



Pinole **Historical Society**

# Newsbriefs

**Summer 2023**

P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

[www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org)    [info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org)

**– October 14 Pinole History Museum dinner –**

## **PETE MURRAY TO BE HONORED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CITY'S HISTORY**

**P**ete Murray, longtime Pinole City Councilman – and seven-time Mayor – will be honored for his contributions to the city and its history at the Pinole History Museum Fundraising Dinner Saturday, October 14, from 6-9 p.m. in the Family Life Center of Valley Bible Church, 1477 Willow Avenue, Hercules.

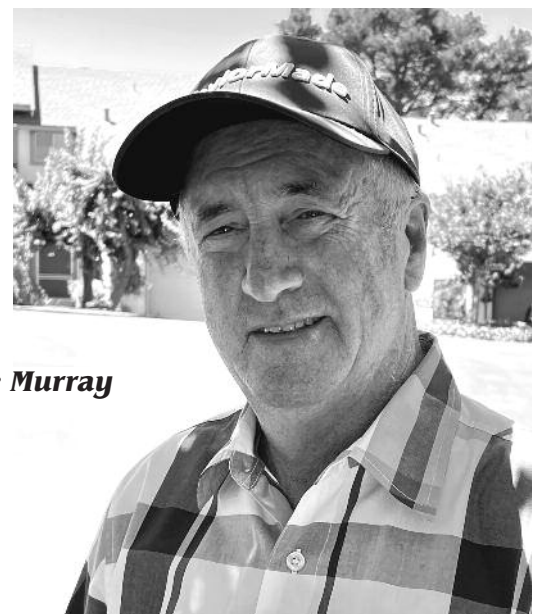
“Back to the Rancho” is the theme of this year’s Pinole History Museum fundraising dinner, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the 1823 El Pinole Grant to retired Mexican soldier Ygnacio Martínez, who built his Rancho El Pinole adobe homestead on what is now Pinole Valley Park.

The event will feature a great sit-down catered dinner by Back Forty Texas BBQ and a fabulous raffle and silent auction.

Pete served on the Pinole City Council from 1992-2020. His 28 years of service is the second-longest tenure of a council member in the city’s history, tied with Edward M. Downer, founder of the Bank of Pinole, who served from 1910-1938.

Louis Ruff, a mid-20th century merchant, served 33 years (1922-1955).

We look forward to seeing you on October 14



**Pete Murray**

to celebrate the history of our city and honor a man who has been an integral part of that history.

Tickets are on sale on the Pinole History Museum website – [www.pinolehistorymuseum.org](http://www.pinolehistorymuseum.org).

**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](http://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](mailto: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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# President's Message

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

## FARIA HOUSE TO BE SOLD; MUSEUM PIVOTS TO NEW OBJECTIVE



**Jeff Rubin**

**O**n July 18, the Pinole City Council voted to begin taking steps to sell the Faria House.

It was a 4-1 vote: Mayor Devin Murphy, Mayor Pro-Tem Maureen Toms, and Councilmembers Cameron Sasai and Anthony Tave voted yes; Councilmember Norma Martínez-Rubin voted no.

It's unfortunate this city council does not recognize the enduring value of having a museum and

what it could mean to the city and region culturally and economically.

Historical context should matter in decisions that affect a community, yet the July 18 staff report, a public document, did not mention:

- The Faria House was purchased with the express intent and promise made to the Faria sisters and their families – and by extension the community – that it would be renovated and used as a museum.

- In 2007, after it was moved downtown and renovation was funded, then-Mayor Maria Alegria told the *West County Times*, "We've worked long and hard to preserve our history in Old Town. "(Having the museum) allows us to acknowledge our history and share it with future generations, not only in Pinole but all of Contra Costa County."

Previous city councils for nearly two decades took official actions, and meeting minutes affirmed the city's intent to establish a museum in the Faria House. In 2019-20, the city spent more than

*Continued on page 4*



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**Mail your donation to Pinole History Museum, P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564**

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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Continued from page 3*  
\$100,000 to hire an architect to design a renovation of the Faria House, specifically for its use as a museum. In 2020, the city proffered a lease agreement to the Pinole History Museum, though good-faith efforts to work with the PHM were quashed by one councilmember's vote.

