

T R E S T L E B O A R D

Washington Lodge No. 20 F. & A. M.

November 2015

En Route to the East

Our 164th



From the East: Worshipful Richard Wilson



Our Stated Meeting for the month of November will be held Thursday the 5th, our regular first Thursday, in Lodge Room One at 7:30 pm. This month is Election Night, when we elect our new Master and Wardens who will lead us in the coming year. We also elect our Secretary and Treasurer, as well as delegates to the Temple and Cemetery Associations. Plan to attend and join in this time-honored duty.

We also will be balloting on several applications for membership, and assuming the ballots are favorable, we will confer First Degrees on Thursdays, November 12th and possibly 19th at 7:00 pm. As I have said

before, one of the impressive features of the degree is for the candidate to see the side lines filled with brothers when he is brought from darkness. So let's have good turn-outs!

Remember, we conduct our business in the First Degree, so all Masons of the Lodge, regardless of the degree they have attained, are eligible and welcome to attend. Only Master Masons may vote on business items, but all Masons may participate in the discussions.

There will be the usual dinner at 6:00 pm in the third floor banquet room prior to the meeting, prepared by our stellar kitchen crew, five dollars with a reservation and ten dollars without (as long as there is enough food).

The social highlight of the year, our annual Ladies Night, is fast approaching; scrumptious food from Eric Faranda, spectacular entertainment by the Sgt. Peppers Beatles Tribute Band, an evening of fun and fellowship to show our appreciation to the wonderful ladies in our lives. It's Saturday, November 7th, just two days after our Stated Meeting. Seats are still available, so, if you have not already made your reservations, you need to do so immediately; e-mail me directly at: D246rich@surewest.net or call (916) 456-6014 with your choice of entrees. Don't miss out!

Next month we will install our new 2016 Officers on Sunday, December 13th, at 2:00 in the afternoon. Mark your calendars now and come show your support of our new Master and his team.

Lastly, I would like to welcome and congratulate Brother Donte Cuellar, who was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 29th, after giving a stellar Fellowcraft proficiency. We also welcome and congratulate new Brother David Stallberg, who was initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason on November 22nd. Many of you know Brother Dave because he greets you downstairs at the door before just about every meeting, and there was a large turnout for his degree – the largest we've had all year. I would also like to thank your Officers for their dedication and good work.

Ask 1 to be 1

Washington Lodge #20 2015 Officers

Master: Richard Wilson, PM

Senior Warden	Joseph "Scott" Goode
Junior Warden	Victor U. Sanchez
Treasurer	Eric W. Hixson, PM
Secretary	Jon R. Isaacson, PM
Assistant Secretary	Thomas L. Weary
Chaplain	Dave Minke
Senior Deacon	Luis Montero
Junior Deacon	Jessie Solis-Jacques
Marshal	Alejandro Reynoso
Senior Steward	Jared Yoshiki
Junior Steward	Colin Cooper
Tiler	Floyd R. Tritt
Officer's Coach	Eric W. Hixson, PM
Candidate's Head Coach	Joseph Dongo, PM
Officers Coach Emeritus	Ray W. Lenau, PM
Inspector 414 District	Michael Titus, PM
Ambassador	Dave Freeman
Orator	Jed Van Wagner
Junior Past Master	Daniel Dailey, PM

Jon R. Isaacson PM, Secretary/Webmaster
Washington Lodge No. 20
1123 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

wln20secretary@gmail.com

<http://www.washingtonlodge20.org>

The Washington Lodge #20 Trestle Board

washington20editor@gmail.com

Victor U. Sanchez, Editor

Dave Freeman, Grammarian

Master contact:

masterwashington20@gmail.com

Stated Meeting November 5, 2015

5:00 PM Social

6:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Stated Meeting

RSVP by November 3, 2015

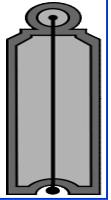
(888) 828-4476

"Waste Not, Want Not"



From the South

Victor U Sanchez, Jr. Warden



As this Masonic year winds down and we prepare to begin another year of fellowship, degrees and good company, let us all look back on the year that was and that which is before us.

Time has kept us together and some have moved into positions vacated by brothers who have continued their respective careers away from us. Rest assured, as we remember them, so do they remember us. To remember a brother is a great tribute to him.

