

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

Officers

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

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Minutes of Meetings

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Emperor Norton Tour/ Mission Rock Resort

Summoning the Group

Being desirous of allaying the dissensions of party strife now existing within our realm, I do hereby dissolve and abolish the Democratic and Republican parties, and also do hereby decree the disfranchisement and imprisonment, for not more than 10, nor less than five, years, to all persons leading to any violation of this imperial decree.

--Emperor Norton

The DHSOS was summoned to our meeting by the following missive:

Gents:

You are herein invited to a meeting of the DHSOS this Thursday, November 9, 2023.

We will begin our evening at 5:30 when we convene in Union Square under the Dewey Monument for a walking tour with Emperor Norton. He will be easy to recognize, as he will be wearing his regal garb. He has your first names, so if you are first there, identify yourself and join in the banter.

We will tour with the Emperor for about an hour and a half, then find our way to Mission Rock Resort, at 817 Terry Francois Blvd. for dinner.

It promises to be an interesting evening! See you Thursday!

With that, the AoK, also known this night as the temporary PoV, invited the DHSOS to convene.

Emperor Norton Tour



He was waiting for us under the Dewey Monument in Union Square, just as he said he would be, dressed like the eccentric, but beloved character who roamed the boom town of San Francisco in the second half of the 19th century. And he was in character much of the evening, telling us his perspective of San Francisco in those days. It was a little strange, but once we got used to it, it was interesting.



Union Square was gussied up for Christmas, with a fantastic huge Christmas tree, ice skating rink, and outdoor concert. People roamed around, shopping and enjoying the atmosphere, and renowned chef, Tyler Florence, shook hands with the Emperor and greeted each of us.

The Emperor led us on an excellent tour of our fair city and pointed out sites that were around during his days and still exist -- Lotta's Fountain, Maiden's Lane, the Palace Hotel, the Saint Francis Hotel, the Call Building, Bank of California Building, Tadich Grill, Sam's Grill, etc. As we followed him around, tourists and locals greeted him (and us), and he responded with salutations and a royal wave. Sirens wailed, tourists shouted, and an occasional homeless person asked for handouts – it was a strange mix of the 1800s and today!

After our 90-minute tour, we left the Emperor and contracted an Uber to take us to dinner.

Mission Rock Resort



Our dinner was planned for Mission Rock Resort, near the new Chase Center. It would have made more sense to dine at Sam's Grill, which the DHSOS loves, and which is where our tour ended, but Notes had "won" a gift certificate for Mission Rock, so we took an Uber across town.

While Uber-ing across town sounds simple, San Francisco was in the midst of preparing for the APEC conference, and downtown was a mess! Adding to the confusion, Queen was performing for a sold-out crowd at the Chase Center, across from our restaurant, which further jammed things up.

Fall on the Bay

We've had meetings at Mission Rock before, but we hadn't met there on such a beautiful evening! The Fall weather was crisp, but the wind was still, and we were seated outside next to the Bay, with heaters above us to keep things from getting too chilly. A very nice (and attractive) young lady served us very full martinis, made to order. We took a minute to enjoy our surroundings and got down to business. As the liquor began to take effect, our creative juices started flowing.

Call to Order

Our meeting was called to order at exactly 8:00 when Duh Prez banged his butter knife on his martini glass. We were off:

Da Burd



Sadly, Da Burd couldn't join us for the event. He was resting comfortably in the trunk of DUH Prez's car, presumably having a good nap. He will return at our next meeting.

The Perfect Charcuterie Board



Each of our residences has undergone substantial renovation over the past year:

DUH PREZ poured his efforts into improving his river house, and he had just completed a day of labor there. He looked tired. He shared photos of wood shake shingles, which he plans to add to the sides of his Redwood Tree House.

Da Czar has a remodeled kitchen and a repainted entry way, and his better half is now preparing to add a large wooden charcuterie board to hang above the stove, as a decorative piece.

