

**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

April 2024

UPON THE SQUARE:

Brothers and Friends,

Happy Spring! The Ancients believed creation came about when Ishtar fell to earth and broke into many pieces, thus creating all living things. Other civilizations have held similar beliefs, and all agree Spring is the season of renewal. Easter bunnies and eggs are a modern symbol of this. Greg and I are anxious to get out into our garden and set everything aright after all the rain. We can see the buds on the pomegranate and the beautiful flowers on the currant.

So too is this a season of renewal for our Lodge and our Craft. It seems there has been a resurgent interest in Masonry since the pandemic and I can't help but think this is a response to the loneliness so many people experienced during the lockdown. The human spirit craves connection. Tapping messages on a screen and sending them off into the disembodied ether is not being connected. Sharing space, seeing the faces of those to whom you are speaking, and taking the hand of those with whom you share the deep bonds of family and brotherhood is the truth of being connected.

Since our recent consolidation, our Lodge, Oakland Lodge #61, has also seen renewal. We've consistently seen forty-ish Brothers in the Lodge room for a stated meeting and even more for other events. These Brothers are excited to be at Lodge. Their smiles and warm handshakes tell the truth of this. They're excited to be a part of something new. They're invested in making Oakland Lodge into the best version of itself. I'm happy to report we're succeeding in doing just that.

Your Lodge has a lot going on. Just take a look at the calendar. Join us when you can. Be part of that thing you believed Masonry to be when you became a member. Renew your commitment to becoming that man you've always believed yourself to be.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Cal Gilbert, PM**Master**

VIEW FROM THE WEST



We are saddened to report that W. Ben's dad and our Brother, Robert B. Newsom passed away on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at home surrounded by his family. He was a Hiram Awardee and Life Member with over 56 yrs of service to Masonry. Over the years he had served as our Chaplain, Lodge Trustee and Candidate Coach. Rest well our departed brother.

**Ben Newsom, PM
Senior Warden**

VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Hello everyone,

Brothers, we're a quarter into the year, and Thursdays have already been so exciting! There are fewer things as comforting as the support of my brothers. Thank you to each and every one of you that feels it's important to invest in our lodge through service or community! You're who makes this lodge a home and welcoming place for us to come together

in community.

Happy Spring,

**Drew Spitzer
Junior Warden**

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE



“Blessed is he who loves his brother as well when he is afar off as when he is by his side” – St. Francis of Assisi

We rejoice in raising Masons, but we must continue to honor and protect our senior and otherwise vulnerable Masons who enrich our craft with their learned wisdom and experience. Indeed, our duty as Masons is to practice charity and to care. And while that duty extends to our community at large, this message is about our duty to our membership.

While we recognize many traditions and occasionally celebrate milestones, such as Hiram Awards and (albeit rarely) 50-year pins, it is in fact our everyday lives that we must cherish and tend. It is not enough to respond when a brother or his family asks for our assistance, although it is resolved we must act in times of need. My point is that a more enduring commitment to each other is to reach out before they ask, to check in regularly and to offer and arrange help as situations change. In short, we need to pay attention, and make the effort to stay in contact, so that we can care for each other every step along the way, and no one falls far behind.

Masonic resources are exceptional. There are services available in many areas. Masonic Outreach Services can offer free assistance to Masons, their spouses and families. Ongoing care management, social services, housing support, medical assessments, mental health services and some emergency financial support.

The Lodge Retention Committee is charged with regaining and maintaining contact with members who have not been seen or heard from in a while. The Committee also identifies and assists members who attend regularly but may not ask for the help they need. I encourage each of you to think about your brothers and their families – please pick up the phone and call a few folk, check in, invite people to the next stated meeting, offer rides, alert the Committee to families who need support. We can always do better.

More information on Masonic Outreach can be found here:

https://freemason.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Guide_Masonic-Senior-Outreach.pdf

David Forsyth P.M.

Secretary

415.425.2661

Secretary@oakland61.org

Announcements

Welcome aboard to Oakland Lodge #61 Member Retention Committee: In the words of our late brother, W. Jim Mann, many hands make light work. Hearing my invitation to all members at our March Stated Meeting, **Bros. Lynton Daniel and David Levinson** responded and are our newest committee members. Others reading this piece are welcome to join. Just contact Tim Jackson, our chairman, for more information.

