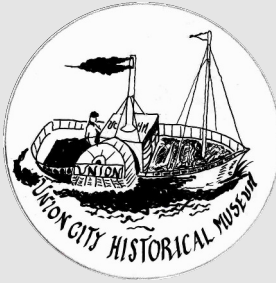


# UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Founded by Myrla Raymundo, MBA • Founding Editor/Writer • [raymundomyrla@gmail.com](mailto: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>

**Vol. 19 No. 6 • April / May 2017**

## NEW IN UNION CITY



The Union City Council now has overhead monitors to follow the presentations of the staff during council meetings.



### L'AZIZ BAKERY & EATERY

This is now open to the public. It is located at 3834 Smith Street in Union City. They also serve a breakfast menu. Some of their menu items include: breakfast burrito, egg and cheese bagel, cream cheese bagel, kabuli pink tea, shamali mint tea, freshly baked afghani bread, pizza, and many more.

### SPRING EGG HUNT

Union City sponsored a *Spring Egg Hunt* for the kids at the Old Alvarado Park on Smith Street. The kids enjoyed the Egg Hunts, Snack Bar, Mini Carnival, Scholastic Book Fair, and the "Meet Mr. and Mrs. Bunny" attraction. Everyone had lots of fun and each child took home bags of goodies.

## IN MEMORIAM



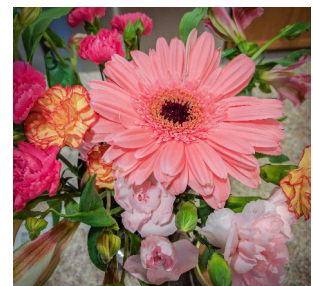
**Tessie Gatan**

Tess, as everybody calls her, passed away last February 20, 2017. She is survived by her husband, Marcos Junior, her 7 children, 14 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren, as well as her brother, Jose, and her sister, Corazon.

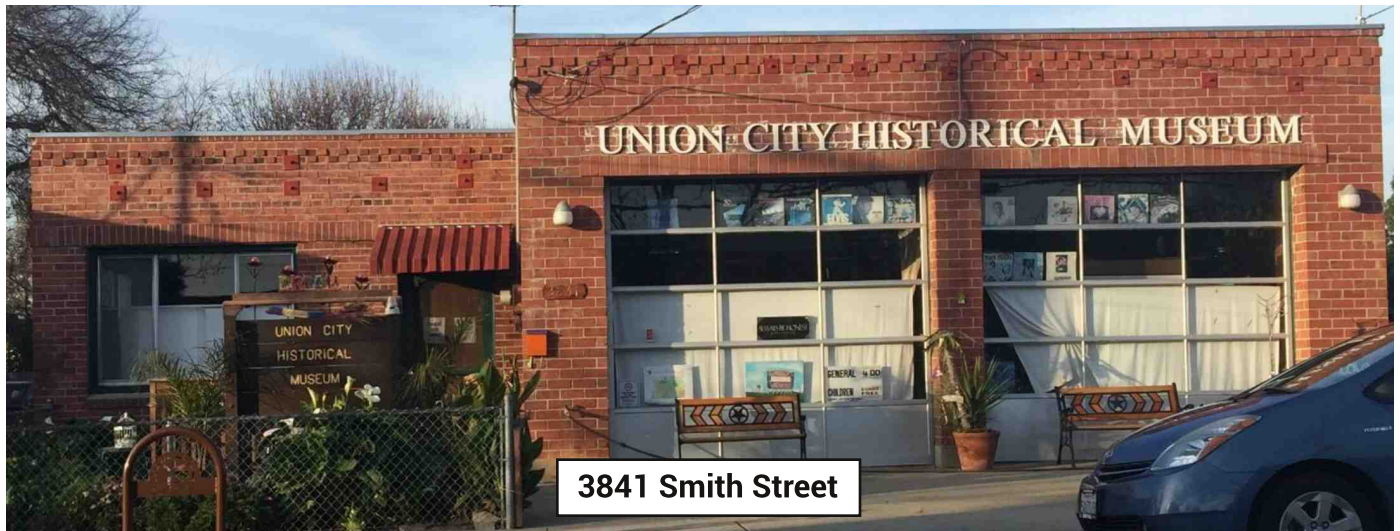
Tess graduated from the University of St. Thomas in the Philippines with a Bachelors of Science degree in Midwifery. She was the Barrio Clinic Nurse for the community, and worked in Germany for several years.

