

# 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.

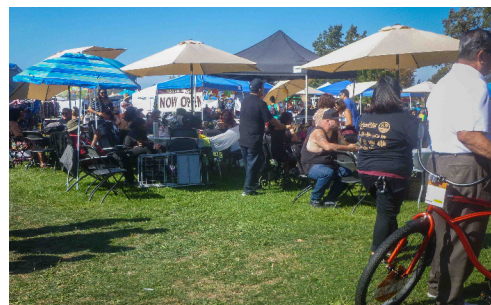
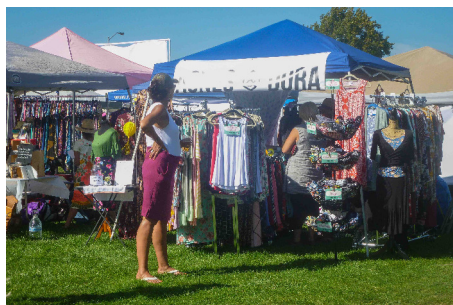
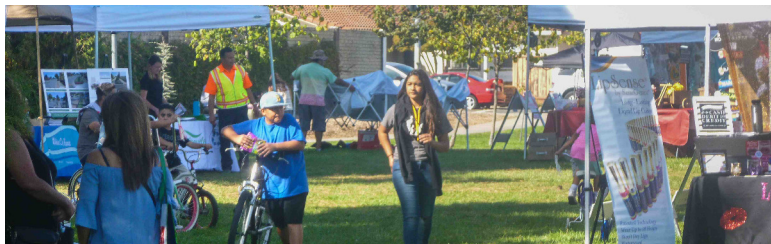
**Visit Us Online:**

- <http://www.unioncityhistoricalmuseum.org>
- <http://www.facebook.com/UCMuseum>

**Vol. 20 No. 3 • October / November 2017**

## ALVARADO FALL FEST

The **Alvarado Fall Fest** featuring **iBike - Union City**, presented by the *Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association* and the *Union City Chamber of Commerce*, was held last September 30, 2017 at the *Old Alvarado Park* in Union City. There were music and dance performances, local crafters, wine, beer, food, and kids' games. The event was well attended.



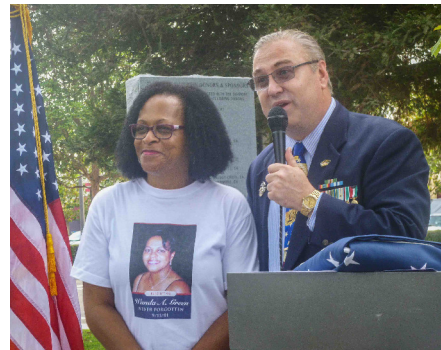
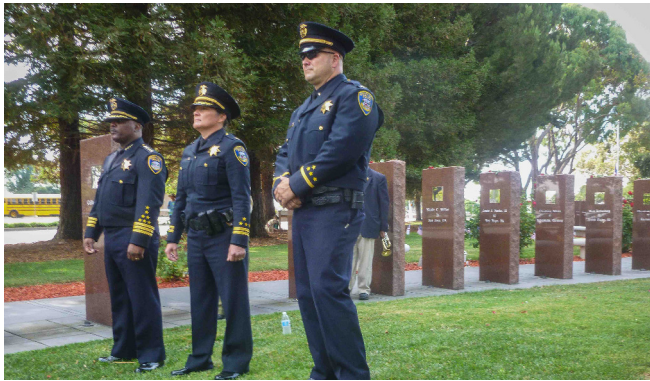
## FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

The East Bay chapter of the *Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS)* and the *Philippine American Society of Educators (PASE)* hosted a celebration of *Filipino American History Month* with the **Keeping the Legacies Alive** event last Oct. 14, 2017 at *Itliong-Vera Cruz Middle School* in Union City.

The celebration commemorated: *United Farm Workers* founders Larry Itliong and Philip Vera Cruz; the 70th anniversary of the 1947 US Military Bases Treaty; 430 years since Filipinos landed in Morro Bay, CA in 1587; and the 35th anniversary of FANHS, founded in 1982. FANHS seeks to educate our community about the history and rich cultural heritage of Filipinos in the United States. Raymond Townsend, the first Filipino in the NBA and a former *Golden State Warriors* player, was the keynote speaker.

