



Pinole**Historical**Society

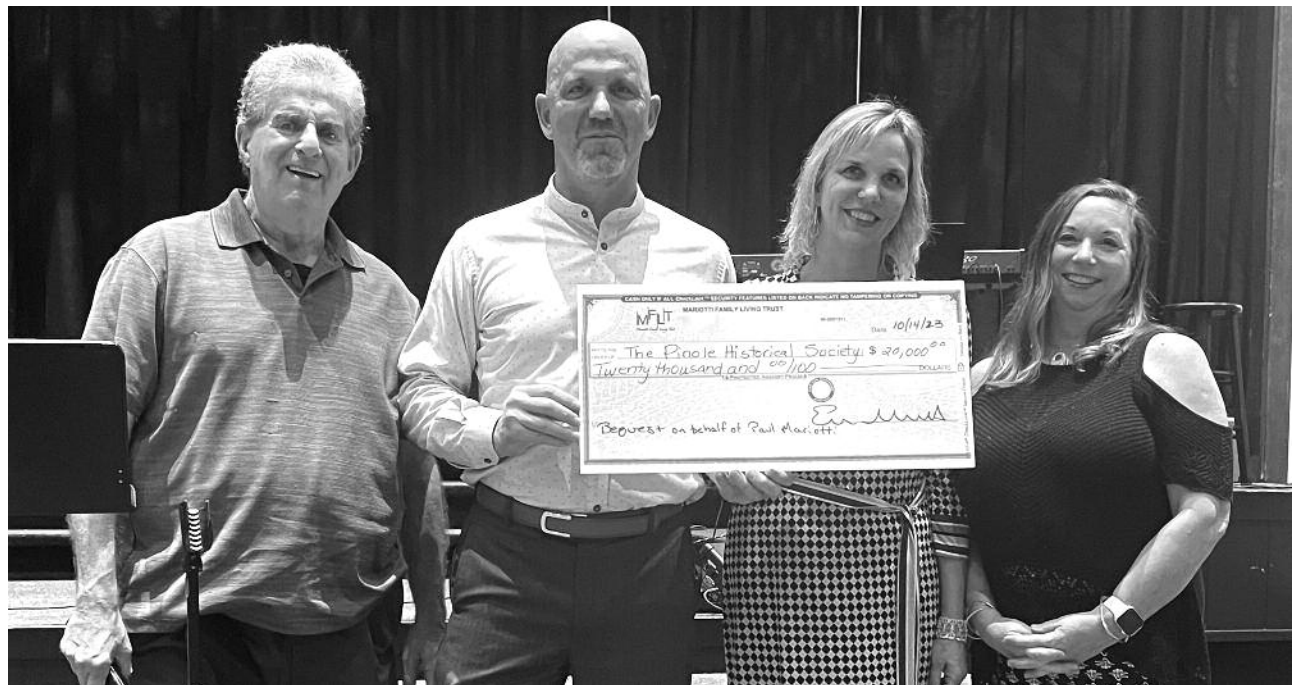
Newsbriefs

Fall 2023

P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org

– October 14 Pinole History Museum dinner – PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES \$20,000 BEQUEST



Eric Mariotti, Melinda Mariotti, and Cari-Jo Galloway present a \$20,000 check to the Pinole Historical Society on behalf of their late brother, Paul Mariotti. PHS president Jeff Rubin accepted the gift. Story on page 3 in the President's Message.

**Find out more about Pinole's history by using your smartphone to scan this QR code. It will take you to the Pinole Historical Society website:
www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org**



Published quarterly by the Pinole Historical Society

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Newsbriefs is also posted on the PHS website (click on NEWSLETTER in the menu bar).

FOR ADVERTISERS: 1,500 printed copies of *PHS Newsbriefs* are distributed every quarter, generating readership among thousands of Pinole and West County residents. Hundreds more receive the newsletter directly from the PHS via its database and website.

If you're interested in advertising, contact Jeff Rubin at info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org or (510) 724-9507.

Pinole**Historical**Society

Board of Directors: Jeff Rubin, President; Mary McMains, Treasurer; Jo Ann Gannotti, Secretary; Norma Martinez-Rubin, Peter Murray, Carol White.
Directors Emeritus: Marcia Kalapus, Jack Meehan, George Vincent. **Newsletter Editor:** Jeff Rubin.

