



**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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**June & July 2024**

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**UPON THE SQUARE:**



Brothers and Friends,

We are now halfway through the year and show no signs of slowing down. There are so many things to do! We have candidates to Enter, Apprentices to Pass, and Fellows to Raise. Plus, there's all the other stuff that makes this Lodge so extraordinary. Please take a look at the calendar to see for yourself. Or better yet, go to the website, [www.oakland61.org](http://www.oakland61.org),

and subscribe to the calendar so you're aware of any updates that may be necessary as we go along.

Our Junior Warden, Brother Drew Spitzer, and I attended the Master's and Warden's Retreat recently and had a great weekend of sessions about Lodge leadership, preparing for the future, and moving things forward. Most importantly, we had the opportunity to hear from Brothers of other Lodges and learn about their best practices and successes as well as what they would recommend against. Attending these retreats is one of the best tools we have available to remain on top of not only what we *should* be doing but also to get ideas about the possibilities of what we *can* do to improve our Brotherhood and fellowship. Thank you for sending us as your representatives.

As we approach July 4th and reflect on the freedoms we sometimes take for granted, I encourage you to remember the contributions of our Masonic forebears as well as the Brothers of today. While we celebrate the likes of George Washington and Harry Truman, let's also remember the many Brothers, family, and friends who have fought and given so much to preserve our Democracy and our way of life, not only in the past but very much in the now. Let's make sure their service and what they fought and maybe even died for isn't lost or despoiled. Democracy is a fragile thing. The many gifts it bestows, if lost, will not be easily restored.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

**Cal Gilbert, PM**

**Master**

## VIEW FROM THE WEST



Happy Memorial Day,

I know by the time you read this; the above day of remembrance will be in our review mirrors. Nonetheless, as I said last month, I will be barbecuing for the Rodeo Baseball and the Pony League Baseball Associations' Tournament. I will report the results in our next Trestleboard issue.

Also, on behalf of the Newsom Family, I want to thank all those who were able to attend my dad's memorial service on May 18th.

Over 100 brothers, family and friend attended. I know dad was looking down on us and his heart was filled with joy hearing all the wonderful things participants said about him. Finally, a big thank you to Josh for a wonderful lunch following the service.

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

## VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Gentlemen,

It has truly been an honor to serve you as the Junior Warden. I take great pride in ensuring we eat well. I could not do that without your support. Almost everyone has done a phenomenal job of RSVPing for each dinner that they plan to attend and texting me if they can't make it, so thank you! That has helped us save money on food waste while ensuring everyone gets fed. If you have any requests for meals, please feel free to reach out and let me know.

Cheers,  
**Drew Spitzer**  
**Junior Warden**

## ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren and Friends,

There are many moving parts going on with the building. Our front gate will soon be completed and installed. The three ceiling fans have become a challenge but will also be soon completed. We have been going over old agreements and coming up with more efficient and more cost-effective plans. We are still figuring out the wall in the dinning room. The target is to get the majority of any construction/ painting projects done in July. We have numerous other projects/maintenance to schedule.

Soon you will notice the Tracing Boards hung in the Lodge room, as well as a picture of Worshipful Lawrence Owen, Live Oak Lodge No. 61 first Master in 1854. We are tiding up the second floor and are excited about what is in the building's future. We believe the changes bring enjoyment to our Brothers and Guests.

Any use of the building goes through our building manager, Worshipful Tim World. We will have the availability scheduled on a Google Calendar. All events must be calendared and approved by the building manager.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

**Phil Williams**  
**Board President**

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE



“It is not down in any map; true places never are.”

*Herman Melville*

Change can be a good thing, but finding your place amongst the change is a process. Now almost six months into this inaugural year, we are beginning to see beyond the change at Oakland Lodge No. 61 and settle in together. We are embracing lodge traditions and making new ones. That feel good factor has truly begun to shine.

As Masons we soothe the unhappy and restore peace to troubled minds. In that vein, let us each make the effort to bring other brothers on this journey. This includes reaching out to those who have not been at lodge in a while and might not have yet seen how we are making positive changes and bringing light into dark corners.

We have also opened the door to the Secretary's office to invite all members to drop in on days the building is open. Please come and ask your questions, offer new solutions and contribute to our settling-in process.

I would like to thank Bro. James McVey, who has been instrumental in supporting this openness and clarity by making sure all our documentation is available online, such as minutes and finances.

A few other new routines and projects at Oakland Lodge No. 61 include a full-time building manager, support for several vibrant community events, a Masonic book club and a heightened commitment to charitable giving.

