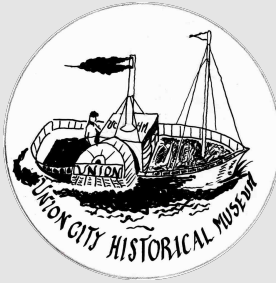


# UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Founded by Myrla Raymundo, MBA • Founding Editor/Writer • [raymundomyrla@gmail.com](mailto:raymundomyrla@gmail.com)  
3841 Smith Street, Union City, CA 94587 • Telephone: (510) 378-6376



**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.*

**Three Components:** (1) Museum & Artifacts; (2) Oral History; (3) Preservation of Historical Homes.

**Board Meetings:** quarterly at the Museum at 7:00pm.

**Visit Us Online:**

• <http://www.unioncityhistoricalmuseum.org>

• <http://www.facebook.com/UCMuseum>

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## NEWS AROUND UNION CITY

### CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Because of the present situation in our world these days in the year 2020 with the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19), we are required to Stay in Place (SIP), wear mask and gloves, wash our hands, and stay six feet apart from each other. Therefore, a lot of the establishments are required to close. The *Union City Historical Museum* is closed until further notice.

Because we know that history must go on, we continue to follow the present happenings, not only in our city but in the whole world. We are alert in listening to the news and always reading the newspapers. We will continue with the publication of the Museum newsletter and will keep the Museum website up to date with information about the happenings in Union City.

The *Union City Historical Museum* pledges to continue to provide services to the community.

### TEAM UNION CITY FOOD DRIVE

In May 2020 during the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19), the *Team Union City Food Drive* distributed sandwiches, noodles, fruits, vegetables, canned goods and other products from our donors and sponsors to Union City residents. Councilmember Gary Singh led the group in this venture to celebrate food and friendship. Other members of the group were Councilmember Pat Gacoscos, Councilmember Jaime Patino, Human Relations Commissioner AnnRuth Abapo Yap, School Board member Sharan Kaur, and Raja Sweets owner Makhan Bains.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Election of Officers for FY 2020-2021 is postponed until further notice. Meanwhile, the present line of officers and directors will still hold office.

### MUSEUM GARDEN AND PARKING LOT

The Museum's garden and parking lot need a lot of upkeep. Because we don't have funding for a helper, we are appealing to good hearted people to help in the upkeep of our garden and parking lot. Please call Myrla at 510-378-6376 if you are willing to help. It will be most appreciated.

### BOOKLET: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA

Would you like to read about Union City's past and its people from the time of the Costanoan Indians and continue looking into the future? What did Union City look like? How did its people live? Who were some of the settlers in the communities of Alvarado and Decoto? Who was the first elected Mayor in Union City? When was Union Landing built?

Each entry in this Chronology is a story of an event in those early days, continuing to the present. Come and visit the *Union City Historical Museum* and read all about it.

## PHILIP HELWIG



Contributed By  
Anthony Gualco

Philip Hellwig was born on the Rhine, in Germany, August 15, 1830. Philip spent his boyhood years in the Fatherland, and at the age of fourteen years was learning the baker's trade. He then went to London, England, and followed his trade for eight years, when he then immigrated to the United States. He landed in San Francisco in May, 1856. He went to the mines for a time, but decided to join his cousin in Alvarado in the butchering business.

Philip followed this occupation for about eight years. Thoroughly versed in the butcher business, he then purchased the establishment from his cousin, and continued in its management until May, 1874. He then formed a partnership with Frederick D. Wiegman and William Jung. The firm used the name of *P. Hellwig & Co.*

Mr. Wiegman eventually sold his interests to August May, with whom Mr. Hellwig and Mr. Jung continued in business until 1891. His son Frederick, then purchased Philip's interest and the partnership continued as it was until 1899. Mr. Hellwig's son George then purchased Mr. Jung's interest, and two years later the brothers purchased Mr. May's interest, and in 1903 incorporated the business under the name of the *Hellwig Meat Company*.

The marriage of Mr. Hellwig occurred April 19, 1869, and united him with Elizabeth Schweitzer, who was also a native of the same locality in Germany as was her husband. She came to California when sixteen years old, landing at San Francisco in April, 1865. She remained a resident of that city until her marriage, since which time she then made her home in Alvarado. Of their four sons, only two survived: Frederick P., president and manager of the *Hellwig Meat Company*; and George P., secretary and treasurer of the corporation, and manager of the plant at Alvarado.

