

# THE TATTLER

## JOURNAL OF DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

### Greetings from President Mark-

We hope that everyone had a fine holiday season and that you're all raring to go for another outstanding four lectures in 2025. Most have already been programmed, and we believe that you will enjoy each and every one of them. In order of presentation, they feature themes of ethnic culture, nostalgia, transportation, and a mystery subject for September [I'm still working on it.]; all Daly City and San Mateo County, with one slight detour by way of San Francisco.

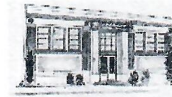
For our last meeting of 2024 we were pleased to welcome Carmen Blair from the San Mateo County Historical Association, who gave a wonderful presentation on the history of the Cow Palace exhibition curated by her organization and running through November 2026. If you haven't had a chance to experience it at the county museum in Redwood City, please make sure that you do. "The Extraordinary Cow Palace" is well worth visiting. After two years, it's a wrap.

A topic that has been requested for some time now is that of local Filipino history in Daly City. Specifically, when did that community first decide to call Daly City home and begin to share its rich and vibrant culture and traditions with a city that was incorporated way back in 1911 and founded largely by German, Irish and Italian immigrants from Europe. I am particularly pleased to have a very good friend, longtime Daly City resident, elder, community and civic activist, Perla Ibarrientos rejoin us to share the history that she knows so well and has helped to champion resulting in a far richer and culturally diverse Daly City life experience. Perla and the late Erlinda Galeon first addressed the Guild more than 12 years ago. We felt it was well worth a revisit to learn more about the city's largest ethnic population.

Perla's volunteer service, many accomplishments and awards are far too numerous to list here, but here is an abbreviated resume of a most remarkable life. Perla Gange Ibarrientos' civic engagement began back in 1973 as a teacher's aide in the classroom of her children. Her involvement in education continued as she served on the PTA Board at Garden Village elementary school and as a member of the parents' advisory board at Westmoor High School. When tensions stemming from youth violence became volatile, Perla championed tolerance between the Filipino American and the African American communities; she helped to organize a calming

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### DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE



#### HISTORY LECTURE

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> 2 PM**

**MERCED ROOM, PACELLI GYM, WESTLAKE PARK**

**145 LAKE MERCED BLVD., DALY CITY**

**PERLA IBARRIENTOS**

**PRESENTS**

**THE HISTORY OF DALY CITY'S FILIPINO COMMUNITY:**

**A PERSONAL REMEMBRANCE**



**REFRESHMENTS! REVELRY! RAFFLE!**

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*Continued from page 1*

meeting between the two communities. She is credited with launching the Filipino Mental Health Initiative (FMHI) training service. Perla fostered greater understanding of Filipino culture, thus bridging the gap between clients and patients in healthcare. Perla was the first Filipina appointed to the Library Board of Trustees in Daly City and was elected to chair the 19th Assembly District of San Mateo County. Perla was one of the founders of the Filipino Democratic Club of San Mateo County in 1983; a founder in 1989 of Pilipino Bayanihan Resource Center (PBRC); and the Filipino Mental Health Initiative (FMHI) in 2003. She currently is serving as Chair of the Board of Pilipino Bayanihan Resource Center; is a Daly City Personnel Commissioner; and a member of Daly City's Task Force for an Age Friendly Community for Seniors. On a personal note, Perla has been happily married for 60 years to engineer Mig Ibarrientos and is a mother of three successful children, five grandchildren, and two great granddaughters. I could go on and on, but I must be respectful and leave something more for our distinguished speaker to share about herself.

A short biography of the Pilipino Bayanihan Resource Center. The center's purpose is to provide direct services to the community, provide education to Fil-Am youths and their families relating to self-esteem, development, community involvement and leadership through workshops, seminars and forums. The PBRC was founded in 1988 by 22 people, but only two embraced the PBRC and remained with the organization. They are Monica Abello and Perla Ibarrientos. Some members moved due to the nature of their jobs and others have passed away. Monica Abello retired in 2005 but returned in 2008. Only co-founding member Perla has stayed with the PBRC all the way to the present.

