



**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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**March 2024**

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**UPON THE SQUARE:**



Brethren and Friends,

Congratulations to our newest Fellowcrafts, Brothers Jerrell Johnson and Garland Davis! I hope you'll take your time and enjoy learning what the "Scientific Degree" is all about.

We have a busy month coming up so please check the calendar. Did you know you can subscribe to our calendar by going to our website, [www.oakland61.org](http://www.oakland61.org), scrolling down to "Events", and clicking on "[Click here to add to your Google Calendar](#)"?

Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Sean Metroka, has declared March to be Youth Orders Month. As such it is a pleasure to recognize all the members, past and present, of our three Masonic youth groups, DeMolay International, Job's Daughters International, and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls.

Growing up as a DeMolay, I remember how amazing it felt to be given responsibility and freedom to be a part of the planning and execution of events, fundraisers, and activities. It gave me a feeling of not only belonging but also of being heard by the adults involved and recognized as a contributor to our Chapter's accomplishments. Participation was important and encouraged. It was my first glimpse, albeit unknown to me at the time, into Masonic teachings. I will always hold a special place in my heart for the Advisors\* who saw potential not just in me but in all the young men in our Chapter. Their guiding hand steered us toward the realization that everyone has value and something of value to contribute, given the opportunity. Everyone.

Oakland Lodge #61 has a tradition of supporting our youth groups. This year, we've invited them to join us at the Stated Meeting and to let us serve them dinner for a change. We'll support them in their fundraising efforts as well, which enables them to participate in all the fun things young folks do these days and to attend their respective annual communications. We do this with a view to not only their future but also to our own.

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***Upon the Square, Continued from Page 1***

Finally, a shout out to all who participated in our recent town hall. Thank you for your input! We are indeed fortunate to have so many Brothers willing to step up and lend their thoughts and voices, their goodwill, and their elbow grease to everything we undertake.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

**Cal Gilbert, PM**  
**Master**

\*We have several Brothers and spouses who serve as Advisors for our youth groups. Among them are Worshipful Fred Loeser, Worshipful Tim and Lois World, Brother Luzon Byrd, Brother Chris and Fern Bokamper, and Brother Chris and Colleen Weaver. Well done!

**VIEW FROM THE WEST**



**Happy St. Patrick's Day** and Happy Easter Brothers,

That is right Easter does fall in March this year. Do not get caught off guard. We had a very busy February. Between the crab feed and pancake breakfast for Claremont Middle school, we also did a double 2nd degree for Brothers Johnson and Davis. One step closer to becoming Master Masons.

March is the start of both the Spring season and warmer weather. Hopefully that will bring more brothers to the lodge.

This month Wor. Tim World will be doing the Stated meeting meal. Which will be of course corn beef and cabbage and if you have not had it before it is one of the best cooked around. Stated meeting will be on March 7th. Social time starts at 6pm and dinner at 6:30 with the meeting to follow at 7:30. Please make sure to RSVP to ensure we have enough food for all who come.

Please look at the Calendar and show up when you can to these events. Success only happens when you are here. I hope to see you and have a wonderful month, brothers.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

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

**VIEW FROM THE SOUTH**



Fraternal Greetings All,

It's been an honor to serve as your Junior Warden for these last 3 months of our new, wonderful lodge! I look forward to ensuring that we eat well.

Thanks again for all of those who have so actively RSVP'd. Please keep up the great work! By doing that, especially on special nights where we have more expensive meals, this really helps us not overspend on food that doesn't get eaten. Thank you for helping us practice prudence in our new lodge.

Cheers,

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

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE



Greetings,

*Be the change you wish to see in the world - Mahatma Gandhi*

This past weekend James McVey and I attended the Secretaries and Treasurer's retreat held in San Ramon. Having attended last year, I knew a little about the weekend's program and what to expect. However, I was surprised to learn of a major upgrade to iMember and how it will positively impact our fraternity. There will be a roll out of the upgraded program for 2024.

This change happened because enough of us spoke up about the need to upgrade the application. The Fraternity uses iMember to track member and new prospect data such as contact and family information, dates members were initiated, passed, and raised as well as reference materials, including the California Masonic Code and the Grand Master's itinerary. The upgrade will allow us to run reports, such as past Hiram awardees, officer degree participation, and special event invitation and attendance lists. We can also create email or mail-merge documents targeting specific groups, such as lodge widows or Past Masters. Overall, these improvements will save us a lot of time and create more opportunities to reach out and strengthen our relationships with members and others who are important to us.

My favorite new feature is the list of all local lodge events wherever you are within the US. For example, if you are travelling to Arlington, Texas, the "Find Meetings" function will list all local lodge events based on your "geo location" or a typed in specific location.

