

# **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 quarterly at the Museum at 7 PM**

\*\*\*\*\*

**VOL. 8 NO. 2**

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

**September 2006**

**Myrla Raymundo, Founding Editor/Writer**

**e-mail [RAYMYR@aol.com](mailto:RAYMYR@aol.com)**

---

## **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.

**A TRIBUTE TO DR. HAROLD  
SCHOENFELD  
Past Superintendent of New Haven  
School District**

**DR. HAROLD SCHOENFELD  
PHOTO TAKEN IN 1952**

At that time, the district was composed of two elementary K-8 schools: Decoto and Henry Barnard. The principal of the Decoto School was Wallace Perry, and Boyd Morningstar was the principal of the Henry Barnard School.

The membership of the Board of trustees was Manuel White, Clerk and trustees Alvin Searles and William Davis.

In 1952 the district was almost bankrupt. The trustees called for a tax increase election. The electorate approved the election in a decisively large vote.

Dr. Harold Schoenfeld was appointed superintendent of the Decoto Elementary School District on May 27, 1952. Dr. Schoenfeld succeeded Louis Musick.

Because of overcrowded classrooms and double sessions, the school board called a bon election in 1953. This successful election enabled

the Searles, Manuel White and Hillview Crest schools to be constructed and the Decoto School to be reconstructed except for the old school auditorium. The El Rancho Verde School was constructed shortly afterwards.

Pauline Gause was appointed principal of the Hillview Crest School. Refugio Cabello was appointed principal of Searles. Ken Crump became principal at Decoto. Neal Kauffman became principal of the El Rancho Verde School, Reggi Minette became principal of the Barnard School and James Blood was appointed Principal of the Manuel White School.

Dr. Schoenfeld, having completed the construction program now gave all of his attention to the curriculum after appointing Boyd Morningstar as his assistant superintendent and Ellis Teel as Business Manager.

Mrs. Carla Edie was appointed Director of Instruction. Tressa Walters headed the school health services and health education program while Guy Emanuele was appointed to head the federal projects program. Phyllis Hansen directed the music program and Chris Carabello directed the physical education and after school recreation program

President Lyndon B. Johnson and Civil Rights leaders were calling for the desegregation and integration of the nation's schools. Under Dr. Schoenfeld's leadership, desegregation was accomplished by pairing combinations of K, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Bernard

School became the district's only middle school with grades 6, 7 and 8.

By March 1963, there was a student population of 3,151 and 156 employees of which 112 were teachers.

*The Union City Leader* of March 14, 1967, quoted Dr. Schoenfeld as follows: "We are not amongst the first of the districts in which new changes are tried, but as soon as there is enough research compiled to indicate the strength, weakness, dangers and problems, we adapt the new programs to our community needs."

In early 1952, the district's central administration was in a classroom and offices in the original Decoto School. Upon renovation and reconstruction of the Decoto School, the central administration was moved to the nurse's office. From there it was moved to the kindergarten area of the Barnard School after it was converted into a middle school.

Upon unification of the Washington School District (K-12), the James Logan High School became part of the New Haven Unified School District - the former Decoto and Alvarado Elementary School Districts. The "New Haven" name was selected from an Alameda County map.

The newly elected and first Board of Education of the New Haven Unified School District (N.H.U.S.D.) consisted of Frank Borghi, Gail Pagan, Reverend Paulson, Stanley Richards and John Samarron.

The Board selected Dr. Schoenfeld from a field of sixty (60) candidates as its first superintendent.

An editorial in the *News Register*, dated March 22, 1965, stated: "the New Haven School District trustees made a fine choice when they selected Dr. Harold Schoenfeld as the new superintendent. In picking this gentleman they have assured the district of the highest quality leadership coupled with years of valuable experience in the education field. As Superintendent of the Decoto School District since 1952, Dr. Schoenfeld established himself as an eager and conscientious leader, keenly aware of the problems facing schools today. He not only gave capable leadership, but he implemented many new and revolutionary ideas into the system which have since proved very valuable and rewarding."