I also want to mention that the city held its first Top of the Hill Festival in late October. It was fantastic! This was essentially a latter-day Gateway community festival. Those were held from the 1990s into the early 2000s and were Daly City's equivalent of a Pacifica Fog Fest or Millbrae Art & Wine Festival. A main component to holding it at the top of the hill was to promote the businesses on that stretch of the Mission Street corridor, the museum being just one of many. There were classic cars on display; DJs; food and various vendors; local entertainment; and city services and community service organizations all participating. We hope that it will be expanded to the full weekend in the future rather than just Saturday. The museum was open for expanded hours that one day and had more foot traffic AND financial donations than since we first opened in that location more than 15 years ago! We say, "Let's do it each year!" Your board staffed the museum, and our good friend and dedicated Guild member Bill Hamilton volunteered almost half of his day to sit at our outside table and greet prospective new members, sell the occasional cookbook, and otherwise share a smile. Guild photographer Raymond Jue also joined us mid-afternoon and

helped to man the table and promote the Guild. We could not have done it without you, Bill and Raymond, THANK YOU!



L-R Bill Hamilton, Perky Ramroth, Felicia Leong, Mark Weinberger

Finally, please see the photographs from August when we dedicated the newly planted front garden to our late colleague and secretary, Algis Ratnikas. January marks two years since his unexpected passing. We all miss him very much and hope that the garden that now bears his name will serve as both a tribute and small measure of our thanks to the many years he devoted to the Guild, serving the final ten years as our secretary. Please visit when you're in the area. This project was the result of a collaboration with San Bruno Mountain Watch, V. Fontana & Co., and the City of Daly City's Public Works Department. Again, many thanks to all of them for making this possible!

### ***DID YOU KNOW.....***

Edward Freyer was Daly City's first mayor, serving from 1911-1912. The other four original council members were: Martin Overhaus, A.J. Green, T. J. Mullins and Dennis Quillinan.

Daly City's first woman mayor was Jane Powell, 1982-1983.

Daly City's first Chief of Police was John "Jack" Doyle, who served from 1927-1936.

The first elected woman official was Clara Chess, elected in 1911 to the office of Justice of the Peace.



## Fazekas and His Illuminated House Numbers

By Amy O'Hair

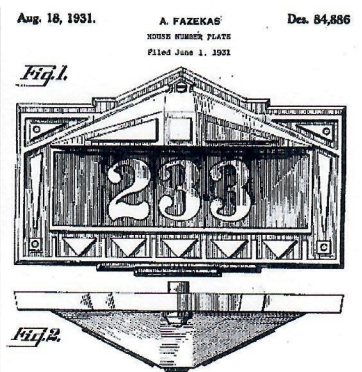
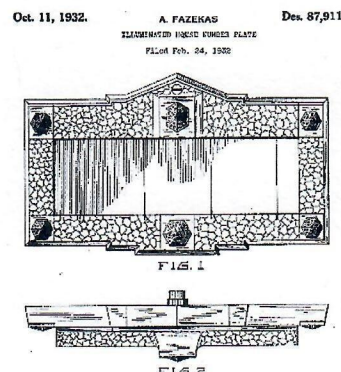
### Sunnyside History Project

Address numbers have historically been seen as a minor feature of any house, but during my covid-era walks, particular models on Bay Area houses caught my eye. These units had subtly crafted designs, with unique decorative features. My research revealed the story that lay behind the units and the sculptor who invented them, Anton Fazekas (1878-1966).

Trained in sculpture in his native Budapest, Hungary, he arrived in San Francisco just before the Quake and Fire of 1906. By 1913, he had established his company, American Art Metal Works, in the South of Market district. He designed and fabricated items such as the iconic lampposts on Market Street. In the 1930s he patented two models of his signature illuminated house number units. Each has a little light bulb under the hood to light up the numbers.

The units became very popular by the late 1930s. There was a drive to encourage homeowners to install them—part of a campaign to “light up the city” in anticipation of the Golden Gate International Exhibition in 1939-40. When the War came, people were asked to turn off the little lights as part of blackout regulations! By the 1940s and 1950s, contractors were ordering large numbers of the units for installation in housing tracts. Today, there are tens of thousands still to be found on houses in San Francisco and other Bay Area cities such as Daly City.

Since I published my article about the phenomenon on the Sunnyside History Project in 2020, many people have endeavored to restore their Fazekas-designed house numbers, including putting in new lightbulbs—an LED version of the bulb is still available. There is information on restoring the units on my website, as well as a fuller history of the man and his company and lots of photos of units from all over the Bay Area. For links to all Fazekas-related posts, please visit the Sunnyside History Project at <https://sunnysidehistory.org/> and enter Fazekas in the search box.