This coming year promises to be just as busy as years past, maybe a little more. We have brothers in the wings waiting to progress on their respective Masonic journeys and others waiting to knock on our doors and seek admission. As Worshipful has so aptly put it throughout the year, let us welcome them with open arms and filled sideline chairs.

On a personal note, my recent journey to the Land of Lincoln took me to Herrin's Prairie Lodge #693 and although no personal contact was made, I did explore the exterior of the Lodge building and managed to locate to "old" lodge building, which is now part of the local hospital. It was an adventure.

November Schedule

November 5 - Stated Meeting

November 7 - Ladies' Night

November 11 - Fraternal night

November 12 - First Degree

November 19 - Degree or Practice

November 24 - OSI

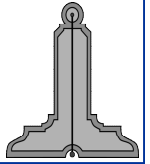
November 26 - DARK, Thanksgiving

Ask 1 to be 1



From the West

Joseph "Scott" Goode, Sr. Warden



I attended Grand Lodge at the beginning of October and had a great time with Victor Sanchez and Worshipful Wilson. The legislation was lighter this year, but was meaningful and needed. It was well attended with nearly 2000 and there were many visiting dignitaries from near and far. I also had a chance to meet with other current and incoming Lodge Masters. I got a lot of advice and good ideas. I am very excited for this upcoming installation and term.

Grand Lodge has reported that there are organizations that are not accredited by Grand Lodge and should be avoided. In California, the following are some of the existing unrecognized Masonic Organizations:

- (a) Grand and Glorious Order of the Knights of the Creeping Serpent (GGOKCS)
- (b) The Turtles

"You can help by not belonging to these organizations or supporting any effort that these groups might undertake. You can help by informing the less-informed brethren about the dangers of these groups, so that they will not fall victim to the influence of members of these groups. You can help by supporting your Lodge and Grand Lodge over any of these groups that pretend to be affiliated with or superior to your lodge or grand lodge. There are, of course, a number of recognized Masonic organizations in our jurisdictions and you are entitled to join and be members and supporters of these organizations. If you are unsure about which organizations are recognized and which are not, please contact the Grand Secretary of your Grand Lodge for clarification. If you do not have legitimate information from your Grand Lodge that the organization is recognized, do not join or take part in the organization until your Grand Lodge provides such information."



Congratulations!

To our newest
Entered Apprentice
David Stallberg, Initiated by
Louis Montero and Brother
Donte Cuellar **our** newest Master
Mason, Raised by Scott Goode

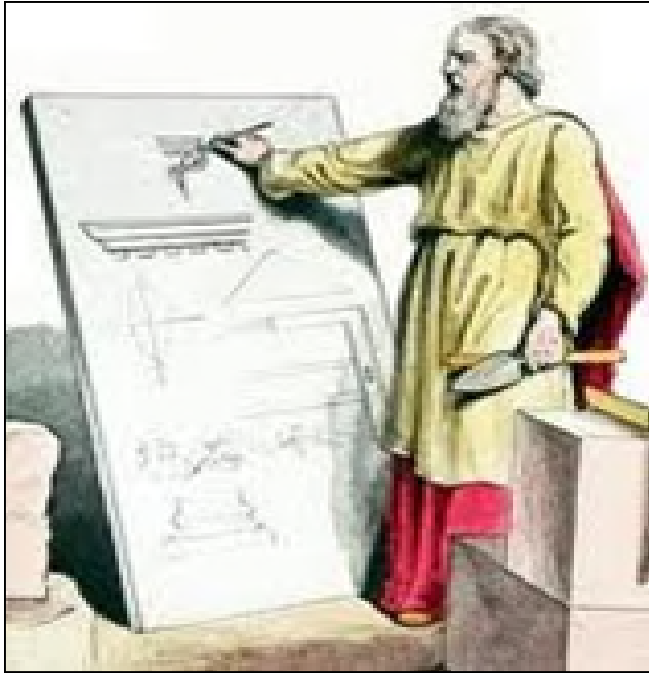


Washington Lodge #20

Mission Statement

To practice and promote a way of life that binds like-minded men in a worldwide brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences. Through Masonic principles and tradition and by the outward expression of these through its fellowship and compassion, Washington Lodge No.20 F.&A.M. provides ways in which to serve God, family, country, neighbors and self in an environment that contributes to the enrichment and betterment of its members, mankind, and its communities.

