

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**

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Visit us at www.unioncitymuseum.com/

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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.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

The Union City Historical Museum General Membership Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors will be held on June 2, 2009 at the Museum at 7 PM.

All members are invited to attend the General Membership Meeting.

The officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) will hold their seats for a one-year term July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

The directors will hold their seats for a two-year term July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011.

The Nominating Committee will accept written nominations either in person or through the mail. Nomination forms are available at the Museum. Please call (510) 324-3298 for the form.

Nominations must be received by the Museum, 3841 Smith Street, Union City, no later than 5:00 PM – Friday May 15, 2009.

Nominating Committee

VISITORS IN THE MUSEUM

On the days that the Union City Historical Museum are open, visitors come and visit, curious about what they can see in the Museum.



Tony Martinez from Decoto came and learned a lot about the Museum.



This lady from San Francisco Estuary Institute visited the Museum and is writing a report about the Union City Historical Museum that she will publish in their non-profit corporation journal.



Wayne Cruz is a frequent visitor of the Museum. On his off days when he is not manning the City for graffiti, he comes and browses through the contents of the Union City Historical Museum.



The Faith-Based Committee of the Union City's 50th Anniversary in their regular meeting at the Museum. Seated are Rev. John DiGiacomo, Myrla Raymundo (Chairperson), and Union City's 50th Anniversary Treasurer Helen Cabiles. Standing are Rev. Joe Sharper, Larry Gissible, John and Mei Chyan, and Dick Folger.

UNION CITY HISTORY

INCORPORATION OF UNION CITY

Union City, January 1959

Development in Union City remained relatively stable until 1950, a major turning point for California, as the state began to experience incredible growth. Southern Alameda County developed quickly and the cities of Fremont, Newark and Hayward began to eye the townships of Union City/New Haven/Alvarado/Decoto for potential inclusion into their city boundaries.

To prevent this from happening, Union City residents decided to incorporate in 1959. A Citizens' Committee was formed which included Tom Kitayama, John Ratekin, Oscar Dowe, Kenneth Garcia, Joseph Lewis and Elvin Rose among others. They petitioned for incorporation. The Union City election called for the consolidation of historic New Haven, Alvarado and Decoto into one entity to be known as Union City. This name had originally graced the town lots adjacent to John Horner's wharves and pier where the hay steamer "The Union" had been berthed.

The vote for incorporation was overwhelming as 837 people voted in favor and only 220 voted against. On January 13, 1959, the City of Union City came into being, incorporating the four areas. The original limits of Union City encompassed about 9 square miles. Later in 1962, the hill areas to the west and over to the hills to Niles Canyon Road were annexed to make the city area 14 square miles. At the time of incorporation, the combined Alvarado-Decoto area had a population of around

6,000 with a diversified ethnic distribution of whites, Orientals, Filipinos, Hispanics and blacks. In 1962 after annexation of the hill land, it had a population of around 7,000.

SPECIAL CACHET MARKS START OF UNION CITY POST OFFICE

Union City, Nov. 2, 1959

Envelopes bearing a Union City cachet and cancellation stamp of the first day of operation of the Union City Post Office will be on sale all week long at the Union City Hall.

The Alvarado and Decoto Post Offices were consolidated yesterday and renamed Union City.

The special envelopes will be used for city correspondence but not indefinitely.

City Administrator **Deane Seeger** laid out the basic design, which was executed by a commercial artist. It depicts, in four frames, the Holly Sugar Mill; church and subdivisions with subtitles noting that the city was incorporated last January 26, and boosting its homes, schools, industry, commerce and agriculture, a seal commemorating Alvarado and Decoto; and the Pacific States Steel plant.

In the center of the design is a bouquet of carnations marking the prominence of Union City as a floriculture center.

(Submitted by Tanya Seeger of Washington State, daughter in law of City Administrator Deane Seeger.)

UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL IN UNION CITY

Union City, December 2007



United Airlines Flight 93 was a scheduled domestic passenger flight from Newark International Airport in Newark, New Jersey, to San Francisco International Airport. It was hijacked by four Islamic Terrorists, as part of the September 11 attacks in 2001. Over 40 minutes into the flight, the hijackers reached the cockpit, overpowered the pilots and took over the control of the aircraft, diverting it toward Washington DFC. Several passengers and crewmembers made telephone calls about the flight and learned about the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. As a result, the passengers decided to mount an assault

against the hijackers and gain control of the aircraft.

The plane crashed in a field in Somerset County in Pennsylvania killing all 40 passengers and crew and the four hijackers. The remains were later identified.

The action taken by the passengers prevented the aircraft from reaching the hijackers intended target, thought to be either the White House or the US Capitol.

On December 8, 2007, the Union City's Flight 93 Memorial was dedicated at Sugar Mill Landing Park across from Union Landing.

The Union City Boy Scouts raised the Congressional Flag of Honor followed by the 21-gun salute, a ceremonial military honor.

Union City officials and residents witnessed the long awaited dedication. Family members of the Flight 93 victims came from all around the country to attend the ceremony, dedicating the first large-scale Flight 93 memorial in the United States.

People walked among the 40 granite remembrance stones-one for each of the 33 passengers and seven crewmembers killed on United Flight 93. The 2000 pound granite stones line the path that connect the memorial's "Circle of Remembrance", which has the stories and heroes of Flight 93 and a list of donors etched onto the stones, and the "Circle of Hope" with ceramic art from Union City school children surrounding a flagpole.

CELEBRATING UNION CITY'S 50 YEARS

A lot of developments happened after Union City's incorporation in 1959 that made Union City a much different place than it was before. Here are some additions to our city.

Kaiser Permanente in Union City



In 1993 Kaiser Permanente began its outpatient medical facility in Union City, and has expanded with a second building in 1996, and a third in 2001. It is a three-story 138,000 square foot medical office building on 8.4 acres along Union City Blvd. and serves Union City and the outlying areas.

Farmers' Market at Old Alvarado



In the summer of 1997, the City launched the first season of the Farmers' Market and Concert series. It is held each year in the Cesar Chavez/Old Alvarado Park on Saturdays from May to November. The Farmers' Market and the concert provide venues for the entire community to enjoy and help bring shoppers to the area. The concert series is held at the gazebo in the park during Farmers' Market days. They usually include 11 concerts from June to August and feature international music, jazz, blues, big band, rock and disco.

The Ralph & Mary Ruggieri Senior Center



On November 23, 1998, the Ralph & Mary Ruggieri Senior Center, located at 33997 Alvarado-Niles Road, opened its facility to the estimated 9,500 seniors who live in Union City. The 14,500 square-foot facility includes a large assembly hall, dining room, kitchen, classrooms and other activity rooms. Seniors can participate in arts and crafts programs, use computers, take classes on many topics like dancing, health, and writing, and partake in an affordable lunch program.

The Masonic Home in Union City



The California Department of Social Services licenses the Masonic Home for Adults as a Continuing Care Retirement Community. It is part of the Masonic Homes of California, a non-profit California Corporation. Organized by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of California, their mission is to provide quality living to the Adult Masonic Community by offering three levels of care: Independent Living, Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing.

The 268 acres upon which the Masonic Home for Adults is located was purchased in 1893 at a cost of \$33,093. The cornerstone of the original building was laid on October 4, 1896. The Home officially opened on October 12, 1898. At that time, it was a home for widows and orphans. A resolution was made in 1906 to move the children to their own facility, which is now the Masonic Homes of California at Covina, California. This facility serves both children and adults.

In 1998, the Masonic Home for Adults celebrated its Centennial Year of Operation with a yearlong theme entitled "Building a Future Upon a Century of Caring." The re-dedication was held on

October 10, 1998 with a Masonic ceremony.

