



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

November and December 2025

VIEW FROM THE EAST:



Brothers,

This is my final message to our masonic family as Master since this is a November/December Trestleboard.

Congratulations to the newly elected and appointed officers. I wish you all the best for the upcoming year. I hope you accomplish everything you set out to achieve. Do not forget to ask for help when needed and take the help when offered.

Thank you for the year as Master. I truly appreciate all the help that was given this year. I believe that we had a successful year due to all of you that stepped up and helped when you could. That is all that I asked. Thank you.

I am thinking about next year, this will be the first year since I was raised so that I will not be installed as an officer. I am looking forward to sitting on the sideline as a past master and saying, "When I was Master." LOL

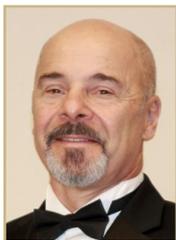
We have had Grand Lodge Communications and a 1st degree to finish my year. There are a few more events for the year but those will be more fun. Our appreciation dinner (by invite only), our Christmas breakfast with Santa on December 6th and our installation of officers on December 13th.

The new lodge year will start off with a bang on December 27th with the Feast of St. John. Make sure to get your tickets as seats are limited.

Thank you again for allowing me to sit in the East for our great lodge with some of the best Masons in the world.

Ben Newsom, PM
Master

VIEW FROM THE WEST



Hello my brothers,

I hope you're doing well. This month at state meeting there will be elections. I am hoping to be voted in and installed as Master this year. There is a wonderful line of officers for next year and I have a crew of guys that are second to none at taking care of the lodge in every aspect. No one can take care of all of this by themselves.

I'm just there to look pretty.

On another note, I'm hoping more men will show up on the Monday night, biweekly discovering Masonic Secrets events. It's a come as you are, relaxing evening and you're bound to learn something. Even better if you could teach the rest of us something we do not know.

Hope to see you soon,

Dana Janke, PM
Senior Warden

VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Brethren,

Serving as Junior Warden this year has been an honor and a privilege. My view from the South has given me the unique opportunity to see all the extra work so many brothers do to make our lodge the amazing place it is. So many dedicated brothers take time out of their lives every day for the lodge. It's a joy to contribute to that effort even if only making sure you are all fed.

This time of year, is always a busy one in our Masonic calendar. We are now in the season of officer elections and installation; an exciting and important time as we look toward the leadership and direction of the Lodge in the coming year. These transitions remind us of the enduring strength of our institution: the steady passing of light from one Brother to another, each building upon the efforts of those who came before.

I want to express my gratitude to our outgoing Master Ben for his leadership and dedication. His guidance has kept us on the level, and we are better for it. To those stepping into new roles, congratulations! I look forward to seeing what you bring to the Lodge next year.

Fraternally,
James McVey
Junior Warden

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

“ Its laws are reason and equity; its principles benevolence and love; and its religion purity and truth; its intention is peace on earth; and its disposition good-will toward mankind ”

Brother and Reverend T.M. Harris 1768-1842



As the holiday season approaches, we find ourselves surrounded by reminders of joy, generosity, and goodwill toward all. Lights adorn our homes, families gather, and communities come together in celebration. For Freemasons, this season carries an even deeper significance — one rooted in our timeless teachings of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Our Fraternity also honors the Holy Saints John — the Baptist and the Evangelist — whose lives and examples form symbolic pillars of our Craft. Their festivals, at the summer and winter solstices, mark the rhythm of nature's cycle and remind us that all things move according to divine order. Saint John the Evangelist, whose festival falls at the winter solstice, represents wisdom, reflection, and spiritual insight. The Lodge, like the circle formed between the two Saints, is a place of balance — between labor and rest, between faith and reason, between the material and the spiritual.

The holidays remind us that, beyond our differences in faith, culture, or tradition, we are all united by a common desire: to bring light into the world. Whether we celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or simply the turning of the season, each observance carries a message of renewal, reflection, and gratitude. These are the same values that lie at the very heart of Freemasonry.

May this season fill your hearts with peace, your homes with laughter, and your spirits with renewed purpose.