Home doesn't always have one address, but we want to make sure our home on College Avenue is welcoming, comforting and uplifting for all. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

**David Forsyth P.M.**  
**Secretary**

## 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. The board plans to announce the results by June 15th.

**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.

**May 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 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**

- As of this writing, Bro. Bill Kambic has met with his doctors but the date of his first surgery hasn't yet been set. Bill is also our newest Life Member – Thanks Bill!
- Brother & Chaplain Lucas Strauss reports he had successful bariatric surgery and is now following his new diet and exercise regime. Additionally, he is back in Lodge and serving as our Chaplain.
- Bro. Phil Williams took a fall on the way to a May 14th Hall maintenance meeting. While I've not been able to personally connect with him, others tell me he seems to be doing fine.
- We held a Masonic Service for Bro. Bruce Scott on May 17th which his family members who were able to attend were very appreciative of our efforts.
- I'm pleased to report that over 100 brothers, Newsom family and friends attended Bro. Bob's May 18th Memorial Service. I was amazed to hear of the many ways he contributed to his family, community as well as the Lodge.
- This seems to be the season for memorial services. That said, we will honor W. John R. Tom with a combined church and Masonic Memorial Service at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church on Saturday, May 25th. W. John was a WWII Army veteran and in 1994, became the first Live Oak Master to receive what had previously been the Yerba Buena Master's ring.

*\*\*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](mailto:ajr1943@pacbell.net)*

## June and July Calendar

- 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.**
- 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.**
- Thursday, July 4th:** **Independence Day!**
- Monday, July 8th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 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, July 11th:** **Stated Meeting:** All Brothers and guests are welcome. 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, July 18th:** **Entered Apprentice 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.**
- Saturday, July 20th:** **Backyard BBQ**
- Monday, July 22nd:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 25th:** **Pending 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.**

## 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](https://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](https://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 June**

Dana A. Janke, PM (1), George T. Haddad (2), James D. Hansen, PM (2), Norman E. Russ (3), Lorraine W. Cherry (7), Erol T. Cobanoglu (9), Charles J. Di Bari (9), Ryan T. Leininger (9), Eduardo L. Colón Vera (10), Nima Elie (10), Paul E. Schissler (10), Justin G. Ballou (11), Steven K. Harris (11), Benjamin F. Newsom, PM (12), Phillip A. Saenz (13), David A. Freed (14), Otha L. Cotton, PM (15), Charles W. Adams (17), Thomas R. Bowser, V (19), Richard L. Stevenson (19), Adolph L. Keyes, Sr. (21), Daniel P. Loeser (26), Candido Silva (26), Eric R. Skinner (26), Duane A. Aro (27), Carl P. Lampkin (27), Howard D. Hickman, III (30), William R. Lenheim (30), and Richard J. Macintire (30).

### **Brothers Birthdays in July**

Jisu T. Kim (1), Donald D. Mc Gregor (2), David F. Ewing, PM (3), Ralph Vargas, Sr. (3), Paul D. Emery (4), Thomas F. Arnold, PM (5), Calvin H. Gilbert, PM (5), Frank R. Haswell (5), Wymone L. Walker (5), Richard T. Edick, PM (6), John Stamison (7), Curtis B. Flemming (7), Bobby F. Dunham (8), Cesar M. Datuin (9), James R. Grabowski (9), Lucas B. Strauss (9), Antonio Falcon (12), Robert A. Mills (13), David C. Renshaw (15), Serge Ruiz, PM (18), Bruce S. Draper (21), David A. Forsyth, PM (22), Donald S. Draughon (23), Alejo S. Galvez (25), Itamar L. de Moraes (25), Delvyn J. Martinez, PM (27), Timothy I. Michel (28), Billy B. Campbell (29), Richard D. Nutting (30), Jesse L. Schultz (30), Earl D. Love, Jr., PM (31), and Derek N. Snel (31).

