

**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
Special Guest	Christina Gray Rutter

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Minutes of Meeting

Bus Stop Saloon and Perry's Union Street

Thursday, July 19, 2018

**A Cow Hollow Evening**



It was an evening in Cow Hollow, the section of San Francisco that in the 1800's housed dairy farms and vegetable gardens and helped feed the growing city to the south. Three of the 4 DHSOS officers once lived here, and we were glad to be back.

A summons to appear for a meeting was issued by The Archivist of Knowledge, who was acting as the Procurer of Venues for the evening:

*Gents and Honored Guest: The DHSOS meeting will convene at 6:00 PM Thursday at the Bus Stop Saloon (1901 Union Street -- at Laguna). I will get there a little early and attempt to secure seats for us. The dinner will be across the street at Perry's at 7:30 PM.*

**Lee's Favorite Sports Bar**



As we assembled at the Bus Stop Saloon, we couldn't help but notice that (a) it's a "real" saloon, and (b) it's a "real" sports bar. There's little bragging on their website – they simply say it has been "*a family business since 1919, a neighborhood favorite, with 26 flat screen TV's and premium well drinks.*"

This is a place where you go to have shots and beers with your friends, play pool, or watch sports on their 26 giant TVs. The Procurer of Venues and DUH PREZ came here occasionally to watch the University of Missouri or San Francisco Giants play.

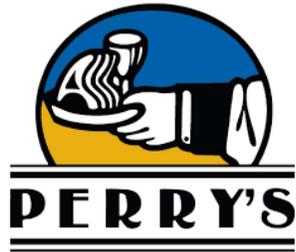
There are no frills, no fancy drinks with umbrellas, and no up-scale food. They do serve a full martini, which the DHSOS appreciates, and they serve a healthy serving of white wine, which our special guest enjoyed. And, because we were there early in the evening, it was quiet enough for us to hear each other talk.

So we sipped our drinks, got caught up on each others' lives, and watched the locals assemble at their favorite bar stools.

### **A Special Guest**

We were joined by a special guest, Christina, who enlightened the evening and added a touch of décor and class. It was a delight to have her with us!

### **Perry's**



After a couple of rounds we made our way across Union Street to Perry's, a manly restaurant with decent food, round tables, and friendly wait staff. Our waiter was Mario, a professional who was cheerful, respectful, and mostly stayed out of our way.

Da Burd joined us, courtesy of DUH PREZ. He perched in the middle of our round table and oversaw the meeting. Mario said he liked Da Burd ("better than the flowers"). Our drinks were delivered by a sommelier who guessed that Da Burd was a "black bald eagle." He was sent away.

Perry Butler initially opened Perry's in 1969, inspired by the neighborhood saloons of New York's Upper East Side. Today, it features blue and white checked tablecloths, hexagonal tiled floor, wood-paneled memorabilia clad walls, and just enough stuff on the menu.

### **Call to Order**

DUH PREZ called the meeting to order at 7:46 PM. We were off and running.

### **State of Drakesbad**

In preparation for our annual pilgrimage to Drakesbad Guest Ranch, the DHSOS reviewed cocktail assignments, new rules,

and lodging preferences. We also talked about plans for a memorial ceremony and discussed the possibility of taking new hikes, including three possibilities:

- Lassen Park entrance to King Creek Falls to Drakesbad
- To the top of Mt. Harkness
- Juniper Lake to Drakesbad

We also discussed our desire to have a memorial established at Drakesbad for Lee and Ruth, who both loved being there. We agreed to discuss the subject with Nick, the Drakesbad manager.

### **Boy Scouts**

DUH Prez and Christina gave a blow-by-blow description of Beck's travails at a recent Boy Scout campout, which included an injury, a snakebite, constipation, and "Vapegate," which involved pot, vape pipes, parents, interrogation, and countless hours of counseling with scouts and parents. The DHSOS raised our glasses in a toast to Beck, who is going above-and-beyond in his quest to help teenage boys adhere to moral standards and to become good adults.

