

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. 21 No. 4 • March 2019

NEWS AROUND UNION CITY

The **Ruggieri Senior Center** celebrated its 29th year on November 14, 2018. Larry Orozco was the Master of Ceremonies. A lot of seniors attended the festivities.

The **Trees of Angels for Hospice and Palliative Care** was held at the Union City City Hall last December 5, 2018. Helen Kennedy, President of the organization, welcomed the attendees. The Tree Lighting was enjoyed by the guests. Entertainment was presented by the *James Logan Jazz Singers* and refreshments were served. The opportunity to take a photo with Santa was enjoyed by the kids.

At the **Union City Council Meeting** last December 11, 2018, several proclamations and oaths of office were held: farewell remarks from Councilmember Lorrin Ellis; oath of office of re-elected Councilmembers Emily Duncan and Pat Gacoscos; and oath of office and installation of newly-elected Councilmember Jaime Patino. Congratulations to all.

A proclamation was given to **retiring Police Chief Darryl McAllister** for his work and service to the community.



Congratulations to newly-elected Councilmember Jaime Patino.

Congratulations to **Union City Police Captain Jared Rinetti** for his appointment as the new Police Chief of Union City.

Councilmember Gary Singh was appointed to the position of Vice-Mayor.

Coffee with Cops was held last January 15, 2019 with Chief of Police Jared Rinetti and other officers. It was a good turnout with some of the members from the Union City Historical Museum attending the event.



Coffee with Cops event held last January 15th with Chief of Police Jared Rinetti and other police officers.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM DECEMBER 17, 2018



ALAMEDA SUGAR COMPANY



**Contributed By
Anthony Gualco**

The Alameda Sugar Company began straightforward in the processing of beets and in 1895, they added a railroad spur from the sugar mill to the Southern Pacific railhead at Hayward/Decoto so that beets grown in Murray Township and Contra Costa county could be delivered straight to the mill in Alvarado. In 1898 the mill started investigating the area around the Sacramento Delta for the growing of beets. The year 1905 saw the Alvarado mill send their agent, Mr. George Gray, to Yolo County (Woodland and Davis) looking at future ground for growing beets.

In November 1910 it was rumored that the Alameda Sugar Co. was about to erect a plant near Woodland where they had 14,000 acres of sugar beets currently under cultivation. In 1911 and 1912 the Alameda Sugar Company began paring landholdings near Alvarado and it was their intention to close the Alvarado mill and build a larger one in Meridian.

The sugar mill expected the 1913 crop would be shipped to the Alvarado mill and at the end of the year the erection of the new mill would be commenced at Meridian and would be ready to handle the 1914 crop when the entire 12,000 acres was expected to be producing beets. The Alvarado mill would then be dismantled.



The Alameda Sugar Mill at Alvarado circa 1905.

An announcement from the stockholders meeting held in November 1913 stated that the Alvarado sugar mill would continue to run although the company had decided to quit raising beets themselves. This was good news for the farmers of Alvarado, Pleasanton and Woodland that the Alameda Sugar Company stockholders voted to resume operations at the Alvarado refinery beginning in 1915. More than 30,000 shares of stock voted in favor of resuming operations in Alvarado. It was also decided that the Alameda Sugar Company would get out of the sugar beet farming business and would purchase all of its beets from individual farmers on contract.

On October 15, 1915 school children blew the factory whistle at the Alvarado mill and threw in the beets that started the sugar mill at Alvarado in operation after it had been closed down for two years.

In March 1920 the Alameda Sugar Company concluded a deal for the purchase of the sugar mill of the Pacific Sugar Corporation at Tracy, Calif. The Alvarado mill opened in August 1924 after having been completely overhauled in order to handle the beets from the approximately 14,000 acres in California and Nevada, and with the reopening of the Tracy mill it was necessary to find a larger acreage than usual to supply both mills.

Prices for sugar were depressed in 1925 and there was not a bright outlook for 1926. Alameda Sugar lost almost \$1 million in 1925. The Holly Sugar Co. had leased the plant at Tracy to Holly Sugar for the 1926 campaign. The Alvarado mill did not operate during the 1926 season.

In December 1926 the Alvarado and Tracy plants of the Alameda Sugar Co. were sold to the Holly Sugar Corp. The company also controlled the Alameda Farm Company, which owned 10,035 acres of sugar beet land in Sutter County.

Next: The Holly Sugar Company

UNION CITY, CA, CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS: 2017 JULY - DECEMBER

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

2017 (July)

The newly elected Officers/Directors of the Union City Historical Museum were installed by Vice Mayor Pat Gacoscos.

2017 (August)

Union City National Night Out with the Police and the City was held at the Union City Veterans Memorial Park.