The family then migrated to the United States and she became very much involved with St. Anne Catholic Church in Union City. She worked at San Francisco General Hospital as an Operating Room Technician.

Tess was Past President of the Union City Historical Museum and was also a Community Ambassador for Seniors.



Long time Union City (Alvarado) resident and prominent community member, **Isabel Barlaan Loyola**, passed away last March 27, 2017 at the age of 95. She is well-known to the community.



## STORIES OF UNION CITY HISTORY YOU MAY NOT KNOW WITH UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM FOUNDER MYRLA RAYMUNDO BY REMY FORTIER

*The more you know about the past, the more prepared you are for the future. ~Theodore Roosevelt*

Why is the preservation of history important? How best can we get our kids engaged in local history? These are some of the questions I asked in our interview.

Listening to Myrla's story, not just the museum, but her life story, makes it very clear that life is what you make it. She has lived with purpose and a very clear intention to help others and be in service.

The museum is located in an old fire house in Alvarado. It was founded through the hard work and perseverance of Myrla Raymundo.

As she describes in our interview: *"I pleaded and pleaded with the City Council for a building."*

Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founder and CEO of the museum, is a life long public servant and is the recipient of over 200 awards from various organizations. She served for several years as Alameda County Commissioner and Union City Commissioner; President of the Friends of the Union City Library; President of the Filipino-American Assn of Alameda County; and Site Coordinator of the Community Ambassador Program for seniors at St. Anne's Catholic Parish. She is also an author of two books on Union City's History: "Union City Through the Years" and "Union City Oral History", and is currently working on a third book.

In our interview Myrla shares stories of the first farm and earliest farmer of Union City, in the 1700's. It was located where the Crowne Plaza Hotel is today. The farmer ordered a mail order bride from China and had 18 children whose descendants still live in Union City today.

We also hear of the 1951 plane crash on Decoto Hill that killed 51 people, including the pilot. Remains of the crash are on display at the museum.

Myrla's advice for listeners: *"When you get into a thing... go for it. Don't Stop. Go until you reach the top."*

Without Myrla's hard work the city would not have a museum. Her request: come by and share your stories, photos and artifacts so the museum continues for the generations that follow.



Hear the Union City Advice Givers podcast and interview with Myrla at:  
<http://unioncity.localadvicegivers.com/episode-14-union-city-historical-museum>  
(also linked from the Museum's Facebook page as well as from the Museum's website).

## ALL ABOUT REMY FORTIER



Remy Fortier operates the *Union City Advice Givers* podcast and blog, where she seeks out and interviews the East Bay's brightest minds, business owners, entrepreneurs and community leaders. Some of the "brightest minds" whom she interviewed were Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci, City Manager Tony Acosta, Myrta Raymundo and many more.

If you want to read all about the many "brightest minds" she interviewed, watch the "Union City Advice Givers Podcast." Myrta Raymundo's interview and podcast was included herein.

Remy operates a successful real estate business where she shows homeowners how to extract up to \$30,000 or more of additional profit, through what she calls "The Value-Driven Approach To Sell Real Estate," the title of her latest book. Remy is a committed giver donating through food and clothing drives to those in need. Her business remains focused on three pillars of impact: Philanthropy, Business, and Growth. Remy also sends out a monthly Newsletter: "The Remy Fortier Letter". Remy is a member of the Union City Historical Museum.

## FATHER DUGGAN CONTRIBUTED BY ANTHONY GUALCO



Early in 1950 a new priest arrived at the town of Decoto. He carried with him a canvas cot and a little heater among the bulkiest things he owned. He quickly set them up in the small, unfurnished sacristy of the old Catholic Church on 11th Street. For much of his time in Decoto, that was the room of the Reverend Father Ralph Duggan although most often he was not there.

Father Duggan was a member of the archdiocesan Spanish Mission band and was a native of San Francisco's Potrero district and a graduate, with honors, from St. Mary's College. He taught in church high schools for four years before deciding to study for the priesthood.

After graduation from St. Patrick's seminary in June 1945, he followed his interests and went to work among underprivileged families of old St. Mary's parish in Oakland, where he was also chaplain in the city jail. When he joined the Spanish Mission band he was given an opportunity by his archdiocese to attend the University of Mexico for background studies. He wound up, however, with an assignment more to his liking, six months as the priest in a small Mexican village. From there he returned to California to be assigned to Decoto.

He immediately began the parish work expected of a priest, helping to meet the religious needs of his people. They included all the Spanish-speaking people of southern Alameda County as well as the Decotans. He saw also to the more material needs of those not fortunate enough to possess the things essential to merely exist. It is impossible to compute his work as an undercover agent of charity during his six years in Decoto.

