

# ***UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM***

*Founded by Myrla Raymundo, MBA*

**3841 Smith Street, Union City, California 94587, Tel. (510) 324-3298**

**Three Components**

**(1) Museum & Artifacts, (2) Oral History (3) Preservation of Historical Homes  
Museum Board meets on the first Monday of the month at the Museum at 7 PM**

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**[www.geocities.com/ucmuseum/](http://www.geocities.com/ucmuseum/)**

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## **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.

### **PRESENTING SOME OF THE UNION CITY'S "FINEST"**

By Myrla Raymundo

#### **Union City Police Department**

#### **Police Chief Randy Ulibarri**

The first Police Department was on H Street and Decoto Road, and then moved to Whipple and Central Ave. In April 21, 1979, they moved to the new location in the Civic Center at Alvarado-Niles Road.

In July 2000, Chief Randy Ulibarri was sworn in as the new Police Chief.

The Union City Police Department handles the needs of the growing community, one of the most important services provided by the City. Some of the services are Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, C.A.R.E. Program, Citizens Aiding Residents & Elderly, Safer Senior, and Graffiti Buster.

Aside from the numerous important functions of the Union City Police Department, they hold Open Houses to the residents. The activities are K9, S.W.A.T., motorcycle demonstrations, and fingerprinting of children, AND tour of the police facility.

This issue presents some of our "finest" who untiringly serve the population of Union City. They are Officer Wayne Chapman, Officer Steve Mendez, Officer Howard Baron, Officer Kirk Wu, and Reverend Albert Valencia.

**OFFICER WAYNE CHAPMAN**

Officer Wayne Chapman joined the Union City Police Department 18 years ago. Before coming to Union City, he was an administrator at Stanford Medical Center in 1974. He also worked at Santa Clara University and San Jose State.

Wayne followed in the footsteps of his dad and two older sisters, who graduated from U. C. Berkeley. He also graduated from that university.

His most prestigious position now a days is President of the Police Activities League, a position held by Councilmember Richard Valle before

He said he doesn't train boxers at the Police Activities League gym. Kids are there honing their skills, rather than getting into trouble in the streets. Besides boxing, P.A.L. programs also include "3 on "3 basketball leagues, junior football, the Junior Giants baseball program and a few soccer teams. P.A.L. also puts on an annual science fair.

The Union City's science fair is set up at the Logan High School pavilion. The free event is sponsored by the Union

City Police Activities League. This fair is meant to be fun and at the same time educate and bring science to the forefront.

**OFFICER STEVE MENDEZ**

Officer Steve Mendez joined Union City as a Volunteer Police Explorer-Cadet in 1985.

He was born in Fremont in 1971, but his family lived in Decoto on 11<sup>th</sup> street since 1959. He has three (3) sisters and one (1) brother. He studied at Searles Middle School and graduated from Logan High School in 1989. He took courses at Chabot College for two years.

Officer Mendez is a member of the SWAT Team. Some of his duties are Crime Scene Investigator, Bicycle Patrol Instructor, Hostage Negotiator, and Field Training officer.

Presently, he is with the Decoto Resource Center doing community services. He likes to go fishing at Quarry Lake and enjoys bike riding. He is bilingual and speaks Spanish. He has two children, ages 11 and 13.

**OFFICER HOWARD BARON**

Officer Howard Baron, a member of the SWAT Team, joined the Union City Police Force in 2002. He is stationed at Logan High School as the School Resource Officer.

He came from the City of Davis as a Police Officer, was a Deputy Sheriff at the Alameda County Sheriffs Department, and worked at American Airlines for 12 years.

He finished high school at California High School in San Ramón and took college courses at Diablo Valley College and Las Positas College.

**OFFICER KIRK WU**

Officer Kirk Wu joined the Union City Police Force as a Police Officer in July 2001.

His previous job was as a Community Service Officer with the Hayward Police Department. He worked there for 1 ½ years. He was with the U. S. Marine Reserve Service for eight (8) years.

He studied at Presidio Middle School and graduated from Washington High School in San Francisco. He went to Chabot College and Cal State East Bay. He studied Criminal Justice in 1997 – 1999.

His parents live in San Francisco and his grandmother, in Oakland.

**REVEREND ALBERT VALENCIA**  
Union City Police Chaplain

Reverend Albert Valencia came to the Union City Police Department in May 2005.

