



FIRST MEETING:

December 7, 2023

Office: (510) 655-9353

Reservations: (510) 655-9353

OAKLAND LODGE #61, F&AM ORIGINAL CHARTER

Rockridge Masonic Hall

5449 College Avenue

Oakland, California 94618

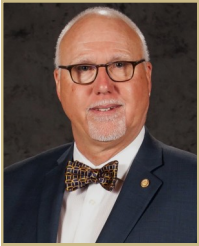
www.oakland61.org

SIGNED: May 4, 1855

Secretary: (415) 425-2661

February 2024

UPON THE SQUARE:



Brethren and Friends,

Let me begin by wishing you a happy Saint Valentine's day. If you're like me, I prefer to make sure my beloved knows how I feel each and every day. I try to do something to show how much I value our relationship and the deep and abiding love I feel. But hey, I'm all in for any reason to eat chocolate and decorate with roses. Regardless of how you might feel about the day, it seems like celebrating the love and bond between people who have made a commitment to each other is always a great idea. Speaking of chocolate and roses, mark the 8th to be at Lodge to honor our Sweethearts.

As an active DeMolay, one of the most important virtues is Filial Love or love for one's parents. As a young man, I hoped to one day find a love that would span all the days of my life. That one took a while. Masonry teaches us the importance of Brotherly Love. Its importance in our Order cannot be overstated. It's the first of the Big Three. So, celebrate the romance in your life and remember also to give a thought to the other types of love on which we depend and those with whom we share it.

Greg and I had the pleasure of representing the Lodge at a reception last month at the Masonic Home in Union City. There was a tour as part of the event and I must tell you, we were quite impressed with the upgrades, remodeling, and other improvements. No wonder our Masonic Homes have won so many awards, not only for the facilities I should add, but also for the quality and spectrum of care provided. If you or someone in our Masonic family you know needs assistance, I encourage you to contact Masonic Outreach Services directly or get in touch with our MOS liaison, Brother Phil Williams, for help doing so. More info about eligibility can be found elsewhere in this Trestleboard.

Finally, a thank you to the guys who put this trestleboard together and get it to you. Brother Allen Rodda has been honchoing the publication for as many years as I can recall, and James McVey is the Brother who sends you the e-version. Thanks, Brothers!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Cal Gilbert, PM
Master

VIEW FROM THE WEST



Well Brothers, we have had a great start to the year already. Had our first stated meeting and our first 1st degree of the year.

We now look forward to our Stated Meeting on February 1st, dinner at 6:30 pm and meeting at 7:30 pm.

We will be busy this month with a lot going on. We have our sweetheart's event, Crab feed, pancake breakfast for Clairemont Middle school all ending on February 29th with a double 2nd degree.

Come join us for one or all these events for fun and brotherhood,

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Ben Newsom, PM
Senior Warden

VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Gentlemen,

Our new consolidated Lodge already feels so full of brotherly love. I am so excited for what the rest of this year entails!

As many of you know with this new lodge, it's somewhat challenging to try to predict how many people are going to show up. With that, it has been absolutely critical that each and every one of you RSVP for every event you plan on attending. That way we know how much food to get, and we don't buy too much such that we're wasting our lodge's resources.

Thank you already to the many of you who have already started to RSVP for every event. Your support on this effort has already been very helpful!

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Drew Spitzer
Junior Warden

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE



Brethren,

“It is more blessed to give than to receive”. These words from Acts 20:33-35 instruct us to not covet wealth but to help the weak.

When we become a Freemason, we take on burdens and accept responsibilities as well as enjoy the craft's benefits and privileges. These benefits and privileges are achieved by participating in our ceremonies and being part of the life within a lodge. They are also earned by payment of annual dues (or purchase of a life membership). During the recent lodge consolidation many members have paid their annual dues, whether through the Grand Lodge program or directly to the lodge itself. As we work through the nuts and bolts of the consolidation there have been delays along the way with changing bank accounts, merging two sets of accounting programs and updating iMember. I do apologize for inconveniences due to these hold-ups and road bumps along the way. These issues will be overcome, fair winds and calm seas are not far off.