There are historical artifacts and items of interest throughout the Facility – stained glass windows, Residents' Library, large-print books by contemporary and time-honored authors and a low vision computer system for the residents' use. Pictures of the 14 former U. S. Presidents, who were Masons, are on display. They have the largest Antique Room containing artifacts from the past and reminiscent of bygone times. There is a Blue Mall, consisting of Residents' Coffee Shop, Clothing Store and a Gift Shop, which is open to the public. The gift shop is run by residents and stocked with items made by them.

Come and visit the Home. They are now open to visitors.

The Union Landing



The year 2000 welcomed Union Landing, a major regional retail center that already includes a 25-screen theater complex and several major businesses. It is a large commercial center on a 104-acre site. The location, a former gladiola field and drive in theater, is pressed up against Interstate 880. It is an entertainment power center that is anchored by the 25-screen Century

Theater complex, Wal-Mart store, Lucky's supermarket, Borders, Lowes, Best Buy and BabiesRUs, and other businesses. Thousands of people have visited the area. The other stores are Togo's, Starbucks, Baskin Robbins, Office Max, Sleep Train, Party America, Hollywood Video, Pasta Pomodoro, La Salsa Restaurant, Rose Café, Great Clips, Sally's Beauty Store, and PACBELL. There are also numerous popular restaurants that opened; to name a few, Texas Roadhouse, Fresh Choice, Tony Romas, IHOP, TGI Friday and Apple Bees. Other businesses are Michaels, Petco and a hotel Extended America.

Fast food restaurants are also added to the bustling activities at the Union Landing. Jollibee, Krispy Kreme and In & Out Burger were the center of activities during their opening. These major retailers have a significant impact on the sales tax revenue for the city.

The Union City Skate Park



On September 14, 2003 the Union City Skate Park opened after nearly a decade in the making. The 19,400 square-foot, \$531,000 facility at William Cann Civic

Center Park, 34009 Alvarado-Niles Road, is the second largest public skate park in the Bay Area. The park features several ramps, a half pipe, grinding curbs, stairs and a concrete volcano-shaped mound for Bay Area skaters. The park is owned and operated by the City.

The Dog Park in Union City



There is now a Dog Park in Union City. It was built in 2003 and is located at Seventh Street and Mission Boulevard. It is a real treat, not only for the dogs, but also for the happy owners. The park was named after Union City's first police dog. This is a place where dogs are allowed to run around off-leash, exercise and interact with other dogs. Owners don't have to worry about their pets running away or endangering and annoying other people.

Union City's 50th Anniversary
Celebration

Lunar New Year Celebration

The Lunar New Year Celebration was held February 8, 2009, at the Sports Center. Here are some scenes from the event:



Faith Based Festival

The Faith-Based Festival will be held on June 27, 2009, at Kennedy Park in Union City.

As home to over 40 nationalities, Union City enjoys a tremendous diversity of faith-based institutions representing all of the world's major religions. The Union City Faith-Based Festival is a multi-denominational celebration presented jointly by Union City's churches, temples and other congregations featuring music dance and foods.

Join hundreds of your neighbors in this daylong event honoring the many paths to spiritual understanding. Learn about the different faiths and worship practiced in the Tri-City area and enjoy the unique ways of expressing spiritual beliefs that have evolved in each religion over many years.

The major contributors and volunteer organizers of the Faith-Based festival include several local Buddhist churches, Hindu temples, Jewish temples, Sikh Gurdwara, Muslim Mosques, Protestant and Catholic churches, and many others.

Visitors will enjoy colorful, traditional dancing and music that accompanies these venerable faiths, the different information booths, and game booths. Quiet and contemplative times will also be observed, offering opportunities for group meditation and spiritual thought.

To volunteer for this committee, contact Chairperson Myrla Raymundo at (510) 489-0133.

**FROM THE UNION CITY
HISTORICAL MUSEUM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

June 30, 2009 will be our last day as officers/directors of the Union City Historical Museum.

We, the officers/directors, are proud to say that we had accomplished our yearlong duties in the Museum.

We met every quarter discussing Museum matters and approving action items.

The Museum is open regularly and manned by some of the officers and members.

