



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

October 2025

VIEW FROM THE EAST:



Brothers,

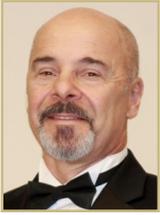
As we approach the end of the year, I think as a lodge, we had a successful year. We have initiated new brothers and advanced others. Further, we have helped out many individuals and organizations.

I look at October, it will be the beginning of the final push. We have 3 of the 4 November Thursdays accounted for, and we will hold our installation in the second week of December. Therefore, we are going to try get all planned October activities done. It is going to be a busy month, so buckle up and hold on.

Join in and have fun,

Ben Newsom, PM
Master

VIEW FROM THE WEST



Hello my brothers,

I hope everybody is enjoying the weather as much as I am and I sure hope everybody is in good health. I have to say that for some of us in the lodge things have been quite busy. Keeping the lodge in good shape is not an easy task even with very confident people. Some of the men like Phil Williams, Tim World, the hall association and the secretaries. Spend hours getting the work done. Thank God, we have such a wonderful crew of men.

Looking at our calendar, we should be quite busy and there will be a lot of wonderful events coming up. Evenings like the Sweetheart's dinner and family night are a good time to bring the whole family. Please call first, so we know how many dinners to cook. I have to say that I am excited about becoming Master next year and having the officers with which I will be working. They're all good men and hungry for more Masonry. Also, none of them are past masters, which shows our lodge is strong and fortunate to have good members.

Hope to see you soon,

Dana Janke, PM
Senior Warden

VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Brethren,

As we move later into the Masonic year, the lodge is getting busy. We've had a couple of degrees last month and October has several events on the calendar. Whether you've just been initiated or a seasoned Brother who hasn't been to lodge in a while, please be sure to come by on Thursdays for a meeting, attend a degree, or just stop in for dinner. You should also come by for our Discovering Masonic Secrets discussions every other Monday.

This month we also have the Grand Lodge Annual Communication on Oct. 24th-26th and I recommend everyone to try to attend.

I look forward to seeing you all this month.

James McVey
Junior Warden

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

If civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships – the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together, in the same world at peace.

Bro. Franklin D. Roosevelt



Am I my brother's keeper? This age-old question can refer to whether humans have a moral obligation to care for each other, especially those close to them. Or put another way, what he does is his business, so don't blame me. In other words: "not my problem".

As Masons, the answer must always be a categorical Yes.

The question is found in the story of Cain and Abel. While Cain's question evaded accountability, the phrase has evolved to support our broader ideals of responsibility and interconnectedness.

We knelt at the altar of Masonry and took solemn obligations—not just to our Lodge, but to one another. These obligations remind us that Brotherhood is more than fellowship; it is a sacred duty. A Mason must be watchful of each other's welfare, extend a hand in times of trouble, and promote each other's success.

Being our brother's keeper does not simply mean responding when asked for help. It calls us to be attentive, to notice when a Brother struggles in silence, and to step forward with compassion. The greatest gifts we can give one another are our time, attention and comfort.

Facing many divisive local and national issues, we must be guardians of each other's character, and remind one another of the high standards of integrity, morality, and honor that Masonry demands. In this way, we preserve not only the bond between us but the reputation of the Craft itself. Watch over one another with kindness, encourage each other and hold one another accountable with love and respect. We are true keepers of our Brothers.

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

David Forsyth PM
Secretary

ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren & Friends,

We have had an interesting year with many improvements to the building. Our latest has been the upgrade of our sewer lateral. We have passed the EBMUD pressure test, and our lateral is good for 20 years. We added another clean out and a backflow valve to stop the flooding of our tenants. A large job helping to “futuraize” our building. The Hall Board has chosen a company to replace/ repair the elevator, and all of the paperwork has been submitted to Grand Lodge. We are awaiting their response and approval. The Hall Board is looking into upgrading our security system and are waiting for the estimate to come in. Once that arrives, we will be looking to upgrade the system.

We are going to start adding the Hall calendar to the Trestleboard next year. We will include it in the Lodge calendar. Thursdays are always Oakland Lodge #61 nights, the 2ND and 4TH Mondays are Lodge nights, and the 2ND Wednesday are the Hall Board meetings.

I would like to thank Worshipful Fred for his help with the sewer lateral and Worshipful Tim for keeping the “lid” on all the work we have done this 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

Sweetheart's Night: Please join us to recognize our lodge sweethearts on Thursday, Oct 9th. Festivities will begin with social time at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and recognitions at 6:30.

Elevator News: The Lodge elevator is still out of commission and will be for some time. We are in the process of obtaining Grand Lodge approval do to the expected replacement cost.

