

# ***UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM***

*Founded by Myrla Raymundo, MBA*

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

**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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**VOL. Twelve NO. 1**

**July 2010**

Visit us at [www.unioncitymuseum.com/](http://www.unioncitymuseum.com/)

**Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founding Editor/Writer  
e-mail: [ligfinio.raymundo@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

## **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS/DIRECTORS**

The Union City Historical Museum General Membership Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors were held on June 7, 2010, at the Museum. The Nominating Committee conducted the election.

The following officers were elected for a one-year term from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

Dom Figaro – President  
Allen Cecil – Vice-President  
Marina Bamont - Secretary  
Hugh McNamara – Treasurer

The following directors were elected and will hold their seats for a two-year term July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2012.

Rorie Rabuy  
Fely Garcia  
Livjot Cheema

The following will still hold their office from July 1, 2009 thru June 30, 2011.

Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo  
Joey Golaw, Jr.  
Georgia Megue dela Cruz  
Angel (Jun) Villorente  
Carlen Gregorio

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**(FISCAL YEAR 09-10)**  
**July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010**

**UNION CITY**  
**HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
3841 Smith Street  
Union City, California 94587  
(510) 324-3298

**Presented by:**  
**Myrla Raymundo, MBA**  
**Founder/CEO**  
**July 1, 2010**

**INTRODUCTION**

On behalf of the Union City Historical Museum, I am presenting this FY09-10 Annual Report.

This document contains information about our goals and objectives, our activities and accomplishments for this fiscal year and the people who contributed to make the past fiscal year productive and successful and to fulfill the city's request to account for our activities.

**Our 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.

**Our Board of Directors**  
Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founder/CEO

**July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011**  
Dom Filardo – President  
Allen Cecil – Vice-President  
Marina Bamont - Secretary  
Hugh McNamara – Treasurer

**Directors**

**July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2011.**  
Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo  
Joey Golaw, Jr.  
Georgia Megue dela Cruz  
Angel (Jun) Villorente  
Carlen Gregorio

**July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2012.**  
Rorie Rabuy  
Fely Garcia  
Livjot Cheema

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

We welcome the new members to the Museum.

The Museum continues with its objective of educating the community on the history of Union City. We did presentations on history for students of the New Haven School District. We conducted Museum Tours for visitors. Visitors did their research work in the Museum.

We continuously receive artifacts from Union City residents. We continue clipping and filing newspaper articles about Union City. In connection with the City's Preservation Ordinance, which identifies and encourages preservation of historical homes and buildings, the Museum sent out letter to owners for possible historic designation of their properties. We received some replies. We will continue to work on the Cultural Resources Inventory.

We interviewed Union City old-timers and Union City officials for the Oral History component of the Museum.

We published the Museum Newsletters on a bi-monthly basis.

We have a Museum website with information about the Museum.

Local historian Myrla Raymundo has published her second book “Union City Oral History.” This book is primarily a collection of about 200 interviews with Union City Leaders, City Staff members and civic-minded people both past and present.

The first part of the book is a brief history of the Costanoan Indians who lived in this area prior to the settlement by the Spaniards and Yankees in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

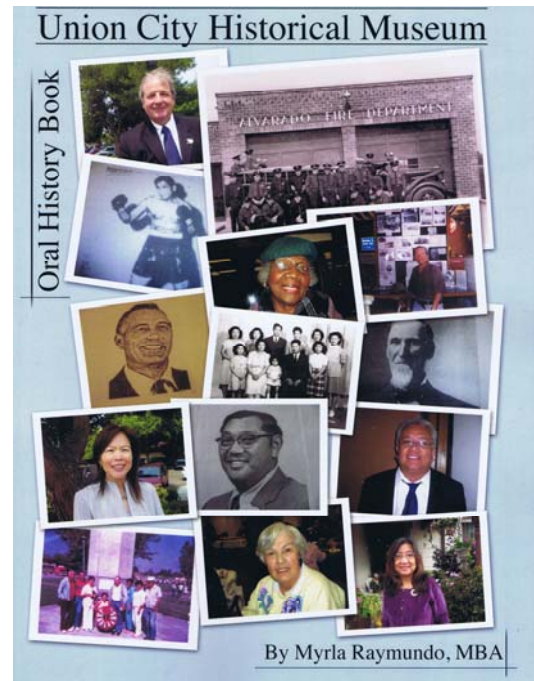
The next part of the book covers the pioneers of Union City. The book also covers additional early settlers and industries in Union City and gives readers information about some of the landmarks and a general overview of the city.

