



**FIRST MEETING:**

December 7, 2023

Office: (304) 201-3880

Reservations: (304) 201-3880

**Oakland Lodge #61, F.&A.M. 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

---

**March 2025**

---

**VIEW FROM THE EAST:**



It is again that time of year for the wonderful corn beef and cabbage from our own Worshipful Tim World. I know I look forward to it each year.

Stated meeting on the 6th of March. Come as you are. For Rolf, that means clothes.

February was busy. Two degrees, pancake breakfast for Claremont middle school, super bowl party.

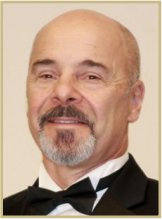
I am happy to see brothers come to the meetings. I would love to see more.

In masonry there are all types of brothers. Some are wordsmiths, crafters, jokers, mentors, coaches, historians, ritualist, cooks, eaters, and other things. The only way to find out is to show up to lodge and find your likes. The more members who show up, the more we can do.

Help is a wonderful thing. Any time one of us needs help, please let me or one of our other officers know. We are here for you and your family.

**Ben Newsom, PM  
Master**

## VIEW FROM THE WEST



Hello Brethren,

I will be stepping in for our senior warden to relieve brother Drew. I have always felt that the senior deacon and the senior warden stations were the best places in line. Hopefully I can do a good job for our lodge. I have to say it is quite an honor to be asked to step in as senior warden. Worshipful Ben has agreed to let me act as master for the Fellowcraft degrees. Personally, I think they are the best degree to perform as master. We will also get to see brother Luzon show his skills while performing the staircase lecture. Not an easy task for anybody. Being my first article in a few years, I am a bit rusty. We have degree practices, degrees, and weekend events like our annual crab feed, Frog Park Cleanup, and fundraisers for Claremont MS. My brothers please join us in these events. They are much better when they are well attended.

Be safe and stay well,

**Dana Janke, PM & Ha  
Acting Senior Warden**

## VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Brethren,

As we continue our journey in Masonry, it is important to strengthen our knowledge, refine our work, as well as deepen the bonds of our brotherhood. Our Thursday night practices provide a perfect opportunity to do just that. Whether you are looking to perfect your ritual work, work on your proficiency, or simply enjoy good fellowship with your brothers, these gatherings are invaluable. The more we practice together, the stronger our lodge becomes, ensuring that we uphold the traditions and standards that define us as Masons.

Beyond the work, these nights are a time for camaraderie, laughter, and support. Masonry is not just about ritual—it's about the connections we forge with one another. By attending, you not only improve your skills but also strengthen the ties that make our fraternity so special.

As we look toward April, I want to flag that we have the Frog Park Clean up and the Claremont Auction on April 19th. Both are key events for us and provide us with opportunities to serve our community and exemplify the principles we hold dear. To ensure the success of these events, we will need volunteers to step forward and lend a helping hand. Please be sure to mark April 19th on your calendar, it is an all hands day. This is truly an day for Oakland #61 to shine.

Let us continue to work together in the spirit of brotherhood and service, upholding the values that define us.

**James McVey  
Junior Warden**

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

*" We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give "*

Bro. Winston Churchill



Dear Brethren,

I trust this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. As we continue to navigate another year of fellowship, personal growth, and service to others, it is important to take a moment to discuss something that is vital to the success and sustainability of our Lodge — the payment of your annual dues.

Your dues are essential in maintaining the daily operations of our Lodge. We need to continue to provide the facilities and programs that enrich our lives as Masons.

Paying dues ensures that we can continue to host meetings, degree conferrals, charity events, and social gatherings. It allows us to help fund initiatives that promote the values of Freemasonry and strengthen the bonds within our community.

By staying current on your dues, you demonstrate your commitment to the Lodge and to the principles of Freemasonry. It helps keep us united as a fraternity, ensuring that every Brother can be involved in the life of the Lodge, regardless of personal circumstances. Your dues also provide the necessary resources for us to support Brothers who may face financial difficulties.

A significant portion of the funds raised through dues goes directly to charitable causes, both local and CA wide. Freemasonry has a long history of charitable works, and your contribution is a vital part of that ongoing tradition. By fulfilling your dues obligation, you help ensure we continue to make a positive impact on the world around us.

Unfortunately, failure to pay dues may result in a suspension of your membership. We always strive to support our brethren, and no one should feel isolated or without resources. If you are experiencing difficulty paying your dues, I encourage you to reach out to me, or to any officer of the Lodge, in confidence. We can explore options for payments or assist you in finding a solution. Freemasonry is built on brotherly love, and we are here to support each other.