What previous councils had in common was an ethic of honoring their word and progressively working toward accomplishments of various projects, while monitoring economic swings affecting the city's budgets. They also valued the city's history and the people who care about it, knowing that pursuing city goals ought not to deny promises made in the past.

Sadly, the current council thinks differently.

### NEW OBJECTIVES

With the Faria House not an option for a physical museum, the PHM board of directors is refocusing its efforts to make the city's history available and accessible for our residents and the public.

We will be creating:

- A virtual museum, with multiple online exhibits;
- A smartphone app that will include a tour of historic sites, homes, businesses, and people in our city's history, with oral histories and recorded information;

• Pop-up exhibit installations in local businesses and schools. The first exhibit was installed at Mechanics Bank this spring.

We will catalogue and digitize our entire collection of documents, photographs, memorabilia, and artifacts. Freelance museum professionals and an app developer will be hired.

Museums across the United States and the world have established or are working on establishing a virtual presence, as the museum industry adapts to the digital and post-COVID world.

Usually this is done after a

physical museum exists; we are doing it in reverse order as we continue to seek a home.

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.

Our mission to *enhance the preservation and collection of artifacts that represent Pinole history and culture ... (that) will educate and inspire Pinole residents' community affiliation and civic pride* remains steadfast.

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# In memoriam

## KATHY BRADSHAW

May 26, 1947 – December 12, 2012.

Age 75

By **Debbie Long**

**K**athleen Diane Ross Bradshaw lived 75 years supporting her community, friends, and family, before passing away on December 12, 2022. She was my friend and confidant for 52 years, and I continue to miss her every day.

She is survived by her children, Carrie, Rick, and Christina Christiansen; 2 grandsons, Noah and James; and her sister, Marsha Nilsson.

Kathy and I met in 1970 on a job in a local doctor's office, and our friendship quickly grew. She originally worked at the Berkeley Free Clinic, serving the health needs of UC Berkeley students. And that was Kathy's calling – the generous helping of others.

Kathy's life was anything but mundane, and to try to organize her life's accomplishments is complicated because she was in more than one place at a time.

Kathy began a formal political career working as a manager for the Republican Party of Northern California. She was the campaign director for various Republican candidates statewide and locally. Kathy planned advance logistics in California for political dignitaries such as President Ronald Reagan, President George H.W. Bush, and U.S. Secretaries of State and National Security Advisors Henry Kissinger and Condoleezza Rice, to name but a few.

A few of her other accomplishments and memberships include:

- Operation Welcome Home – Desert Storm. In 1991 she was a part of programming and organizing the largest parade in Northern California (outside of San Francisco) to welcome home our heroes.

*Continued on page 7*



**Kathy Bradshaw**



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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.**

## KATHY BRADSHAW

*Continued from page 6*

- She was a member of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers (AFIO); Richmond Unified School District Education Fund, serving on its Board of Directors; and Children's Hospital Medical Center, Live Oak Branch.

- She was Public Affairs Officer for Citizens for Law and Order (CLO) and she spearheaded the Community Fingerprinting Project.

- She was a 39-year member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and spearheaded the project to put flags on all graves at the veterans cemetery in Dixon for Veterans Day.

- She was also an appointed member of the National Draft Board representing California as part of the Selective Service System.

### MORE SERVICE

- Kathy was a scout leader, a volunteer with the West Contra Costa Youth Soccer League (WCCYSL), as well as a member of the Ellerhorst PTA from 1981 through 1991. In 1987, she helped to manage the After-School Enrichment Program, which involved both city and school district funding.

- Kathy was on the Board of the Public Governmental Affairs Community Access TV Commission. Because of her early on involvement, our independent station is still a big part of the City of Pinole.

- She also served on the Pinole Commission on Aging from 1991 through 1992, as well as serving as Chairperson and Co-chairperson the Pinole Memorial Day Parade from 1991-1994.

