



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

SIGNED: May 4, 1855

Secretary: (415) 425-2661

May 2025

VIEW FROM THE EAST:



Well, that was a busy April. Having time to volunteer to help clean up Frog park. Thank you to the brothers and families that came out to help. Some of the brothers then returned to the lodge by 6pm that night to help out and serve dinner for the Claremont Middle school PTA fundraiser. Seems that everyone there enjoyed themselves.

We also had the enjoyment of visiting with Orinda Lodge with our 98th official exchange visit. They put on a terrific 2nd degree.

Our stated meeting is on May 1st with dinner at 6:30pm. We will also be hosting some of the staff from Claremont Middle school for the teacher of the year award before our meeting.

Please check your calendars for up coming events and show up when you can. The more the merrier.

Ben Newsom, PM
Master

VIEW FROM THE WEST



Hello my brothers and Happy Easter,

It has been a very busy week. Our grand lodge retreat for officers was very nice and informative. I always learn something from every breakout session that I attend. Speaking of education worshipful Fred Loeser put on another wonderful second-degree education evening. Also, W. Forsyth showed his skills with the pool Q pointer and his knowledge of our craft. The morning of April 19th was Frog Park cleanup. A worthy event that shows that our brothers care about the local community. The labor is easy and much appreciated. Besides that, we got a sweatshirt with our logo and donuts. Now that's living the dream. We have a few proficiencies and degrees coming up. Please come and support your brother. I remember the night I was raised and one thing one doesn't forget is how well the event was attended. It made me proud that so many brothers cared enough to be part of my degree.

See you soon,

Dana Janke, PM
Acting Senior Warden

VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Brothers,

I just want to take a moment to sincerely thank all of those who came out for our Day of Service on April 19th. Thank you so much to Worshipful Newsom, Forsyth (and family), Janke, Rodda, Anderson, World and brothers, Haas (x2), Moriuchi, and Amirdelfan.

Whether they were helping to clean up Frog Park or pitching in to support the Claremont Middle School Gala, their time and energy made a real difference. It was a great reminder of what we can accomplish when we come together in the spirit of brotherhood and service.

Seeing so many of you in action — raking, painting, setting up tables, serving food — showed not only our commitment to the Lodge but to our greater community as well. Both Frog Park and Claremont Middle School are better because of your efforts, and I couldn't be prouder to call you my brothers. Thank you again for making this Day of Service such a success!

Fraternally,

James McVey
Junior Warden

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

" Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom "

Bro. George Washington Carver



As Freemasons, we hold a deep commitment to the values of knowledge and enlightenment. Public education plays a crucial role in shaping our communities and empowering future generations. It is our duty to support and advocate for educational initiatives that promote learning, critical thinking, and civic responsibility.

Investing in public education not only benefits the students but strengthens the very fabric of society. By engaging with local schools, providing mentorship, and supporting educational programs, we can make a tangible impact on the lives of young people. Our involvement can help inspire a love for learning and equip students with the tools they need to succeed.

Our lodge scholarships are valued and sought after. The Scholarship Board thoughtfully applies our standards and selects up to four recipients a year. In addition, we are exploring adding two further scholarships specifically focused on Oakland high school leavers who wish to attend a local community college. More on this as it evolves.

Let us come together as a fraternity to champion the cause of public education. Whether through volunteering, fundraising, or simply raising awareness, each of us has the power to contribute to this vital mission. Together, we can foster an environment where education flourishes and all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

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

David Forsyth PM
Secretary

ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren & Friends,

The storage has been completely cleared out. Again, thank you to Worshipful Dana and Tim. The Hall Association has approved the new heating system and are going through the process for Grand Lodge approval. We have also approved adding a stairway up to the attic for better accessibility. These projects are scheduled for July coinciding with each other. There was a piece of stucco at the rear of the building that was pulling away from the building. That will be fixed within the next few weeks. There has been discussion about going to solar, and we are looking to the viability and cost. The focus this year was to get the building sound and safe with all operating systems working or replaced.

