



Pinole **Historical Society**

Newsbriefs

Spring 2023

P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org

ELLERHORST EXHIBIT INSTALLED AT MECHANICS BANK

While the long-term goal of the Pinole History Museum is to establish a permanent home, one objective that's always present is to stay true to our mission, which is to "enhance the preservation and collection of artifacts that represent Pinole history and culture."

It's with great pleasure that we announce the installation of our first pop-up history exhibit at Mechanics Bank in the Pinole Valley Shopping Center.

This exhibit explores the history of one of the most significant families of 20th-century Pinole — the Ellerhorsts.

It's the first of several exhibits the Pinole History Museum plans to install in schools and businesses.

Please stop by Mechanics Bank to view the exhibit. Let us know your ideas about future exhibits as we continue to fulfill another part of our mission: "to educate and inspire Pinole residents' community affiliation and civic pride."

Thanks to Belinda Espinosa, Diane Dyer, Jo Ann Gannotti, and Jeff Rubin, volunteer board members of the Pinole History Museum and Pinole Historical Society, for setting up this exhibit. And to Matthew Pourabedin, who sold us the display case when he closed his El Sobrante gift shop and showed us how to fit the glass shelves.



***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

The Pinole Historical Society booth is at the Pinole Farmers Market twice every month from April through December.

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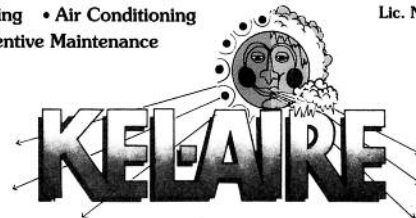
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President's Message

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

STORYTELLING KEEPS HISTORY ALIVE AND RELEVANT



Jeff Rubin

A few Saturdays ago I attended a community Passover seder.

Storytelling is the essence of Passover, the Jewish holiday that commemorates and celebrates the freeing of Jewish slaves from bondage in ancient Egypt. This history has been passed down from generation to generation for thousands of years through the seder, a traditional meal, during which the Passover story is re-told.

When explaining to the congregation why we do this, the rabbi said, "If we don't tell our stories, our stories die."

It's the same with history. If we don't share our history from generation to generation, our history dies. And with it dies part of our culture and part of our heritage.

MAJOR ANNIVERSARY

In 2023, the Pinole Historical Society is commemorating the 200th anniversary of the El Pinole Grant awarded to Mexican Lieutenant Ygnacio Nicanor Martinez, nearly 18,000 acres of land that today includes the entirety of the city of Pinole.

People, families, and communities are shaped by history. If their stories are not told, if their history is not preserved, their stories and their history become something else — forgotten.

A majority of the Pinole City Council is unwilling to renovate the Faria House for any purpose, including a museum. The council may soon consider selling this historic home. It's unfortunate the value of a museum

Continued on page 4

PHS Annual Meeting and program Friday, May 12

PHS co-founder and historian George Vincent will present "Candles of History: Celebrating Two Hundred Years of the Heydays and Remnants of the Rancho El Pinole," at the PHS Annual Meeting, Friday, May 12 from 6:30-8 PM at the Pinole Sportsman's Club, 201 Piñon Avenue.

The program is part of the society's commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the 1823 El Pinole Grant to Ygnacio Martinez.

PHS members, guests, and the public are invited. Refreshments will be served.

We will be electing board members at this meeting. There are five seats to be elected (four 2-year terms and one 1-year term). To be considered you must be a member in good standing (paid your yearly dues) and a member for at least one year.

Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday every month.

If you are interested in serving, please send an email to info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org.



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My diverse background working on the trading floor of the Pacific Stock Exchange, as well as managing the day-to-day operations of Sequoia Real Estate, has prepared me well to work in highly emotional and sometimes tense situations.