The roll-out is available for secretaries just now and general membership shortly. The system is only as good as the data we put in so remember to update your contact information, add a partner or spouse. You can access iMember by going to:

[https://member.freemason.org/membership\\_registration](https://member.freemason.org/membership_registration)

(Note: underscore between "membership" and "registration")

Follow these easy steps:

1. Lodge Number
2. Member ID (On your dues card or your California Freemason Magazine mailing label)
3. Last Name
4. Click "Check Member Status"
5. Email address
6. Password (at least 8 characters long)
7. Re-enter your password on "Password Confirmation"
8. Click "Sign-in"

See you in Lodge,

**David Forsyth, PM  
Secretary**

## Announcements

**Oakland Lodge No. 61 Crab Feed Report:** Bro. Phil Williams reported from his perspective, our first Lodge Crab Feed was a total success. Attendees included 72 paid participants and 7 servers (four for Job's Daughters and 3 from Claremont Middle School). The 72 consumed 300 lbs. of crab plus salad, pasta, and bread. All had a good time, and the crowd didn't thin out until after 8:00 pm. The people that made it happen included Ws. Tim World, Dana Janke and Bros. Phil Williams and Joel Sayre.

**Oakland Lodge No. 61 Scholarships:** The Lodge offers a limited number of undergraduate college scholarships. The children and grandchildren of Lodge members in good standing have first priority, followed by Nieces, Nephews, Great Nieces and Great Nephews and active members of Jobs Daughters, DeMolay and Rainbow Girls from Alameda or Contra Costa Counties.

These scholarships are for a maximum of \$16,000 payable over 4 years toward an undergraduate college education. The Scholarship Board of the Lodge administers the scholarships and is accepting applications March 1 to May 15 of this year for undergraduate college scholarships.

Information on the scholarship, as well as the application for the scholarship, can be obtained on our web site, [www.oakland61.org](http://www.oakland61.org)

**Proposed Oakland Lodge #61 Investment Policy Statement:** At the February Stated Meeting I, on behalf of the Lodge Trustees, introduced the aforementioned policy and provided copies to those who wanted one. The object was to everyone a chance to study it and ask questions. As of this writing, only one member some grammatical suggestions which I have incorporated in the document we will vote on at our March Stated Meeting. For members coming from Live Oak and not present at the February meeting, the policy statement is very similar to the one we adopted.

**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.

**January & February event pictures are enclosed elsewhere in this issue:**

**For all meeting:** Bro. Drew Spitzer 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.

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## Sunshine Report

- Several weeks ago, I spoke to Bro. Christopher (Chris) Giannalone who will celebrate his 96th birthday on March 23rd. He is a Navy veteran and a retired HVAC distributor. Chris resides at the California Veterans' Home at Yountville. He was in good spirits and appreciated us checking on him.
  - I caught up with Bro. Louis (Lou) Gibbs the other day to update his contact information. I learn that he turned 101 yrs. young last November. He is as sharp as a tack but is no longer able to travel to Oakland for meetings. He thanks us for checking on him and said he keeps track of what's going on through the Trestleboard.
  - Also, I tried to get in touch with W. John Tom as he was approaching his 99th birthday. Sadly, I learned John passed away on February 6th in Gilroy, CA. His family is working with us and John & Rose's Moraga church to set up a Celebration of Life Service in the March/April timeframe. W. John was a WWII U.S. Army veteran.
  - I recently checked in on W. Bob & Carolee Baird. W. Bob reported that except equilibrium and eye twitching problems, they were doing fine. Bob went on to say that the management of the Masonic Home and Acacia Creek Campus has undergone some very positive changes. If readers are interested in knowing more, Bob suggested they contact the Masonic Home at Union City.
  - Bro. Phil Williams spent most of the Crab Feed day preparing and managing food service. However, he told me that he ran into some folks we haven't seen in a while, they included Bro. Jong Lee and his wife Ruth as well as W. Doc Bailey.
- \*\*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

## March and April Calendar

- Friday, Mar 1st:** **Oakland Lodge #61 Scholarship Applications Open: See Announcements for more information.**
- 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.**
- Monday, Mar 11th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Mar 13th:** **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, Mar 14th:** **Oakland's Masonic Founders presented by W. Adam G. Kendell:** Dress is business casual. The evening will begin with syuewocial 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.**
- Friday, Mar 15th:** **EA Degree at Monarch Lodge #73, PHA:** The Lodge location is at 925 30th St, Oakland, CA, 94608 and the event is from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30.
- Thursday, Mar 21st:** **DOSI @ Oakland Lodge #61 will be exemplification of the 2nd Degree so only FC and MM can attend:** 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.**

