



**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](http://www.oakland61.org)

**SIGNED: May 4, 1855**

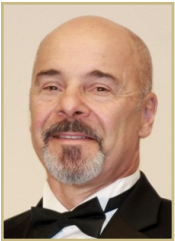
Secretary: (415) 425-2661

---

## February 2026

---

### VIEW FROM THE EAST:



Hello everybody,

I hope you all are doing well. I would like to say my first few weeks of being Master have been busy with a lot of phone calls and a lot of meetings. Most of the time it is with brothers from the lodge who I enjoy hanging out with whether it's business or not. Being the master has its moments. But my job has been made easy by the men who really run the lodge our brothers like Phil Williams, David Forsyth, Tim World, Allen Radda. Also, my fellow officers and the committees who work very hard to make Oakland 61 a great Lodge. I am proud to be part of such a fine group. In February will have some weekend activities such as the Claremont Middle School pancake breakfast on 21st and our crab feed on the 28th. Both should be fun events. That said, please remember if you're coming to any meetings, let us know so we can order the correct number of meals. Food is expensive and we do not want to waste it.

Be safe and stay warm,

**Dana Janke, PM**

**Master**

## VIEW FROM THE WEST



Greetings Brethren,

As we look ahead to the coming month, we have a full and exciting schedule before us. One of my favorite annual events is the Claremont Pancake Breakfast, a wonderful opportunity to support our community and showcase what we do as a lodge. This event will require many helping hands, and I encourage all brothers who are able to volunteer their time to help out. We will also be making time for fellowship with a Brothers Night Out on the 26th. Keep an eye on your email for more details. Lastly, our Annual Crab Feed is quickly approaching, be sure to get your tickets if you haven't already.

What a great start to this year! Looking forward to seeing all of you at the lodge soon.

Thanks!

**James McVey**  
**Senior Warden**

## VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Greetings Brethren,

Hopefully, everyone is doing well, and this trestleboard find you all in good health. January was a busy month for us all, beginning with first stated meeting of the year under Worshipful Dana Janke who is on his second stint as Master. We've had Second Degree practices to get ready for our bother Samson Wong who received his Fellowcraft degree on January 29th and other outings such as DOSI, and Masonic Secret Mondays. February is also looking good as we will have our annual Claremont Middle school pancake breakfast of February 21st and then our best of the rest crab feed night on February 28th, hope to see you there.

Then here comes March, starting with Candidate Coaching, Stated Meeting dinner you will not want to miss. Meeting aside, it is always a great time to mix, mingle and converse with members and their friends and families and other lodge brothers from all over. We will enjoy a world class meal of Worshipful Tim Worlds famous corned beef and cabbage. This will surely be a comforting and fulfilling night. In April, we will have pot roast, creamy mashed potatoes, and broccoli along with a green salad and a chocolate mousse for dessert. Please, brethren and friends do not forget to RSVP for all meals, very important. You can either call or text me directly or call our lodge phone line at 510-576-6729 and thank you for your cooperation.

*Continued on Page 3*

## **Junior Warden, Continued from Page 2**

Lastly, being a mason has been a wonderful experience for me. I have met many people from different walks of life from all over the world and have made bonding friendships with them. The feeling of knowing you've met someone, particularly a fellow mason who you can truly call your brother. Our Member Retention Committee have been working hard and diligently to bring brothers back to the lodge and reaching out just to say hi. I've enjoyed talking to some of our members and past masters and hearing and sharing stories from their time in the lodge. If any brother is interested in joining this committee, please contact me or our brother the Assistant Secretary Allen Rodda. We do not know what hypocrisy and deceit is, but we do know our basic tenets of our fraternal organization, Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Let's continue to move forward with the virtues of these tenets and continue to make our relationships with others meaningful.

Fraternally,  
**Luzon Byrd**  
**Junior Warden**

## **FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE**

“Courage is being scared to death — but saddling up anyway,”  
Bro. John Wayne



In February we pause, at least for a moment, to see whether a small groundhog spots its shadow and predicts more winter or an early spring. While Groundhog Day is often treated with humor, it also carries themes that resonate for us as Freemasons.

At its heart, Groundhog Day is about light and shadow, reflection and renewal. The groundhog emerges from darkness, faces the light, and then returns, either reassured or cautious. As Masons, we recognize this rhythm well. Our own journey is one that starts in darkness ultimately seeking light.