Ask 1 to be 1



Looking Ahead

Thursday, December 3rd – Stated Meeting

5:00 pm Social Time

6:00 pm Dinner

7:30 pm Business Meeting

Dec. 10th – 7:00 pm, Installation practice

December 13th – Installation of
2016 Officers, 2:00 pm Reception following

In Memoriam

John D. Pulliam

Born December 17, 1971

Initiated May 15, 2003

Passed June 26, 2003

Raised August 23, 2003

Entered Eternal Life October 12, 2015

*Almighty Father, into Thy hands we commend
the soul of our departed brother.*

Washington Lodge No. 20

Free and Accepted Masons of California

*Invites you, your family and friends
to its **Gala Annual Ladies Night**
An Evening of Fine Food and Entertainment*



THE BEATLES

Featuring the
Sgt. Peppers
Beatles
Tribute Band

*Saturday evening
November 7, 2015
Doors open 5:30 p.m.
Dinner served 6:30 p.m.
Entertainment 7:30 p.m*



Appetizers, Soup, Caesar Salad

Choice of Beef Stragonoff or
Chicken with cream sauce,
both served over Noodles

Yellow Submarine Cake

Sacramento Masonic Temple
1123 J Street (at 12th), 95814

Dinner and Show \$50 per person
(Washington Lodge ladies are free).

Reservations by Nov 2nd are essential:
email srstewardgw20@gmail.com or
call (916) 761-3519. Or mail your check
and entrée selection to Washington
Lodge #20, 1123 J Street, Sacramento,
CA 95814.

Brethren,

The finance committee has recommended we modify our By-Laws to reflect a change in our dues structure. It is recommended we change our dues to \$30 + per capita. This recommendation will be discussed at the next two Stated Meetings. If you wish to contribute to the discussion please attend. A motion and vote will be made, based on those discussions, in January. The results, if a change is made, will not take effect until 2017.

Fraternally,

Jon Isaacson, PM
[Secretary - Washington 20](#)

The App is coming!!

As I've traveled around the state over the past year, I've heard from many of you that you are looking for new ways to engage your members, to communicate more often, and sometimes, to communicate in a more private and secure way.

That's why I'm excited to share some good news: This fall, we're launching a new social app for smart phones that can help you and your lodge stay in touch more easily.

This social, mobile, smart phone app is focused on connecting our members with one another outside the lodge. The features of the app are:

- Create and comment on Facebook-like posts, visible to all members of the app
- Share photos
- Share your lodge calendar with RSVP functions, including push notification for events and reminders
- Access contact lists, so you can email or call members directly from the app
- Message individuals or small groups privately through a chat feature
- And more! New features, such as payments for events, are coming soon.

This app will be offered to our lodges for free – there is no cost to the lodge to get the app.

To learn more about the app, and whether it might be the right tool for your lodge, visit the Lodge Resources booth at Annual Communication (lobby level) to test-drive it for yourself.

Much more information will be shared after Annual Communication, including an article in California Freemason magazine's October issue.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Allan L. Casalou
Grand Secretary

**Remember
by
S. Joseph Esshaghian**

A little bit of light dispels much darkness.

My brothers, let's go back to a critical moment in the Masonic journey when we were first about to see the light of Freemasonry. Before the light, there was a sound that commanded.

"In the beginning G-d created the heavens and the earth, and the earth was void and without form, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And G-d said Let there be light! And there was light."

That moment is powerful. The words have purpose; there is a message and lesson to be learned. We were at that time, like the universe at the beginning, in a state of darkness. The first injunction upon all creation and on us as newly initiated Masons? "Let there be light!" Think about it: we are talking about big bang, creation, the beginning of being a Freemason. Let there be light.

Brethren, I submit to you that these words are the purpose of life and the foundation of all we are meant to do as men and Masons. Our mission is to bring as much light as we can into the world. After all it is either light or darkness.

In 2002 I left behind my family, friends and business, and followed my dream and moved to Israel. It was a tempestuous time in the country. One day, I was on the phone with my friend David back in Los Angeles. He made a request that left me feeling unsure.

David and I had become friends in an online video game and eventually real life friends, too. He is Catholic. He asked me to purchase two rosaries and have them blessed for him and his mom and to send them to L.A.

As an observant Jew, it wasn't a request I felt comfortable with, but at the same time, I didn't know how I could possibly deny such a favor. I blurted out yes and so began one of my fondest life quests.

The Old City of Jerusalem is a giant maze winding streets where it's easy to get lost.

I was dressed like a cross between an orthodox Jew and a thug.