Father Duggan, with volunteer help, built the new church as a gymnasium. It was also to be a center for his youth activities, but when the old church burned in 1952, it was converted to a church. A small house on the six-acre site became the priest's residence. Old Decoto School was moved from down the street to house catechism classes, and volunteer labor was used to refurnish it. A baseball diamond was put in as part of the site as well as a boxing ring was installed in the school.

Many young men of Decoto became involved in boxing after the initiation into the sport by Father Duggan and would go on to fight in Golden Glove Tournaments and then enter the pro ranks. He will best be remembered for his work with the boys of Decoto. Youngsters were soon flocking to take part in his sports programs. They were awed one day when Archie Moore suddenly arrived to put on a boxing exhibition.

Among other duties he has had the task of administering last rites in four fatal plane crashes near Decoto, the last a Marine transport crash, which killed 40 servicemen. Many of Father Duggan's works are known only to the recipients and himself. One that is known is the case of a boy who could not have attended Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland without clothes and bus fare furnished by the priest.

In February 1956 his transfer to Richmond was part of the routine of moving a priest every 5-6 years. The mud-spattered carpenter of weekdays, and priest of Sundays, will not soon be forgotten, however, by the people of Decoto.

# UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA, CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS: 2003-2005

## BY MYRLA RAYMUNDO, MBA, FOUNDER/CEO, UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

**2003 (January)** - The Western Fairs Association Board of Directors presented a plaque to former Mayor Tom Kitayama. He had served the Alameda County Fair for 40 years.

**2003** - Union City had developed a Park and Recreation Master Plan that guides the development of new recreation programs and new park sites and facilities. The city is building new parks and improving existing parks.

**2003** - Union City developed the Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS) Program, the mission of which is to form partnerships with the community and its residents, to jointly identify and solve community problems in order to improve the quality of life.

**2003** - Union City instituted the Citizen's Workshop that gives interested residents a hands-on learning experience about how the city is managed and operated.

**2003** - Kitayama School, the Guy Emmanuel School and the Delaine Eastin School were built.

**2003** - Police Department established two Community Resource centers for residents, one in Alvarado and one in Decoto.

**2003** - Graffiti abatement program was installed. The City is also now on the Web.

**2003** - City Council is now elected instead of appointed since before 1959. City Council and Commission meetings are now televised.

**2003** - Tony Acosta hired as Deputy City Manager of Union City.

**2003 (August 13)** - the City leaders and residents celebrated the remediation of the Pacific States Steel plant site. The builders are on their way from the ugly site to beautiful homes nestled in the green hills.

**2003 (September 14)** - The Union City Skate Park opened. The 19,400 square-foot, \$531,000 facility is located at William Cann Civic Center Park, 34009 Alvarado-Niles Road.

**2003** - There is now a Dog Park in Union City, Drigon Dog Park. It is located at Seventh Street and Mission Boulevard. It is a real treat, not only to the dogs, but also to the happy owners. The park was named after Union City's first police dog. This is a place where dogs are allowed to run around off-leash, exercise and interact with other dogs. Owners don't have to worry about their pet running away or endangering/annoying other people.

**2003 (October)** - Myrla Raymundo founded The Filipino-American Association of Alameda County. The non-profit organization serves the Filipino Americans in Alameda County.

**2003 (November)** - Oscar Munoz appointed City Postmaster.

**2003 (December)** - The Union City Senior Citizens Association came to an end after 15 years of activity in the community.

**2004** - New streets in new developments were named after our city leaders, both past and present, to honor their accomplishments in the City of Union City.

**2004 (January)** - Larry Cheeves was appointed by the City Council to the position of City Manager.

**2004 (February)** - The Union Landing Transit Hub, located at the Union Landing, opened. It facilitates connections between Union City Transit and AC Transit, as well as provides needed access from the west side of Union City to destinations north, south, and east. The 30,000 square foot transit hub is located near the Alvarado-Niles Road entrance to Union Landing. It is designed to simultaneously handle up to nine buses. It also provides access to both the Union City BART Station and South Hayward BART Station. Passengers also have service to major activity centers in Fremont.

**2004 (November)** - Starting November 2004, the General Municipal Election of the City of Union City was held in November of even-numbered years.

**2004 (November 16)** - The City of Union City, Eden Housing, Inc. and Elder Care Alliance had a grand opening of WISTERIA PLACE, a 40-unit affordable rental housing center for seniors.

