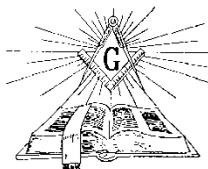


WEBB LODGE #166 F. & A.M.
OCTOBER 17TH, 2016 TRESTLEBOARD (#345)



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HAPPY HALLOWEEN FROM THE OFFICERS OF WEBB LODGE



BRETHREN: The Regular Communication of Webb Lodge #166 F.& A.M. will be held at the Masonic Temple, 3201 Wrightsboro Road, Augusta, Georgia, on Monday, October 17TH, 2016. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. and a Lodge of Master Masons will be opened at 8:00 p.m. Please remember to call a brother or widow and invite them to come and share an evening of fellowship with us on that date. If you, another brother or widow need transportation to and from the lodge please call one of the officers. Ladies are invited. (Telephone numbers are located on the reverse side of this newsletter) Widows have an open invitation to come join us for dinner each month and please bring a guest.

1. **ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA:** The Grand Lodge of Georgia will hold its annual communication on October 24-26th, 2016, at the Macon City Center Marriott. Visit the Grand Lodge of Georgia website for details (www.glofga.org) if you are interested in attending.

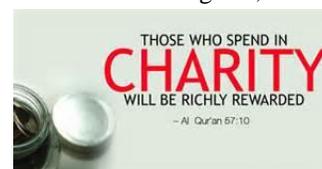


2. **THE RUFFIANS: (Brother Stoney):** As most of you know, Dr. Joseph Fort Newton is one of my favorite Masonic authors. He wrote a short article about the “ruffians” which I would like to share in the hopes it will shed as much light on you as it did for me. Please note, the article was quite lengthy so I have taken the liberty of capturing the salient points and pray I have not distorted the meaning too much. We all are familiar with the story of the three ruffians who tried to extort a secret from a fellow Mason to which they were not entitled. Among the many important moral issues the Hiram Legend portrays is that we are still struggling with the mystery of evil in the life of man. It seems that down through the ages that great men, working for the good of the race are so often struck down when the goal of their labors is almost in reach. Lincoln was shot at the time our country needed him the most and, unfortunately, he was not our countries only untimely tragedy. The question becomes, why is it that evil men, acting out of selfish motives, have the power to throw society into confusion and bring ruin upon all, defeating the very end at which they aim? It is true that all the holy things of life – the things that make it worth living – are held at the risk and exposed to the peril of evil forces; and if so, why should it be so? Since the question really cannot be answered, let’s examine the three ruffians and what our legend is trying to tell us. Interestingly enough, as with all Masonic symbolism, as many meanings have been found as there have been seekers. It all depends on the key which each individual seeker sets out to unlock the meaning of Masonry. For example, for those who trace our symbolism to the ancient solar worship, the three ruffians are the three winter months who want to destroy the beauty and glory of the summer. To those who believe the origin goes to the ancient mysteries of Egypt, it is the drama of Typhon, the spirit of evil, slaying Osiris the spirit of good. Many Masons find fulfillment of the oldest of all dramas in the life of Jesus, who was put to death outside the city gate by three of the most ruthless ruffians – the priests, the politician and the mob. Which is the worst is difficult to discern, but when acting together, which is the norm; there is no crime against man which they have not been guilty. Pike went further back and deeper to find the real ruffians, the ones who are still at large. He identified them as the greatest enemies of individual welfare and social progress and labeled them kings, priests and the ignorant mob-mind. Their single goal is to destroy liberty, without which man cannot advance. Pike says of the three, the most terrible, ruthless and brutal is mob-Mind. No tyrant can advance is agenda until the nation is lost in the darkness of ignorance. “Dumbing down” the people is the first step toward dominance. Three great Greek thinkers, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle all had theories about the causes of sin in the hearts of man. Socrates said the chief ruffian is ignorance. No man in his right mind does evil unless he is blinded by ignorance and does not see right. Plato said all that is true yet it is a fact that men who are able to see right and wrong often time do evil in a fit of passion. As long as he keeps his passions and desires in check all is well. When control is lost, evil is the result. Aristotle went even further and said while what Socrates and Plato said was true, some men simply do evil deliberately simply for the love of it. “One does not have to break the head of a brother in order to be a ruffian. One can break heart. One can break his home. One can slay his good name. The amount of polite and refined ruffianism that goes on about us every day is appalling.” As Masons, we are called live our lives in accordance with our obligations and the moral code embodied in the Craft. To do less is to deny ourselves the Light that is found within the walls of our lodges and the fellowship of our brothers.



