



Pinole **Historical** Society

E-News

MAY 8 PROGRAM TRACES HERCULES POWDER WORKS HISTORY

Pinole and Hercules are really one place together. Life in the two valleys of Pinole and Hercules has been inextricably linked since 1878, when ruthless and visionary men bought the lands of Refugio Valley for a dynamite factory.

Hercules was incorporated by DuPont in 1900; for nearly 75 years its population remained under 300. This company town housed workers, technicians, and managers, closely linked with Pinole.

Dynamite transformed the explosives industry — and made our modern industrial world possible. San Francisco was the cradle of the dynamite industry in America. More than 15 companies established dynamite plants around the Bay. Mankind's mastery of the energy of chemical explosives is fundamental to every aspect of our life today.

The story of Hercules is the earliest story of technological and industrial innovation that assured California's place on the global stage.

Author and Hercules Historical Society historian Steve Lawton will tell the real story of Hercules, from its early days until now, with documented historical facts, rare photographs and maps never before seen. You'll learn about the rough industrial



pioneers, daily life in the company town, business during wartime, the post-war decline, the conversion to suburbia, the financial crises, and yes, the deadly explosions.

Join us Friday, May 8, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in conference rooms 2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road.

You'll hear the story of California Powder Works, DuPont, and the Hercules Powder Company, which produced one of the first internationally branded products: Hercules dynamite. The Hercules story is a big book of California history, including chapters of the Civil War, the Transcontinental Railroad, and the destruction of San Francisco.

For years this was the largest dynamite factory in the world. Chinese laborers were, for a time, the backbone of a rugged workforce performing dangerous tasks. It was the largest producer of TNT during World War I, the "Chemists' War."

Breakthroughs in chemical technology were made by scientists working on "The Hill" at Quinan Hall.

Farsighted managers built one of the first industrial hospitals in America, and a pioneering social club; these buildings, and more, survive today.

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

- 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 2015 MEETING DATES

We have a great lineup of programs for our members and guests in 2015. Our first program, "*A Flood of Memories*," held on Friday, February 6, drew more than 30 attendees on an appropriately cold, rainy night. Our other meeting dates in 2015, all from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in conference rooms 2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road, are:

Friday, May 8

Friday, September 11

Friday, November 6

Pinole**Historical**Society

P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org

(510) 724-9507

Upcoming events

FRIENDS OF THE PINOLE LIBRARY

MAY 2

Biannual Book Sale

The Friends of the Pinole Library will host its next Biannual Book Sale Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with members and new members entering as early as 9 a.m. New memberships are available at the door. This sale will feature books organized in various genres, including children's, youth, and much more. Also included are CDs, DVDs, puzzles, games, and reference books. Selection is at its best. This event supports the Pinole Library for new equipment, family programs, books, and other events.



Buy all of your reading material for the remainder of the year at the Friends of the Pinole Library's book sales.

MAY 3 Stuff-a-Sack Book Sale

The Friends of the Pinole Library will host a Stuff-a-Sack sale Sunday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pinole Library. Shoppers will

purchase a sack at the desk when they enter for \$5, and fill it to the brim. Books are organized into many genres. Come early, stay late.



MAY 9 AND 23

Pinole Farmers' Market

The 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.



WELLS FARGO PINOLE MURAL VIDEO ON OUR WEBSITE

Click this link: www.pinolehistoricalsociety.org/PinoleMural.mov

PHS SEEKING FAMILY FILMS FOR HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

Got 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).

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. 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.

Upcoming events

Pinole **Historical** Society

May 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.

May 2, 16, 30: 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.

For more information on Pinole Historical Society activities and the history of Pinole, please visit the PHS website at www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org.

May 8: PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

6:30 to 8 p.m., Conference rooms 2A and 2B, Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road. Program: "*KABOOM: Secret Stories of the Hercules Powder Works, the World's Largest Explosives Factory.*"



Hercules workers at the pipe shop.

Author and Hercules Historical Society historian Stephen Lawton will provide a glimpse into the interesting history and stories of this nearly 100-year-old explosives factory that gave the city its name.

