

**FIRST MEETING:**

December 7, 2023

Office: (510) 655-9353

Reservations: (510) 655-9353

OAKLAND LODGE #61, F&M ORIGINAL CHARTER

Rockridge Masonic Hall

5449 College Avenue

Oakland, California 94618

www.oakland61.org**SIGNED:** May 4, 1855

Secretary: (415) 425-2661

August 2024

UPON THE SQUARE:

Brethren and Friends,

I trust this finds you well after our spate of hot days. We'll likely have a few more so stay hydrated!

If you've been to the Lodge lately, you've seen the scaffolding in the front and the new patio furniture in the back. Our Hall Association has been hard at work taking care of fixing the roof, painting and sealing the front, replacing windowpanes so they don't leak, repairing and painting interior walls, upgrading electrical wiring where necessary, and (soon) installing a beautiful wrought iron gate to protect the front door. Thanks to Worshipful Tim World, our now full-time building manager, for honchoing these projects and making it all works.

This month, Terry Quigley, the president and CEO of our Masonic Homes is coming to our stated meeting. She's going to talk to us about the Homes and all the changes to the campus and progress in services. She's been there for a couple of years now and if you haven't met her or heard her speak, you'll want to take this opportunity to do both. And just so you know, we're hosting the back-to-school in-service training for teachers at Claremont Middle School on the 7th. The annual sip-and-paint is on the 15th. Jalil Jaber's Entered Apprentice Degree is on the 22nd and Brother Nima Elie's Fellowcraft on the 29th. Please check the calendar for details.

Over the last couple of years, I've had the pleasure of talking with several Brothers and prospects about what Masonry is and what it is not. Being in my 41st year as a Master Mason, you might think I had that mostly figured out. I must tell you though, having participated in our Masonic Book Club, several new insights have occurred to me, and I realize Masonry, like TGAOU, has as many voices as there are ears that will hear. Like our ritual, books open the door to new ideas; but it's the discussion with other Brothers, unafraid to share their thoughts, that has illuminated and expanded my own thinking. If you've been wanting to delve deeper into what Masonry is really about, join us on the second and fourth Monday of each month for reading and discussion. We meet at 7:00pm at the Lodge. Our current book is appropriately, *"The Meaning of Masonry"*, by W.L. Wilmshurst.

A note of congratulations to Worshipful Fred Loeser who has recently accepted the position of Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Castro Valley Chapter, Order of DeMolay. This guy certainly walks the talk, doesn't he? Congratulations also to Brother Kirby Kincaid who was recently recognized with the Spirit of Spaulding Award for his many contributions and service to our Lodge. And finally, a personal note of thanks to Worshipful David Forsyth, our Secretary, and Brother Phil Williams, our Treasurer. I call these guys my "guard rails". They make sure everything we do is well thought out and in compliance with the rules. They ask difficult questions and keep me on the straight and narrow. There are no two better men for these jobs.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Cal Gilbert, PM**Master**

VIEW FROM THE WEST



Masonic tradition informs us that as the year is getting shorter, things seem to wind down and things become easier. However, that is but for a few. Those who are planning to move up in the line and keep working towards their goal of someday being a Master of a lodge, the work is speeding up.

We have lots of ritual to learn for our next steps. Planning for our future for both what we each want to see happen for ourselves and for the lodge.

We all need help. A lot of us do not ask for it. Why I will never know. Things are usually easier when you have help. Ask and you will receive.

I now ask for your help. What would you like to see happen next year for our lodge? What type of events would we like to have. Is there anything special that you have wanted to see being done that never has been done before.

I can't promise that it will all make it on to next year's Calendar, but we will see what we can do.

As for the officers that are planning to move up in the line, the time is now to start getting ready for your year. Start practicing your ritual. Those who need to qualify with the inspector, you have about 2 months to get it done.

If you need help, please ask one of us to help. We will.

See you at the lodge,

Ben Newsom, PM

Senior Warden

VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Gentlemen,

I would like to thank you once again for your sincere support regarding our food budget! By taking the time to RSVP for dinners, you've helped us keep costs down substantially. At this time, we have about 80% of brothers and guests RSVPing ahead of time. Moving forward, we will require that you RSVP at least 24 hours ahead of time because we will have to have made the seat count allocation by then.

