



FIRST MEETING:

December 7, 2023

Office: (510) 576-6729

Reservations: (510) 576-6729

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

Rockridge Masonic Hall

5449 College Avenue

Oakland, California 94618

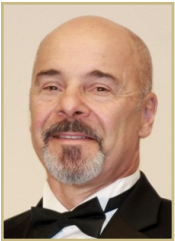
www.oakland61.org

SIGNED: May 4, 1855

Secretary: (415) 425-2661

April 2026

VIEW FROM THE EAST:



Hello everybody,

I hope you're enjoying the beautiful California weather. Some days I feel sorry for the East Coast. So far, our Masonic year has been full of activity. I would say our St. Patrick's Day dinner was quite a success. We are fortunate to have Worshipful World willing to cook his mouth watering, corned beef and cabbage for our lodge event. Soon we will have our 50-year pin ceremonies. There are over 20 brothers who are eligible for this pin Masons love to wear and show their pins and rings to the world. The Masonic rings I wear gives me the feeling of pride and accomplishment. I hope every Brother has the opportunity to wear a 50-year pin. If things go well, we will make Brother Booker a Master, Mason at the end of the month. Additionally, we will close out March with a paint and sip evening. Please bring your wives or girlfriends to come and paint a masterpiece. Finally, please call in your reservations.

Thank you and be safe.

Dana Janke, PM
Master

VIEW FROM THE WEST



Brethren,

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all who have taken the time to complete the recent lodge survey. The responses we have received so far have been thoughtful, insightful, and incredibly helpful. It is clear from the feedback that Oakland Lodge #61 holds a special place in the lives of many of our members. Time and again, brethren described the lodge as a brotherhood, a second home, and a place where friendship, fellowship, and personal growth come together.

The survey also highlighted many of the things our lodge is doing well. Members expressed appreciation for the strong sense of camaraderie within the lodge, the efforts of our officers and committees, and the charitable and social activities that bring us together throughout the year. At the same time, there is strong interest in more family-friendly gatherings, Masonic education, community service, and recreational outings that allow us to spend more time together outside of our regular meetings. Your feedback provides us with a clearer understanding of what the lodge means to its members and how we can continue to strengthen our fraternity.

Sincerely yours,

James McVey
Senior Warden

VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Greetings Brethren,

Welcome to April. This month symbolizes renewal, the transition from darkness to light, and the opening of the natural world. It aligns with Springs rebirth, often associated with rejuvenation of faith, hope, and charity. April is seen as a time for reflecting on personal growth and the promise of new beginnings.

Hope to see everyone at stated meeting, where we will have pot roast, creamy mashed potatoes, broccoli, and a green salad along with a chocolate birthday cake for dessert. Our May stated meeting meal will consist of Spaghetti and meatballs, green beans, garlic bread, salad, and a chocolate mousse for dessert. Please do not forget to RSVP for lodge events. You can either call or text me directly or call our lodge phone line at 510-576-6729 and leave a message or use the link provided. Thank you.

Fraternally,

Luzon Byrd
Junior Warden

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

“ Civic duty creates good masons and good citizens ”

Dr. William Moseley Brown P.G.M. of Masons in Virginia
renowned scholar, author, and educator.



This year California Masonry celebrates the 106th anniversary of working with hundreds of local public schools. As our past master Cal Gilbert is apt to remind us, “public education is the bedrock of civil society.” Schools help shape informed, engaged and independent individuals, who can carry forward our shared ideals of liberty, justice, and human dignity—values that every Mason holds dear. Consistent with this, our Lodge has made public education in our local community a high priority.

Our Lodge proudly supports our local Claremont Middle School’s after-school programs and other needs. Our fundraising activities for the Claremont PTA include the Annual Pancake Breakfast, the Evening Gala, and the Teacher of the Year Awards dinner—we provide the space, the food and the service. More recently, the students have worked at the events, too, which many parents have told us has provided their children a positive learning experience about work. We help pay for the school art supplies and other donations, such as new uniforms for their track and field teams. All of these events are very well attended. In addition, for many years, our Lodge has proudly supported the Masonic-sponsored early reading program: Raising a Reader.