In addition to his commercial interests, Mr. Hellwig owned seventy acres in this community which was used for pasture, and also owned six hundred and fifty acres in the hills, which his widow now rents. Mr. Hellwig was well known in fraternal circles, being a member of thirty-two years standing in *Crusade Lodge No. 92, I.O.O.F.*, of Alvarado. Mr. Hellwig was also a member of the *Reliance Lodge, No. 93, A.O.U.W.*, and the *Wisteria Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West*.

Mrs. Hellwig belonged to the *Rebekahs*, the *Olivina Parlor of the Native Daughters of the Golden West*. Elizabeth and Philip Hellwig were members of the Lutheran Church.

The death of Mr. Hellwig, which occurred May 29, 1901, removed from the community one of the most prominent and successful business men, and an earnest and helpful citizen, one whose word was acknowledged as good as his bond, whose integrity was ever unquestioned. With his son George, the Hellwig's influenced Alvarado for almost a full century.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dom Filardo

Greetings and a gentle salutation to all the members of the UCHM and to its followers. I hope that each and every one of you is safe and healthy. The past three months have been really a challenging time for everyone not only in our country, but all over the world. Thank God that we have such great leadership in our country and a team of highly professional health officials who have monitored this pandemic. It could be something that some of us are not used to doing, but with great cooperation by the people, it was abided and followed. Let's work together to protect not only ourselves but the other people and the general population by continually following these guidelines:

\* Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and use sanitizer with 60% alcohol.

- \* Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- \* Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces with at least an alcohol solution.
- \* Wear face masks in public places or when recommended by health authorities.
- \* Cover your coughs and sneezes with a face mask or handkerchief.

- \* If you are sick or might have developed COVID-19, stay home and stay away from others and call your doctor.
- \* Seek immediate medical attention if you develop emergency symptoms.
- \* Maintain social distancing by at least 6 ft. between yourself and other persons.
- \* Always maintain good hygiene and sanitation.

The saying: healthy citizens are the greatest assets any country can have.

In deep sorrow I would like to report a casualty of this pandemic with regard to one of our lifetime members: Vilma Golaw. She was the wife of our former Vice President, Joey Golaw. The report we gathered was the couple Joey and Vilma went on a tour

to Asia including Philippines sometime last March. It was there that Vilma got infected with the virus and did not make it. Joey was hospitalized and quarantined, and thank God he survived the virus. Our prayers and condolences to the Golaw family. May Vilma find rest in peace in her new home.

We will let the members know when we can be fully functional. We have to follow the rules and guidelines. We stayed focused on our mission and continuously make our sound choices. Stay safe and healthy.

## FOUNDER'S NOTES



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

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 of the City of Union City.

The Museum helps in educating the community on the history of Union City.

The Museum is an excellent vehicle to make us aware of our beautiful heritage and culture. This is the only way to preserve our history.

Nowadays, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Museum is temporarily closed. However we will continue with the publication of the Museum newsletter and will keep the Museum website up to date with information about the community.

The *Union City Historical Museum* pledges to continue to provide services to the community.

## ANNUAL REPORT (FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020): JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020 PRESENTED TO THE UNION CITY COUNCIL BY MYRLA RAYMUNDO, MBA, FOUNDER/CEO, JUNE 2020

On behalf of the *Union City Historical Museum*, I am presenting this Fiscal Year 2019-2020 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 nonprofit organization committed to the preservation, maintenance and protecting of and the education of the public about the architectural, cultural, natural and historical heritage resources of the City of Union City.

### HAPPENINGS IN UNION CITY

Joan Malloy started as our new City Manager on July 1, 2019. She has been the City's Economic and Community Development Director for the last ten years, and prior to that served as Planning Manager.

Dr. Arlando Smith, the New Haven Unified School District Superintendent (2013-2019), retired.

Anthony Robert Vierra, long time member of the Museum, passed away last May 2019. He was 103 years old.

*St. Anne Council 8627 Knights of Columbus Thirty-Fifth Annual Installation of Officers, Columbian Year 2019-2020* was held last August 10, 2019, at *St. Anne Church* in Union City. Emmanuel Bernal is the Grand Knight.

The *7th Annual Larry O Car Show* was held last August 10, 2019 at the *Ruggieri Senior Center* in Union City. The show was in honor of Union City's own Larry Orozco.

There was a recent break-in and theft of historical artifacts and numerous items at the *Union City Historical Museum*. The intruders broke glass shelves to get the artifacts and opened all cabinets and drawers to steal what they wanted. They left the place in a big mess.

