



FIRST MEETING:

December 7, 2023

Office: (510) 576-6729

Reservations: (510) 576-6729

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

Rockridge Masonic Hall

5449 College Avenue

Oakland, California 94618

www.oakland61.org

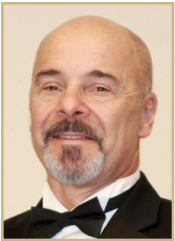
ORIGINAL CHARTER

SIGNED: May 4, 1855

Secretary: (415) 425-2661

August 2026

VIEW FROM THE EAST:



Hello my brothers,

I hope everyone's doing well. If you haven't heard, we're doing a little remodeling of our second-floor kitchen. You have to be impressed with the work the masons in our lodge do to make our building both more beautiful and safer.

On another subject, we have elected two prospects to receive the degrees in Masonry in our lodge. They are Messrs. Kaue Feitoza and Guilherme de Morais. I believe both these gentlemen will be wonderful Masons and a great fit for Oakland No. 61. Brother Samson is waiting for his third degree with time and patience. In August the Chinese Acacia Club will be performing that third degree in our lodge. That degree will include our Grand Master of Masons in CA and a Past Grand Master. This will be a degree that no one should miss. It will be one of the highlights of our Masonic year. Our lodge continues to host wonderful events performed by officers who love the craft. I'm just happy to be part of it.

So, for now, please be safe and happy.

Dana Janke, PM
Master

VIEW FROM THE WEST



Brethren,

It's hard to believe we have already passed the midpoint of the year. As the days begin to grow a little shorter, our calendar at Oakland Lodge No. 61 continues to grow fuller. This month is shaping up to be one of our busiest yet. From degree work to fellowship events, we have many opportunities to strengthen our Lodge, welcome new Brothers into our fraternity, and enjoy one another's company.

I encourage each of you to look closely at the Lodge calendar and make every effort to attend and support our upcoming degrees and events. Your presence makes a meaningful difference—not only for the candidates taking important steps in their Masonic journey, but also for the Brothers who dedicate their time to making each event a success. Whether you can lend a hand, sit on the sidelines to cheer on your fellow Brothers, or simply enjoy an evening of fellowship, your participation helps keep our Lodge vibrant and thriving. I look forward to seeing each of you throughout what promises to be a packed and exciting month.

All the best,
James McVey
Senior Warden

VIEW FROM THE SOUTH



Greetings Brethren,

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer so far and had a wonderful and enjoyable fourth of July as well as celebrating our country's 250th year. We now enter the month of August which will be a very busy month for us all. Many of us will face the challenges of moving into new positions for next year along with doing a few degrees before the year is over. We will have a third-degree conferral on Samson Wong on August 20. This degree will be performed by The Chinese Acacia Club, and our dinner will be prime rib. Please make a special effort to RSVPs for this event.

Regarding Stated Meeting meals, in August we will enjoy pork chops, white rice, green beans, Caesar salad, and pumpkin pie for dessert. Looking to the future, September's Meeting meal will be Alfredo sauce over noodles with chicken and broccoli, Caesar salad and cheesecake. As always, please do not forget to RSVP for all events where we serve meals.

Hope to see you all at the lodge,
Luzon Byrd
Junior Warden

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

"The noblest search is the search for excellence."

Bro. Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th President of the United States



When we watch from the sidelines the moment a man crosses the threshold of the Lodge, he enters our brotherhood of ritual and tradition. This is just the beginning, he will pursue moral excellence, charitable purpose, and seek friendships and establish his connections within the Lodge. We have persevered because our members show up, answer the call to help at the Lodge and beyond, not just once at their initiation, but again and again, meeting by meeting, degree by degree, handshake by handshake. It is a living commitment and separates a Lodge that thrives from one that merely survives. I ask you candidly: which will ours be?

Our Lodge events and stated meetings are not obligations to be suffered, they are opportunities to meet in a room full of men, striving together, to be better. Whether it is a degree night, a fellowship dinner, a charity event, or a festive board, each event is a chance to strengthen the bonds that make our brotherhood meaningful.

When a seat is empty, or dues unpaid, that bond weakens, and a brother somewhere misses the encouragement that only you can provide.

Reach out to a brother you haven't seen in months, not with a reminder, but with a genuine invitation. Show up not because you are obliged to, but because we all want to see you. The next generation of Masons is watching to see whether this fraternity is worth their time and devotion, and the most powerful answer we can give them is a Lodge that is full, engaged, and alive with purpose. The trowel is in our hands, let us continue to build.

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

**David Forsyth, PM
Secretary**

ROCKRIDGE HALL ASSOCIATION

Brethren & Friends,

The construction project is completed. The kitchen, the floors & the 2nd floor are ready for the next 20+ years. We have been working with our Reserve Study keeping the necessary building maintenance items on the agenda. Within the next 5 years we will be looking at a new roof. In the past three years we have upgraded the electricity, replaced the elevator, painted the building, upgraded the plumbing, remodeled the kitchen and second floor, replaced the heater improved access to the attic and cleaned all of the garbage in the attic and building junk. All for the safety and improvement of the building. We are still working on the alarm system, building internet and the front doors.