Of course, this was how I normally dressed. I was about to walk through the Muslim quarter in an attempt to find the Christian quarter to which I had never been, then to find rosaries and somehow get them blessed.

I had no clue what I was doing and I wasn't rolling onto the friendliest turf. At the time, walking alone in the wrong areas wasn't the safest endeavor.

I spent quite a bit of time wandering around. You should have seen the way people were staring at me: confused, apprehensive, even nervous; like the scene was off. Finally, I spied a little corner shop filled with rosaries.

Before I went in, I reminded myself that this was to make a friend happy and give him something he considered sacred. It didn't detract from my faith and observance, but would bring another human being joy.

I walked in and explained the situation to this wary shopkeeper who eyed me suspiciously. He recommended olive wood rosaries.

Great! I bought two and ask him to double bag it. Then I asked him for just one more bag for good measure.

Achievement unlocked!

Now - to get them blessed: I assumed this required a Catholic priest. I left the store and began looking at the signs on various buildings. Eventually one read something about the Vatican and I knew that was it.

The parking gate was open; several fancy black Mercedes with Vatican flags were parked in front. The building was a very large villa. I walked right through the gate and as I approached the front door, my mind was scrambling: "What am I thinking? What the hell am I gonna' say when they open the door?"

Just then, like out of a movie scene, the front door opened and a man in a red yarmulke and a black cassock strode out flanked by another man. The two of us locked eyes, and he drew back. I put on my best I'm-not-a-terrorist-smile, and said "Excuse me." He thought he was about to meet his maker. "Yes?" he asked.

"Can you please bless these rosaries for me?"

"You want me to bless *rosaries* for *you*?"

"Well not for me. They're for a friend...."

"Uhuh. And where is your friend?"

"Los Angeles."

"Is he Catholic?"

"Yes."

"How did you get in here?"

"The gate was open."

I'm telling you he gave me the third degree!

After all his questions were satisfactorily answered, he cautiously took the bag and opened it, whereupon he found another bag, and on opening *that*, eyed yet another bag. "That's a lot of bags," he said. When he saw there actually were rosaries in the bag and not a weapon, he performed a blessing on them. I thanked him and left to mail them.

The package arrived and David called to thank me. When I told him the story, there was a pause on the other end, "*red beanie and black outfit?*"

"Yeah."

"You mean to tell me these are rosaries made of olive wood from Jerusalem blessed by a *cardinal!*? Wait until my mom hears this!" David and his mother were *delighted*. Those rosaries meant so much. They treasured them; and they've thanked me numerous times. When David's brother died unexpectedly some years ago, they buried him with one of the rosaries, and his mom told me it gave her much comfort knowing her son was buried with such a special object. David's grandmother passed a couple years ago. She was buried with the second rosary.

"Let there be light." One act of kindness can change someone's life. We never know how great an impact our actions can have.

David and I were *friends* before the rosary quest, after - we became *brothers*. We may not be blood, we may not be of the same tribe, and he is not a Mason, yet we are brothers nonetheless; brothers who respect one another and appreciate our differences. This act meant so much to David, *and* to me, that it brought us much closer as sincere friends.

I say this was my first truly Masonic act.

It was not long after I knocked on the door of Freemasonry.

This story is a small example of what Grand Master Charvonia has enjoined us to do this year:

To repair the world, by improving ourselves. If we want to bring greater light into this world, if we want to make it a better place, if these words are not just grand lip service, first make yourself a better man, and then go out and change the world for the good.

I was confronted with a situation which caused me to stop and ask myself seriously, "Who am I? Who do I want to be in this situation? What message will my actions convey?" I chose to go out of my comfort zone to help a friend, and as a result, I improved from the experience.

For real personal growth to take place, we all have to go out of our comfort zones.

Masonry *should* make us uncomfortable at times; otherwise we may not be working hard enough.

Moses stood at the burning bush and was commanded to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, and he asked, "Who am I?" On the surface, it's a statement of humility. But there is also an existential question here, a deeper level.

When Moses says "Who am I?" he is asking: Am I a prince of Egypt? Am I a simple shepherd of Midian? Or am I an Israelite whose *destiny* is to lead his people out of bondage? Moses was asked to go *way* out of his comfort zone. But he accepted the challenge and he grew into one of the greatest figures in history. He didn't just change the world, he rocked the world.

When we face our own burning bush, and ask, "Who am I?" What path will we choose?