THE PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS A REGISTERED 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT. TAX ID: 23-7441316



PHS at Pinole Farmers Market

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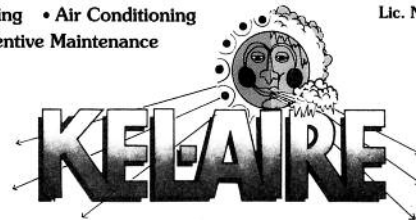
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President's Message

Jeff Rubin, President, Pinole Historical Society and Pinole History Museum

REMEMBERING PAUL MARIOTTI



Jeff Rubin

promote local history, and his unquenchable gusto when asking people to fork up some money for the society and the proposed museum.

In the midst of a 2022 celebration honoring Mayor Vincent Salimi held on the lawn of his home, the Fernandez Mansion, Paul unabashedly went from table to table asking for donations. I chuckled, but appreciated his gesture.

He frequently appeared at the historical society booth at the Pinole Farmers' Market, offering marketing and PR suggestions or tips on how to sell more books.

Above all, he was just a nice, kind man.

Another shock was learning that Paul's estate plan contained a bequest of \$20,000 to the Pinole Historical Society. Words can't describe my mixed feelings as I accepted this extraordinarily generous gift at the October 14 Pinole History Museum Fundraising Dinner.

Rest in peace, Paul. And thank you. For everything.

Paul Mariotti was a character, and I mean this in a most complimentary way.

He was among the staunchest supporters of Pinole's history, and of the Pinole Historical Society.

So it was with shock and sadness that I learned of his passing on September 9 at age 58.

Among the many fond memories I have of Paul is spending time learning about Pinole, listening to his advice on how to

In memoriam

Paul Mariotti

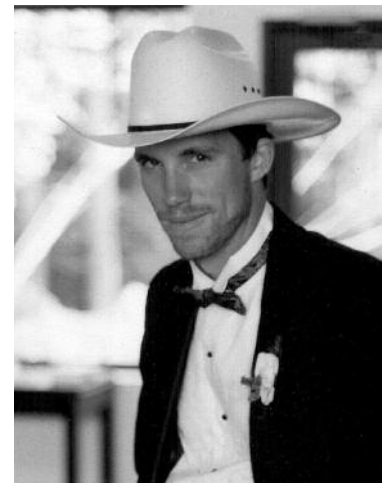
June 8, 1965 - September 9, 2023

Age 58

Paul Joseph Mariotti, the second of four children born to Dr. Joe and Gretchen Mariotti, passed away peacefully in his sleep on September 9, 2023, after a six-month battle with a Glioblastoma brain tumor.

Paul had a wonderful childhood growing up in the historic Fernandez Mansion in Pinole. He played in the mud on the Bayfront shore, swung on a rope swing off eucalyptus trees over the railroad tracks, and helped raise chickens, ducks, geese, peacocks, pigs, donkeys, and cows on the property. Paul loved horses and was an avid rider. He loved rodeos, his cowboy hat, two-step dancing, and charming the ladies.

Paul attended Bethel Christian Academy, Salesian High School, Cal State-Chico, University of Massachusetts, San Francisco State University, the Beijing Language Institute, as well as Thunderbird Global School of Management.



Continued on page 4

"The challenge of history is to recognize its time flow so we can better understand it. To understand history, we have to somehow bridge then and now and connect the dots of past events with the present. One way to do this is by learning to view the past not in terms of timelines or yesterdays, but rather as an ongoing present."

— George R. Vincent —

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The Pinole History Museum is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Tax ID: 82-1454949.

Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



Former Pinole Mayor and Councilmember Pete Murray was honored as a Lifetime History Contributor at the Pinole History Museum Fundraising Dinner on October 14. Pete served 28 years on the Pinole City Council, the second-longest tenure of a council member in the city's history, and was passionate about health and environmental issues.

More dinner photos on pages 6 and 7

PAUL MARIOTTI

Continued from page 3

Paul, like the rest of the Mariotti family, loved to travel. He traveled the world with his family and on his own, visiting more than 40 countries over the years. He learned, and spoke, German, Chinese, and Russian languages.

He was an integral part of both Dr. Joe's and Gretchen Mariotti's campaigns for Pinole City Council. He was a member of the Pinole Horseman Society, an avid supporter of the Pinole Historical Society, and supported his father in the Pinole Creek and Coastal cleanup initiatives.

In recent years he could be seen frequenting Pinole local businesses with his trusted German Shepard companion, Bernie.

Memorial services were held October 15 in the front yard of the Fernandez Mansion.