*Continued on page 8*



**Kathy Bradshaw (left) and Debbie Long at a Veterans Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony in Pinole.**

**Visit the Pinole Historical Society website for information on the society's activities and events – and, of course, the history of the sweetest city in the East Bay.**



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## KATHY BRADSHAW

*Continued from page 7*

• From 1989 through 1994, she received the Outstanding Service Award from the City of Pinole.

Kathy and her mother, Wauneva Ross, were big supporters of all the programs that were offered for our senior community. Kathy always recognized a "job well done" by volunteers in the community, letting others know how much she appreciated what they did for Pinole. Three such organizations were the Pinole Garden Club, the Pinole Players, and the Pinole Historical Society; she was always making generous donations to their fundraising events.

She was a member and co-founder along with her husband, Phil

Bradshaw, of the HOTPOP (Homeowners and Taxpayers of Pinole) group, which helped to legally enforce the rights of taxpayers to vote on taxes in Pinole, instead of having a council unilaterally vote for approval without the taxpayers' consent.

In personalizing Kathy's life, I'll tell you some of the behind-the-scenes things she did.

While politics was very close to Kathy's heart, people were closer, and she would be proudest to be remembered as a person with a generous character, integrity, and heart.

Several years back, a local woman became engaged to a man joining the military. During his training, he contracted a flesh-eating bacteria. In order to help this man

and his fiancée endure what was before him, Kathy covered the costs to fly his fiancée back and forth from home base to whatever military hospital he was in.

In another instance, a Pinole resident had to sell their home to move out of the area. This resident was short of cash to make the transition. Kathy helped meet the financial goal that person needed.

And in other instances, maybe it was just a neighbor's child that needed a little extra encouragement.

She paid for benches on Galbreth Hill, so people might be able to walk the hill and have a place to rest on the way up.

She donated to the Pinole Police Cadet

program, as well as buying a vest for Pinole's first K-9 unit. If you asked, Kathy would provide.

Kathy really loved her community and country. I'm sure many did not know how much Kathy gave of herself, and therefore don't really understand the impact of her passing.

But I do; she was my best friend and confidant and the person I looked to for accolades and criticism. She loved her family, and was so proud of the adults that her children became.

I will honor her memory forever.

*— Debbie Long is a former Pinole Mayor and Councilmember, Treasurer, and Planning Commissioner.*

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*"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 —

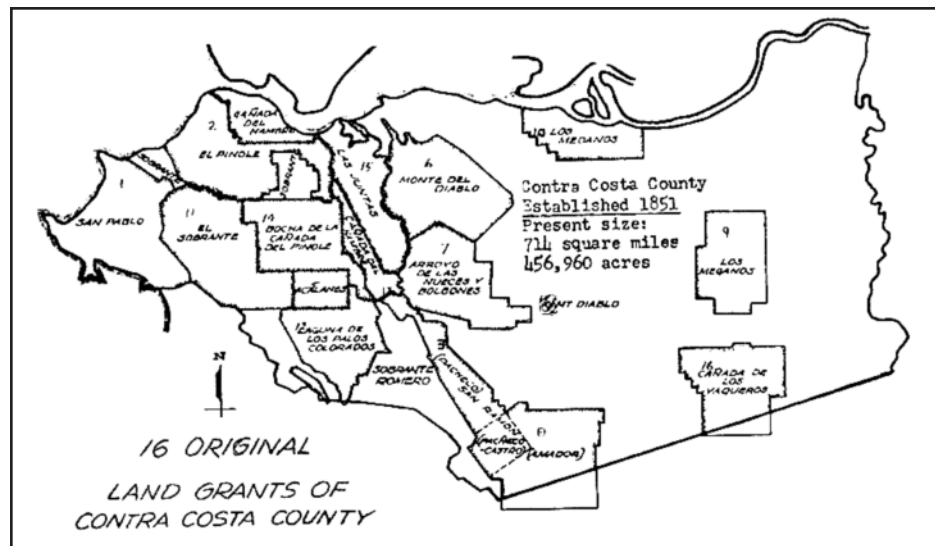
— September 8 Pinole Historical Society program —

## SAN PABLO HISTORIANS TO COMMEMORATE LAND GRANT'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

**P**inole is not the only city commemorating the 200th anniversary of its modern heritage this year.

San Pablo, our neighbor to the west, shares an equally interesting history with Pinole, benefactor of the 1823 El Pinole Grant to Mexican soldier Ygnacio Martínez, which began the early modern history of our city.