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PINOLE HISTORY MUSEUM

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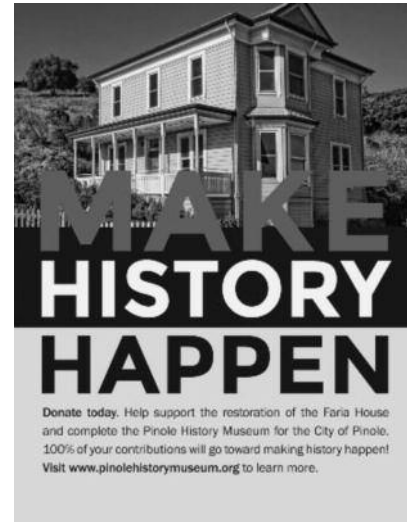
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 3

to the city is not recognized.

Until the Pinole History Museum gets a home, the museum board will find other ways to tell our city's stories and bring its history to the community.

POP-UP EXHIBITS

In February, the museum board installed the first of what will be several pop-up exhibits featuring vignettes of Pinole's history. This one, about the historic Ellerhorst family, is at Mechanics Bank on Pinole Valley Road. (See the front page for more information.)

More exhibits are planned.

Please attend George Vincent's special program commemorating the 200th anniversary of the El Pinole Grant to Ygnacio Martinez at the PHS annual meeting on May 12 at the Pinole Sportsman's Club. Information about this event is on the preceding page.

It's important to know this city's history and the history of its people. The people who lived here 100 and 200 years ago formed our community — its landscape, its culture, its values, and its identity.

The society's quarterly programs help keep our city's history alive and contribute to peoples' understanding of contemporary Pinole. These stories need to be told so they are not forgotten, so they don't die.

HISTORY'S CHALLENGE

As he usually does, Pinole Historical co-founder George Vincent puts it best:

"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."

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In memoriam

MARCIA KALAPUS

June 26, 1936 – January 13, 2023. Age 86

The Pinole Historical Society is deeply saddened to report that former society president Marcia Kalapus died January 13. She was 86.

Marcia was president of the Pinole Historical Society from 2007-2015, when she resigned for health reasons. She was a member for many years before she became president. She remained on the board until 2017, when she became a director emeritus.

“She worked at Mercy Hospital (San Diego) and then at San Diego County Hospital in Obstetrics, emergency room, operating room, and pediatrics,” said her daughter, LisaMarie Anderson.

“She spent almost a year taking care of tuberculosis patients in San Diego County Hospital (and never got it), where they had more TB beds than other facilities around the area. Later she gave up other opportunities to take a term in surgery (which was her mother’s specialty) to work in the polio unit with patients who lived in iron lungs. Her mother had polio and was at home in an iron lung; Marcia would drive back to Brawley on her days off to take care of and give advice for her mother’s care.”

In March 2011, Marcia was selected by the Pinole City Council as the city’s National Women’s History Month honoree at the 11th annual Women’s History Month celebration in the John & Jean Knox Center for the Performing Arts at Contra Costa College.

Marcia worked at Alta Bates Hospital, in Berkeley, Richmond Hospital, and most of her career at Brookside Hospital in San Pablo. She retired in 1997 as Risk Manager, Quality Assurance, and Case Manager Director at Brookside Hospital.

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Marcia Kalapus 1956 nursing school graduation photo.



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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.

MARCIA KALAPUS

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Along the way she obtained a master's degree in Public Health and Epidemiology Administration from the University of San Francisco.

"Marcia Kalapus was a firm believer in participating in and preserving Pinole's history," says George Vincent, co-founder of the Pinole Historical Society and a longtime board member.

"Her enthusiasm for Pinole's history inspired so many others to join the movement for preservation and expansion of outreach efforts, such as a culturally themed museum.

"At one time, the Pinole Historical Society was going through a difficult transition period and was almost dormant. It was Marcia who rallied the organization with her strong leadership and determination that the society get back to its stated direction and goals, as well as its financial responsibilities.

"Even as her health declined she never lost her positive outlook for the success of the work of the Pinole Historical Society."



Pinole Historical Society President Marcia Kalapus (right), with Wells Fargo Bank officials, at the unveiling of the bank's Pinole Mural (in the background) in 2013.

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Back in the day

George R. Vincent

THE RISE AND DECLINE OF RANCHO EL PINOLE

Can you picture herds of elk swimming across the deep waters of the Carquinez Straits?

Or, can you imagine seeing hundreds of grizzly bears descending from the hills to feed on the carcasses of the cattle roundup for which present-day Rodeo is named?

