



FIRST MEETING:

December 7, 2023

Office: (510) 655-9353

Reservations: (510) 655-9353

Oakland Lodge #61, F.&A.M. ORIGINAL CHARTER

Rockridge Masonic Hall

5449 College Avenue

Oakland, California 94618

www.oakland61.org

SIGNED: May 4, 1855

Secretary: (415) 425-2661

January 2025

VIEW FROM THE EAST:



Brothers and friends,

Many thanks to Wor. Cal Gilbert on a wonderful year and getting us started on the right track with the new lodge. Thank you for electing and installing me as Master for this year. Thank you, brothers, without you the lodge would be boring.

I hope your holidays were everything you wanted them to be. We are getting off to quick start this year with our first Stated Meeting on January 2nd; no rest for us. I would like to have as many brothers as possible at each meeting this year. Therefore, our dress code will be "Come As You Are." Exceptions will be for Officers when Tux's are normally appropriate, i.e. degrees, etc. Other than that, please just show up.

While we were two lodges, we are now one. It is fine to remember our history and traditions; however, it is time to create new traditions and history.

We will be hosting the year's first District Officers School of Instruction (DOSI) on Thursday, January 16th at our lodge. Dinner will be served at 6:30 with the meeting at 7:30. All members are welcome and please come. **RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.**

Sincerely and fraternally,

Ben Newsom, PM

Master

VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Brethren,

It is my humble honor to serve this coming year as Junior Warden. This young, yet truly old, lodge is finding its own path and developing its own traditions, something Wor. Newsom is rightfully focused on this year. It is an exciting time to be a part of Oakland 61!

It's a heavy burden to hold the past in one hand while also building new traditions. We need everyone's help in this venture. To help with this I charge everyone with this question; what can **YOU** do to be a part of the growth and new traditions of our Lodge? We all bring our individual light to the lodge, and I ask you to please lend a hand, and shine your light on our lodge.

Oh, and **please** continue to RSVP for dinners.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

James McVey
Junior Warden

ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren & Friends,

A new year has arrived, and we will hold our annual meeting on January 8th. The officers will be nominated and the budget approved. This year's major project is replacing the HVAC system. We are currently receiving estimates for the project. The Board will be looking at other recommended projects from the inspection report we received this year. Our main goal for the Hall is to make it structurally sound with safe operational functions. We accomplished a lot in 2024 but have more to do in 2025.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Brother Phil Williams
Board President

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE



***"Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve."
Martin Luther King Jr.***

Dear Brothers,

As we gather under the timeless principles of Freemasonry, we are reminded of the importance of charity and service to others. In our Masonic journey, we are taught not only to look inward but to extend a helping hand to those in need. This commitment to giving and supporting our communities is a cornerstone of who we are as Masons.

Our Lodge has always stood as a beacon of light, not just for our members, but for the communities of which we are a part. Through our generosity and the efforts, we make together, we can create meaningful changes and foster goodwill among our neighbors.

We will continue to support Claremont Middle School by helping fund their art projects. We have agreed to work with Blick Art Materials to provide art supplies with a donation that will be managed by Blick Art and drawn down by Claremont Art teachers as needed.

This upcoming Earth Day will find us knee-deep in weeds clearing debris and helping repair the play structures at FROG Park (Friends of Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt). FROG Park is a public park and greenway that connects the neighborhoods of Temescal and Rockridge.

The local Rockridge Library has been a favorite to support each year. We'd like to go a step further and meet the local library team for a walk through and hear more about their programs and see their facilities. One of our main aims is to make sure that reading is at the forefront of education whether it be early reading classes or adult learning programs.

Thank you all who have and will continue to contribute their time, talent, and resources to these initiatives. Your generosity not only exemplifies the core values of Freemasonry but also inspires others to follow in your footsteps.

Freemasonry has always been about making a difference—not just within the walls of our Lodge but in the world at large. As Masons, we embody the ideals of charity, integrity, and brotherly love. Together, we can create lasting positive changes and continue to build a better world for all.

Thank you for your support as your secretary, my door is always open.

David Forsyth P.M.
Secretary

Announcements

Thanks: On behalf of the lodge, I want to pass along our thanks to our 2025 Officer Installation Team. They included W. Gary Peare, Installing Officer, W. Phil Gardner, Master of Ceremonies and W. Nick Hayworth, Installing Chaplain. All did an outstanding job.

Something New: You will notice a new approach to our Trestleboard Calendars. We hope their layout is helpful.

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."

2025 Dues: Our dues will remain at **\$131.00** The first dues notices went out in the second week of November and continue with physical and electronic dues notices until February 2025. **Please see Dues Payment Information elsewhere in this issue.**

Sunshine Report

- Worshipful Ben Newsom, our new Master, had to battle a virus that resulted in Sepsis just prior to his installation. He is on the road to recovery.
- Bro. Rolf Haas, our new Junior Deacon, is recovering from knee replacement surgery. He is doing well.
- Sadly, we lost two exceptional brothers since our last Trestleboard. Bro. Carl Lampkin was in declining health and was living with his son in Fairfield, CA. Bro. Don Gholson was a 50-year member, a former Lodge Trustee & Lodge Audit Committee chairman, Scholarship Board member and a Hiram Award recipient. We will miss them both.

