



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

May 2024

UPON THE SQUARE:



Brethren and Friends,

I recently fractured a finger while performing some mundane task. Now it just hurts all the time. Sometimes, it wakes me up at night it hurts so bad. The doctor assures me it will stop hurting, that no splint or other intervention is necessary. I remain unconvinced although time will tell.

Anyone looking at me would never know how intense the pain in my finger is right now. The same might be said of someone suffering depression or some other mental anguish. It might be the pain caused by loss or grief or loneliness. It could be money troubles or some drama with their kids or job. We never know what someone else is feeling, even when we're looking right at them. My point, dear friend, is we should always put forth an effort to be kind, to do unto others, as, in similar circumstances, we would that they should do unto us. Even when it's hard. Especially when it's hard.

Reflecting on this, I'm reminded of the Masonic Center for Youth and Family, our Masonic Homes, and all the other services available to us as members of this amazing Fraternity. While you or I may never need to take advantage of the benefits we're eligible to receive, we must, individually and as a Lodge, support our Masonic Outreach Services. After all, we promised to aid and support our Brothers and their families. We make that same promise more than once as we progress through our Degrees. What does that tell us about the importance of charity, of looking after one another and one another's families?

I encourage you to consider how you might support our MOS programs as an individual and also how Oakland 61 might do the same. On this basis we form our friendships and establish our connections.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Cal Gilbert, PM
Master

VIEW FROM THE WEST



Happy May Brothers,

The sun is shining, well most of the time. As the days are getting longer so are our chances to visit our lodge and see brothers who can't always get out. Call one and talk to them. See if they want to come to lodge and if transportation is a problem, encourage them to use our Lyft offer.

On May 18th well be having the memorial services for my father, Robert Newsom, here at the lodge at 1pm. Please come and help remember him. He has touched many lives in and out of our organization. He is well missed by our family and many brothers. I hope you can attend. There will be refreshments after the services.

As some of you know I work with a baseball organization in Rodeo California, for among other reasons, because my grandsons play ball there. For the last 2 years I have been doing some score keeping for them when they host tournaments. This Memorial Day weekend will be no different for hosting, but I have decided to change things up. I am going to donate both my labor and the BBQ Tri-tip fixins for sandwiches which they will sell to make money for the baseball association. Somewhat like what we do for the Claremont Middle School. I am hoping that they will make a lot of money from this adventure. If you are in the area, please come enjoy some good youth baseball and buy a sandwich.

Ben Newsom, PM
Senior Warden

ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren and Friends,

After a quarter of seeing, listening, and watching what has gone on and is going on in the building, we are moving forward with numerous projects. The front security gate is being constructed and will be installed when finished. We have ordered filters for the dining hall, and they will be installed soon. We have also ordered new ceiling ventilation fans to remove the air and keep the air scrubbed and clean. Those should be installed soon. The building's air conditioning unit is being looked at and we will find out what it will take to get that up and running before the summer. The window wall in the dining area needs repair. We have a contractor looking at it and will give us an estimate on what it is going to take to repair/fix it. If it is an extensive cost, we will get the necessary bids and approvals to proceed. The Hall is looking into cleaning companies, licensed, bonded and insured to clean the building, thus lessening any liability. We are looking at hiring a gardener once or twice a year to keep the patio in shape and the Hall would keep it clean the rest of the year. The windows on the second-floor lounge are going to be treated with window coverings or window tinting. We will look at whatever is most cost-effective and long-lasting. The Hall has formed a committee to look into the scope and use of the second-floor lounge and put together a plan. They will come up with a design that will be presented to the Hall and the Lodge.

There is a lot going on and much more to come. All Brothers are welcome to attend the Hall Meetings, the second Wednesday of each month. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Worshipful Tim, Building Manager, or myself.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Phil Williams
Board President

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE



“This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.”

President Theodore Roosevelt

As secretaries of lodges one of our main functions is to track data and manage information. It can certainly be time consuming turning phone calls and emails into actions in iMember or contacting Member Services for answers to questions. Beyond the paperwork, the secretary's role includes working with the pedestal officers to ensure the smooth running of the lodge.