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

- Brother Lucas Strauss is doing fine and is able to get around. He looks forward to joining us in lodge once the docs tell him it is okay for him to be in crowds and enclosed environment. As usual, he always thanks us for staying in touch.
- Worshipful Dave Ewing fell exiting his back door and skinned himself up pretty good the second week of September. Fortunately, he is doing better and hopes to join us at the Orinda visitation.
- Worshipful Rick Edick is back from a visit with his sister and that branch of the family. He hopes to join us at our October Stated Meeting.
- Bro. Rolf Haas has stepped away from his Jr. Warden duties due family issues. Please keep Rolf and his family in your prayers.
- Bro. Lu Byrd spoke to Bro. Louis Gibbs, Jr. the other day and told me that he is doing very well. Further, Louis will shortly celebrate two significant milestones: He will pass 70-yrs of Masonic Service marker in October and will reach 103-yrs young in November.
- I caught up with Bro. Guy Heckenlively and reports that he and Judy are doing fine.

** 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

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 October

Harry F. Sands (1), Jason B. Hartman, PM (3), Colin McDonald (3),
Pol F. Minguet (3), Joel R. Sayre (3), Roy C. Fetterly (4), Christopher Blair (6),
Kenneth R. Martin (9), Charles R. Goff, PM (10), Eduardo Colmenares, Jr. (11),
Mario A. Palestini (11), Christopher H. Freitas (12), Edelito H. Medina, PM (15),
Robert L. Garoutte (16), Donald G. Heckenlively (16), Tony L. Christian (17),
James M. Anderson (18), Peter K. Cloven (18), Michael D. Dobson (20),
Stuart Bateman (22), Kevin Clanton (22), Frederick W. Robinson, PM (22),
Daniel E. Moss (23), Lawrence A. Altomare, PM (27), Gregory R. Gemlo (27),
Jeffrey M. Poole (30), Timothy Urlaub (30), and Jerrell C. Johnson (31).

October Masonic Anniversary Dates & Years of Service

Louis H. Gibbs Jr. (10/13/1955), 70 Years
Charles R. Goff, PM (10/30/1956), 69 Years
Charles R. Mack (10/14/1959), 66 Years
John A. Peterson (10/14/1964), 59 Years
George L. Snodgrass (10/24/1967), 58 Years
Edelito H. Medina, PM (10/24/1970), 55 Years
Charles A. Langel, PM (10/18/1977), 48 Years
Donald S. Draughon (10/27/1978), 47 Years
Randall K. Diehl (10/28/1983), 42 Years
Thomas M. Andrus, PM (10/19/1992), 33 Years
Richard D. Herrera (10/26/2000), 21 Years
David A. Parsons (10/25/2001), 24 Years
Bowman Wong (10/25/2005), 20 Years
Charles W. Adams (10/14/2006), 18 Years
Joseph S. Bruno (10/24/2006), 19 Years
Timothy L. Fairley, PM (10/26/2006), 19 Years
Peter K. Cloven (10/18/2008), 17 Years
Aram Harijan (10/13/2011), 14 Years
Joel R. Sayre (10/18/2012), 13 Years
John K. Oshima (10/29/2015), 10 Years
Itamar L. de Morais (10/18/2016), 9 Years
Daniel Davenport (10/12/2017), 8 Years
Miguel A. Martinez (10/19/2021), 4 Years
David E. Levinson (10/18/2022), 3 Years
Timothy Jackson (10/10/2023), 2 Years
Jason Willcuts (10/12/2023), 2 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

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 28	29	30	October 1	2 Stated Meeting. 6pm @ Oakland #61. Dinner 6:30. Meeting 7:30. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Sweethearts Dinner 6pm @ Oakland #61. Dinner 6:30. Program 7:30. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.	14	15	16 DOSI. 6:30pm — DOSI @ Oakland #61. Dress is casual. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Entered Apprentice Degree Rehearsal. Dress is casual with dinner at 6:30 pm. Rehearsal/coaching to follow. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	24 Friday - Sunday October 24 - 26th: The 176th Grand Communication will commence at 1:00 pm on Friday. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	25 Grand Lodge Annual Communication
26 Grand Lodge Annual Communication	27 Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.	28	29	30 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. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.	31 	

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 style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #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 style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>DOSI. 6:30pm — DOSI @ Bay Cities #334. 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>Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #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="text-align: center;">Black Friday</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>						



Bro. Samson Wong's 1st Degree, 9-18-25



September 2025 DOSI Group Picture

Bro. Phil riding our new lift chair



Sewer lateral project #1



Sewer lateral project #2



Sewer lateral project #3



Sewer lateral project #4

Grand Lodge of
Free and Accepted
Masons of California

RESERVE
YOUR SPOT!
freemason.org/AnnComm25

176TH
ANNUAL
COMMUNI-
CATION OCTOBER 24-26, 2025
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

176th Annual Communication

**A Weekend of Brotherhood, Business, and
Celebration Awaits!**

With representatives from lodges across California and around the world, attendees of the [176th Annual Communication](#) will enjoy a festive weekend that blends business and fellowship. From the celebratory [Grand Master's Gala at a NEW location](#) at the Hilton San Francisco to informative legislative and business sessions that help shape the future of Freemasonry, you'll reconnect with old friends, forge new bonds, and deepen your connection to the fraternity.



Together, we will hear key updates on organizational initiatives, vote on impactful legislation, and elect officers for the year ahead.

REGISTER NOW

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