For a month, he was selling the idea of police chaplaincy and intervention services to Lt. Kelly Musgrove and Patricia Avedesco. Finally, he put the proposal to Police Chief Randy Ulibarri.

On May 9, 2005, the Union City Police Department Police Chaplain Program was launched. The program provides when requested, spiritual guidance and counseling to all Union City Police Department personnel, and assist personnel of the Department and the community through a field service ministry.

The Chaplain provides spiritual guidance, counseling and comfort in times of crisis or trauma.

He also provides pre and post marital counseling; officiates at wedding ceremonies; officiates at funeral or

memorial services; smf attends Department ceremonies, including graduations, promotions, award ceremonies, civic functions and public events.

He regularly rides-along with Patrol Officers. He acts as a liaison to the religious community, working to develop and maintain close relationships with members of all faiths and denominations.

His past accomplishments are many, the most notable was when he coordinated major events for the September 11 ceremony.

Chaplain Valencia is a Union City resident for the past five (5) years. He had been with this ministry for 27 years.

He is a volunteer with no compensation and works 25 hours week, 100 hours a month. Reverend Valencia and wife Elva has two children, Melody and Abraham.

The Newark Police Department has a chaplain, as does the Fremont Fire Department. The City of Union City is proud to have a Police Chaplain Program

We welcome Reverend Albert Valencia to Union City.

**IN SUBSEQUENT ISSUES, WE  
WILL BE PRESENTING MORE OF  
THE UNION CITY'S "FINEST."**

**AL MINARD, Director  
Union City Historical Museum**

By Myrla Raymundo

Alvin (Al) Minard was born on September 29, 1939, in Orland, California. He moved to Fremont in 1967 and went to work for General Motors as a Millwright/Welder. He worked there until they closed the plant in 1982, but went back to work at the Toyota-General Motors Joint Venture in 1984 as a Maintenance Mechanic. He retired from NUMMI on March 3, 2003. His wife La Vonne was born in Berkeley on July 15, 1947. She worked for Del Monte Foods in San Francisco for 23 years and was laid off in 1993. Al has five children from his first marriage and La Vonne has one son from her first marriage.

Al graduated from Orland High School and then pursued further education at Chico State College, but did not graduate.

Al's mother was born in Orland, California and passed away at age 93 in 2003. Al's dad was born in 1889 in Kansas and died at the age of 69. One brother, Kenneth, age 64, lives in British Columbia. Al has several cousins still living in Orland. Al's father's family came to California in 1907 and settled in Orland in 1910.

Al belongs to a lot of organizations: some of them are the Washington Township Museum as a Parliamentarian, Newsletter and Nominating Committee member; Mission Peak Heritage Foundation as a Secretary and a Docent; Museum of Local History and Niles Essanay Museum, Pacific Locomotive Association; the Alameda County Historical Society as a board member, Conference of California Historical Societies as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and President Elect; Regional Vice President for Alameda County; Union City Historical Museum Director; Patterson House Advisory Board, City of Fremont; Historical Architectural Review Board, City of Fremont for eight years until termed out this year.

On the lighter side, Al is a member of the Farmers and Farmerettes Square Dance Club.

Al became interested in history late in life. His first project was restoring an old church in San Jose, and then helping set up the Trolley Museum at the San Jose historical park. He now works to protect old homes in Fremont slated for demolition. He got involved with Fremont's Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) to preserve historical buildings in Fremont.

He and LaVonne love to travel. They have seen Europe, Germany, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, and Italy. They plan to travel again to Canada and do a Mexican Cruise.

We are proud to have Al Minard as part of our Museum. He is not only very interested in history, but he had done a lot of historical work.

**NEW HAPPENINGS IN UNION CITY**

**CONLEY-CARABALLO HIGH SCHOOL**

The New Haven Unified School District dedicated the Conley-Caraballo High School on September 28, 2005. The school is located at 541 Blanche Street, Hayward, California.

Guests seated under the very hot sun was welcome by Jonas Dino, President of the New Haven Unified School District. Superintendent Dr. Pat Jaurequi, the EMCEE, introduced the Board of Education Barbara Aro-Valle, Gwen Estes, Kevin Harper and Jean Stringer.

She also introduced the Union City vice mayor Carol Dutra Vernaci and Councilmember Richard Valle.

