



FIRST MEETING:

December 7, 2023

Office: (510) 576-6729

Reservations: (510) 576-6729

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

Rockridge Masonic Hall

5449 College Avenue

Oakland, California 94618

www.oakland61.org

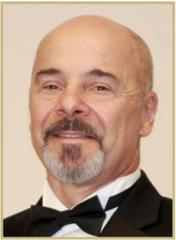
ORIGINAL CHARTER

SIGNED: May 4, 1855

Secretary: (415) 425-2661

January 2026

VIEW FROM THE EAST:



Hello everybody and happy new year. First off I want to thank the brothers Oakland Lodge, 61 for voting me in as Master. Hopefully, I can do as good as job as Worshipful Newson did this last year. I can't say enough about the men who filled the officers and committee positions.

Without these men, the lodge would fail and with these men, we should have a very fun and successful year. I'm looking forward to a few nights - out away from the lodge and maybe one or more traveling degrees. Every traveling degree I've been on has been a wonderful experience. Every lodge is different but the love you get from your masonic Brothers is always comforting and a welcome feeling. Once again, we should have a year of good food and good meetings. I really want to keep making a difference in our community schools and youth orders. After all, the children are our future. Scary feeling.

Be safe, stay warm and see you soon,

Dana Janke, PM

Master

VIEW FROM THE WEST



Brethren,

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Worshipful Newsom for his dedicated leadership and steady guidance over the past year. His commitment to Oakland 61 has left a lasting mark. We are grateful for the time, effort, and heart he has invested, and we look forward to continuing to benefit from his wisdom in the years ahead.

As we turn toward a new year, there is a renewed sense of energy within our lodge. The beginning of a new Masonic year always offers us the opportunity to reflect on who we are, our obligations, and the bonds of brotherhood that unite us. I am especially excited about the plans Worshipful Janke has for the upcoming year. With his leadership, supported by our officers **and brethren**, I believe this year will be an exciting year to be a part of our lodge.

Fraternally,

James McVey
Senior Warden

VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Brethren and friends,

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year. I would like to thank the brethren for electing me to be your 2026 Junior Warden, and I look forward to working with you in this capacity. I am grateful for this opportunity and the support I've received from all of you during my time as Senior Deacon. I'm looking forward to taking on new challenges and contributing to the lodge this year. One of my important duties this year will be to make sure everyone is fed and full at stated meetings and all other events. Worshipful Dana, our chef Josh and I will create a menu for the year that I'm sure you all will enjoy. Your input is also greatly appreciated. Our meals for the next three months will be the following. January stated meeting will be lemon pepper chicken thighs, rice, green beans, Caesar salad and cheesecake. February in celebration of Mardi Gras will be jambalaya, collard greens, Caesar salad and banana cream pie. The month of March will be prepared by Worshipful Tim World with his world-famous corned beef and cabbage. Please do not forget to RSVP for all meals at the lodge. We will have a link to RSVP and a number to call for leaving messages. Thank you all and let's have a great 2026.

Fraternally,

Luzon Byrd
Junior Warden

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

Brethren,

Happy New Year! We have changed to a new accounting program and are still working our way through the differences. We have run into some bumps and are working to iron everything out. We ask for your patience while we put this new program into operation.

We will be going over Worshipful Dana's budget for the January Stated Meeting. We have made significant impact on our community and our Fraternity with the work we do. Worshipful Dana has an impressive budget for the upcoming year.

We look forward to seeing everyone in January!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Phil Williams
Treasurer

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

*"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors,
and every new year become a better man."*

Brother Benjamin Franklin



As the old year gives way to the new, we are reminded of the hourglass and time's steady and impartial passage. The New Year stands before us like a rough ashlar an unworked stone. It is full of potential and promise, waiting for the skillful hand of the Craftsman to shape it into something worthy and true.

For the Mason, the New Year is not merely a change of date, but a moment for reflection, renewal, and rededication. Be ready to come back to your lodge, filled with new ideas, bring a friend, join in our family evenings and participate fully. Our lodge is only as good as its members want it to be we can fulfill so much more. Let's use our time wisely to strengthen our bonds as Brothers, to serve the needs of others, and to better ourselves in all our undertakings.

