

UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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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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HAPPENINGS IN UNION CITY

MLK DAY CLEAN-UP

On January 16, 2017, which was Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as well as a National Day of Service, volunteers in Union City helped to clean up litter at the new rain gardens in Decoto.

Union City developed the rain gardens along streets in the Decoto area in order to collect water that runs down gutters and allow it to slowly infiltrate into the soil, watering the plants and filtering out pollutants. These are beautiful mini-gardens that help to conserve water and keep it clean.

IN MEMORIAM

Elvamae Marie Borghi, a member of the Museum, peacefully entered into rest on January 5, 2017. She was the beloved wife of the late Museum member, Frank Borghi, who passed away last Nov. 12, 2016. Elvamae was the *Alameda County Fair Queen* in 1953.

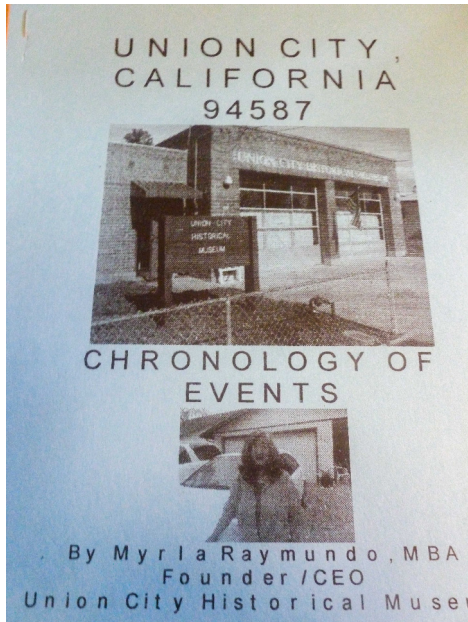
WALK FOR PEACE

Parents, children, community leaders, and concerned residents in Union City, Fremont, and Newark walked together in a show of unity and a call for peace last January 22, 2017. The walk started at *Charles F. Kennedy Park* in Union City, stopped at the *William Cann Memorial Civic Center*, then returned back to *Charles F. Kennedy Park*.

UNION CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The installation of the 2017 Union City Chamber of Commerce Executive Officers and Board of Directors was on Jan. 26, 2017 at the *Nakamura Clinic* in Union City. Refreshments were served.





This booklet is a Chronology of Events in Union City, California.

It is fitting that we look into Union City's past and its people from the time of the Costanoan Indians and continue looking into the future.

What did Union City look like? How did its people live? Who were some of the settlers in the communities of Alvarado and Decoto? Who was the first elected Mayor in Union City? When was Union Landing built?

Each entry in this Chronology is a story of an event from those early days and continues to the present.

You can get your copies of this very important document from the Union City Historical Museum.

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Contributed by Anthony Gualco



The United States Independence Day of July 4, 1946 would also be the day of celebration for Filipinos in the U.S. Truly they had something to be happy over, by having wrested control to their homeland from the invaders during WWII. The United States was right alongside the Filipinos. And on July 4, 1946, we were right alongside them again when the people of Alvarado shared their Independence Day with our Filipino friends.

Alex Biete of Mt. Eden acted as Master of Ceremonies giving the welcoming address. Miss Faustina Regalado, of Alvarado, followed with a piano selection. Mrs. Felix Diangson of Alvarado gave a wonderful speech so complimentary to the accomplishments of her dear people. Frank M. Bolima of Mt. Eden gave one of the most important speeches, on "The Birth of a Nation." Frank was formerly president of the Filipino Community of San Francisco.

The United States National anthem was then sung, followed by the Philippine anthem, led by Barbara Diangson.

Members of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce and invited guests sat down to a wonderful banquet at the SDES Hall around 3 o'clock. The program started about 6:30 pm after which the public joined in dancing with their hosts. Veterans of Bataan and other places were introduced: Capt. E.L. Torres Jr., Lt. Jose Alcid, Lt. Nick Franco, Lt. Antonio Franco, Lt. Cesar Delfino and Lt. Jose Gomes.

UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA, CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS: 2000-2002

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

2000 - Union City's population reached 67,240.

2000 (March 21) - A big hall at the *Ralph and Mary Ruggieri Senior Center* was named after Miles J. Price. He was one of the people who were instrumental in establishing the *Ruggieri Senior Center*.

2000 - The year 2000 welcomed *Union Landing*, a major retail center that already included a 25-screen theater complex and several major businesses. It is a large commercial center, a 104-acre site. The location, a former gladiola field, is pressed up against Interstate 880. It is an entertainment power center that is anchored by the 25-screen Century Theater complex, Wal-Mart store, Albertson's supermarket, Borders, Lowes, Best Buy and BabiesRUs, and other businesses. Thousands of people have visited the area. The other stores are Togo's, Starbucks, Baskin Robbins, Office Max, Sleep Train, Party America, Hollywood Video, Pasta Pomodoro, La Salsa Restaurant, Rose Café, Great Clips, Sally's Beauty Store, and PacBell. There are also numerous popular restaurants that opened; to name a few: Texas Roadhouse, Fresh Choice, Tony Romas, IHOP, TGI Friday's and Applebees. Other businesses are Linens & Things, Michaels, Petco and the hotel Extended America. Fast food restaurants added to the bustling activities at the Union Landing -- Jollibee, Krispy Kreme, and In & Out Burger -- were the center of activities during their opening. These major retailers have a significant impact on the sales tax revenue for the city.

2000 (June 10) - Chief Al Guzman, after 33 years of dedicated service, retired with a celebration at the *Marriott San Ramon* in San Ramon, California. Al had started as a Reserve Police Officer in 1967 and then became the Police Chief in 1987. The first Police Department was on H Street and Decoto Road, and then moved to Whipple and Central Ave. In April 21, 1979, they moved to the new location in the Civic Center at Alvarado-Niles Road.