Though the powder works sometimes went boom in the night (and day), the facility played a significant and decisive role in the U.S. Army's containment of fires started by the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and produced much of the explosives used by Allied forces in World War I and World War II.

The public is invited to this FREE event. Refreshments will be served.

Also, directors of the society will be elected at this meeting, our annual meeting.

For more information on Pinole Historical Society activities and the history of Pinole, please visit the PHS website at www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org, or call (510) 724-9507.



PHS AT PINOLE FARMERS' MARKET THROUGH DECEMBER

The Pinole Historical Society is back at the Pinole Farmers' Market through the end of this year.

In May we'll be there on the 2nd, 16th, and 30th.

Please stop by and say hello — and take home a free newsletter. And ask us about our new book, scheduled to be published in late September.

Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front
National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



ONE FILM REMAINS IN WWII SERIES ABOUT WOMEN ON THE HOME FRONT AND BEYOND

The *Josephine Baker Story*," a 1991 film about the life of the ingenue and ex-pat entertainer who stayed in France during WWII and helped Jews escape the Nazis, will be shown Tuesday, May 12, 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.

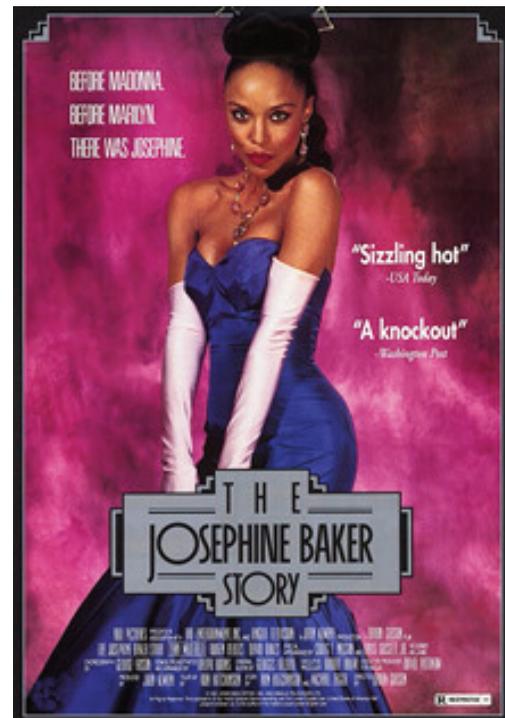
It's the final film in the "Women on the Home Front and Beyond" film series. This film is rated R; no one under 17 will be admitted without a parent.

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 film begins at 7 p.m.

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.

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!

Inclement 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.

Upcoming events

EL CERRITO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

El Cerrito Senior Center and
El Cerrito Historical Society
Presents:

Big Band Era Tea Dance



Sunday, May 3, 2015

Time: 1 P.M – 4 P.M.

Big Band Era Tea Dance
El Cerrito Community Center
7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito 94530

Cost: \$15 per person

Music & Entertainment: Huey White Show Band
and DJ Chuck

Includes: appetizers, raffle prizes and historical display

For more information or to purchase tickets please
contact

El Cerrito Senior Center at 510-559-7677

Mailing address: 10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530



**Parks
Make
Life
Better!**



AUTHOR TO DISCUSS LITTLE-KNOWN INTERNMENT OF GERMAN NATIONALS DURING WWII

Heidi Gurcke Donald to tell her personal story of extradition from Latin America to the United States

On Saturday, May 9, at 11 a.m., the National Park Service will welcome author Heidi Gurcke Donald to speak about her new book, “We Were Not the Enemy,” at Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park.

During World War II, the United States used tactics remarkably similar to those in use today against presumed terrorists.

By 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt covertly authorized J. Edgar Hoover’s Secret Intelligence Service to begin surveillance of Axis nationals in Latin America.

Believing that “all German nationals without exception [are] dangerous,” the United States surreptitiously pressured Latin-American countries to arrest and deport more than four thousand civilians of German ethnicity to the United States. There, many languished in internment camps, while others were shipped to war-torn Germany.