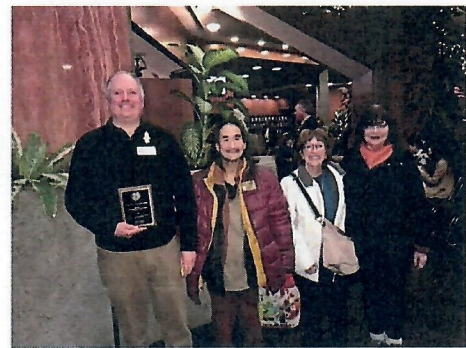
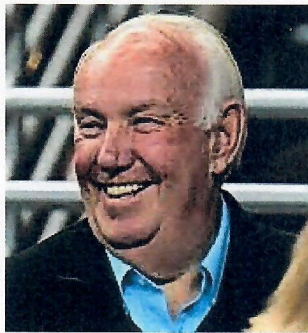
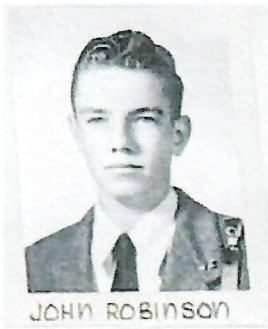
## ***Famed Coach and Former Daly City Resident Passes***

John Robinson passed away on November 11, 2024, at the age of 89. Robinson was born in 1935 in Chicago, IL and moved with his family to the Daly City area when he was 9 years old.

He graduated from Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in 1950 and then went to Serra High School in San Mateo. He graduated from the University of Oregon with a bachelor's degree in education.

Robinson was a successful football coach for the Oakland Raiders and the L.A. Rams as well as for USC, UNLV and Oregon. While the coach USC, his team won the Rose Bowl in 1976, 1978 and 1979. He had worked in sports radio for many years starting in 1998.

Robinson leaves behind his wife, Beverly, four children, two stepchildren and 10 grandchildren.



## ***Mayor's 2024 Outstanding Organization of the Year***

We were very surprised and certainly proud to receive the mayor's award for Daly City Outstanding Organization of 2024. Outgoing Mayor Juslyn Manalo selected the Daly City History Guild Museum & Archive from a competitive list of other worthy organizations. Along with a host of honorees in other categories, we were recognized at the city council's reorganization and final meeting of the year. Additional photos are posted to our Facebook page. It was a wonderful honor, and we are very humbled and grateful.



### **OFFICE OF THE MAYOR CITY OF DALY CITY**

133 - 90<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
DALY CITY, CA 94015-1895  
(650) 991-8125

December 13, 2024

Daly City History Guild Museum & Archive  
c/o President Mark Weinberger  
[president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org](mailto:president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org)

Re: Mayor's 2024 Outstanding Organization of the Year

Dear President Weinberger:

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive the Mayor's 2024 Outstanding Organization of the Year Award. It would be a pleasure to have you attend Daly City's Council Reorganization on Monday, December 16, 2024 at 6pm to accept this award.

This prestigious recognition is a testament to your outstanding contributions to our community and the positive impact you have made through your dedication and hard work. We are truly fortunate to have you as a part of our vibrant and dynamic City, and we look forward to seeing the continued success of your work.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (650) 580-7777.

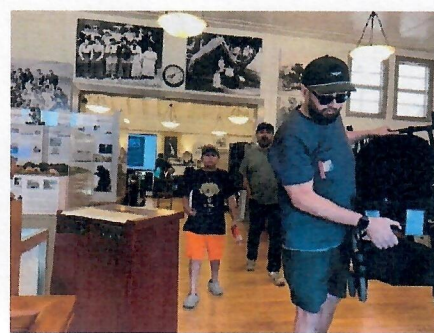
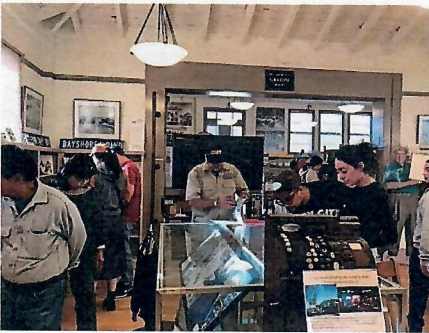
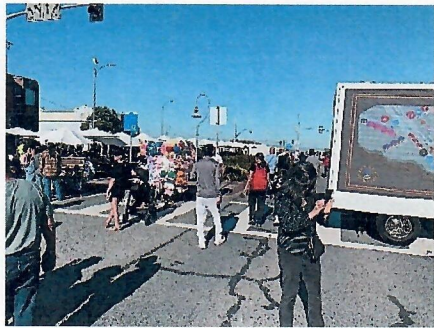
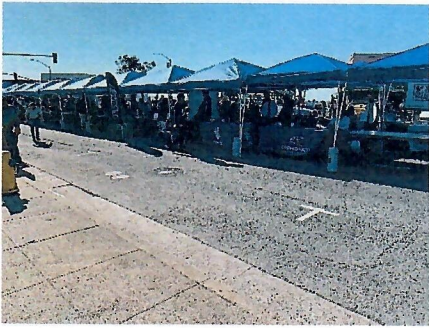
Warm Regards,