*Continued on Page 4*

***From the Secretary's Table, Continued from Page 3***

Dues invoices were sent out for this year, and you can continue to pay in several ways, including via check, or through our Grand Lodge online payment portal. If you have not yet received your invoice or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Paying your dues is not just a financial obligation; it is a demonstration of your dedication to Freemasonry and the well-being of our Lodge. By fulfilling your dues commitment, you help ensure that the Lodge remains a thriving, supportive community for all members. Please help us to continue to strengthen our ties, honor our shared values, and work together to support our Lodge and our wider Masonic family.

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

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

**ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION**

Brethren & Friends,

A new year is upon us. We have numerous projects scheduled for the building. We have finally emptied out the attic above the Lodge Room and put in catwalks for safety. It was amazing what was stored up there. We found another electrical panel in our tenant's space needing upgrading and as of now, all of our panels have been upgraded. The water heater is due to be replaced by the end of February. We have been getting estimates for a new HVAC system, We have four different bids and are evaluating each. The target date to install the system is July of this year. At our February meeting we had a solar presentation and are looking into the viability of going to solar energy.

The board has decided to meet every other month on the second Wednesday. We also decided, any time we have guests other than Lodge Members, we will have security at the door for five hours or less as necessary. That will be billed to the responsible party.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

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

## Announcements

**Centennial Recognition:** We want to send along a special **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to **Bro. Don Nilson** who will celebrate his 100th birthday on March 13th. On behalf of the Oakland #61 family, I want to wish you all the best now and in the future. Bro. Allen Rodda

**FLASH:** Until this past week the Grand Lodge Dues Invoice system contained significant error. It listed a CLOSED **Oakland No.61, PO Box 29677** as our remittance address. If you chose to pay your dues by check, please mail it to Oakland No.61, 5449 College Ave, Oakland, CA 94618.

**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.

### **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:** 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**

- Bros. Lucas Strauss and Bill Kambic, and Will Smith continue to battle cancer. Recently, I was able to get a hold of them. Lucas told me that he is feeling good and expects to undergo a stem cell treatment in the coming months. Bill underwent his first radiation treatment which laid him low for a while, but he is back in action now. He said his doctors want to wait until July to check his numbers before deciding on the next step. Will was involved in a traffic accident during the week of Feb 16th. He ended up spending several days in the hospital. He was supposed to be released on February 23rd. His challenges now are recovering from his injuries and replacing his totaled truck.
- Bro. Chris Weaver underwent foot surgery and while recovering came down with the flu. He has recovered from the flu but is still convalescing from his surgery.
- W. Dana Janke came down with the flu around Monday, February 17th. He said he wasn't doing too bad until the following Saturday, February 22nd when the virus really knocked him low. I talked to him on the 23rd and he said he was feeling much better.
- Please keep all of them in your prayers.

*\* 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)*

## **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](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) and [assistant.secretary@oakland61.org](mailto: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](http://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 March**

Alan D. Filiau, PM (1), Tom Kavishi, PM (2), Edward V. Cabrera (3),  
Aram Harijan, M.D. (3), Robert B. Rickett (3), Olushola S. Bello (5),  
Edmond C. Stevenson, PM (5), Chad G. Struer, PM (5), Brent D. Goodale (7),  
David A. Hansen (8), William J. Kambic (12), Donald D. Nilson (13),  
Sheldon Williams (14), Garland B. Davis (15), Bowman Wong (15),  
John K. Oshima (16), Robert J. Buckingham (18), Lance D. Hanawalt (18),  
Jason Willcuts (21), Craig M. Baker (23), Christopher J. Jiannalone (23),  
Arman Paymai (23), Henry J. Gannett, PM (26), Jonathan S. Davis (27),  
Kurt M. Carter (29), and Edmund T. Evans (31).

