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The ads in this issue of *Newsbriefs* are a mixed blessing—crowding our news items, but paying for our busy society communiqué.

Now self-supporting thanks to the generosity of our advertisers, the print edition of *Newsbriefs* reaches more than 2,000 people quarterly, and several hundred more via e-mail and our website.

All this is the result of solid community interest and local business support, for which the PHS is very grateful. They help us bring history to you.

Enjoy our PHS news items, and also notice our business sponsors' ads. They've put THEIR money where OUR mouth is. Please thank them with YOUR patronage.

Pinole Historical Society Newsbriefs



P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564 www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org

JOE MARIOTTI HONORED BY COUNTY



r. Joseph Mariotti, co-founder of the Pinole Historical Society, was honored for his service to the Contra Costa County Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee at the organization's January 13 meeting.

District 2 Supervisor Gayle Uilkema presented Dr. Joe with a proclamation recognizing his service to HLAC, which advises the Board of Supervisors on matters relating to the identification and preservation of historical resources within the county, including identifying eligible sites and places to be listed in the county's Historic Resources Inventory (HRI).

Dr. Mariotti joined HLAC in 2003. He is leaving the committee this year.

Dr. Joe Mariotti and District 2 Supervisor Gayle Uilkema.

Published quarterly by the Pinole Historical Society

Where to find Newsbriefs

Pinole Historical Society *Newsbriefs* can be found at these locations:

AccuTech Auto Care, The Alley Cafe, Antlers Tavern, Bank of the West, The Bear Claw, Big O Tires, Blue Sky Sports, Bronze Buns, Cafe Soleil, China House, Coldwell Banker (Allen Faria), Crocketts Premier Auto Body, Dolan's Lumber, Embers, Farmers Insurance (Madeline Crandall), Farmers Insurance (Carol White), The Flower Cart, Garden of Gems, Douglas Gordon, D.D.S., Hairitage Bead and Boutique, Happy Sashimi, Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, Kendall Financial Services, Ladies Workout Express, Lakeridge Athletic Club, Mechanics Bank (Pinole Valley and Pinole Vista), Old Time Realtors, Park Pharmacy, Attorney Donald E. Patterson, Peet's Coffee, Pinole Art Center, Pinole City Hall, Pinole Creek Cafe, Pinole Library, Pinole Paws, Pinole Police Department, Pinole Senior Center, Pinole Valley Community Church, Realty World (Viktor Manrique), The Red Onion, Ricky's Corner, Ristorante Due Rose, Sashays Salon, Sam's Dog House, Tenax Law Group, Top Floor Salon, and The Waffle Shop.

It's also posted on the PHS website.

FOR ADVERTISERS: PHS Newsbriefs prints 2,000 copies every quarter, generating readership among thousands of Pinole residents. Hundreds more receive the newsletter directly from the PHS via its database and website. If you're interested in advertising, please contact Jeff Rubin at info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org or call (510) 724-9507.

WE'RE TAKING A BREAK FROM PINOLE FARMERS' MARKET

In case you're wondering about the Pinole Historical Society's booth at the Pinole Farmers' Market, we're taking a break during the winter months. We'll be back starting April 3.

INTERESTING PHS MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH

February 18: Detective Sergeant Matt Messier of the Pinole Police Department will present the historical background of the 1929 shooting death of Constable Arthur (Jerry) McDonald, Constable of Township #11 (Pinole and Rodeo).

March 18: Pinole architect Timothy Banuelos will present a visual tour of East Bay architectural styles. He will focus on the unique community character created in Pinole through a timeline of selected buildings.

PHS MEETING SCHEDULE

The Pinole Historical Society offers presentations and activities at its monthly meetings.

Please join us on the third Thursday every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Alex Clark Room of the Public Safety Facility. We have presentations, guest speakers, discussions and other activities. There is something interesting, for attendees at every meeting.

All PHS members and the general public are invited to attend our meetings.

February 18** March 18** April 15 May 20

June 17
July 15
August (no meeting)
September 16

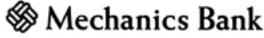
** The February and March meetings will not be held in the Alex Clark Room. Check our website for the location.