### **Mountain Home Play**



The Czar gave an upbeat report on the Memorial Day Mountain Play! Everyone, he reported, enjoyed the production, which this year was Momma Mia! And everyone had a great time. The group was divided on their appreciation for the music of ABBA, but everyone agreed that the Mountain Play setting and the company of excellent friends is a winning combination.

## Bring A Trailer



DUH PREZ was gushing with pride as he told the DHSOS about his favorite son's new job! "And he gets to work with cars!" he repeated several times. Beck, he reported, has taken a full-time job selling vintage cars at a startup firm in San Francisco. In Beck's own words:

*If a baby wasn't enough, a career change should do the trick. Since June, I have been an auction specialist at Bring a Trailer and I am leaving freelance photography. I won't be paid to take pictures anymore, which makes me happy because most of the pictures I was getting paid to take weren't making me happy. I am having a blast working on a team and helping develop a small start-up of only a dozen people into what I think is the best place to buy or sell your next vintage sports car.*

## 79 Squares of Concrete

The Archivist of Knowledge reported that he recently came home to find that 79 sidewalk squares in front of his home had been marked with large green Xs, meaning they needed to be replaced. Having done this twice before (and finding out it costs around \$100 per square to replace them) he was distressed! He calmed somewhat when he heard that San Francisco is now responsible for replacing sidewalk squares that have been damaged by tree roots, and that those squares are marked in green. So for now, he faces a future of living for an indeterminate period in a house surrounded by 79 unsightly green Xs.

As these things go, the City of San Francisco is less than clear about who is responsible for replacing the marked squares, and the San Francisco Public Works website makes it clear as mud:

*Proactive sidewalk inspections of all city sidewalks are on a 25-year cycle to get repairs. That means, every 25 years, all city sidewalks are inspected and repaired as part of the program. Sidewalk damage that is the responsibility of city agencies or private utilities is also repaired as part of the program.*

*For your convenience, Public Works inspectors have marked the defective sections of your sidewalk with color-coded dots. Different colored dots denote who is responsible for the repairs:*

White	Property Owner
Green	City Agencies
Yellow	PG&E
Blue	PUC Water / St. Lighting
Orange	Comcast / AT&T
Red	SFFD

## Mowing the Lawn



A survey of DHSOS officers revealed that most have and use lawn mowers. The Czar and AgendaMeister use old-fashioned push mowers, DUH Prez operates an electric mower, and The Archivist of Knowledge doesn't mow. Christina volunteered that

when she and Beck were kids their father bribed them to mow his lawn, offering them something like \$0.50 for the effort.

### Ditching Things that Used to Have Value

It's hard sometimes to get rid of things that we paid a good price for, but which have now lost their value. The AgendaMeister reported that an armoire he paid a lot for could not be sold and had to be given away, while DUH PREZ recounted giving away an old TV.

The Archivist of Knowledge reminded the group that years ago Lee, unable to get the trash people to haul away his old metal garbage can, brought it to the "magic corner" near the Archivist's house, where some neighbors threw waste into it. So the Archivist began lining it with a black trash bag and encouraging neighbors to put their trash in it (rather than in his hedge) until a few years later when the price of scrap metal went up and someone stole it.

### Stud Finding and Anchoring



Seeking advice on how to anchor furniture to the wall in our earthquake-prone land, the AgendaMeister quizzed the DHSOS on proper techniques. He was provided with plenty of advice on how to locate studs and how to anchor furniture to the wall. However, by that point in the evening most of us were (a) tired, (b) pleasantly-plowed, or (c) both and the instructions were less than clear. Following is a link to a pretty good article on the subject:

<https://www.consumerreports.org/furniture/how-to-anchor-furniture-to-help-prevent-tip-overs/>