# FLIGHT 93 REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION OF LIFE

This event was celebrated last Sept. 11, 2017 in Union City. It was well-attended by city personnel and visitors. There was a reading of names of the *United Flight 93* heroes.



## WELCOME

New City Attorney for  
Union City

**Kristopher Kokotaylo**

## IN REMEMBRANCE



**Anthony "AC" Lorenzo**, Vice President of the *Union City Historical Museum* for fiscal year 2017-2018, passed away unexpectedly last October 1st, 2017. He was 41 years old and the only child of Tito and Cora Rapadas Lorenzo.

Anthony was born in Chicago, Illinois. He moved to California in 1977 and was raised in Union City. He has a BS degree in *Information Systems* from the *University of California, San Francisco*. Anthony founded *Kai*, an Asian-American R&B musical group. Anthony owned and operated *LIT Solution Services* in the Bay Area that operates in the area of Computer and Information Systems. Anthony will be remembered as one of the vital parts of the *Union City Historical Museum* and will be truly missed.

# UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA, CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS: 2011

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

**2011 (February)** - The MURALIZMO, led by Artists Lilia Reynoso and Enrique Romero, had a field trip at the Union City Historical Museum.

**2011 (February)** - A commemorative reception honored 10 years of saving history with the Union City Historical Museum. The Museum celebrated the preservation and promotion of the heritage and culture of Union City.

**2011 (March)** - A special event was held for Union City business and community leaders at the Fremont Family Resource Center in Fremont. Jill Stovosky, Dennis Finnegan and Myrla Raymundo helped in the formation of the event.

**2011** - Myrla Raymundo attended the BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) Community Meeting at the Filipino Social Justice in Union City.

**2011 (June)** - The Union City Historical Museum held an election of officers/directors. Robert Swartz was elected President.

**2011 (July)** - Union City Superintendent Rick Sealana of the City of Union City gave all the city's newspaper clippings dating back to 1960 to the Union City Historical Museum. With the addition of these materials, the history of Union City is kept complete in the Museum.

**2011 (July)** - The Union City Historical Museum held the Induction of Officers/Directors for fiscal year 2011-2013 with Carol Dutra-Vernaci as the Inducting Officer.

**2011 (July)** - Myrla Raymundo, Founder/CEO of the Union City Historical Museum, was presented the prestigious Jack London Award by the California Writers Club in Oakland, California.

**2011 (July)** - Rohan Chandra of Fremont and Myrla Raymundo assembled the Earthquake Kit for delivery to Homebound Seniors.

**2011 (August)** - America's National Night Out Against Crime was attended by Ray Raymundo, Myrla Raymundo, Helen Kennedy and Officer Quindoy.

**2011 (August)** - Chief Sheldon Gilbert of the Alameda County Fire Department was awarded the Ronny Jack Coleman Fire Chief of the Year by the California Fire Chiefs Association at the annual conference in Riverside, California.

**2011 (September)** - James Logan's descendant Kathy Logan Jordan from Boise, Idaho, visited the Union City Historical Museum.

**2011 (September)** - The Union City Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Gourmet Truck at the Wal-Mart parking lot.

**2011 (September)** - The Union City Police Resource Center is now located at Dyer and Alvarado Blvd.

**2011 (September)** - Longtime Museum members Ernest A. Machado passed away at age 85 and Jess Orozco passed away at age 87. Irving A. Williams, former Union City Councilmember and Mayor, passed away at age 83.

**2011** - There is now a Resource Center at the Union Landing where visitors can pick up police related forms, crime prevention materials or just talk with one of the Union City police officers.

**2011 (December)** - Police Chief Greg Stewart, 56, retired. Replacing him is Police Captain Brian Foley.

---

## THE OAKLAND PAVING BRICK COMPANY CONTRIBUTED BY ANTHONY GUALCO



In 1909, C. K. Holloway interested a couple of Oakland capitalists into organizing a new brick company after locating 49 acres of clay in the area between the towns of Decoto and Niles. On January 15, 1910, the *Oakland Paving Brick Company* was incorporated with a capital stock of \$200,000, each share selling for a dollar. The clay deposit at Decoto was 20 feet thick resting beneath two feet of soil, which had to be removed by a horse scraper. Near the clay pit was built one of the largest brick plants in California. This plant had a capacity of 250,000 bricks per day, nearly half of which included paving bricks. All types of red brick were made: paving brick, repressed face brick, both plain and molded, impervious red front

brick, hard building brick, and hollow fireproofing brick.

