

# Pinole Historical Society Newsbriefs

Winter 2009



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## PINOLE PHOTO BOOK NEARING COMPLETION

### Late summer publication anticipated

**W**ork on the long-awaited book on Pinole — the latest in the award-winning Images of America series of city books published by Arcadia Publishing — is nearing completion.

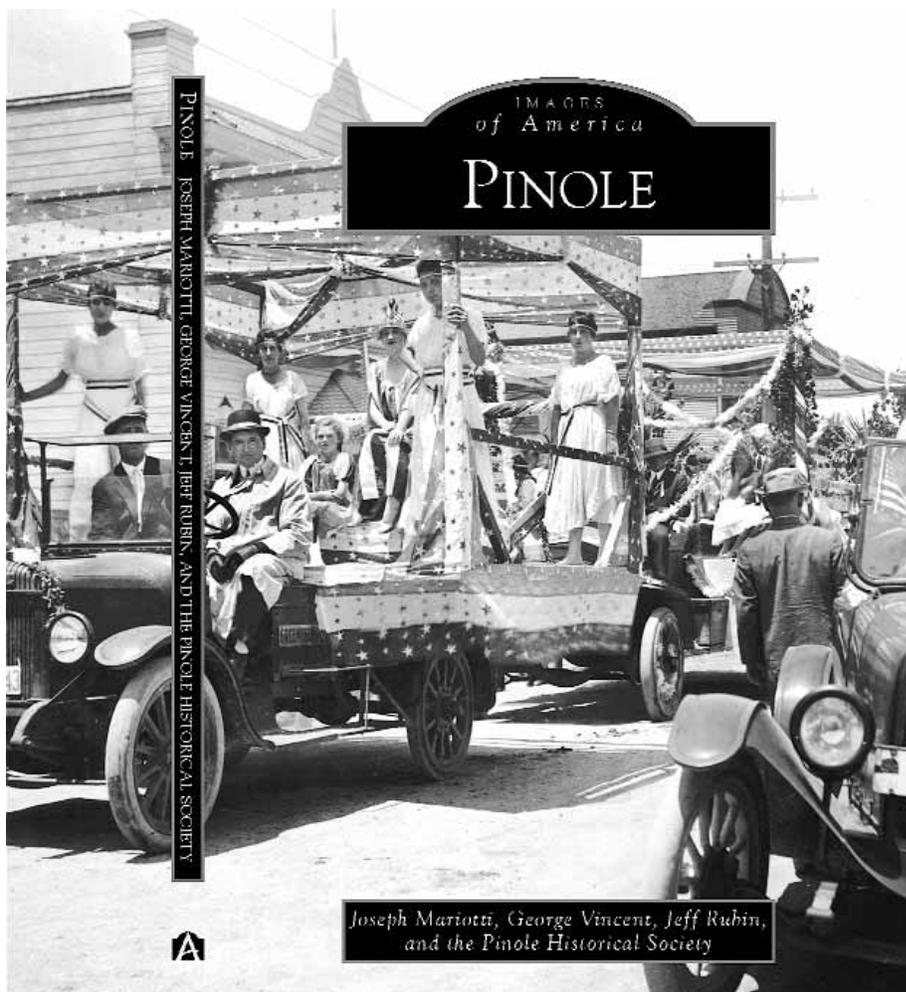
Work began last April. The 127-page book will be submitted to the publisher by the February 10 deadline.

The book will contain approximately 200 photos of Pinole, dating all the way back to the 1850s, and will cover Pinole's history through 2009.

The Pinole Historical Society plans to host a book-launching event. The date will be announced as soon as the PHS hears from the publisher when delivery of the books is expected.

We'll have a pre-publication order form in the Spring 2009 issue of this newsletter, which will be distributed in May.

***Cover of the Pinole "Images of America" book, featuring a Fourth of July parade in the early 20th century.***



**Published quarterly by the Pinole Historical Society**

1920-2008

# MARGIE DOTY, A MODEL TO IMITATE

By Jack Meehan

**E**legant in appearance, always. Formidable advocate, always.

Focused and determined, always.

Relenting in pursuit of goals, never.

Tolerant of passivity, seldom.

Understanding peoples' needs, determined to do all she could to meet those needs — if not by herself, then by example and recruitment. The senior citizen movement from the late 1960s, meeting here and there, gained formal recognition, saw an AARP chapter formed in 1982, and

— finally — dedication of the Pinole Senior Center in 1991, which became the home of the Pinole Senior Citizens' Club.

She was there, most often leading or cheering on. Not satisfied yet, Margie was a regular figure at PASF fundraisers and other activities.

Was her work ever finished? No. Visit the Pinole Senior Center to

see Margie, still working, now through countless imitators, giving us a true meaning of "volunteers."

The Pinole Historical Society, its many admir-

ing members, pay tribute to Margie Doty, an inspiration for all who knew her. If you didn't, just visit the Pinole Senior Center. Then you will.