We all have our own expertise in numerous areas. That being said, if something isn't working in the Hall, please alert the Building Manager (Worshipful Tim) about the problem. Please do not try to fix it on your own. We just ran into this with the speaker system in the dining room. Many wires pulled, many wires sitting there. We've had three different technicians in to fix it and none could, it being so messed up. We are purchasing new components to get this system working properly.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

Brother Phil Williams
Board President

Discovering Masonic Secrets
Replaces the Book Club

Join us on the second and fourth Monday of each month for an illuminating deep dive into *Discovering Masonic Secrets* — an evening dedicated to exploring the rich tapestry of Masonic tradition, symbolism, and modern practice. This session will feature **guest speakers** sharing unique insights, **esoteric investigations** into hidden meanings, and an in-depth look at **tracing boards** and their deeper significance. Engage in **thought-provoking discussions and respectful debates**, explore **interesting articles** that challenge and expand your understanding, and examine the role of **modern Masonry** in today's world. We'll also cover the essentials of **Masonic etiquette**, ensuring every Brother is equipped to navigate the Craft with confidence and decorum. Whether you're a seasoned Mason or newly initiated, this gathering promises to be both enlightening and engaging.

Curious minds and open hearts welcome.

Kirby Kinhead
Lead Explorer

Announcements

Senior Warden Election: Bro. Drew Spitzer is stepping away from his Sr. Warden position and we will hold elections at our May Stated Meeting.

Diamond Jubilee Plus Recognition: We want to send along a special **Congratulations and Thanks** to **Bro. Russell Crow** who will reach the 80-yr membership mark on May 18th. On behalf of the entire lodge, I want to say thank you for both your loyalty and service to Masonry and wish you all the best. Bro. Allen Rodda

W. Nathan W. Spaulding Grave Site Clean-up info and other event pictures in the pages that follow.

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 (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 remain at **\$131.00** and if you chose to pay your dues by check, please mail it to **Oakland No.61, 5449 College Ave, Oakland, CA 94618.**
If you haven't paid them you are non-current. Please tender them ASAP or reach out to our secretary/assistant secretary.



Sunshine Report

- As some of you may know Michele Byrd suffered a minor heart attack early last month. While I don't know that she is completely recovered, Bro. Luzon tells me that she is back doing most everything she was doing before the event. Please keep Michele and the Byrd family in your prayers.
- I recently caught up with Bob & Carolee Baird. They are well; however, Bob's eye and balance issues remain the same. He said he gets around well with the aid of an electric chair. They passed along a "hello to all that remember them."
- Bro. Lucas Strauss continues get stronger. Unfortunately, he came down with RSV just before scheduled stem cell surgery. Lucas told me that his surgery date has been delayed 10 days. Additionally, he clarified what his doctors have told him about recovery. Surgical recovery will be approximately 90 days. Full recovery may take up to a year.
- Bro. Will Smith was involved traffic accident in late February and suffered a broken sternum plus other bump and bruises. His recovery is on schedule.
- Bro. Jerrell Johnson has followed doctors' physical therapy orders and is doing well. He plans to attend our May Stated Meeting.
- No updates on Bros. Shephen Gibson, Sr., Will Smith and Anthony Lively as I been unable to talk to them.

** 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*

Dues Payment Information

As previously mentioned, our 2025 dues are \$131. **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 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 May

Barry Rodriguez (2), Christopher M. Ellis (4), George E. Graham (4), Philip J. Williams (4), Gilberto Estrada, Sr., PM (5), Jong H. Lee, Ph. D (6), James K. Petersen, III (6), Khalil H. Sweidy (7), Perry D. Curry (8), Kyle Johnston (12), Terrance S. Hanson (13), Benjamin P. Woosley (13), Andrew L. Altomare (16), David E. Levinson (16), Wilbert D. Yip, PM (17), Randall K. Diehl (18), David S. Tucker III (19), Frederick A. Loeser, Jr., PM (20), David R. Woods (22), Philip N. Brown (23), Christopher A. Rohrer (27), Charles A. Jolivet (28), Daniel F. Dietzel (29), and Myron E. Temple, Jr., PM (31).

