



**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

---

## June & July 2025

---

### VIEW FROM THE EAST:



Hello Brothers,

I have had the pleasure of being at a 75-year pin reception last month. Seeing the brothers that showed up to celebrate was awesome. This brother was full of life and vigor. To think that it is attainable to reach that mark in Masonry kind of blows my mind. I know that if I were to make it to that milestone, I would be 115 years old. That is not going to happen. LOL.

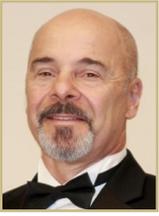
We have Tommy Lee who is receiving his 50-year pin on June 19th. I expect all officers there and as many brothers there as possible to celebrate this milestone for our brother.

The last Thursday of the month we will be having a 3rd degree and once again would like to have as many brothers as possible to this event to raise a brother.

I hope to see as many of you as possible for these events. Also, if you need anything, please reach out to me or any of our officers. We are here for you.

**Ben Newsom, PM**  
**Master**

## VIEW FROM THE WEST



Hello my brothers,

I hope everybody is enjoying this beautiful part of the year. Going to the family barbecues, birthdays, and dinners is very much like going to the lodge. Being able to enjoy the people around us is a wonderful opportunity. Something we should all appreciate and be thankful for.

Brothers Paulo and Jalil can't wait to become Master Masons. Nobody wants to be outside the door during a third degree. But they must be patient. It takes time and practice to do a good job raising a brother. I have told them both to be patient. Masonry is for the rest of your life.

See you soon, my friend,

**Dana Janke, PM**  
**Senior Warden**

## VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Brethren,

As we approach the summer season, I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. Summer is often a time for reflection and rejuvenation, and while some lodges slow down during these warmer months, our lodge remains active and energized. I encourage everyone to take some time to connect with your fellow brothers—whether through informal gatherings, barbecues, or simply checking in with one another. Brotherhood doesn't take a break, and the strength of our lodge lies in the bonds we continue to cultivate both inside and outside the lodge room.

There are two wonderful events on the calendar this month. We're celebrating Bro. Tommy Lee's Golden Veteran Award on June 19th. This should be an exciting day, **please come dressed in your best Hawaiian attire**. I also want to flag for everyone that we have a Master Mason degree coming up this month. The degree team has been working diligently to ensure this will be a memorable and meaningful experience. I urge you all to attend these events, not only to show support but to rekindle the passion and purpose that brought each of us to this fraternity. Let's come together and celebrate our brothers this month, on achieving these momentous achievements.

**James McVey**  
**Junior Warden**

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

*"Instruction does much, but encouragement, everything."*

Bro. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



As we continue our journey of enlightenment and service, our lodge leadership remains the cornerstone of our Fraternity. This month, as officers return from Grand Lodge retreats, we reaffirm our focus on cultivating leadership qualities that embody integrity, humility, and vision. Together, we can continue the legacy that uplifts our Lodge and community.

At the recent retreat in San Ramon the officers attended breakout sessions where new ideas and fresh perspectives were shared by masons from around California. We should be open to new observations and new directions. That does not mean we ignore our solemn duty to uplift, to educate, and to ensure the ancient landmarks of our Brotherhood are preserved with dignity. It means we should continue to travel on our journey from the rough ashlar to the smooth looking at opportunities to try out new ideas, lead by example and strive to be the guiding lights in our Lodges and beyond.

As Freemasons, we are taught from the very beginning that we are builders—of character, of community, and of legacy. In operative days, the Master Mason guided not only through skill but through the respect he earned by embodying the very principles he taught. Today, as speculative Masons, our tools are symbolic—but their lessons are just as real. We can all be leaders in our lodge; we have all taken obligations that bind us to act justly, to treat all with equity, and to walk uprightly before God and man, symbolized by the square, the level and the plumb. Every day and every moment is an opportunity to improve and become better men, re-imagine our lodges and make change for the better. I urge all members to participate and find opportunities to lead by example; mentoring a new initiate, starting a new education program or being the first contact when prospects ask, seek us out, and knock on our doors. Ultimately, our conduct reflects upon the whole Craft and on ourselves.

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

**David Forsyth PM**  
**Secretary**

## ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren & Friends,

With the promoting of Worshipful Dana to Senior Warden, leaves a Board position open for the rest of the year. We have asked Brother Rick Macintire to fill the position. This will be brought up in June's Stated Meeting.

We are moving forward with the heating replacement and the construction of the stairway up to the attic. This project will be done in the month of July. The hall has come up with enhanced security measures to keep all of us a lot safer. We are removing the door stop on the front door, so it won't be propped open. Building policy is, if you are inviting a guest, you will meet them at the door to let them in, just like you would do at your own home. There are other items which will be explained to the Lodge.

