



# Pinole **Historical** Society

## E-News

### *Cori Clark retires*

## THE ALLEY CAFE UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

**A** Pinole landmark closed its doors — albeit briefly — on Sunday, June 14, when Cori Clark cooked her last batch of hashbrowns at The Alley Cafe.

The restaurant reopened on June 25 under new management. Sarah and Ken Cheung, who have operated restaurants in San Francisco, bought the cafe. Jose Arevalo (cook) and Cherrie Clark (server), formerly of The Waffle Stop, are running it.

This breakfast/lunch restaurant has been a fixture in Pinole since 1962, when former Fire Chief Alex Clark and his friend, Bob Dutra, bought the former Greenfield's Department Store building. They sold the café, reacquired it, and then sold it again.

Cori Clark's father, Dave Brandt, bought it in 1978 after the previous owner died. Cori Brandt worked for her father in the restaurant as a waitress; Dave was the cook. When Dave died in 1992, Cori (Brandt) Clark, by this time married to Alex Clark's son, Chano, took over, and had been there since.

Not much changed through the years at The Alley Café, including the food and the cook. Cori fed

generations of area residents, many of them who remember her fondly on Facebook. One Facebook writer commented about the enormous portions of hashbrown potatoes Cori served: "*She throws them down, oils them up, and fries the dickens out of them*

*before they hit your plate piping hot!"* Another wrote: "*Where else is there only one cook for over 40 people? Cori is the bomb!"* Still another wrote: "*This place is my morning go-to. Such a wonderful place.*"

"It was a friendly place," Cori says. "I tried to involve people, make them feel comfortable and want to come back. If somebody was there by themselves and they

seemed like they wanted to talk, I always tried to find something to talk to them about.

"We served a lot of families for generations. It was a community place. It had a feel; I know you had to wait a long time, but people always got what they ordered and it was prepared with care. There was no way to do it faster, because the meal would be compromised, and we didn't want to do that.

"I thank people for their support and patronage. Our family enjoyed serving you for 37 years."



**Cori Clark at the grill.**

## Pinole featured on KGO Radio

KGO radio reporter Jennifer Jones Lee interviewed PHS Vice President Jeff Rubin to discover the origin of the word “Pinole.”

Listen to the segment here:  
<http://www.pinolehistoricalsociety.org/KGOPinoleorigin.mp3>



## PHS PROGRAMS ADDED TO CITY'S WEBSITE

Several PHS programs have been added to the City of Pinole website:

[www.ci.pinole.ca.us/about/videos.html](http://www.ci.pinole.ca.us/about/videos.html)

- 2012 Veterans Day Memorial/Flag Retirement.
- 2013 Veterans Day Memorial/Flag Retirement.
- 2014 Veterans Day Memorial/Flag Retirement.
- Japanese American Internment program (2012).
- Old School bell dedication (2013).

- February 7, 2014, program: “Bars, Barbers, and Characters of Early Pinole.”
- September 5, 2014, program: “Presidential Rosies.”
- November 7, 2014, program: “Maritime Contra Costa County.”

We thank Bob Kopp, who recorded most of these events for the society.

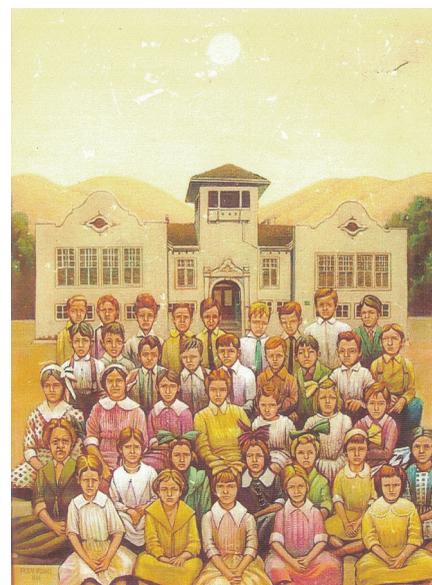
Scroll down to PINOLE HISTORY on the city's website to find all the Pinole history programs.

## PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEPTEMBER 11, 2015 MEETING

In honor of the Old School reunion dinner to be held the following evening, the PHS will present “*School Bells and Ink Wells: a history of the early schools of Pinole, 1865-1968*,” on Friday, September 11, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in conference rooms 2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road.

Our presenter will be PHS co-founder and historian George Vincent, whose book, “School Bells and Ink Wells,” will soon be published.

As always, refreshments will be served. Please join us.



# PinoleHistoricalSociety

P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

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

(510) 724-9507

## Upcoming events

# Refuse To Be A Victim.®

The focus of the class is crime prevention and personal safety. The instructor will present information on topics such as:

- Minimizing the risk of being a victim
- How to create a personal safety plan
- An array of safety strategies

**KOPP PRODUCTIONS  
PRESENTS**

## “REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM”

**Sunday, July 12**

**1-4 p.m.**

**Alex Clark Room**

**Pinole Public Safety Facility  
880 Tennent Avenue**

**Instructor: Peter Friedman  
Certified Safety Instructor**

**This FREE class is presented  
throughout the United States.**

**Pre-registration is required.**

**E-mail Bob Kopp at:  
[koppproductions@comcast.net](mailto:koppproductions@comcast.net)  
to pre-register.**

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## FRIENDS OF THE PINOLE LIBRARY



**JULY 4 AND 18**

**Pinole Farmers' Market**

**T**he Friends of the Pinole Library displays selected books at the Pinole Farmers' Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on alternate Saturdays.

In April, the Friends will focus on a New Member/Volunteer Drive where interested parties can join the Friends of the Pinole Library group, volunteer for Friends' fund-raising events and activities, and support the Pinole Library.

Please bring your talents, energy, and enthusiasm to the Friends of the Pinole Library.

# Upcoming events

## Pinole **Historical** Society

### July 1-31: PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY EXHIBITS

The Pinole Historical Society has two exhibits at the Pinole Library. "Pinole ... Then and Now" features photos from the society's archives of buildings that existed at the turn of the 20th century and recent photos of buildings on those sites



today. This joins our permanent exhibit featuring artifacts, photos, and memorabilia from Pinole's history.

For more information on Pinole Historical Society activities and the history of Pinole, please visit the PHS website at [www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org).

### July 11, 25: PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FARMERS' MARKET SALE

The Pinole Historical Society has nine area history books, greeting cards, postcards, Fernandez Mansion magnets, Old School magnets, and U.S. flags. One or more of these items will be on sale at today's farmers' market. They are great additions to your history library and



make wonderful gifts.

Our booth location at the farmers' market has been changed. We are now in the parking lot with the food vendors — pastries, kettle corn, breads, etc.

For more information on Pinole Historical Society activities and the history of Pinole, please visit the PHS

website at [www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org)



## WELLS FARGO PINOLE MURAL VIDEO ON OUR WEBSITE

Click this link: [www.pinolehistoricalsociety.org/PinoleMural.mov](http://www.pinolehistoricalsociety.org/PinoleMural.mov)

## PHS SEEKING FAMILY FILMS FOR HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

**G**ot film? The Pinole Historical Society is embarking on a major project to archive the city's history.

We want to establish a permanent, digitized collection of Pinole's history.

Do you have film of past Holy Ghost parades, Pinole Valley High School Homecoming parades, Memorial Day or July 4 parades?

How about important athletic events, such as a high-school football, basketball, baseball, softball, or volleyball games?

Perhaps you have film of an important event that took place in Fernandez Park, or a ribbon cutting or an event that has a place in Pinole's history — such as the 1958 flood?

We're looking for any video or film you have — VHS, Beta, camcorder, DV tape, 8mm, Super 8mm, 16mm, 35mm, motion picture.



Nearly everyone has taken home movies. That makes everyone who has taken film a historian.

We want to collect, digitize, catalog, and preserve old movies on DVD (and whatever formats are to come) to exhibit, educate, and entertain.

The PHS will share these videos on a film archive that we will establish, similar to the The Pioneers Film Archive on YouTube created by the

California Pioneers of Santa Clara ([www.youtube.com/scppioneers](http://www.youtube.com/scppioneers)).