May Masonic Anniversary Dates & Years of Service

Russell R. Crow (1945/5/18), 80 Years
Lorraine W. Cherry (1956/5/24), 69 Years
William C. Herbert, PM (1964/5/27), 61 Years
Robert E. Baird, PM (1967/5/23), 58 Years
Everett L. Messer (1968/5/22), 57 Years
James T. Geanekos (1970/5/20), 55 Years
Robert J. Buckingham (1971/5/13), 54 Years
Alan D. Filiau, PM (1975/5/21), 50 Years
Colin McDonald (1976/5/18), 49 Years
Henry J. Gannett, PM (1980/5/15), 45 Years
Lawrence A. Altomare, PM (1994/5/24), 31 Years
Stefan A. Gibson, Sr. (1996/5/17), 29 Years
Chris E. Bokamper (1997/5/21), 28 Years
David R. Woods (1998/5/28), 27 Years
Aaron T. Kornblum (1999/5/3), 26 Years
Rolf K. Haas (1999/5/15), 26 Years
Timothy I. Michel (1999/5/26), 26 Years
Frederick A. Loeser, Jr., PM (2000/5/18), 25 Years
Edward V. Cabrera (2001/5/10), 24 Years
Richard D. Anderson, PM (2001/5/22), 24 Years
and Alejo S. Galvez (2001/5/31), 24 Years
Gabriel Basso (2008/5/27), 17 Years
Dustin D. Brace (2009/5/12), 16 Years
John Martin (2009/5/28), 16 Years
Philip J. Williams (2011/5/12), 14 Years
Benjamin L. Bartlett (2011/5/31), 11 Years
Benjamin G. Newsom, PM (2013/5/11), 12 Years
Ovanes Chobanian (2014/5/22), 10 Years
Darren A. Miller (2014/5/27), 11 Years
Marcos M. Valerio (2015/5/19), 10 Years
Robert B. Anderson (2016/5/24), 9 Years
Michael R. Solomon (2017/5/25), 8 Years
Robert E. Bonem (2022/5/31), 3 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

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>April</div> <div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>May</div> <div>1</div> <div>Stated Meeting, Election & Teacher of the Year Award. 6pm @ Oakland #61. Dinner 6:30. Meeting 7:30. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>
<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Cinco de Mayo</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Paint-Sip. 6pm @ Oakland #61. Dress is casual. Dinner 6:30 with program for painters to follow. Bros will have a degree practice. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div>
<div>11</div> <div>Mother's Day</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Master Mason Degree Practice/ Coaching. Dress is casual. Dinner at 6:30 with practice/ coaching to follow. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div>
<div>18</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Degree Practice/ Coaching. Dress is casual. Dinner 6:30 with practice/ coaching to follow. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>
<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Memorial Day</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Family Night Potluck, games & a movie for kids. Dress is casual with dinner at 6:30pm and fun to follow. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Annual Spaulding Grave Site Clean-up. Need about 10 or so brothers. Meet at plot 6, the grave site, at 10am. See additional info elsewhere in this issue. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</div>

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 1	2	3	4	5 Stated Meeting. 6pm @ Oakland #61. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30. <i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i>	6	7
8	9 Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.	10	11	12 Degree Practice/ Coaching. Dress is casual. Dinner at 6:30 with practice/ coaching to follow. <i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i>	13	14 Flag Day
15	16	17 DOSI. 6:30pm — DOSI @ Bay Cities #337. Dress is casual. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30. <i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i>	18	19 Bro. Tommy Lee Golden Veteran Award. Dress is Hawaiian shirts. Social time at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 followed by award at 7:30. <i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i>	20	21
22	23 Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.	24	25	26 Master Mason Degree. Dress is tuxedo for officers. Dinner at 6:30, Degree 7:30. <i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i>	27	28
29	30	1	2	3 Stated Meeting. 6pm @ Oakland #61. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30. <i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i>	4 Independence Day	5



1st Group photo of the March Lodge Clean-up participants



2nd Group photo of the March Lodge Clean-up participants





Get Your Tickets to Masons Night at the Ballpark in San Francisco!

It's time to play ball! Masons Night at the Ballpark is back, and we're kicking off the season with an incredible event just around the corner. Join your fellow Masons as the **San Francisco Giants face the D-backs on Monday, May 13th**—featuring Inspector of District No. 438 and past Grand Chaplain David Okomoto as the official ball dude!

Gather your Lodge, bring your family and friends, and join Masons, Masons4Mitts Ambassadors, Grand Lodge Officers, and the California Masonic Foundation as we come together for a night of fellowship, fun, and philanthropy.