

**Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs (DHSOS)
San Francisco International Headquarters**

Officers

President (DUH PREZ)	Bill D_____
Communications Czar (Czar)	Geoff Noakes
AgendaMeister (ListMan)	Ken Monk
Archivist of Knowledge (Notes)	Dale Fehringer

Guests

Special Guest	Misty Tyree
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Minutes of Meeting

Brazen Head Restaurant & Public House

Thursday, March 29, 2018

A Brazen Head Evening



A summons to appear was issued by DUH PREZ, who served as temporary Procurer of Venues (PoV) for tonight's meeting:

Lady and Gentlemen, You are hereby directed to appear at the Brazen Head, SE corner of Greenwich and Buchanan, tomorrow night, Thursday March 29 promptly at 6 PM, or earlier.

There is a little cozy neighborhood restaurant in my old hood, Cow Hollow. Ruth and I considered it our favorite when we lived on Filbert St. Maybe you have gone there with us. It has no sign out front, they don't need one. They have no advertising, they don't need it. Its website is occasionally up and running, but not right now. It is open 7 days a week, 4 to 2, but takes no reservations. It

is warm, dark, woodsy, brassy, and comfortable. It has round tables. Need more be said? It has roast beef and the best onion soup in the land, and much more. Snails are properly buttered to death to make them appetizing. The bar is fairly long, in an L-shape and comfortable - It needs to be since we will have to sit there till we can get a table.

We will assemble promptly at 6pm. We will sit at the bar for our pre-repast libations, and we will have the staff put us on the list for a table. Should not be a problem on a Thursday. Dashiell would have liked this place, I can visualize him sitting there with Lillian.

This is not quite my normal approach. Typically, I like multiple venues, in historic neighborhoods, with the chance of a post party nearby if the men are manly enough for a bit of sweets or an after dinner concoction. Therefore to satisfy my normal desires, I am designating the Buena Vista as a potential follow up for those hearty enough to carry on. (we could Uber there together to save parking) this is an optional activity dependent on timing and Geoff's work schedule on Friday. If you are a short hitter, the rest of us can go and talk about you.

Five is just a nice conversational number, and promotes the need for a round table. We will be rather hit or miss on the round table depending on what comes up available when, and how inebriated we are when one finally comes available, but we can scout that out upon arrival. OK, I know, Lee would have already scouted it out and bribed a bartender to assure us a round table ... but then, I ain't no Lee. No comments please.

Special Guest

Misty Tyree was our special guest. DUH PREZ addressed her presence:

This is our first gathering with a special guest, and as such I think the Gentlemen will need to consider utilizing appropriate language for a change – Shakespearean rhyme will be acceptable. Misty is our first trial at this guest program, as we determined at our last meeting (the first meeting with only four of us). The next guests will be determined in order by those who have not yet chosen a guest.

Call to Order



We gathered at the bar, enjoyed libations that were professionally concocted by the able bartender, Eric, and viewed the end of a baseball game between the San Francisco Giants and Los Angeles Dodgers (the Giants won). At the conclusion of the game, we summoned our waiter (whose name was Brian) and migrated to our dinner table. We had an ideal location, in a window overlooking Greenwich Street.

DUH PREZ called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM by whacking a table knife on his water glass.

Da Burd and an Oblong Table



We were seated at an oblong table, which was adequate for our needs. As our readers know, the DHSOS prefers a round table, which facilitates our discussions, but the round tables at the Brazen Head were too small, so we gratefully accepted our oblong table. It fit us, and it worked, even if it wasn't quite round.

We were joined at our oblong table by Da Burd, who emerged from his wooden carrying box and perched in the middle of the table. This time DUH PREZ also extracted the "salad" that travels with Da Burd, which is the stuffing that protects him, and the Asian newspaper in which he is wrapped. And, for the first time ever, DUH PREZ admitted that the newspaper is in Japanese, not Chinese, the language of the newspaper in *The Maltese Falcon*.

About that time, Brian, our waiter, appeared. He seemed slightly apprehensive, which increased when the Czar asked him if he knew what type of bird Da Burd was.

"A bald eagle?" he guessed.

"No, it's the Maltese Falcon, as in the movie with the same name, starring Humphrey Bogart. Do you know who Humphrey Bogart was?"

"Was he in Star Wars?"

Brian was sent away to get water and a wine list.

Special Toasts

The Czar proposed a toast to Lee, PoV Emeritus, and to Misty. Officers raised their glasses in honor.

DUH PREZ then proposed a toast to Ruth, Lee, Tom, and Tom. Officers again raised their glasses in honor.

Brian returned with water, a wine list, and menus. He seemed to be in a good mood.

Palm Springs Update

DUH PREZ entertained the gathering with tales of his recent getaway to Palm Springs with college friends. A beautiful house, excellent food, and rounds of competitive golf were among the highlights. DUH PREZ bragged and demanded high-fives for beating his long-time rival, Nancy (who, it should be noted, is a girl).

Matabanic

DUH PREZ invited DHSOS officers and special guest to join him at Matabanic, his Michigan hideout, September 16-22, where there will be hiking, kayaking, eating, drinking, and a ceremonial event to honor Ruth, the spouse Emeritus of DUH PREZ.

Drakesbad Update

ListMan reported on a recent contact from Billie, the esteemed scheduler at Drakesbad, our August second-home. Billie reported that due to recent cancelations bungalows are now available for all DHSOS officers who want them. That news prompted DUH PREZ to enter a motion to invite Billie and Ed (longtime managers of Drakesbad) to San Francisco. The motion passed unanimously.

Dry Creek/Tomales Bay

DUH PREZ has reserved wine country homes for weekends this summer, and he invited the DHSOS to join his family there for good food, libations, and games. The schedule includes a place in Dry Creek July 13-16, and one in Tomales Bay August 17-20.