Film connects with the past in a unique way. It's immersive, educational, and entertaining. It's a way to get young people interested in history.

Got film? Please contact us at [info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org). We'll return your film; we just want to borrow and digitize it.

***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.***



# PROGRAMS

Tours  
&  
Events

## JULY 2015

*All tours and programs take place at the Visitor Center unless otherwise noted*

### SUNDAYS:

#### **Rosie the Riveter Memorial**

**7/12, 7/26 11 AM to 12:30 PM**

Drop by Marina Bay Park (located in Melville Square) to visit the Rosie the Riveter Memorial—a very thoughtful public art sculpture of a World War II cargo ship under construction along a 450-foot timeline. A docent will be available to answer questions, and introduce the memorial.

#### **Making Rosie Stop: Winding Down the 'War Jobs For Women' Campaign.**

**7/5, 7/12, 7/26 at 2 PM (45 minutes)**

What choices did Rosie have at the end of World War II? How did she spend the next chapter of her life? Come to learn about these women, and share stories of the women you know.

#### **The Port Chicago Disaster and Aftermath**

**7/5, 7/12, 7/26 at 3 PM (45 minutes)**

What kinds of questions were sailors and civilians asking after ten million pounds of explosives blew up in Concord in 1944?

### TUESDAYS:

#### **Rails through Richmond**

**7/7, at 11 AM (45 minutes)**

Railroads opened the West, including the City of Richmond, western terminus of the Santa Fe. Join a ranger to explore the railroad's impact on WWII, and vice versa.

#### **"Of Lost Conversations"**

**7/7, 7/14, 7/21, 7/28 at 2 PM (45 minutes)**

Ranger Betty Soskin discusses her experience as a young African American woman during WWII.

For directions and information: Call 510-232-5050 x0 or visit [www.nps.gov/rori](http://www.nps.gov/rori)

**Visitor Center open daily, 10:00am to 5:00pm at 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond, CA.**

(Visitor Center is located behind the historic Ford Assembly Building – through the security gate).

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## WEDNESDAYS:

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### **Richmond Bus Tour with Ranger Betty Soskin (RESERVATION ONLY)**

**7/1 (FULL) from 10 AM to 12:30 PM (2.5 Hours)**

Board the bus with ranger Betty Soskin to visit key park sites while reflecting on African American home front experiences. Space is limited, reservations are required: call 510-232-5050 x0 for start time and location.

### **Making Rosie Stop: Winding Down the 'War Jobs For Women' Campaign**

**7/8, 7/22 at 2 PM (45 minutes)**

What choices did Rosie have at the end of World War II? How did she spend the next chapter of her life? Come to learn about these women, and share stories of the women you know.

### **Richmond Bus Tour with Armand Johnson (RESERVATION ONLY)**

**7/22 from 10 AM to 12:30 PM (2.5 Hours)**

Hop aboard with Ranger Armand Johnson for an overview of the park sites located throughout the City of Richmond. Space is limited, reservations are required: call 510-232-5050 x0 for start time and location.

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## THURSDAYS:

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### **"Of Lost Conversations": Ranger Talk by Betty Soskin**

**7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30 at 11 AM (45 minutes)**

Ranger Betty Soskin discusses her experience as a young African American woman during WWII.

### **Blossoms and Thorns**

**7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30 at 2 PM (45 minutes)**

A docent from the Japanese American Citizen's League screens the documentary "Blossoms and Thorns", and shares their experiences in a WWII Japanese American internment camp.

### **7th Annual Home Front Film Festival**

**7/9 and 7/23 at 7 PM**

July 9th: "Casablanca" (1942) with Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.

July 23: "Northern Pursuit" (1943) with Errol Flynn.

All films will be shown aboard the historic SS Red Oak Victory. Boarding begins at 6:30 PM. For info and directions to the ship, please call 510-237-2933.

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## FRIDAYS:

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### **Rosie Meet and Greet!**

**7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31 from 10 AM to 12 PM; 1 PM to 2 PM**

Most Fridays, a group of civilian WWII docents share their stories in an informal setting at the Visitor Center. Here is your chance to ask the experts about life and work on the WWII American Home Front.