These were common sights on the vastness of *Rancho El Pinole* during the *Rancho* period of early California.

Yet this lifestyle was to abruptly change and disappear. Gone were the thousands of free-roaming spotted cattle upon a thousand hills. And the last grizzly killed in the Pinole area in the 1850s dressed out at more than 600 pounds.

Two hundred years ago in 1823, Don Ygnacio Nicanor Martinez was granted nearly 18,000 acres of choice Contra

Costa land by Mexican Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado.

The "El Pinole Grant" was one of many land rewards given to a new class of Spanish-speaking elite born in California called *Californios*.

These are some of the more familiar families of the Bay Area who benefited from the generosity of the new government of Mexico: Alvarado, Castro, Martinez, Sepulveda, Estudillo, Moraga, Briones, Sunol, Soto, Peralta, Amador, Berryessa, Pacheco, Galindo, Higuera, Altimerano.

WHAT HAPPENED?

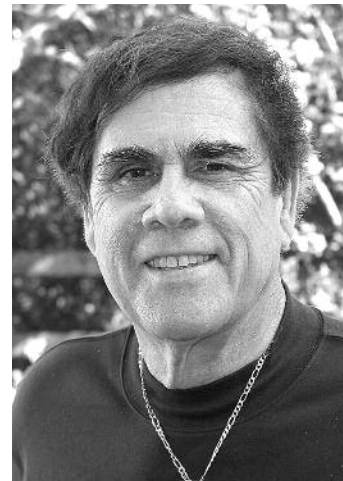
The new *Rancho* culture emerged in *Alta* (upper) *California* after Mexico's independence from Spain. *Rancho* life was defined by families ruled by patriarchs whose name was preceded by *Don*, the title of class respect. Yet this

time in history called the Arcadian Period was to soon vanish like the California Grizzly. What happened to the *Californio* culture, in general, is best illustrated by the fate of *El Rancho Pinole*.

The year 1848 was a turning point in *Alta California*.

California was lost to the United States as a prize of the Mexican-American War, and Don Ygnacio Martinez passed away in June at his *Pinole Rancho*. He was taken by a large procession of grieving mourners in a slow-moving *carreta* (cart) pulled by two black oxen. He was laid to rest in the chapel of Mission San Jose.

Don Ygnacio and his wife, Doña María Martina Arellanes, had left the *pueblo* (town) of San Jose in 1836 to reside in their new adobe home in Pinole Valley. The couple was married in 1802 and had 11 children —



George Vincent

nine daughters and two sons.

By the 1830s, the once subdued Mission Indians were on the offensive against the *Ranchos* up and down California. It was a dangerous time for *Rancho* families who were killed, their homes burned, livestock stolen and people kidnapped. Don Ygnacio had a brass cannon mounted in Pinole to protect his family from marauding Indian raids from Mt. Diablo.

MORE AGGRESSION

However, a new threat was to engulf both the California Indians and *Californios* — the flood of newcomers with the Gold Rush and the land-hungry American invasion. Settlers and gold seekers felt California

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RANCHO EL PINOLE

Continued from page 8

lands were spoils of war and rightfully theirs. They invaded *Rancho* lands while carrying out an extermination campaign against the Indian populations.

Rancho El Pinole was divided among the 11 heirs in 1850. Each child got 1/11th share.

Rafaela Martinez, who was born in 1822 at the Presidio of San Francisco where her father was *Commandante* of the fort, inherited all of downtown Pinole and the bayfront.

Her brother, Vicente inherited land in the *Cañada del Hambre* (Alhambra Valley) and built a grand two-story adobe home there.

The Americanization of

the landscape displaced the *Rancho* culture and social order.

LAND LAWSUITS

The fortunes of the Martinez family began to turn soon after American occupancy and introduction of its new Yankee legal system.

In 1852, the United States set up a Board of Three Federal Commissioners and the long advent of land title litigation began. Californios had to prove title to their *Rancho* properties.

In July 1852, the Martinez family petitioned for title to the place called Pinole. Unless clear title was proven, no land could be sold or leased at its true value.