Our new management company has been working, and they are moving right along.

Sincerely & 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 Kinkad
Lead Explorer

Announcements

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

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

- Good news! Wor. Rick Edick and Bros. Phil Williams & Lucas Strauss' health has been on the improve and they were able to attend our July Stated Meeting.
- Bro. Phil Williams passed along an update on Bro. Will Smith. Will's cancer is in remission; however, he did undergo surgery to remove a growth on his head. Additionally, he's still dealing with vertigo
- The following news reached me after our June/July issue went to press:
 - Bros. Nima Elie, Tom Gonda, David Renshaw, Joe Sahagun and Wor. Michael Baird touched bases with our Retention Committee. All are doing well and thanked us for calling.
 - Bro. Alex Bayen reported that he and his family lost their home to fire earlier this year. However, as of July 1, they have rebuilt and moved back in. As Alex put it, *life is good!*

** 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 August

Everett L. Messer (1), Benjamin L. Bartlett (4), Richard D. Anderson, PM (5),
Raed Y. Alfayoumi (6), Michael J. Bischoff (6), Richard B. Parkin, Jr. (6),
Richard D. Ketels, PM (8), James R. Mountain (9), Richard D. Herrera (10),
Ranjeet Rajan (10), Drew K. Steadman (10), Patrick S. Ryan (11),
Daren M. Miller, PM (12), Vince E. Renfrow (12), Robert E. Baird, PM (13),
Thomas M. Andrus, PM (15), Williard N. Smith, Jr. (15), Walter G. Crossley (16),
Andrew O. Ochoa (23), Nicholas A. Ragsdale (24), Chris E. Bokamper (25),
Robert B. Anderson (26), Roberto Ballou (26), John Kirkpatrick (26),
Robert L. Charboneau (27), and Michael W. Armstrong (30).

August Masonic Anniversary Dates & Years of Service

Donald W. Spruance, PM (1955/8/29), 71 Years
Gary W. Browning (1962/8/9), 64 Years
John Stamison (1970/8/20), 56 Years
Roy C. Fetterly (1970/8/26), 56 Years
Steven K. Harris (1970/8/26), 56 Years
Donald G. Nelson (1971/8/27), 55 Years
Andrew O. Ochoa (1972/8/18), 54 Years
Kurt M. Carter (1974/8/21), 52 Years
Frank R. Haswell (1980/8/21), 46 Years
Donald D. Salo, PM (1981/8/29), 45 Years
James R. Mountain (1982/8/20), 44 Years
Patrick L. Healy (1986/8/23), 40 Years
Brent D. Goodale (1987/8/15), 39 Years
Mickey L. Benko, PM (1989/8/17), 37 Years
Robert Mayer (1991/8/28), 35 Years
Ronald F. Parker (1991/8/10), 33 Years
Isauro P. Rafael (1994/8/26), 32 Years
James K. Petersen, III (1997/8/14), 29 Years
John Kirkpatrick (1997/8/21), 29 Years
Charles T. Poole (1998/8/23), 28 Years
James D. Dobson (1998/8/29), 28 Years
Michael D. Dobson (1998/8/29), 28 Years
Thomas W. Dobson (1998/8/29), 28 Years
Daniel E. Moss (1992/8/29), 26 Years
Edgardo F. Alvarez (2000/8/31), 26 Years
Lester Lyons (2002/8/2), 24 Years
Paul T. Adams, PM (2005/8/9), 21 Years
Adolph L. Keyes, Sr. (2006/8/17), 20 Years
Gilberto Estrada, Sr. PM (2007/8/30), 19 Years
Daniel A. Bible (2009/8/29), 17 Years
Dana A. Janke, PM (2010/8/26), 16 Years
Christopher Bair, PM (2011/8/23), 15 Years
Tillman M. Butler (2009/8/27), 12 Years
Sheldon Williams (2016/8/18), 10 Years
Richard J. Macintire (2016/8/27), 10 Years
Allan R. Diaz (1984/8/21), 8 Years
Drew G. Spitzer (2021/8/28), 5 Years
James A. Filice (2022/8/9), 4 Years
Christopher C. Mills (2022/8/30), 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
Larry E. Fingerut, passed away on 7/21/2026



Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
26	July	27		28		29		30		31		1	August
The Lodge will be DARK for the month of July after the Stated Meeting													
2		3	Candidates Coaching 6:30pm - 8:00 @ Oakland #61.	4		5		6	Stated Meeting. Dress is Business 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	
9		10	Candidates Coaching & Discovering Masonic Secrets 6:30pm - 9:00 @ Oakland #61.	11		12	Rockridge Hall Association Meeting 6:30 - 9:00 pm Dress is casual.	13	EA Degree. Dress for officers is tuxedo and coat & tie for others. Social time begins at 6:00 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm the degree at 7:30. Please RSVP via the email annnc. or (510) 576-6729.	14		15	
16		17	Candidates Coaching 6:30pm - 8:00 @ Oakland #61.	18		19		20	DOSI and Bro. Wong's 3rd Degree @ Oakland #61 Dress is dressy casual. Dinner at 6:30 pm followed by Instruction & degree at 7:30 Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.	21		22	
23	Oakland Lodge #61 Founders Day Dinner. The location is Prime Steakhouse & Martini Garden @ 1719 Bonanza St. Walnut Creek. This event is limited to 36 participants. Appropriate attire is dressy casual. Please RSVP via the email annnc. or (510) 576-6729.	24	Candidates Coaching & Discovering Masonic Secrets 6:30pm - 9:00 @ Oakland #61.	25		26		27	Hiram Awards Details Forthcoming	28		29	
30		31	Candidates Coaching 6:30pm - 8:00 @ Oakland #61.	1	September	2		3	Stated Meeting.	4		5	

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 August	31	1 September	2	3 Stated Meeting. Dress is Coat & Tie for officers and dressy casual for others. 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.	4	5
6	7  The lodge will be Dark	8	9 Rockridge Hall Association Meeting 6:30 - 9:00 pm Dress is casual.	10	11	12
13	14 Candidates Coaching & Discovering Masonic Secrets 6:30pm - 9:00 @ Oakland #61.	15	16	17 DOSI. @ Fiat Lux #894. This meeting will be held at the Orinda Masonic Center. Dress is casual. Dinner at 6:30 pm followed by instruction at 7:30 Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.	18	19
20	21 Candidates Coaching 6:30pm - 8:00 @ Oakland #61.	22	23	24 Oakland #61 visit to Orinda #122. Dress is tuxedo for officers. Social time begins at 6:00 pm. with dinner at 6:30 pm followed by the degree at 7:30 Please RSVP via the email announcement or (510) 576-6729.	25	26
27 Candidates Coaching & Discovering Masonic Secrets 6:30pm - 9:00 @ Oakland #61.	28 Candidates Coaching & Discovering Masonic Secrets 6:30pm - 9:00 @ Oakland #61.	29 EA Degree. @ Mission Lodge #169. Details forthcoming. Please RSVP email or (510) 576-6729.	30	1 October	2	3

National Preparedness Month





OAKLAND



LODGE 61

FOUNDERS DAY DINNER

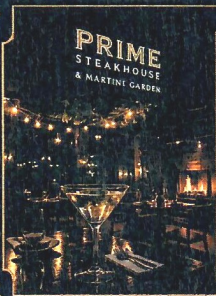
CELEBRATING THE FOUNDING OF
OAKLAND LODGE #61



SUNDAY
AUGUST 23



5:00 PM
TO 8:00 PM



AT
PRIME
STEAKHOUSE
& MARTINI GARDEN

1719 Bonanza St.
Walnut Creek, CA

TICKETS
\$25
PER PERSON

PLEASE PURCHASE TICKETS AT

[BUYTICKETS.AT/OAKLANDLODGE61/2247438](https://www.buytickets.at/oaklandlodge61/2247438)



BROTHERLY LOVE • RELIEF • TRUTH

Oakland Lodge #61 | 5449 College Avenue | Oakland, CA 94618

Masons4Mitts

Step Up to the Plate for Kids in Your Community and Give a Mitt Today!

We're on the verge of a major milestone—help us Push Masons4Mitts past the \$3 million mark!

Now in its 18th year, our favorite Masonic baseball fundraiser is back, and this season comes with our most ambitious goal yet! The California Masonic Foundation is **aiming to raise \$325,000, a goal that will officially bring Masons4Mitts to \$3 million** in support for young players across California.



Each year, we team up with the San Francisco Giants, Los Angeles Angels, Los Angeles Dodgers, and the San Diego Padres for one of our fraternity's most impactful philanthropic traditions. Through Masons4Mitts, we provide high-quality leather baseball mitts to children in our community programs supported by our Major League Baseball partners—giving kids in our communities the tools to build teamwork, grow confidence, and enjoy the game in a safe supportive environment.

Last season alone, Masons4Mitts raised \$298,000—enough to provide 14,950 mitts to young players. Since 2009, our fundraiser has contributed over \$2.675 million, positively impacting more than 100,000 children across California. Now, with your support, we can reach our highest goal yet and celebrate crossing the \$3 million threshold. Let's lift up our youth, and show what Masons can accomplish when we rally together!

Give a Mitt and Make a Difference for Local Kids In Your Community!

ORANGE COUNTY REGION

SAN DIEGO REGION

LOS ANGELES REGION

NORCAL REGION



**50-yr Award presentation
to Bro. Donald W. Spruance**



2026 to NoSo Little League