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**March and April Calendar, Continued from Page 5**

- 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 coat & tie. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. **Please RSVP via Constant Contact or (510) 655-9353.**
- Thursday, Apr 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.**
- Monday, Apr 8th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Apr 10th:** **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, Apr 11th:** **Master Mason Degree Rehearsal:** Dress is casual. **The evening will begin with social time at 6:00 p.m.,** a light meal at 6:30 with the rehearsal to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.** (Ws. Cal, David F and Ben will be at Island City performing a PMs' MM Degree)
- Saturday, Apr 13th:** **Claremont Middle School Gala:** This is one of our public service projects which will run from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. We need the help of about ten brothers and please contact Bro. James McVey for details at [events@oakland61.org](mailto:events@oakland61.org).
- Tuesday, Apr 16th:** **DOSI @ Bay Cities Lodge #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 Constant Contact or (510) 655-9353.**
- Thursday, Apr 18th:** **Orinda #122 Visit to Oakland #61:** 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 FC degree. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Saturday, Apr 20th:** **Frog Park Cleanup:** We encourage as many brother as possible to help with this long-standing civil project. We will gather at the lodge for donuts and coffee at 8:00 a.m. and then walk to the park. We should be done by noon. Dress is work cloths, gloves, hats, sunscreen, etc.
- Monday, Apr 22nd:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Apr 25th:** **Master Mason 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.**
- Wednesday, May 15th:** **Oakland Lodge #61 Scholarship Applications Close.** **For questions, please contact Ws. Tim World ([odrmaster2003@aol.com](mailto:odrmaster2003@aol.com)) or Fred Loeser ([fredloeser@me.com](mailto:fredloeser@me.com)).**

**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](http://your.online.portal.at.member.freemason.org).

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## ***Dues Payment Information, Continued from Page 6***

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 are now available. 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 March**

Alan D. Filiu, PM (1), Tom Kavishi, PM (2), Edward V. Cabrera (3),  
Aram Harijan, M.D. (3), Robert B. Rickett (3), Joseph R. Hren (4), Olushola S. Bello (5),  
Edmond C. Stevenson PM (5), Chad G. Struer, PM (5), Brent D. Goodale (7),  
David A. Hansen (8), Zachary T. Champlin (10), William J. Kambic (12),  
Tyson E. Nichols (13), Donald D. Nilson (13), Sheldon Williams (14), Garland B. Davis (15),  
Bowman Wong (15), John K. Oshima (16), JoJo Quingao (17), Robert J. Buckingham (18),  
Lance D. Hanawalt (18), Jason Willcuts (21), Craig M. Baker (23),  
Christopher J. Jiannalone (23), Arman Paymai (23), John R. Tom, PM (24),  
Henry J. Gannett, PM (26), Jonathan S. Davis (27), Kurt M. Carter (29),  
and Edmund T. Evans (31).

### **Masonic Raised Dates in March**

James G. Kirk (3/22/1960), Zebb (Sam) V. Miller, PM (3/28/1961),  
Robert C. Frederick (3/13/1964), Robert L. Garoutte (3/26/1965),  
Jack L. Fair (3/14/1966), George E. Davis (3/30/1976),  
Edmond C. Stevenson, PM (3/29/1977), Timothy H. World, PM (3/24/1978),  
Loren G. Harris (3/22/1983), Gordon H. Emberton, PM (3/26/1991),  
Kevin Clanton (3/23/2000), John D. Lane (3/26/2002), Guy K. Haas (3/27/2004),  
Thomas A. Gonda, Jr. (3/10/2005), James N. Walsh (3/24/2005),  
Khalil H. Sweidy (3/16/2006), William S. Sereni, Jr. (3/22/2007),  
Donald R. Colbert (3/29/2007), Robert L. Charboneau (3/25/2010),  
Sergey K. Aityan (3/22/2011), Michael G. McLean, Jr. (3/8/2012),  
Tyrone C. Davis-Eugene, PM (3/22/2012), Alfredo Avila (3/28/2013),  
Philip N. Brown (3/31/2016), and Stuart Bateman (3/9/2017).

### **2024 Memoriams**

**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



**Claremont Girls Soccer Team wearing the new jerseys we bought them.**



**Bro. Nima Elie's EA Degree, 1-25-24**



**Cassandra with her Unity Assembly IORG officers**



**Cassandra Weaver with her parents at her Unity Assembly IORG Installation**



**Bro. Phil managing the 2024 Lodge Crab Feed**



**Byrd's Table**

**A larger view of our Crab Feed participants**



**Another Table**



**Tim Jackson's Table**



**Spitzer & Forsyth table**



**Another Table**



**Lee Table**