The one that requires little effort bears little fruit. The one that makes us sweat, toil, and be uncomfortable, will cause us to grow into men who can make a real difference.

Just being good is not good enough for Masons. We agreed to rise to a call when we became brothers of this great order. We agreed to become builders of ourselves and society. We agreed to be men who use the teachings of our fraternity to heal our fractured world. We agreed to let there be light.

This past May, I participated in this Grand Lodge's amazing journey to Israel. On a couple occasions, I was out of my comfort zone.

Oddly, my most uncomfortable moment came during a Jewish ceremony, because that ceremony broke with many of my own traditions. One could say it was "un-orthodox." Fortunately there was a brother who whispered good counsel in my ear and told me that growth is uncomfortable.

Going into a church was something that also made me uncomfortable. Up to that point I had been in only one church in my life and we were scheduled to visit a bunch.

Before the trip I had to ask "Who am I?" Would a true Mason stand outside buildings holy to his fellow brothers rather than learn to appreciate that which they hold sacred? I chose to visit all the sites and am glad I did. It was both educational and stirring to share in my friends' experiences.

The first of my two most memorable moments came when we initiated an Arab Christian man into our fraternity inside Solomon's Quarries. This degree saw both the Grand Lodges of Israel and California participating in the ritual together, and which was attended by brothers from all over the world. It was deeply moving and a memory I will always cherish. It was Freemasonry at its best.

Would you believe me if I told you that my other favorite moment was watching friends being baptized in the River Jordan?

By this point I had learned how to share in the happiness and joy of my brothers, like Freemasonry teaches, and it felt great! I grew on that trip and it was life-changing. A highlight of the year.

Jerusalem was where I first set foot in a lodge. Upon first entering Holy City Lodge #4, I saw Muslims, Jews, Christians, Armenians, Arabs, Englishmen - men of multiple faiths and backgrounds - seated around a table eating, laughing, and asking how each other and their families were doing.

While this may seem ordinary, given the context of what was happening at the time in the country, it was nothing short of extraordinary. Outside was chaos, inside - harmony and light.

It blew my mind, and was the impetus for my wanting to join the craft. If Freemasonry can bring together men of every background while war is being fought outside its doors, Freemasons can help to bring together all mankind. We have a lot of light to share.

Look around. You men who are gathered here are leaders of your respective lodges, jurisdictions, concordant bodies and let's not forget, families and communities. Brethren, in this room there are literally millions upon millions of hours dedicated to our beloved craft.

If we are not here to change the world and make it better, if we are not here to make ourselves the best men we can possibly be, if we are not here to **let there be light**, then we are wasting all that precious time! Those millions of hours must count!

The 13th century Persian poet, Rumi, said, "The wound is the place where the Light enters you." Part of improving yourself is to identify that which is broken inside. The process of healing our wounds and imperfections is how we grow and receive further light.

One of the most influential rabbis of the past few centuries, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, said "If you see what needs to be repaired and how to repair it, then you have found a piece of the world that G-d has left for you to complete. But if you only see what is wrong and what is ugly in the world, then it is you yourself that needs repair."

Each of us is given a unique mission. There is a light only you can shine. Let us rise to that challenge and build a better society.

I have three quick and easy tips, derived from our three degrees, I wish to share with you. They are my cheat sheet for character improvement:

Entered Apprentice: Keep your mouth shut!

In all the various ways this means. Not just keeping secrets, which is very important, but also gossiping about another, badmouthing, falsehood, deceit, and lies. Learning when and how to keep quiet is a key to wisdom and self-improvement.

Fellow Craft: Never stop learning!

Learn, read, educate yourself, ask questions, explore the wonders of the universe, expand and improve your mind.

Enlighten yourself.

Master Mason: Remember

The third degree teaches me to remember that our time is limited; to really give life as much as I possibly can because one day, my ability to directly affect the physical world, my opportunity to let there be light - will end. And darkness..... Was upon the face of the deep.

Memento Mori. Remember that we must die. Look what becomes of all men. Let there be light while you have time. Remember.

I know that was dramatic, but I believe it is the most important lesson to learn from the three degrees. Every time I witness that scene, it causes me to tremble inside and reassess my life and ask, "Am I living to my fullest potential?" When confronted with mortality, suddenly many things we consider important turn out to be trivial and vice versa. When our time is up, there will be no more repairing, building or improving. So if not now, then when? Let there be light!

