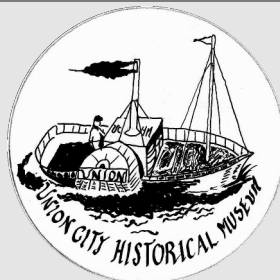


# UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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.

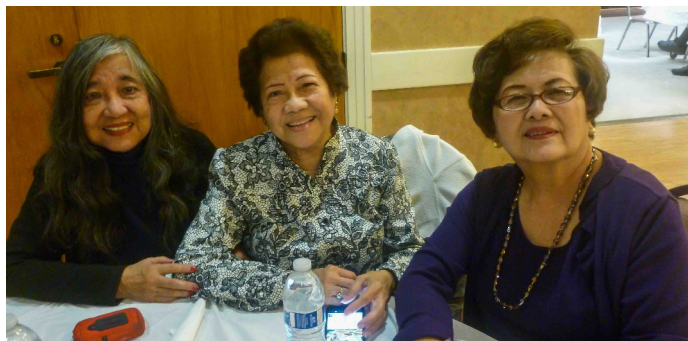
**Board Meetings:** quarterly at the Museum at 7:00pm.

**Visit Us Online:**

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

**Vol. 20 No. 4 • December 2017 / January 2018**

**Lions Club Thanksgiving Dinner.** Officials from the *Lions Club of Union City* invited seniors from all over the City to its Annual Thanksgiving Dinner last November 17, 2017 at the *Ruggieri Senior Center*. Sponsors of the event were: *Tri-Ced Community Recycling; Richard Valle; Masonic Home of Union City* and the *City of Union City*. Around 300 seniors enjoyed the event. Some of the attendees are pictured here.



**Paskuhang Pinoy.** The annual *Paskuhang Pinoy*, celebrating Christmas the Filipino Way, was held last December 2, 2017 at the *Holly Community Center* in Union City. There were presentations on celebrating Christmas in the Philippines. A lot of sponsors showed their products.

**Night of Remembrance:** The *Chapel of the Chimes* in Hayward had their annual *Night of Remembrance* last December 6, 2017, honoring those who have experienced a loss of their loved ones who cannot be with the family this season. Photos of their loved ones were placed inside the ornaments and were hung on the Christmas tree. Myrla hung husband Ray's ornament with his picture.



**Alvarado Winterfest:** The *Alvarado Winterfest*, sponsored by the *Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association*, was held last Dec. 9, 2017 at the *Old Alvarado Park* in Union City. Attendees enjoyed talent, goods and services by our local crafters, food, and entertainment, provided by those who live or have businesses in Union City or near our community.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Fernando Cabiles**, one of the Museum's Lifetime Members, passed away last December 1, 2017. We will truly miss him. He was a very active member of the community.



**Welcome Thomas Ruark,**  
the new Public Works Director,  
City of Union City.

# UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA, CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS: 2012

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

**2012 (February)** - Myrla Raymundo was selected as one of the 29 senior leaders throughout the State of California to receive a "California Senior Leaders Award" from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health and the California Wellness Foundation, held in Jack London Square, Oakland.

**2012 (February)** - The Friends of the Union City Library sent off Mira Geroy, Union City Library Manager, with a farewell party at the restaurant Pasta Pomodoro in Union Landing.

**2012 (March)** - Museum members Myrla Raymundo and Dom Filardo manned a table at Logan High School's Community Service Faire to attract student volunteers to the Museum.

**2012 (March)** - Museum members Fely Garcia, Myrla Raymundo, Vicky Guzman & Simona Cecil, Senior Ambassadors, worked at the Resource Fair at the Fremont Library. They helped seniors in way of securing benefits, housing, transportation, food stamps and their other needs.

**2012 (March)** - Antonio Zendejas, the oldest resident of Union City, died at age 106.

**2012 (May)** - The 19th Annual Asian American Heritage Festival was held at the Southern Alameda Buddhist Church in Union City.

**2012 (May)** - Myrla Raymundo was re-elected to the position of President, Friends of the Union City Library. This is her 17th year as President.

