

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. 9 NO. 3

www.geocities.com/ucmuseum/

November 2007

**Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Editor/Writer
e-mail: ligfinio.raymundo@sbcglobal.net**

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.

THIS UNION CITY PLACE OF MINE

By Myrla Raymundo



When Union City was first born five decades ago, we had no way to predict its great future, but there was certainly a spark from the very start.

Union City was incorporated in 1959, as an agricultural town of dirty roads, very few homes, few residents and cauliflower and cabbages.

Then when population began to increase and gracious new homes appeared in the area, city leaders saw the need to carefully guide our city's growth.

It was a vision for a friendly community with green open space, beautiful neighborhoods, great shopping centers, and a smart mix of commercial and industrial development.

That vision has certainly become reality, and our city's unique personality, strengths, dreams, and successes have come to fruition. Union City soon became the fastest growing community in the area.

Today, Union City is a thriving community of diverse residents, great facilities, topnotch public services, financial security and beautiful vistas. We are thrilled to witness our community's tremendous successes.

ALVARADO TOUR

By Myrla Raymundo



Union City formed in the northern part of the area in 1850, as did New Haven in the eastern sector. To the south was Alvarado, which merged with New Haven and Union City before the triumvirate joined with Decoto to the northeast to comprise the present-day Union City.

Today, I will take you to a tour of Alvarado and tell you about the time when three of the four towns that make up the current Union City were developing.

The south side of the 3800 block of Smith Street was the site of a Japanese community.

The park on the north side of Smith Street was formerly a lumberyard. About half a block north of it stood Chinatown, which had a reputation as the site of “various unsavory places.” It was burned in the early 1940s.

At the northeast corner of Vallejo and Smith Streets, one of the homes of Fred Harvey, one of the early area merchants, had been donated as a community center. Harvey was the second owner of the former general store at the southeast

corner of that intersection. That building was restored by Harvey, then by an entrepreneur named Dinsmore, and now is currently Uncle Joe’s pizza parlor, which opened in 1898 as the Lyle general store.

Further south is the present home of the Mission Pentecostal Church on Horner Street that once housed a Presbyterian church. The building, constructed sometime around 1890, replaced an earlier Presbyterian church.

Down Benson Road, to the former location of a pool formed by artesian wells, was once the site of a verdant park.

The present St. Anne’s church stands on the site of an earlier church, built in the 1860’s, that served as a meeting hall for Japanese residents.

A plaque marks the site of the most famous of these, the two-story structure that served as the first Alameda County building when the area became separate from Santa Clara County in 1853.

Alvarado is now a vibrant place full of stores and other commercial establishments. The biggest change is the new homes filling the area that once was a big open space.



Dom Mangahas Filardo
Member, Board of Directors, UC
Historical Museum



Dom Filardo is a firm believer in saying that volunteerism is a very healthy habit. He demonstrated this belief when he joined the order of the Knight of Columbus Council and Assembly, which progressively led him to position of great trust. Dom joined the Knights of Columbus in 1997 and a year after joined as an officer of the Eugenio Pacelli Assembly in the capacity of Outer Sentinel. His ability, desire and dedication placed him in the positions of Purser, Comptroller, Pilot, Navigator, and his present position as Faithful Trustee.

He has been active in the Council and served as a membership director and recruitment director for the past four years and as an officer of the first-degree exemplification team.

In his youth, he had served as an altar server and attended training at the seminary. In his primary and secondary schooling, he had been active in the catholic youth organization as leader and representative. Although, priesthood is not a chosen vocation, he had never left

the desire to serve God and the church.

His interest in science, aeronautics and electrical field led him to pursue an electrical engineering degree in MIT in the Philippines. He is a professional electrical engineer and electronic/communication engineer and graduated in Mechanical Engineering.

During his college days, his interest in leadership led him to join the Advanced Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), where he was a cadet lieutenant, captain, and a colonel.

Upon graduation from ROTC, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army. He was also an assistant instructor in college and a full time professor in vocational technical school.

His interest in aviation compelled him to join the flight crew operation in which he was hired as a pilot trainee and earned his pilot license. Due to the catastrophic event that followed in the airline industry, he was forced to take a furlough. He was hired immediately at the power company in the Philippines as a lead man in an inspection team.

His interest in the communication industry led him to work with the telephone company. He has worked in equipment maintenance, design engineering, customer equipment engineering and as a supervising engineer.

In 1967, he immigrated to the United States as a third preference professional immigrant. He was hired by a phone company as a senior engineer. He

worked as a contract engineer with the telephone company and with other utility companies as an engineer, inspector, supervisor and manager. His work involved extensive travel all over the United States and the Caribbean.

In 1974, he was hired by BECHTEL INC. where he worked as an engineering specialist and a project engineer.

Likewise, he was assigned as an engineer and supervisor in both domestic and international assignment. He had managed and supervised staff engineers, technicians and about 100 men crew.

Dom has completed his basic courses in MBA with Golden Gate University and attended several intensive courses in management and personnel administration.