Heidi Donald is a native of Costa Rica who was deported to the United States with six family members and interned at Crystal City, Texas, during World War II. “We Were Not the Enemy,”

Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front
National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Slideshow and Discussion by Heidi Donald

WE WERE NOT THE ENEMY
REMEMBERING THE UNITED STATES' LATIN-AMERICAN CIVILIAN INTERNMENT PROGRAM OF WORLD WAR II

HEIDI GURCKE DONALD

Saturday, 5/9 at 11 AM
Reservations Required

Space is limited for this slideshow and discussion. Please call 510-232-5050 x0 to reserve your seat today.

Visitor Education Center — 1414 Harbour Way South, Suite 300, Richmond, CA

During WWII...

the United States used tactics remarkably similar to those in use today against presumed terrorists. By 1939, President Roosevelt had covertly authorized J. Edgar Hoover’s Secret Intelligence Service to begin surveillance of Axis nationals in Latin America. The United States surreptitiously pressured Latin American countries to arrest and deport more than 4,000 civilians of German ethnicity to the United States. There, many languished in internment camps, while others were shipped to war-torn Germany.

Heidi Donald is a native of Costa Rica who was deported, along with 6 family members, and interned at Crystal City, TX during WWII. She will present her personal look at the pain this indiscriminate civilian internment program inflicted on her family, as recently published in her memoir, We Were Not the Enemy.

her memoir, is a personal look at the pain this indiscriminate civilian internment program inflicted on her family.

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.

The Rosie the Riveter Visitor Education Center, at 1414 Harbour Way South, suite 3000, Richmond, is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information and directions to the Visitor Education Center, please call (510) 232-5050 x0 or

visit www.nps.gov/rori/planyourvisit/directions.htm.

Admission to the Visitor Center and all park sites and programs is free.

If you would like to receive information about upcoming park events, visit www.rosietheriveter.org and sign up for the email newsletter. The Rosie the Riveter Trust is the nonprofit association that is building a community of support for this national park

Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front
National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Photo: Dr. Margaret Chung helped raise funds for the war effort in China and volunteered for the Red Cross during World War II.

Chinese American Women on the Home Front During WWII

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH AT 3PM

Slideshow and Discussion by Professor Emerita Judy Yung

Moved by both Chinese nationalism and American patriotism, Chinese American women responded with an outpouring of activities in defense work, fund-raising, and Red Cross work on the home front during WWII. While some enlisted in the armed services, many others went to work outside Chinatown for the first time. These women had unprecedented opportunities to improve their socioeconomic status, broaden their public role, and fall in step with Chinese men and fellow Americans during a time of national crisis.

Space is limited and reservations are required for this slideshow and discussion. Please call 510-232-5050 x0 to reserve your seat today.

Visitor Education Center — 1414 Harbour Way South, Suite 300, Richmond, CA



BLOSSOMS & THORNS

A COMMUNITY UPROOTED



A POWERFUL NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM BY KEN KOKKA,
ABOUT THE WWII EXPERIENCES OF JAPANESE AMERICANS
FLOWER GROWERS IN RICHMOND

THURSDAYS

JANUARY 8TH THROUGH JUNE 25, 2015

Time: 2:00pm

Location: Rosie the Riveter Visitor Education Center

Duration: 45 minute program: 20 minute movie followed by talk and questions/answers.

Presenters: Representative from the Japanese American Citizens League and NPS Ranger.

Program: Overview of the experience of Richmond's Japanese American citizens who were incarcerated during the Second World War.

Co-sponsored by the Pinole **Historical** Society

Pinole **Community** service day

Helping is easy as 1-2-3:

1

Register

Use the back of this form or visit
www.ci.pinole.ca.us/recreation (click on "Community
Services Commission" on the left bar)

2

Volunteer

for a variety of three-hour
community projects, including weeding at the creek,
and the native plant garden at the library, visiting with
seniors, gardening at the Faria House rose garden and
MORE! Visit www.ci.pinole.ca.us/recreation for a current
list. Volunteers will work from 9 am to noon.