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

David Forsyth PM
Secretary

ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren & Friends,

It has been an eventful year for the Hall Association. We repaired the roof, the stucco on the back of the building, replaced our water heater, replaced our heater, upgraded the electric panels, upgraded the sewer lateral, installed a chair lift and are working on the upgrade of our elevator. We are in the process of upgrading the security system to one system with upgraded cameras and communication. It has been a very busy year “futurizing” the building.

We have our buildings 100 year anniversary coming up in 2027 and we are planning future improvements to update and upgrade a few more projects. I want to thank all of the Board Members for their work and input on this past year.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

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

2026 Elections: Show your support for a great slate of officers by attending and voting at our November Stated Meeting.

The 2026 Oakland #61 Officer Installation: This year we have scheduled the event for Saturday, December 13th at 3:00 p.m. We are very pleased to report that our Grand Master will preside. Our own Worshipfuls Tim World and Fred Loeser will assist him.

Good Elevator News: Grand Lodge has approved our repair plan and budget. While our contractor will begin work on October 23rd, company officials say it may take up to six months to complete.

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 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.**

2026 Dues: Grand Lodge will start billing by November, and our dues will remain at \$131.00 a year.

Event pictures: See elsewhere in this issue.

Sunshine Report

- Brother Lucas Strauss continues to improve and has lost a considerable weight. The only downside is that he needs a new wardrobe. As always, he appreciates our staying in touch with him, and he looks forward to joining us in lodge.
- Worshipful Dave Ewing has recovered from his fall; however, he continues to suffer from sciatica. He is looking forward to joining in when the elevator is repaired.
- Worshipful Rick Edick's health issues are a continuing problem. He is looking forward to an operable elevator too.
- Happy Birthday Bro. Louis Gibbs and thank you for your 70+ years of Masonic Service.
- Recently Bonnie and I had a wonderful visit with Tom & Ruth Poole. They've moved to the Oakmont of Montecito retirement community in Concord. They gave us a tour of the facility and treated us to a very nice lunch. Tom is really benefiting from the on site physical therapy facility.
- Since our last issue, I was saddened to learn three of our long time members have passed away: Bros. Ron Crosthwaite, George Snodgrass and Chris Jiannalone.

** 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 for both 2025 & 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

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 November

Gordon H. Emberton, PM (2), Tenzing Azucenas (3), Jim A. Odle (3), Ludovic J.E. Duchateau (4), Isauro P. Rafael (4), Paul T. Adams, PM (8),

Theodore B. Aquino (9), Robert Mayer (11), Philip R. Davis, PM (14),

Tyrone C. Davis-Eugene, PM (14), Donald R. Parker, PM (14),

Michael R. Solomon (15), Donald W. Spruance, PM (17),

William C. Herbert, PM (19), Allan R. Diaz (22),

Fariborz Amirdefan (23), Joel B. Coffey (23),

Drew G. Spitzer (23), Rodrigo M. Jacomet (24), Morris H. Moriuchi (24),

Louis H. Gibbs, Jr. (25), Williard J. Classen, Jr. (26),

Paulo H. de Souza Silva (26), Edgardo F. Alvarez (29),

and Rodney E. Simmons (29).

Brothers Birthdays in December

Paul H. Eikeberg (1), Anthony R. Lively (1), Paul M. Martin (2),

Tillman M. Butler (5), Tigran Agadzhanian (8), James M. McVey (9),

Erick A. Rice (12), Tsz P. Wong (13), Robert G. Wilson (14), Peter P. Donley (15),

Jesse W. Wallin (15), Gary W. Browning (17), Thomas W. Dobson (17),

Daniel Davenport (18), James C. Macintire, PM (18), James Kohl, III (19),

Sergey K. Aityan (21), Timothy H. World, PM (21), Paul E. Redondo (27),

Robert E. Bonem (28), Daniel E. White (28),

Frank E. Kilpatrick, III (29), and Xum B. Valerio (30).

