



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

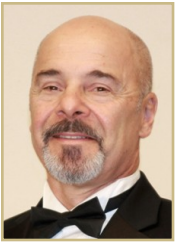
www.oakland61.org

SIGNED: May 4, 1855

Secretary: (415) 425-2661

June and July 2026

VIEW FROM THE EAST:



Hello my brothers and I'm happy to say the birds are chirping and it is a beautiful day. This month we are honoring our Golden Veterans. They are a wonderful and special group of guys but not always easy to get hold of. I hope everybody comes to their 50 year pin celebration.

They earned it and we are so happy to give it to them. I find these guys have so much wisdom and the best stories I've ever heard about things that have happened in Lodge. We also have a few new prospects, and it looks to me like they will soon become members of our lodge. These guys all seem to be happy and personable gentleman. I feel they will be a good fit in our lodge. We are also looking forward to upgrading our kitchen and second floor. Our building has gradually been upgraded and made more beautiful each year. It takes a lot of discussion and financing to do it. Thank God, we have such wonderful men to make this happen.

Please be safe and healthy,

**Dana Janke, PM
Master**

VIEW FROM THE WEST



Brethren,

As we find ourselves reaching the middle of the year, it is hard not to reflect on just how quickly time seems to be moving. It feels like only yesterday, we were beginning the year with plans, goals, and excitement for what was ahead, and now we are already looking back on a calendar full of meaningful events, fellowship, and service. The pace of the year is a reminder of how important it is to appreciate the moments we share together as Brothers and to remain engaged in the life of our lodge. The energy and participation we have seen so far this year have been encouraging and speak to the strength and spirit of our membership.

While the first half of the year has been rewarding, there is still much to look forward to in the months ahead. The second half of the year always seems to bring a renewed energy, and I encourage every Brother to stay involved and take part whenever possible. The best moments in Masonry are built together, and I am looking forward to continuing this journey with all of you as we make the remainder of the year one to remember.

Sincerely,

James McVey
Senior Warden

VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Greetings Brethren,

June is upon us and we are halfway through the year. Summer is approaching and warm and hot weather are on the horizon. I am looking forward to our Golden Veteran Awards night on June 11, 2026, as we honor the following Brothers: Robert J. Buckingham; Howard D. Hickman, III; and Donald D. McGregor who have been Masons for fifty years. This is a truly great feat to accomplish. Join us as we honor our three brothers in this ceremony. The meal for that night will be a steak dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, green salad, and cheesecake. The June Stated Meeting will consist of spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, green salad and vanilla ice cream for dessert. July's stated meeting meal will be BBQ themed and will consist of your choice of burgers, links, and chicken with sides of potato salad, coleslaw, and baked beans with sweet potato pie for dessert. As always, please RSVP for all events in which meals are served. This is greatly appreciated. See you at the lodge.

Luzon Byrd
Junior Warden

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

...Oft have I met your social band,
And spent the cheerful, festive night:
Oft, honour'd with supreme command,
Presided o'er the Sons of Light;

The Farewell to the brethren of St. Jame's Lodge, Tarbolton
by Bro. Robert Burns



Light is central to our teachings. A candidate enters Masonry seeking light, and throughout his journey he is encouraged to increase his knowledge, virtue, and understanding by striving toward the highest ideals of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Here in the San Francisco Bay Area the summer sun has finally arrived, and, with that, we look forward to the summer solstice. For Masons, it is a seasonal milestone; providing a meaningful opportunity to contemplate light, balance, and the continuing journey through the year. Also, the Feast of St. John the Baptist, celebrated near the Summer Solstice, holds special significance. Along with St. John the Evangelist, these patron saints of Masonry symbolize the balance between zeal and wisdom. Their teachings remind us that a well-lived life requires both conviction and compassion.

Freemasonry frequently highlights symbolism drawn from the movement of the heavens. The lodge itself is a symbolic representation of the universe, governed by order, harmony, and divine design.

All too soon; however, summer will end and remind us that all earthly triumphs are temporary. True light is not merely what shines upon us, but what shines within us. We can continue to illuminate the lives of others throughout the year with charity, kindness, and integrity.

