

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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Visit us at www.unioncitymuseum.com/

**Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Founding 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.

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 7, 2010**, at the Museum at 7 PM.

All members are invited to attend the General Membership Meeting.

The next slate of elected officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) will hold their seats for a one-year term, from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011.

The next slate of elected directors will hold their seats for a two-year term, from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2012.

The Nominating Committee will accept written nominations either in person or through the mail. Nomination forms are available at the Museum.

Nominations must be received by the Museum, 3841 Smith Street, Union City, no later than 5:00 PM – **Friday May 14, 2010.**

Nominating Committee

NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!

**THE ENOS HENDRICKS
DESCENDANTS**



On February 5, 2010, the family of Enos Hendricks, from Modesto and Castro Valley, visited the Union City Historical Museum to do some research on their patriarch Enos Hendricks.

Enos Hendricks, an Alvarado volunteer fireman, was a native of Alvarado. His wife was Emily Hendricks and both had a son and daughter, Wilbert Hendricks and Lois Hendricks. He is the brother of A. E. Vargas and Manuel Hendricks of Alvarado. Enos Hendricks passed away on August 1, 1936.

The photo shows the descendants Donna Moody, Rich Nield, Maria Nield and Shirley Moody with Myrla Raymundo.

The family found a lot of records about the Hendricks family. They even found records of Frances Luna, another matriarch of the family, who used to be the Alvarado Postmaster in 1934.

**TRIBUTE TO PHIL HOLMES, MAN
OF HISTORY**



A Tribute to Phil Holmes, the Historian of Tri-City, was held at the Palmdale Estates in Fremont last February 1, 2010.

The Washington Township Historical Society presented it.

For many years, Phil Holmes' name has been synonymous with the history of the Washington Township and the cities born from the area. Phil's gritty, frank descriptions of the events, people and places of days gone by has been a feature of *What's Happening Magazine* since its inception in 1998 and the *Tri-City Voice Newspaper* beginning in 2001. Always popular with our readers, these historic treatises have allowed long time residents and newcomers alike to learn and experience the rich history of our area.

HISTORICAL PRESENTATION



Myrla Raymundo held a Presentation of History at the Museum last January 23, 2010 to the Alvarado School 2nd graders of Miss Wong.

IN MEMORIAM

ALFONSO "FONZI" RODERIGUES

Alfonso "Fonzi" Roderigues, a teacher at New Haven Unified School District, died on March 19, 2010.

Fonzi was the only son of the late Alfonso and Marcela Roderigues. Fonzi's father Alfonso, Sr. was a volunteer fireman for 30 years before he became the Fire Chief serving at the Station in Decoto until his retirement in 1982. Al was fire chief for many years.

Fonzi was born on December 13, 1942, in a small clinic on Mission Boulevard between Decoto and Niles. He attended Decoto School when it was a one-room schoolhouse. He then attended Barnard Jr. High and Washington High School. He was able to move to James Logan when it was completed in 1959 and be part of the first graduating class in 1960, making him an original Colt.

He first attended San Jose City College and played baseball there. He then transferred to Cal State Hayward

University where he played baseball and graduated in 1964. He joined the Coast Guard and served for several years. He started teaching in the district in 1966 as science/PE teacher.

UNION CITY YOUTH COMMISSION

Congratulations to the following individuals who were appointed to the Union City Youth Commission for the 2009-2010 Year:

Amily Au (re-appointment)
Bharavi Brahmbhatt (re-appointment)
Christine Cervantes
Eileen Chao
Paulina Ramos
Jeremy Sharma (re-appointment)
Fiona Yuan (re-appointment)
Richard Yuan (re-appointment)
Bhargav Brahmbhatt (re-appointment)
Justin Chan (re-appointment)
Henry Chen (re-appointment)
Howard Guan
Somya Sharma
Chritine Tsai (re-appointment)
Kevin Yuan (re-appointment)

MUSEUM VISITOR



Former Car Racer Al Cease was one of the early buyers of the book Union City Oral History by author Myrla Raymundo.

Press Release from Union City Library, March 5, 2010

“Myrla Raymundo, Author of Union City Oral History – MEET THE AUTHOR Saturday March 13th 11 AM – 12:30 PM Union City Library, 34007 Alvarado-Niles Rd.

Myrla Raymundo is the Founder and CEO of the Union City Historical Museum, the editor of the Union City Historical Museum Newsletter, the president of the Filipino-American Association of Alameda County, and the president of the Friends of the Union City Library.

The author, a long time resident of Union City, has written a careful and detailed accounting of the very first beginnings of the community known as Union City.

She will answer questions about her work researching local history, and signed copies of her new book will be available for purchase.”

Excerpt from the City of Union City Council Meeting - February 23, 2010

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

“Myrla Raymundo announced her book entitled Union City Oral History had been published, and was available for sale as a fundraiser for the Union City Historical Museum. Domingo Filardo expressed his appreciation for the book and encouraged people to purchase a copy.”

Excerpt from Tri-City Voice Newspaper – March 3, 2010

GOVERNMENT BRIEFS

Union City City Council – February 23, 2010

ORAL COMMUNICAITONS

“Myrla Raymundo, founder of Union City Historical Museum, announced the publication and availability of her book, Union City Oral History.