Contemplating these words from our holy book of writings, we all faithfully pay our dues knowing they will be used wisely in the goal of improving society. We endeavor to achieve this through education such as early reading programs for underprivileged kids, taking care of our elderly at the masonic homes and improving the lives of families through programs provided by the Masonic Center for Youth and Families.

Your participation in the lodge is key to its success, paying your dues is just one part of that. If you have any questions about dues or payments. Please contact either Allen or me at: Secretary@oakland61.org.

Fraternally,
David Forsyth, PM
Secretary

Announcements

Oakland Lodge #61 Storage Liquidation

Brethren,

Stage-one of storage liquidation is underway. Here's the result of our first two days at the storage facility.

25 storage pods were reduced to only 7. The 18 eliminated are in two categories: a 20-foot truck to be delivered to the lodge, and a 40-foot trailer to be given away to other lodges or the public. The last 7 pods will remain in storage until the first delivery to lodge is processed.

Special thanks to the overseers of the work, Worshipful Brothers Cal Gilbert and Tigran Agadzanyan, and to all the workmen, Worshipful Brothers Dana Janke, and Nick Hayworth and his wife Winter, and Brothers Allen Rodda, Rolf Haas, James Petersen, Linton Daniel, Fairborz Amirdelfan and David Levison.

Please continue watching Lodge News for further scheduled workdays in the future.

Many Thanks!

Daren Miller, PM

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.

December & January event pictures are enclosed elsewhere in this issue:

For all meeting: Bro. James McVey will send out a computer RSVP for those members who have e-mail. For those who don't, please call **(510) 655-9353 to RSVP.**

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

- Bro. Phil Williams is doing much better and plans to return to the lodge in February.
- Tom & Ruth Poole's family in Israel are doing fine but their lives are still filled with lots of stress.
- I learned today that Bro. Jong Lee underwent major abdominal surgery last September and lost half of his stomach. He has recovered and is doing well and looking forward to our February Crab Feed.

****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**



Oakland Lodge #61

Saturday, February 17, 2024

6:00 pm

\$50.00 Per Person

Limit 80 Attendees

Family Style Dinner with Beverages

Rockridge Masonic Center

5449 College Avenue
Oakland, CA 92661

For Tickets:

<https://buytickets.at/oaklandlodge61/1122667>

*Tickets must be purchased no later than
Tuesday, February 13th*

Help:

events@oakland61.org

February and March Calendar

- Thursday, Feb 1st:** **Stated Meeting:** 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 meeting to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Thursday, Feb 8th:** **Sweethearts Night:** All Brothers and guests are welcome. The dress is coat & tie. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 the program to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Sat/Sun, Feb 10 & 11th:** **Secretary & Treasurer Retreat:** Dress is casual, and the meeting begins at 8:00 a.m. and concludes at noon on Sunday. The location is the San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Dr, San Ramon, CA.
- Monday, Feb 12th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb 15th:** **Officers Meeting (Possible Education Night):** Dress is casual. The evening will begin with social time at 6:00 p.m., a light meal at 6:30 with the meeting or program to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Saturday, Feb 17th:** **Crab Feed:** Dress is casual, and the event will begin at 6:00 p.m. The price \$50.00 per- person and seating is limited to 80. Participants will need to purchase advanced tickets; none will be sold at the door. Our goal is to break even.
- Tuesday, Feb 20th:** **DOSI @ Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480:** 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 Constant Contact or (510) 655-9353.**
- Thursday, Feb 22nd:** **Fellow Craft Degree Rehearsal:** Dress is casual. The evening will begin with social time at 6:00 p.m., a light meal at 6:30 and the rehearsal to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Saturday, Feb 24th:** **Pancake Breakfast:** This event is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to noon. W. Tim World will help head it up.
- Monday, Feb 26th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb 29th:** **Two Fellow Craft Degrees:** 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, Mar 7th:** **Stated Meeting:** 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 meeting to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Tuesday, Mar 11th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Mar 14th:** **Masonic Education:** Dress is casual. The evening will begin with social time at 6:00 p.m., a light meal at 6:30 with the program to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Thursday, Mar 21st:** **DOSI @ Oakland Lodge #61:** 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 Constant Contact or (510) 655-9353.**
- Monday, Mar 25th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Mar 28th:** **A Festive Board for just Oakland #61 Past Masters:** Dress is casual. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. **Please RSVP via Constant Contact or (510) 655-9353.**