Harriet Gore delivered "Remembering Jean Conley" and Keith Caraballo delivered the "Remembering Hector Caraballo." Hilda S. Vargal delivered the Student's Perspective. Dr. Pat Jaurequi gave the Special Presentations.

The new principal of the school is Judy Silver.

There was a school tour led by CCHS Students.

Museum President Ray Raymundo and Museum Founder Myrla Raymundo attended the presentation.

**ALMAVIA of UNION CITY**

Alma Via of Union City, which is an Elder Care Alliance Community, opened its doors to residents last November 10, 2005. It is located at 33883 Alvarado Niles Road in Union City.

The facility is a handsome row of apartments with its beautiful color combination that is very soothing to the eyes and to the senses.

Dignitaries and residents attended the opening ceremony.

**JEAN ROSE (1918-2005)**

Jean Rose, wife of our Museum Director Al Rose, passed away on October 12, 2005. She was 87.

Jean was born in California on February 13, 1918. She was a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church; the Lioness Club; the Sociedade Portuguesa Rainha Santa Isabel, a Portuguese women's society; and the Union City Historical Museum. She lived in Union City for 65 years.

She will be missed.

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**FATHER GEOFFREY BARAAN,  
NEW PASTOR AND  
ADMINISTRATOR AT ST. ANNE**

**By Myrla Raymundo**

Union City boasts of many churches that are helping in shaping up the well being of our residents and enhancing the quality of life in our city.

In 1978, the following were the churches that reflect the city's multi-ethnic background -Apostolic Assembly, Assembly of God, Baptist, American Baptist, Southern Hillview Baptist, Primera, Iglesia, Bautista, Ebenezer, Buddhist, Roman Catholic, Our Lady of the Rosary Church and St. Anne's Church.

St. Anne is one of the largest parishes in the Oakland Diocese, but maintains a friendly, small-town atmosphere. St. Anne, located in Cabello Street and Dyer Road in Union City, was founded in 1860. The original church was built in the old Alvarado District (as these areas were known before its charter as Union City.) The new St. Anne Church was built in 1983. Union City is one of the

most ethnically and culturally diverse community in Northern California and

St. Anne reflects this diversity. Rev. Ramon J. Gomez, the Pastor for St. Anne Church for many years, left on a sabbatical leave.

Like a theatrical performance, Father Geoffrey Baraan, the new pastor and administrator of St. Anne Parish, made a grand entrance to the St. Anne Parish on his first introductory mass on November 5, 2005.

Father Regie led the mass entourage and started the 5:00 o'clock mass. He said, "Where is Father Baraan? Why am I still here doing his work?" All of a sudden. Father Baraan rushed to the altar with a large bag on his shoulder and started putting on his mass gears. He was late. He came from his old parish, St. Ignatius in Antioch. He started the mass and welcomed all the parishioners.

Father Baraan was born January 11 in Dasol, Pangasinan in the Philippines. He was enrolled in a Franciscan seminary in Lipa City, Philippines when he moved with his family to the United States in 1979. He is the fifth of nine children. His parents, Francisco and Imelda Baraan, reside in Manteca.

He attended St. Joseph College Seminary in Los Altos in 1990 and completed his studies at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. Oakland Bishop John Cummins ordained him to the priesthood in 1997 and he began serving as parochial vicar at St. Augustine Parish in Pleasanton. Later he was appointed parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Pinole and then as

parochial administrator at St. Ignatius Parish in Antioch in 2001.

Before he was a priest, he was a banker and counselor, WELCOME FATHER GEOFFREY BARAAN!

<b>PRESIDENT'S REPORT</b>
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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

I wish the officers and members of the Union City Historical Museum a very good year. It is my hope that we will continue to work on our goals in the coming months.

**Grants** – Myrla Raymundo, Chairperson - The Institute of Museum and Library Services-IMLS Grant 2006 in the amount of \$150,000 was submitted on October 30, 2005. The due date was November 15, 2005. We are still hoping that the California Cultural and Historical Endowment approve our grant request.

**Fundraising** – Miles Price, Chairperson – The Fundraising Casino Bus Trip to River Rock on November 11, 2005 garnered \$145.00.

The second annual Sweetheart Dance is slated for February 11, 2006. It will be held at the Ruggieri Senior Center. Please mark your calendar.

**Membership** – Hugh McNamara, Chairperson and Myrla Raymundo received new members and are continuously doing membership drives.