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

**David Forsyth, PM
Secretary**

ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Hello,

Hopefully by the time you read this, our Hall Association President, Bro. Phil, will be home from the hospital and back on the road to healing. In the meantime, we will be starting our kitchen remodel in mid-June. Beginning with a kitchen clean out on June 13 at 8 a.m. Our goal is to have a work party remove everything from the kitchen. After the kitchen remodel is done, we will move on to remodeling the Club Room and there will be a couple of times that we will need a work party to relocate all of the furniture there.

I am officially retiring from my role as Building Manager on May 31. It has been a great honor to be entrusted with the care of this great edifice. No, sorry, you are not getting rid of me. I will still be here doing many different tasks for the Lodge and the Hall.

Fraternally,

Tim World, PM
Building Manager

MAY 2026 SCHOLARSHIP BOARD REPORT

Brethren,

At our May Stated Meeting, the Lodge approved four \$16,000 scholarships. The recipients were Jillian Kirkpatrick, William Kirkpatrick, Bridget McVey and Ishaan Rajan. Thank you for your continued support of this program.

Tim World, PM
Chairman

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 Kinkad
Lead Explorer

Announcements

Please see the Golden Veteran Award Ceremony announcement elsewhere in this issue.

The 1st District-Wide Rib Cook-Off! Worshipful Ben's efforts on our behalf brought 2nd Place among many competitors.

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

- Worshipful Rick Edick is still suffering a variety of medical issues. Please continue to pray for him.
- Bro. Phil Williams is again experiencing fluid accumulation in his lungs. He reports that he is in the Stanford Health Care, 5555 W. Las Positas Blvd, Pleasanton, Room 2506 and will be for the next ten days.
- For those of you who don't know Bro. Lucas Strauss, he served as Live Oak's Chaplain a few years back and had email address of "revlukewarm." At any rate since those days, he has battled stage 4 colon cancer and reports he is out of the danger zone. I checked in on him, and he said that other than a recent bike accident, he is doing fine and plans to join us in lodge soon.
- I saw some Facebook pictures of Bro. Bill Kambic with his grandchildren, and it looked like he was really enjoying his time with them. Also, sporting a good looking white beard.
- As many of you know, I (Allen Rodda) fell last summer and further injured my back. At present, I'm scheduled for corrective surgery on July 10th. Please cross your fingers for me.

** 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 June

Dana A. Janke, PM (1), James D. Hansen, PM (2), Norman E. Russ (3), Lee W. Cherry (7), Erol T. Cobanoglu (9), Charles J. Di Bari (9), Ryan T. Leininger (9), Eduardo L. Colón Vera (10), Nima Elie (10), Paul E. Schissler (10), Steven K. Harris (11), Benjamin F. Newsom, PM (12), Phillip A. Saenz (13), David A. Freed (14), Otha L. Cotton, PM (15), Charles W. Adams (17), Jalil J. Jaber (18), Thomas R. Bowser, V (19), Richard L. Stevenson (19), Adolph L. Keyes, Sr. (21), Daniel P. Loeser (26), Eric R. Skinner (26), Duane A. Aro (27), Howard D. Hickman, III (30), and Richard J. Macintire (30).

Brothers Birthdays in July

Jisu T. Kim (1), Donald D. Mc Gregor (2), David F. Ewing, PM (3), Ralph Vargas, Sr. (3), Paul D. Emery (4), Calvin H. Gilbert, PM (5), Frank R. Haswell (5), Wymone L. Walker (5), Richard T. Edick, PM (6), Curtis B. Flemming (7), John Stamison (7), Bobby F. Dunham (8), Cesar M. Datuin (9), James R. Grabowski (9), Lucas B. Strauss (9), Antonio Falcon (12), David C. Renshaw (15), Serge Ruiz, PM (18), Bruce S. Draper (21), David A. Forsyth, PM (22), Donald S. Draughon (23), Itamar L. de Morais (25), Alejo S. Galvez (25), Delvyn J. Martinez, PM (27), Timothy I. Michel (28), Billy B. Campbell (29), Richard D. Nutting (30), Jesse L. Shultz (30), Earl D. Love, Jr., PM (31), and Derek N. Snel (31).