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President's Message

Marcia Kalapus, President, Pinole Historical Society

2009 WAS A GOOD YEAR FOR PHS

he New Year 2010 has finally arrived, bringing with it some evidence of a slow economic recovery. We will keep our attitude positive and upbeat.

Though some might not regard 2009 as history-making, personal history is made every year.

Document and write down for your own family history records new births, marriages, the passing of loved ones and their contributions to your lives, children's scholastic achievements, and trips and family vacations you took this past year—with photos attached for your scrapbooks. Do this while it is fresh so you don't forget the details. Sometimes we push this to the bottom of our things-todo list, and we leave out a lot of memories.

The Pinole Historical Society had a memorable year in 2009 with the success of the *Images of America: Pinole* book that we published and sold. Sales exceeded our

expectations, with more than 1,800 books sold between PHS sales and Arcadia Publishing sales to local retail outlets.

The PHS alone sold 696 books as of January 15. We thank our customers for their support.

We had several other successes in 2009.

One of our goals in 2009 was to begin a community outreach program where PHS volunteers would bring history to the community outside the walls of a museum setting. We accomplished this in several ways:

- We introduced early Pinole history to fourth graders in five elementary schools during the first Pinole History Week.
- Our outreach program included talks illustrated with photos from our now vast collection—to Pinole Rotary, AARP, the Pinole Library, St. Joseph Church Seniors, and the Pinole City Council.
- With the sponsorship of Mechanics Bank, the PHS had a successful

Flag Day Essay Contest in all Pinole schools. It was the most exhilarating experience. We received some wonderful essays; the winners are on our website. We'll have the contest again this year.

- Our newsletter expanded from 4 to 12 pages. We reach more than 2,000 people with the printed newsletters placed in various Pinole businesses, and countless more via our website and e-mail database.
- We worked with the city and museum consultant Kathleen Brown on a feasibility study to determine if a city municipal museum is feasible and could be sustained—and it can! This was very good news for the city and our membership.
- With the help of Pinole Community TV, we produced and aired an interview with Charlotte Shea, the daughter of Dr. Manuel Fernandez, and granddaughter of Bernardo Fernandez, two of our city's most famous citizens. We're planning



Marcia Kalapus

more interviews.

• We held the second annual Veterans' Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony, commemorating those who served in the military, past and present. The event drew 500 people to Fernandez Park.

I thank all the members who gave up their personal time to volunteer to help us. Your time was much appreciated.

Please join us in 2010 —renew your membership or join us for the first time. You will help us achieve our dream of a municipal museum, and help us reach more people—especially school children.

There's a membership form on the back page of this newsletter, and on our website.

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN EXHIBIT NOW AT CONTRA COSTA HISTORY CENTER

EXHIBIT'S NEXT STOP IS SAN RAMON MUSEUM

Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America, an exhibit featuring America's iconic president and the Civil War in California and San Ramon Valley, is making two stops locally in 2010.

The Contra Costa History Center, 610 Main Street, Martinez (925) 229-1042, is hosting a preview of the traveling exhibit from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, IL, through March 25.

The entire exhibit will be on display at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Avenue, Danville (925) 837-3750, from April 9 through May 7.

The exhibit examines Lincoln's life from his



Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America

frontier beginnings to his ascension to the presidency.

Learning stations reproduce original documents, artifacts, photographs, pamphlets, and newspapers drawn from the Presidential Library's 50,000 Lincoln-related items.

The exhibit includes videos, re-enactors, and special public programs.

The exhibit was created to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

The exhibit covers Lincoln's childhood, his self-education, his careers as a surveyor and lawyer, his family life, the Lincoln-Douglas debates, the 1860 presidential election, the Civil War, the 13th Amendment, the Emancipation Proclamation, his assassination, and other important periods and events in his life.

The reproduction artifacts on display, all modeled from originals in the Presidential Library and Museum, include: Lincoln's favorite books; his son Tad's toy cannon; the nameplate from his Springfield home; his stovepipe hat, which he used like a briefcase to hold important papers; a Presidential campaign banner; an axe that Lincoln used to chop wood; the bloody gloves found in Lincoln's pocket the night of his assassination; and many other unique and interesting items.



