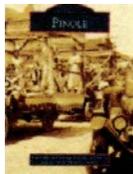


What is in the Pinole Library's Display Cases?

Tim Madigan

The display cases here in the library provide a great sounding board for of our community. They are used by groups and individuals who feel strongly about an issue or topic and want to share their perspective.

The permanent display from the **Pinole Historical Society** (pinolehistorical.societyv.org) has enriched our library while giving the historical society a place to show their wares. Look for a special Veterans' Day display in November where local vets have been interviewed to share their experiences. This is in collaboration with the historical society and Pinole Patch, our city's online newspaper.



Another contributor is the **United States War Dogs Association**—a nonprofit organization of Former and Current US Military Dog Handlers—committed to promoting the long history of the Military Service Dogs, establishing permanent War Dog Memorials, and educating the public about the invaluable service of these canines to our country. Their objectives include education about war dogs, K-9 adoption of retired military and police dogs, fund raising to support war dogs, and even a drive for a commemorative stamp! For more information visit their web site at chapter1.uswardogs.org



A unique program that has been promoted in the past was **TV Turn-off Week**, which has evolved into Screen-Free Week, and will take place from April 30-May 6, 2012. We are asked to re-evaluate the role of not only television, but computer screens as well in our lives. Electronic viewing is a passive, sedentary activity. Screen-Free Week is supposed to be fun, so the goal is to find engaging activities—playing, reading, even daydreaming—to take TV's place. ^{scr} Look for more information at week.commercialfreechildhood.org/screenfreeweek/index.html.

The Kids Creek Fest educational fair for kids under 9 in Fernandez Park was also promoted. There was free food, live music, an optional creek cleanup, organic gardening practices, a magician and juggler, a Native American storyteller, insect discovery lab and alternative energy cars. Sponsors included the City of Pinole, Severns Foundation, Mama Bear Playcare, Parents for a Cleaner Environment, Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed, Contra Costa Clean Water Program, Contra Costa Child Care Council and Boy Scout Troop 76.

Local artist **Herk Schusteff** is trying to make art accessible to the public and sees an unexpected relationship between ethics and aesthetics. "Aesthetic awareness helps us to practice and realize the



harmony of life and is key to society's health and balance as a whole. Beauty sustains us spiritually. Art and artistry reinforce empathy which in turn mollifies the harsh overdependence on technology. By nourishing our love of beauty, we reverence life." Check out his website at herkart.com.



The Twisted Quitters like to add warmth to the library. They usually meet here on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Local artist **Grace Taormina** makes full use of recycled materials in her arts and crafts. Her displays showcase the fruition of her works and what she shares with the public when she holds classes — including Wednesday, December 7 at 6:00 to make holiday banners.

A

Hansel and Gretel Parent Participation co-op Nursery uses the library display case to provide outreach to the community about their nonprofit's resources available to parents and their children age 2-5 years old. They display creative, open-ended art projects taught by parents and made by children, as well as parent-led science projects explored by the children. They also display photos from group trips to aquariums, zoos, and other local excursions. For more information, go to hanselandgretelcooD.com.



VIS.

It is the policy of the Contra Costa County Library to encourage the use of library exhibit cases and the display and distribution of non-library materials for cultural, educational, or civic purposes. Space is available for use by community groups and individuals. Such exhibits, displays, and materials are not intended to express the views of Contra Costa County or the Library or its staff. They represent the views of the group or individual preparing the exhibit or providing the display and distribution. No political party or candidate or commercial purposes can be promoted. All groups or individuals requesting the use of a library exhibit case must fully complete the Application and Permit for use of Exhibit Case prior to the exhibit. **All groups or individuals requesting to post, display, or distribute materials must obtain prior authorization.**