Moving on to a related issue, we've seen significantly more people at our dinners than we were even anticipating. In that regard, we will need to reallocate funding from other parts of this year's budget to continue covering our food costs for the rest of the year. I sincerely hope each and every one of you will think about, ask about, and eventually support this budget reallocation.

We are NOT in this position because we have wasted resources. Rather, we're in this position because so many people enjoy coming to dinner with us. We will not downgrade the quality of our food or charge our brothers or guests for meals, but rather continue to offer an excellent meal to everyone who would like to join us.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support! Please come to me with any and all questions you may have about meals, refreshment, or the budget allocation for them.

Happy to serve,

Drew Spitzer

Junior Warden

ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren & Friends,

We have been very busy with the repairs on the building. We found the reason for the dining hall wall peeling was a leaky gutter. To repair the gutter, they would have to tear back 4 feet of roof which is at the end of its life. The Board with the recommendation of the roofing company decided to repair the 50+ year old roof section. With that being done, we needed scaffolding put up in the front of the building. The building hasn't been painted in over 30 years, we decided to paint the exterior front since the scaffolding was already there. Also, since our windows are leaking, we are having them repaired. Further, we are painting the interior where needed, working on the archive room and the front gate which will be installed soon. All of this is going to take the entire month of July to complete. Additionally, the Board is working on numerous other projects. The large capital improvements were necessary to keep the building dry and tight.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Brother Phil Williams
Board President

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE



*"Within this dear mansion, may wayward Contention
Or wither'd Envy ne'er enter;
May secrecy round be the mystical bound,
And brotherly Love be the centre!"*

Bro. Robert Burns

We move on into the second half of the year with many achievements, conducting degrees, putting on community events and fund raisers, all accomplished as a new lodge with new ideas based on solid traditions and hard work. We are all finding our feet, getting into our stride and making the most of our newfound status as a strong lodge worth being a member of. As lodge Secretary, I have been working on new ways to store data and provide better and quicker responses for our members. Our events team has been busy updating calendars so members can check in and plan to attend future lodge events. Your Hall Association Directors are busy fixing a leaky roof and addressing a myriad of other building issues. The Trustees continue to keep our coffers full so we can meet our obligations to help with Scholarships and funding our community focused events. Coaching the officers and candidates is ongoing and they are proud of the ritual work. We have an envious line of future officers ready to advance and take the next step on their masonic journey. Our lodge leadership is strong, and each pedestal officer brings their own unique quality to our lodge. Watching all of this from the Secretary's table is rewarding. However, we must remember that this only works if we all participate, if we all focus on the good and honorable actions we cherish. As our Bro. Robert Burns noted a few centuries ago, with exactitude.

O, wad some Power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as others see us!
It wad frae monie a blunder free us,
An' foolish notion."

He was a man who understood the human condition, and had admittedly many faults of his own, yet realized the strength of the tie of brotherhood and its need for continual burnishing. He held the fraternity in his heart and his masonic ideals did not stop at the lodge door. A lesson on how we would want others to see us.

David Forsyth P.M.
Secretary

Announcements

Oakland Lodge No. 61 Scholarships: At our June Stated Meeting, W. Tim World, the Scholarship Board Chair, reported the Board had received a total of 10 applications from some excellent candidates. Though the deciding was tough, they selected the following ladies in alphabetical order as our 2024 award winners (Their pictures are elsewhere in this issue):

Alayna Cloven, daughter of Peter Cloven (recipient of the Clayton Business and Community Assn scholarship)

Brooklyn Koziol, granddaughter of Richard Edick

Giselle Ortega, granddaughter of Dana Janke (Giselle has also accepted an athletic scholarship to San Jose State and is on their Softball team)

Sophia St. Laurent, granddaughter of Frank Haswell (recipient of the Loyola University Chicago Presidential Award)

Upcoming Vote: We will consider two financial resolutions at our August Stated Meeting. One dealing the transfer of funds from our B of A account to our current checking account and consolidating our Oakland # 61 Scholarship account with our Oakland #61 Investment account. The other will be a revision of our 2024 Lodge Budget. This latter action will not increase our budget, just adjust some budget line items.