Despite his work activity, he is involved with various church functions. He served as a parish financial committee for five years and co-chairperson for one year. He served as President of St. Anne Church Pastoral Council for three years.

At present, he is an active member of the Eucharistic Ministry, Lector Ministry, and Hospitality Ministry. He has been the Chairman of the Vocation Ministry for nine years. He has also assisted in the festival committee, pancake breakfast, and welcoming committee.

Dom is also involved in civic and community activities. He serves as Chairman of the City of Union City Senior Commission.

He is a board member of the Filipino-American United Catholics of the East

Bay (FAUCEB), a board of director of the Filipino-American Association of Alameda County and an active member of the Mission San Jose Santo Nino Prayer Group. He was the past first President of the Meridian Court Home Owner Association.

Dom has been selected this year (2007) to represent Union City in the upcoming Global Directory of Who is Who honoring executives and professionals for their accomplishments in their respective fields.

At present, Dom is a project manager and a consultant for an engineering company.

He is married to Bess and they have two sons, J. Dominic and Aristotle, and three grandchildren.

Dom is presidential timber for the Union City Historical Museum.

Union City's 50th Anniversary

Faith-Based Committee Event

By Myrla Raymundo



A very important part of the history of Union City just happened.

On September 15, 2007, the Faith-Based (Spiritual) Committee of the Union City's 50th Anniversary presented a Dinner Concert at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church in Alvarado-Niles Road. It was a kick off of Union City's 50th Anniversary, which we will be celebrating in 2009.

Some 20 churches and temples joined together to host this special event. As the committee chairman, Rev. Jerome Brown always says, "It's all about love." It is a celebration of Union City's religious diversity.

Attendees enjoyed foods from different cultures as part of a buffet provided by local religious organizations, followed by multicultural entertainment ranging from 40-member choirs to Taiko drummers, and from dance to poetry

Letters! Letters! Letters!

September 16, 2007

From Pastor Jerome Brown, Chairperson

To all:

A warm heartfelt thanks for your help and support and prayers. I was happy with the unity the committee had shown and the Love. Thank you committee members.

Thanks to the City of Union City for your support, Vice-Mayor Jim Navarro, Councilmember Carol Dutra-Vernaci, Police Chaplain Albert Valencia, 50th Anniversary Committee board Members Arnold Chavez, Gloria Gutierrez and Helen Cabiles and Police Chief Greg Stewart.

Thanks to Sign-A-Rama for a lovely sign

Thanks to my Vice-Chairperson, Myrla Raymundo for being the glue for this committee.

Special thanks to my lovely wife Tina for the tickets, programs and the outstanding decorations of the hall.

Thanks to all the Pastors, Monks and Fathers for our prayers.

Thanks to the DJ Lodee and my Band Don Webster and Virgil Evans.

A great big thanks to all the volunteers.

Last, but not least, a heartfelt thanks to Larry Gissible and the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church.

September 19, 2007

From Sarabjit Kaur Cheema,
Chairperson of the Dinner Concert

Dear Rev. Brown,

I would like to commend you from the core of my heart for all you did for our community. You had a vision and you transformed that vision into reality. Yes, you have set the trend. I see this event as a first step to remove our ignorance and stereotype of one another in Union City. It definitely developed the sense of brotherhood. After 9/11 in the world in which we live today, I feel our ignorance of one another, will be increasingly costly.

Oh my God, I watched closely your continuously sweating that night. To be honest with you, I was kind of worried you being exhausted. I hope you are fine health wise. Maybe it was God's spirit visible in you that evening. I believe this was the first time for most of the team members for this kind of event. In 2009, we will assume more responsibilities and let you relax.

Going back, I remember when we started, the first few meetings, we were like complete strangers. We did not know any of the team members, remembering everybody's name was a challenge. Today I feel like we are a family. I have met so many good-hearted people in our city by being a member of this committee. Thank you.

Rev. Brown, I wish I could express some of my feelings on Sept 15 in front of the audience, but time constraints and also don't forget I grew up in a very reserve environment. Please say thank you to Tina, on my behalf for all the help. Also, special thanks to Larry Gissible and his temple volunteers for all the help on the food counter, to Meiyun and John for

decorations help, and of course Myrla and her husband for all the patience and work. Thanks to very many other volunteers. See you soon.

Thank you Rev. Brown one more time.

Regards,

Sarabjit K. Cheema



September 20, 2007

From Tina Campbell

Hello Myrla,

Now that you've had a chance to breathe, I hope you and your husband are having a wonderful day. Thank you for all of the effort and energy you exerted to make the event a success. It is always a pleasure to work with someone who is well organized and detailed. It makes for smooth sailing.

Tina

VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM



Bob Dutra

Bob Dutra and daughter Dana were cleaning and painting the vacant half of the Post Office building in Alvarado when this Editor went in and talked to them. This Editor found out that they are Alvarado natives.

Bob Dutra, the only son of Joe Dutra, an Alvarado fireman and Genevieve Dutra, former Union City Postmaster, points to the picture of his mother in the book UNION CITY THROUGH THE YEARS.

Bob is a retired truck driver. He and wife Madeline and daughter Dana own the Alvarado Post Office building on Smith Street.