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It happened back then

Just a century ago-1910

- Father's Day was observed for the first time, June 19, at Spokane, Washington.
- U.S. population reached 92 million—13.5 million of whom were foreign-born.
- Joyce Clyde Hall (then 18) and his brother began dealing in greeting cards in Kansas City. Yes, they made their 'mark.'
- In this year China abolished slavery.
- William Howard Taft was President of the United States.
- Newcomer to the Pinole City Council H. A. Planz is mayor; other new members Ed Downer, Joe Lewis, and Hiram Holiday joined carryover Tom Statts.

Half a century ago-1960

- · U.S. scientists developed a laser device.
- U.S. population reached 179,323,000.
- The first weather satellite, Tiros I, was launched by the United States to transmit TV images of cloud cover around the world.
- Dwight David Eisenhower was President of the United States.
- Pinole's population was rising fast—to around 6,000—and its political leadership was yielding to 'newcomers.'



Pinole, around 1910.





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Back in the day

PORTUGUESE A RICH PART OF PINOLE'S HISTORY

By George Vincent

he story is told of a joke Bernardo Fernandez once played on his wife, Carlotta.

The front pew of St. Joseph Church was reserved for Pinole's foremost Portuguese pioneers—the Fernandez family. Bernardo told his wife that he had forgotten to pay his tithing. Such an oversight caused her concern for fear of losing their coveted position near the altar.

Fernandez would have never neglected his generous contributions to support his parish and seating status. It was not the Portuguese way to be lax when it came to religious duties.

On another level, the story is an illustration of how important the church was in the lives of Pinole's Portuguese citizens. The Portuguese community has always placed the Catholic faith at the center of its values, social life, and cultural traditions.



Holy Ghost queen and her court, 1947.

Today, many of the stained-glass windows of St. Joseph Church are historical markers to the Portuguese influence in Pinole. The colorful "In Memoriams" bear the names of Fernandez, Faria, Marcos, and Costa, as well as one gift of glass donated by the Portuguese organizations of Pinole.

Pinole's Portuguese past goes back to the

1850s when male adventurers seeking a better life settled on the waterfront.

Henry Cruz, Manuel Suerez, and Bernardo Fernandez began a small shipping and trading business using their skills of seamanship. By the end of the century, Fernandez had acquired most of the land in and around Pinole and had a thriving complex of

ships, warehouses, and wharves on Pinole's coastline.

The largest wave of Portuguese immigration into California (and hence Pinole) occurred between 1870 and 1921. Most came from the Azores Islands of the Atlantic—Fayal, Pico, Sao Jorge, and Terceira. They came by railroad from the East coast, getting off in Oakland.

The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area, as well as the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, became Portuguese strongholds. By 1920, the Portuguese were a minority making up 1% of the state's total population. More than 12,000 lived in Oakland and San Leandro.

Most early immigrants engaged in whaling and mining. Later arrivals pursued fishing, farming and ranching. They came primarily due to poverty at home and seeking a better life.

In Pinole, the rural pattern of Portuguese settlement also held true.



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Vicki Martinez

Corporate Officer/Office Manager Pinole Vista Office

1518 Fitzgerald Drive, Finole, CA 94564 510.243.9633 Priova - 510.243.9636 FAX vicki_martinez@mechbank.com • www.mechbank.com Some new arrivals became workers on ranches in Pinole Valley. They also traveled between San Pablo and Martinez to work seasonally in the harvests and on hay presses.

Many also worked at the nearby California Powder Works in Hercules.

Eventually, Portuguese-Americans leased or purchased ranch land and also entered the businesses of downtown Pinole. People of Portuguese background became saloonkeepers, merchants, hotel, and dairy operators.

From the turn of the 20th century until the closings of the Central Grocery in 1959 and the Alibi Tavern in the 1970s, Pinole had a Portuguese stamp with names such as Lewis, Vincent, Faria, Costa, Silva, Goularte, Bispo, Rose, Pontes, Marcos, Barrocca, Enos, Silveria, Brazil, Silvas, Marieiro, Dutra, Nunes, Pereira, Fernandez, Machado, Lopes, and Simas.