**Mayor Peter Murray, in his outgoing remarks as mayor on December 2, 2008, noted Margie Doty's passing on Thanksgiving Day, recognized her as the "First Lady of Pinole," and dedicated the next four years of his service on the city council to her memory.**



**Margie Doty**

## PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## WHERE TO FIND THIS NEWSLETTER

**Y**ou can find the Pinole Historical Society News-briefs at these

locations::

Antlers Tavern, Bank of the West, The Bear Claw, Blue Sky Sports, China House, Embers, Farmer's Insurance (Carol White), Mechanics Bank (Pinole Valley and Pinole Vista), Peet's Coffee, Pinole City Hall, Pinole Library, Pinole Police Department, Pinole

Senior Center, Sashay's Salon, and The Red

Onion. It's also posted on the PHS website.

## UPCOMING PHS MEETINGS

**February 19:** Board and General Membership

**March 26:** Board of Directors (fourth Thursday)

**April 16:** Board of Directors

**May 21:** Annual General Membership (elections)

**June 18:** Board of Directors

All regularly scheduled meetings are open to members and prospective members. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month in the Alex Clark Room, Pinole Public Safety Building; doors open at 6 p.m., meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.



**Visit the Pinole Historical Society website for information on PHS activities and events – and, of course, the history of our city.**  
**[www.PinoleHistorical Society.org](http://www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org)**

## Museum update

# CITY HIRES CONSULTANT FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY

**T**he City of Pinole has hired ATELIER Kathleen Brown, one of America's most highly regarded and effective non-profit and cultural-resources planning and management firms, to do a feasibility study on locating the planned Pinole municipal museum in the Faria Home in Heritage Park, downtown Pinole.

Among the firm's most prominent clients include Save Ellis Island (New York), the California Academy of Sciences (San Francisco), Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Museum of the African Diaspora (San Francisco), and the Chabot Planetarium and Space Center (Oakland).

"I'm impressed with the strides made by the Pinole Historical Society in the past year and I share their enthusiasm for securing a municipal museum," says Pinole City Manager Belinda

Espinosa.

"I am eagerly looking forward to working with the society to determine how we can begin finalizing plans for the use and remodel of the Faria Home and assist in identifying some funding for the restoration of the inside of the building."

### ***The Faria Home***



## HELP US PLAN THE MUSEUM

**T**he PHS Board of Directors is planning to visit several area historical museums as part of its research for our museum.

Want to help us?

We want ideas from Pinole citizens

on what they would like to see in the museum.

Send the society an e-mail to [info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org) if you have ideas – or want to go on a field trip with us.

## ***Do you have an LCD projector?***

**T**he PHS wants to do short presentations and discussions at its monthly meetings. To do this, we need to borrow an LCD projector that can be used with a Macintosh laptop computer so we can utilize PowerPoint.

If you have a projector we can use, please send an e-mail to the society at [info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org), or call Jeff Rubin at (510) 724-9507.

# FROM RING-DOWN TO STATE-OF-THE-ART

By Jack Meehan  
Director Emeritus

**P**hone and telegraph wires originally followed along railroads, making the stations important communication points. A century ago that was the case in Pinole, and most other rural communities.

Progress brought phone wires into our homes, along with electricity. Pinole's central switchboard in a downtown grocery store gave way to dial phones in the '50s, though many old timers (who moved to Pinole in that decade)

remember party lines — shared wires, but different phone numbers. "Plymouth" was our prefix then, soon to be "Plymouth 8" and later "758" and now paired with "724." Wow! What dynamic changes!

Wait—there's more! Cordless phones! Cell phones! Talk from anywhere and not be tied down to land lines. Yet those land lines — even wireless cell phones — now carry TV signals, text messages, electronic mail (we call it e-mail now), internet connections, and unbounded telephone service (usually). Remember the phrase, "Reach

out and touch someone"? Well, folks, that's history, but it still fits in our everyday lives, with a modern theme.

Nearly all homes now have television sets — most often with an underground form of antenna that gathers programs from far and wide, called cable service. A growing number of homes now have on-line capability, that is, a "PC," or personal computer so we can communicate world-wide (the "www") — instantaneously, and at our own convenience. Even when the recipient is not listening, the message (e-mail, or a web-

site) is there when the recipient tunes-in, or the website is accessed 24/7.

So, what's the point? Our historical society remembers the past, but lives in the present with a view to the future. Yep, we're going modern. The days of the post office box are fading, the postal service delivery of news of our society business and events, progress in preserving and presenting our city's history has made way for our new website: *www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org*.

## Pinole **Historical** Society 2009 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 2009 CALENDAR YEAR (EXCEPT LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS)

NAME (each person): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

CIRCLE ONE: Annual (\$30) Life (\$150) Business (\$50) Sustaining \$(500)

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

DATE PAID: \_\_\_\_\_