Paul Lund

Paul Lund's grandfather came from Denmark and settled in Alvarado. His grandfather worked in the Foundry and then at the Sugar Mill. Paul's father was George Lund who was born in Alvarado. Paul remembers Alvarado vividly.

NEW IN UNION CITY

Dry Creek Garden opens to public

The three sisters Edith, Mildred, and Jeanette Meyers owned the 1200 acre Dry Creek Ranch, located at the end of May Road off Mission Blvd. During that time, they were very much involved in local charities and hosted several fundraising events, once with over 400 guests.

The Dry Creek Cottage was a popular summer home of the three Meyers sisters of Alameda during the early and mid 1900s. The Dry Creek Ranch was a tranquil and beautiful place of history. It was donated to the Park District in 1979.

The Dry Creek Garden is open to the public on Thursdays and the first Saturday of each month, from 10 am- 4 pm.

Skydiving simulator opens

IFly SF Bay, in the Union Landing shopping center on Alvarado-Niles Road, is the first skydiving simulator to make its way to Northern California.

The simulator offers the experience of jumping out of a plane from 13,000 feet in the clouds. Gusting wind rush around the body, creating the feeling of skydiving, without the fear of a malfunctioning parachute or the fear of heights.

The simulator is open seven days a week.

By Myrla Raymundo

**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S
DESK**



Teresita "Tessie" Gatan

The Museum needs help with special events, planning fund-raisers, sprucing up the Museum and helping in the Docents program.

Community involvement is important and your input is essential to our program planning so that we can best serve the interest of our residents and visitors.

I hope to see broader participation from the members. They can help in being a docent, working for a special project, or helping with fundraisers.

Our officers and directors are working hard on their respective committees. We will soon see improvements in the Museum programs and the Museum displays.

We will work on the fundraising to augment the Museum funds.

Thank You to....

Our thanks go to our Museum directors Al Rose and Mike Christ for doing the yard work. The surroundings look clean and pretty.

Please continue to support us for the betterment of our Museum. We will continue to work hard.

Induction of Officers...

The Union City Historical Museum will host an event at the Museum on Saturday, October 20, 2007 starting at 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. It is the induction of officers and directors for FY07 – FY08.

Please come and enjoy great food and refreshments and program.

TESSIE

FOUNDER's NOTES



History Presentation

I was invited by Alma Via Retirement Home to present the history of Union City to their residents and a book signing on August 23, 2007. It was nice to see all the men and women who reside in that very lovely place.

I started by telling them about the early people in Union City, the Costanoan Indians. I gave them the history of the once agricultural place that now is an ever-growing city complete with nice homes and commercial places.

o

The New Haven School Districts 3rd graders continue to come to the Museum for the presentation of the Union City history. It is very important that the children learn early the history of their city.

o

Other groups visit the Museum to learn all about the Union City history.

Volunteering in the Museum

Students from Logan High School are getting to be very useful in the works in

the Museum. They help in filing old newspaper clippings and old pamphlets, answering phones, acting as docents and doing other clerical work.

Uplift for the Museum....

Thanks to the generous gift of Robert (Bob) Swartz, we are finally realizing our dream of having a safe repository for valuable collections and artifacts.

This is a very exciting and challenging time for the many volunteers who will work on this project.

The new display cases for artifacts will soon grace the Museum. Artifacts will find a very suitable place for them.

Bob Swartz of the Friends of Union City spearheaded the grant of \$2,500 through the Union City Friend Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation.

Thank you Bob. Bob is a Museum Lifetime member.

Wish List

A desk, chairs, lap top computer, color copy machine and more docents and volunteers.

Till then, until the next issue

MYRLA RAYMUNDO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founder/CEO

Officers - July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008

Teresita Gatan, President

Joey Golaw, Jr.-Vice-President

Marina Bamont-Secretary

Hugh McNamara, Treasurer

Directors – July 1, 2006-June 30, 2008

Mike Christ

Miles Price

Rorie Rabuy

Myrla Raymundo

Al Rose

Directors- July 1, 2007- June 30, 2009

Dom Filardo

Ray Raymundo

Angel Villorente

Georgia Megue dela Cruz

Allen Cecil

Dana Hernandez

Past President

Ben Elias

Marcos. Jr. & Tessie Gatan
Joey and Vilma Golaw

EDITORIAL BOARD

FY 2007-2008

Myrla Raymundo, Editor

Jo Ann Lew

Miles Price

Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo

(Layout Artist/Production)

MUSEUM TOURS

Tours are conducted by Museum docents every Thursdays and Fridays. If you are interested to know the history of Union City, please stop by the Museum.

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

READ ALL ABOUT IT

News coverage about Union City are clipped and filed by subject matter and are available at the Museum.

Myrla Raymundo started the collection in 1971. The Union City Library gave the Museum news clippings from 1800 through 1970.

The book **“UNION CITY THROUGH THE YEARS”** authored by Myrla Raymundo is available. Call her at (510) 489-0133 if you wish to buy the book about the history of Union City from its beginning to the present.