We have upgraded the water heater. The stucco patch on the rear of the building has been completed. Barring any other emergencies, this ought to cover any more large capital expenses for the rest of the year.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

**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

**Centennial Recognition:** We want to send along a special **Congratulations** to **Bro. Lee Cherry** who will celebrate his 100th Birthday on June 7th and marked 69-yr's of membership on this past May 24th. On behalf of the entire lodge, I want to wish you all the best. Bro. Allen Rodda

**Brother Donald Gholson's Celebration of Life Gathering:** Don was both a Hiram Award recipient and a 50-yr member. His wife, Pat, invites all Oakland Lodge No. 61 members and families to attend. The Celebration will take place on Wednesday, June 11th from 2-4 p.m. at Lake Chabot Park's Elderberry Picnic Area, 17600 Lake Chabot Road, Castro Valley, CA. The Park entry fee is \$5.00. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to Worshipful Jim Macintire at [macintirejc@yahoo.com](mailto:macintirejc@yahoo.com) or (510) 325-6580 by Saturday, June 7th.

**The 2025 Member Restoration Program:** On behalf of the Lodge, I want welcome back Bros. Allan Diaz, JoJo Guingao, Tom Gallagher, Tony Christian, Sergei Bokov and Tyson Nichols. We look forward to see you at lodge.

**Please see 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:** 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**

- Bro. Lucas Strauss survived his stem cell transplant and as of May 19th is under the care of a medical professional, Sara Hall, and in five days, his mom, Karen. He is extremely immune compromised and has to take extraordinary measures to avoid infection. He is housebound for 60 days, extremely limited social contacts for 6 months and careful about everything he does for a year.

He greatly appreciates UCSF Hematology, Blood & Marrow Transplant, and Cellular Therapy (HBC) programs. However, he needs help with giving Sara & Karen breaks, shopping hours, personal time, etc. Learning this, I contacted our Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) representative, Bro. Phil Williams. He told me that he was aware of the situation and had already alerted our Northern MOS agents. Finally, he thanks everyone who has helped him.

- Bro. Will Smith spent some time in the hospital following cataract surgery. Unfortunately, he is still experiencing some aftereffects of his auto accident a few month ago. We wish him well.

*\* 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 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 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 June**

Dana A. Janke, PM (1), James D. Hansen, PM (2), Norman E. Russ (3), Lorraine W. Cherry (7), Erol T. Cobanoglu (9), Charles J. Di Bari (9), Ryan T. Leininger (9), Eduardo L. Colón Vera (10), Nima Elie (10), Paul E. Schissler (10), Steven K. Harris (11), Benjamin F. Newsom, PM (12), Phillip A. Saenz (13), David A. Freed (14), Otha L. Cotton, PM (15), Charles W. Adams (17), Jalil J. Jaber (18), Thomas R. Bowser, V (19), Richard L. Stevenson (19), Adolph L. Keyes, Sr. (21), Daniel P. Loeser (26), Eric R. Skinner (26), Duane A. Aro (27), Howard D. Hickman, III (30), William R. Lenheim (30), and Richard J. Macintire (30).

## **Brothers Birthdays in July**

Jisu T. Kim (1), Donald D. Mc Gregor (2), David F. Ewing, PM (3), Ralph Vargas, Sr. (3), Paul D. Emery (4), Calvin H. Gilbert, PM (5), Frank R. Haswell (5), Wymone L. Walker (5), Richard T. Edick, PM (6), Curtis B. Flemming (7), John Stamison (7), Bobby F. Dunham, PM (8), Cesar M. Datuin (9), James R. Grabowski (9), Lucas B. Strauss (9), Antonio Falcon (12), David C. Renshaw (15), Serge Ruiz, PM (18), Bruce S. Draper (21), David A. Forsyth, PM (22), Donald S. Draughon (23), Itamar L. de Morais (25), Alejo S. Galvez (25), Delvyn J. Martinez (27), Timothy I. Michel (28), Billy B. Campbell (29), Richard D. Nutting (30), Jesse L. Shultz (30), Earl D. Love, Jr., PM (31), and Derek N. Snel (31).