The family asks that you consider donations in Paul's name to any one of his favorite organizations, including The Pinole Historical Society, The Pinole Garden Club, or The Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed.

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2023 PINOLE HISTORY MUSEUM FUNDRAISING DINNER



The dinner prizes included 47 raffle and 15 silent auction items.



A full house enjoyed a great meal from Back Forty Texas BBQ



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The Pinole Historical Society promotes awareness and appreciation of history through preservation and education, and chronicles the city's heritage for current and future generations.

2023 PINOLE HISTORY MUSEUM FUNDRAISING DINNER



The grand prize in the silent auction was this 100-year-old Regina Table Music Box, donated by Hercules artist Ruth Hogland. The winning bid was \$500.

Honoree Pete Murray (far right) had a moment with Eric Mariotti, who presented a \$20,000 check to the Pinole Historical Society, a bequest from his late brother, Paul.



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Guest columnist

Roxy Miravalle
San Pablo Historical and Museum Society

OUR RANCHO HISTORY

The Rancho period is an important part of our local history.

Rancho El Pinole, as well as Rancho San Pablo, were instrumental as two of the first in creating a major part of what we know today as Contra Costa County.

In 1823, two pioneers had been granted deeds to tracts of land for their years of service as *soldados* (soldiers) in the Royal Army of Spain

at the presidio of San Francisco.

RANCHO EL PINOLE

Comandante Don Ygnacio Nicanor Martínez, one of the most aristocratic of the Spanish dons of early California, was chief military officer, serving 12 years at the presidio at Yerba Buena (renamed San Francisco in 1848) under the Spanish Royal Army.

At the time he petitioned for a tract of land

on the *Contra Costa* (the opposite coast), he made his home at the pueblo de San José. In 1823 he received his grant of 17,761 acres, deeded to him by Governor Luís Antonio Argüello, (which he named Rancho de Nuestra Señora de la Merced). The grant was formalized on June 1, 1842, by Governor Juan B. Alvarado and confirmed by the U.S. government on January 16, 1852.

Rancho El Pinole extended over land that today includes most of the Franklin Ridge and towns of Crockett, Hercules, Martinez, Oleum, Pinole, Rodeo, Selby, and Tormey along the Carquinez Strait in present-day Contra Costa County. The town of Martinez was named for Don Ygnacio Nicanor Martínez.

Don Francisco María Castro was the third son of Joaquin Ysidro de Castro (one of the founding settlers of the Pueblo



Roxy Miravalle

of San José) and María Marina Botiller. Francisco had come as a boy with his family to California from México with the De Anza Expedition in 1775.

RANCHO SAN PABLO

A former soldier at the San Francisco Presidio and one-time *alcalde* (mayor) of the Pueblo de San José, Castro petitioned for and was granted Rancho San Pablo in 1823, a 17,939-acre tract of land in present-day Contra Costa County by Governor Luís Antonio Argüello.

The San Pablo grant covered what is now Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, and Kensington in western Contra Costa County.

The land had previously been grazing land for cattle belonging to

Continued on page 9



El Pinole Grant map, Ca. 1900

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OUR RANCHO HISTORY

Continued from page 8

Mission San Francisco de Asís, but was secularized by the new Mexican republic.

Castro and his family moved to the rancho sometime after 1824.

The grant was reconfirmed by Governor José

Figueroa in 1834 to the heirs of Francisco Castro.

PIONEERS ARRIVE

What started with two historic pioneers, the Castro-Alvarado and Martínez families, the area soon expanded into what we know today as Contra Costa County.

Its inhabitants also grew in number by marriage to include pioneers from neighboring rancho families: Higuera, Berryessa, Bernal, Peralta, Pacheco, Galindo, and others who purchased property and settled here like Fernandez, Tennent, Tormey, Blume, Emeric, Tewksbury, and Barrett, and their growing families.

As more and more people came here to live, from as far as Europe and other countries, they soon had farms with livestock, planting orchards — introducing new crops that grew in the rich California soil.

They helped improve the area with their agricultural knowledge and skills, and the Spanish *vaqueros* (horsemen)

were among the most respected, as their reputation with equestrian gear had been unparalleled.

CITIES DEVELOP

Soon other important merchants and their businesses were established, like blacksmiths, dry good establishments, and hotels for travelers. Residents were now needing churches, schools, hospitals, grocery stores, and new roads that would lead to their newly built homes and businesses.

Committees were formed, then town councils, and before long, an established form of government for its citizens.

Without these Rancho pioneers, our Bay Area as we know it probably would not exist.