LYFT Concierge: We know that for some, getting to a Lodge event can be challenging. Members with transportation limitations are able to utilize our complimentary Lyft Concierge program to get picked up from your home, or wherever you may be before the lodge event and dropped off after the event. If you want to use this option, contact W. Tyrone Davis (341) 235-0271 to set up your ride.

Please see this issue's event pictures in the pages that follow.

iMember 2.0

1. Go to https://member.freemason.org/membership_registration (there is an underscore between "membership" and "registration.")
2. Fill in the information: a) Lodge #, b) Member ID which is on both your dues card and the mailing label of you your California Freemason Magazine c) Your last name. Then click "Check Member Status."
3. Enter your "E-mail address, password (at least 8 characters long), and re-enter your password on "Password Confirmation," then click "Sign-in."

2024 Dues: Please see Dues Payment Information elsewhere in this issue.

Sunshine Report

- As of this writing, Bro. Bill Kambic should have undergone shoulder surgery. Unfortunately, I've not been able to reach him but will keep trying.
- Bro. Phil Williams' latest medical issue was fluid in one lung. Fortunately, the docs were able to drain it and he seems to be doing fine.
- Worshipful John Tom's Celebration of Life was well attended and went very smoothly. Worshipfuls Cary Carlson (#122) and David Forsyth(#61) did a splendid job with the Masonic portion of the service. The Tom family was very appreciative of both the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church and our efforts.
- Sadly, Acacia Creek resident Bro. Sandy Kahan is not in the best of health and approaching his 50th anniversary in Masonry. Therefore, our Master decided to present him his Golden Veteran Certificate and Pin at a special ceremony on Saturday, June 22nd. Some 30 people were present including Ws. Mike Tagulao, Allen Cuenca, Cal Gilbert, Tigran Agadzhanian and Andrew Hawes. Bro. Sandy was very appreciative of everyone's efforts.

** If any brother knows of another brother or a sweetheart whose status should be included here, please contact me at either 707-592-7217 or ajr1943@pacbell.net*

August and September Calendar

- Thursday, Aug 1st:** **Stated Meeting:** All Brothers and guests are welcome. The dress business casual. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 and the meeting to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Thursday, Aug 8th:** **Degree Rehearsal/Coaching:** Dress is casual. The evening will begin with social time at 6:00 p.m., a light meal at 6:30 and the work to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Monday, Aug 12th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug 14th:** **Hall Association:** Dress is casual and interested brothers are welcome. The evening begins with a light meal at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Thursday, Aug 15th:** **Sip-N-Paint:** Dress is casual. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 and the program to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Thursday, Aug 22nd:** **Entered Apprentice Degree:** Dress is tuxedo for officers and coat & tie for all others. Social time at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 followed by the degree. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Monday, Aug 26th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug 29th:** **Fellow Craft Degree:** Dress is tuxedo for officers and coat & tie for all others. Social time at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 followed by the degree. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Thursday, Sept 5th:** **Stated Meeting:** All Brothers and guests are welcome. Dress is coat & tie. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 and the meeting to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Monday, Sept 9th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept 11th:** **Hall Association:** Dress is casual and interested brothers are welcome. The evening begins with a light meal at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Thursday, Sept 12th:** **MOS Presentation by a Grand Lodge staff member.** All Brothers and guests are welcome. The dress is casual. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 and the program to follow. Also, see other Masonic services elsewhere in this issue. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Tuesday, Sept 17th:** **DOSI @ Bay Cities #337:** Dress is casual. Social time starts at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 with the meeting and instruction to follow. **Please RSVP via email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Thursday, Sept 19th:** **Hiram Award:** All Brothers and guests are welcome. The dress is coat & tie. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 and the Award Ceremony for the recipient to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Monday, Sept 23rd:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept 26th:** **Masonic Education:** All Brothers are welcome, and dress is casual. Social time at 6:00 p.m. with a light meal at 6:30 followed by a look why "Divestment" is part of Masonic work. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**