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

James E. Kohl, Jr. (1952/6/17), 73 Years  
John M. Burk (1951/6/23), 42 Years  
Donald V. Nilson (1960/6/16), 65 Years  
Derek D. Lenters (1964/6/16), 61 Years  
Kenneth R. Martin (1964/6/25), 61 Years  
Donald E. Weiss, Jr., PM (1965/6/10), 60 Years  
James D. Hansen, PM (1967/6/23), 58 Years  
Herbert F. Bradley (1968/6/21), 57 Years  
Xum B. Valerio (1970/6/16), 55 Years  
Donald D. Mc Gregor (1971/6/11), 54 Years  
William R. Lenheim (1974/6/13), 51 Years  
Susumu S. Imamura, PM (1974/6/15), 48 Years  
Jason B. Hartman, PM (1978/6/8), 47 Years  
Ralph Vargas, Sr. (1981/6/23), 44 Years  
Calvin H. Gilbert, PM (1983/6/23), 42 Years  
David A. Freed, PM (1988/6/6), 37 Years  
Julio F. Abella (1991/6/13), 28 Years  
Terrance S. Hanson (1991/6/20), 34 Years  
Billy B. Campbell (1992/6/26), 33 Years  
Daniel P. Breault (1993/6/24), 32 Years  
Gregory R. Gemlo (1995/6/17), 30 Years  
Morris H. Moriuchi (2000/6/13), 25 Years  
Lynton J. Daniel (2002/6/25), 23 Years  
Robert B. Rickett (2003/6/26), 22 Years  
Jonathan S. Davis (2006/6/27), 19 Years  
Nicholas L. Hayworth, PM (2008/6/19), 17 Years  
Tom Kavishi, PM (2009/6/11), 16 Years  
Serge Ruiz, PM (2009/6/27), 16 Years  
Christopher M. Ellis (2010/6/23), 15 Years  
Luzon Byrd, Jr. (2012/6/21), 12 Years  
Walter G. Crossley (2012/6/28), 13 Years  
Eduardo L. Colón Vera (2015/6/9), 10 Years  
Devon E. Williams (2017/6/8), 8 Years  
Fariborz Amirdelfan (2019/6/25), 6 Years  
Jerrell C. Johnson (2024/6/20), 1 Year  
Eduardo Colmenares, Jr. (2024/6/27), 1 Year

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

Dennis W. Butler (1989/7/13), 36 Years  
Ronald J. Mac Leod (2010/7/29), 15 Years  
Philip R. Davis, PM (2011/7/26), 14 Years  
Thomas R. Bowser, V. (2022/7/12), 3 Years  
Kirby N. Kinkead (2022/7/19), 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  
**Charles D. Gerow, Jr.**, passed away on 5/22/2025

# 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.  Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	6	7
8	9 Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.	10	11 Bro. Don Gholson's Celebration of Life. The gathering will take place from 2-4pm at Lake Chabot Park's Elderberry Picnic Area. For more info, please see Announcements elsewhere in issue.	12 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.	13	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16	17 DOSI. 6:30pm — DOSI @ Bay Cities #337. Dress is casual. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30.  Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	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.  Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	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.  Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	27	28
29	30	July 1	2	3 Stated Meeting. 6pm @ Oakland #61. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30.  Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	4 Independence Day	5

# July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 29	30	1	2	3 Stated Meeting. 6pm @ Oakland #61. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	4 Independence Day	5
6	7	8	9	10 2026 Officers Station Practice 6:30 pm Dress is casual and no meal provided. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880 by the Monday prior to practice.	11	12 Flag Day
13	14 Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.	15	16	17 2026 Officers Station Practice 6:30 pm Dress is casual and no meal provided. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880 by the Monday prior to practice.	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 2026 Officers Station Practice 6:30 pm Dress is casual and no meal provided. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880 by the Monday prior to practice.	25	26 Executive Committee Mtg. 9:00 am Dress is casual. Participants, please submit any agenda suggestions to the Secretary by the Monday prior to the meeting.
27	28 Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.	29	30	31 2026 Officers Station Practice 6:30 pm Dress is casual and no meal provided. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880 by the Monday prior to practice.	August 1	2



**MW Salazar & W Fred at the San Ramon Retreat, 4-11-25**



**Bro. Paulo de Souza Silva 2nd Degree Picture, 4-24-25**





**Paint & Sip**



**Paint & Sip**

**BROTHER TOMMY LEE'S GOLDEN VETERAN AWARD**



**OAKLAND LODGE NO. 61 CORDIALLY INVITES  
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO JOIN US IN CELEBRATING TOMMY  
ON HAVING SERVED THIS LODGE, OUR FRATERNITY, AND SOCIETY  
FOR MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2025**

**PRE-DINNER APERITIFS 6:00 PM  
DINNER SERVED AT 6:30 PM  
CEREMONY AT 7:30 PM**

**ROCKRIDGE MASONIC CENTER  
5449 COLLEGE AVENUE  
OAKLAND, CA 94618**

**HAWAIIAN ATTIRE**

**PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN MONDAY, JUNE 16TH**

**[HTTPS://BUYTICKETS.AT/OAKLANDLODGE61/1702797](https://buytickets.at/OaklandLodge61/1702797)**

**OR**

