



# HENRY KNOX FIELD JOHN BLAIR LODGE

NO. 349 • A.F. & A.M. • VIRGINIA

## TRESTLEBOARD

**OCTOBER 2023**

Tuesday, October 10  
Stated Communication  
1830 Dinner  
1930 Opening of Lodge

October 14  
6:00  
Grand Masters Official Visit  
District 1A and District 1B  
Alexandria Scottish Rite

October 17  
1530 Degree / Ritual School

Tuesday, October 24  
6:30 District 1A  
Masters & Wardens Meeting  
Concord Lodge, Vienna

Tuesday, October 31  
6:30 TBA  
Fifth Tuesday  
Friends and Family Night



## A MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

As we pass into the fall of the year, and prepare for the coming holidays, I trust this month's trestleboard finds you all in good health and high spirits. As we discussed at last month's stated meeting, it's evident that HKF-JBL has been facing challenges in terms of participation and engagement. It is with a heavy heart but unwavering determination that I reach out to you all, seeking your assistance and dedication to help us breathe new life into our lodge.

Our Masonic heritage is rich, and the principles that bind us together are timeless. However, we cannot ignore the fact that our lodge's participation has dwindled in recent years, for numerous reasons, but wanning none-the-less. We have witnessed a decline in attendance at our meetings and a lack of enthusiasm in our other events. But, my dear Brothers, I firmly believe that together we can rekindle the spirit of unity and purpose that has guided us for generations.

Here's a brief outline of a plan to revive the participation and engagement of our lodge:

1. Communication and Outreach: I will continue to send regular communication to keep all members informed about lodge activities, events, and important announcements. This will include email updates, newsletters, and a revival of the calling tree.
2. Engaging Programs: Let's create meaningful and engaging programs and events that cater to the diverse interests of our members. Whether it's educational lectures, community service projects, or social gatherings, we will strive to make each activity enjoyable and enriching.
3. Mentoring and Member Support: We will expand our mentoring program to welcome and integrate new members, ensure they feel valued and connected from the very beginning. Additionally, we'll offer support to Brothers facing personal challenges, fostering a sense of fraternity and solidarity.

4. Involvement of Past Masters: The wisdom and experience of our Past Masters is invaluable. I sincerely ask for, and will actively look to involve you in guiding our lodge's future, benefiting from your insights and leadership.

In the spirit of unity and brotherhood, I urge each and every one of you to engage in this lodge engagement effort. It is only through our collective commitment and dedication that we can make a difference. Whether it's volunteering our time, sharing ideas, or simply attending our meetings, your involvement matters greatly.

Please join me in this endeavor to keep HKF-JBL strong. Let us remember our teachings in Freemasonry, and together, let us strengthen our bonds of brotherhood.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and may the Great Architect of the Universe guide us on this journey.

Finally, on to our Giant of the month! For this month, I have chosen to spur a contemplative discussion around the application of Robert Morris's poem "Solomon's Last Injunctions." In this, I'd ask that you take a few minutes to read through the poem and my analysis, but to then contemplate on the many moral and Masonic lessons we endure to embody through the teachings of Freemasonry.

Thank you all for your support this year, and I look forward to seeing you in lodge soon.

Sincerely & Fraternally,



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## Solomon's Last Injunctions: The Moral Imperative of Freemasonry in Today's World

In Rob Morris's poem, "Solomon's Last Injunctions," we find the timeless wisdom and moral imperatives that resonate not only within our realm of Freemasonry but also in the broader context of today's world. This poem serves as a beacon of guidance, offering profound lessons on charity, brotherhood, and moral responsibility that remain relevant in contemporary society. This month, we explore how "Solomon's Last Injunctions" can be applied as a moral compass, emphasizing the importance of compassion, ethical conduct, and unity in our modern, interconnected world.

**'Twas In the years of long  
ago The mighty task was  
done, The waiting Craft In  
silence bow And list to  
Solomon:**

**"Oh, bind the tie,  
Freemasons dear, Where'er  
your feet may rove, With  
gifts the empty hand to  
cheer, The wounded heart  
with Love!**

**" Whatever lands your skill  
reward With Level, Plumb,  
and Square,**

The Foundation of Freemasonry's Moral Teachings: Freemasonry, often characterized by its commitment to secrecy and rituals, is deeply rooted in moral and ethical principles. "Solomon's Last Injunctions" captures the essence of these principles, with Solomon, a revered figure in Masonic tradition, imparting his wisdom to the Craft. The poem underscores three fundamental moral imperatives: charity, brotherhood, and responsibility.

1. Charity: Solomon's injunction to "cheer the wounded heart with Love" and "have ready in your hand the bread, the wine of quick relief" embodies the Masonic virtue of chari-

ty. In today's world, marked by social disparities and humanitarian crises, this message holds great significance. As Freemasons we are reminded of our duty to extend a helping hand to those in need, emphasizing the moral imperative of generosity, empathy, and kindness.

2. **Brotherhood:** Freemasonry places great importance on the idea of brotherhood, as conveyed by Solomon's plea to "bind the tie" and "teach the Golden Rule of God." In our modern, interconnected world, fostering a sense of unity and understanding among diverse individuals and communities is more crucial than ever. The poem reminds us that we are all bound by a common humanity and should strive to treat others with the respect and compassion, irrespective of our differences, that each of us deserves.
3. **Responsibility:** The poem's call to "fulfill my last command" underscores the idea of our individual and collective responsibilities. As Freemasons we are urged to live our lives in accordance with the teachings of our fraternity, both within and beyond the Masonic Lodge. In today's complex world, where ethical choices are often overshadowed by personal interests, the poem emphasizes the moral obligation to uphold principles of integrity and justice.

**Oh, teach the Golden Rule of  
God, And be Freemasons there.**

**" The bread, the wine of quick  
relief, Have ready in your hand;  
For tear and sigh of brother-  
grief Fulfill my last command.**

**" And though from Sion you de-  
part; Still do your Master's will,  
That you may build, with hand  
and heart, Upon the Heavenly  
hill!"**

**- Robert Morris**

**Application in Today's World:** The moral imperatives outlined in "Solomon's Last Injunctions" transcend the boundaries of Freemasonry and offer valuable guidance to us as individuals and a society at large. In an era marked by division, inequality, and

ethical dilemmas, the poem serves as a reminder of our shared responsibility to build a better world. It prompts us to ask: How can we extend a helping hand to those less fortunate? How can we foster unity and understanding among diverse communities? How can we live ethically and responsibly in our personal and professional lives?

**In Conclusion:** Rob Morris's poem, "Solomon's Last Injunctions," serves as a timeless source of moral guidance that extends beyond the confines of Freemasonry. Its message of charity, brotherhood, and responsibility resonates deeply in today's complex world, reminding us of our duty to build a more compassionate, united, and ethical society. As we reflect on Solomon's wisdom, let us strive to carry forward these moral imperatives, making a positive impact on our world, one compassionate and responsible act at a time.







7

**JBL** NO. 349  
john blair lodge

## 8