

**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

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**Minutes of Meeting**

**Red Jack Saloon/Fior d'Italia**

**Thursday, September 5, 2019**

**A Nice Night Out**

The DHSOS met September 5 in North Beach to discuss society events, upcoming outings, and significant and news-worthy officer activities. The weather that night was beautiful – clear and sunny – and the venues were appropriate, the food and drink sterling, and the company superb. All-in-all, it was a nice night out!

**Red Jack Saloon**



We started the evening at a dive bar on Bay Street near the northern tip of San Francisco, which the DHSOS last visited in July 2005. Red Jack Saloon had been suggested by DUH PREZ, who assured us it would serve full, inexpensive drinks in a suitable atmosphere. He was right for once, and the place fit us well. This is a New England-

flavored sports bar, with Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots banners and memorabilia on the walls, and a “green monster” replica (of the outfield wall at Fenway Stadium) in the bath room. The people were friendly, if a little heavily-tattooed, and there was an assorted collection of TVs, pin ball machines, hot babes, and drunks. DUH PREZ, having arrived a tad early at 4:45 pm, ran a tab.

We sat on wooden chairs, breathed the wafting odors of stale beer, kept track of baseball and football games on wide screen televisions, and got caught up on personal and society business.

**Fior d'Italia**



After a couple of adult beverages, we paid the check (picked up by DUH PREZ), and strolled down Bay Street past street urchins and drunks, turned left on Mason Street, and entered Fior d'Italia. This family-owned Italian restaurant has graced North Beach since 1886. The DHSOS had not dined

there since 1998, when it was still located across the street from Washington Square Park, and it was good to be back.



Angelo Del Monte, founder of Fior d'Italia

Fior d'Italia was started by Angelo Del Monte at 432 Broadway Street. It was a hit: locals enjoyed the food and the upstairs bordello. But that building was destroyed by fire in 1893 and the owners moved up the street to 492 Broadway. That building was demolished by the earthquake and fire of 1906, but it was rebuilt and re-opened in 1909 with an upstairs dining room and stained-glass windows. In 1930, there was a dispute with the landlord, and they moved to 504 Broadway, and then to 601 Union Street after Broadway became a den of strip joints. In 2005, after a busy Valentine's night, a fire broke out in the basement, causing the restaurant to move to its current spot in the San Remo Hotel on Mason Street.

This restaurant met most of our criteria. It was around when Dashiell Hammett lived in San Francisco, and it has good food and strong drink. Would our wives set foot there? Maybe, but they haven't, so we felt justified being there, and we ordered drinks and started our meeting.

## Da Burd



Da Burd joined us for the evening, emerging from his wooden casket and roosting in the middle of our table. He rotated throughout the night, facing the officer who was speaking. Tonight, Da Burd was relatively quiet, which might have been because he had a slight injury to his right wing. DUH PREZ examined the damage and decided he could repair it with a black sharpie.

We discussed and approved an idea to purchase four small bottles of "booze" to add to Da Burd's carrying box. Upon the demise of a DHSOS officer, the remaining officers will use the contents of a bottle to toast the departed member. We also discussed and approved the idea that the final disposition of the original PoV's DHSOS hat would be in Da Burd's casket.

## Call to Order

As is his custom, DUH PREZ called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm by banging his dinner knife on the side of his water glass. We ordered another round of drinks and got down to business

## Day on the Bay



The first item of business was to toast DUH PREZ on a recent big birthday. We raised our glasses to him and wished him well. And we complimented him on the birthday party

he threw the previous Saturday, when he chartered the historic Potomac yacht for a four-hour cruise on the San Francisco Bay with 130 of his closest friends. There were also numerous compliments and a toast to Christina, the first daughter, who helped organize and run the birthday cruise.

### DHSOS Grandbaby



The DHSOS are proud grandparents of a baby girl, named Lydia Gray, born August 30. We toasted Lydia, the newest member of the DHSOS family, who is currently living with her parents, Beck and Sarah.

### Movie Woes

There was a certain amount of whining about the lack of “interesting” movies this past summer, with most of the offerings targeting moviegoers of another age. The DHSOS, which has traditionally enjoyed Friday nights at the movies, did express interest in the movie *Downton Abby*, which was released September 20.

