



**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](http://www.oakland61.org)

**SIGNED:** May 4, 1855

Secretary: (415) 425-2661

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**January 2024**

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**UPON THE SQUARE:**



Brethren and Friends,

I trust this finds you and yours happy and well. The holiday season is now behind us, and we're launched into a new year full of possibility. There's lots to do and lots to consider so let's get to it.

The first opportunity to meet the new year head on is to attend the January stated meeting and adopt the budget for our new Lodge. This year's proposed budget was put together by several Brothers gathered around a table talking about what it is they would like Oakland 61 to do both fraternally and in our community. Of course, the traditions of the past are included. We've added a few things geared toward better supporting our public schools and our community at large. I hope you'll come to stated meeting on the 4th and hear more about it.

When you come to Lodge, I invite you to bring your best, within and without; to look around, to seek out the Brothers you may not know. Sit with them at dinner. Talk with them. Share your Masonic story. We may have come from different Lodges, but now we're one. It's we and us and ours.

Event-wise, January is busy every Thursday. If you're in the area and able to attend, please do. Worshipful Tigran has an evening of Masonic education especially for Master Masons and we'll welcome a new Entered Apprentice this month, the first for Oakland 61. Check out the calendar section of this trestleboard for details.

Speaking of events, Worshipful Daren Miller is looking for help, physical help, on January 11, 12 and 13 at Waters Moving and Storage in Martinez. We're starting the process of going through Live Oak's stuff and deciding what to keep, what to give away, what to keep in storage, and what to dispose of. If you're available to help, please let Daren know. His contact info is on the back page of this trestleboard.

Finally, a reminder that in this new Lodge, Oakland Lodge #61, we've created an opportunity to become more than we have been, both as Masons and as a Lodge. Oakland 61 is a blank slate on which we will write the future. What will be your contribution?

Sincerely and Fraternally,

**Cal Gilbert, PM  
Master**

## VIEW FROM THE WEST



### **Happy New Year!**

We have now started our new year as a new lodge. We have now embarked on another great journey as one lodge. Since we have become a lodge as of December 10th, we have had our first meeting and installation, which was well attended. By the time you read this we will have had our Feast of St. John.

We now start our regular programming. Stated meeting will be January 4th. Dinner at 6:30 and meeting at 7:30. Please RSVP for dinner and come and join us.

Hope you all are as excited as I am about this great new journey and see what we can do as a new lodge.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

**Ben Newsom, PM**  
**Senior Warden**

## VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



### ***Seasons Greeting Brethren,***

It's a real honor to attempt to try to fill worshipful Dana's shoes. This being my first year as a pedestal officer feels like an overwhelming opportunity to be a meaningful part of our brand new, wonderful lodge!

We're going to eat well this year! Expect some new flavors and some great times. Please be sure to RSVP or else we might not have enough food for you.

*Happy new year!*

**Drew Spitzer**  
**Junior Warden**

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE



Dear Brethren of Oakland 61,

“Someone’s sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.” This sentiment, expressed by Warren Buffett, is exactly how I view our new lodge. Our work begins now to shape the future of Masonry in the East Bay. Our vision is strong and clear, we are focusing on supporting our community, offering meaningful scholarships to the youth of our masons, and educating our members. It is essential to the launch of our new lodge that each of us participates actively, reads the Trestleboard, gets involved, and attends any training or education offered. With this shared commitment, we will all soon enjoy the shade of that tree.

Allen Rodda (Asst Secretary) and I can be reached at the following email address: [ajr1943@pacbell.net](mailto:ajr1943@pacbell.net)

**David Forsyth, PM  
Secretary**

## 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.

## Announcements

### Consolidation Information

We became Oakland Lodge #61 on December 1, 2023. Most Worshipful G. Sean Metroka installed our 2024 officers on 10th, and he approved our new By-Laws on the 13th.

**Storage Clean Out:** All Brothers are welcome, even if you can contribute only a few hours to this effort. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, 1/11/24 and will work through Saturday, 1/13/24 if needed. Our plan is to work until noon, take a one-hour lunch, and then work to 4:00 p.m. Participants may want to bring hats, gloves and some bottled water. The location is Waters Moving & Storage, 37 Bridgehead Rd, Martinez, CA 94553. If you have questions, W. Daren Miller is the Lodge point of contact and can be reached at (510) 910-5635.

**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 either Bro. Phil Williams (510-566-4994) or W. Cal Gilbert (510-919-0301) to set up your ride.

