

HAPPY
NEW YEAR



Pinole **Historical** Society E-News

FEBRUARY 7 PHS MEETING

AUTHOR JOHN ROBINSON TO PRESENT 'THE LIFT BRIDGES OF THE BAY AREA'

The Bay Area is known for its beautiful suspension bridges. Most notably the Golden Gate Bridge, the new Bay Bridge, in San Francisco, and the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge in Crockett.

But the first bridges across the Bay were all lift bridges: the Antioch Bridge (1926), the Dumbarton Bridge (1927), and the San Mateo Bridge (1929). Alas, those are all gone now. Inadequate to modern traffic needs, most of these early bridges were replaced by less interesting, but more practical, concrete-and-steel spans.



But there are still a few old vertical-lift and swing bridges in use around the Bay Area. One of

the most magnificent is not a highway bridge at all, but the
Continued on next page

Pinole Historical Society



P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564
www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org
info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org
(510) 724-9507

Board of Directors

Jeff Rubin, President
Mary McMains, Treasurer
Jo Ann Gannotti, Secretary
Norma Martínez-Rubin
Carol White

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Marcia Kalapus
Jack Meehan
George Vincent



LIFT BRIDGES

Continued from front page

Southern Pacific Railroad Bridge between Benicia and Martinez, opened in 1930, and a beautiful example of a large vertical-lift bridge still in use today.

When you drive into Alameda you can see movable bridges.

In San Francisco there are still a few in service; most notably, the Lefty O'Doul Bridge near Oracle Park at China Basin.

Closer to home there is the lift bridge at Mare Island. Opened in

1980, and still in service, it is the third bridge between Vallejo and Mare Island.

The February 7 PHS meeting will be held from 6:30 - 8 p.m. in conference rooms 2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road. All are welcome to attend this FREE event. Refreshments will be served.

Come by and learn more about the life, death, and in some cases amazing longevity, of these interesting and important parts of our architectural history — the Bay Area's movable bridges.



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(510) 724-9507

MUSEUM DINNER HAD GREAT FOOD, A GREAT RAFFLE, AND A SPECIAL AWARD PRESENTATION TO ITS PERSON OF THE YEAR

The second Pinole History Museum fundraising dinner on November 2, 2019, drew an overflow crowd of more than 225 people to the St. Joseph School auditorium.

They had an extraordinary meal, perused 66 raffle prizes and a dozen silent auction prizes, and helped the museum raise more than \$8,000 after expenses.

Pinole Valley High School principal Kibby Kleiman was the MC, and Joe Lim, PVHS Director of Vocal Music and Piano Studies, provided keyboard entertainment.

Jack Meehan, mayor of Pinole in 1964 and longtime member and Director Emeritus of the Pinole Historical Society, was presented with the museum's first "Person of the Year" award.

Few people in Pinole's history have had the impact and record of service as has Jack Meehan.

His involvement began when he moved west from Chicago in the mid 1950s — in the midst of the Chicago Cubs' fifth decade of a 108-year odyssey between World Series championships.

In no time at all he became a community leader. A list of his affiliations includes:

- Founding member of the Pinole Jaycees;



Person of the Year Jack Meehan (right) with museum board president Jeff Rubin.

- Charter member and past president of the Pinole Chamber of Commerce;
- Charter member of the Pinole Historical Society;
- Member of the Contra Costa County Grand Jury;
- Pinole's Man of the Year in 1972;
- President of the St. Joseph's Men's Club, which helped plan and build St. Joseph School;
- Member of the Pinole City Council and mayor in 1964.

At this event, though, Jack was recognized for his contributions to preserving Pinole's history.

Few people know that Jack — along with the late former Mayor Tom Cutino — was instru-

mental in preventing the City of Richmond from annexing the land that now encompasses several shopping centers along Fitzgerald Drive. Their work saved that land and those shopping centers — and their tax dollars — for Pinole.

It may very well be that Pinole would not exist as an incorporated city if not for Jack and Tom.

Jack's knowledge of the city's history — and the legal and ethical obligations of running a non-profit — has been invaluable to the historical society. We are grateful that he is still interested in helping us preserve Pinole's history, and in establishing a museum in the Faria House.