We say Freemasonry is built upon the pursuit of knowledge and enlightenment. If we wish for a society to be guided by wisdom, compassion, educational excellence and community service we must support the institutions that nurture these traits. Let us continue to be beacons of encouragement, both in our lodge and beyond its doors. Supporting public schools is one of the best ways to live our values out loud.

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

David Forsyth, PM
Secretary

ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren & Friends,

The Hall Association would like to announce the retirement of Worshipful Tim World. Worshipful Tim has provided management for the Hall Association for the past 10 plus years. We thank Worshipful Tim for all his hard work, late hours and always being there for all who needed him. With that being said, the Board of Directors has decided to go to an outside property management firm. They will be taking over on May 1st. The name of the firm is 2 B Living Property Management. There were 4 total firms that were approached and this was the company that best fits our needs. We are in the process of onboarding them.

At the time of this writing, the elevator is due to be inspected by the State on March 26th and should be operational on the 26th. Thank you to the Lodge for all of your support and patience during the repair. We are also looking at upgrading the kitchen. That should start in late June preparing for work being done in July after the Stated Meeting.

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: The State is supposed to inspect our new lift on March 26. If we pass (there is no reason we shouldn't) the elevator will be available for our 99th Oakland/Orinda Visitation. **Yeah!!!**



Tired of a different QR Code for each event? If you are, the QR Code will link to all events for which we are selling tickets or RSVPing. **See the attached QR Code.**

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."

2026 Dues: If you haven't paid for 2026, you are delinquent. Please submit them ASAP or contact W. David Forsyth or Bro. Allen Rodda.

Event pictures: See elsewhere in this issue.

Sunshine Report

- I chased down a returned Trestleboard, I caught up with Bro. John Peterson. He now resides in Bremerton, WA and is doing fine. John said he gets our Trestleboard via email and enjoys staying up on what is happening. He asked that I pass along his best wishes to everyone.
- Recently, I had the occasion to touch bases with W. Donald (Don) Spruance. For whatever reason, after over 70 years of membership, he had not received his 50-yr Award. Further, Don and his wife Gina moved to Atascadero, CA several years ago and he isn't able to attend one of our planned award ceremonies. To deal with situation, I reached out to King David's Lodge, No. 209 for assistance. W. Christian Marano who is both AGL for Division V and the 209's secretary answered my call. He graciously volunteered to lead the effort to provide W. Spruance the opportunity to have the award presented to him at his home. Presently, this is a work in progress and I will pass along the result downstream.
- Additionally, I checked on W. Myron Temple, Jr. who also served as Master of San Leandro Lodge, No. 113 a few years after W. Spruance. Unfortunately, Myron is dealing with stage 4 Melanoma and he hasn't been up to coming to lodge for some time. He too appreciates the opportunity to keep up with Oakland's activities through the Trestleboard and calls such as mine.
- Finally, I checked on Bro. Phil Saenz and learned that he is now working at the Santa Rita Jail, and his hours don't match up with our Thursday meeting nights. Therefore, we haven't seen him much lately. That said, he is doing fine and will have an opportunity to change shifts at some point.

** 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.

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 & 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 April

Donald R. Bailey, Jr., PM (1), Gabriel Basso (1), Luzon Byrd, Jr. (2), Charles A. Langel, PM (2), Jeffery R. Fingerut (3), Russell R. Crow (7), John L. Morrison, PM (10), John D. Lane (11), Devon E. Williams (11), Khye A. Booker (15), Miguel A. Martinez (17), Ovanes Chobanian (18), David R. Arp, PM (19), William S. Sereni, Jr. (19), Brian Borchert (26), Bradley A. Gill (28), James D. Dobson (29), Sava Popovic (30), and Allen J. Rodda (30).