**2012 (May)** - The first issue of the Bookends Newsletter of the Friends of the Union City Library was released.

**2012** - The first issue of the UNION CITY ORAL HISTORY BOOK, authored by Myrla Raymundo, was released and was welcomed by almost everybody.

**2012 (May)** - Anthony Gualco, who was born and raised in Union City and now lives in Oregon, started writing about Union City history in the Museum Newsletter.

**2012 (May)** - Myrla Raymundo attended the California Senior Leaders Alliance Education and Advocacy in Sacramento. Together with 150 CSLA members from all over California, they advocated for the Fuentes Bill (AB1560) in the Capitol.

**2012 (June)** - The Union City Historical Museum held a general membership meeting and election of Officers/Directors for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. Robert Swartz was re-elected President.

**2012 (June)** - Myrla Raymundo, Founder/CEO of the Filipino-American Association of Alameda County, attended the Kalayaan Festival 2012 sponsored by the Bay Area Filipino American community and Union City at the Kennedy Park in Union City.

**2012 (June)** - The Mighty 4 Arts Foundation celebrated its induction into the Union City Historical Museum. The event featured dance performances. The event began with a special presentation to the group from Union City Mayor Mark Green.

**2012 (July)** - The Union City Historical Museum Induction of Officers/Directors was held with Carol Dutra-Vernaci as the Inducting Officer.

**2012 (August)** - The eighth Annual Sister City Festival was held at the Union City Sports Center. The event showcased the six Sister Cities: Pasay City, Philippines; Santa Rosalia, Mexico; Jalandhar, India; Chiang Rai, Thailand; and Liyang, China. This year they welcomed the newest Sister City, Asadabad, Afghanistan to the Sister City family.

**2012 (August)** - Marcella Roderigues, wife of the late Alfonso "Al" Roderigues, passed away.

**2012 (September)** - The seventh Annual Adobo Festival, a celebration of Filipino food and music, was held at the Veterans Park in Union City.

**2012 (September)** - The City of Union City's Facebook page started.

**2012 (September)** - The Union City Historical Museum is on Facebook and Twitter using the @UCMuseum hashtag. To access either profile, use these website URLs:

Facebook – [www.facebook.com/UCMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/UCMuseum)

Twitter – [www.twitter.com/#1/ucmuseum](http://www.twitter.com/#1/ucmuseum)

**2012 (November)** - Richard Valle was elected as Supervisor for Alameda County District 2 and Carol Dutra-Vernaci was elected as Mayor of the City of Union City.

**2012 (November)** - The Union City Lions Club held its Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Senior Citizens at the Ruggieri Senior Center.

**2012 (December)** - The Union City Historical Museum held its Annual Christmas Party.

**2012** - Councilmember Jim Navarro will serve his third and final term on the City Council.

## CALIFORNIA BRICK COMPANY

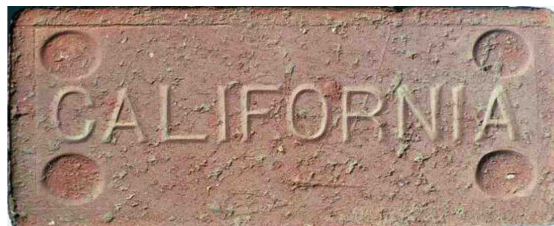


**Contributed By  
Anthony Gualco**

The *California Brick Company* opened in 1913 in the defunct Decoto plant of the *Oakland Paving Brick Company*, which along with its associated clay pit, straddled the Niles (Fremont) and Decoto (Union City) city-limit line. The company specialized in paving brick, but also made common brick, face brick, and partition hollow tile. From 1913 to 1914 the plant underwent a major remodeling effort to place it on a profitable basis. New machinery was installed including an improved auger machine for paving brick, new dry pans, a large continuous kiln with 16-foot chambers and a flue to take waste heat from the kilns to the drying tunnels, new handling machinery, a 10-ton traveling crane for both the plant interior and the yard, and a well-equipped laboratory with a complete set of recording instruments.