Speaking of acknowl-

edgements, these businesses and individuals provided the dinner raffle and silent auction prizes:

10th Inning Baseball Cards, Ace Hardware of Pinole, Lino Amaral (State Farm Insurance), Kelly Bennett, Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive, Rick Chalk (State Farm Insurance), Al Chen (State Farm Insurance), Jennifer and Tom Cote (The New Deli), Diane Dyer, East Bay Coffee, Belinda Espinosa, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Colleen Fisher, Dennis Foote, Jo Ann Gannotti, Massage by Michelle Gonzalez, Grocery Outlet, Paula Harvey (Top Floor Salon), Interactive Resources, Alec Jason, Marcia Kalapus, Mike LeFebvre, Letcher Bros. Auto Repair, Lucky Supermarket, Mary McMains, Menchie's Frozen Yogurt, Michaels, Richard Nelson, Oakland Zoo, Debbie Ojeda (Saving Memories), Pier 39, Pinole Rotary, Republic Services, Safeway, San Francisco Giants, Angela Schneider (House of Lilith), Sprouts, Sugar City Building Materials, Norma Martínez-Rubin, Jeff Rubin, Congressman Mike Thompson, Walt Disney Museum, WestCAT, Carol White, Nicole Wilbur, and Windermere Real Estate.

PINOLE HISTORY MUSEUM

We thank our donors for their generosity and support

Want to **MAKE HISTORY HAPPEN?**

Send a check payable to **Pinole History Museum**
to **PO Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564**, or donate online at

www.pinolehistorymuseum.org

Up to \$99

Frank Acedo
Andres Anacker, MD
Bob Antaki
Adila Araya
Michael Ashburne
Ralph Bedwell
Jimmy Boucher
Ross Browne
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Karla Butler
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Joe and Lea Campbell
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Alex and Rita Clark
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Crocketts Premier Auto Body
(Tom Welsh)
Marge Dean
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Joy and Sid Shapiro
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Lyla Yu (Happy Sashimi)

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Mechanics Bank

\$10,000 to \$14,999

Tessie Curran Baldwin

\$15,000 to \$19,999

Jeff Rubin and
Norma Martinez-Rubin

President's Message

Jeff Rubin, President, Pinole Historical Society

THOUGHTS ON THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

What inspires people to give back to their community, to help others with no expectation of reward?

It's a question that crosses my mind from time to time, particularly when I think about Mike and Terri Stott of The Bear Claw, and the Pinole Valley High School Interact Club.

Those of us who participate in community events know they will be treated to cookies and pastries donated by The Bear Claw.

SPIRIT OF GIVING

So, it was no surprise when the Pinole History Museum, which sponsored the 2019 Holiday Tree Lighting at the senior center, asked Mike and Terri to donate six dozen pastries, they donated 12 dozen instead. It's what they do, and they do it with glee.

All generations turn to young people as our hope for a better future. It's always been that way, with each generation hoping their descendants will live in a more peaceful time.

So, it's comforting, and encouraging, when

I think of the Interact students.

I've seen them for years participating in a number of local events — Community Service Day and Coastal Cleanup, to name just two — but only recently have I had the pleasure of learning what imbues them with the spirit of giving.

Interact volunteers have been essential to the success of the first two Pinole History Museum

dinners, helping set up and tear down tables, and serving meals.

What strikes me as so unusual is they look for activities in which to participate.

I asked Leda Pho-Thai, this year's Interact president, to interview a few her members and write an article on the spirit of giving. Read her article on the next page; it will make you feel good about the future.

The November 2



Jeff Rubin

museum dinner was a great success. We fed 240 people and had an incredible raffle and silent auction.

A complete list of all the raffle donors is listed in the story about Jack Meehan in this newsletter.



Mike and Terri Stott regularly support community groups.

PVHS INTERACT HAS THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

By Leda Pho-Thai
President, Pinole Valley High School Interact

Interact is an international organization that fosters students' leadership skills by teaching them to become responsible human beings, aiding them in international peace, unity, and understanding.

Interact clubs are largely student-governed, but are supported and inspired by the Rotary Club, a large, international service organization run by adults.

The name Interact comes from a combination of the words "international" and "action."

We interact with other high schools to promote communication, social activities, and service above self. Interactors learn the importance of leadership, personal integrity, helpfulness, respect for others, and advancement in international understanding and goodwill. In the process, members are also able to have fun and meet new friends.