April Masonic Anniversary Dates & Years of Service

Robert G. Wilson (4/4), 60 Years
Bobby F. Dunham (4/21), 55 Years
Willard J. Classen, Jr. (4/12), 47 Years
James R. Causa, PM (4/13), 40 Years
Gerald E. Lindemuth, PM (4/21), 36 Years
Joel B. Coffey (4/27), 35 Years
Perry D. Curry (4/28), 34 Years
Chad G. Struer, PM (4/8), 32 Years
Bruce S. Draper (4/2), 31 Years
Richard L. Stevenson (4/11), 31 Years
Ranjeet Rajan (4/7), 28 Years
Norman E. Russ (4/22), 28 Years
Ryan T. Leininger (4/28), 28 Years
Jeffrey M. Poole (4/8), 27 Years
Peter P. Donley (4/17), 23 Years
John F. Hutchens (4/22), 23 Years
Duane A. Aro (4/14), 21 Years
Brian Borchert (4/18), 20 Years
Erick A. Rice (4/10), 19 Years
Allen J. Rodda (4/12), 19 Years
Timothy Urlaub (4/4), 16 Years
James R. Grabowski (4/11), 13 Years
Tigran Agadzhanian (4/11), 9 Years
Tenzing Azucenas (4/19), 9 Years
Charles A. Jolivet (4/27), 3 Years

2026 Memoriams

Jim Odle, passed away on 2/26/2026

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 29	30	31	1	2	3	4
	<p style="color: purple;">Candidates Coaching 6:30pm @ Oakland #61.</p>	<p style="color: purple;">Scholarship Application Close.</p>		<p style="color: purple;">Stated Meeting & Inspector's Official Visit. Dress is coat & tie. Social time begins at 6:00 pm with dinner 6:30 and the meeting at 7:30.</p> <p style="color: purple;"><i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.</i></p>		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	<p style="color: green;">Easter Monday</p> <p style="color: purple;">Candidates Coaching 6:30pm - 8:00 @ Oakland #61.</p>		<p style="color: purple;">Rockridge Hall Association Meeting 6:30 - 9:00 pm Dress is casual.</p>	<p style="color: purple;">Officers 3rd Degree Rehearsal & Candidates Coaching. Dress is casual. A light meal at 6:30 pm with the rehearsal & coaching at 7:00.</p>		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	<p style="color: purple;">Candidates Coaching & Discovering Masonic Secrets 6:30pm - 9:00 @ Oakland #61.</p>		Tax Day	<p style="color: purple;">Potential MM Degree. Dress for officers is tuxedo and coat & tie for others. Dinner at 6:30 pm with the degree to follow.</p> <p style="color: purple;"><i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.</i></p>		<p style="color: purple;">Claremont MS Fundraiser 5pm — Auction for Claremont MS. Dress is Dinner Jacket & Bow Tie. Need 8 lodge member volunteers.</p> <p style="color: purple;"><i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.</i></p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	<p style="color: purple;">Candidates Coaching 6:30pm - 8:00 @ Oakland #61.</p>	<p style="color: purple;">DOSI. @ Bay Cities #337. Dress is casual. Dinner at 6:30 pm followed by instruction at 7:30</p> <p style="color: purple;"><i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.</i></p>		<p style="color: purple;">The Lodge is DARK.</p>	<p style="color: purple;">12pm - Grand Lodge Leadership Retreat NW. Noon to noon and dress is casual.</p>	
26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
Grand Lodge	<p style="color: purple;">Candidates Coaching & Discovering Masonic Secrets 6:30pm - 9:00 @ Oakland #61.</p>			<p style="color: purple;">Annual Paint & Sip Gathering. 6:30 - 9:30 pm Dress is casual.</p> <p style="color: purple;"><i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.</i></p>		<p style="color: purple;">Orinda Lodge #122 Rib Dress is casual and the event will start at 6:00 pm.</p>