This year San Pablo is commemorating the bicentennial of the 1823 Rancho San Pablo land grant, gifted by Governor Luís Antonio Argüello to Francisco María Castro (1775–1831), a former soldier at the San Francisco Presidio and one-time *alcalde* (chief administrative and judicial officer) of the Pueblo of San José.



On Friday, September 8, historians Roxy Miravalle and David Anaya from the San Pablo Historical & Museum Society will present a program about the 17,939-acre grant that eventually encompassed the city of San Pablo, as well as what is now

Richmond, El Cerrito, and Kensington.

The public is invited to attend this FREE Pinole Historical Society event at the Pinole Sportsmen's Club, 201 Piñon Avenue. Refreshments will be served.

The land had been grazing land for cattle

belonging to the Misión Dolores, but was secularized by the new Mexican Republic. Francisco Maria Castro lived there with his wife, María Gabriela Berreyesa, and family from the late 1820s until his death in 1831.

*Continued on page 10*



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## PHS SEPTEMBER 8 PROGRAM

*Continued from page 9*

Juan Alvarado, governor of Mexican Alta California, married one of the Castro daughters in 1839. After his term as governor was completed, they retired to her family property on Rancho San Pablo.

### **ABOUT THE PRESENTERS:**

**Roxy Miravalle**, is Director of Historical Research at San Pablo Historical & Museum Society, and Vice President and Director at the El Sobrante Historical Society. She is an historian, author, and genealogist. She has lived in the Bay Area all her life, growing up mainly in San Pablo.

Roxy became interested in local history, started researching Bay Area history, and created a group on social media to share her findings; it has now become her obsession. Doing genealogical research for family trees is another one of her hobbies, which she incorporates into her research of local history.

Roxy contributes many stories about local history in the San Pablo Historical & Museum Society and El Sobrante Historical Society newsletters.

**David A. Anaya** is an early California historian and documentary filmmaker born and reared in the Villa de Branciforte, also known as Santa Cruz. He specializes in the early 19th century Spanish and Mexican periods of Alta (not Baja) California histories.

David graduated from California State University-Monterey Bay with a degree in documentary video production. His graduate thesis, "Los Californios de Monterey: Pioneers of Alta California" won several awards, including the CSU (system wide) Student Research award. He sits on the board of the San Pablo Historical Society.

David has produced other early California documentaries, including biographies on Governor Juan B. Alvarado and Dr. John Marsh. He is currently working with the Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe in Orinda to produce a short biography video on the life of Joaquin Moraga and his sons for a future adobe exhibit.

His near future projects include a documentary on the Villa de Branciforte, Jose Amesti, and Agustin Zamorano: Alta California's first printer.

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## HISTORY COMES ALIVE ON THE PHS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

**R**ecent 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:

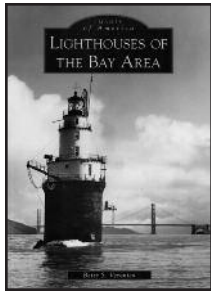
- **GEORGE VINCENT'S** two walking tours of historic downtown Pinole.
- **THE PINOLE MURAL:** Wells Fargo Bank produced this video about the history of Pinole. The mural hangs in the bank's Pinole office on Fitzgerald Drive.
- **AN INTERVIEW WITH TWO MAYORS:** Former mayors Jack Meehan and Tom Cutino 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.