Dr. William Cowan and Dr. Lionel Olsen, Professors of Educational Administration of San Francisco State University in 1968 told the board of education-----."the administrators, curriculum development personnel n special service employees had the highest level of support and confidence best found upon them by the districts elementary and secondary teaching staffs."

The professors' 59-page evaluation commended the district's instructional program and its administrators. Professor Cowan said he and Dr. Olsen and their investigators know of no other district administration, which received a higher evaluation from its staff or had the courage to be evaluated by its teaching personnel.

In 1969, Dr. Schoenfeld left the New Haven Unified School District to become Superintendent of the Desert Sands Unified District in Riverside County. When Dr. Schoenfeld became Superintendent of the Decoto Elementary School District in 1952, the enrollment was 950. When Dr. Schoenfeld left, the enrollment was 9000.

A letter from Jay Hendee, President of the New Haven Teachers' Association to the President of the Desert Sands Unified School District Teachers Association states in part: "...one of the best examples of an incredibly complex achievement of Dr. Schoenfeld's administration is the ending of de facto segregation within the district. Had it not been for the superintendent's determination in working toward equal educational opportunity for our 40% Mexican-American population, and the skill and patience with which he involved both teachers and community in the planning, our new ethnically balanced school system might well not be a reality - certainly not a reality with strong community support."

When Dr. Schoenfeld retired from the Desert Sands Unified School District in 1979, he was appointed interim superintendent of the Palm Springs Unified School District following the tragic death of Superintendent Larsen from the stress of a one--day teachers' strike and labor/management dialogue.

The *Palm Springs Desert Sun* editorial on April 17, 1979, said, "surely Superintendent Schoenfeld can fill the breach and keep the system operating in

a most professional manner for as long as the Palm Springs Board considers necessary.”

Dr. Schoenfeld has written several articles for the *Palm Springs Desert Sun*, namely: “Religions in the Public Schools, The Pledge of Allegiance and Contributions of Women in the U. S. Military.” He has also served as a commissioner on the Riverside County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission.

Dr. Schoenfeld, shown above, is a widower, 91 years young and he is living an active life in Palm Desert.

*(Contributed by Frank Borghi, Jr., first School Board Member and wife Elvamae Borghi, first Queen of Alameda County Fair)*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>QUEEN ELVA MAE ROSE BORGHI</b></p>
--

Tall, statuesque, and brunette Elva Mae Rose Borghi was the 1949 Alameda County Fair Queen.

In 1949, Elva Mae met Frank Borghi II, who was then a dairyman. When Elva Mae met him, it was to sell one of the many tickets that won her the top prize, Alameda County Fair Queen.

When she won, she was so happy, she cried. When they crowned her “Queen”, she said, “that was the highlight of my life.” The ball was held at the Veterans Memorial Building in Pleasanton. Willy Petit and his Orchestra played. She won a diamond wristwatch and she flew on Western Airlines to Los Angeles as an additional prize and appeared on “Queen For A Day” TV show.

Elva Mae is married to Frank Borghi II, a former director of the Alameda County Water Board. They have three boys, David, Robert and Frank III. They still live in the same house in the Decoto District. Frank and Elva Mae are lifetime members of the Union City Historical Museum.

**LOREN PINTO**  
**A lifelong Alvarado resident**  
**By Myrla Raymundo**

**Loren and Liz Pinto with their latest project,  
the pipe organ at Saint Anne Church**

Loren Pinto will always be associated with St. Anne Catholic Church in Union City. He and his family provide the music during the 10:00 o'clock mass choir. Loren directs the choir while his wife, Elizabeth, plays the guitar, sister Elaine plays organ and piano, younger sister Karen and his mother Antoinette both sing as do daughters Alison and Erica when they are in town. Loren has directed this choir for almost 40 years.