3. **MASONIC TEMPLE LIBRARY:** Knowledge is power: Brethren, work has begun on updating the Masonic Temple library. At this time if anyone would like to donate any of their own personal books to the library please contact Brother Jonathan Mintz: (706-832-2642). Any books relating to Masonry, History or Philosophy would be very much appreciated.

4. **CHARITY:** Brethren: October and November are the months in which Webb Lodge does most of its charity work. Following is a list of charities which Webb Lodge has supported in the past; Camp Rainbow, Friendship Community Center, Columbia County Food Bank, Golden Harvest Food Bank and the Demolay Boys and Rainbow Girls, Toys for Tots, Make a Wish Foundation, Pediatric/Oncology Department at the Medical College of Georgia, Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home, Masonic Home of Georgia, Ronald McDonald House, Lyndale School Inc., Safe Homes of Augusta, Empty Stocking Fund, Secret Santa Program, Augusta Rescue Mission, Meals on Wheels, Christmas Gifts to our widows and donations to several individuals and families during the holiday season. This is what masonry is all about, “CHARITY”. If any brother would like to send a new toy or a check designated to one of the above charities, Webb Lodge will make sure that your gift will get there before the holidays. So Mote It Be.



5. HIGHLIGHT OF A LONG TIME MEMBER OF WEBB LODGE #166 AND THE VALLEY OF AUGUSTA SCOTTISH RITE: ILLUSTRIOUS BROTHER: ERIC FLEISHNER:



Brother Eric Fleishner was the oldest member of both Webb Lodge #166 and the Valley of Augusta Scottish Rite. Eric was born in Vienna, Austria on December 26, 1920. He went to school there until he was 18. In 1938 he first went to Cuba for several months, waiting for a sponsor in the United States. After he was sponsored he came through Ellis Island and went to work on a farm in New Jersey. He then had an opportunity to serve in the US Army and did so with distinction for 4 years. After the war he found work in the garment industry, where he eventually achieved the position of Vice President of Sales for the Southeast, working for the Big Yank company distributing work clothes, uniforms and jeans. He was a member of the Men's Apparel Association and became the president of that organization which was based in Atlanta, Ga. Eric received his Entered Apprentice Degree on June 23, 1955, was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on August 23, 1955 and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on September 27, 1955. He was a financial trustee for Webb Lodge for over 20 years and was also a member of the Charity Committee for over 10 years.

Webb Lodge renamed the Webb Lodge Mason of the Year Award to the Eric Fleishner Mason of the Year Award earlier this year to honor Brother Eric. 13 years after being raised, Eric decided to become a member of the Valley of Augusta Scottish Rite. He received his 32° on June 1, 1968, he was invested with the Knight Commander Court of Honour (KCCH) on October 18, 1993 and received his 33° degree on November 15, 2003. Illustrious Brother Fleishner was instrumental in raising funds for the Scottish Rite for many years, especially in the area of "Masters Parking." His Father, Erwin Fleishner, was very active in the Augusta Scottish Rite for many years and Eric followed in his father's footsteps. When Eric's Father passed away, our now Personal Representative to the SGIG in the Valley of Augusta, Illustrious Brother Ronny Lanham, performed Masonic Services. At that time the family gave Brother Lanham his 33° ring. Brother Lanham kept it until Eric received his 33° and then presented his father's ring to him. Brother Eric wore that ring every day of his life. I was fortunate enough to receive the same ring from his family at his passing. I am wearing that ring now. Brother Lanham again performed Masonic services for brother Eric as he did for his father. Eric was always helping other people, always looking for ways to put others first. He also was very active when his Rabbi asked him to speak to the children of the religious school about the Holocaust which he did for many years in a row during Holocaust Remembrance Day. Eric was one of the four remaining WWII veterans in the Jewish community. Eric had work ethic and charisma and with that he was able to accomplish great things. Although Eric's schooling was limited, education was one of the most important things to him. He taught his children and grandchildren how to save money and he set up college funds for all of them so that they would not have to worry about how their education would be paid for. Eric was more than just another brother to me. He was like my second father. We spent the last several years together on a weekly basis and the last year together on a daily basis. I am so fortunate to have known Eric. I learned many things about his family, his life, his work ethic and life in general. We shared many stories over a good "SCOTCH", of course after 5 pm, at his home and then several times a week at Brandon Wilde. I was fortunate to be with him the day before his passing and he went to sleep that night and never woke up. Eric was Definitely "ONE OF THE FAITHFUL FEW". I will miss him. I already miss him.



**Editor & Secretary
T. Gregory Oblak, P.M.**



**Worshipful Master
Richard T. Williamson**

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WEBB LODGE #166 F. & A.M. 2016 OFFICERS

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 Augusta, GA 30909
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 Webb Lodge #166 F. & A.M.