We must, however, remember there is more to life than being inside the lodge. Our community outside the lodge deserves our attention such as, supporting public schools, cleaning our children's parks, helping fund libraries, and raising money for other worthy causes. We also need focus on boots on the ground and showing up to help where we can. We are very fortunate that as a lodge we can afford to write checks and offer financial help to charities and groups that need assistance. Showing up and participating is just as important, maybe more so than writing that check.

Habitat for Humanity states: *“The importance of community service lies in the fact that it connects us to the community by improving it, and making it a better place for all of us to live in.”* As Masons we are hardwired to serve, charity is the foundation block of our tenets, what we stand for, our core belief. We always feel better, happier when we have completed a project, engaging in charity events for others.

Apart from the socializing side of volunteering, which is always the attractive aspect of getting involved, volunteering as a group can have a bigger impact with just a small investment of our time. By giving back, we demonstrate that community service impacts not just our local environment itself, but the world as a whole. Let's not just write checks but show up, lend a hand, get out there and make our world a better place to live.

David Forsyth P.M.
Secretary

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT & PROGRAMS:

Claremont's Spring Gala

I would like to send out a tremendous thank you to the brothers who were able to help out with Claremont's Spring Gala. It could not have happened without Worshipfuls Gilbert, Newsom, Janke, Stevenson, and Agadzhanian and Brothers Ellie, Spitzer, Haas, Amirdelfan and Wilson. Claremont's PTA was able to raise over \$40k from the auction and gala. It was wonderful to hear the comments from the attendees who were amazed that we would help out and their interest is who are and what we do because of it. It is wonderful to get out in the community and show them what we are all about.

James McVey
Engagement & Programs Chair

Frog Park Earth Day

I want to thank the following brothers, family and friends who helped with the park cleanup: Cal Gilbert; Dana Janke; David, Batya & Hanna Forsyth; Mory Moriuchi; James McVey; Fariborz Amirdelfan; Nima Elie; Jeff Wilson & friend Keir. If I missed anyone, my apologies.

Allen Rodda
Participant Reporter

Announcements

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 May 15th 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

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.

April 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.

Sunshine Report

- Bro. Bill Kambic is off work and schedule for three surgeries the coming months. The first will be his shoulder on April 26th with his neck and foot.
- Brother & Chaplain Lucas Strauss reports he had successful bariatric surgery and is now home recovering. He is on a liquid diet for a few weeks, then a soft food diet. He is planning on getting back to lodge duties ASAP.
- Bro. Bruce Scott battled cancer for the last several years and sadly passed away on April 17th.
- As I reported last month, Bro. Phil Williams continues to battle health issues. However, he is now able to attend most of our important meeting.
- As announced elsewhere in this issue, we lost fine brother last month. Please keep the Newsom family in your prayers.
- I received word that W. Henry Gannett was down with the flue; however, I've not been able to contact him.

***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*

May and June Calendar

- Thursday, May 2nd:** **Stated Meeting & the Inspector's Official Visit:** All Brothers and guests are welcome. Dress is tuxedo for officers and coat & tie for all others. 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:** **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 EA 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.**
- Saturday, May 18th:** **Bro. Bob Newsom's Memorial.** Details not available yet.
- Thursday, May 23rd:** **Master Mason Degree Rehearsal/Coaching:** Dress is casual. Social time starts at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 and the work to follow. **Please RSVP via Constant Contact or (510) 655-9353.**
- Monday, May 27th:** **MEMORIAL DAY**
- Thursday, May 30th:** **Master Mason Degree Rehearsal/Coaching:** Dress is casual. Social time starts at 6:00 p.m., with a light meal at 6:30 and the work to follow. **Please RSVP via Constant Contact or (510) 655-9353.**
- Thursday, June 6th:** **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, June 10th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 12th:** **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, June 13th:** **Master Mason 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.**
- Tuesday, June 18th:** **DOSI @ Acalanes Fellowship:** 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, June 20th:** **Master Masson 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.yui**
- Monday, June 24th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 27th:** **Master Masson 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.**

