Filipino Independence Day celebration was planned at the Ventura Civic Center on July 4th. In Los Angeles, a grand celebration included a parade, a picnic and later a Grand Ball. In Oakland, the Filipino Community of Alameda & Contra Costa Counties donated \$500 for the fireworks celebration in that city.

But the little town of Alvarado was not to be outdone. When notified that the Filipino communities of Alameda and Northeastern Contra Costa Counties wanted to celebrate their Fourth of July in Alvarado, the entire business section of the town and most of the citizenry of this small farm community poured their resources and affection into the effort to welcome our friends from the island archipelago.

The little town of Alvarado planned and put into effect a holiday celebration for Americans now free of war, and the Filipino Community of Alameda and Contra Counties, whose fatherland was now free of Japanese domination. In the next issue I will outline the festivities of the Alvarado Fourth of July celebration of 1946, which included our good friends, the Filipino communities of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA, CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS: 1998-1999

1998 - Union City provided extended day programs for middle school students.

1998 - The City Council adopted the Landmark and Historic Preservation (LHP) overlay zone for Union City. The purpose of the ordinance was to provide the city with process that would allow the projection, enhancement, and perpetuation of structures, sites and areas that are considered to be historically and culturally significant to Union City. The Architectural Resources Group, a consultant hired by the city, with the help of the Union City Historical Museum members, surveyed historically and culturally significant sites in Union City.

1998 - (March) Last gladiola fields and Union City Drive-In disappeared due to development. After 32 years, the Drive-In Theater closed. The event was marked by a farewell gala billed as "The Last Picture Show," showing classics including the 1957 movie "I was a Teenage Frankenstein." Closing the Union City Drive-In was like destroying the American dream. Watching a movie in a car under the stars in Union City is now history. A mix of high land prices and commercialization drove the Union City Drive-In out.

1998 - The Masonic Home for Adults celebrated its Centennial Year of Operation with a yearlong theme entitled "Building a Future Upon a Century of Caring." The re-dedication was held on October 10, 1998 with a Masonic ceremony. The 125-bed home was first dedicated on October 12, 1898.

1998 - Myrla Raymundo founded the Union City Historical Museum. It is located in the old Alvarado Fire Department in the historic Alvarado area.

1998 - (November 23) The Ralph & Mary Ruggieri Senior Center, located at 33997 Alvarado-Niles Road, opened its facility to the estimated 9,500 seniors who live in Union City. The 14,500 square-foot facility includes a large assembly hall, dining room, kitchen, classrooms and other activity rooms. Seniors can participate in arts and crafts programs, use computers, take classes on many topics like dancing, health, and writing, and partake in an affordable lunch program. In addition to the new senior center, a 45-unit apartment building was built for very low-income seniors. The apartment is close to the city hall, the library, BART station, and there are lots of bus stops around.

1999 - (January 26) The City of Union City celebrated its 40 years of incorporation. The big "40" was attended by dignitaries and community leaders. There was a Fun Run that began at James Logan High School Stadium, a parade down Alvarado-Niles Road between Western Avenue and James Logan High School, and a Cultural Festival at Kennedy Park with community groups selling food and sponsoring interactive games and live entertainment on stage. There was an evening program, speeches, fireworks, and birthday cake. Several hundred people attended the party at City Hall. Mayor Mark Green gave anniversary pins and keys to the city to current and former city council members and school board members. The event marked the beginning of the yearlong celebration that included several events throughout the year.

1999 - (June 1) The City Council held a study session to discuss Union City's planning issues and policies. These study sessions resulted in the development of five overall

planning themes. These themes are being used to identify research tasks and to help guide the general plan community process.

1999 - (June 30) Union City was named an "All America City," one of only ten such cities in the United States, by the National Civic League. It was chosen from about 300 cities this year as it celebrates its 40th birthday. The city was honored with the 1999 California Cities Helen Putnam Award for Excellence, the most prestigious award a city can receive from the League of California Cities. Union City was also honored for reclaiming a city park from drug addicts who littered the lawns with used needles; establishing before and after-school day care programs; and creating a nonprofit program that employs 52 people to collect curbside recycling in Union City and Hayward. The motto was "Union City, Many Hands, One Heart."

1999 - (July 13) This was the grand opening of several stores and the Cinema Theatre in Union Landing.

1999 - (July 31) The Union City Historical Museum participated in the City's 40th Birthday Parade. They had two floats, one carrying three historic people who were key in the incorporation of Union City: Mayor Tom Kitayama, Frank Borghi, Jr., and Ken Garcia. The other float carried the present members of the group. The period denotes the 40 years of incorporation of Union City.

1999 - (October 9) The City Corporation Yard, located on Seventh Street on an eleven-acre property, opened. It consists of an administration building, a vehicle maintenance shop which services large equipment, bus parking, a building for the grounds and streets divisions, Fuel Island, a vehicle wash, and other support structures.

1999 - (November 23) Mayor Mark Green was re-elected and took his oath of office before a packed council chambers. Mark Green was sworn in by one of the Alameda County Supervisors, Scott Haggerty.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dennis Jeffrey, PhD

As we say goodbye to 2016 and get ready to usher in the New Year, this is a bittersweet holiday season for the Union City Historical Museum. Recently the Museum has had to say goodbye to three wonderful people who will be greatly missed: Antoinette Pinto,

Museum member; Frank Borghi, Jr., Museum lifetime member; and Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo, Museum Officer, Director, and former President, who was a mainstay of the Museum, Myrla's loving husband, and a person I was very fortunate to have known. I will always remember Ray's quiet, kind, and gentle nature, and will greatly miss seeing his smile at the Museum. Ray was a vital part of the Museum and we at the Museum will continue to miss him dearly.

That said, we are in the midst of the holiday season, and 2017 brings a new year and new beginnings. Let us wish for a 2017 that starts off well and keeps getting better for ourselves, our families, our community, and the world at large. The Museum is going through a tough time, but it will endure. As long as Union City keeps making history, so too will we keep celebrating it. In 2017, we'll see you at the Museum!

FOUNDER'S NOTES



Myrla Raymundo, MBA
Founder/Chief Executive Officer

As you have already read in the last issue of this Newsletter, 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.

In that issue, I talked about the Oral History component. For now, I'd like to talk about the Preservation of Historical Homes and Buildings.

In 1998, the City Council adopted the Landmark and Historic Preservation (LHP) overlay zone for Union City. The purpose of the ordinance was to provide the City with process that would allow the projection, enhancement, and perpetuation of structures, sites and areas that are considered to be historically and culturally significant to Union City.

The Architectural Resources Group, a consultant hired by the City, with the help of the Union City Historical Museum members surveyed historically and culturally significant sites in Union City.

Every month, we have to write letters to the owners asking them if they want their homes or buildings to be designated historical. We did not get a lot of responses from the homeowners. So far, of the four hundred historical homes and buildings, we only have thirteen homes that were designated historical. We will continue to work on this process and will hope for the best.

THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



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