### Top 10 Selling Movies: Summer 2019

1. *The Lion King*
2. *Toy Story 4*
3. *Spider-Man: Homecoming*
4. *Avengers: Endgame*
5. *Aladdin*
6. *John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum*
7. *Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw*
8. *The Secret Life of Pets 2*

9. *Pokemon: Detective Pikachu*
10. *Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood*
11. *Godzilla: King of the Monsters*
12. *Rocketman*

### Drakesbad Feedback

With our annual pilgrimage to Drakesbad behind us, we reviewed this year’s stay and discussed future expeditions to the guest ranch in Lassen National Park. We concluded that despite a nearly complete turnover of management and staff, the resort still looks and acts much like the previous 30+ years.

Following our visit this year the Archivist of Knowledge and “Martini Lynne” wrote notes to the concession management company and the National Park Service, suggesting improvements that could ensure that future stays are even more enjoyable.

### Lots O’ Lochs



DUH PREZ gave a favorable report of a cruise he had recently taken in Scotland, aboard a National Geographic-sponsored ship. “It was a very nice boat,” he reported. “We saw very few people and tons of lakes, which they call lochs.” The “few people” comment referred to the scarce population in northern Scotland, which is largely ranching and farming country. Along the way, he saw (among other things) the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Iona (which included a tribute to St. Colomba, who was an Irish abbot and missionary Evangelist who spread Christianity in what is today Scotland.



## Class of '69



The Archivist of Knowledge reported on a school reunion in Nebraska he had recently attended. “At this age,” he related, “My classmates didn’t brag about their jobs or their children – they just wanted to know how I was and what I was doing.”

During the reunion he participated in a series of activities associated with the reunion; including a class dinner, parade, yard party, picnic, and the Deuel County Fair, complete with rodeo, 4H livestock judging, and even bingo games.

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“She grinned at me. You got types?”

✓ “Only you darling - lanky brunettes with wicked jaws.”

✧ — Dashiell Hammett, *The Thin Man* ✧  
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## Are You Insured?

Insurance was the final subject of discussion. Admittedly, it was late in the evening at this point, which may have affected the output (which was pretty lame), but there was some discussion of the need for two “optional” forms of insurance: earthquake and long-term health care.

The cost and deductibles for earthquake insurance are high, and most officers do not currently have it, with the hope that their homes (which have survived previous shakers) will survive the next one with little or no damage. The AgendaMeister, however,

does have insurance, citing the proximity of his house to the Hayward Fault.

Regarding long-term health insurance, there is a difference of opinion among the DHSOS on its need and cost effectiveness. Those who have it hope to avoid depleting savings in case of a long-term illness of one spouse. The Archivist of Knowledge discussed a recent news article that forecast substantially-higher premiums over the next few years because insurance companies under-estimated life spans and health care costs. Suggestions for keeping premiums low included working with the insurer to reduce the coverage period or the payouts.

Here’s a bit of advice in that regard from *U.S. News and World Report*:

*Consider reducing your benefit, including daily limits, lifetime benefits and cost of living adjustments to receive less expensive coverage. Don't forget that you may have access to a pension, home equity and other assets that can help cover the cost of long-term care, so you don't necessarily need the plan to cover 100% of expenses.*

## Next Meeting

The DHSOS normally has four meetings per year, and we have had four in 2019. But DUH PREZ asked about having another this year, stating that he has “zero social life” and needs outings. So the Communications Czar went to work and scheduled another meeting, which will be held December 5, 2019 at 6:00 PM. He will be in charge of picking a place for the meeting.

## Adjournment

This was an outstanding evening at an excellent venue with an appropriate mix of strong drink, manly food, stimulating conversation, and noble friends.

We exhausted our agenda, paid our check, secured Da Burd in his casket, and assembled on the sidewalk outside the restaurant. It was a cool and breezy night

in North Beach, and we exchanged hearty fist bumps and piled into our cars for a drive home. It was another nice night out with special friends!

That's it for now, man.

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