### Baseball Stats

#### STAT FORMULA

**OBP**  $H+BB+HBP/AB+BB+HBP+SF$

**SLG**  $(HR \times 4) + (3B \times 3) + (2B \times 2) + (1B) / HB$

**AVG**  $H/AB$

**ERA**  $(ER/IP) \times (9)$

H	Hits	HB	total bases
HBP	Hits by pitch	HR	home runs
AB	At-Bats	3B	triples
BB	walks	2B	doubles
SF	sacrifice flies	1B	singles
ER	earned runs	IP	innings pitched

Baseball is full of statistics, and the AgendaMeister pointed out that as kids we evaluated professional baseball batters solely on their batting average, a simple and widely-accepted way of judging their effectiveness. Now, however, there is a plethora of techniques for evaluating batters; including batting average, on-base percentage (OPS), slugging percentage, on-base plus slugging (OPS), adjusted on-base plus slugging, weighted on-base average, wins above replacement, etc. It can give you a headache!

So, which technique is the best?

Our group seemed to favor on-base plus slugging (OPS) as the fairest method, and a discussion ensued about who had the highest OPS average ever (Barry Bonds for a single-season, Babe Ruth for a career).

There is a pretty good description of the various hitting statistics at the link below. I caution you, though, that it ends with this disclaimer:

*There is no one stat you can refer to when discussing how good or bad a hitter is. A .300 hitter is great, but a .300 hitter that has a .500 slugging percentage is better and a .300 hitter that doesn't draw any walks at all is worse.*

<http://bronxbaseballdaily.com/2014/10/which-stats-are-the-best-to-evaluate-hitters/>

### Noir – Hammett vs. Chandler

A DHSOS fan recently sent the group information about Raymond Chandler, who she thinks is as good an author as Dashiell

Hammett. This concept was met with derision, because we consider Hammett to be a far superior author and man.

As to their popularity, here is one man's opinion, gleaned from the internet:

*As you may know Chandler started publishing first and thus had the early lead. Around the time of their deaths in 1959 (Chandler) and 1961 (Hammett) they crossed paths for the first time and Chandler's name became more popular. He's steadily held the lead since the mid 70s, and their overall popularity seems to wax and wane together. Hammett's closing the gap as of late, or more accurately, Chandler's been dropping as of late.*

### Gin, Gin, Gin

During a recent trip to the United Kingdom, the wife of the AgendaMeister and Misty, Lee's wife and our previous honored guest, discovered good gin, and now they think they have to have good gin at all times. But, as the group pointed out, really good gin is really expensive!

The Czar suggested a compromise – buy St. George Terroir gin, which he assured us is a very good gin, and at around \$30 per bottle, a good price.

The description of their gin on their website is a little over-the-top:

*An ode to the wild beauty of the Golden State.*

*Forest-driven and earthy, Terroir is a profoundly aromatic gin with a real sense of place. We wanted to make a spirit that conveyed what we love about the monumental groves of trees, moist and misty glens, and sun-baked chaparral of our favorite local parklands.*

*With Terroir Gin, we try to take you there with Douglas fir, California bay laurel, coastal sage, and other evocative botanicals. Sip it and be transported.*

### Updated Giants Guesses

At our previous meeting the DHSOS forecast the number of victories the San Francisco Giants baseball team will incur this season. Now, at the All-Star break, and with the Giants so far having won 50 games (out of 96), and with 66 games remaining, we revised our predictions:

	<u>1/18</u>	<u>7/18</u>
DUH PREZ	86	86
Czar	81	81
ListMan	78	82
Notes	85	85
Misty/Christina	71	77

### Field Trip 2019

It is a tradition for the DHSOS to plan (and occasionally take) a road trip to explore a U.S. city and see a baseball game. There was some interest in a road trip next year, to the Baseball Hall of Fame, in Cooperstown, New York, and perhaps to a baseball game in Boston. The Archivist of Knowledge agreed to research travel options, dates, and report back to the group.

### Adjournment

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

We paid our check, assembled outside Perry's, issued a round of hugs to our special guest and hearty fist bumps to our fellow members, and walked off into the cool and foggy San Francisco night.

That's it for now, man.

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