The Installation of Officers/Directors for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 was held last August 22, 2019 at the *Union City Historical Museum* with Ian Condon as the incoming President. It was officiated by Councilmember Pat Gacoscos.

Anthony Gualco wrote about the "New Sugar Mill".

On August 30, 2019, the *25th Anniversary of Presbyteral Ordination of Reverend Father Rosendo Delos Reyes Manalo, Jr.* was held at *St. Anne Catholic Church*.

On September 29, 2019, a *Welcome Luncheon* was held for Union City Manager Joan Malloy and New Haven Unified School District Superintendent John Thompson at the *Crowne Plaza Hotel* in Union City. It was organized by Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle and Union City Chamber of Commerce.

On October 19, 2019, the *Friends of the Filipino American Community* celebrated the Filipino American History month and gave recognition to Pinay Visionaries – Filipina leaders, volunteers and community advocates. Our Museum Founder Myrla Raymundo was awarded the *2019 Pinay Visionary Award* for Civic Leadership.

On October 26, 2019, the Museum had a Halloween Party. The members and guests had a good time with delicious foods prepared by the members.

On October 22, 2019, the *New Haven Pase Productions – Pilipino American Society for Education* presented a *Filipino American History Month Celebration* at the Union City Library. There were stories by Filipino American authors, parole making, performances, history workshops and vendors and food. It was a well-attended event.

Anthony Gualco wrote about "The Signature Smokestack Comes Down".

Because of the resignation of Ian Condon, President of the Board, a special election was held last January 6, 2020. Dom Filardo was elected to the position of President of the Board for the remaining period January to June 30, 2020.

The *Birdhauss Beer Garden*, located at the *Alvarado District*, opened last May 30, 2020. It serves delicious American foods such as hamburger sandwiches, fried chicken and of course, beer.

Lita Abad, member of the *Union City Historical Museum*, passed away last February 7, 2020.

Darlene Pagtakhan, member of the *Union City Historical Museum*, passed away last February 10, 2020.

We welcomed the new Museum members Rick Tejada and Mary Reyes.

Anthony Gualco wrote about "How Union City Got Its Name".

In May 2020 during the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19), the *Team Union City Food Drive* distributed sandwiches, noodles, fruits, vegetables, canned goods and other products from our donors and sponsors to Union City residents. Councilmember Gary Singh led the group.

The Election of Officers for FY 2020-2021 was postponed until further notice. Meanwhile, the present line of officers and directors will still hold office.

The booklet "Chronology of Events in Union City, California" is available at the Museum and the community is invited to come and read all about Union City's history.

Anthony Gualco wrote about "Philip Helwig".

# THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

**July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

### **Officers:**

Dom Filardo, **President**  
Hugh McNamara, **Vice-President**  
Tammy Condon, **Secretary**  
Carlen Gregorio, **Treasurer**

### **Directors:**

Sarabjit Cheema  
Dennis Jeffrey  
William Condon  
Gloria Cardon  
Meera Malkani  
Panchal Ashvinkumar

## **EDITORIAL BOARD**

Myrla Raymundo, MBA  
Dennis Jeffrey, PhD

## **MUSEUM MEETINGS FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

**October 7, 2020:** Quarterly Board Meeting  
**January 6, 2021:** Quarterly Board Meeting  
**April 6, 2021:** Quarterly Board Meeting  
**June 1, 2021:** Election of Officers and Directors

***All Meetings on Mondays, 7:00pm at the Museum***

## **MUSEUM LIFETIME MEMBERS**

Ligfinio (Ray) and Myrla Raymundo  
Phil & Leila Verzola  
John & Cathy Tester  
Eva Kamakea  
Georgia Megue and Mike dela Cruz  
Gina Lewis  
Al & Marsha Badella  
Barbara Scheifler  
William & Dorothy Pearce Hubbard  
Robert and Leslie Swartz  
Steve Miller & Diane LaMountaine  
Fernando and Helen Cabiles  
Allen and Simona Cecil  
Frank Jr. & Elvamae Borghi  
Angelo dela Cruz  
Marcos and Tessie Gatan  
Joey & Vilma Golaw  
James Celcer  
Sarabjit Kaur Cheema  
Emily Duncan  
Richard & Barbara Aro Valle  
Kathy Logan  
Manuel & Lita Abad  
Elmer & Vicky Guzman  
Alice Robie  
Alvarado Historic District Merchants Association  
Dennis Jeffrey & Smruti Parichha  
Adrian Swartz  
Ann Bess Chanco  
Edgar Roldan  
Evelyn Abellera  
Marlene O. Benedict  
Avtar Singh Dhani