Union City, California Chronology of Events (2008-2010) was published in the Museum Newsletter.

Anthony Gualco published "Veasy Street" in the Museum Newsletter.

2017 (September)

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 at the Old Alvarado Park in Union City.

The Flight 93 Remembrance and Celebration of Life was held in Union City.

2017 (October)

The Filipino-American History Month was held at Itliong-Vera Cruz Middle School in Union City.

Anthony "AC" Lorenzo, Vice President of the Union City

Historical Museum, passed away unexpectedly. He was 41 years old.

We welcome the New City Attorney for Union City, Kristopher Kokotaylo.

Union City, California Chronology of Events (2011) was published in the Museum Newsletter.

Anthony Gualco published "The Oakland Paving Brick Company" in the Museum Newsletter.

2017 (November)

Lions Club of Union City invited seniors from Union City to its Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Ruggieri Senior Center.

2017 (December)

The Alvarado Winterfest, sponsored by the Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association, was held at the Alvarado Park in Union City.

Fernando Cabiles, one of the Museum's Lifetime Members, passed away.

The annual Paskuhang Pinoy, celebrating Christmas the Filipino Way, was held at the Holly Community Center in Union City.

The Chapel of the Chimes in Hayward held their annual Night of Remembrance honoring those who have experienced a loss of their loved ones. Myrla Raymundo hung husband Ray's ornament with his picture in the Christmas tree.

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

Union City, California Chronology of Events (2012) was published in the Museum Newsletter.

Anthony Gualco published "The California Brick Company" in the Museum Newsletter.

Bernie Morales, the first Mexican-American Mayor of Union City, passed away at the age of 100. He was elected to the Union City City Council in April 1964 and served as Councilman and for two terms as Mayor until 1968.

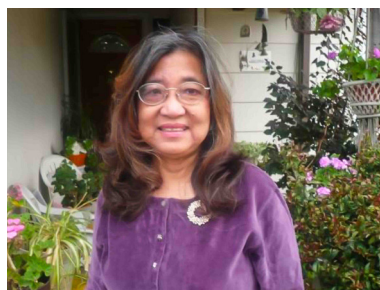
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hugh McNamara

We have a New Year (2019) in less than five days as the old year departs. The Christmas season is winding down and the New Year parties will be underway. It is now that all officers/members should get more active other than the few that have been active at times. The Christmas party was very successful and enjoyed by all who attended. Good luck to all in 2019.

FOUNDER'S NOTES



Myrla Raymundo, MBA,
Founder/CEO

The Union City Drive-In Theater

Do you still remember the Union City Drive-In Theater? The big screen stood out next to the freeway between the Whipple and Alvarado Niles off-ramps. Whether it was the lighted marquee or the short glimpses of the six movie screens, the theater made an impression on all that drove past.

For many years, the Drive-In was a familiar sight. It was a landmark. The Drive-In was a source of pride for our city when the curtain first rose in 1966. Its six screens were more than any other nearby theater had and its huge red and white marquee served as a massive welcome sign to the city.

Residents and other people from neighboring cities who went to the Drive-In loved the family atmosphere. Kids played on the swings and went to the snack bar and bought candies and other snacks.

In March 1998, after 32 years, the Drive-In closed. The event was marked by a farewell gala billed as "The Last Picture Show," showing classics including the 1957 movie "I was a Teenage Frankenstein." Closing the Union City Drive-In was like destroying the American dream. Watching a movie in a car under the stars in Union City is now history. A mix of high land prices and commercialization drove the Union City Drive-In out.

THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founder/CEO

Officers: July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Hugh McNamara, President
Ricardo Avelino, Vice-President
Ralf Mueller, Secretary
Carlen Gregorio, Treasurer

Directors:

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2019

Gloria Cardon
Lagrimas Bundang
Angel Villorente

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020

Dom Filardo
Sarabjit Cheema
Dennis Jeffrey
Ian Condon
William Condon

EDITORIAL BOARD

Myrla Raymundo, MBA
Dennis Jeffrey, PhD

MUSEUM MEETINGS FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

October 2, 2018: Quarterly Board Meeting
January 7, 2019: Quarterly Board Meeting
April 8, 2019: Quarterly Board Meeting
June 3, 2019: Election of Officers and Directors

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

MUSEUM LIFETIME MEMBERS

Myrla Raymundo
Phil & Leila Verzola
John & Cathy Tester
Eva Kamakea
Mike dela Cruz
Gina Lewis
Al & Marsha Badella
Barbara Scheifler
William & Dorothy Pearce Hubbard
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
Edgar Roldan
Evelyn Abellera
Marlene O. Benedict