



FIRST MEETING:

December 7, 2023

Office: (510) 655-9353

Reservations: (510) 655-9353

OAKLAND LODGE #61, F&AM ORIGINAL CHARTER

Rockridge Masonic Hall

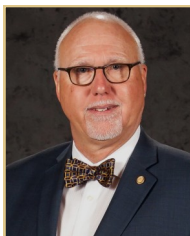
5449 College Avenue
Oakland, California 94618
www.oakland61.org

SIGNED: May 4, 1855

Secretary: (415) 425-2661

September 2024

UPON THE SQUARE:



Brethren and Friends,

Welcome to September! Time is flying by. It seems the older I get, the faster it goes.

As usual, our calendar is full of fun and interesting events. Of particular note are the Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) presentation on the 12th and the Hiram Award on the 19th.

As you know, MOS provides benefits and services for Brothers at all degree levels and their families. I've invited them to come and tell us about those services and how to access them. Please invite your spouse or partner to come that night so they know what's available as well.

This year, the Hiram Award goes to Worshipful Dana Janke. This Brother has served the Lodge for a l-o-n-g time and in many ways. He's gone through the chairs and served as Master. Over the years, he's cooked many many meals. He's served as the unofficial officer's coach, devoting many hours to tutoring our new officers and helping them find their way to excellence in ritual. He's a rock solid, no-nonsense guy whose love of the Craft and devotion to his Brothers has set him apart as one particularly worthy of this honor. Aside from being elected Master, the Hiram Award is the highest honor the Lodge can bestow. We look forward to you joining us in this celebration of merit. It's one of our public events so bring the whole family.

We've also got the Orinda visitation on the 26th. This will conclude the 97th consecutive annual visitation between our two Lodges. In the fall, we go to them. At present, it looks like we'll be conferring an Entered Apprentice Degree. Keep a lookout for more info as things progress.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Cal Gilbert, PM

Master

VIEW FROM THE WEST



Where is everyone and where has the time gone? Nine months in and lots of things going on. The lodge has been worked on both on the outside as well as inside. We have new glass in the windows, and it is a clear picture looking out on the world.

The new security gate has been installed and the archive room is just about complete, and they both look great.

August has been a busy month. We had our Stated Meeting, 2 degrees and a paint & sip night.

Hope to see you at the lodge in September for more of our activities.

Ben Newsom, PM
Senior Warden

VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



My brothers,

As we wade into the second half of the year, it's worth reflecting back on the incredible first half we've had. We have successfully consolidated, blended together our finances and culture, and come out a stronger lodge. I'm so proud of the work you've each put into this effort, whether it be clearing out our excess storage (thank you, Wor. Darren!), keeping a just and accurate account of our records (thank you, Wor. David!), hosting a special event (thank you to the many of you who have!), governing over the affairs of our new, big lodge with grace and humility (thank you Wor. Cal!) or showing up continuously to build the culture we want to carry into the future! Thank you all!

As most of you know, I have two step kids. As I'm writing this, the oldest is moving back into the dorms for his second year of college while the youngest starts his first year of high school. These new chapters sometimes feel overwhelming. I sometimes feel like I am just along for the ride of whatever life brings me, much as I did when I was entering high school. Frankly, it's relieving to know that I have the support of each of you as my brothers. I didn't know this at the time, but it's become clear with time that one of the reasons I joined Masonry was for a support network. Now I rely on you all, and I couldn't do that without the understanding we have with each other about how to walk and act as an upright Mason.

Thank you for being my support!

Drew Spitzer
Junior Warden

ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren & Friends,

We have been very busy with the repairs on the building. The roof and gutter system are done. The security door is installed, the dining hall painting is done, and the exterior painting is being completed. The archive room is scheduled to be completed by the end of August. The third-floor window glass has been replaced. We have a few more minor projects in the works, but most of the main capital improvements have been completed for the rest of the year. The Hall Board has decided to have the building inspected and compare it to our reserve study and come up with a 3, 5, 10-year plan based on those two reports. Our building Manager, Worshipful Tim, has done yeoman's work keeping all of these projects moving along.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Brother Phil Williams
Board President

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE



"What have the Romans ever done for us?"

Quote: Month Python

I know it was funny at the time, but it really is a serious remark when we focus it on ourselves. What have we done for freemasonry, and what has it done for us? When we consider what our lodge dues cover, we are looking at a broad range of services all focusing on lodge members and their families. Our dues and subsequently the per capita payment helps fund these services offered by Masonic Homes including accommodation, food, medical that encompasses memory care and other health services. Masonic Outreach can pay for those who need help at home or assist to identify community-based resources to access social programs. Masonic Youth & Families is committed to supporting Masonic youth orders, educating their leaders to identify when a young member may need help. Also, therapeutic services are offered to children who are victims of trauma. MY&F help guide families through these tough times and a professional team is on hand to put the needs of families first. At the lodge level we try to help our brothers who cannot attend lodge meetings, we have set up a Lyft account, a home to lodge and back again taxi service for those unable to drive. See the Trestleboard for contact details and how to arrange a trip.