For those who remember the drive-in theater's huge marquee, it was Loren who used to change the sign way up there. It was quite a challenge on a cold and windy night! The Pinto family was associated with the theater from the time it opened in 1966 with brother Lee directing traffic on the theater's opening day and ending with nephew Adam Bebee working the snack bar on the last day of operation. Over the three decades in between it seemed that almost all the Pinto Family worked there at one time or another, tending or managing the snack bar, selling tickets, or turning away kids who tried to hide in car trunks. The drive-in closed in March 1998 after 32 years.

Loren, a teacher at Newark Memorial High School since 1973, studied at Alvarado Elementary School, went to Logan High and graduated at San Jose State University majoring in Music.

He and his wife Liz married in 1978 at the old St. Anne Catholic Church on Smith Street. Their latest project is the restoration and installation of a historic 1914 pipe organ for the church on Cabello Street. They have two daughters, Erica, age 25, a UCLA graduate and now an animator for Electronic Arts and Alison, age 23 recently graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a major in Marine biology.

Loren's parents are Antoinette Pinto, age 89 and a lifelong resident of Alvarado and Peter Pinto, who passed away in 1995 at age 84. They spent many years helping to provide food to those local residents in need. His siblings are Elaine Martin, who was once a Queen at the Union City SDES Festival, Leroy Pinto who lives in Los Altos, David who lives in Novato and Karen Bebee who still lives in Union City.

His dad Peter Pinto, a Leslie/Cargill Salt engineer, lived in Union City from the time he arrived from Portugal at age 9. During the olden times in Alvarado, his father set up a shoe repair shop. Farmers gathered around a pot-bellied stove to talk and play cards while their boots and harnesses were mended. Peter Pinto was an active member of the Army Town Ground Observer Corp

Loren and the Pinto family have been a part of Union City, particularly in the Old Alvarado District, for almost a century. For community service, church

music, and a love of the area known as Alvarado, the Pinto Family will be remembered for their many contributions.

**NEW HAPPENINGS.....**

**MISSION GATEWAY GRAND  
OPENING**

There are now beautiful rows of homes at 33105 Mission Blvd. It is the Mission Gateway property in Union City. This scene adds to the beauty of that place.

May 4, 2006 was the Mission Gateway Grand Opening. The Bay Area affordable housing leader, Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition (MPHC) hosted the reception. This is a result of the combined efforts of the Union City Community Redevelopment Agency and Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition.

There are 120 rental units of affordable family housing, with commercial retail space and a community building with a community hall, art room, computer lab, resident services office and gym. Other resident amenities include a BBQ area, swimming pool, and children's play area with tot-lot and basketball half-court.

There was a Welcome and Acknowledgements from Fran Wagstaff, President, and Yoomie Ahn, Project manager of the Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition. Mayor Mark Green was one of the special guests who made the remarks. Richard Friedman, Deputy Director of the CA Dept. of Housing and Community Development, and Tina Ilvonen, Loan Officer of the California Housing Finance Agency, also made their remarks. One note of interest was a speech from Ray Salazar, one of the new residents of the apartments.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held followed by sumptuous refreshments.

Union City Councilmembers Richard Valle, Carol Dutra Vernaci and Jim Navarro, Manny Fernandez were also present. Ray Raymundo, President of the Union City Historical Museum, Myrla Raymundo, and Hugh McNamara also attended.

**WING.STOP HAS LANDED! UNION  
CITY, CA**

Wing.Stop had a grand opening on July 1, 2006. It is a dine-in or carryout eatery located at 1648 Decoto Rd. next to Rite Aid. It is open on weekdays from 4 PM till Midnight and weekends 11 AM to Midnight. The wing flavors are original hot, Cajun, atomic, mild, Hawaiian barbecue, garlic parmesan, lemon pepper and teriyaki. Come and sample the delicious chicken.

**GERRY'S GRILL OPENS**

Gerry's Grill, located at 31005 Courthouse Drive, is open in Union City. Lunch is served at 11 AM- 2PM daily and dinner from 5:30 PM – 12:30 AM.