Excerpt from New Haven E-News – March 9, 2010

“Local Historian Myrla Raymundo, who has explored history of New Haven schools as part of her research into Union City’s past, will answer questions and sign copies of her new book from 11:a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday (March 13, 2010) at the Union City Library.”

WE GOT LETTERS!

Dear Myrla,

Thank you so much for what you’ve done for Union City and for those of us who have lived through a part of its history. We are indebted to you and the Museum.

Most sincerely,

Gilbreth F. Whipple

Ed’s Note: Gilbreth F. Whipple is a great grandson of the Union City pioneer John Cleveland Whipple.

March 11, 2010

Re: TRI-CITY VOICE NEWSPAPER
article on Mr. James Logan

From: Kimberly Quintal

Hello Ms. Raymundo,

This is a WONDERFUL article you have written on the history of James Logan and the founding of James Logan High School. I learned a lot from this article.

I was born and raised in Union City, attended Searles Elementary, New Haven Middle and James Logan High School (c/o 1988.) Born in 1970, I am proud of the fact that I have memories of Alvarado-Niles Rd when it was mostly farms, memories of the blackberry fields where there are now “new” homes next to the Soares Ranch, memories of the fields where there is now a Library and Police station, where my father used to take our hunting trained black lab to practice retrieving, etc. I’ve always known that James Logan High School was named after a man named James Logan and that he’d been important in Union City but I had no idea of just how rich that history really was! I feel even more connected to my hometown after reading this article.

Thank you for the research you did and the time you took to write this article and share it with us.

Kimberly Quintal
School Secretary 1
12th Grade Office
James Logan High School
1800 H Street
Union City, CA 94587

VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM



Teresa and Terry Cordova

Terry, 48 and Teresa Cordova, 46 visited the Museum recently. Terry was an Alvarado boy and now lives with his family in Elk Grove, California.

Terry reminisces about his boyhood days in Alvarado. He went to school at Barnard White, Alvarado Jr. High and graduated from Logan in 1979. He remembers playing baseball and going to Uncle Joes and Ben Matsumoto’s store. They used to live at Green Haven Apartments. They have three children, Monica, 27 (who has 4 children), Sheree, 23 and Terrence, 17.



Jerry De Poe

Jerry De Poe, a retired Post Office employee, recently visited the Museum to purchase the book Union City Oral History.

HISTORICAL NOTES

TOWN COULD HAVE BEEN de Coteau

If the three French-Canadian brothers had kept the old spelling of the family name, would an Alameda County town be named for them?

Maybe not. Perhaps the founding fathers would have felt “deCoteau” posed problem in pronunciation or spelling, but the problem never came up because generations back, the de Coteau family had changed the spelling to Decoto.

Today the name belongs to a district of Union City and has a street named after Ezra Decoto.

Ezra Decoto is the founder of Decoto, California. He came to California via the Isthmus of Panama, arriving in San Francisco in 1854.

MORE ON DECOTO.....

1911
Decoto Chamber of Commerce

OFFICERS

President-----Henry May
Vice-President----H. C. Searles
Treasurer----- J. L. Olsen
Secretary----- J. S. Egger

DIRECTORS

Henry May—Chairman
F. W. Meyer
T. S. Ferrera
M. B. Maciel

F. Rabello
A. Silva
J. L. Olsen
F. Goularte
Manuel Brown
Jas. C. Hanley, M.D.

First Bank in Washington Township was founded in Alvarado by August May, son-in-law of Ezra Decoto.

Manuel White was a trustee of the Decoto School District from 1941 to 1957. He died at age 74 in 1969 and, in his honor, the Manuel White School was named after him.

For decades, people of Mexican, Spanish, Filipino and Portuguese descent have lived in the Decoto district, which became part of Union City in 1959. Decoto, a blue-collar community east of Highway 80, is still almost 80 percent Hispanic.

At Our Lady of the Rosary Church, where parishioners range from third-generation Decoto residents to recent immigrants from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, two Masses are conducted in Spanish each Sunday.

After mass, menudo, a traditional soup, is sometimes served.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY



Mrs. Felicisima Cunanan of Union City

It was a momentous event on a Saturday afternoon during the 5:00 o'clock mass at St. Anne Catholic Church in Union City.

In a short ceremony, Father Geoffrey Baraan, Pastor of St. Anne, blessed Mrs. Cunanan on this lifelong achievement, reaching her 90th birthday. After the ceremony, she was given a big party at Kennedy Hall in Union City.

Mrs. Cunanan was born on March 19, 1920 in Pampanga, Philippines. She and her late husband Gabriel Cunanan managed their business of tailoring and barbershops. They had twelve children, six girls and six boys. She immigrated to the United States in 1987 and lived in Reno, Nevada, where most of her children lived and work.

Mrs. Cunanan now lives in Meridien Circle in Union City with some of her children.

LOGAN HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY EVENT



Dom Filardo, Museum President; Ray Raymundo, Director; and Myrla Raymundo, CEO; had a table at Logan's Community Event on April 1, 2010.