Dues Payment Information

Our 2024 dues amount is \$131. If you have paid but don't have a dues card, please contact the Secretaries. **If you haven't paid, you are non-current and again need to contact the Secretaries.**

You can pay online through Grand Lodge using your credit card. Please note, there is a small service fee. Once Grand Lodge records your payment, you can print your dues card from your online portal at member.freemason.org. Additionally, you can still pay the Lodge directly by check addressed as follows: "Oakland Lodge No. 61, 5449 College Ave, Oakland, CA 94618." Once we record your payment, you can print your dues card from your online portal at member.freemason.org. **However, if you wish, we can print and mail your card to you. Please indicate your preference with your payment.**

As always, if you are unable to pay your dues because of financial hardship and/or serious health issues, please contact the Secretary.

If you have questions about any of the above, please contact our Secretary at secretary@oakland61.org.

Life Members

2024 Dues Cards are now available. That said, if you are unable to print your card from your online portal at member.freemason.org, please let the Secretary know. He will print it and mail it to you.

For those interested in purchasing an Oakland #61 Life Membership, please see the chart below.

One makes a single payment of the amount equal to the Lodge's annual dues at the time of purchase of the life membership multiplied by the factor indicated opposite the member's age in the following schedule:

*Age 49 and under, a factor equal to or greater than 24 times annual dues
50 to 54 inclusive, a factor equal to or greater than 20 times annual dues
55 to 59 inclusive, a factor equal to or greater than 18 times annual dues
60 to 64 inclusive, a factor equal to or greater than 16 times annual dues
65 to 71 inclusive, a factor equal to or greater than 14 times annual dues
Age 72 and over, a factor equal to or greater than 12 times annual dues.*

Brothers Birthdays in August

Everett L. Messer (1), Benjamin L. Bartlett (4), Richard D. Anderson, PM (5), Raed Y. Alfayoumi (6), Michael J. Bischoff (6), Richard B. Parkin, Jr. (6), Steve Stavropoulos (7), Richard D. Ketels, PM (8), James R. Mountain (9), Richard D. Herrera (10), Drew K. Steadman (10), Patrick S. Ryan (11), Daren A. Miller (12), Vince E. Renfrow (12), Robert E. Baird, PM (13), Thomas M. Andrus, PM (15), Williard N. Smith, Jr. (15), Walter G. Crossley (16), Andrew O. Ochoa (23), David A. Parsons (23), Chris E. Bokamper (24), Donald E. Weisse, Jr., PM (25), Robert B. Anderson (26), Roberto Ballou (26), John Kirkpatrick (26), Robert L. Charboneau (27), Ronald J. Mac Leod (28), and Michael W. Armstrong (30).

Masonic Raised Dates in August

Lester Lyons (2), Paul T. Adams, PM (9), Gary W. Browning (9), James A. Filice (9), Ronald F. Parker (10), James K. Petersen, III (14), Brent D. Goodale (15), Mickey L. Benko, PM (17), Adolph L. Keyes, Sr. (17), Andrew O. Ochoa (18), Sheldon Williams (18), James R. Mountain (20), John Stamison (20), Kurt M. Carter (21), Frank R. Haswell (21), John Kirkpatrick (21), Christopher Bair (23), Patrick L. Healy (23), Charles T. Poole (23), Roy C. Fetterly (26), Steven K. Harris (26), Dana A. Janke, PM (26), Isauro P. Rafael (26), Tillman M. Butler (27), Richard J. Macintire (27), Donald G. Nelson (27), Robert Mayer (28), Drew G. Spitzer (28), Daniel A. Bible (29), James D. Dobson (29), Michael D. Dobson (29), Thomas W. Dobson (29), Larry E. Fingerut (29), Daniel E. Moss (29), Donald D. Salo, PM (29), Donald W. Spruance, PM (29), Gilberto Estrada, Sr. PM (30), Christopher C. Mills (30), and Edgardo F. Alvarez (31).