3

Meet & Work

meet at the Pinole Youth
Center at 635 Tennent Avenue for a FREE breakfast and FREE
post-event lunch! Head out to your project, meet your neighbors,
make a friend and make a difference for Pinole. You will also get the
satisfaction of knowing that you made Pinole a better place to be.

Saturday, June 13

8 am breakfast; 9 am -12 pm service work; 12 pm lunch

Meet at Pinole Youth Center

635 Tennent Avenue, Pinole



*Pinole Community Service Day is sponsored by the Pinole Community Services Commission.
You may also register the morning of the event, beginning at 8 am, at the Pinole Youth Center.*

For more information call 724-9062 or e-mail recreation@ci.pinole.ca.us



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: _____

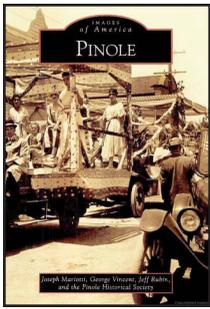
PHONE: _____

E-MAIL (please!): _____

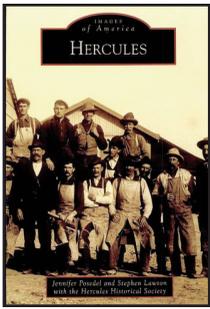
CIRCLE ONE: Annual-new (\$30) Annual-renewal (\$30) Business (\$50) Life (\$150)

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

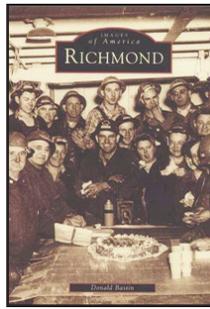
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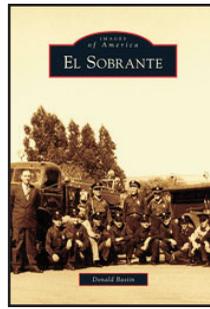
Pinole



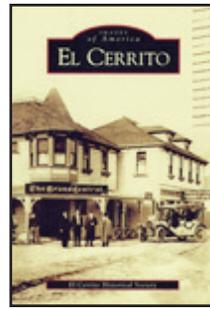
Hercules



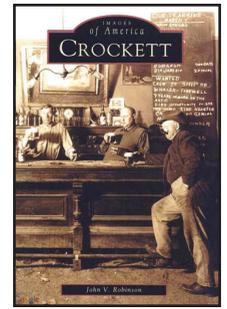
Richmond



El Sobrante



El Cerrito



Crockett

LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

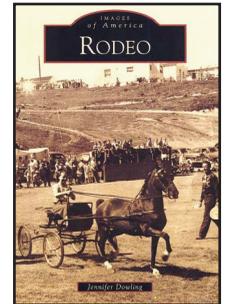
The Pinole Historical Society has Arcadia Publishing books about Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, Port Costa, and Maritime Contra Costa County. And, of course, we have plenty of Pinole books in stock.

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.

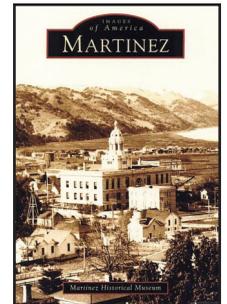
The Pinole, Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, and Maritime Contra Costa County

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

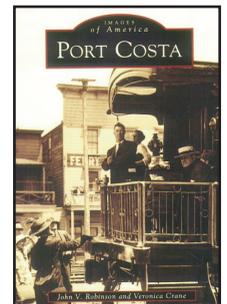
Or, you may order one or more by mail and we'll ship them to you. Send your order to **Pinole Historical Society, P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564.**



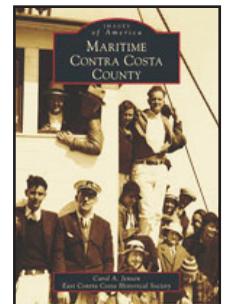
Rodeo



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