2000 (June 13) - The Union City Council approved a resolution that the Smith Street Fire Station should be used by the *Union City Historical Museum*.

2000 (July) - The Union City Fire Department was re-established. It is responsible for providing fire and life safety emergency services in Union City. Chief Chris Maxwell played a major role in re-establishing the Union City Fire Department after the department's six-year absence in Union City, when the city was served by the City of Fremont. During that time, lots of firefighters had to be hired; equipment had to be purchased and new fire stations built. Chief Maxwell oversees four fire stations with 47 uniformed "Line" personnel and a \$7.9 million annual operation budget. The Fire Stations are #1, located on Central Ave., Fire Station #2 on Alvarado Blvd., and Fire Station

#3 on 10th Street. The newest fire station is Fire Station No. 4, located west of Union City Blvd. near Lowry Road.

2000 (July) - Chief Randy Ulibarri was sworn in as the new Police Chief.

2000 (September 16) - Chief Randy Ulibarri invited residents to an Open House at the Police Department. There were K9, S.W.A.T., motorcycle demonstrations, fingerprinting of children, a tour of police facilities, and free "In & Out" burgers.

2000 (September) - The *New Haven Unified School District* buried a time capsule to be opened after a hundred years. Documents that recorded the establishment of the very first museum in Union City, the *Union City Historical Museum*, were included.

2000 (October 14) - The Library held a reopening celebration on October 14, 2000, after being closed to the public for eight weeks for a \$250,000 remodeling project.

2000 (December 7) - On behalf of the Union City Historical Museum, the City of Union City initiated the A-1-00 Zoning Map Amendment to apply the Landmark and Historic Preservation Overlay (LHPO Zoning designation) on seven properties.

2001 (February 23) - The *Union City Historical Museum*, founded by Myrla Raymundo and dedicated to recording and preserving the history of Union City, opened. It records oral histories from people living in the community; collects artifacts and displays them in the Museum; maintains a library for books and historical documents; and identifies and encourages preservation of historical buildings. It also educates the residents on the City's history. It is located in the old Alvarado Fire Department in the historic Alvarado District. The Museum has three components: the Museum that displays artifacts and records, the Oral History that includes stories of longtime residents, and the Historical Preservation component that identifies and encourages preservation of historical homes and buildings.

2001 (September 29) - The dedication of the new Fire Station #4 was held.

2002 - Wayne Cruz is in charge of the "Graffiti Buster" acquired by the City in 2002. He drives the white truck and tows a 16-foot trailer around town.

2002 - Michael S. Riback was appointed as the City Attorney for Union City. His responsibility is to provide legal counsel to the City Council and the administrative staff, as well as to provide prosecutorial services on behalf of the City.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dennis Jeffrey, PhD

Spring is finally around the corner after a very rainy winter. It feels as though the rains have started to diminish, flowers are starting to bloom, and days are slowly but surely getting gradually warmer. I realized recently that the changes in the season very much parallel some things that have happened at the Museum over the past several months. As you may remember, the start of winter late last year brought on a monumental challenge for the Museum, as it dealt with the loss of some very loved and instrumental Museum members and leadership. The Museum mourned as the weather became colder, wetter, and more harsh. As cold weather and rainy days persisted, there were also several unexpected closures of the Museum. Despite this, the Museum navigated through those challenges as spring drew nearer. Today, with spring right around the corner, the Museum is also back in full operation and ready to take on 2017.

However, the Museum still has ongoing challenges. The past several months have made me realize that in some ways, the Museum is fundamentally supported by three major pillars, such that the loss of any one of these pillars can potentially derail the Museum and its mission. These pillars are: (1) Myrla, Founder and CEO of the Museum; (2) the governing body of Union City itself; and (3) the community, including volunteers and other general champions of the Museum. First and foremost is Myrla, whose passion and dedication to the Museum and Union City's history is without parallel. Second is the city of Union City, who holds the keys to the Museum. Literally. The City's generosity provides the Museum with a physical location to conduct its business and to pursue its mission, and for that we are eternally grateful. Finally are the folks who support the Museum: the visitors, the volunteers from *Logan High* and *Project 22*, and the Museum officers and board members, all of whom generously donate their time and skills to help the Museum despite no monetary payment in return.

As we continue into 2017, let's also remember to focus on finding ways to strengthen the Museum's pillars and to prepare for any challenges that may lie ahead. The Museum and its mission is bigger than any one of us and is a vital part of our City, but it needs our continued help/support to survive. As always, we'll see you at the Museum!

FOUNDER'S NOTES



Myrla Raymundo, MBA
Founder/Chief Executive Officer

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 of the City of Union City.

The Museum continues with its objective of educating the community on the history of Union City. We will continue with the presentations on Union City History and continue with the Museum tours for visitors. We will continue interviewing Union City old timers and Union City officials for the Oral History component of the Museum, and will continue working on the preservation of historic homes and buildings.

We will continue with the publication of the Museum Newsletter and will keep the Museum website up to date with information about the community.

We thank the volunteers who assist in the operation of the Museum.

We thank the City of Union City for providing us with a place to hold the rare items from decades ago such as the *Sugar Mill* artifacts, the *Pacific States Steel* albums holding the photographs of the mill, antique kitchen items from the residents, reminders of the old Drive-In Theater, and an old piano from an Alvarado resident, and especially, the newspaper articles about Union City from the years 1800 to the present, and many more.

The Museum is an excellent vehicle to make us aware of our beautiful heritage and culture. This is the only way to preserve our history.

The Union City Historical Museum pledges to continue to provide services to the community.

Let us all help to preserve our history.

THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



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Myrla Raymundo, MBA
Dennis Jeffrey, PhD

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