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For directions and information: Call 510-232-5050 x0 or visit [www.nps.gov/rori](http://www.nps.gov/rori)

**Visitor Center open daily, 10:00am to 5:00pm at 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond, CA.**

(Visitor Center is located behind the historic Ford Assembly Building – through the security gate).

***Continued on next page***

***Fridays continued...***

### **Rationing on the Home Front**

**7/10, at 12:30 PM (45 minutes)**

During WWII, Americans were asked to sacrifice in support of the troops, and this was evident daily at the dinner table. Learn about food rationing and share a sweet treat invented by wartime bakers.

### **What We Wore During the War**

**7/31, at 12:30pm (30 minutes)**

The war changed everything including fashions, which changed to meet new needs: leather, wool, and nylon were needed by our fighting forces, so we made do on the Home Front. We'll have a look at the clothing worn by working men and women, children and even Hollywood stars!

### **Warbling through the War Years**

**7/24, 7/31 at 3 PM (45 minutes)**

World War II produced popular music from jitterbug to broken hearts, which we'll see and hear through samples from radio, records, and the movies.

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## **SATURDAYS:**

### **Bay Trail Walk**

**7/4 at 11AM (1 hour)**

Take a one-hour leisurely stroll along the Bay Trail and explore home front history with a park ranger.

### **"Of Lost Conversations"**

**7/4, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25 at 2 PM (45 minutes)**

Ranger Betty Soskin discusses her experience as a young African American woman during WWII.

### **Echoes of World War II - A Bay Area Perspective**

**7/11, 11 AM (1 ½ hours)**

Join us for a documentary film highlighting the stories of the children of the Greatest Generation and their experiences in the San Francisco Bay Area during World War II. After the film, the producer, Patricia Weaver, will discuss her childhood experiences entertaining wounded soldiers with Kay Kyser's band, and her work with the Veteran's Oral History Project (Library of Congress) which inspired this film. **Space is limited and reservations are required for this film and discussion. Please call 510-232-5050 x0 to reserve your seat today.**

### **Junior Ranger Fun!**

**7/18 at 11 AM (1 hour)**

Kids of all ages, we want your opinion! Help a ranger test brand-new junior ranger ideas and activities, and earn a junior ranger badge.



## 7th annual Home Front Film Festival July schedule

**T**he National Park Service and the Richmond Museum Association continues with its 7th Annual Home Front Film Festival on Thursday evenings July and August. The film festival features popular, full-length movies that were shown on the American Home Front during WWII.

The film screenings will be presented aboard the SS Red Oak Victory, a beautifully restored cargo ship built in Richmond during World War II. The ship is owned and operated by the Richmond Museum Association and is also part of Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park.

The SS Red Oak Victory is located in historic Shipyard #3 at 1337 Canal Blvd., Berth 6A, in Richmond. For directions to the shipyard, visit the Red Oak Victory at [www.ssredoakvictory.com/contact.htm](http://www.ssredoakvictory.com/contact.htm).

Admission is free, but there is a suggested donation of \$10 to help preserve and maintain the ship. Boarding begins at 6:30 p.m. and the films begins at 7 p.m. Popcorn and refreshments will be available for purchase aboard the ship during each screening.

**Please note:** The ship is not ADA accessible. Visitors must be able to climb the gangplank (40 feet of stairs with railings) and steep steps once aboard.

Remember to wear warm clothing, as it can be chilly aboard the ship! Bad weather may force the ship staff to cancel this program for safety reasons. If it rains, please call the ship at (510) 237-2933 by 5:30 p.m. on the day of the screening to find out if the show will go on.

• **July 9:** *Casablanca* (1942), with Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. *Casablanca* became the most popular film of the Home Front era and its popularity continues today. Join us as we recreate Rick's Café Américain aboard the ship. Dress as your favorite *Casablanca* character.