Winter itself teaches patience. Progress may feel slow, the days are shorter, and the work seems harder. Yet, we know that all seasons pass in due time. Just as the groundhog's appearance signals change, our Masonic labors, quiet, steady, and often unseen—prepare us for change within and without the lodge long before the results are visible.

Groundhog Day also invites us to see our own shadow. Do we retreat, or do we continue forward with greater commitment? We must not fear our shadows, but instead step into the light, improve ourselves, and emerge as better men.

Whether spring comes early or winter lingers a bit longer, take this moment as a reminder: light is always returning, growth is always happening, and our work, like the seasons, continues exactly as it should.

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

**Forsyth PM**  
**Secretary**

## ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren & Friends,

The Hall Association had its January Annual Meeting. The officers are as follows

Hall President: Phil Williams  
Hall Vice President: David Forsyth  
Hall Treasurer/CFO: Tyrone Davis  
Hall Secretary: Kirby Kinkead

We approved the 2026 Budget. This next year we will be repairing chairs in the Lodge Room. This is on the reserve study recommendation. We will also be looking to upgrade the kitchen. That also is a reserve study item. The projects for the safety and futurizing of the building have been completed. We have the 100th birthday of the building next year and we will be planning an open house, tours of the building and other goodies.

The elevator repair is due to start Feb. 2 with drilling to begin and ending Feb. 8. The estimated completion date is March 2. Then the elevator has to be inspected by the State for licensing and compliance.

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 Kinkead**  
**Lead Explorer**

## Announcements

**Invitation:** Worshipful Lance Green, Master of St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, who visited us several months ago has invited Oakland Lodge #61 member their 160th Anniversary Ceremony & Brunch on March 22nd from 12pm to 6pm EDT. See the enclosed Evite for more information.

**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](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:** 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

- I received a great letter from Bro. Sava Popovic. He and his family reside in Belgrade, Serbia. His wife is finishing her book and teaching at the University of Belgrade and they have a six year old son, Uros. Sava has left the private sector is now the Secretary General of the Serbian Rowing Federation.

Sava goes on to say the political and social situation in Serbia is turbulent. They are looking forward to a more stable situation after elections later this year or early 2027. Also, he is following events in the US and are a bit worried as viewed seen from the outside looking in.

Sava is involved in a Belgrade Masonic lodge, Lodge No. 27 "Evropa." He is their Master of Harmony (a kind of Organist). He says the lodge is doing some really good charity work in Belgrade for those in need.

Finally, he sends his best to all the Brethren of Oakland No. 61. He is hoping to visit the Bay Area later this year or early 2027.

- Bro, Patrick Ryan touched base with us in early January. He has entered a nursing program at the University of Pennsylvania which he is scheduled to complete in 12 months. As for what's next, his significant other lives in Berkeley; however, his daughters are attending universities in Los Angeles and Arcata/Eureka. Their mother recently passed away, and the daughters took her death pretty hard. Therefore, Patrick might initially work closer to one of them.

We wish all of them the best.

- Worshipful Rick Edick was able to attend our January Stated Meeting, but his health is fragile and his participation will be limited.
- I'm pleased to report that Bro. Daniel E. White is alive and well. We previously and inadvertently reported him as deceased.

*\* 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](http://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](mailto:secretary@oakland61.org) & [assistant.secretary@oakland61.org](mailto: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](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 February**

Aaron T. Kornblum (1), Donald D. Salo, PM (1), Alfredo Avila (2), Charles R. Mack (2), James R. Causa, PM (3), Michael G. McLean, Jr. (3), Timothy L. Fairley, PM (4), Timothy Jackson (4), John F. Hutchens (5), David E. Davis (6), Guillermo E. Rodriguez (6), Grove L. Gill (7), Gerald E. Lindemuth, PM (12), Hank K. Fung (14), James P. Beere (17), Ronald F. Parker (17), Thomas A. Gonda, Jr. (18), Patrick A. Love, PM (19), James A. Filice (21), Jeffrey T. Wilson, Sr. (23), Victor G. Borlaug, II, PM (24), Christopher C. Mills (25), James S. Boblak, Jr. (26), Raffy A. Khorozian (27), Julio F. Abella (28), and Stefan A. Gibson, Sr. (28).