Brother Albert Pike said, "What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal." If you spark another soul, your light will continue to shine even past death. Remember. Soon, my Masonic journey will come full circle and I will move back to the Holy Land to live my dream.

If I told you that all of the hatred has been removed from my heart, if I told you that I have fought off all the darkness within me and really polished my ashlar, I would be a liar.

Loving one's fellow man can be incredibly difficult in the Middle-East and on that road I have many miles left to travel.

"Who am I?" I am a Mason. I, you, we, must continue to build a better self. We must be the bridge-builders between and among men because we have those tools. I may never fully get there, but I will always be traveling to the east because: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Brethren, Freemasonry is not my faith, but I have faith in Freemasonry!

And so when we leave this Grand Lodge in a few days and go back to our respective communities, lodges and families - Remember, my brothers! Remember that even a little bit of light we shine, can dispel much darkness. Remember that the point of all of this existence, the point of all we do in Freemasonry, are those four pure and pristine words - **let there be light!**

The world needs *real* Freemasons today more than ever. **Let there be light!**

The titles, the honors, the rings, the bling- they mean nothing! Instead: **Let there be light!**

Use the precious time you have been given to be a mentor to someone, a healer to someone, a role model to someone, a hero to someone. *Be a Mason to someone!* **Let there be light!**

Remember! Remember from whence you came and to where you are going, and in that blink of an eye - while we get to have a part in this perfectly-imperfect *miracle* that we call *life*, **let there be light my brothers, Let there be light!**

Thank you and G-d bless you.



Kitty's Corner

October got really wacky this year because Grand Lodge ended on Sunday and we needed to arrive at the Grand Chapter of Eastern Star the following Wednesday. On Sunday night we had a three-way Reception for the Presiding Officers of York Rite in California at 12th & J. This was done on purpose so these men didn't have to make two trips North. So I packed the same casual clothes for both conventions.

The Ladies' Lunch at Grand Lodge tried something different. The Grand Master's wife wanted to showcase the chefs who cook for our Masonic Homes. Cooking shows & contests being all the rage on TV, this proved to be an interesting way to carry off the Annual Lunch. Our lunch was prepared before we arrived, then the three chefs showed how it was prepared but there was no time to cook that. Interesting recipes and techniques! Instead of preparing the same dish they prepared three different courses & then we ladies got to vote for our favorite. Two young women, 8 and 10 years old, sat at our table. I call them women advisably because they are VERY savvy! Our first course was half a quail over an aspic containing different colored carrots (a "rainbow" of carrots). I mentioned that we have been eating quail since Ancient Egypt and we three began talking comparative mythology! They admired my 2018 Worthy Matron's emblem earrings (a Tree of Life) so I got out the pin I had just purchased so they could inspect the detail up close. But I had to get the small gavels out I had also bought to get to the pins. I got to teach them the meaning of one/two/three raps, which they practiced on china. I pointed out the gavel is an EMBLEM of authority: if you have the consent of the Assembly you need only a gavel I can carry in my purse or briefcase; without that consent the biggest hammer in the world will not gain the Assembly's co-operation (picture a PBS series about Parliament, GIANT gavel, being pounded & you can't hear it over the cacophony of the debate).

That night the Banquet was another departure from formality. We came dressed for a Day at the Derby. People were VERY dressed up, just not tux & formal: beautiful hats, dresses, jackets, etc. Gents brought canes, etc. Very fun!

So now I'm playing catch up on all the last minute details for Ladies' Night. Didn't help having to take 6 weeks off to recuperate from the concussion, but it has let me do a lot just so long as I kept the shopping trips short. Paid off at both conventions where I did LOTS of shopping, both at our vendors and in San Francisco and Visalia. Visalia allows us to walk just blocks to all sorts of lunch places and that way we discover where to go to dinner as well. But after almost two weeks on the run, I missed my waterbed and massages by the cat!

History Highlights: 1965. From February to June The Beatles recorded *HELP!*. (released In August), went on a 10-day tour of North America, took 6 weeks off, and got back into the studio October 12 to November 15 to record *Rubber Soul*. **August 28, 1965** the Beatles performed LIVE in Balboa Stadium, San Diego. I was there! Which is one reason why Ladies Night this year is entitled "IT WAS 50 YEARS AGO TODAY!" Helps to find a great Beatles Tribute Band to perform. Looking forward to seeing you there.