• **July 23:** *Northern Pursuit* (1943), with Errol Flynn. Royal Canadian Mounted Police Corporal Steve Wagner (Errol Flynn) tries to uncover a Nazi plot against the Allied war effort. The film was set in Canada during the early years of WWII.



### 'ECHOES OF WORLD WAR II – A BAY AREA PERSPECTIVE'

## FILM ABOUT THE CHILDREN OF THE GREATEST GENERATION

Producer Patricia Weaver will preview her film, "Echoes of World War II – A Bay Area Perspective," at the Visitor Education Center of Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park on Saturday, July 11, at 11 a.m.

The film highlights experiences of children who lived in the Bay Area during World War II.

In describing the film, Patricia says, "As Children of the Greatest Generation, we all participated in the war effort. Those experiences — even though I was a child — stayed with me: the victory gardens, rationing, collecting all kinds of things that became

important to the war effort, fundraising for war bonds; it was a highly emotional and sometimes frightening time. However, it was also a very cooperative time for families, neighborhoods, cities, and states throughout the country as we worked together toward a common goal. It is my dream that our country could come together like that again."

As a child, Patricia was a tap dancer with a Kay Kyser's Big Band, entertaining wounded troops hospitalized at the VAs in Southern California during World War II. Still welcoming fresh challenges after a lifetime of multi-faceted entrepreneurial

accomplishments, she offered her services to the Veterans Oral History Project sponsored by the Library of Congress. Her volunteer work with the oral histories inspired her to collect interviews from local Bay Area residents who were children of the World War II era, and at the age of 78, she used these interviews to produce her first film, "Echoes of World War II."

Space is limited and reservations are required for this program. Please call 510-232-5050 x0 and leave a message with your name and phone number, and specify the date of the program you would like to attend.



## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMMEMORATES THE 71ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE PORT CHICAGO EXPLOSION

**J**oin the National Park Service and the Friends of Port Chicago National Memorial to honor the 320 men who lost their lives in the largest WWII military disaster on the home front.

Visitors are invited to attend the ceremony at 10 AM on Saturday July 18, at the site of the catastrophe, which occurred on July 17, 1944, at Port Chicago Naval Magazine in Concord, when two ships being loaded with ammunition exploded.

This annual event is a rare opportunity for friends, family, and others interested in the Port Chicago disaster and its aftermath to join together in a day of remembrance.

As the event will be held on an active military base, all visitors must have reservations and a security check. Visitors age 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult, but do not need to provide the information below. When reserving a spot, please be ready to give the following:

- **First name, middle name, last name**
- **Date of birth**
- **E-mail or mailing address**
- **Daytime phone number**
- **The number from your state-issued driver's license and state that issued ID.**

Reservations are required and must be made by July 6. To make a reservation, please leave a voicemail message at 925-838-0249 x 6520 or e-mail [thaddeus\\_shay@nps.gov](mailto:thaddeus_shay@nps.gov). Your reservation is confirmed when you receive acknowledgement from NPS staff. For more information about the event, visit [www.nps.gov/poch](http://www.nps.gov/poch).

Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

JULY 18, 2015

AT THE PORT CHICAGO NAVAL MAGAZINE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

THE 71ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
**PORT CHICAGO  
EXPLOSION**

Please join us on Saturday, July 18th, 2015 to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the Port Chicago explosion in Concord, CA. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be held at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial.

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED BY JULY 6TH**

Please call 925-228-8860 ext. 6520 or email [Thaddeus\\_Shay@nps.gov](mailto:Thaddeus_Shay@nps.gov) to reserve your place and for more information about the event.  
[www.nps.gov/poch](http://www.nps.gov/poch)

**The National Park Service offers guided 1.5-hour tours of Port Chicago Naval Magazine throughout the year on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. Not all dates may be available, and reservations must be made two weeks in advance online or by phone at 925-228-8860 ext. 6520.**



## SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PHS BY BECOMING A MEMBER IN 2015

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, quarterly membership programs, history programs in schools, Pinole Community TV programs, Walking tours of downtown Pinole, the Veterans Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony in Fernandez Park — and you'll have the satisfaction promoting and preserving 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 today!**