By May 1914, the California yard employed 100 workers. Shipments of 90,000 firebricks were made to Vancouver, British Columbia, sewer brick to Berkeley, paving brick to Oakland and Modesto, and common building brick supplied the Masonic Home in Decoto and some of the buildings in the San Francisco Presidio.

By 1920, this operation became a California branch of the *W. S. Dickey Clay Manufacturing Company*, based in Kansas City, Missouri. The bricks were fired in two Haigh continuous kilns, each 600 feet long and containing 42 chambers, connected by a large tunnel. A large overhead traveling electric crane was used for loading. Crude oil fueled the kilns. The plant had a 40,000 brick per day capacity. Between 75 and 150 men were employed.



**Red paving brick of Dickey's California  
Brick Plant at Decoto.**

By the mid 1930's the use of brick as a building material fell out of fashion and many of the smaller brick plants began to close down. During this period we also saw the closing of Remillard, Dickey, Simons, and many other large brick plants when the use of building bricks was declining in the market place. Earthquakes required changes in structural products and building codes that eliminated some companies. Increased use of reinforced concrete also displaced bricks in the building market. The company ceased operations in 1937 and the property was sold to the *Pacific States Steel Co.*

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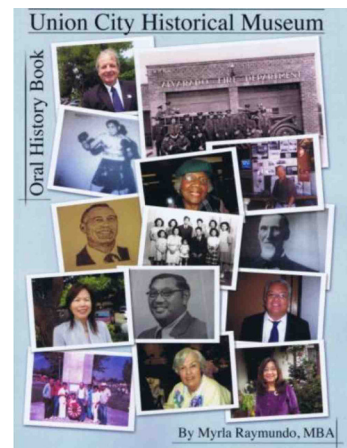
## UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM WANTS YOUR MEMORIES

The "Union City Oral History Book", written by Myrla Raymundo, Founder/CEO of the *Union City Historical Museum*, is 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.

She is again seeking personal stories from residents for her third book. Residents are asked to submit tales of growing up in Union City, attending school, going to the stores, their memories of the old towns Alvarado and Decoto.

Residents can send their stories to the *Union City Historical Museum*, 3841 Smith Street, Union City. Or they can send their names and telephone numbers to Myrla Raymundo at the Museum for interview, so she could write the story.

Your stories are very important for the continuance of Union City history.



**"Union City Oral History Book",  
by Myrla Raymundo, 214 pages**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Dennis Jeffrey, PhD**

Happy New Year to everyone in our community in Union City and to everyone who's a part of the Union City Historical Museum! I was very excited in our latest quarterly board meeting at the Museum in early January to see several new faces in attendance. This included new volunteers at the Museum as well as none other than Robert Swartz, past President of the Union City Historical Museum, who had stopped by to attend the meeting and also to donate many wonderful artifacts to the Museum that capture much of the rich history of our city. Thank you so much to all the Officers, Directors, volunteers, and especially to Robert Swartz for all you've done and are doing to help with the mission of the Museum. Looking forward to a great year ahead -- we'll see you at the Museum!

## FOUNDER'S NOTES



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

**Historical Figures:** Would you believe that our Union City pioneers are still with us? They were buried in the old *Cypress Cemetery*, a part of Union City. The cemetery is located at the end of the *Chapel of the Chimes* on Mission Blvd.

Our Union City pioneers were instrumental in building our old towns Alvarado, New Haven, and Decoto, which are now Union City. They built stores and businesses and contributed to our agriculture. Their contributions are what we are enjoying today. We should keep them in our memories. They are still with us at the end of the Chapel of the Chimes.

Let us remember them and not forget what contributions they made to what we have today. Here are some of them: Ezra Decoto, Janet Decoto, Peter Decoto, Farley B. Granger, Anna Granger, James McKeown, Annie McKeown, Edward Niehaus, Joseph Ralph, and John H. Ralph.

What frightens me and the Union City Historical Museum is that the Chapel of the Chimes could raze the old gravesite for their future use. We just hope that this will never happen; otherwise we lose our link to our history.

## 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

### 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  
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**