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 1st to April 30th 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

Proposed Oakland Lodge #61 Investment Policy Statement: I (Allen Rodda) am pleased to report that the Lodge approved this proposal at our March Stated Meeting.

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.

March 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 (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.

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Sunshine Report

- Recently, I attempted to reach Bro. Russell R. Crow to see how he was doing. As of yet, I've not succeeded. However, in reviewing his Masonic history, I learned the following: On this coming April 7th, Bro. Russ will celebrate his 103rd birthday and have completed more than 79 years of Masonic Service. HAPPY BIRTHDAY BROTHER!
 - Also, I checked on W. Don Weisse, Jr. and learned he is able to get around but is suffering current memory problems. He is a life member of both Orinda #122 and our lodge, a Hiram Awardee, and a 58 year+ Mason.
 - As some of you may already know, Bro. Phil Williams continues to battle health issues. Please keep both Janet and Phil in your prayers.
 - Finally, as announced elsewhere in this issue, we lost a fine brother last month. Please keep the Newsom family in your prayers.
- **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

April and May Calendar

- 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.**
- 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. and a light meal at 6:30. The rehearsal to follow dinner. **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.
- 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.**

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March and April Calendar, Continued from Page 5

- 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.
- Thursday, Apr 25th:** **Masonic Education:** Dress is casual Social time at 6:00 p.m. with a light meal at 6:30 followed by the degree work. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Tuesday, April 30th:** **CHANGE: Oakland Lodge #61 Scholarship Applications Close. For questions, please contact Ws. Tim World or Fred Loeser (scholarships@oakland61.org).**
- Thursday, May 2nd:** **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.**
- Wednesday, May 8th:** **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, May 9th:** **Potential 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 FC degree. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Monday, May 13th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 16th:** **DOSI @ Orinda Lodge #122:** 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, May 23rd:** **Master Mason Degree Rehearsal:** 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, May 27th:** **MEMORIAL DAY**
- Thursday, May 30th:** **Master Mason Degree Rehearsal:** 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.**

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.

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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. 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 April

Donald R. Bailey, Jr., PM (1), Gabriel Basso (1), Luzon Byrd, Jr. (2), Charles A. Langel, PM (2), Jeffery R. Fingerut (3), Thomas J. Wright (4), Elijah M. Dones, Jr. (6), Russell R. Crow (7), John L. Morrison, PM (10), John D. Lane (11), Devon E. Williams (11), Khye A. Booker (15), Miguel A. Martinez (17), Ovanes Chobanian (18), David R. Arp, PM (19), William S. Sereni, Jr. (19), Derek E. Larson (20), Brian Borchert (26), Ntr Hu (27), Bradley A. Gill (28), James D. Dobson (29), Sava Popovic (30), and Allen J. Rodda (30).

Masonic Raised Dates in April

Bruce S. Draper (4/2), Jeffrey M. Poole (4/8), Chad G. Struer, PM (4/8), Erick A. Rice (4/10), Tigran Agadzhanian (4/11), James R. Grabowski (4/11), Richard L. Stevenson (4/11), Willard J. Classen, Jr. (4/12), Allen J. Rodda (4/12), James R. Causa, PM (4/13), Duane A. Aro (4/14), Peter P. Donley (4/17), Brian Borchert (4/18), Tenzing Azucenas (4/19), Zachary T. Champlin (4/20), Bobby F. Dunham (4/21), Gerald E. Lindemuth, PM (4/21), Robert G. Wilson (4/21), John F. Hutchens (4/22), Norman E. Russ (4/22), Joel B. Coffey (4/27), Charles A. Jolivet (4/27), Timothy Urlaub (4/27), Perry D. Curry (4/28), Ryan T. Leiningert (4/28), and Julius Kahn, III, PM (4/30).

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

Zebb (Sam) V. Miller, PM, passed away on 2/25/2024

Robert B. Newsom, passed away on 3/16/2024



W. Ben at work



W. Dana & others hard at work.



The 2024 Pancake Breakfast serving line.



Volunteer Hanna Forsyth



The whole 2024 Pancake Breakfast team.



Ws. Adam Kendell & Cal Gilbert



Oakland Lodge #61 members attending an EA Degree at Monarch Lodge, PHA



More Oakland Lodge #61 members attending the EA Degree at Monarch Lodge.



March 2024 DOSI at Oakland 61



W. Dennis Trammell, Jr. at the Mar DOSI