### **Masonic Raised Dates in June**

John M. Burk (6/23/1951), James E. Kohl, Jr., (6/17/1952)  
Donald V. Nilson (6/16/1960), Derk D. Lenters (6/16/1964),  
Kenneth R. Martin (6/25/1964), Donald E. Weisse, Jr., PM (6/10/1965),  
John M. Cahan (6/22/1965), James D. Hansen, PM (6/23/1967),  
Herbert F. Bradley (6/21/1968), Xum B. Valerio (6/16/1970),  
Donald D. Mc Gregor (6/11/1971), William R. Lenheim (6/13/1974),  
Susumu S. Imamura, PM (6/15/1974), Jason B. Hartman, PM (6/8/1978),  
Carl P. Lampkin (6/8/1979), Ralph Vargas, Sr. (6/23/1981),  
Calvin H. Gilbert, PM (6/23/1983), David A. Freed (6/06/1988),  
Julio F. Abella (6/13/1991), Terrance S. Hanson (6/20/1991),  
Billy B. Campbell (6/26/1992), Daniel P. Breault (6/24/1993),  
Gregory R. Gemlo (6/17/1995), Morris H. Moriuchi (6/13/2000),  
Lynnton J. Daniel (6/25/2002), Robert B. Rickett (6/26/2003),  
Jonathan S. Davis (6/27/2006), Nicholas L. Hayworth, PM (6/19/2008),  
Tom Kavishi, PM (6/11/2009), Serge Ruiz, PM (6/27/2009),  
Christopher M. Ellis (6/21/2010), Luzon Byrd, Jr. (6/21/2012),  
Walter G. Crossley (6/28/2012), George T. Haddad (6/20/2014),  
Eduardo L. Colón Vera (6/9/2015), Devon E. Williams (6/8/2017),  
Candido Silva (6/27/2017), and Fariborz Amirdelfan (6/25/2019).

### **Raised Dates in July**

Thomas R. Bowser, V (7/12), Dennis W. Butler (7/13), Kirby N. Kinkead (7/19), Philip R. Davis, PM (7/26), and Ronald J. MacLeod (7/29).

### **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

## *Oakland Lodge No. 61 Philanthropy*

Worshipful Cal Gilbert and the Brothers of Oakland Lodge #61, Illumination Pathways would like to thank you for your continued support of our efforts to illuminate the Pathways of our young adults. On the 23rd of May, we will celebrate a milestone for this young man, that would not have been possible without your support. Again, we thank you for your efforts in this celebration.

**Tyrone Davis, PM**  
**Illumination Pathways Director**







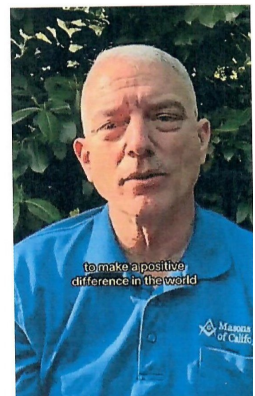
## Keep the Momentum Going: Tell the World Why #ImAMason!

We're already starting to see some great **#ImAMason** posts pop up on our social media feeds. If you haven't yet, be sure to add your voice to the mix by posting your message to Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok using the hashtag **#ImAMason**.

This can be a written post, a video message, or a selfie. It's entirely up to you. Just make sure you include the phrase **#ImAMason** so we can see and share it.

Our research shows that a vast majority of new members joined the fraternity because someone close to them was already a member. By showing the people around us what Freemasonry means to us, we can help a curious prospect take the first step to knock on the door.

For any questions about the campaign, please send an email to [communications@freemason.org](mailto:communications@freemason.org). We can't wait to read all your posts and the many reasons that led you to say: **#ImAMason**



## Special Event

# Secure Your Spot at the 2024 Feast of St. John the Baptist in San Francisco

On Friday, June 28th, join with fellow Masons for a French-inspired celebration of the **Feast of Saint John the Baptist** hosted at Freemasons' Hall by La Parfaite Union Lodge No. 17. We are excited to announce that **Most Worshipful G. Sean Metroka**, Grand Master of Masons in California, will be the guest of honor.

This annual celebration will include a fabulous multi-course dinner, fine wine, and a festive board conducted in the French tradition and preserved for generations by La Parfaite Union No. 17, the historic Francophone lodge. The ceremony will be conducted in both French and English.

**Register Now!**

**Feast of Saint John the Baptist**  
*Friday, June 28th ~ 6-10 pm*  
*Freemasons' Hall*  
**California Masonic Memorial Temple**  
**1111 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94108, EH Floor**  
**Entry: \$125/guest (Freemasons only)**  
**Requested Attire: lack tie or dark suit**

This event is only open to Masons, including Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Masons. The cost is \$125 per person including food, wine and other beverages, program, and parking. This will be an unforgettable evening!

Parking at the California Masonic Memorial Temple is included on a first-come, first-served basis. Black-tie formal attire is requested. Lodges can purchase up to 10 tickets per order. Additional processing fees apply to each order.

You can pay by credit card on Eventbrite site, or mail or deliver a personal check. Instructions are included on the registration site. All checks must be received by June 15th. We hope to see you there for what promises to be a wonderful celebration of a cherished Mason tradition!





**May 2024 DOSI on 5-16-24**



**The lunch following Bro. Bob Newsom's Memorial Service**



*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.



## 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!