



**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**

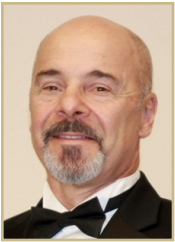
Secretary: (415) 425-2661

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**March 2026**

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**VIEW FROM THE EAST:**



Hello my brothers,

I hope you're all doing well, I have to say this year is moving along nicely. We have been busy at the lodge. The future looks bright with two opportunities to make two of our brothers Master Masons: Samson Wong and Kyhe Booker. I personally enjoy the company of both these guys. One of the things I love most about a third degree is that it takes mostly everybody in lodge to participate. I like everyone to be involved in raising a brother. Further, if you enjoy a good meal coming to a 3rd degree, you're going to get your fill. We have had our struggles with the elevator but finally, the repairs are underway. I am sure everyone will agree the sooner the better. Additionally, we are looking forward to the modernization of the kitchen. We seem to get along OK, but I feel it is due time to update some of the major components. I would like our lodge to be rated five stars from top to bottom; much like our officers and brothers, we want to be the best.

Be safe, call in your reservation,

**Dana Janke, PM**

**Master**

## VIEW FROM THE WEST



Brethren,

As we move forward into the month of March, I would like to take a moment to sincerely thank all of you who have taken the time to respond to our recent lodge survey. Your participation and thoughtful input are greatly appreciated.

The responses we have received so far have been outstanding. Many of you shared meaningful reflections on what the Lodge means to you personally — whether it be fellowship, mentorship, tradition, charity, or simply the bonds of brotherhood that unite us. It is encouraging and inspiring to read how deeply our Lodge impacts the lives of its members.

Equally valuable has been your honest and constructive feedback about areas where we can improve. Growth requires reflection, and your insights give us clear direction on how we can strengthen our programs, enhance our meetings, and better serve the Brethren and our community.

Perhaps most exciting are the creative and enthusiastic ideas that have been suggested for future events and activities. From educational programs to social gatherings and travel, it is evident that there is a strong desire to see our Lodge continue to thrive and evolve.

If you have not yet completed the survey, I encourage you to do so. Your voice matters. Every response helps ensure that we are building a Lodge experience that reflects the interests, values, and needs of our membership. Please take a few moments to fill out the form and share your thoughts. You can use the QR Code below to access the survey.

Thank you again to everyone who has participated. Your engagement demonstrates the strength of our Brotherhood and the bright future that lies ahead for our Lodge.

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



## VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Greetings Brethren,

Time seems to be passing by fast as the month of March is here. February was a busy month for us, from practices to school of instruction to rounding off the month with our Brothers night out which was held at Plank in Oakland to our annual crab feed night. Both events were a big success. As always, it is great to see us all interact with brotherly love and share good times with friends and family.

*Continued on Page 3*

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

In honor of St. Patrick's Day for the month of March, our stated meeting meal will consist of corned beef and cabbage prepared by Worshipful Tim World PM. It's good, so make sure you attend for a good meal, fellowship and an overall good time at the lodge. The stated meeting meal for the month of April will consist of pot roast, creamy mashed potatoes, broccoli, green salad, and a chocolate mousse or cake for dessert.

Lastly, as a reminder please do not forget to RSVP for all meals. The last day to RSVP for stated meeting meals is on the first Tuesday prior to Thursday's meeting. You can either call the lodge at 510-576-6729 or call or text me personally.

Thank you and see you at lodge,

**Luzon Byrd**  
**Junior Warden**

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

“The honest man, tho' e'er sae poor, Is king o' men for a' that.”  
Bro. Robert Burns



As a fellow Scot, I always enjoy reading the works of our beloved brother, and my countryman, Robert Burns, a poet of enlightenment, a social commentator on the conditions of the working man in the 18th century and a champion of liberty and equality. His words have resonated across generations. Bro. Burns brought us humor, wisdom and affection, delivering honest ideas through his unique, poetic voice. He held great pride for our Craft; his deep commitment can be felt in his stirring masonic poetry. Bro. Burns lived during the Scottish Enlightenment, a time that championed reason, learning, and human dignity. Not surprisingly, Freemasonry prospered in this intellectual climate. Against that backdrop, Burns, through his poetry, contemplated how Freemasonry shapes and is shaped by the character of its members. I ask you, could we use Bro. Burns now? Do we need to recall and reaffirm his universal ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity? Do we need him to remind us that the lodge room is a place where men of different backgrounds meet on the level, brought together not by social standing but by shared values? Yes, we do, but Masonry is not just confined to the lodge room—we live it at home and at work, in our words, our deeds, and our relationships, too. Bro. Burns proclaims a truth central to Masonic philosophy “That man to man the world o’er shall brothers be for a’ that”.