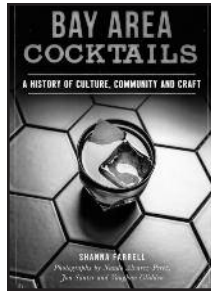
- **THE SHORT-LIVED HISTORY OF THE BAY AREA SHORELINE:** Ever wonder what happened to those irreverent sculptures that dotted the San Francisco Bay shoreline from Richmond to Emeryville?

*Continued on page 13*

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



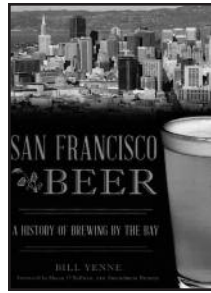
**Lighthouses of the Bay Area**



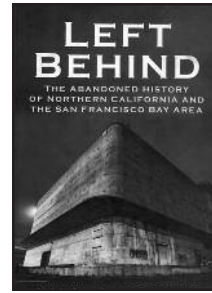
**Bay Area Cocktails**



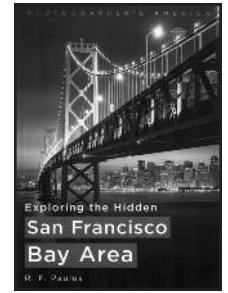
**Ferries of the Bay Area**



**San Francisco Beer**



**Left Behind**



**Hidden San Francisco**

## HISTORY COMES ALIVE ON THE PHS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Continued from page 12  
Cal State-East Bay 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

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



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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)

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**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY/STATE/ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

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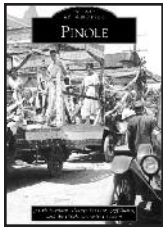
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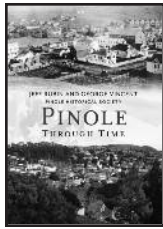
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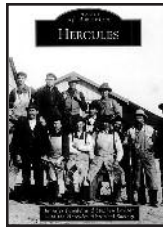
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Pinole



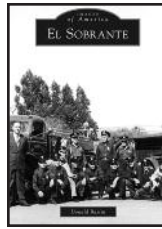
Pinole Through Time



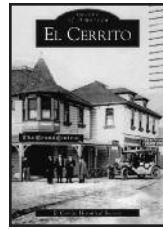
Hercules



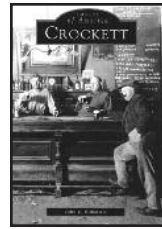
Richmond



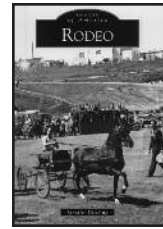
El Sobrante



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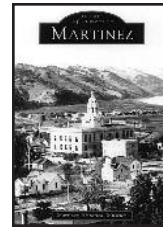
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| # of Bay Area Cocktails @\$30 _____ | # of Hidden SF @\$30 _____           |
| # of Bay Area Ferries @\$30 _____   | # of Left Behind @\$30 _____         |
| # of Lighthouses @\$30 _____        | # of SF Beer @\$30 _____             |

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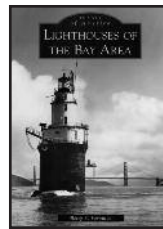
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Martinez



Maritime



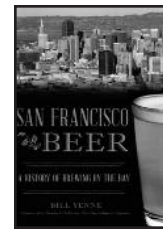
Lighthouses of the Bay Area



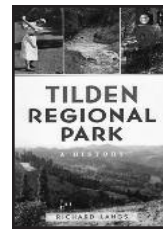
Bay Area Cocktails



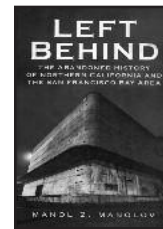
Ferries of the Bay Area



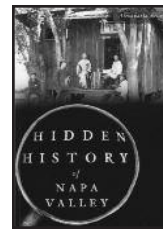
San Francisco Beer



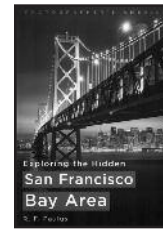
Tilden Park



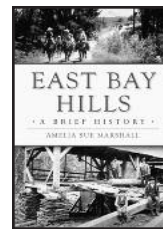
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