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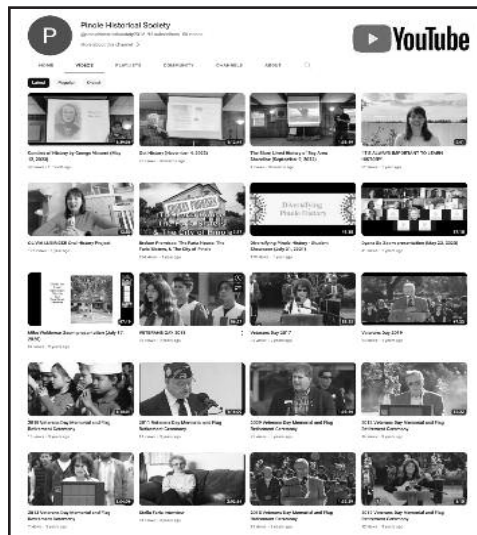
HISTORY COMES ALIVE ON THE PHS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Recent Pinole Historical Society programs have been uploaded to the society's YouTube channel, including the May 12 presentation by PHS co-founder George Vincent, *"Candles of History: Celebrating 200 Years of the Heydays and Remnants of the Rancho El Pinole."*

This special program commemorated the 200th anniversary of the 1823 El Pinole Grant awarded to retired Mexican soldier Ygnacio Martinez, who built his adobe rancho on land that now encompasses Pinole Valley Park.

The new programs added to our channel also include the September and November 2022 programs by Cal State-East Bay professor John Robinson and representatives from the Contra Costa History Center in Martinez.

All of the programs we've recorded since 2008 are on our YouTube channel for your enjoyment. Our thanks to Pinole History Museum volunteer Alec



Jason, who reformatted more than a decade's worth of PHS programs and uploaded them to YouTube.

Among the 40 videos you'll find:

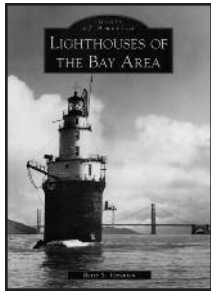
- **GEORGE VINCENT'S** two walking tours of historic downtown Pinole.
- **THE PINOLE MURAL:** Wells Fargo Bank produced this video about the history of Pinole. The mural hangs in the bank's Pinole office on Fitzgerald Drive.
- **AN INTERVIEW WITH TWO MAYORS:** Former mayors Jack Meehan and Tom Cutino tell how they saved Fitzgerald Drive — and the sales-tax dollars its shopping centers produce — for Pinole.
- **WHAT'S IN A NAME?:** How

Pinole streets got their names, and the characters behind those names.

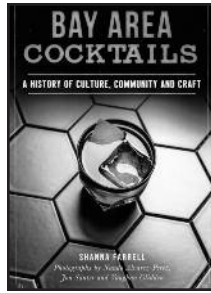
- **THE LIVED HISTORY OF THE BAY AREA SHORELINE:** Ever wonder what happened to those irreverent sculptures that dotted the San Francisco Bay shoreline from Richmond to Emeryville? Cal State-East Bay

Continued on page 13

NEW BOOK TITLES FOR SALE AT THE PINOLE FARMERS MARKET (OR BY MAIL ORDER – SEE PAGE 15)



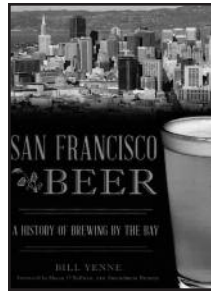
Lighthouses of the Bay Area



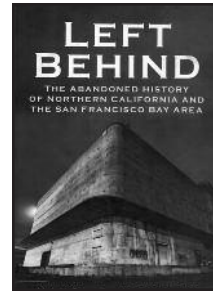
Bay Area Cocktails



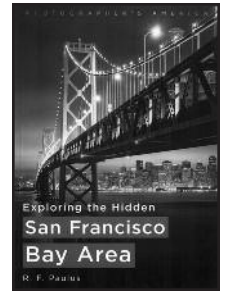
Ferries of the Bay Area



San Francisco Beer



Left Behind



Hidden San Francisco

HISTORY COMES ALIVE ON THE PHS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Continued from page 12

professor John Robinson reveals their history.

• **BARS, BARBERS, AND CHARACTERS OF EARLY PINOLE:** George Vincent tells stories of Pinole's first personalities.

• **JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT:** Survivors of World War II internment camps spoke at one of the most well-attended PHS programs.

