



**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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**October 2024**

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**UPON THE SQUARE:**



Brethren and Friends,

Well, the Autumn of the year is upon us once again. Leaves change color, the holidays roll around again, our children and grandchildren seem a little more grown up, and the face looking back at us from the mirror in the morning has a few more lines and a bit more frost in the beard. Time, as they say, marches on.

So far this year, we've seen civil unrest in our country with the surety of more to come. Natural disasters have wreaked havoc all over the world. And around the globe, people and nations struggle to remain free and at peace with one another.

Yet in all this chaos, we, as Masons have the opportunity, nay, the responsibility, to hold high the beacon of light given to us in our teachings, never sitting down contented while our fellow creatures around us are in want, especially when it is in our powers to relieve them without inconvenience to ourselves.

To that end, I'd like to share with you part of an address given to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand many years ago by Most Worshipful Brother General Charles Fergusson entitled, "When Is A Man A Mason?".

"When he can look out over the rivers and hills and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things and yet have faith, hope, and courage, which is the root of every virtue.

When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, and diabolic, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive, and to love his fellowman. When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins, knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds. When he has learned to make friends and help them.

When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life. When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response. When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin.

When he knows how to pray, how to love, how to hope. When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellowman, with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of song – glad to live and not afraid to die!

Such a man has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one thing which it is trying to give to all the world."

So, mote it be.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

**Cal Gilbert, PM**

**Master**

## VIEW FROM THE WEST



Where has the time gone? Nine months in and lots of things done. The Hall Association has completed worked on both on the in and outside of the lodge. Our contractors have replaced the glass in our exterior windows, installed a security gate and about finished the archive room. Everything looks great.

In September we held our stated meeting, helped put on a Masonic Celebration of Life Service for W. Sandy Kahn at Crow Canyon Lodge, hosted a MOS presentation by Grand Lodge at our house, presented W. Dana Janke our Hiram Award and conducted a Fellow Craft Degree during our annual visit to Orinda Lodge.

Hope to see you in October for more of our activities,

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

## VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Gentlemen,

Thank you so much for assisting me in having such an incredible year. We're coming to an end and I'm so excited for how well this year has gone!

We've never spent so much on food and yet had such little waste. That's all thanks to your efforts of continuously using our new RSVP system.

As we get close to year end, consider how you want to invest in the lodge next year. What position do you want to hold? How do you want to see the lodge operate differently? How can you get involved to make that happen? That's the lifeblood of our Lodge. I'm so looking forward to what this next chapter brings and I'm so proud of how well this year has progressed!

Thank you to those who have invested so much time, effort and energy into making this year what it was!

Finally, thank you to our leadership for continuously helping us excel as a lodge!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
**Drew Spitzer**  
**Junior Warden**

## ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren & Friends,

We have completed numerous capital projects this year. The Hall Association will not start any major capital projects until next year. We have had a building inspector come in and is in the process of providing a report. That report will be used to compare our reserve study and come up with a 3-, 5-, 7- and 10-year plan. That plan will be built into each year's budget. Barring anything breaking, that should be it for this year. We do have new panels going in the lady's bathroom and are looking at cleaning out the space over the Lodge Room. Those should be minor expenses.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

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

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE



### *A'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia*

*Hawaiian proverb: "No task is too big when done together by all"*

Many hands make light work. As we head towards the end of the year, we often cram in as many activities and events into our calendar as we can, which if not well-organized and supported, will be less successful. It is now more than ever that we must remember *the beehive*. In Masonry, the beehive is an emblem of industry—it reminds us we are dependent upon each other to be productive by showing up and supporting Lodge events and other Masonic activities. We are duty-bound to step in and lend a hand when it is within our power to do so. Put another way, if we are not contributing our time and effort, then we are just a drone. The Lodge has been busy with degree work, a Hiram award presentation, and preparations for our Grand Master's visit, all of which will culminate in late October at the Annual Communication. As you would expect in such a hive of activity, brothers have been pitching in to help—setting up the dining room, preparing the lodge room, and cleaning the building after the recently completed painting and window work. Many brothers also attended the recent District Officer School of Instructions. This month I want to recognize our many unsung heroes in our lodge—please take a moment to offer to help (say thank you to the brothers who do) and become a busy bee in our hive. This virtue is personally rewarding in so many ways, and you will have fulfilled your duty to your brothers and demonstrate your worth as a member of our craft.

As secretary, I am always grateful for the help of our Asst. Secretary Bro. Allen Rodda. He is always willing to jump into any project and works very hard behind the scenes. For that, we should all thank him.

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

## Announcements

**Castro Valley DeMolay:** The Chapter will hold a pancake breakfast at Crow Canyon Lodge on October 13th from 8:00-11:00 a.m.