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 26 Grand Lodge	27 Candidates Coaching & Discovering Masonic Secrets 6:30pm - 9:00 @ Oakland #61.	28	29	30 Annual Paint & Sip Gathering 6:30 - 9:30 pm Dress is casual. <i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.</i>	1	2 Orinda Lodge #122 Rib Dress is casual and the event will start at 6:00 pm.
3	4 Easter Monday Candidates Coaching 6:30pm - 8:00 @ Oakland #61.	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7 Stated Meeting & Teacher of the Year. Dress is coat & tie. Social time begins at 6:00 pm with dinner at 6:30 and the award presentation and meeting to follow. <i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.</i>	8	9
10 	11 Candidates Coaching & Discovering Masonic Secrets 6:30pm - 9:00 @ Oakland #61.	12	13 Rockridge Hall Association Meeting 6:30 - 9:00 pm Dress is casual.	14 6:30 pm TBD @	15 12pm - Grand Lodge Leadership Retreat SE. Noon to noon and dress is casual.	16
17 Grand Lodge	18 Candidates Coaching 6:30pm - 8:00 @ Oakland #61.	19	20	21 DOSI. @ Bay Cities #337. Dress is casual. Dinner at 6:30 pm followed by instruction at 7:30 <i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.</i>	22	23
24	25 	26	27	28 6:30 pm TBD @	29 12pm - Grand Lodge Leadership Retreat SW. Noon to noon and dress is casual.	30
31 Grand Lodge	June 1 6:30pm -	2	3	4 6:00 pm - Oakland #61	5	6

*Bethel No. 175 San Leandro
invites you to join us for a*

**DEGREE OF ROYAL PURPLE CEREMONY
HONORING**

Lois World

*April 4, 2026
1 o'clock in the Afternoon*

*San Leandro Masonic Lodge
116 W Joaquin Ave
San Leandro CA 94577*

Please RSVP to
bethel175sanleandro@gmail.com



2026 Crab Feed Dinner



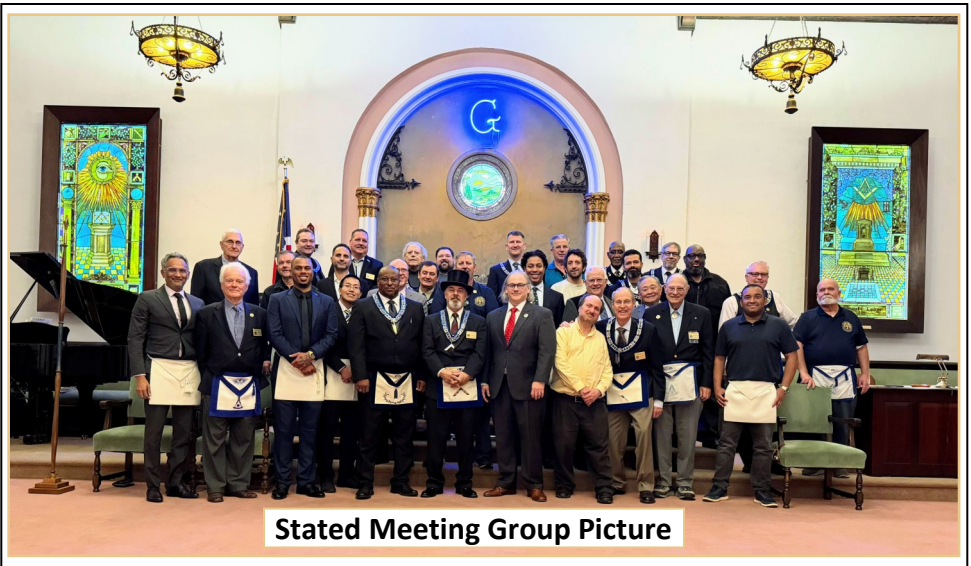
2026 Crab Feed Dinner



2026 Crab Feed Dinner



Crab Feed Kitchen Crew - Bros. Samson Wong, Paulo de Souza Silva & Peter Donley



Stated Meeting Group Picture

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.