The plant buildings were arranged in an L shape, the longer member of which was 976 feet in length and 75 feet in width. The huge sign of the company name on the side of the building was said to be 550 feet in length, with each letter being 20 feet wide and 15 feet high!

Finished bricks were shipped to market by rail, the plant being conveniently situated between the lines of the Southern Pacific and Western Pacific railroads. The railroad siding was named "PABRICO," which was an abbreviation of the "PAving BRick COmpany."

The plant started up on March 24, 1911, with 30 workers. As might be expected from the company name, their specialty was red paving brick. These pavers were vitrified brick, with the name "OAKLAND" impressed into one of the faces, cornered by four round raised lugs. Unfortunately, the pavers failed as good streetpavers, so the company had to unload them as sewer or building bricks. This was unfortunate because paving bricks were being shipped to San Francisco and Oakland from as far away as Los Angeles and Seattle due to the lack of local supply of paving bricks. By April 1912, the pavers were no longer being made and red common brick became the main product at the plant. Unable to sustain itself on common brick, the plant shut down by April end.



The Oakland Paving Brick Company plant at Decoto.

In July 1912, the company brought in Mr. Penfield of the American Clay Machinery Company to help make alterations at the plant so that it could operate profitably. There were plans to retool the plant to make face brick, ornamental brick, enameled brick, and terra cotta. Although the plant was remodeled and equipped with new machinery, it never reopened. The plant was sold a year later to W. S. Dickey Clay Manufacturing Company of Kansas City. This firm reopened the plant under the name California Brick Company. The plant was located where the Pacific States Steel Company would be located in the latter half of the 1930's.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Dennis Jeffrey, PhD**

As the days get colder and we march toward the onset of winter, so too do our hearts at the Museum feel the chill of a time of sorrow. We recently had to say goodbye to our wonderful previous Vice President, Anthony "AC" Lorenzo, who passed away very suddenly. Anthony was a friendly and caring part of the Museum family who had a strong passion and many great ideas for helping Myrta and the mission of the Museum. He brought an energy and joy to our gatherings at the Museum that we're going to sorely miss. For the Museum and for me personally, this upcoming holiday season will be a time of healing and renewed appreciation for life, family, and community.

I would like to sincerely thank Hugh McNamara, previously Museum Director, for stepping in to fill the role of Vice President at the Museum through the end of the current term. Together let's continue the vital work of the Union City Historical Museum. This holiday season and beyond, we'll see you at the Museum!

## FOUNDER'S NOTES



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

**"THE FIRST COUNTY COURTHOUSE"**: I want to remind you of a very important part of our history: I am so proud to say that Union City was the first seat of government of Alameda County.

There is a plaque in the Alvarado area that states: "FIRST COUNTY COURT HOUSE in Alameda County from 1853-1856 -- Site of first courthouse where Alameda County Government began June 6, 1853." It is State Registered Landmark No. 503. The tablet was provided by the California State Park Commission and the base was furnished by Alameda County.

Alameda County's first Court of Session convened on June 6, 1853, in a room above the store of A.M. Church and Company located on the bank of Alameda Creek. A. M. Church had just been elected county clerk. Henry Smith, his partner, purchased the building and was later allowed \$200 rent for the courtroom. They divided the county into six townships, responded to requests for road, and organized seven road districts. Four of these districts were in Washington Township. The County Seat was then transferred from New Haven, now Union City, to San Leandro because of the growth in population in the north, particularly at Horace Carpenter's new town of Oakland, which was developing on the estuary at Broadway Street. The roads leading to New Haven in the winter time were often impassable because it was situated on the lowlands isolated from a large population. Desperados and bandits could rob the town and escape before law enforcement officers could assemble in force.

As of today, the plaque is not very visible to the residents because of the commercial building in the area. However, please try to visit the place and be proud to say, "My city was the first seat of government of Alameda County."

# THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founder/CEO**

**Officers: July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018**

Dennis Jeffrey, President

Hugh McNamara, 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**

Gloria Cardon

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Yolanda Brown

Elisa S. Simpson

Srinual Mogaew

Linda Garcia

Telesia Filimoehala

## **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**