

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>

Vol. 20 No. 2 • August / September 2017

THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS/DIRECTORS OF THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



Officers and Directors from left to right: Dennis Jeffrey, Anthony Lorenzo, Mariza Dyziiong, Carlen Gregorio, Hugh McNamara, Gloria Cardon, Sarabjit Cheema.



Vice Mayor Pat Gacoscos was the Installing Officer.

The **Union City National Night Out** with the Police and the City was held at the *Union City Veterans Memorial Park* last August 1, 2017. Refreshments were served at the event and many of the neighbors attended the gathering.





UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA, CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS: 2008-2010

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

2008 - The City Council had proclamations recognizing the 2007 Employees of the Year recipients: Alison Buenaventura, Public Works Maintenance/Leisure Services/Transit; Cassie Castain, General Government; & Anthony Hansen, Public Safety.

2008 (February) - Ray and Myrla Raymundo, officers of the Union City Historical Museum, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with Geoffrey Baraan giving the blessing at St. Anne's Church in Union City.

2008 - The old Alvarado fire truck, the original fire truck used by the volunteer firemen headed by Volunteer Fire Chief Elvin (Al) Rose, was transferred to the back area of the Museum.

2008 - Beautiful homes were developed by the Pinn Brothers located at Union City Blvd. in Union City.

2008 (February 23) - Happy 7th birthday, Union City Historical Museum.

2008 (March 13) - TV Station KPIX Channel 5 came to the Museum and interviewed Myrla Raymundo, Museum CEO and Al Rose, the last surviving person who saw the wreckage of the crash of Flight 615. The United Airlines Flight No. 615 crashed in the hills above Union City in the early morning hours of August 24, 1951. All 44 passengers and six crewmembers were killed. The show was viewed on Channel 5.

2008 (May 23) - 3rd graders from Pioneer Elementary were given a presentation of Union City History by Myrla Raymundo.

2008 (November) - Miles J. Price, longtime member of the Museum, died at the age of 85.

2008 (December 4) - The March of the Past Planning Commissioners held in honor of retiring Economic Development Director Mark Leonard took place. They were: Mattie Rousseau, Jaime Jaramillo, Mark Green, Manuel Fernandez, Alice Arce, Lynne Mattos, Maureen Hart, Cathi Sweeney, Carol Dutra-Vernaci, Myrla Raymundo, Elizabeth Ames, Rosemary Savage, Lamont Allen, Ray Sison.

2008 (December 9) - Swearing In Ceremony of Mayor Mark Green and Councilmember Jim Navarro.

2008 - Joan Malloy took over the position of Mark Leonard, who retired as Director of the Economic & Community Development Department.

2009 - The re-enactment of the first City Council Meeting was held at the Barnard White Elementary School.

2009 (January 11) - Artist Nancy Pratt and Myrla Raymundo, President of the Friends of Union City Library, unveiled Pratt's painting entitled "Union City." The painting is a colorful imaginative rendering of the cultural events and significant places and people that made Union City what it is today.

2009 (February 8) - The Lunar New Year Celebration was held at the Sports Center.

2009 (May 16) - Union City's 50th Anniversary Parade was held.

2009 - The City of Union City celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The Gathering in the Park, part of the 50th Anniversary of Union City, was held at the Kennedy Park.

2009 (June) - The Union City Historical Museum Officers and Directors had the election. Dom Filardo was elected as President. The Induction of Officers/Directors was held on July 7, 2009.

2009 (June) - The Faith-Based Festival was held at the Kennedy Park in Union City.

2009 (July) - Meet the Union City Council event, headed by Mayor Mark Green. Present were business people, some Union City residents and City department heads and employees.

2009 - Newly elected officials of New Haven Unified School District - Kari McVeigh, New Superintendent; Gertrude Gregorio, President; Michelle Matthews, Board Member.

2009 - The Smart and Final Store, Tribu (a popular Filipino restaurant), and Bobby's Grill opened in Union City.

2009 (December 9) - Masonic Home of California Ninth Annual Tree Lighting was held.

2009 (December 10) - Union City Historical Museum Annual Christmas Party.

2009 - Thank you Ms. Helen Kennedy for a very successful Golden Anniversary of Union City.

2010 - The Fremont Area Writers Club celebrated its first anniversary. Former Union City Councilmember Robert Garfinkle is President of the Club and former Union City Planning Commissioner Myrla Raymundo is the Board Secretary.

2010 - Local author and historian Myrla Raymundo published her second book, "Union City Oral History."

2010 (January 23) - Myrla Raymundo held a Presentation of History at the Museum to the Alvarado School 2nd graders of Miss Wong.