Logan High School students helped in manning the Museum earning community work credits.

The presentation of Union City History to visitors and students continue to be held at the Museum. Third graders of the New Haven School District were given a presentation of Union City history.

Walking tours at the Museum are always held every Thursday and Friday.

The Museum is filled with artifacts donated by the residents of Union City.

Historical documents are filed and maintained.

Museum information is disseminated to the members and to the residents through the Museum Newsletter.

We increased our membership through regular Membership Drives.

We now have our Museum Website www.unioncitymuseum.com/. Our Webmaster is Museum member Ziyang Zhong.

Thank you all who had helped, one way or another, in making the Union City Historical Museum a success as it is.

The Officers and Directors

Materials in the Museum

There are numerous materials available at the Museum.

Myrla Raymundo's book "Union City Through the Years"

Miles Price's book "Union City Incorporation"

Miles Price's book "Union City Scrapbook"

Union City's "Early Glimpse of Union City"

News coverage about Union City from the past to the present are clipped and filed by subject matter in binders.

Three big binders about the people and events of Alvarado, California from 1850 – 1959 compiled by Anthony Gualco.

One big binder of collected Tri City history through the years authored by Fremont Historian Philip Holmes and Union City Historian Myrla Raymundo.

Tri City Election binders, Union City Election binders and copies of the City of Union City Annual Reports.

FOUNDER'S NOTES



By now you know that the City of Union City is celebrating its golden anniversary, 50 years after the city's incorporation in January 1959.

The Union City 50th Anniversary Committees are preparing for its yearlong festivities.

We started with the Black and White Gala on December 31st, 2008, at the Sports Center.

It was followed by the reenactment of 1959's Official Incorporation of the City held at Barnard White Elementary School on January 26, 2009.

The Lunar New Year Celebration was held last February 8, 2009 at the Sports Center.

There are more events and festivities to come. Here are the big events:

May 16 – 50th Anniversary Parade and Car Show

June 27 – Faith-Based (Spiritual) Festival at the Kennedy Park.

July 18 – Gathering in the Park – Celebrating 50 years of Community - to be held at the Kennedy Park.

September 12-13 – 50th Anniversary Festival & Fireworks.

December 31– New Year's Eve Closing Celebration.

There will be sports activities and history lectures and tours throughout the year.

Hope you can join all the events. We'll see you there.

In our observance of the 50th year celebration, let us not forget the people who worked so hard in our City's incorporation.

Tom Kitayama and five others petitioned for incorporation of the City of Union City on January 13, 1959. That was when some cities began to eye the townships of Union City, New Haven, Alvarado and Decoto for potential inclusion into their city boundaries.

On January 26, 1959, the City of Union City Council duties began in the Alvarado Fire Department building, now the Union City Historical Museum. The councilmembers were Joseph Seaone Jr., Joseph Lewis, Tom Kitayama, John Ratekin and Oscar Dowe. Tom Kitayama was unanimously elected mayor of Union City by the City Council. Union City operates under a "Council-Manager" form of government.

Myrla Raymundo



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Myrla Raymundo, MBA,
Founder/CEO**

Officers - July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009

Teresita Gatan, President
 Joey Golaw, Jr.-Vice-President
 Marina Bamont-Secretary
 Hugh McNamara, Treasurer

Directors- July 1, 2007- June 30, 2009

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 Ray Raymundo
 Angel Villorente
 Georgia Megue dela Cruz
 Allen Cecil

Dana Hernandez

Directors – July 1, 2008-June 30, 2010

Rodrigo Galindo
 Rorie Rabuy
 Myrla Raymundo
 Al Rose

MUSEUM LIFETIME MEMBERS

Phil & Leila Verzola
 John & Cathy Tester
 Eva Kamakea
 Georgia Megue & Mike dela Cruz
 Ligfinio (Ray) & Myrla Raymundo
 Gina Lewis
 Reiner & Sheryl Glausch
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 (What's Happening)
 William Marshak
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