Union City Library Table

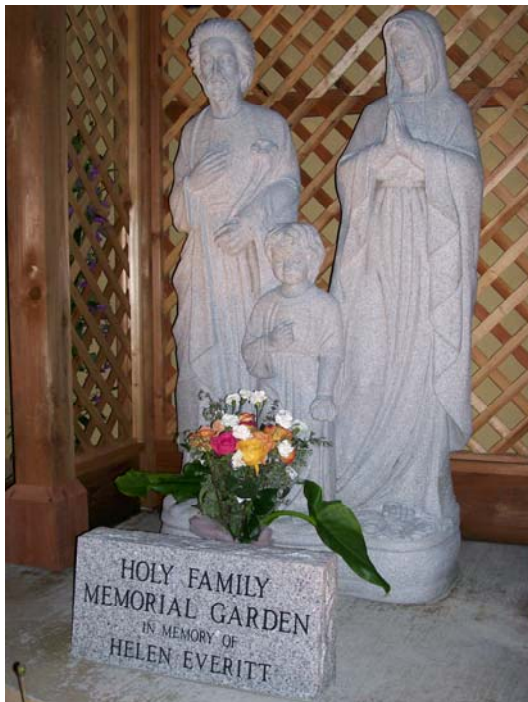


The Event

**DEDICATION IN MEMORY OF
HELEN EVERITT**



St. Anne Prayer Garden



Holy Family Memorial Garden

On March 6, 2010, was the dedication of the St. Anne Prayer Garden and the Holy Family Memorial Garden in memory of Helen Everitt.

Father Geoffrey Baraan, (Parish Priest), Father Rick Boyle (Parochial Vicar) and Bishop John Cummins (Bishop Emeritus of Oakland) conducted an hour-long Mass before the Dedication Ceremony. The Knights of Columbus Union City St. Anne Council 8627 were also in attendance.

Helen Everitt worshipped at St. Anne for many years and was respected as a stalwart of the church community and benefactor. Fellow parishioners fondly remember her kindness, support and generosity. She bestowed a gift of \$100,000 to the church.

The gift was spent on the two monuments.

The St. Anne Prayer Garden displays an effigy of St. Anne, mother of Mary, atop a polished granite plinth with the Virgin Child at her knee.

The Holy Family Memorial Garden contains Jesus of Nazareth, his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and foster-father, St. Joseph as a family.

St. Anne parishioners, members of the Everitt family and Mayor Mark Green gathered at the Dedication Ceremony.

The guests enjoyed a nice spread of food at the Church Hall.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Come June 30, 2010, it 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 Union City Historical Museum belongs to the Union City residents. Every resident should know the history of his or her city. They should know the many people, past and present, which helped shaped the city that we live in. We represent Union City; our city is our past, our present and our future.

The Museum is open regularly and manned by some of the officers and members. Logan High School students help in manning the Museum and earning community work credits.

The presentation of Union City History to visitors and students continue to be held at the Museum.

The Strategic Plan Committees are working on their respective projects.

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

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

Historical documents are filed and maintained.

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

We continue to send to owners of historic buildings and homes, letters for possible historic designation of their properties.

We had fundraising events in the Museum; namely, garage sales and book sales to generate the funds to keep the Museum going.

We increased our membership through regular Membership Drives.

Visit our Museum Website www.unioncitymuseum.com/. Our Webmaster is Museum member Ziyang Zhong.

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

DOM FILARDO

FOUNDER'S NOTES



I would like to thank Robert A. Garfinkle for this beautiful and comprehensive review of the book *Union City Oral History Book*.

Book Review

UNION CITY ORAL HISTORY BOOK

By Robert A. Garfinkle

Local historian Myrla Raymundo has published her second book on the history of Union City. This book is primarily a collection of about 200 interviews that she conducted with Union City Leaders, City Staff members and civic-minded people both past and present. For the early founders of what is now Union City, she of course had to rely on documents in the Union City Historical Museum and/or reference materials given to her by living relatives of these pioneers. Myrla is the founder and current Chief Executive Officer of the museum, so access to its collection of materials on Union City historical figures are right at hand. For almost all of the people in the book, she included a photograph of the interviewee.

The author opens the book with 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. I found it interesting to be able to put a name, face and biography of people who are familiar to me, solely because a street (or area) bears their last names, such as Ezra Decoto and John B. Alvarado along with Henry Smith, John C. Whipple and Ebenezer H. Dyer among others.

Myrla then 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. I found this to be a fascinating read. Having been actively involved in Union City politics since the late 1970s, I personally know many of the people Myrla interviewed. Now I know something about their lives and accomplishments.

I recommend this book to anyone who loves to read local history or may be related to one of the people whose lives are told in this work. I know that the book will also 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.

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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Officers - July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010

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

Directors – July 1, 2008-June 30, 2010

Rodrigo Galindo
 Rorie Rabuy

Directors- July 1, 2009- June 30, 2011

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 Joey Golaw, Jr.
 Georgia Megue dela Cruz
 Angel Villorente
 Carlen Gregorio

MUSEUM LIFETIME MEMBERS

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 Georgia Megue & Mike dela Cruz
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