2010 (March) - Alfonso "Fonzi" Roderigues, a teacher at New Haven Unified School District and the only son of the late Alfonso and Marcela Roderigues, passed away. Al was a Fire Chief at the Station in Decoto.

2010 (March) - Dedication of the St. Anne Prayer Garden and the Holy Family Memorial Garden in memory of Helen Everitt.

2010 (April) - Dom Filardo, Ray Raymundo and Myrla Raymundo had a table at Logan High School's Community Event.

2010 (May) - The Asian American Federation of California Event was held at the Buddhist Church in Union City. The Union City Historical Museum and the Filipino American Association of Alameda County participated in the event.

2010 (May) - The Union City Historical Museum had an Open House.

2010 (June) - The Union City Historical Museum held a fundraising event - Casino trip to Feather Falls.

2010 - The Tri-City Voice Newspaper held an Open House attended by Fremont Historian Philip Holms and Union City Historian Myrla Raymundo.

2010 (June 7) - General Membership Meeting and Election of Officers/Directors. Dom Filardo was elected President.

2010 (June) - The James Logan High School 2010 Commencement was held. Around 900 students graduated.

2010 (July) - The Change of Command and Badge Pinning Ceremony of the Union City Fire Department was held at Station #1 on Central Ave., Union City. The Oath of Office was conducted by Fire Chief Sheldon D. Gilbert.

2010 (July) - The Installation of Officers of the Union City

Historical Museum was held with Councilmember Carol Dutra-Vernaci as Installation Officer.

2010 (July) - Lali Toor was sworn in as the new Union City Postmaster at the Union City Post Office at Alvarado-Niles Road in Union City.

2010 (July) - Attorney Benjamin Reyes was sworn in by Alameda County Superior Court Judge Stuart Hang as the City's new City Attorney.

2010 (September) - The Veterans Memorial Park Committee presented a "POW*MIA DAY CEREMONY" at the Veteran's Memorial Park.

2010 (September) - Flight 93 Memorial Celebration.

2010 (September) - International Day of Peace was held at Alma Via of Union City in a sharing on the five major Faith traditions.

2010 (September) - A gathering of Filipinos at the Office of the Filipino Social Justice in Union City was held for an overview of the BART and the LEP Project Description.

2010 (October) - Alma Via of Union City celebrated its 5th Year Anniversary.

2010 - The Union City Historical Museum webpage www.unioncitymuseum.com was announced. It is a welcome invitation to visit the webpage.

Veasy Street Contributed by Anthony Gualco

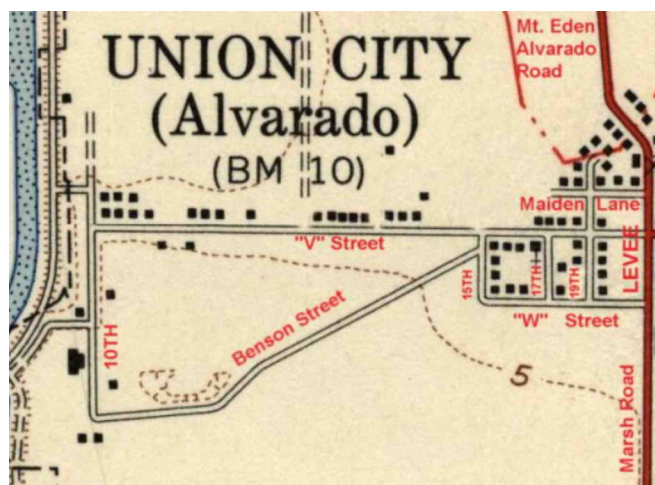


If you were to drive west on Horner Street from Union City Boulevard you will encounter a dead end once you pass Bulmer Street. As you look west past the dead end you can see that the street continues west some forty yards past the dead end. What is the story of this?

At one time (1958) the stretch of road between Union City Boulevard west to the Alameda Creek was called "V" Street. At the west end of "V" Street was 10th Street. However 10th Street received the same treatment as "V" Street in 1958 and the name of this street was changed to Veasy Street.

To reach Veasy Street today you must drive north of town to Bettencourt Way and turn west on Bettencourt until you reach the new stretch of Whipple Road. Turn left on Whipple Road and head south until you reach the first intersection. This is the other part of Horner Street, which was blocked and created a dead end from Union City Blvd.