### December 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](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 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 some of you already know, Bro. Phil Williams is dealing with RSV and has recently been hospitalized. The good news is that he is off supplemental oxygen and is expecting to go home as of this writing. Please remember him in your prayers.
- I checked in with Tom & Ruth Poole and was pleased to learn Ruth's son and daughter-in-law's situation has not worsened since my last report. They are still sleeping in their safe room and fortunately no harm has come their way.
- Bro. Lucas Strauss, our chaplain, was duly installed in December. He told me that at the installation dinner that he appreciated my reports on his health, but said he is doing fine.

\*\*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

## January and February Calendar

- Tuesday, Jan 2nd:** **Executive Board Meeting (Zoom):** The meeting ([meet.google.com/hbt-eyem-nmw](https://meet.google.com/hbt-eyem-nmw)) or by phone (US)+1260-676-0224 PIN 892 893 798#)
- Thursday, Jan 4th:** **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.**
- Thurs-Sat, Jan 11-13th:** **Storage Clean-up:** Waters Moving & Storage, 37 Bridgehead Rd, Martinez, CA 94553. See **Announcements** for further information. Our Lodge point of contact for this project is W. Daren Miller for details at 1-510-910-5635.
- Thursday, Jan 11th:** **Masonic Education for Master Masons:** 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, Jan 18th:** **EA Degree Rehearsal:** Dress is casual. The evening will begin with social time at 6:00 p.m. with a light meal at 6:30 with a rehearsal to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Monday, Jan 22nd:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan 25th:** **EA 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, 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 will be the going market price for crab. Participants will need to purchase advanced tickets; none will be sold at the door. Our goal is to break even.
- Thursday, Feb 22nd:** **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:** **FC 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.**

## **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://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](http://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](mailto:secretary@oakland61.org).

### **Life Members**

2024 Dues Cards should be available by mid-November. That said, if you are unable to print your card from your online portal at [member.freemason.org](http://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 January**

James G. Kirk (1), Vic C. Vickers, PM (4), Azi Vajravai (5),  
Lynton J. Daniel (7), Charles T. Poole (7), Frederick M. Burke (9),  
Luciano Chessa (12), Christopher R. Weaver (14),  
Kirby N. Kinkead (15), Dennis W. Butler (16), Steven E. Lenheim (21),  
Roy S. Mac Leod (22), Guy K. Haas (23), John G. Martin (23),  
Daniel P. Breault (25), Marvin R. Amaral (26), Romeo N. Escobar, (26),  
Susumu S. Imamura, PM (27), Christopher Nowell, PM (28),  
Daniel A. Bible (29), Joseph S. Bruno (30), and James E. Kohl, Jr. (30).

### **Masonic Raised Dates in January**

Marvin R. Amaral (1), James Kohl, III (12), Michael J. Bischoff (13),  
Larry J. Frederick (15), Michael W. Armstrong (17), Glen R. Tomek (17),  
William S. Sereni, Sr. (19), Theodore B. Aquino (21), Jeffery R. Fingerut (22),  
Daniel Mullane (22), Paul E. Schissler (22), Martin G. Smith (24),  
Arthur J. Odom (25), Blaise A. Enonchong (26), Donald A. Searcy (26),  
Vic C. Vickers, PM (26), Paul H. Eikeberg (28), Drew K. Steadman (28),  
John L. Morrison, PM (29), and Stennis Scruggs, Jr. (31).

### **2023 Memoriams**

**Lloyd R. Jungling** passed away on 7/1/2017  
**William M. Pelter** passed away on 3/14/2023  
**Gary R. Anderson, PM** passed away on 4/14/2023  
**Cleveland Valrey, PM** passed away on 4/14/2023  
**Herbert G. Johnson** passed away on 4/25/2023  
**Edward P. Margherio, PM** passed away on 6/14/2023  
**Claude R. Chandler, Jr.** passed away on 6/17/2023  
**Frederick A. Loeser, PM** passed away on 7/30/2023  
**Dallas G. Cason** passed away on 8/13/2023  
**Jerry Coffel** passed away on 9/23/2023  
**Garrett Beller, Jr.** passed away on 10/3/2023  
**August H. Michel** passed away on 10/29/2023



**Gp picture of Oakland #61's 1st Stated Meeting, 12-7-23**



**Three Masters, Oldest, New, 2nd Oldest**





**Preparations to escort MW Metroka into the lodge**



**The beginning of the installation ceremony**



**The MW Metroka & W Gilbert**



**The Installation prolamation**



**Oakland61's pedestal officers**



**Oakland61's 2024 officers**



**Youth participant at Oakland61 Instillation**



**Oakland61 Installation Dinner**



*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.