The seventh part of the book consists of the oral histories, given in alphabetical order.

The book will be a great asset to future historians studying the history of Union City.

The book is for sale at the Union City Historical Museum on Smith Street in Union City.

Myrla Raymundo will donate all the profits to the Union City Historical Museum.



*“Union City Oral History Book”*  
by Myrla Raymundo, 214 pages  
\$20.00 (paperback); ISBN-13;978-  
0-9715211-6-2)

## CONCLUSION

In closing, I would like to thank all the officers, members and volunteers of the Union City Historical Museum and the community for their valuable contributions during the past fiscal year. I would also like to thank the City of Union City for their assistance.

The Museum is a unique vehicle to make us aware of our beautiful heritage and culture. This is the only way to preserve our history. The Union City Historical Museum pledges to continue to provide services to the residents of Union City.

Myrla Raymundo, MBA  
Founder/CEO

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**A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY....**  
Taken from old and yellowed newspaper  
clippings

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The first volunteer fire department had been formed in 1905 with John Ralph as chief. Its equipment consisted of a hose reel and a hose truck to transport it. In 1940, the Alvarado Fire District was enlarged and a pumper was purchased later, a brick headquarters building was built on Smith Street and a second truck purchased. Anthony Vargas became the fire chief.

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The Bank of Alvarado was founded in 1906 with I.V.Ralph as president. He was succeeded by August May II in 1908. In 1910 the May family changed the name of the institution to the Bank of Alameda County, with a branch in Irvington. In 1916 the Bank of Niles was purchased by the Bank of Alameda County to form a third branch. August May Jr. remained president of the bank until his death in August 1939. The bank was then merged into a larger chain banking system

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The Alvarado "Pioneer" newspaper was founded in 1925 by George Henry Oaks. His son, George P. Oaks continued publishing the newspaper until 1946. George Oaks bought the Centerville News from Miles Smith and merged it with the Township Register, which was owned by Stuart Nixon, to form the News Register. The News Register became the Argus, an ANG newspaper.

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

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The Decoto Discussion Group was organized for Library study on September 16, 1938. The group's objective was to bring the women of the community closer together and broaden their lives intellectually and socially.

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The steamer "The Union," captained by Captain Marsten, made the round trip to San Francisco once a day with produce and brought back passengers, mail, hardware, tools, and merchandize.

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Peter Pinto's father set up a shoe repair shop in Alvarado. Farmers gathered around a pot-bellied stove to talk and play cards while their boots and harnesses were mended.

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In September 2000, the New Haven Unified School District buried a time capsule to be opened after a hundred years. Documents that recorded the establishment of the very first museum in Union City, the Union City Historical Museum, were included.

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POINTS OF INTEREST IN UNION CITY

**Dry Creek Cottage**



Dry Creek Cottage, a small summer cottage with a large garden, sits just off Mission Blvd. at the end of Whipple Road. The garden, along with a large parcel of 60 acres hidden in the Union City hills for nearly 100 years, was named after the stream with S-shaped curves throughout the four acres of landscaped grounds. The land on which the cottage now sits used to be owned by Jonas B. Clark and was used as picnic ground during the late 1800s. The gala event of the year during pioneer times was May Day, celebrated at the picnic grounds. In 1884, August May, Sr. bought the land and named it Dry Creek Ranch.

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 now open to the public on Thursdays and the first Saturday of each month, from 10 am- 4 pm.

**SDES**

The SDES (Sociedade Divino Espirito Santo de Alvarado) is located at 30846 Watkins Street in Old Alvarado. The front hall of the building are pictures of past queens, to name a few, Queen Hazel Rodrick (1926) and Queen Madeline Dutra Soares (1931). There are also pictures of little queens.

Every year, SDES holds the Portuguese Holy Ghost Festa at SDES of Alvarado in Union City. A past newspaper article shows former queen Mikaela Silva, 7 years old, and Queen Christina Vargas, 7, both Union City, as Silva hands over the crown as part of the festa. Almost every Portuguese-American girl dreams of being queen at her local Holy Ghost festa. The crown, the crowds, the velvet capes, and of course, the blessing of the Holy Spirit, are enough to awaken any young lady's inner princess.