June Masonic Anniversary Dates & Years of Service

Derek D. Lenters (1964/6/16), 62 Years
Kenneth R. Martin (1964/6/25), 62 Years
James D. Hansen, PM (1967/6/23), 59 Years
Herbert F. Bradley (1968/6/21), 58 Years
Xum B. Valerio (1970/6/16), 56 Years
Donald D. Mc Gregor (1971/6/11), 55 Years
Susumu S. Imamura, PM (1974/6/15), 49 Years
Jason B. Hartman, PM (1978/6/8), 48 Years
Ralph Vargas, Sr. (1981/6/23), 45 Years
Calvin H. Gilbert, PM (1983/6/23), 43 Years
David A. Freed, PM (1988/6/6), 38 Years
Julio F. Abella (1991/6/13), 29 Years
Terrance S. Hanson (1991/6/20), 35 Years
Billy B. Campbell (1992/6/26), 34 Years
Daniel P. Breault (1993/6/24), 33 Years
Gregory R. Gemlo (1995/6/17), 31 Years
Morris H. Moriuchi (2000/6/13), 26 Years
Lynton J. Daniel (2002/6/25), 24 Years
Robert B. Rickett (2003/6/26), 23 Years
Jonathan S. Davis (2006/6/27), 20 Years
Nicholas L. Hayworth, PM (2008/6/19), 18 Years
Tom Kavishi, PM (2009/6/11), 17 Years
Serge Ruiz, PM (2009/6/27), 17 Years
Christopher M. Ellis (2010/6/23), 16 Years
Luzon Byrd, Jr. (2012/6/21), 13 Years
Walter G. Crossley (2012/6/28), 14 Years
Eduardo L. Colón Vera (2015/6/9), 11 Years
Devon E. Williams (2017/6/8), 9 Years
Fariborz Amirdelfan (2019/6/25), 7 Years
Jerrell C. Johnson (2024/6/20), 2 Years
Eduardo Colmenares, Jr. (2024/6/27), 2 Years
Paulo H. de Souza Silva (2025/6/19), 1 Years
Jalil J. Jaber (2025/6/26), 1 Years

July Masonic Anniversary Dates & Years of Service

Dennis W. Butler (1989/7/13), 37 Years
Philip R. Davis, PM (2011/7/26), 15 Years
Thomas R. Bowser, V. (2022/7/12), 4 Years
Kirby N. Kinhead (2022/7/19), 4 Years

2026 Memoriams





William R. Lenheim, passed away on 12/6/2025

Jim Odle, passed away on 2/26/2026


John M. Burk, passed away on 4/20/2026

Craig M. Baker, passed away on 4/29/2026

JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 May 	1 June Candidates Coaching 6:30pm - 8:00 @ Oakland #61.			4 Stated Meeting. Dress is Hawaiian Shirts. Social time begins at 6:00 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm and the meeting at 7:30. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.		
7	8 Candidates Coaching & Discovering Masonic Secrets 6:30pm - 9:00 @ Oakland #61.	9	10 Rockridge Hall Association Meeting 6:30 - 9:00 pm Dress is casual.	11 Golden Veteran Awards. Dress for officers is coat & tie and dressy casual for others. Social time begins at 6:00 pm with dinner at 6:30 and the Awards Presentation to follow. RSVP via the email anncmnt. or (510) 576-6729.	12	13 Kitchen Clean Out. 8:00 am - Noonish. Dress is casual and there will be breakfast snacks and lunch afterwards for those who help out. RSVP via the email announcement. or (510) 576-6729.
14 	15 Candidates Coaching 6:30pm - 8:00 @ Oakland #61.	16 DOSI. @ Acalanes Fellowship #480. Dress is casual. Dinner at 6:30 pm followed by instruction at 7:30 Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.	17	18 TBD	19 Juneteenth	20
21 	22 Candidates Coaching & Discovering Masonic Secrets 6:30pm - 9:00 @ Oakland #61.	23	24	25 Lodge Night Out	26	27
28	29 Candidates Coaching 6:30pm - 8:00 @ Oakland #61.	30	1 July	2 Stated Meeting. Dress is Hawaiian Shirts. Dinner will be BBQ in the backyard at 6:30 with the meeting to follow. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.	3	4 

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 June Grand Lodge	29	30	1 July	2 Stated Meeting. Dress is Hawaiian Shirts. Dinner will be BBQ in the backyard at 6:30 with the meeting to follow. Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.	3	4  July 3 - July 31st The Lodge is Dark. RSVP via email announcement or (510) 576- 6729
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Golden Veterans Award Night on June 11th
Gathering begins at 6pm, Dinner at 6:30,
and Ceremony to follow.