**Docents** – Ray Raymundo -The Museum is open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and is being continuously staffed by volunteers.

**Museum Newsletter** – Myrla Raymundo, Chairperson. Please continue to send your articles to Myrla Raymundo for the Newsletter.

**Website** – Tim Swenson, Chairperson – Tim Swenson is continuously working on the Museum Web Site.

**Preservation of Historic Homes and Buildings** – Myrla Raymundo, Chairperson – Letters were sent to owners for possible historic designation of their properties. Myrla will also draft a Mills Act for the City of Union City to entice the homeowners to have their homes designated as historical.

**History Presentations** - Myrla Raymundo - Continuous walk tours in the Museum and Presentation of History to visitors.

**Museum Artifacts** – Lupe St. Denis – Chairperson. No report.

**Video Presentations** – Myrla Raymundo, Chairperson. Myrla and Mike Christ are still working on a video presentation of old Alvarado.

newspapers from the 1800s. The Museum continues to clip newspaper articles and historical documents for a continuation of the city's history.

<b>FOUNDER'S NOTES</b>
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**“ENRICHING YOUR MINDS”**

The Union City Historical Museum can make you a richer, more beautiful and more interesting person faster than any other place.

The artifacts housed in the Museum have been collected from local residents. These objects were used during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and were passed down from generation to generation.

Among the artifacts found in the Museum is a 1923 vintage trash-burning stove, a 1920s steamer trunk, a 1876 pedal-powered jigsaw, a 1950s Kodak brownie movie projector, a 1923 vintage refrigerator, 1800s iron, 1870s sewing machine and more than 100 objects that hold historical value for the residents of Union City because they were used by their ancestors.

The Museum has a number of historical documents and a collection of

The Union City Historical Museum is the first museum in Union City and is the only repository in this town that collects artifacts related to the entire Union City history. Our collections reflect all aspects of community life, including the social, economic, religious, educational, artistic, military and organizational history of Union City. The collection of Union City history continues through the collection of artifacts, oral history, preservation of historic building, and newspaper clippings.

Boost your children's education with frequent trips to our Museum. It will improve their imagination and creative impulse.

So take your time. Browse through the many interesting things in the Museum or go directly to our Web site and enjoy reading the stories in our Newsletters.

Follow where your intellectual and emotional curiosity lead you. You'll learn what you love and come to respect much of what you previously did not understand.

The Museum is waiting for you. We are open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 to 4.

You'll be surprised. You can be the person you want to be.

MYRLA

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Myrla Raymundo, Founder

**Officers FY2005 -2006**

Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo, President  
Mani Patel, Vice-President  
Dave Bhatia, Secretary  
Hugh McNamara, Treasurer

**Directors – FY2004-2006**

Miles Price  
Al Rose  
Al Minard

**Directors- FY2005-2007**

Lupe St. Denis  
Margaret Shepard  
Teresita Gatan  
Timothy Swenson

**Past Presidents**

Myrla Raymundo  
Timothy Swenson

Fernando & Helen Cabiles  
Allen & Simona Cecil  
Josephine Pando

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Manny Brillo  
Luz Brillo  
Krishnil Mani  
Laura Manansala  
Marlon Manansala

**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP**

**Please consider being a lifetime member. Your name will be included in the Hall of Fame of the Museum.**

**WELCOME LIFETIMER**

**Josephine Pando**

**MUSEUM DOCENTS**

We're calling on the Museum members to help us. If you're available on any of the days that we are open, please call the Museum at (510) 324-3298.

**MUSEUM LIFETIME MEMBERS**

Phil & Leila Verzola  
John & Cathy Tester  
Timothy & Catherine Swenson  
Eva Kamakea  
Georgia Megue & Mike dela Cruz  
Ligfinio (Ray) & Myrla Raymundo  
Gina Lewis  
Reiner & Sheryl Glausch  
Al & Marsha Badella  
Barbara Scheifler  
William & Dorothy Hubbard  
Bob & Leslie Swartz  
Steve Miller & Diane LaMountaine

**HISTORY PRESENTATION**

The history of Union City is being presented at the Union City Historical Museum on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Please come to the Museum and learn more about our city.

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

**FY 2005-2007**

Myrla Raymundo, Editor

Jo Ann Lew

Miles Price  
Teresita Gatan  
Aurora Rabuy  
Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo  
(Layout Artist/Production)

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