**2004** - Jim Navarro, Union City's newest councilmember, won a seat at the 2004 Union City election. He was Trustee of the New Haven Unified School District for two terms.

**2005** - Gerry's Grill, located at 31005 Courthouse Drive, opened. Seafood City Supermarket, catering to ethnic groups, opened.

**2005 (February)** - Mintze Cheng was hired by the City of Union City as the Public Works Director.

**2005 (July 16)** - The second Wells Fargo Bank in Union City located at 30915 Courthouse Drive had a grand opening. This bank serves the residents on the west side of the City.

**2005** - The Hiramine Nursery, located at Alvarado-Niles Road, closed its doors to plant lovers after 44 years of business.

**2005 (November 1)** - Father Geoffrey Baraan replaced Father Ramon Gomez as the Pastor of St. Anne's Catholic Church.

**2005 (December 13)** - The Union City Teen Commission, composed of 15 members, ages 13 to 17, was launched. Their duties range from making plans for local youths/extracurricular activities to addressing problems such as guns and youth violence.

**2005** - *The AlmaVia of Union City*, an assisted living and dementia care home, opened.

# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

The General Membership Meeting and Election of Officers/Directors will be held on **June 5, 2017** at the Museum at 7:00 pm. All members are invited to attend the General Membership Meeting.

The next slate of elected officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) will be for a one-year term, from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

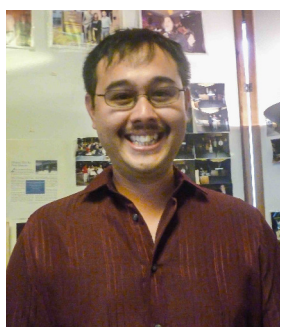
The next slate of elected directors will hold their seats for a two-year term, from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019.

The Nominating Committee will accept written nominations either in person or through the mail. Nomination forms are available at the Museum.

The Museum, 3841 Smith Street, Union City must receive nominations *no later than May 15, 2017*.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Dennis Jeffrey, PhD**

As you may remember, there are 3 components to the Museum's mission: (1) The Museum and its Artifacts; (2) Oral History; and (3) Preservation of Historical Homes. Now is a great opportunity to share your Union City memories and help support the Museum with the second component of its mission: Oral History.

An article in a recent issue of the *Tri-City Voice* newspaper is calling for help from the community. The Museum's Founder and CEO, Myrla Raymundo, is currently working on writing her third book about the history of Union City, and you have a chance to be a part of it! She's currently seeking submissions from residents of the City -- all of you -- to share your tales and experiences of living in our City. If you have memories of attending school here, participating in community events over the years, shopping in local stores and dining in local restaurants, and especially if you have memories of the old towns of

Alvarado and Decoto, please submit your memories to the Museum and to Myrla. You can even contact Myrla at the Museum to chat with her over the phone or in person.

I'm proud to live in a city with a vibrant history and residents who are passionate about preserving that history. It's hard work to ensure that our City's history can be preserved and shared with the community for many years to come, but it's worth it. We're lucky to have extraordinary residents like Myrla to help be the driving force for this endeavor, but it's teamwork from our community that will make it a success. We'll see you at the Museum!

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## FOUNDER'S NOTES



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

I like to remind you again and again about the beautiful place that we live in – the City of Union City.

From a small farming town, it became a diverse and multifaceted modern city.

From the City's earliest people to the City's original founders, and to those who led the incorporation drive toward it becoming a city, our City's history is filled with people who shared a vision of this community becoming something truly special.

Union City was just a vast piece of land when agriculture was the often-profitable prospect in Alameda County.

From a small agricultural town, Union City has changed for the better. The City is now home to more than 70,000 people.

The City now has community-based organizations that provide health education and social services. The city has its Station District, Central Technology Center, Union Landing and International Market Place. There are schools, a library, a museum, fire stations, police department and civic center. The City now has excellent transportation.

I am sure that the residents are proud that they live in the beautiful place called Union City.

# 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

Sarabjit Cheema

Lagrimas Bundang

Angel Villorente

**July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2017**

Rey Mendiola

Anthony Pabros

Hugh McNamara

Oliver Olano

## **EDITORIAL BOARD**

Myrla Raymundo, MBA

Dennis Jeffrey, PhD

## **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

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Marcos Jr. & Tessie Gatan

Joey & Vilma Golaw

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Emily Duncan

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Elmer & Vicky Guzman

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Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association

Dennis Jeffrey & Smruti Parichha

Adrian Swartz

Ann Bess Chanco

Ed Roldan

Evelyn Abellera