**Oakland Lodge No. 61 will host a Grand Officer Reception for W. Tigran Agadzhanian at Oakland Scottish Rite (OSR) located at 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA 94612:**

- Grand Master G. Sean Metroka will attend, and the dress is coat & tie.
- Parking is free in the lot behind the OSR building on Madison Street.
- Social hour in the 3rd floor Member's Lounge will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 in the 3rd floor Banquet Room.
- The meal is free, and the options are Chicken Piccata or Vegetarian Entrée.
- The Reception is open to Grand Lodge Officers, Masons, Public, Spouses and Partners by invitation or registration.
- To register please use NLT October 6th:  
<https://buytickets.at/oaklandlodge61/1392502>
- **NO TICKETS AT THE DOOR.**

**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](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."

**2025 Dues:** The proposed per capita is \$68.50 and if adopted, Oakland Lodge No. 61 will remain at **\$131.00** The first dues notices will go out in the second week of November and continue with physical and electronic dues notices until March 2025. **Please see Dues Payment Information elsewhere in this issue.**

### **Sunshine Report**

- I've received both bad and good news about Bro. Bill Kambic's health issues. The bad is that he is dealing with prostate cancer. The good is that it is treatable and that his prognosis is good. Please keep Bill in your prayers.
- Worshipful Julius (Sandy) Kahn, III, memorial service was well attended and much appreciated by his family.

*\* 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)*

## October & November Calendar

- Thursday, Oct 3rd:** **Stated Meeting & Grand Master G. Sean Metroka will be our special guest:** 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.**
- Sunday, Oct 13th:** **Grand Officer Reception for W. Tigran Agadzanyan @ Oakland Scottish Rite:** Grand Master Metroka will attend not preside, and the dress is coat & tie. Festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. **RSVP is required Please see Announces for more information.**
- 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.**
- Thursday, Oct 24th:** **Entered Apprentice Degree for Anthony Lively:** 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:** **Happy Halloween**
- Thursday, Nov 7th:** **Stated Meeting & Elections:** 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 & elections to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**
- Monday, Nov 11th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov 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, Nov 14th:** **Lodge Investment Management Presentation by Bro. David Tucker.** This gathering is only open to Oakland #61 Lodge members. The dress is casual. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 and the program to follow. **Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**

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**October and November Calendar, Continued from Page 5**

- Tuesday, Nov 19th:** **DOSI @ Acalanes Fellowship #480:** 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.**
- Monday, Nov 25th:** **Book Club:** Dress is casual, and the meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov 21st:** **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.**
- Thursday, Nov 28th:** **Happy Thanksgiving - the Lodge will be DARK.**

**Dues Payment Information**

At this point it looks like our 2025 dues will be \$131. We will continue to use the Grand Lodge billing system and if you are an annual dues payer, you can expect to receive your first dues notice in the second week of November. They will send out both physical and electronic notices. **We urge you to registrar for iMember 2.0 and pay your dues online.**

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://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](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 or Assistant 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 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 October**

Harry F. Sands (1), Jason B. Hartman, PM (3), Colin McDonald (3),  
Pol F. Minguet (3), Joel R. Sayre (3), Roy C. Fetterly (4), Christopher Blair (6),  
Peter O. Godeschalk (7), Kenneth R. Martin (9), Charles R. Goff, PM (10),  
Eduardo Colmenares, Jr. (11), Mario A. Palestini (11), Mario A. Palestini (11),  
Christopher H. Freitas (11), Edelito H. Medina, PM (15),  
Robert L. Garoutte (16), Donald G. Heckenlively (16),  
James M. Anderson (18), Peter K. Cloven (18), Michael D. Dobson (20),  
Stuart Bateman (22), Kevin Clanton (22), Frederick W. Robinson, PM (22),  
Daniel E. Moss (23), Lawrence A. Altomare, PM (27), Gregory R. Gemlo (27),  
Jeffrey M. Poole (30), Timothy Urlaub (30), and Jerrell C. Johnson (31).

### **Masonic Raised Dates in October**

Timothy Jackson (10/10), Daniel Davenport (10/12),  
Jason Willcuts (10/12), Louis H. Gibbs Jr. (10/13),  
Aram Harijan (10/13), Charles W. Adams (10/14),  
Charles R. Mack (10/14), John A. Peterson (10/14),  
Peter K. Cloven (10/18), Itamar L. de Morais (10/18),  
Charles A. Langel, PM (10/18), David E. Levinson (10/18),  
Joel R. Sayre (10/18), Thomas M. Andrus, PM (10/19),  
Miguel A. Martinez (10/19), Joseph S. Bruno (10/24),  
Edelito H. Medina, PM (10/24), George L. Snodgrass (10/24),  
David A. Parsons (10/25), Bowman Wong (10/25),  
Timothy L. Fairley, PM (10/26), Richard D. Herrera (10/26),  
Donald S. Draughon (10/27), Randall K. Diehl (10/28),  
Donald B. Gholson (10/28), John K. Oshima (10/29),  
and Charles R. Goff (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



**Bro. Nima Elie's FC Degree**



**Sept 2024 DOSI @ Bay Cities Lodge #337**



**W. Dana's Hiram Award**





**W. Dana with fellow awardees**



**W. Dana with his family**

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.



**Join us for the Feast of St. John the Evangelist Celebration  
December 27th**

**Tickets are now available for the for Oakland Lodge 61's Feast of St. John on December 27th. This annual celebration is a cherished tradition among our members, honoring our Patron St. John the Evangelist. Join us for an evening filled with great food, fellowship, and meaningful conversations as we gather to celebrate this special occasion.**

Evening begins with Hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 in our 2nd floor member's lounge followed by dinner upstairs in the dining hall at 7:30.

**Attire**

Black Tie

**Tickets**

**\$60** and available for members of Oakland 61 only until October 3rd (Stated Meeting), so please be sure to get your tickets now at the following:

[Tickettailor.com/oaklandlodge61/1392491](http://Tickettailor.com/oaklandlodge61/1392491)

**Location**

Rockridge Masonic Hall  
5449 College Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94618



*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.