# Pinole **Historical** Society

## 2015 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**

MEMBERSHIPS ARE FOR THE 2015 CALENDAR YEAR (EXCEPT LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS)

NAME (each member): \_\_\_\_\_

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

CITY/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

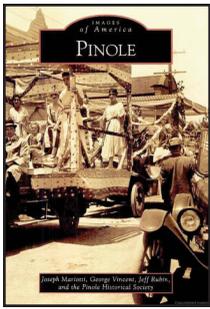
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL (please!): \_\_\_\_\_

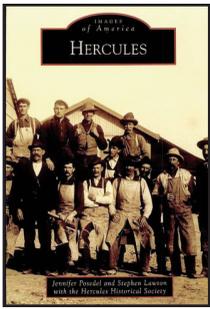
CIRCLE ONE: Annual-new (\$30)    Annual-renewal (\$30)    Business (\$50)    Life (\$150)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: [  ] Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_ [  ] Check # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

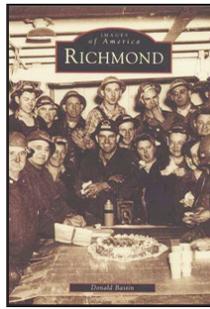
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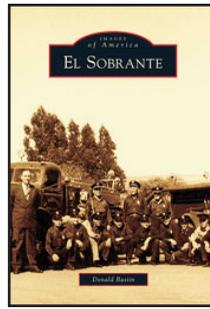
Pinole



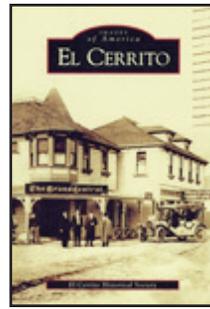
Hercules



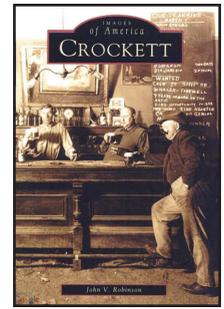
Richmond



El Sobrante



El Cerrito



Crockett

# LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

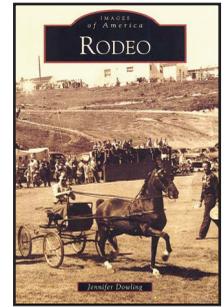
**T**he Pinole Historical Society has Arcadia Publishing books about Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, Port Costa, and Maritime Contra Costa County. And, of course, we have plenty of Pinole books in stock.

You may purchase one or more of these books from us at the Pinole Farmers' Market—we'll be there every other Saturday through the end of December.

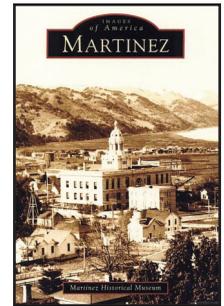
The Pinole, Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, and Maritime Contra Costa County

books retail for **\$24**, including 8.75% sales tax. The Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, and Port Costa books are **\$22**, including 8.75% sales tax.

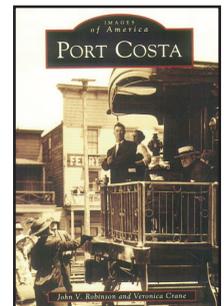
Or, you may order one or more by mail and we'll ship them to you. Send your order to **Pinole Historical Society, P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564**.



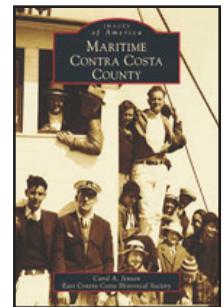
Rodeo



Martinez



Port Costa



Maritime

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# of Pinole books @ \$27 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_

# of Hercules books @ \$27 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_

# of Richmond books @ \$27 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_

# of El Sobrante books @ \$27 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_

# of El Cerrito books @ \$27 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_

# of Maritime Contra Costa County books @ \$27 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_

# of Crockett books @ \$25 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_

# of Rodeo books @ \$25 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_

# of Martinez books @ \$25 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_

# of Port Costa books @ \$25 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail your check for the total amount due, payable to Pinole Historical Society, to:**

**PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 285, PINOLE, CA 94564**