Meanwhile, by 1853 every *Rancho* a day's ride

from San Francisco was under assault by land squatters using force and intimidation to brazenly occupy *Rancho* lands.

It was not until 16 years later in 1868 that the patent of ownership was finally granted to the Martinez family. By that time, the costs of litigation, taxes and Yankee lawyers forced the sale of what remained to American land speculators to pay off debts.

LOST PROPERTY

Vicente Martinez had lost his entire 1/11th share by 1852. He was heavily in debt and forced to sell his home and properties to San Francisco land speculator Edward Franklin.

Destitute, this once wealthy *Don* had to move

his family to live with his aged mother at the old family adobe home in Pinole.

The most notorious land-grabber of the time was Horace W. Carpentier. He acquired *Rancho San Antonio* (now Oakland) from the heavily indebted Peralta family through legal maneuvers and sold his interest for \$60,000.

Rafaela Soto de Pacheco could not sign her name. But Carpentier got her to "x-her mark" for half interest in her property which he later sold for \$90,000.

By the 1870s, Spanish surnames on land ownership maps had been conspicuously replaced by mostly Anglo names.

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RANCHO EL PINOLE

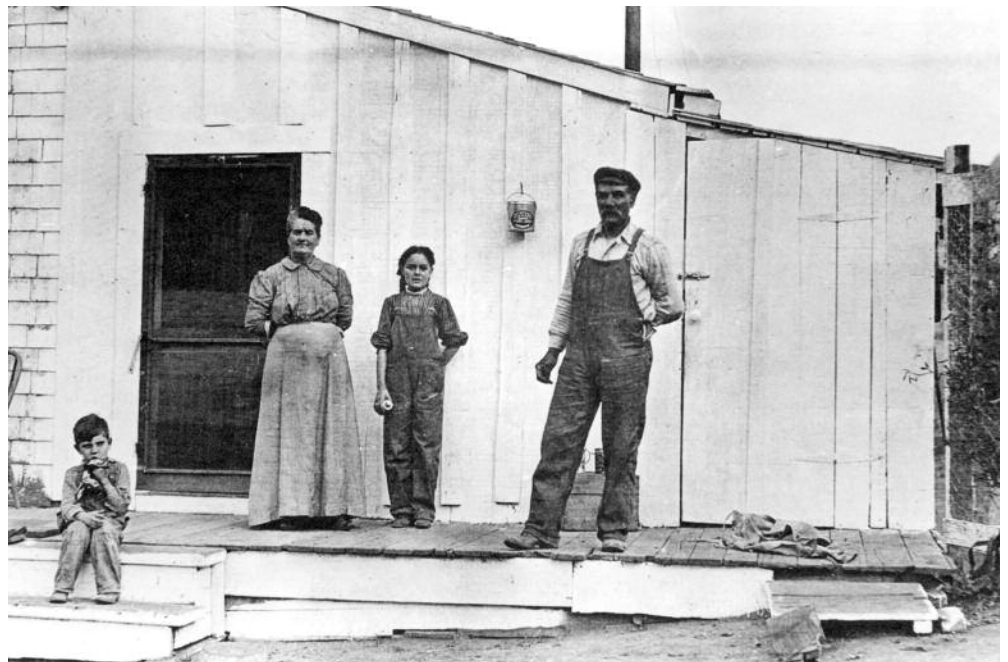
Continued from page 9

When Don Ygnacio died in 1848, he left behind for his heirs 18,000 acres of land, cattle, and wealth.

When his namesake grandson, Ygnacio Nicanor Martinez, died in 1929, his legacy was simply that of a few barbering tools.

Land and family had been the interdependent commitments by which *Rancho* culture defined its existence. The Yankee invasion and legal system hastened the end of that colorful era.

What was left for posterity of the Martinez heyday was the honor of the county capital being named for its original founders, as well as the name Pinole being recognized as one of, if not the oldest, names in Contra Costa County.



By the time this photo was taken around 1910, Ygnacio Martinez (right, with wife, Emma, and daughter, Rafaela, and an unidentified boy) and his family were tenants on his grandfather's former Rancho, now owned by Bernardo Fernandez.