We enter this year as builders once more — developing stronger characters, deeper friendships, and a more compassionate community. The rough ashlar of our faults and failings may still require labor, but with patience and perseverance, we can continue our work of moral and spiritual refinement.

May this New Year bring renewed light to your path, peace to your heart, and purpose to your labor. I look forward to seeing you at Lodge, soon.

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

David Forsyth PM
Secretary

ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren & Friends,

Welcome to a New Year! The elevator project is moving forward. I just spoke to Kone Elevator. The start date will be February 2nd with a drill date of February 9th and completion mid March. They may start the electronic portion of the job in January to speed up the completion. It has been a long process, hopefully we are near the end. We are coming up on the 100th birthday of our building and we are planning an open house to our neighbors. This year's major project is a kitchen update and remodel.

We will have our annual Hall Board meeting on January 14th with the regular meeting to follow. The officers will be elected for the next year, and the budget will be approved at the annual meeting. There will be a few minor projects done during the year to keep the building functioning.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Brother Phil Williams
Board President

Discovering Masonic Secrets

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

Elevator News: See the enclosed Rockridge Hall Association report.

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."

2026 Dues: Our dues remain at **\$131.00 00** and we prefer you pay them through the above iMember 2.0 site. However, if you need to pay by check, please mail it to **Oakland No.61, 5449 College Ave, Oakland, CA 94618**

Event pictures: See elsewhere in this issue.

Sunshine Report

- Both Brothers. Lucas Strauss and Will Smith have sufficiently recovered from their health issues that they have been able to join us in. It was great to see them.
- Worshipful Dave Ewing is well but still suffers from sciatica. He is able to drive during daylight hours but needs help with big tasks. I told him about the progress on the elevator, and he said he can't wait.
- As I reported previously, Worshipful Rick Edick's health issues continue. However, he maintains a very positive attitude. Also, he passed along that his granddaughter, Brooklyn Koziol, has sent us a *thank you* for her scholarship. She is studying in Japan and doing very well. After graduation, she plans to return to complete her master's degree.
- I heard from Tom & Ruth Poole a few weeks ago and they were doing well. They are helping with the Oakmont of Montecito Retirement Community's Holiday Bake Sale in support of organization that advocate for a cure to Alzheimers.
- Since our last issue, I was saddened to learn five of our long time members have passed away: Bros. George Davis, David Parsons, Daniel White, Donald Nilson and James Kohl, Jr.

** 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 jr1943@pacbell.net*

Dues Payment Information

Dues 2026 remain at \$131 per year. **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

2026 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), Vic C. Vickers, PM (4), Azi Vajravai (5),
Lynton J. Daniel (7), Charles T. Poole (7), Frederick M. Burke (9),
Luciano Chessa (12), Christopher R. Weaver (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), and Joseph S. Bruno (30).

January Masonic Anniversary Dates & Years of Service

William S. Sereni, Sr. (1/19/1977), 46 Years
Larry J. Frederick (1/15/1980), 46 Years
Glen R. Tomek (1/17/1981), 45 Years
James Kohl, III (1/12/1984), 42 Years
Michael J. Bischoff (1/13/1984), 42 Years
Michael W. Armstrong (1/17/1984), 42 Years
Arthur J. Odom (1/25/1984), 42 Years
Jeffery R. Fingerut (1/22/1985), 41 Years
Paul H. Eikeberg (1/28/1986), 40 Years
Marvin R. Amaral (1/1/1987), 39 Years
Donald A. Searcy (1/26/1988), 38 Years
Martin G. Smith (1/24/1989), 37 Years
Paul E. Schissler (1/22/1993), 33 Years
Daniel Mullane (1/22/1998), 28 Years
John L. Morrison, PM (1/29/1998), 28 Years
Lance D. Hanawalt (1/23/2003), 23 Years
Theodore B. Aquino (1/21/2010), 16 Years
Drew K. Steadman (1/28/2010), 16 Years
Vic C. Vickers, PM (1/26/2012), 14 Years
Nicholas A. Ragsdale (1/21/2013), 13 Years
Stennis Scruggs, Jr. (1/31/2023), 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
Donald E. Weisse, Jr., PM, passed away on 6/6/2025
James T. Geanekos, passed away on 6/13/2025
Thomas W. Lee, passed away on 6/19/2025
Ronald E. Crosthwaite, passed away on 9/17/2025
George L. Snodgrass, passed away on 10/6/2025
Christopher J. Jiannalone, passed away on 10/16/2025
George E. Davis, passed away on 11/7/2025
David A. Parsons, passed away on 11/7/2025
Daniel E. White, passed away on 11/7/2025
Donald V. Nilson, passed away on 11/7/2025
James E. Kohl, Jr., passed away on 11/19/2025