The Holy Ghost Festival is a 600-year-old Portuguese Catholic tradition, but today's California festa mixes old-world Catholicism with plenty of American flair. The original festa sprouted from the religious custom of making a promise to the Holy Spirit: a spiritual kind of IOU. One asks for divine help under the condition that when the help comes, one will do something good for the community. Every year, SDES in Union City celebrate with a parade and queens, lots and lots of good food and gift booths.

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**NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!**

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**Asian American Federation of California** - The event was held at the Buddhist Church in Union City last May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The Union City Historical Museum and the Filipino American Association of Alameda County participated in the event.



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**Museum's Open House** - The Union City Historical Museum had an Open House last May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The members and guests enjoyed the camaraderie and most especially the sumptuous dinner prepared by our Secretary Marina Bamont.



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**Tri-City Voice Newspaper Open House** – The Open House was held last May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Tri City Voice office at Paseo Padre in Fremont. A lot of guests enjoyed the open house and most especially the nice spread and drinks. Among those present were Fremont Historian Philip Holmes, Union City Historian Myrla Raymundo, Washington Township Historical Society Treasurer Regina Dennie and many others/



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**Museum's Casino Trip** – The Union City Historical Museum held a fundraising event – the June 5, 2010 Casino Trip to Feather Falls. A lot of the members and guests enjoyed the trip. Thanks to our Fundraising Chairperson Joey Golaw, Jr. for a successful event.

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INTERVIEWS



**Socorro & Randy Franco**

Randy Franco and family came by the Museum recently to buy the book “Union City Through The Years.”

Much to this Editor’s surprise, who is always on the lookout for descendants of Union City historical figures, Randy is the son of Union City past mayor Henry Franco. This Editor immediately sat down and interviewed Randy.

His father, Henry Franco, was Union City Councilmember from 1968 through 1971. Then he became Union City Mayor in 1971. Mayor Franco lived in Sunol until his death in 2002.

Randy Franco was born in Oakland on September 25, 1957. He lived in Union City, went to school at Searles and Barnard White School and graduated from Logan High School in 1975.

The family then moved and lived to Sunol.

Randy worked for the Carpet Mill in Union City and worked as a Property Manager.

He is an active member of the Federation of the Mexican Rodeo.

Randy is married to Socorro.

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**Leonor Amaya**

Leonor Amaya and her husband have lived in Union City for many years. They reside in their house in the Decoto area. They were married in 1958. They have three children J. J. Amaya, Lonny and Chila.

Her husband, born in Niles, worked for U. S. Pipe and retired in 2000. He was an umpire for the Union City National Little League for 42 years now.

Leonor and her son J. J. Amaya, who is a radio announcer, are very active in Union City.

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**The Union City Historical Museum  
WEBPAGE**

**www.unioncitymuseum.com/**

This web site is an introduction to the content and capabilities of the Union City Historical Museum and a welcome invitation for you to visit us.

The Union City Historical Museum, founded in 1998 by Myrla Raymundo, MBA, is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to recording, documenting and preserving the history of Union City, California. It also educates residents on the history of Union City. The Museum has three components.

Museum – The Museum is filled with Union City artifacts, old maps, old photographs, historical books and documents.

Historical Preservation – We work with the City of Union City in preserving historical buildings and homes.

Oral History – We write about local residents who have lived in the area.

**CONTENTS OF THE WEBSITE**

**About the Museum**

The museum, its location, and becoming a member

**History of Union City**

From the past to the present

**Interesting Facts about Union City**

The Union City story

**Museum Artifacts and displays**

Things of the past

**Museum Newsletters**

Bimonthly issues of the newsletters

**Oral History**

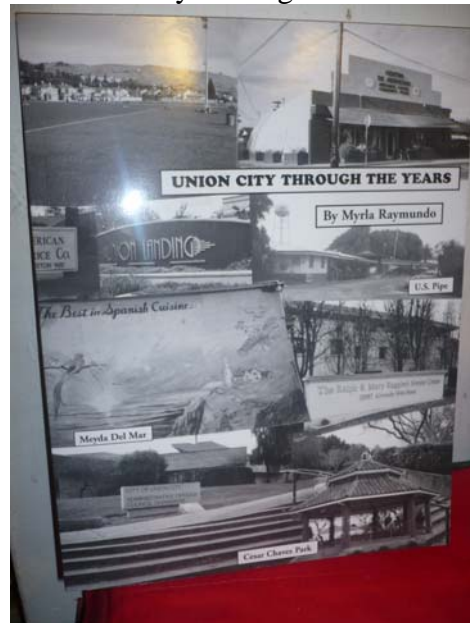
Stories of people who helped change Union City