2024 Memoriams

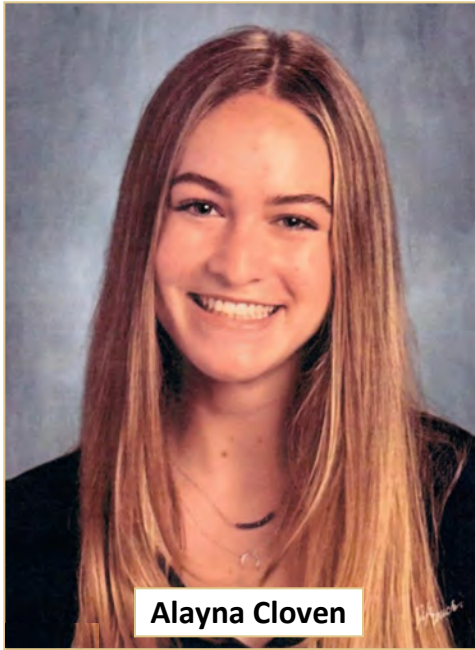
Lewis C. Lehnus, passed away on 4/8/2023
Alan C. Jones, PM, passed away on 12/29/2023
John R. Tom, PM, passed away on 2/6/2024
James N. Walsh, passed away on 2/23/2024
Zebb (Sam) V. Miller, PM, passed away on 2/25/2024
Robert B. Newsom, passed away on 3/16/2024
John M. Cahan, passed away on 4/4/2024
Bruce A. Scott, passed away on 4/17/2024



Bro. Jerrell Johnson's 3rd Degree



Bro. Eduardo Colmenares, Jr. 3rd Degree



Alayna Cloven



Brooklyn Koziol



Giselle Ortega

SOPHIA ST. LAURENT



Sophia St. Laurent



Bro. Sandy Kahan 50-yr Award, 6-22-24



W. Mike Tagulao congratulating Bro. Sandy, 6-22-24



Now Serving Parents, In-Laws, and CA Masons of All Levels

Expanded Eligibility at the Masonic Homes of California

For more than 125 years, the **Masonic Homes of California** have provided members of our fraternal family with relief and care when they need it most. Now, the Masonic Homes is beginning another chapter in its—story and continuing to evolve to meet the changing needs of its members.

In recognition of the changing landscape of senior care, services offered through the Masonic Homes of California—including **independent living, assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing at the Masonic Homes’ retirement communities in Union City and Covina** will now be open to more members of our fraternal family than ever before.

That includes, for the first time:

- **All parents and parent-in-law of California Masons**
- **Master Masons with less than five-year membership in California lodges**
- **Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons in California**

In many cases, entry into the Masonic Homes of California’s retirement communities in Union City and Covina is now available to these groups on an “assignment-of-assets” contract, meaning the cost is partially underwritten through Masonic relief dollars. In other cases, services will be available on a “fee-for-service” contract.

The result is that more California Masons and their families will have access to the expert care and services that have made the Masonic Homes of California the “jewel in the crown of California Masonry” for more than a century.



Swing into Action! Masons4Mitts is Back!

*Baseball season is finally here! And with that, so too is our 2024 **Masons4Mitts** season.*

Now in its 16th year, Masons4Mitts has raised more than \$2 million for our four MLB partner foundations, equipping underserved young people all around the state with custom-made leather baseball mitts and ensuring they have access to enriching, high-quality youth baseball and softball leagues.



Give a Mitt

As always, the [California Masonic Foundation](#) is proud to partner with the charitable foundations of the [Los Angeles Angels](#), [Los Angeles Dodgers](#), [San Diego Padres](#), and [San Francisco Giants](#). By donating to Masons4Mitts, you ensure that underserved young people are provided with a custom-made leather baseball mitt and able to play the game and learn important life lessons. With a focus on expanding the range of skills and services it brings to young people to include health, nutrition, wellness, and social justice, Masons4Mitts is growing to incorporate so much more than the game.

Support young people in your community today by donating a mitt today—and help your team win statewide bragging rights!