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	January 1 	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Stated Meeting 6pm @ Oak #61 Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	9	10
11	12 Candidates Coaching 6pm @ Oak #61. and Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.	13	14	15 TBD @ Rockridge	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King	20	21	22 Officers & Committee Members Mtg. 6pm @ Oak #61. Dinner at 6:00 and Meeting to follow.	23	24
25	26 Candidates Coaching 6pm @ Oak #61. and Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.	27	28	29 TBD @ Rockridge	30	31

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 1	2 Candidates Coaching 6pm @ Oak #61.	3	4	5 Stated Meeting 6pm @ Oak #61. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	6	7
8	9 Candidates Coaching 6pm @ Oak #61. and Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.	10	11	12 TBD	13	14 
15	16 	17	18	19 TBD	20	21 Claremont Middle School Pancake Breakfast 8:00am @ Oak #61
22	23 Candidates Coaching 6pm @ Oak #61. and Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.	24	25	26 TBD	27	28  Crab Feed 5:30/Dinner 6:00



#847 and Oakland #61 Joint 1st Degree, 10-30-25



December 2025 Stated Meeting Group Picture



2026 Officers' Installation Dinner



2026 Officers' Installation Dinner



Wor. David Forsyth & Bro. Will Smith @ 2026 Officers' Installation

Dear Brothers of Oakland Lodge #61,

First off, the chapter would like to thank the brothers of Oakland Lodge for the generous gift which allowed us to order additional polo shirts for the chapter. We wear these shirts often at our meetings and new ones were needed.

We also want to update you on Castro Valley DeMolay's recent successes. On Thanksgiving weekend, Castro Valley DeMolay sent a record number of members (14) to the Northern California DeMolay convention in Burlingame.

Our Master Councilor and Junior Past Master Councilor, Dylan and Damian Molina both received the prestigious Past Master Councilor-Meritorious Serviced Award (PMC-MSA). This award is not easy to get. You have to have a good term and bring in a minimum of four new members per term. In the past 8 years, Castro Valley has only earned this once. Now we have two more to show how successful our chapter has been over the past year.

Damian Molina won Master Councilor of the year and Ritualistic of the Year. We take the ritual seriously and will be competing in the Perfect Ritual Improves DeMolay Everyway (P.R.I.D.E.) in April.

Dylan Molina was also awarded the title of "Honorary Deputy Master Councilor" of NorCal.

Castro Valley DeMolay is doing great, and we want you to know that you are always welcome to visit us on the first and third Mondays at the Castro Valley Masonic Center at 7:30 p.m. or any of our events, like the pancake breakfasts, usually on the third Sunday of each month.

Fraternally,
Dylan Molina
Master Councilor
Castro Valley DeMolay

Assisted Living and Memory Care, Elevated



The PAVILION

AT THE MASONIC HOMES

Welcome home! The Masonic Home at Union City is pleased to announce the grand opening of its new Pavilion, where those who need memory care and assistance with day-to-day living can enjoy comfortable living quarters in a beautiful, community-minded atmosphere.

Our person-centered philosophy of care offers residents the opportunity to live their best life safely, with a helping hand when needed. From a rousing card game, an event in our communal living spaces, or just relaxing in their beautiful new apartments, residents find that the Pavilion offers a haven for their body, mind, and soul.

**Call to schedule a tour today:
(888) 466-3642**

34400 Mission Blvd. in Union City, CA



**Masonic Homes
of California**

Masonichome.org

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