Ch-ch-ch-changes



As the lyrics by David Bowie suggest, times are indeed changing, and we discussed some of the effects on us.

For example, more major sports franchises are dropping hard copy tickets. That decision, intended to save money, ease transferring tickets, and curb fraud and counterfeit tickets, has not been well-received by some members of the public, including some of the DHSOS.

In a similar vein, DUH PREZ surveyed the DHSOS to see which of us still have telephone land lines in their homes. The result: Everyone. DUH PREZ threatened to eliminate his, which was greeted by a collective shrug from the rest of the people at the oblong table.

Shredding Your Past Away



ListMan attempted to discuss the value of shredding sensitive documents, to prevent identity theft. Unfortunately, this came up just as another bottle of wine arrived, and the discussion went nowhere. We soon turned to another topic, and the Czar offered to bring it up again at a future meeting.

SF Giants Predictions



An annual DHSOS tradition includes forecasting the number of games the San Francisco Giants baseball team will win. (For reference, they won 64 last season, and they will play a total of 162.)

Our predictions:

DUH PREZ	86
Czar	81
ListMan	78
Notes	85
Misty	71

Rolling an Ankle

A recent severe ankle injury to Steph Curry, hero of the Golden State Warriors basketball team, which could cause him to miss playoff games, prompted ListMan to ask the DHSOS if they have ever rolled an ankle (sprain). Most of us had, from sports injuries, stepping off a curb, or (in Misty's case) wearing high heels.

Ankle sprains are a common type of injury, caused by the ankle "rolling" over the toes, to the outside, and stretching the ligaments of the ankle – causing swelling and pain.

From the internet, here are exercises you can do to help prevent ankle sprains.

1. Draw the alphabet

Lie on your back or stand (use a sturdy chair for support when standing).

Lift one leg and draw the alphabet with your toes as you flex your foot. Then repeat with the other leg.

2. Standing calf raises

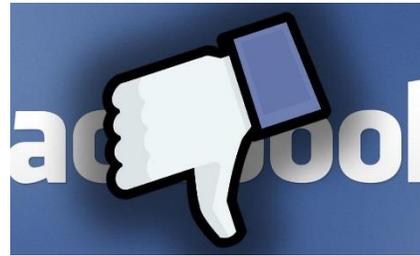
Stand with your feet hip-width apart (on the edge of a step if you are able). Lift yourself up

as high as you can onto your toes and then lower your heels. Repeat.

3. Flex and stretch

Lie on your back with your heels on the floor (feet in a vertical position, toes pointed to the ceiling). Gradually push your toes away from you as far as possible and hold. Repeat.

Data Mining Facebook



With endless news stories now about how the personal information of up to 87 million users may have been "improperly shared" with political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica, ListMan asked if the DHSOS used Facebook, and whether we felt our data had been compromised. There are three Facebook users in the group, and all three assumed their data had been improperly used.

Notes offered that he had seen a shift in how Facebook is used over the past year or so. A few people still post photos of vacation trips, or their grandchildren, he opined, but increasingly people now use Facebook to re-post political statements, and then argue with anyone who challenges the views.

How to use Facebook and protect your privacy? *The New York Times* suggests:

- Audit your Facebook apps
- Audit your Facebook privacy settings
- Read privacy policies
- Install a tracker blocker
- Install an ad blocker
- Clear your browsing data
- Be wary of unknown brands

Or, if you don't want to do all of that ... don't use Facebook.

Household Improvements

At a previous DHSOS meeting a discussion of household improvement projects ensued. ListMan requested an update:

- Notes reported no progress on his effort to build an enclosed patio onto the back of his house. He will get on it, with the goal of having it finished by Easter 2019.
- Misty reported her intention to replace carpet and recover furniture.
- Czar indicated his project to repair part of his roof and paint some of the exterior of his house is completed – before the big March rains – to the complete satisfaction of his wife, and himself. One cannot overestimate the value of a happy wife.
- DUH PREZ reported that he successfully installed a new toilet in his “power room.” But, he admitted, the installation was followed by a leak of sewage into his basement. The leak was not due to improper toilet installation, he insisted, but by cracks in the ancient sewage pipe in his house. His next home improvement project: Replace 10 feet of sewage pipe in his basement.
- ListMan plans to have floors redone, carpet replaced, and walls painted in part of his house. He is requesting bids. He also reported that a back bedroom in his house is perpetually cold, and he requested advice on how to solve that problem. At that at that stage of the meeting the advice he received was less than stellar, and he may have gone away knowing little more (perhaps even less) than when the evening began.

Next Meeting

From the Czar:

Gentlemen, we are confirmed for Thursday, July 19. The Procurer of Venues for this event is Dale, and he has selected The Bus Stop and Perry’s for our venues.

AgendaMeister, please start accumulating your always-interesting list of topics. I think

we did not finish the conversation about shredders, and I can talk about that.

DUH PREZ, go back to sleep.

Adjournment

It had been an excellent evening with an appropriate mix of a very special guest, strong drink, manly food, stimulating conversation, and noble friends.

As DUH PREZ had predicted, there were a couple of “short hitters,” so we had Irish coffees at the Brazen Head instead of carrying on to the Buena Vista. Eric makes good Irish coffees; which DUH PREZ rated 9 out of 10.

When we exhausted our agenda and drained the last drops of our Irish coffees, we paid our check, thanked Eric and Brian, and assembled on the sidewalk outside the Brazen Head. That’s where we exchanged hugs with Misty, gave hearty fist bumps to our fellow officers, and walked off into the warm and hazy San Francisco night.

That’s it for now, man.

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Murderer’s Row, Batters Box, 2/24/2018