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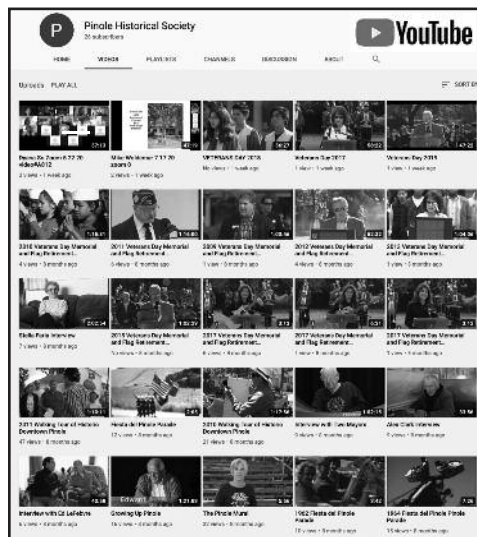
PHS YouTube Channel Updated with Recent Program Videos

More videos have been uploaded to the Pinole Historical Society's YouTube channel, including 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 board member Alec Jason, who reformatted more than a decade's worth of PHS programs and uploaded them to YouTube.

Among the 30-plus videos include:

- **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.

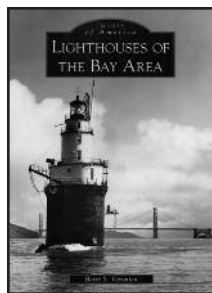
- **WHAT'S IN A NAME?:** How Pinole streets got their names, and the characters behind those names.

- **1962, '63, '64 AND '65 FIESTA DEL PINOLE PARADES,** cour-

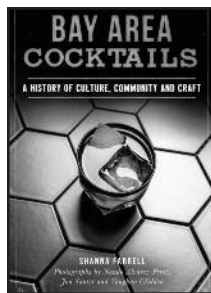
tesy of PHS member Jim Payne.

PHS YouTube: <https://youtu.be/0mOUvgFlp4>.

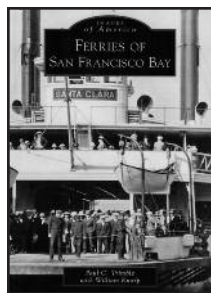
NEW BOOK TITLES FOR SALE AT THE PINOLE FARMERS MARKET (OR BY MAIL ORDER – SEE PAGE 15)



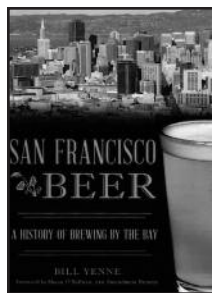
Lighthouses of the Bay Area



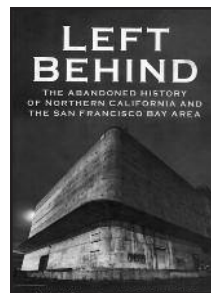
Bay Area Cocktails



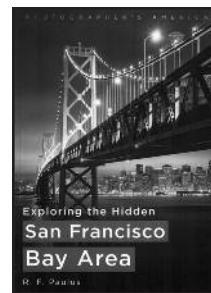
Ferries of the Bay Area



San Francisco Beer



Left Behind



Hidden San Francisco

PINOLE PERKS HISTORY CHALLENGE PREMIERES ON FACEBOOK

The Pinole Historical Society (PHS) – through a generous \$600 gift from private wealth advisor Mark Porter (see his ad at the top of page 10) – premiered a monthly online contest in April that will enhance people’s knowledge of and interest in local history and, at the same time, help local businesses.

Mark’s sponsorship of the **Pinole Perks History Challenge** will allow the PHS to award 12 monthly winners a \$50 Pinole Perks gift card, redeemable at any participating small business in Pinole.

Launched in June 2022 by the City of Pinole, Pinole Perks is a digital gift card program to support the city’s independent merchants and provide financial assistance to households, while also keeping dollars local.

Learn more about Pinole Perks



at: <https://app.yiftee.com/gift-card/city-of-pinole-ca-pinole/>

APRIL’S CHALLENGE QUESTION

To commemorate this year’s 200th anniversary of the 1823 El Pinole Grant to Ygnacio Martinez, April’s question is: *“In what year did Martinez move his family to his Rancho El Pinole?”*

Patty Guzman, of Pinole, was the winner with the correct answer: 1836.