**VICKY GALINDO  
(Outstanding Athlete)**

By Daniel Becerra

Vicky Galindo, a Union City resident, has done so much to bring civic pride to Union City.

She is an outstanding athlete. She has a wonderful career playing third base for the University of California (Berkeley) Softball team.

Now she is working very hard to gain that same position in the US America Olympics Team. She was Best All Around Female Athlete in James Logan High School in 2001.

Her mom is Christine Peraza, step-dad is David Peraza, her dad is Mike Galindo, sister Valeria Galindo, brother David Galindo, and sister Marina Peraza

I am very proud of her and I am sure she will represent our country honorably. Let us root for her. GO VICKY!

(Ed's Note: Daniel Becerra lives in Chula Vista, California. He grew up in Alvarado, California.)

**SOCIEDA HISPANA DE DECOTO**

By Marcella Roderigues, Club Secretary

The Socieda Hispana De Decoto was founded on September 24, 1932. This club was formed to help raise money during the Depression to help Spanish family to pay funeral expenses.

By 1995, all members were financially able to pay for their funeral expenses, so the group decided to dissolve the club.

The group voted to give the money left in the club to the few members that were left. They saved some of the money to pay lawyer and income tax expenses. After everything was taken care of, the group decided to donate half of the money to the Days Club of San Leandro and the other half to the organization Prevent Blindness of Northern California. Charter Members were:

- Antonio Ramos
- Juan Roderigues
- Roman Cortez
- Alcadio Santiago
- Lawrence Delgado
- Basilio Pacheco
- Emilio Paniagua
- Esteban Paniagua
- Philip Hernandez
- Jose Arichas
- Genaro Arenas

\*\*\*\*\*  
(Ed's Note: Marcella Roderigues is the wife of the late Fire Chief Al Roderigues. She still lives in Decoto.)

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

There are two (2) vacancies in the Museum Board of Directors, term of office up to June 30, 2007. If you would like to be part of the Museum leadership, please drop by the Museum and obtain an application for directorship.

**MINTZE CHENG**  
**Public Works Director**

By Myrla Raymundo

Mintze Cheng came all the way from Taipeh, Taiwan, worked her way through the City of San Mateo, Los Altos Hills and Caltrans, San Francisco and landed in Union City, California as the city's Public Works Director. She has around 20 years of work experience.

Mintze is responsible for the 68-employee department and is responsible for everything from repairing streets to maintaining parks and running the city's public transportation systems.

Since coming to Union City in February 2005, Mintze had done a lot of good projects for Union City. Most notable of the projects is the mass transportation hub at the site of the Union City BART station.

Mintze got her Bachelors Degree in National Taiwan University in Taipeh, Taiwan. She immigrated to the United States in 1979 and took her graduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute Technology and the University of California Berkeley.

Mintze and her husband Andrew, an engineer at the Biotech Company and employed as an Information Technologist, have three children. Christine is 24 and already working, Alan, 18, studies at the University of California in Riverside, and Kathrine is 13 and in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Andrew and his parents and relatives all live in Union City.

The main reason why she moved from the San Francisco area to Union City is because her in-laws live in Union City. She used to spend time with them and already knew Union City. So when a vacancy in Union City came about, she applied right away.

Mintze has spare time too. She manages the children and their home. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the North Peninsula Mandarin School.

She enjoys working here in Union City because of its diverse community; the city is very supportive, especially the volunteer groups, which are the commissions and boards. She likes the work and advice of the Citizens Review Committee. She said that information regarding Public Works is posted on the web, but she also relies on the citizens' eyes and ears to report any problems in the city. She strives to do good customer service.

Mintze Cheng will be here with us and will do an excellent work for the City of Union City.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Museum Newsletter goes out every other month that tells about the historical heritage of the city, the oral history and the continuous happenings in Union City.