*Juslyn C. Manalo*  
Juslyn C. Manalo  
Mayor of Daly City



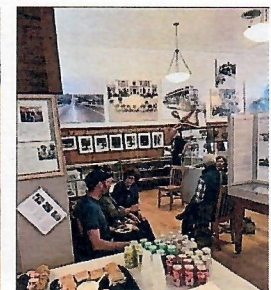
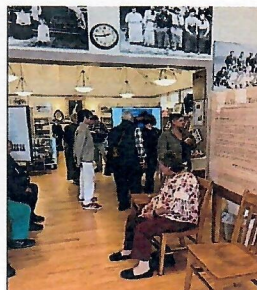
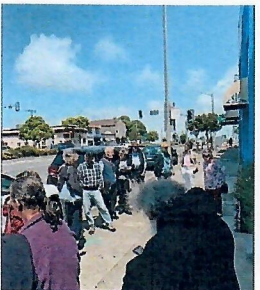
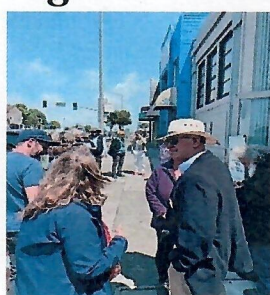
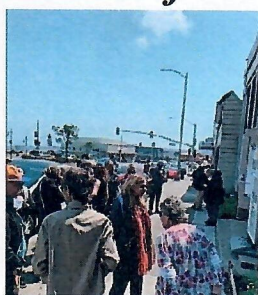


## *Top of the Hill Festival*

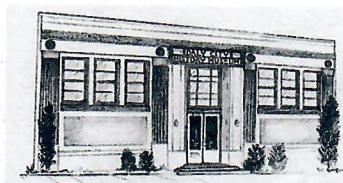



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## *Dedication of the Algis J. Ratnikas Memorial Garden.*







**DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM  
& ARCHIVE**

6351 Mission Street Daly City, CA 94014

(650) 757-7177

OPEN SATURDAYS NOON - 3 PM.



Please visit us on Facebook at "Daly

City History Guild Museum & Archive"

[www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org](http://www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org)

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**TWO VACANCIES ON GUILD BOARD**

We have two vacancies on the board at this time. The office of Treasurer is vacant and also the position of Director. If you have an interest in either position and would like to learn about their responsibilities, please contact Mark at: [president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org](mailto:president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org) or leave a message at the museum, 650-757-7177. Thank you for your consideration.



**DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE**

**GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

**Mark Weinberger, President**, (Facebook, Programs)  
650/757-7177 [president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org](mailto:president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org)

**Richard Rocchetta, Vice President** (Raffle)

**Marcus Gonzalez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President/Museum  
Director**, (programs)

**Perky Ramroth, Secretary**

**Treasurer** – vacant

**Director: Michael Rocchetta**, (database, mailing  
labels)

**Director** – vacant

*Tattler Production: Board of Directors*

Ken Gillespie (1924-2011) President Emeritus  
Bunny Gillespie (1926-2017) Secretary Emerita

Grace and Marcus Gonzalez, Hospitality Crew  
Raymond Jue, photographer

*Board meetings are held quarterly and are open to the  
membership. Please contact Mark for further information.*

**Daly City History Guild Museum & Archive is an  
all-volunteer 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.**

**Membership begins at \$25 per year.**