CONTEST RULES

At the beginning of each month a new challenge will be posted on these Facebook pages: *Pinole Historical Society, Pinole History Museum, You Know You Grew Up In Pinole/Hercules When ...*

The first person to correctly answer the challenge by emailing info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org will win that month’s Pinole Perks digital gift card. In case of multiple correct answers, the gift card will be awarded to the first person to email the PHS, based on the time stamp on the email.

Pinole Historical Society and Pinole History Museum board members are ineligible to participate. Participants may win only once in the 12-month contest period.

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SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PHS BY BECOMING A MEMBER IN 2023

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
2023 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 2023 CALENDAR YEAR (EXCEPT LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS)

NAME: (each member): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE: () _____

E-MAIL (please!): _____

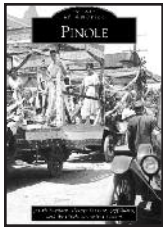
CIRCLE ONE: Annual-new (\$30) Annual-renewal (\$30) Business (\$50) Life (\$150)

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

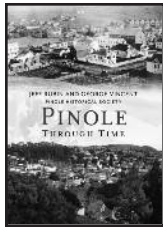
Credit Card: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ CVV _____

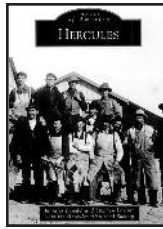
TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____



Pinole



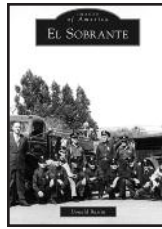
Pinole Through Time



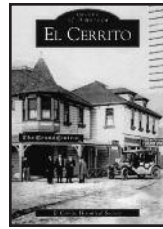
Hercules



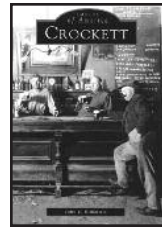
Richmond



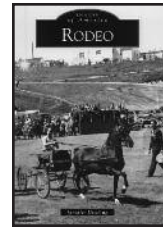
El Sobrante



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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E-mail _____

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- Credit card (Visa MasterCard Amex Discover)

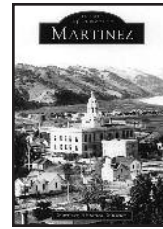
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| # of Martinez @\$28 _____ | # of Port Costa @\$28 _____ |
| # of Tilden Park @\$30 _____ | # of Napa Valley @\$30 _____ |
| # of Bay Area Cocktails @\$30 _____ | # of Hidden SF @\$30 _____ |
| # of Bay Area Ferries @\$30 _____ | # of Left Behind @\$30 _____ |
| # of Lighthouses @\$30 _____ | # of SF Beer @\$30 _____ |

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please mail to PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

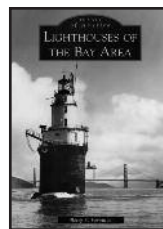
P.O. Box 285, PINOLE, CA 94564



Martinez



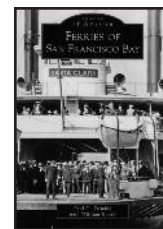
Maritime



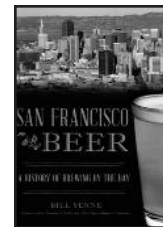
Lighthouses of the Bay Area



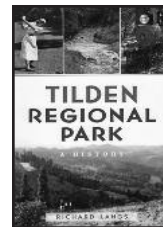
Bay Area Cocktails



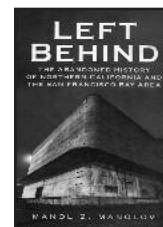
Ferries of the Bay Area



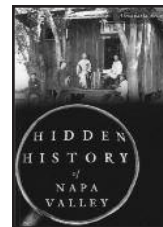
San Francisco Beer



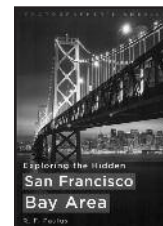
Tilden Park



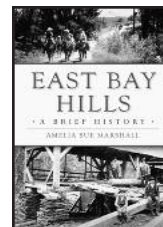
Left Behind



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