November Masonic Anniversary Dates & Years of Service

Charles J. Di Bari (11/20/1963), 62 Years
Steven E. Lenheim (11/9/1967), 58 Years
Stephen S. Hawkins (11/16/1968), 57 Years
Frank E. Kilpatrick, III (11/13/1969), 56 Years
Jim A. Odle (11/14/1973), 51 Years
Howard D. Hickman, III (11/14/1975), 50 Years
Michael K. Rogge (10/16/1976), 49 Years
Wilbert D. Yip, PM (11/12/1980), 45 Years
Thomas M. Lewis (11/23/1982), 20 Years
Frederick W. Robinson, PM (11/21/1985), 40 Years
Jong H. Lee, Ph.D (11/12/1988), 37 Years
Christopher A. Rohrer (11/22/1988), 37 Years
Harry F. Sands (11/20/1990), 35 Years
Arman Paymai (11/30/1990), 35 Years
Donald R. Bailey, Jr., PM (11/9/1995), 30 Years
Edmund T. Evans (11/12/1996), 21 Years
George E. Graham (11/13/1996), 29 Years
Thomas M. Gallagher (11/4/2000), 9 Years
Delvyn J. Martinez, PM (11/28/2000), 25 Years
James P. Beere (11/17/2005), 20 Years
Craig M. Baker (11/22/2005), 20 Years
Roy S. MacLeod (11/9/2006), 19 Years
Paul E. Redondo (11/8/2007), 18 Years
Mario A. Palestini (11/21/2009), 16 Years
Alexandre M. Bayen (11/9/2011), 14 Years
Joshua S. Elowsky (11/10/2011), 14 Years
Christopher Nowell, PM (11/15/2011), 14 Years
Sava Popovic (11/27/2012), 12 Years
Jason Willcuts (11/28/2023), 2 Years

December Masonic Anniversary Dates & Years of Service

Michael T. Baird, PM (12/9/1980), 45 Years
Daniel P. Loeser (12/19/2001), 24 Years
Christopher H. Freitas (12/8/2009), 16 Years
Curtis B. Flemming (12/9/2014), 11 Years

2025 Memoriams

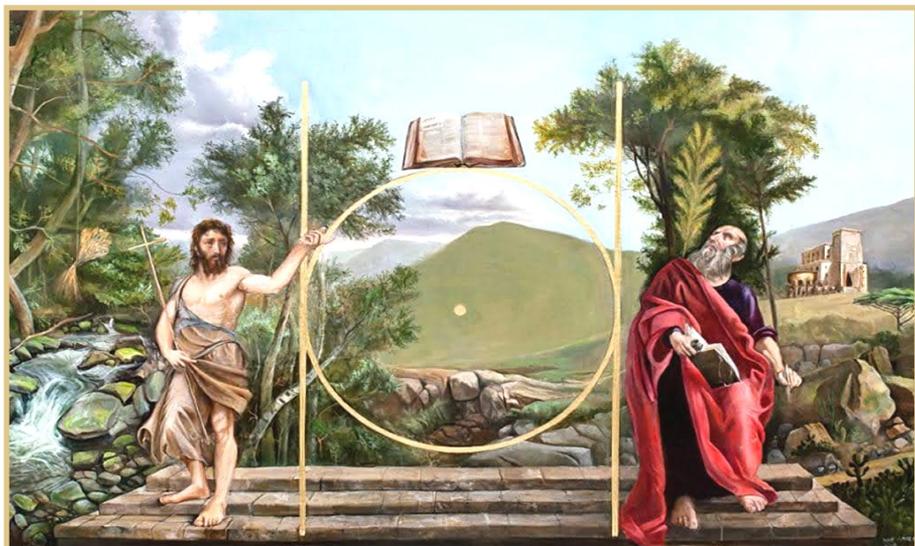
Carl P. Lampkin, passed away on 11/22/2024
Donald B. Gholson, passed away on 11/22/2024
Thomas F. Arnold, PM, passed away on 2/5/2025
Charles D. Gerow, Jr., passed away on 5/22/2025
Donald E. Weisse, Jr., PM, passed away on 6/6/2025
James T. Geanekos, passed away on 6/13/2025
Thomas W. Lee, passed away 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