We continue our work on the Preservation of Historic Homes and Buildings. We are now working on the preservation of the Decoto Teen Workshop.

The Chamber that is housed in the Museum is a big help in the number of hours that the Museum is open to the public. They are like family and we continually assist each other.

On September 14, 2006 Thursday at 5:00 PM, the Museum and the Chamber will have a mixer. We will invite city officials, city staff and businesses and residents. This is a big opportunity to invite the businesses to join the Museum.

As of this date, the Museum has an increase in membership. Some businesses who visited the Chamber already joined the Museum.

Please continue to support me, the Board of Directors and the Museum in meeting our objectives.

BEN ELIAS

To continue my goal of promoting the Union City Historical Museum, I would like to report some of our continuing work in the Museum.

With the Union City Historical Museum's objective of preservation, maintenance and protection of, and the education of the public about the history of Union City as our guide, I am sure that we will be able to work towards the success of the Museum.

We are continually working to write grants to the State and the Federal Government.

We are doing fundraising to augment our funds. We will hold the traditional Sweetheart Dance this coming February 2007.

The Museum is continually recruiting docents to help in the Museum.

## FOUNDER'S NOTES

### **UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA. GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Union City was incorporated in 1959. A group of enthusiastic residents helped to make our city a Union City.

As such, Union City will be celebrating its golden anniversary in 2009. A committee is now working to make this event a successful and a memorable one.

An organization, a 501(c)3 non-profit public benefit corporation, is formed. The name is "Union City, California Golden Anniversary Celebration."

The corporation will assist in the planning and organization of and to raise and expend funds for the City of Union City's Golden Anniversary Celebration in the year 2009, in coordination and cooperation with the City of Union City, the Union City Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations and individuals.

There are various committees that were formed and need enthusiastic members to help in the next three years. The

Committees are: Marketing and Fund Raising; Historical Documents, Tours and Lectures; Diversity Festival/Food; Entertainment/Faith Based Event; Musical Event; and Gala Event.

Events will include food, music, dance, parades, sports, history and visual arts.

We are calling people to share their expertise in the following areas: website development, marketing, graphic & logo design, fundraising, non-profit formation, printing, event organizing, oral and written histories and photos and clippings.

The Union City Historical Museum is tasked with the committee "Historical Documents, Tours and Lectures." This Committee will present historical documents and conduct tours and lectures to residents and guests.

We will use our creative imagination to assemble a series of historical documents, record interviews, observe continuous events and happenings and present historical homes and buildings.

If you are someone with expertise in history, we need you to be one of our members. Please call Myrla Raymundo, Chairperson of the Committee Historical Documents, Tours and Lectures at the Museum, 324-3298 or at (510) 489-0133.

Let us make this 50<sup>th</sup> celebration a successful and memorable one.

MYRLA RAYMUNDO

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Myrla Raymundo, Founder

**Officers FY2006 -2007**

Ben Elias, President  
Teresita Gatan, Vice-President  
Laura Manansala - Secretary  
Hugh McNamara, Treasurer

**Directors – FY2006-2008**

Mike Christ  
Miles Price  
Marlon Manansala  
Rorie Rabuy  
Myrla Raymundo  
Al Rose

**Directors- FY2005-2007**

Lupe St. Denis  
Bruce Hevelin  
Timothy Swenson

**Past President**

Ray Raymundo

**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.

**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

Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo (Layout Artist)

**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  
Fernando & Helen Cabiles  
Allen & Simona Cecil  
Josephine Pando  
Frank, Jr. & Elvamae Borghi  
Angelo dela Cruz (GEL CONSTRUCTION, INC)

**WELCOME BUSINESS SPONSORS**

**TRI-CITY VOICE (WHAT'S HAPPENING NEWS)  
KIM EVANS REALTY**

***PRINTING OF THIS NEWSLETTER WAS DONATED BY DEVRY UNIVERSITY***

**Union City Historical Museum  
3841 Smith Street  
Union City, California 94587**