2024 Dues Payment Information

Our 2024 dues amount is \$131. We have chosen to take advantage of the **Grand Lodge Free Invoicing Service**. They will send both email and printed dues notices in Nov, Dec and Jan to each member who hasn't paid his 2024 bill. After that, Lodge Member Retention will follow-up with those who are non-current.

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](http://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 a 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 February

George E. Davis (1), Aaron T. Kornblum (1), Lewis C. Lehnus (1),
Donald D. Salo, PM (1), Alfredo Avila (2), Charles R. Mack (2),
James R. Causa, PM (3), Michael G. McLean, Jr. (3),
Timothy L. Fairley, PM (4), Timothy Jackson (4), John F. Hutchens (5),
David E. Davis (6), Guillermo E. Rodriguez (6), Grove L. Gill (7),
Gerald E. Lindemuth, PM (12), Hank K. Fung (14), James P. Beere (17),
Ronald F. Parker (17), Thomas A. Gonda, Jr. (18), Patrick A. Love, PM (19),
James A. Filice (21), Jeffrey T. Wilson, Sr. (23), Victor G. Borlaug, II, PM (24),
Bruce A. Scott (24), Christopher C. Mills (25), James S. Boblak, Jr. (26),
Raffy A. Khorozian (27), Robert B. Newsom (27), Julio F. Abella (28),
and Stefan A. Gibson, Sr. (28).

Masonic Raised Dates in February

Myron E. Temple, Jr., PM (2/26/1964), Robert C. Ellis (2/11/1965),
Thomas W. Lee (2/26/1975), John K. Mc Guire (2/10/1987),
Paul D. Emery (2/24/1994), Romeo N. Escobar (2/24/1994),
Cesar M. Datuin (2/8/2001), Rodney E. Simmons (2/21/2002),
Luciano Chessa (2/12/2005), Lucas B. Strauss (2/8/2007),
David A. Forsyth, PM (2/19/2008), James M. Anderson (2/24/2011),
Earl D. Love, Jr., PM (2/9/2012), Tyson E. Nichols (2/23/2012),
and Jisu T. Kim (2/24/2015).

2024 Memoriams

None!!!

CANDIDATES LEARNING CENTER

WELCOME CANDIDATES!

The free, newly updated Candidate Learning Center is now available in an easy-to-navigate flipbook format. Meet the requirements of the California Masonic Code for the Basic Masonic Education Course at your own convenience - wherever you are!

These courses have been prepared by California Masons, for California Masons and include a wealth of extra study materials, as well as personal interviews from fellow Masons! We hope you will enjoy this exciting period in your Masonic career.

How to use the Candidate Learning Center

- The flipbooks shown below match your degree status in the Member Center. (Entered Apprentices will only see the Entered Apprentice degree, Fellow Crafts will see the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft degrees, and so forth.)
- Select the name of the degree course below to open each flipbook in a new window.
- Thoroughly review each flipbook to immerse yourself in the lessons of each degree. If any questions come up during your review, make a note of them to discuss them with your coach.
- Once you feel adequately prepared for each degree, you can take the final exam for the course.
- A score of 70 percent is required to pass each course. Once you pass, a checkmark will appear in the box in the "passed" column and your score will appear in the "score" column. You can take the test as many times as you would like. If you score a new, higher score, it will replace your previous score in the score column. Record of your passing the course will also appear in your member record in the "Basic Masonic Education Courses" section.



**On Right, Worshipful Garrentt Chan,
Keynote Speaker for the Feast of St. John**



Worshipfuls Nick Hayworth, Cal Gilbert & Ben Newsom



Other Feast of St John attendees



More Feast of St John participants



Worshipful Daren Miller leading the Storage Liquidation charge



Other brothers getting the Storage Liquidation job done



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.