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="color: blue;">October</p> <p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>Grand Lodge Annual Communication</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>Joint Academia/ Oakland Entered Apprentice Degree. Dress is tuxedo for officers. Social time begins at 6:00 pm with dinner at 6:30, followed by the degree at 7:30. <i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i></p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p style="color: blue;">November</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>Candidates Coaching. 6pm @ Oakland #61.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p style="color: blue;">Election Day</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>Stated Meeting and Election. 6pm @ Oakland #61. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30. <i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>Candidates Coaching. 6pm @ Oakland #61. and Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oakland #61.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VETERANS DAY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>Degree Rehearsal/ Coaching. Dress is casual with dinner at 6:30. Rehearsal/coaching to follow. <i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>Candidates Coaching. 6pm @ Oakland #61.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>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></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>Officer Recognition Dinner. <i>This is a by invitation event.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>Candidates Coaching. 6pm @ Oakland #61.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The lodge will be dark.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p style="color: green;">Black Friday</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>and Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oakland #61.</p>					

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 30	December 1	2	3	4	5	6
	<p>Candidates Coaching. 6pm @ Oakland #61.</p>			<p>Stated Meeting and Election. 6pm @ Oakland #61. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30.</p> <p><i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i></p>		<p>Children's Holiday Party.</p> <p>Breakfast begins at 9:00 am with the puppet show at about 10:00 and Santa and gifts at about 11:00.</p>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	<p>Candidates Coaching. 6pm @ Oakland #61.</p> <p>and</p> <p>Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oakland #61.</p>			<p>Installation Practice. Dress is casual with dinner at 6:30pm with practice to follow.</p> <p><i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i></p>		<p>Oakland #61 Installation with our Grand Master presiding. Other installation officers will be Ws. Tim World & Fred Loeser. Dress for officers is tuxedo and coat & tie for all other gentlemen. Dress for ladies is the appropriate attire to match men's dress. Show time for officers is 1:30pm. Guest arrival time is 2:45 and the installation will begin at 3:00. Reception social time will begin at approx. 4:45 and dinner at approx. 5:15.</p> <p><i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i></p>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	<p>Candidates Coaching. 6pm @ Oak #61.</p>			<p><i>The lodge will be DARK.</i></p>		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	<p>Candidates Coaching. 6pm @ Oak #61.</p> <p>Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.</p>		 Christmas Eve	 Merry Christmas		<p>Feast of St. John. This is an advance ticketed event; tickets will not be available at the door. See additional info in the enclosed flyer.</p>
28	29	30	31	January 1	2	3
	<p>Candidates Coaching. 6pm @ Oak #61.</p>		New Year's Eve			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				<p>Stated Meeting. 6pm @ Oakland #61. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30.</p> <p><i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i></p>		



**Join us for the Feast of St. John the Evangelist Celebration
December 27th**

Tickets are now available for the for Oakland Lodge 61's Feast of St. John on December 27th. This annual celebration is a cherished tradition among our members, honoring our Patron St. John the Evangelist. Join us for an evening filled with great food, fellowship, and meaningful conversations as we gather to celebrate this special occasion. Our guest speaker will be Most Worshipful M. David Perry, PGM.

Evening begins with Hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 in our 2nd floor member's lounge followed by dinner in the 3rd floor dining room at 7:30.

Attire

Black Tie

Tickets

\$60 and available for members of Oakland 61 only until December 4th (Stated Meeting), so please be sure to get your tickets now at the following:

<https://buytickets.at/oaklandlodge61/1916467>

or QR Code Below

Location

Rockridge Masonic Center
5449 College Avenue
Oakland, CA 94618





#61 and Orinda #122 fall visitation



#61 members, wives and friend's tour of the Union City Masonic Home.

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.

HELP NEEDED!

The Oakland Scottish Rite (OSR) has recently hired Brother Aaron Kornblum, Tiler of our Lodge, to be its new Librarian, Archivist, and Historical Collections Curator, in preparation of a move from 1547 Lakeside Drive, its home for the past 95+ years. The Scottish Rite Valley of Oakland has a tremendous number of books, archival collections (including documents, photographs, and framed materials), and historical artifacts that it will have to move to its new home (to a place currently unknown). Brother Kornblum is asking if there are any brothers of our Lodge who would like to work with him and volunteer some of their time to help inventory some of OSR's collections before their move, to please contact Aaron at one of the following: (510) 381-8804, ATKornblum@Scottish-Rite.org or to have a talk with him in person the next time you're at Oakland 61.

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

RCFE #011440129 SNF #02000063 COA #151