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](https://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 May

Barry Rodriguez (2), Christopher M. Ellis (4), George E. Graham (4), Philip J. Williams (4), Gilberto Estrada, Sr., PM (5), Jong H. Lee, Ph. D (6), James K. Petersen, III (6), Khalil H. Sweidy (7), Perry D. Curry (8), Kyle Johnston (12), Terrance S. Hanson (13), Benjamin P. Woosley (13), Andrew L. Altomare (16), David E. Levinson (16), Sean P. Symonds (16), Wilbert D. Yip, PM (17), Randall K. Diehl (18), David S. Tucker III (19), Frederick A. Loeser, Jr., PM (20), David R. Woods (22), Philip N. Brown (23), Christopher A. Rohrer (27), Charles A. Jolivet (28), Daniel F. Dietzel (29), and Myron E. Temple, Jr., PM (31).

Masonic Raised Dates in May

Aaron T. Kornblum(5/3), Michael R. Solomon (5/5), Edward V. Cabrera (5/10), Benjamin G. Newsom, PM (5/11), Dustin D. Brace (5/12), Philip J. Williams (5/12), Robert J. Buckingham (5/13), Joseph L. Harris (5/13), Henry J. Gannett, PM (5/15), Rolf K. Haas (5/15), Stefan A. Gibson, Sr. (5/17), Russell R. Crow (5/18), Frederick A. Loeser, Jr., PM (5/18), Colin McDonald (5/18), Marcos M. Valerio (5/19), James T. Geanekos (5/20), Bruce A. Scott (5/20), Chris E. Bokamper (5/21), Alan D. Filiau, PM (5/21), Richard D. Anderson, PM (5/22), Ovanes Chobanian (5/22), Everett L. Messer (5/22), Robert E. Baird, PM (5/23), Lawrence A. Altomare, PM (5/24), Robert B. Anderson (5/24), Lorraine W. Cherry (5/24), Timothy I. Michel (5/26), Gabriel Basso (5/27), William C. Herbert, PM (5/27), Darren A. Miller (5/27), John G. Martin (5/28), David R. Woods (5/28), Thomas F. Arnold, PM (5/31), Benjamin L. Bartlett (5/31), Robert E. Bonem (5/31), and Alejo S. Galvez (5/31).

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
Bruce A. Scott, passed away on 4/17/2024



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!



Some of the brothers that helped at the Claremont MS Gala, 4-13-24



Group shot of Claremont MS Gala participants



Apr DOSI

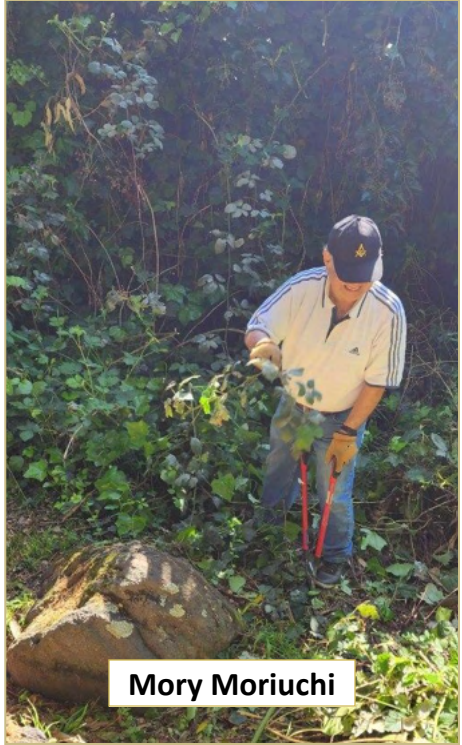


Fog Park Clean-up





James & Jeff



Mory Moriuchi



Nima



Batya & Hanna



Amir & David