ListMan did a substantial remodel of the interior and exterior of his home; including a new patio, re-worked back garden, and a new look in his kitchen and living room. Oh, and re-modeled bathrooms, too.

Notes is in the final stages of adding a sunroom to the garden side of his house, and he provided an update. After years of effort, he reported, and with an assist from da Czar (who provided the contractor), he is nearing completion. All that is left, he reported, is to finish laying and finishing the floor. He promised photos.

Decorating Styles

Our discussion of home improvements stimulated a side topic: what is your decorating style – simple or cluttered? A lively, alcohol-fueled discussion ensued, full of suggestions and counter-suggestions. Without getting into specifics, it's safe to summarize the topic this way: three of us let our spouses take the lead on decorating, while the fourth claims he is in charge of all decorating decisions, even stating that his spouse once signed a note that said, "I don't care, whatever you want." And it's also fair to report that three of the four of us tend toward a minimalist decorating style, while the fourth lives with a "cluttered" look.

What Happened to the Dodgers?

As our loyal readers know, this group enjoys baseball, and we like to talk about baseball. Our preferred teams vary, however, and one officer roots for a team that wears blue. So, we enjoy dishing out a little manure when that officer's team stumbles. That was recently the case when the Los Angeles Dodgers, who finished the season with more wins than any team (and who were considered to be the favorite to win it all) were swept in the playoffs by the Arizona Diamondbacks.

So, what happened to the Dodgers? We asked da Czar:

"Pitching didn't show up," he responded. "Hitting didn't show up."

It was as simple as that.

He changed the subject.

What Scandal?

"But what about the cheating that's going on in Michigan?" da Czar asked?

DUH PREZ, who is known on rare occasions to brag about the Wolverines, was evasive:

"Nothing has been proven," he stammered, "The guy who took his iPhone to a rival's game and took a couple of photos has been fired. I mean, who doesn't take their iPhone to football games? Is that a crime? It's all a bunch of smoke."

And he defended his team this way: "Everyone does it. I mean, after all, they are 9-0 and ranked #2 in the nation)."

The headlines the next day read:

Big Ten Suspends Michigan Coach Jim Harbaugh in Sign-Stealing Case

We have a feeling there's more to come ...

College Football Conference Rivalries



We moaned about the breakup of college football conferences and the loss of traditional rivalries and geographic proximity. Instead, starting next year, a bunch of greedy universities will re-organize into non-sensical groupings of dissimilar, power-hungry conferences. We choked down another quaff of our martinis, bit back our indignation, and changed the subject.

Jury Duty

Da Czar reported that he recently wriggled out of jury duty that would have involved him in a murder case from mid-November through February. It was by pure coincidence, he asserted, that he had scheduled a colonoscopy at the beginning of the trial; and it was, he declared, the first time a colonoscopy "saved his ass."

Lee's Song



The AgendaMeister reminded us that an a Capella song called *Credo* by Linda Allen was played at the celebration of life for our PoV. He played the song, and we raised our now nearly empty martini glasses in a toast to our departed companion:

Oh, our lives are lived like a flash across the sky.

Let us cherish one another 'til the moment that we die.

It is oh, so simple, 'tho' I did not understand.

It is love and forgiveness and the reaching of a hand.

Adieu

We finished our drinks, stumbled out of Mission Rock Resort, and into the midst of our beautiful city, which may be down, but is certainly not out. Tonight, Queen was playing at the beautiful Chase Center, Union Square was "dressed up" for the holidays, and our favorite city was ready to host the APEC Economic Leader's Meeting.

The November fog swirled down the Embarcadero and around us. We exchanged a round of manly fist bumps and headed to da Czar's car. But it was missing in action and had been towed. Later, da Czar and DUH PREZ recovered

in, paid the exorbitant ransom, and returned the car to its nest.

It had been another heart-warming gathering of four first-rate friends.

That's it for now, man.

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