Interact gives youth an opportunity to give back, and show they are capable of being leaders of the community.

The community gives us so many opportunities, and it's our turn to show appreciation and say thank you.

Volunteering is a great way to feel good about yourself, as it is productive and it helps the community.



Interact volunteers at Pinole's annual Coastal Cleanup

Pinole Valley Interact meets every Monday, where we discuss future events and how to prepare for them. We also reflect on past events to learn how to improve for the future.

Some of our biggest events are charity dinners and environmental clean ups.

Dinners are one of the most important Interact events because we usually get extra money to fund our year-long projects. This year, we are looking into hosting a campus clean-up at our school, and making care packages to help out the homeless communities.

Hosting such events allows us to widen our networks and interact with other members from

different high schools in California. These events also help us develop better leadership and communication skills.

Each individual has his or her own reason why they want to give back to the community, so I asked some of my fellow members why they joined Interact.

What really draws people to want to give back to their communities?

"After growing up in this community, I realized how much of a change I can make. I want the younger generation to realize they are not alone. It is always okay to ask for help. By me going to events, I am able to interact with other mentors and make a change,

bettering my own community. The youth being involved sets a good example for the younger ones and strengthens one's self."

— **Samantha VanSlochteren**

"I enjoy volunteering. We are able to help the world in so many ways without even knowing.

"Seeing people enjoy something is one of the best feelings. When you are physically doing something, it makes you feel involved."

— **Angelina Young**

"I give back because my actions are louder than my words. I'm not a person who just says things and doesn't

Continued on next page

PVHS INTERACT



Fernandez Park clean-up on Pinole Community Service Day.

Continued from last page
commit. I stay true to my words.

“To feel like I’m doing something right I need to physically do it myself. The continuing encouragement makes me want to keep going and help. It makes me feel happy when I’m doing something right.

“I like to think about how privileged I am and how others don’t have those opportunities. I’m thankful for them and want to take advantage of those opportunities.

“There is a special feeling when you’re giving back. It’s not all about getting free food, t-shirts, or stickers.

If you do not like what is going on, then go out there and do something about it.

When you’re trying to do something positive and

impactful, no one is going to tell you no.”

— **Leda Pho-Thai**

Honestly, most of us do not know why we want to give back. Once you start doing it, you start developing appreciation for it. Giving back makes you feel like you have a purpose.

RELATIONSHIPS

Doing community work, you start developing relationships with different people, and start getting to know your community more.

There’s a certain feeling that gives you that makes you want to do more. Once you experience it yourself, you have a better understanding of what’s going on.

Without Interact, many of us would not have the chance to grow as an individual. Interact allows us to get to know

our community, as well as ourselves. We get to see and experience the different things that make up our community.

IMPROVING THE WORLD

When you put service above self, the world can be a much better place.

Volunteering is not

always easy, but you always get something out of it, whether it be friendship, or even just an experience that makes everything worth doing.

We are the youth and we are the future. Most people might not realize the power that youth holds because they might think that being a kid, you can only do so much.

Many of us look around and realize that we need to take action to make our communities a better space for us, and for all.

Sometimes, we might feel powerless, but volunteering gives us that feeling that we can indeed make a change and help out the community.

As individuals, if you want the world to be a better place, you should take action and help. Be the change that you wish to see.



Relaxing at the Pinole History Museum dinner after serving 225 meals to guests.



YES, I want to MAKE HISTORY HAPPEN by donating to the establishment of the Pinole History Museum.

My donation will help the museum enhance the preservation and collection of artifacts that represent Pinole's history and culture.

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000* or other _____

*With a gift of \$1,000 or more your name will be placed on the museum's Wall of Honor.

Please make checks payable to **PINOLE HISTORY MUSEUM** or provide credit card information below. To donate online, please visit www.PinoleHistoryMuseum.org.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number (____) _____ E-mail _____

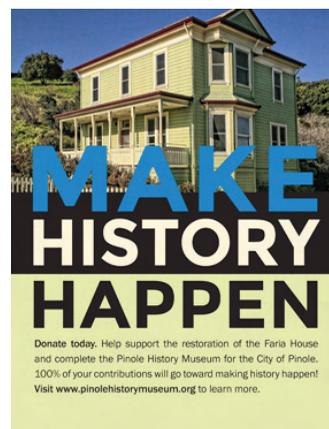
Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ CVV _____

Amount of Donation \$ _____ I've included the museum in my will or estate plan

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

The Pinole History Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (82-1454949).

Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



GET READY FOR THE 2020 U.S. CENSUS

By **Norma Martínez-Rubin**
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Pinole

In March 2020, your household will be invited to participate in the Census. You'll have three options to respond: online, by phone, or by mail. Census Day is April 1.

While the U.S. and California populations have increased over time, Pinole residents might wonder whether the small-town feel of our city has been affected by greater numbers of people now living in this part of the Bay Area.

Our septuagenarians and octogenarians miss the less-crowded streets on which they grew up. Our senior residents and other population observers can vouch for the city's population and racial/ethnic shifts.

Pinole's population was under 1,000 persons before 1940. It exceeded

that in 1950 with a population of 1,147. By 1960 it was 6,064. In 1970, Pinole grew dramatically to 15,850, attributed to the development of Pinole Valley.

By 1980, census data included new ethnic/racial categories to describe a population that counted Black, American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, and Asian Americans. Asian Americans were further identified by specific national ancestry, with Japanese, Chinese, and Filipino among the largest percentages in the Asian community.

Prior to 1970, racial descriptions on census tables were limited to the very broad categories of "White," "Negro," and "Other Races," without differentiating among "Other Races." By 1980, categories among Asian



Norma Martínez-Rubin

Indian or Native American Indian persons were more specific.

The race/ethnicity categories reflected the language of the times with such major shifts as "Negro" to "Black" and later, in the 1990s to include "Latino/Hispanic" and "African American" as demographic categories.

As of 2010, Pinole's population was 18,390. In 2017, Pinole was among the top ten most racially and ethnically diverse cities in California. Let's all be counted in Census 2020!

References

Census 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/6999/Census-2020>.

Bay Area Census. Retrieved from <http://www.bayareacensus.ca.gov/index.html>

Most Diverse Cities in California. Retrieved from <https://www.homesnacks.net/most-diverse-cities-in-california-128906/>

Editor's Note: Norma Martínez-Rubin is the primary Pinole City Council lead for community engagement and education for the 2020 U.S. Census.

MUSEUM SPONSORED THE HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING EVENT WITH HELP FROM PINOLE BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS

The Pinole History Museum Board of Directors co-sponsored the 2019 Holiday Tree Lighting festival at the Pinole Senior Center.

Though the tree lighting was cancelled because of rain, the indoor event at the senior center was filled with parents and children.

The museum was responsible for providing around

1,000 cookies and pastries for the hungry families who were entertained between 2 and 4 p.m.

Thanks to the businesses and individuals in the flyer below — special mention to the Richmond-Pinole Lions, which brought its popcorn machine — no one went unfed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FLYER OF THE PINOLE HISTORY MUSEUM'S COOKIE/PASTRY TABLE AT THE PINOLE HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING FESTIVAL



*Season's
Greetings*



These baked holiday treats are provided by:

The Bear Claw
Food Maxx
Lucky
Margaret Prather

Safeway
Sprouts
Trader Joe's

And these individual bakers:

Deanna Brownlee
Lorraine Collier
Judy Dadisman
Diane Dyer
Jo Ann Gannotti

Mary McMains
Pam Patzlaff
Jennifer Salazar
Joni Shattuck

Pinole Holiday Festival
sponsored by



**PINOLE
HISTORY
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SEARCH



Birds-eye View of Pinole, Cal.



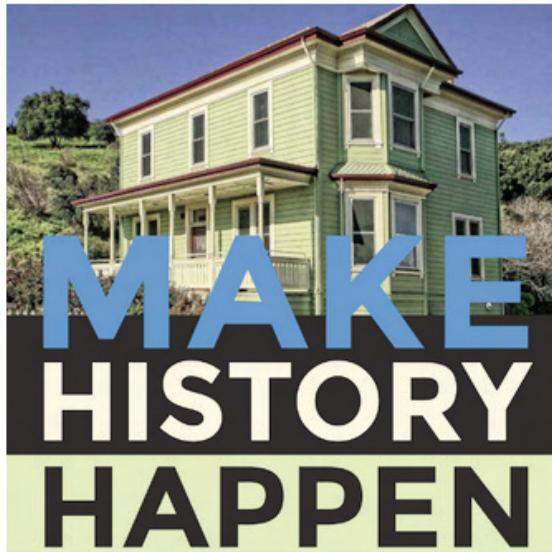
**Give a little to
make a big impact.**

Your donation will help make history happen and make the Pinole History Museum a reality.