**Preservation of Homes and Buildings**

Homes and buildings that are designated as historical

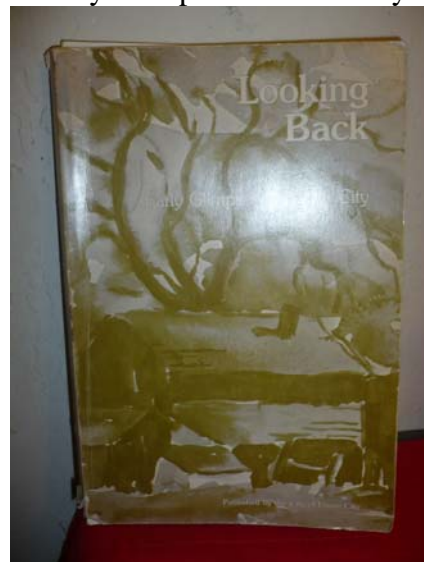
**Other books available at the Museum.**

**“Union City Through the Years”**



by Myrla Raymundo

**“Looking Back”  
Early Glimpse of Union City**



Published by the City of Union City

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve again as your President.

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

I will continue to help in the progress of the Museum.

DOM FILARDO

**FY 2010 – 2011**  
**MUSEUM MEETINGS - MONDAYS**  
**7:00 PM AT THE MUSEUM**

JULY 5, 2010

OCTOBER 4, 2010

JANUARY 3, 2011

APRIL 4, 2011

JUNE 6, 2011



**Dom Filardo, Bess Filardo, Myrla Raymundo and Ray Raymundo**



**Some of the officers of the Union City Historical Museum**

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## FOUNDER'S NOTES



A new election year means a fresh start, a clean slate, and a chance to begin again.

There is no better time than this time to talk about improvements in the operation of the Museum and to take action on our plans for the year.

As we begin our 2010-2011 term, we are facing many challenges.

How can we better present our residents with more exciting Museum displays?

How can we get more volunteers to assist us in our day-to-day work?

How can we attract more people to visit the Museum?

How can we invite the school district to participate in our Presentation of History Program?

How can we get more funding for the Museum?

These are the big challenges facing us on this new Fiscal Year.

I enjoined the new Board of Directors to think of ways to make these things happen.

Let's work on the following tasks to meet these challenges:

- Increase membership.
- Get more volunteers.
- Learn ways to conserve our artifacts and materials.
- Preserve Union City's history by collecting news articles, maintaining and adding to the Museum's library.
- Continue interviewing residents, particularly the old-timers for our oral history.
- Continue working on the preservation of historical homes and buildings.

Our Museum officers, members and volunteers will be busy working this year to preserve and share Union City's history.

The challenges will never stop coming; we look forward not only this fiscal year but also to the next 100 years.

Let's all keep up the good work!

**Myrla Raymundo**



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

**Officers -July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011.**

Dom Filardo – President  
 Allen Cecil – Vice-President  
 Marina Bamont - Secretary  
 Hugh McNamara – Treasurer

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**July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2011.**

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 Carlen Gregorio

**July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2012.**

Rorie Rabuy  
 Fely Garcia  
 Livjot Cheema

**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  
 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  
 Mrs. Angelo dela Cruz  
 Marcos. Jr. & Tessie Gatan  
 Joey and Vilma Golaw  
 James Celcer  
 Sarabjit Kaur Cheema  
 Emily Duncan

**BUSINESS MEMBER**

**Tri-City Voice  
 (What's Happening)  
 William Marshak  
 Publisher**

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

Myrla Raymundo  
 Jo Ann Lew  
 Ligfinio (Ray) Raymundo  
 (Layout Artist/Production)

**Myrla Raymundo, MBA**  
**Editor**  
**Union City Historical Museum**  
**3841 Smith Street**  
**Union City, California 94587**