### **March Masonic Anniversary Dates & Years of Service**

James G. Kirk (3/22/1960), 65 Years  
Robert C. Frederick (3/13/1964), 61 Years  
Robert L. Garoutte (3/26/1965), 60 Years  
Jack L. Fair (3/14/1966), 59 Years  
George E. Davis (3/30/1976), 49 Years  
Edmond C. Stevenson, PM (3/29/1977), 48 Years  
Timothy H. World, PM (3/24/1978), 47 Years  
Loren G. Harris (3/22/1983), 42 Years  
Gordon H. Emberton, PM (3/26/1991), 34 Years  
John D. Lane (3/26/2002), 23 Years  
Guy K. Haas (3/27/2004), 21 Years  
Thomas A. Gonda, Jr. (3/10/2005), 20 Years  
Khalil H. Sweidy (3/16/2006), 19 Years  
William S. Sereni, Jr. (3/22/2007), 18 Years  
Donald R. Colbert (3/29/2007), 18 Years  
Robert L. Charboneau (3/25/2010), 15 Years  
Sergey K. Aityan (3/22/2011), 14 Years  
Tyrone C. Davis-Eugene, PM (3/22/2012), 13 Years  
Michael G. McLean, Jr. (3/8/2012), 12 Years  
Alfredo Avila (3/28/2013), 12 Years  
Philip N. Brown (3/31/2016), 9 Years  
and Stuart Bateman (3/9/2017), 8 Years  
Kevin Clanton (3/23/2000), 8 Years

### **2025 Memoriams**

**Carl P. Lampkin**, passed away on 11/22/2024  
**Donald B. Gholson**, passed away on 11/22/2024  
**Thomas F. Arnold, PM**, passed away on 2/5/2025

## March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 23	24 7pm - Book Club	25	26	27 6:30 - Masonic	28	March 1 Crab Feed. See Flyer.
2	3	4	5	6 Stated Meeting. 6pm @ Oak #61. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30.  Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	7	8
9 Daylight Savings	10 Book Club. 7pm @ Oakland #61.	11	12 6:30pm - Hall	13 6:30pm - Entered	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 DOSI. 6:30pm - DOSI @ Orinda #122. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30.  Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	21	22
23	24 Book Club. 7pm @ Oakland #61.	25	26	27 3rd Degree Rehearsal 6:30 @ Oak #61 Dinner 6:30, Rehearsal 7:30.  Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	28	29 Lodge Building Clean-up, 9-12. All Volunteers Welcome.
30	31 Scholarship Applications Close.	April 1	2	3 Stated Meeting. 6pm @ Oakland #61. Inspectors official visit. Dress for officers is tuxedo. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30.  Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	4	5



## April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 30	31 Scholarship	April 1	2	3 Stated Meeting. 6pm @ Oakland #61. Inspectors official visit. Dress for officers is tuxedo. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Grand Lodge Retreat in San Ramon.  April 11-13 (Friday-Sunday)	12 Grand Lodge Retreat in San Ramon.
13 Grand Lodge Retreat in San Ramon.	14 Book Club 7pm @ Oak #61.	15 Tax Day  DOSI. 6:30pm - DOSI @ Acalanes #480. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	16	17 Masonic Ed. 2nd Degree @ Oakland #61.  Dinner 6:30, Ed. 7:30.  Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	18	19 Frog Park Clean-up. 9am - Frog Park. Meet @ Oak #61.  5pm - Auction for Claremont MS Dress is Dinner Jacket & Bow Tie  Need 8 lodge member volunteers
20 Easter Sunday	21 Easter Monday	22	23	24 Orinda Visit to Oakland. 6pm - Orinda to visit to Oak #61  Dress for Officers is TBD. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30.  Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	25	26
27	28 Book Club 7pm @ Oak #61.	29	30 Happy Birthday!	1 6pm - Oak #61	2	3 Chabot



**Feb 2025 Stated Meeting, 2-15-25**



**Scott B. Beaver's 1st Degree, 2-13-25**

# 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>





*Here's a Party 175 Year's in the Making!*

**We're celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge of California this spring and we want the whole fraternity to join us!.**

Gala celebrations are being hosted simultaneously on April 19 at or four locations across the state—San Francisco , Sacramento, Pasadena, and San Diego—as we recognize 175 years of history, tradition, and fellowship. These unforgettable events will feature a gourmet banquet, uplifting toasts, and captivating entertainment. It's a rare opportunity to gather to gather with friends, reflect on our shared history, and honor the enduring legacy of Freemasonry in California.

**Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.  
Let's come together to support and celebrate an organization  
that has stood the test of time!**

**REGISTER NOW!**



## DIVISION III LODGE OUTREACH MEETING



San Leandro Lodge No. 113

*Save the Date!*

The next Division III Lodge Outreach Meeting will be hosted by  
**San Leandro lodge No. 113 in San Leandro on Saturday, March 22nd.**

Please **RSVP** to Amanda at [alevy@mhuc.org](mailto:alevy@mhuc.org)  
to reserve your spot!