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

Myron E. Temple, Jr., PM, 62 years

Robert C. Ellis, 61 years

John K. Mc Guire, 38 years

Paul D. Emery, 32 years

Romeo N. Escobar, 32 years

Cesar M. Datuin, 25 years

Rodney E. Simmons, 24 years

Luciano Chessa, 21 years

Lucas B. Strauss, 19 years

David A. Forsyth, PM, 18 years

James M. Anderson, 15 years

Earl D. Love, Jr., PM, 14 years

Tyson E. Nichols, 12 years

and Jisu T. Kim, 11 years

### **2026 Memoriams**

**NONE!!!**

# HELLO February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<p>Candidates Coaching 6:30pm @ Oak #61.</p>			<p>Stated Meeting &amp; Inspector's Visit. 6pm @ Oak #61. Dress is coat &amp; tie Dinner 6:30. Meeting 7:30. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</p>		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	<p>Candidates Coaching 6:30pm @ Oak #61. and Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.</p>			<p>Officers DOSI Practice and Candidates Coaching. Dress is casual. Dinner at 6:30 pm, with practice &amp; coaching to follow. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</p>		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
				<p>DOSI. @ Oak #61. Dress is casual. Dinner at 6:30 pm followed by instruction at 7:30 Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</p>		<p>Claremont Middle School Pancake Breakfast 8:00am - 12:00 @ Oak #61 Dress is casual.</p>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	<p>Candidates Coaching 6:30pm @ Oak #61. and Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.</p>			<p>Bros. Night Out. 6:00 pm and program TBD.</p>		<p>Annual Crab Feed 5:30 pm @ Oakland #61. Dinner at 6:00 and tickets (\$60 each and must be purchased online by February 23 (see enclosed flyer). No tickets sold at the door.</p>

# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
March	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<p>Candidates Coaching 6:30pm @ Oak #61.</p>				<p><b>Stated Meeting</b> 6pm @ Oak #61. Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30.</p> <p><i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i></p>		
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	<p>Candidates Coaching 6:30pm @ Oak #61.</p> <p>and</p> <p>Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.</p>				<p>3rd Degree Practice and Coaching. Dress is casual with dinner at 6:30 pm with practice and coaching to follow.</p> <p><i>Please RSVP via the email or (304) 201-3880.</i></p>		
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	<p>Candidates Coaching 6:30pm @ Oak #61.</p>	 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>			<p>DOSI. Fiat Lux #894. @ Orinda #122. Dress is casual. Dinner at 6:30 pm followed by instruction at 7:30</p> <p><i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i></p>		
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	<p>Candidates Coaching 6:30pm @ Oak #61.</p> <p>and</p> <p>Discovering Masonic Secrets 7pm @ Oak #61.</p>				TBD		
	29	30	31				
	<p>Candidates Coaching 6:30pm @ Oak #61.</p>						



## **2026 Annual Crab Feed**

*The Oakland Masonic Lodge #61 is excited to announce its upcoming **Crab Feed**.*

*It will take place on **February 28th** at the Rockridge Masonic Center.*

*Doors open at 5:30 pm with the Crab Feed beginning at 6:00.*

*Tickets are available for purchase below, so mark your calendars and get ready for a fantastic night out!*

### **Menu**

**CRAB**, Pasta, Salad, French Bread,  
Cocktail Sauce, Lemon & Beverages!

[Order Tickets Here](#)



*You're Invited to Celebrate*  
**ST. CECILE LODGE NO. 568**  
**160 YEARS**

*Rededication Ceremony*

With the HONOR & PRESENCE of the  
Most Worshipful Steven Adam Rubin,  
Grand Master of the State of New York  
& the Grand Line Officers

**FOLLOWED BY BRUNCH**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22 | 12-6 PM**

**71 W 23 St, New York, NY 10010**

SW Mike Caffery  
(516)236-4591

JW Eric Larios  
(914)573-9890

**WORSHIPFUL MASTER: LANCE GREEN**

**From \$17.85**

**Refunds up to 7 days before event**



**Jan 2026 Stated Meeting Group Picture**



**2026 Jan Stated Meeting Dinner Picture**



**2026 Jan Stated Meeting Dinner Picture**

# 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