The Masonic Golden Veterans Award Night is a special occasion to recognize and celebrate the dedication and commitment of our brothers who have served the craft for 50 or more years. This prestigious award honors those who have demonstrated exceptional service and loyalty. Please join us as we honor our brothers who have demonstrated exceptional service to our fraternity.

Please RSVP Via the QR Code in the Announcement Section of this issue.

BLANKET DRIVE

forget me Not

Let's work together for the Shriners Children's Hospital

How can you help?

- Make a Quilted or No-Sew-Blanket
- Donate a completed blanket
- Spread the word

Organized by
JoMay Chan, First Lady
Masons of California

*Deadline
October 9th, 2026*

Guidelines

- Use NEW materials only
- No loose decorations or attachments
- Minimum: 3 ft x 5 ft
- Twin size blankets are especially appreciated

Scan for help



A Small Gesture, A Lasting Message

Like the forget-me-not flower, each blanket carries a simple meaning:
"You are remembered. You are cared for. You matter."



For questions or drop-off please email us:

Northern California

JoMay Chan

jomaydesign@gmail.com

Southern California

Soseh Yegyan

syegyan@yahoo.com



Castro Valley DeMolay

Castro Valley DeMolay is pleased to announce a strong and exciting spring season filled with service, brotherhood, leadership training, and friendly competition. One of the chapter's most recent successes was its outstanding performance at the PRIDE ritual competition. The dedication shown by our members during meetings, practices, and extra preparation truly paid off when it mattered most.

Several Castro Valley DeMolay members earned individual recognition at PRIDE. Brother Dylan Molina placed first in his role as Senior Councilor during Opening and Closing, and Brother Rey Danguilan placed first in his role as Junior Deacon. Brother Dennison Sumague placed first in both Flower Talk and Master Councilor. Brother Christopher Weaver earned second place in Magnificent Seven and Ceremony of Light. Brother Nicholas BoKamper placed first as Preceptor 3 and also received Best Part for Chaplain during Opening and Closing. Brother Ethan Baranda also got second place for Obligations.

As a chapter, Castro Valley DeMolay was especially proud to earn first place in Chapter Opening and Closing. This achievement was amazing to see and reflected the hard work, commitment, and teamwork that our members put into preparing for the competition.

Aside from ritual competition, the chapter also celebrated its Installation of Officers on May 17 at 3:00 p.m. at the Castro Valley Masonic Lodge. Brother Dylan Molina retired from his term as Master Councilor, and Brother Dennison Sumague was installed as the new Master Councilor. During the installation, Brother Dennison also performed Flower Talk for those in attendance. Brother Gabriel Danguilan was installed as Senior Councilor, and Brother Ethan Baranda moved up to Junior Councilor. The chapter is excited to see what this new term will bring under their leadership.

On May 31, Castro Valley DeMolay is honored to celebrate Brother Jacob Banta receiving the Degree of Chevalier at the Castro Valley Masonic Lodge. The chapter also recognized Brother Eli Hawes for his majority service. These moments were meaningful reminders of the dedication, service, and brotherhood that DeMolay encourages in its members.

Looking ahead, Castro Valley DeMolay will be hosting a pancake breakfast on June 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Castro Valley Masonic Lodge. The breakfast will include all-you-can-eat pancakes, fruit, sausages, and eggs for \$15 per person and \$7 for children. There will also be a Filipino breakfast special featuring tapa, bangus, tocino, eggs, rice, and vegetables for \$25 per person.

Castro Valley DeMolay continues to thrive with new members, strong participation, and a renewed commitment to service and brotherhood. The chapter is grateful for the support of the Masonic family and hopes to see everyone at its upcoming events.



4521 Crow Canyon Road, Castro Valley, CA 94552