** 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*

January Calendar

Thursday, January 2nd - Oakland 61 Stated Meeting

All Brothers and guests are welcome. Social hour begins at 6:00 pm, dinner at 6:30 and meeting to follow at 7:30. Fellowship afterward.

Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.

Wednesday, January 8th - Hall Association

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, January 9th - Practice 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Rockridge Masonic Center, 5449 College Ave, Oakland, CA 94618

Monday, January 13th - Book Club

The meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Join us for a fun discussion on a Masonic book.

Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.

Thursday, January 16th - DOSI @ Oakland 61

Social time starts at 6:00 pm, dinner at 6:30 with the meeting and instruction to follow.

Please RSVP via email announcement or (510) 655-9353

Saturday, January 25th - Executive Board Meeting 9:00 - 10:00 am

Rockridge Masonic Center, 5449 College Ave, Oakland, CA 94618

Monday, January 27th - Book Club

The meeting is from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

Join us for a fun discussion on a Masonic book.

Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.

February Calendar

Thursday, February 6th - Oakland 61 Stated Meeting

All Brothers and guests are welcome. Social hour begins at 6:00 pm, dinner at 6:30 and meeting to follow at 7:30. Fellowship afterward.

Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.

Monday, February 10th - Book Club

The meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Join us for a fun discussion on a Masonic book.

Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.

Wednesday, February 12th - Hall Association

Interested brothers are welcome. The evening begins with a light meal at 6:30 pm with the meeting to follow.

Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.

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Tuesday, February 18th - DOSI @ Bay Cities #337

Social time starts at 6:00 pm, dinner at 6:30 with the meeting and instruction to follow.

Please RSVP via email announcement or (510) 655-9353

5050 El Portal Dr, Richmond, CA 94803

Saturday, February 22nd - Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Claremont Dad's Club. Tim World – will help head up. *Ben cooks!*

Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.

Monday, February 24th - Book Club

The meeting is from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

Join us for a fun discussion on a Masonic book.

Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 655-9353.

Dues Payment Information

As previously mentioned, our 2025 dues are \$131. We will continue to use the Grand Lodge billing system and if you are an annual dues payer, you should have received 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. 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 or Assistant Secretary at secretary@oakland61.org, and assistant.secretary@oakland61.org

Life Members

2025 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 or Assistant Secretary know. One of them will print 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 January

James G. Kirk (1), Christopher R. Weaver (1), Vic C. Vickers, PM (4), Azi Vajravai (5), Lynton J. Daniel (7), Charles T. Poole (7), Frederick M. Burke (9), Luciano Chessa (12), Luciano Chessa (14), Kirby N. Kinkead (15), Dennis W. Butler (16), Steven E. Lenheim (21), Roy S. Mac Leod (22), Guy K. Haas (23), John G. Martin (23), Daniel P. Breault (25), Marvin R. Amaral (26), Romeo N. Escobar, (26), Susumu S. Imamura, PM (27), Christopher Nowell, PM (28), Daniel A. Bible (29), Joseph S. Bruno (30), and James E. Kohl, Jr. (30).

Masonic Raised Dates in January

Marvin R. Amaral (1), James Kohl, III (12), Michael J. Bischoff (13), Larry J. Frederick (15), Michael W. Armstrong (17), Glen R. Tomek (17), William S. Sereni, Sr. (19), Theodore B. Aquino (21), Jeffery R. Fingerut (22), Daniel Mullane (22), Paul E. Schissler (22), Lance D. Hanawalt (23), Martin G. Smith (24), Arthur J. Odom (25), Donald A. Searcy (26), Vic C. Vickers, PM (26), Paul H. Eikeberg (28), Drew K. Steadman (28), John L. Morrison, PM (29), and Stennis Scruggs, Jr. (31).

2025 Memoriams

Carl P. Lampkin, passed away on 11/22/2024
Donald B. Gholson, passed away on 11/22/2024



Bro. Jabil Jaber's FC Degree, 11-14-24



Paulo's 1st & Patrick's 1st Proficiency, 11-21-24



Anthony Lively's 1st Degree



2024 lodge Children's Christmas Party



2024 Lodge Children's Christmas Party Group Picture



December 2024 Stated Meeting



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.

Oakland Lodge #61



Saturday, March 1, 2025

6:00 PM

\$55.00 Per Person

Limited to 80 Tickets

*Tickets must be purchased by **Tuesday, February 25th***

Family Style Dinner with Beverages

Rockridge Masonic Center

5449 College Avenue

Oakland, CA 94618

For Tickets:

<https://buytickets.at/oaklandlodge61/1503574>





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.