[DONATE NOW](#)

OUR MISSION

The Pinole History Museum will enhance the preservation and collection of artifacts that represent Pinole history and culture. Museum exhibits and research opportunities will educate and inspire Pinole residents' community affiliation and civic pride.



[Donate Now](#)

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Donations made
“In Memory Of” or
“In Honor Of”
a special someone
may be sent to:
Pinole Historical Society
P.O. Box 285
Pinole, CA 94564

ARTIFACTS DONATIONS

If you have any items of
historical interest about
Pinole to donate,
please contact the
Pinole Historical Society
at:
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TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit
corporation, all donations to
the Pinole Historical Society
are deductible as per the
limits of the law.
Thank you for considering
donating to the
Pinole Historical Society.

PINOLE'S HISTORY IS ON PINOLE COMMUNITY TV

Four historical videos have added to the Pinole Community TV website:

• **Pinole Historical Society – School Bells and Ink Wells (Old Pinole Schools)**

• **Pinole Historical Society – The Presidential Rosies (Rosie the Riveters in Washington, D.C.)**

• **Pinole Historical Society – A Flood of Memories (Floods in Pinole)**

• **Maritime Contra Costa County – A history of the maritime industry in the county.**

These additions bring to 35 the number of Pinole-history videos on the city's website. We thank Dave Snell and Stewart McCale of the PCTV staff for their good work in getting these videos online.

And, we thank Bob Kopp, who recorded many of these events for the society.

Miss one of our history programs on PCTV? Don't despair. The city's website has a dedicated

section devoted to Pinole's history on its “Videos Online” page. You can view the numerous PHS programs right on your computer.

Go to the city's website https://www.ci.pinole.ca.us/city_government/pinole_tv/archived_meeting_events and scroll

down to PINOLE MUSEUM SOCIETY-HISTORY.

You'll find our quarterly programs, interviews, Veterans Day programs, George Vincent's two walking tours of historic downtown

Pinole, and the very fine, PCTV-produced, 12-part series based on the society's Historic Walking Tour brochure.

Also there are recorded interviews with several prominent Pinole citizens, including Ed LeFebvre, Charlotte (Fernandez) Shea, former fire chief Alex Clark, and former mayors Jack Meehan and Tom Cutino.



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.



SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PHS BY BECOMING A MEMBER IN 2020

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

2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PINOLE RESIDENCY NOT REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIPS ARE FOR THE 2020 CALENDAR YEAR (EXCEPT LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS)

**PLEASE SEND CASH, CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION TO
PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 285, PINOLE, CA 94564**

NAME: (each member): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE: () _____

E-MAIL (please!): _____

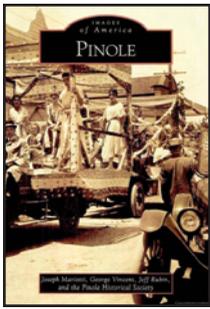
CIRCLE ONE: Annual-new (\$30) Annual-renewal (\$30) Business (\$50) Life (\$150)

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

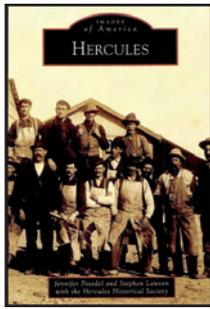
Credit Card: (Visa MasterCard American Express Discover)

Credit Card # _____ CVV _____ Expiration Date _____

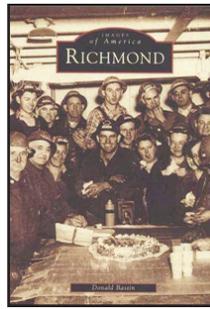
TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____