These wonderful opportunities to help each other and our families could not happen without additional donations to the Masonic Foundation. It is right that the lodge charity committee is the first line of defense to help a fallen brother but without the additional help of the Masonic Foundation we could not hope to offer such a wide array of services and support to our members. Remember what we do for the fraternity reflects back on us, we can be seen to help and get involved, or we can do nothing but just ask, what has freemasonry ever done for us? Without brothers stepping up to help, we cannot fulfill our obligation to soothe the unhappy, sympathize with their misfortune, compassionate their miseries and restore peace to troubled minds. It is after all the great aim we have in view.

David Forsyth P.M.
Secretary

Announcements

Vote Results: If you haven't heard both financial resolutions were approved at our August Stated Meeting. One dealt the transfer of funds from our B of A account to our current checking account and consolidating our Oakland # 61 Scholarship account with our Oakland #61 Investment account. The other revised ion of our 2024 Lodge Budget. This latter action did not increase our budget, just adjust some budget line items.

Castro Valley DeMolay: The enclosed photo shows the Chapter preparing thank you letters to local veterans prior to the veteran's trip to Washington DC to view the memorials. Additionally, they will have a pancake breakfast at Crow Canyon Lodge on October 13th from 8:00-11:00 a.m.

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.

Please see this issue's event pictures in the pages that follow.

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

- I heard from Bro. Bill Kambic and have nothing new to report at this time.
- Bro. Lee Cherry gave me a call a few days ago. Lee is 68+ year member and will celebrate his 100th birther day next June. Since I last talked to him, he has dealt with several health issues, e.g. pre-cancerous mole removal and some dementia but otherwise is doing fine. He asked that I pass along a "hello" to lodge members.
- I recently caught up with Bro. Tom Bowser. He is back from Spain and currently residing at his family home in Visalia. However, he soon will be departing for Belgium to begin work on a Master's Degree. He too asked me to pass along his best wishes our membership.
- I checked in with W. Bob and Carolee Baird. Carolee is doing fine; however, Bob hasn't been able to leave their apartment for the last two months. He had a tough time recovering his last three Covid shots. Additionally, continues to have equilibrium problems. All that said, Bob sounds great.
- I am saddened to report that we lost W. Julius (Sandy) Kahn, III, our newest 50-yr member. He made many contributions to Masonry and among them were the following: two terms as Master of Oakland, Durant, Rockridge #188, recipient of both Hiram and Golden Veteran awards, Anniversary Level and Grand Master Circle Donor and five term member of the Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee. Crow Canyon Lodge #551 will host a Masonic Funeral Service on September 8th, see our calendar pager for details.
- On the brighter side, I touched bases with Bro. Louis H. Gibbs, Jr. He now resides in Walnut Creek and unable make it to lodge. That said, he is as sharp as a tack, and he enjoys keeping up with the lodge through our Trestleboard. Lou will celebrate his 102nd birthday this coming November.

** 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*

September & October Calendar

- Thursday, Sept 5th:** **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.**
- Sunday, Sept 8th:** **Masonic Funeral Service for Bro. Julius "Sandy" Kahn III, PM.** The service will be held at Castro Valley Masonic Center beginning at 11:00 a.m. with a Remembrance Lunch to follow. **Please RSVP to the Crow Canyon Secretary if you are able to attend. Email: crowcanyon551@att.net or text: (925) 699-1786.** Among other things, Oakland Lodge No. 61 will provide both the Chaplain and Marshal.
- Monday, Sept 9th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept 11th:** **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, Sept 12th:** **MOS Presentation by a Grand Lodge staff member.** All Brothers and guests are welcome. The dress is casual. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 and the program to follow. Also, see other Masonic services elsewhere in this issue. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Tuesday, Sept 17th:** **DOSI @ Bay Cities #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 email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Thursday, Sept 19th:** **Hiram Award:** 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 Award Ceremony for the recipient to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Monday, Sept 23rd:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept 26th:** **Oakland #61 visit to Orinda #122:** Dress for officers is tuxedo and for members, it will be coat & tie. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 and the degree or program at 7:30. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Thursday, Oct 3rd:** **Stated Meeting:** All Brothers and guests are welcome. The dress 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, Oct 9th:** **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, Oct 10th:** **Masonic Education & EA Degree Rehearsal:** Dress is casual. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 and the program/rehearsal to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Monday, Oct 14th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct 17th:** **DOSI @ Oakland #61:** 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 email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**