With so many
Portuguese residents,
Pinole acquired a
Portuguese flavor. This
came especially from the
Azorean tradition of the
Holy Ghost Festival, or
Festa. This was carried
on by the I.D.E.S. and

S.P.R.S.I. societies.

Pinole's annual Festa do Espirito Santo was traditionally held on a Sunday in mid summer. The religious festival and celebration dates back to the 14th century Queen Isabel, who began the cult of the Holy Ghost and gave bread and meat to the poor.

The I.D.E.S., or Portuguese Hall, across from Fernandez Park was the center of activity. Donated livestock was brought in and kept in cattle pens built behind the hall. An arraial, or carnival of fun and sometimes fireworks, preceded the Sunday celebration.

A Sunday parade took place through the neighborhoods of Pinole with marchers, flags, music, and the Pinole Band playing the Azorean *Alva Pompa* hymn to the Holy Ghost.

Central to the ceremony was the selection and crowning in St. Joseph Church of the queen, who reigned over the festa. Many Portuguese-American girls held this honor, with May Vincent being the town's first queen in 1911 at the age of 14.

After the coronation ceremony and the releasing of the doves came the free banquet feast



John Vincent in the First and Last Chance Saloon.

with sopas (spiced meat with spiced gravy over French bread, decorated with sprigs of mint) and sweet bread. After the eating came the outdoor auction of donated foodstuffs, needlework, wines and livestock.

Indoors, music, singing, and dancing was highlighted by the circle dancing of the Azorian folkdance, the *Chamarrita*.

While the last Holy Ghost Festa was held in 1959, other culinary traditions still live on with those of Portuguese ancestry. Foods such as bacalhau (codfish) and linguisa (spiced sausage) are still common in Pinole. Old-timers still plant mint and favas (horse beans).

Newcomers can view Pinole's Portuguese heritage through the windows of St. Joseph Church, street names, or the 22-room Fernandez Mansion, built in 1894. All are contributions made by Portuguese-Americans to this little hamlet on the pebbly beach of San Pablo Bay.



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JOIN THE PARADE OF PINOLE HISTORY

istory is not a rocking chair occupation, or even a pastime! What happened yesterday is already history!

Memories, reflection on past events, and experiences are doomed to oblivion unless they are recorded—in writings, pictures/photos or techy records, audio-visuals, and exhibits. That's what historical societies, comprised of amateur or professional historians, devote their efforts and money to preserve.

The Pinole Historical Society is made up of folks with a common interest and goal—preserving and then presenting, for posterity, a record of our place in time.

Newbies and oldies can further these goals by their work, time, and wealth. There are no age limits or requirements to get involved in the PHS.

The Pinole Historical Society, in 2009 alone, accomplished the following:

- ➡ Began a community outreach program that saw PHS volunteers bring history programs to five Pinole elementary schools, Pinole Rotary, AARP, St. Joseph Church seniors, the Pinole Library, and the Pinole City Council.
- ► Increased its quarterly newsletter to 12 pages, its circulation to 2,000 printed copies, and attracted nearly 40 advertisers!
- Worked with the City of Pinole and its museum consultant to determine if a museum is feasible and it is!
- Presented awards to students in Pinole schools for their participation in the PHS Flag Day Essay

Contest—and published their essays on its website.

- ► Produced the second annual Veterans' Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony, which drew 500 people to Fernandez Park.
- ✓ Worked with Pinole Community Television to produce shows about Pinole's history, including an interview with Charlotte Shea, daughter of Dr. Manuel Fernandez and granddaughter of Bernardo Fernandez.
- Worked on fulfilling its goal to bring the city's history to school children with history programs in five elementary schools during the first Pinole History Week, November 9-13.
- ← Enhanced its website (www.PinoleHistorical Society.org).
- Sent regular e-mail updates to its database of more than 250 people.

To get involved in the Pinole Historical Society, visit www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org or send an e-mail to info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org.

The PHS meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month in the Alex Clark Room of the Pinole Public Safety Building, 880 Tennent Avenue. The meeting schedule through September may be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

Join us, put in some time and money (dues are modest—donations always welcome)—come to meetings and events, and you, too, can make your mark in history. Now is the time to renew your membership for 2010 or join for the first time. You will find your membership application on the back page of this newsletter. Help us build our place in history.