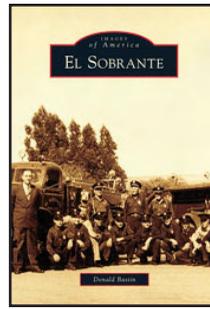
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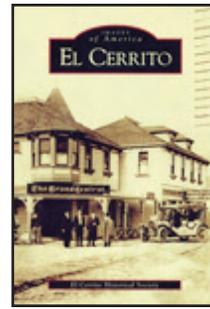
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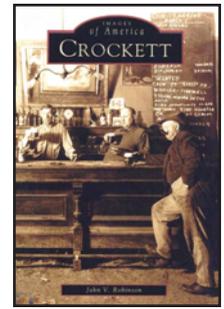
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El Sobrante



El Cerrito



Crockett

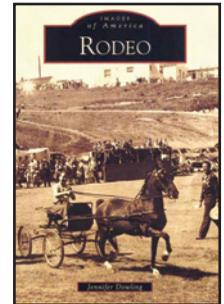
LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Pinole Historical Society sells these Arcadia books at the Pinole Farmers' Market every other Saturday through December.

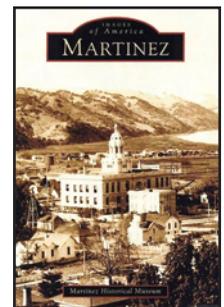
The Pinole, Pinole Through Time, Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Maritime Contra Costa County, East Bay Hills, Tilden

Park, and Napa Valley books are \$25, including sales tax. The Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, and Port Costa books are \$23, including sales tax.

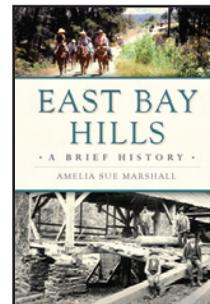
Mail order prices (below) include shipping. We accept Visa, MasterCard, Amex, and Discover credit cards.



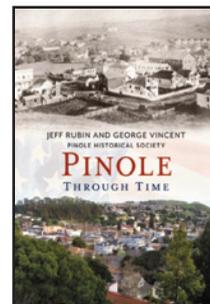
Rodeo



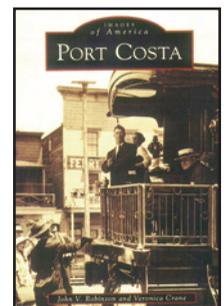
Martinez



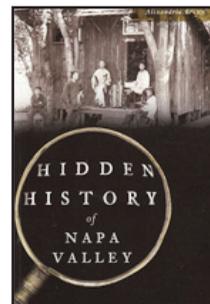
East Bay Hills



Pinole Through Time



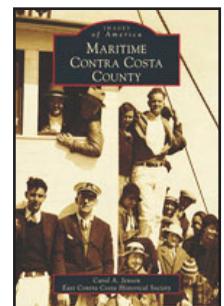
Port Costa



Napa Valley



Tilden Park



Maritime

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

E-mail _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

- Check: Payable to Pinole Historical Society
- Credit card (Visa MasterCard Amex Discover)

Card # _____ CVV ____ Exp. date _____

- # of Pinole @\$30 _____
- # of Pinole Through Time @\$30 _____
- # of Hercules @\$30 _____
- # of Richmond @\$30 _____
- # of El Sobrante @\$30 _____
- # of El Cerrito @\$30 _____
- # of Maritime CCC @\$30 _____
- # of East Bay Hills @\$30 _____
- # of Crockett @\$28 _____
- # of Rodeo @\$28 _____
- # of Martinez @\$28 _____
- # of Port Costa @\$28 _____
- # of Tilden Park @\$30 _____
- # of Napa Valley @\$30 _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please mail to PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 285, PINOLE, CA 94564

WANTED

by the
Pinole **Historical** Society

**ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE
SIGNIFICANT IN PINOLE'S HISTORY**

PHOTOS: People, family, events, buildings
(particularly buildings no longer standing)

MOVIES: VHS, Beta, camcorder, DV tape, 8mm,
Super 8mm, 16mm, 35mm film of parades
and events, floods, fires, etc.

ALL PHOTOS AND MOVIES WILL BE RETURNED.

MEMORABILIA/ARTIFACTS: Documents, programs,
pins & ribbons (events, sports, political), sports,
trophies, Fiesta del Pinole/Holy Ghost gowns, etc.

We are collecting, digitizing, cataloging, and preserving
these items to exhibit, educate, and entertain.

Contact the Pinole Historical Society

(510) 724-9507

info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org