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

**David Forsyth, PM**  
**Secretary**

## ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren & Friends,

We are in the middle of our elevator replacement and have run into a few bumps. I spoke with Kone and they still are looking for completion the week of March 1st. We will keep you advised. The chairlift was down for a few days and is working again. It is a chair for people not a lift for soda or other objects. We had to rent a portable oven for the pancake breakfast due to our oven not working properly. This is going to change.

One other housekeeping bit of business. When items are delivered to the Lodge, it is the Lodges responsibility as the tenant to make sure they are put away. It is not up to the building manager to put things away for the Lodge. The relationship between the Hall and the Lodge is a Landlord Tenant agreement. Would you have your Landlord put away your groceries?

Sincerely and fraternally,

**Brother Phil Williams**  
**Board President**

### *Scholarship Opportunity*

This is a friendly reminder that Oakland Lodge No. 61 is offering four scholarships this year in the amount of \$16,000 payable in 8 semiannual payments of \$2000. The deadline for applications is March 31. The application and all of the details may be found at [www.oakland61.org/scholarships](http://www.oakland61.org/scholarships). If you have any questions, please reach out to Tim World at 510-415-9292 or [scholarships@oakland61.org](mailto:scholarships@oakland61.org).

### *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

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



**Invitation:** Worshipful Lance Green, Master of St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, who visited us several month 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 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."

**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

- Last month I forgot to mention that I heard from Dr. Aram Harijan. He reported that he was alive and well in La Mesa, CA and asked me if the brethren knew that he said hello.
- Recently, Bro. Will Smith gave me a call and reported he is doing well. Additionally, he asked me to pass along his best wishes to the whole lodge family.
- Bro. Phil Williams is still battling fluid retention problems in his lungs, but has a positive attitude. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Just caught up with Bro. Jeff Wilson and learned he was on the same Ensenada cruise as W. Fred and Edie.
- For those of you who aren't on Facebook, here is a message posted by W. Donald (Doc) Bailey: Getting older is a bitch. So yesterday I split my forehead open. Nice clean horizontal gash 1" wide, I'd love to say it happened deflecting a falling tree about to land on an innocent family. It sounds much better than sharing I walked right into the side of a horizontal solar panel in an open area. Because the later would just validate a dumb move. No matter how it happened, being on blood thinners has made it an interesting task to get it to stop bleeding. Dam tree!!!!"

*\* 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 March**

Alan D. Filiou, PM (1), Tom Kavishi, PM (2), Edward V. Cabrera (3),  
Aram Harijan, M.D. (3), Robert B. Rickett (3), Olushola S. Bello (5),  
Edmond C. Stevenson, PM (5), Chad G. Struer, PM (5), Brent D. Goodale (7),  
David A. Hansen (8), William J. Kambic (12), Tyson E. Nichols (13),  
Sheldon Williams (14), Garland B. Davis (15), Bowman Wong (15),  
John K. Oshima (16), JoJo Guingao (17), Robert J. Buckingham (18),  
Lance D. Hanawalt (18), Jason Willcuts (21), Craig M. Baker (23),  
Arman Paymai (23), Henry J. Gannett, PM (26), Jonathan S. Davis (27),  
Kurt M. Carter (29), and Edmund T. Evans (31).

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

James G. Kirk, 66 Years  
Robert C. Frederick, 62 Years  
Robert L. Garoutte, 61 Years  
Jack L. Fair, 60 Years  
Edmond C. Stevenson, PM, 49 Years  
Timothy H. World, PM, 48 Years  
Loren G. Harris, 43 Years  
Gordon H. Emberton, PM, 35 Years  
John D. Lane, 24 Years  
Guy K. Haas, 22 Years  
Thomas A. Gonda, Jr., 21 Years  
Khalil H. Sweidy, 20 Years  
Donald R. Colbert, 19 Years  
William S. Sereni, Jr., 19 Years  
Robert L. Charboneau, 16 Years  
Sergey K. Aityan, 15 Years  
Tyrone C. Davis-Eugene, PM, 14 Years  
Alfredo Avila, 13 Years  
Michael G. McLean, Jr., 13 Years  
Philip N. Brown, 10 Years  
and Stuart Bateman, 9 Years  
Kevin Clanton, 9 Years