Hours

Monday – Friday 6 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday – Sunday 7 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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100 YEARS OF MOLDING YOUNG MEN

nspired by a chance encounter in London with a helpful lad offering guidance—and declining a tip, saying 'I'm a Scout.

I do good turns'—William Boyce brought back to America Lord Baden-Powell's 1908 idea of 'scouting' and incorporated the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910.

A century later the organization still inspires young and old, with its staid principles and rules that are embraced by many more than formal members. "On my Honor I will do my best ..." and "A Scout is



trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly ..." are still worthy standards.

Scouting adapted to changing times and now includes urban scouting, timely merit badges, and advanced opportunities through Sea Scouting and Explorer posts. See also our fine, local Pinole Police Explorers, Boy Scouts, and Cub Scouts—and their volunteer leaders—at many civic events and projects putting actual meaning to 'being a good Scout.'

Happy birthday, Scouts!

- Jack Meehan

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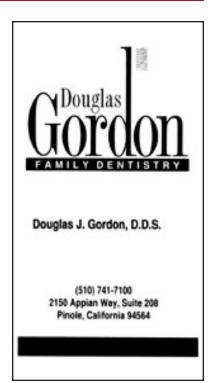
The Pinole Historical Society has a limited stock of American flags to fly on important occasions—such as Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day, and New Year's Day.

The PHS has 3x5 nylon American flags—50 stars, all-weather, embroidered—available for a donation of \$25 to the society.

And, we have a limited supply of

basic flagpole kits (pole, bracket, etc.) at our quantity cost of just \$6. So, a flag and flagpole can be yours for a donation of only \$31 (plus postage if we mail them)!

Plck up your flag/pole at our Pinole Farmers' Market booth (on or after April 3), or e-mail us at *info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.com* and we'll make arrangements to get these items to you via U.S. mail. We accept checks and cash.





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YOU'VE GOT A QUESTION? We've got an answer

inole has a long and interesting history. Is there something you'd like to know about the city or its people?

Send the Pinole Historical Society a question and we'll not only answer it, but we'll print it in the next issue of Newsbriefs so everyone will be informed.

And, if we don't know, we'll find out.

For example, perhaps you ran across a photo at a garage sale and want to have the people or buildings in it identified. Or, maybe you're wondering why the cross streets off Tennent Avenue are named after fruits. Let the PHS help you.

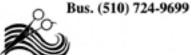
Send your photos and questions to us at info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org.



Check the Pinole Historical Society website for information on PHS activites and events - and, of course, the history of the sweetest city in the East Bay.

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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.

PHS welcomes new members and advertisers

he Pinole Historical Society thanks these members who have renewed or joined for 2010 (as of January 15): Thomas A. Boyce, DDS, Susan Fernandez,

Jo Ann Gannotti, Sheila Grist, Althea Hathaway, Joe and Catherine Hawkins, Valerie Kleinfeld, Judith Gardner Kuftin, Joan Landis, Judy Lee, Norma Martinez-Rubin, Thelma McPherson, Theresa Meehan, George Parsons, Benjamin T. Reyes II, Jeff Rubin, Marilyn Scott, Suzette Shaw, Celeste and Harold Silvas, Roy Swearingen, George Vincent, Carol White, Pat York (lifetime), and Anne Zeman.

And, we welcome these new advertisers:

- · Coldwell Banker (Allen Faria), page 4
- Ricky's Corner, page 3

- Roofing by Frakes (Richard Frakes), page 12
- Wright Builders (Tim Wright), page 12.

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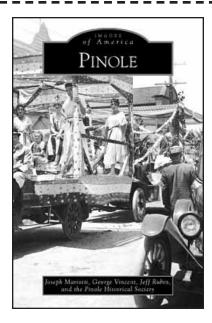
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Pinole **Historical** Society

2010 Membership Application

(PINOLE RESIDENCY NOT REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP)

Please provide the following information, and send cash or your check, to Pinole Historical Society, P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

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