Continued on Page 6

September and October Calendar, Continued from Page 5

- Thursday, Oct 24th:** **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 degree. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Friday, Oct 25-27th:** **The 175th Grand Communication** will commence at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Monday, Oct 28th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct 31st:** **Pending PM 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. 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 an 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 September

Gregg W. Parsons (1), John A. Peterson (1), William F. Butler, Jr. (2), Joshua S. Elowsky (2), Stephen S. Hawkins (2), Douglass R. Emberton (3), Eduardo Rodriguez (6), Marcos M. Valerio (7), James W. Holland, Jr. (8), Dustin D. Brace (9), Joseph L. Harris (10), Joseph M. Sahagun, Sr. (10), Donald R. Colbert (11), Mickey L. Benko, PM (12), Alexandre M. Bayen (14), Robert C. Ellis (14), Donald G. Nelson (14), Rolf K. Haas (15), Rhodri C. Scantlebury (15), Jack L. Fair (17), Stennis Scruggs, Jr. (18), Michael T. Baird, PM (19), Herbert F. Bradley (19), Daniel Mullane (20), Robert A. Gordon, Jr. (23), Nicholas L. Daly (27), Nicholas L. Hayworth, PM (28), and William S. Sereni, Sr. (30).

Masonic Raised Dates in September

Raed Y. Alfayoumi (8), Peter O. Godeschalk (8), Jesse W. Wallin (8), William F. Butler, Jr. (9), Daniel F. Dietzel (9), Benjamin P. Woosley (9), David E. Davis (10), Azi Vajravai (10), Olushola S. Bello (12), James W. Holland, Jr. (12), James M. McVey (12), David C. Renshaw (13), Richard T. Edick, PM (14), Christopher R. Weaver (14), Grove L. Gill (15), Donald R. Parker, PM (15), Eric R. Skinner (17), Daniel E. White (17), Victor G. Borlaug, II, PM (18), Otha L. Cotton, PM (18), James C. Macintire, PM (18), Willard N. Smith, Jr. (19), Richard B. Parkin (20), David F. Ewing, PM (21), David A. Hansen (21), Barry R. Rodriguez (23), Robert A. Gordon, Jr. (24), Richard D. Nutting (25), David R. Arp, PM (26), Christopher J. Jiannalone (26), Donald G. Heckenlively (27), Richard D. Ketels, PM (27), Jesse L. Schultz (27), Andrew L. Altomare (29), Bradley A. Gill (29), Patrick A. Love, PM (30), and Eduardo R. Rodriguez (30).

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
John M. Cahan, passed away on 4/4/2024
Bruce A. Scott, passed away on 4/17/2024
Julius (Sandy) Kahn, III, PM, passed away on 8/9/2024



Bros Pol & Zach FC Degree on 7-25-24



August Paint & Sip Event on 8-15-24



Castro Valley DeMolay on 8-19-24



Bro. Jilil Jaber's 1st Degree



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!

Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of California



175TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

October 25-27, 2024

California Masonic Memorial Temple
1111 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

Register Now!

<http://freemason.org/anncomm24>

*See the Lineup: Grand Master's Banquet,
Club Fugazi, and More!*

Our hotel blocks for the 175th Annual Communications are filling up quickly! The Fairmont is now sold out, but discounted rooms are still available at the Stanford Court, InterContinental Mark Hopkins, and the Holiday Inn.

Don't miss out on any of the exciting events at the Annual Communication, including a celestial night among friends at the Grand Masters Banquet, hosted by **Grand Master G. Sean Metroka and his wife, Margaret**. Indulge in an evening of dinner, drinks, and revelry in the opulent Venetian Ballroom at the luxurious Fairmont Hotel.

And on Saturday, treat your spouses, partners, and family to a one-of-a-kind afternoon! Club Fugazi in North Beach hosts our group with fun and casual food selections from some of San Francisco's favorite food purveyors before an afternoon showing of its beloved acrobat act, Dear San Francisco, touted as a **"love letter to the city and the human body"** by the San Francisco Chronicle and **"90 minutes of kinetic adrenaline"** by the SFist. Buy tickets when you register for the Annual Communication.

Discounted hotel rates are still available at the Stanford Court, InterContinental Mark Hopkins and Holiday Inn!

Annual Communication is our time to come together for a week-long, celebration of Freemasonry, to vote on important legislation, and to help guide the future of the fraternity.



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.

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 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 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.