### **2026 Memoriams**

**NONE!!!**

# 

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday |    |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|----------|----|
| March  | 1  | 2  | 3   | 4  | 5  | 6        | 7  |
|  | <p>Candidates Coaching<br/>6:30pm<br/>@ Oak #61.</p>   |  |   |  | <p><b>Stated Meeting</b><br/>6pm @ Oak #61.<br/>Dinner 6:30,<br/>Meeting 7:30.</p> <p><i>Please RSVP<br/>via the email<br/>announcement<br/>or (304) 201-3880.</i></p> |          |    |
|  | 8  | 9  | 10  | 11   | 12   | 13       | 14 |
|  | <p>Candidates Coaching<br/>6:30pm<br/>@ Oak #61.</p> <p>and<br/>Discovering<br/>Masonic Secrets<br/>7pm @ Oak #61.</p> |  | <p>Rockridge Hall<br/>Association<br/>Meeting<br/>6:30 - 9:00 pm<br/>Dress is casual.</p> | <p>3rd Degree<br/>Practice and<br/>Coaching.<br/>Dress is casual<br/>with dinner at<br/>6:30 pm with<br/>practice and<br/>coaching to<br/>follow.<br/><i>Please RSVP<br/>via the email<br/>or (304) 201-3880.</i></p>  |  |          |    |
|  | 15   | 16   | 17  | 18   | 19   | 20       | 21 |
|  | <p>Candidates Coaching<br/>6:30pm<br/>@ Oak #61.</p>   | <br><p><b>St. Patrick's Day</b></p> |   | <p>DOSI.<br/>Fiat Lux #894.<br/>@ Orinda #122.<br/>Dress is casual.<br/>Dinner at 6:30 pm<br/>followed by<br/>instruction at 7:30</p> <p><i>Please RSVP<br/>via the email<br/>announcement<br/>or (304) 201-3880.</i></p>  |  |          |    |
|  | 22   | 23   | 24  | 25   | 26   | 27       | 28 |
|  | <p>Candidates Coaching<br/>6:30pm<br/>@ Oak #61.</p> <p>and<br/>Discovering<br/>Masonic Secrets<br/>7pm @ Oak #61.</p> |  |   | <p>Orinda #122<br/>visit to Oak #61.<br/>Dress for Officers<br/>is tuxedo and<br/>coat &amp; tie for<br/>other gentlemen.<br/>Social time<br/>begins at 6:00 pm<br/>with dinner at<br/>6:30 and<br/>degree at 7:30.<br/><i>Please RSVP<br/>via the email<br/>announcement<br/>or (304) 201-3880.</i></p> |  |          |    |
|  | 29   | 30   | 31  |  |  |          |    |
|  | <p>Candidates Coaching<br/>6:30pm<br/>@ Oak #61.</p>   | <p>Scholarship<br/>Application<br/>Close.</p>  |   |  |  |          |    |

# April

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                                       | Saturday   |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| March 29   | 30  | 31   | 1   | 2   | 3  | 4  |
|  | <p>Candidates Coaching<br/>6:30pm<br/>@ Oak #61.</p>  | <p>Scholarship Application Close.</p>  |   | <p><b>Stated Meeting</b><br/>6pm @ Oak #61.<br/>Dress is coat and tie.<br/>Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30.</p> <p><i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i></p> |  |  |
| 5  | 6   | 7  | 8   | 9   | 10   | 11   |
|  | <p style="color: green;">Easter Monday</p> <p>Candidates Coaching<br/>6:30pm<br/>@ Oak #61.</p>   |  | <p>Rockridge Hall Association Meeting<br/>6:30 - 9:00 pm<br/>Dress is casual.</p> | TBD   |  |  |
| 12   | 13  | 14   | 15  | 16  | 17   | 18   |
|  | <p>Candidates Coaching<br/>6:30pm<br/>@ Oak #61.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>Discovering Masonic Secrets<br/>7pm @ Oak #61.</p> |  | Tax Day   | TBD   |  | <p><b>Claremont MS Fundraiser</b><br/>5pm — Auction for Claremont MS.<br/>Dress is Dinner Jacket &amp; Bow Tie.<br/>Need 8 lodge member volunteers.<br/><i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i></p> |
| 19   | 20  | 21   | 22  | 23  | 24   | 25   |
|  | <p>Candidates Coaching<br/>6:30pm<br/>@ Oak #61.</p>  | <p>DOSI.<br/>@ Oakland #337.<br/>Dress is casual.<br/>Dinner at 6:30 pm followed by instruction at 7:30<br/><i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i></p> |   |   | <p>12pm - Grand Lodge Leadership Retreat</p> |  |
| 26   | 27  | 28   | 29  | 30  | May 1  | 2  |
| Grand Lodge  | <p>Candidates Coaching<br/>6:30pm<br/>@ Oak #61.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>Discovering Masonic Secrets<br/>7pm @ Oak #61.</p> |  |   | <p><b>Annual Paint &amp; Sip Gathering</b><br/>6:30 - 9:30 pm<br/>Dress is casual.<br/><i>Please RSVP via the email announcement or (304) 201-3880.</i></p>                       |  |  |



## **Crab Feed - Sold Out!**

*Thanks for all of the support and look forward to seeing everyone.*

*If you are in dire need of some crab, please reach out to  
Bro. Phil Williams ([treasurer@oakland61.org](mailto:treasurer@oakland61.org))*



*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**



## **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.

# 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**

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