• **1962, '63, '64 AND '65 FIESTA DEL PINOLE PARADES,** courtesy of PHS member Jim Payne.

Search for Pinole Historical Society on YouTube, click on the "P" in the circle, click on "videos."

The Pinole Mural

A Community Legacy



Watch The Pinole Mural video on the Pinole Historical Society YouTube channel



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SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PHS BY BECOMING A MEMBER IN 2024

For only \$30, you can help the PHS accomplish its mission of bringing the history of Pinole to our residents through exhibits at the Pinole Library, Pinole history programs in schools, Pinole Community TV programs, walking tours of downtown Pinole, the Veterans Day event in Fernandez Park — and you'll have the satisfaction of helping promote and preserve Pinole's history for future generations.

JOIN THE PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY (OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP) AND HELP PROMOTE AND PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF OUR CITY.

Please mail the membership application in this newsletter today!

Pinole Historical Society
2024 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(PINOLE RESIDENCY NOT REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP)

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND SEND THIS FORM TO PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 285, PINOLE, CA 94564

MEMBERSHIPS ARE FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR (EXCEPT LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS)

NAME: (each member): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE: () _____

E-MAIL (please!): _____

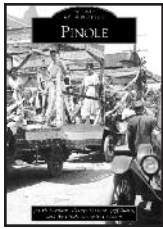
CIRCLE ONE: Annual-new (\$30) Annual-renewal (\$30) Business (\$50) Life (\$150)

METHOD OF PAYMENT: Check (Payable to Pinole Historical Society)

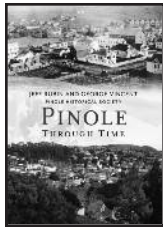
Credit Card: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ CVV _____

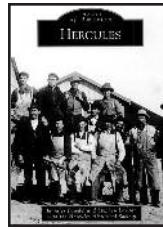
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Pinole



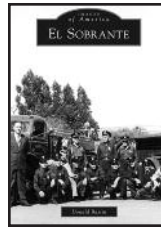
Pinole Through Time



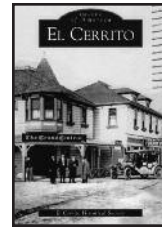
Hercules



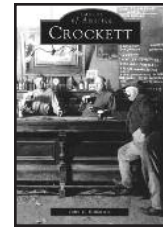
Richmond



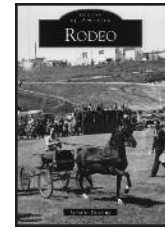
El Sobrante



El Cerrito



Crockett



Rodeo

LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Pinole Historical Society sells these Arcadia books at the Pinole Farmers' Market two Saturdays per month, April through December.

Most are \$25, including sales tax. A few of the older books are \$23, including sales tax.

Mail order prices (below) include shipping. We accept Visa, MasterCard, Amex, and Discover credit cards.

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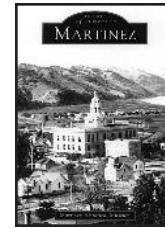
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| # of Bay Area Ferries @\$30 _____ | # of Left Behind @\$30 _____ |
| # of Lighthouses @\$30 _____ | # of SF Beer @\$30 _____ |

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Please mail to PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

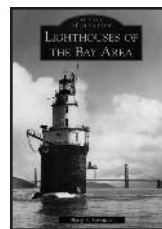
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Martinez



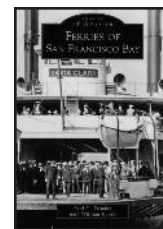
Maritime



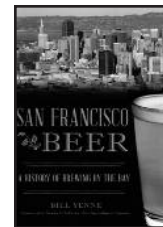
Lighthouses of the Bay Area



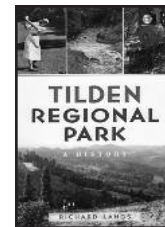
Bay Area Cocktails



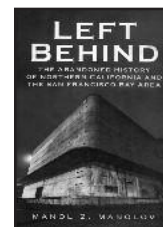
Ferries of the Bay Area



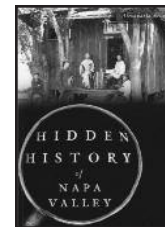
San Francisco Beer



Tilden Park



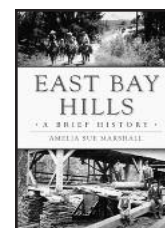
Left Behind



Napa Valley



Hidden San Francisco



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