Turn right on this portion of Horner Street and you will run into Veasy Street. Located here are trucking firms and small industry and the sewage plant. This is not the best section



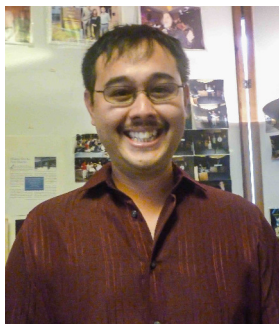
Alvarado streets in 1899. "V" Street is today's Horner Street. 10th Street is today's Veasy Street. Benson Road has been almost totally eliminated. 15th Street is today's Bulmer Street; 17th Street is today's Brooklyn Street; and 19th Street is today's Brier Street. Marsh Road and Levee Street are today's Union City Boulevard.

of Union City. But this was the cradle of old Union City. This is where John Horner started selling his town lots of Union City in December 1850. Also located here was Horner's steam flourmill of 1853 and the Geo Tay Company stove foundry of 1870 to 1906. Also here were the first hotels in the area, and this is where the name Veasy Street originates, for it was A.M. Veasy who erected the first hotel in the Union City/New Haven area. Or was it?

I can find only one instance where the name A.M. Veasy was used and that was from the Washington Township History written by the Country Club of Washington Township in 1904. Their reference to the hotel in their book was: "The first hotel was established by A.M. Veasy, who afterward gained political prominence as county clerk of Alameda County." The clue here is that Mr. Veasy became the county clerk of Alameda County. But there was no Mr. Veasy who was the county clerk in the 1850's. It was Horace M. Vesey, not A.M. Veasy. H.M. Vesey was the Alameda County Clerk from 1855 to 1858.

Mr. Vesey would eventually find his way to Nevada where he settled in Gold Hill and leased and operated a hotel under the names Vesey's Exchange, Vesey Hotel, and the Vesey House. While leasing the hotel, Horace Vesey was elected the Storey County Recorder in September 1864. Vesey ended his association with the hotel in 1867 and went on to manage hotels in Virginia City, Gold Hill, and Glenbrook. The Vesey House was still in business when Horace died on March 19, 1876.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In the "Founder's Notes" below, Myrla talks about the Union City Historical Museum newsletter issues (of which you're currently reading one right now!). She brings up a great point that all these newsletter issues, taken together, are themselves an important historical document of Union City. While it is great that all past newsletter issues are archived in binders at the Museum so they can be browsed by the community, it is also a risk that for many of these historical documents, all we have left is a single physical copy stored at the Museum itself. For safe-keeping and preservation of these documents for future generations, it would be wonderful to also electronically digitize these documents so that we can store backup copies of them and possibly even make them more accessible to everyone in our community.

Dennis Jeffrey, PhD

If anyone has any experience, equipment, and/or resources to help us electronically digitize these important physical documents at the Museum in a safe and proper way, please reach out to us -- we could really use your help! We are lucky to already have some high-level initial plans for creating a digital collection of the Museum's physical documents, which was prepared earlier this year by a visitor to the Museum as one of her course assignments. It's my hope that we can use these plans as a starting point to take action and better preserve our historical documents for generations to come. We'll see you at the Museum!

FOUNDER'S NOTES



Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founder/Chief Executive Officer

"THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM NEWSLETTERS": Do you know that the Union City Historical Museum Newsletters have been going on for more than 18 years? This Writer/Editor has been collecting stories about the happenings in Union City, both past and present.

More than 200 issues have been circulated throughout the community and other areas. Interesting stories were published. These include the early homes and people, churches, commercial and industrial uses in the area, development patterns of the first settlements, construction of railroads, the first county seat in Alameda County, the previous city councils, the business people and lawmakers of the city, interviews of prominent residents, and also the present happenings in Union City. There are many more. If you had accumulated all these issues, you would have the whole history of Union City up to the present times.

The Union City Historical Museum Newsletters are dedicated to the community to continue the history being developed as the years go by. It can be considered as one big History Book of Union City. If you want to browse over the many pages of the Newsletters, come and visit the Union City Historical Museum. They are available in big binders in the Museum located at 3841 Smith Street, Union City.

THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founder/CEO

Officers: July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

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, 2017 - June 30, 2019

High McNamara

Gloria Cardon

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gloria Cardon

MUSEUM LIFETIME MEMBERS

Phil & Leila Verzola

John & Cathy Tester

Eva Kamakea

Mike dela Cruz

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 Cecil

Angelo dela Cruz

Marcos Gatan, Jr.

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

EDITORIAL BOARD

Myrla Raymundo, MBA

Dennis Jeffrey, PhD

MUSEUM MEETINGS FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

October 2, 2017: Quarterly Board Meeting

January 8, 2018: Quarterly Board Meeting

April 2, 2018: Quarterly Board Meeting

June 4, 2018: Election of Officers and Directors

All Meetings on Mondays, 7:00pm at the Museum