

**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 Meeting

Thursday, November 6, 2025

House of Shields and Pied Piper Bar/Maxfield's Restaurant

Call to Assemble

It was time to meet. ListMan, serving as temporary PoV, summoned us together:

Okay, 6 pm at House of Shields. Bar started in 1908. I'm pretty sure Sam Spade, Philip Marlowe, Lou Archer, Easy Rawlins and Mike Hammer all stopped for a drink at some point in their detective work. Dinner at 7 across the street in Palace Hotel. Agenda to follow.

House of Shields



As instructed, the DHSOS assembled at the House of Shields for libations. As is our current custom, the temporary PoV paid for them. Downtown San Francisco was jumping both outside (where a street fair was rocking) and inside, where businessmen and women filled the bar stools and booths and spilled into the aisles. It was a happenin' place! DUH PREZ reported that the massive urinals were still in place and still operational. We enjoyed our drinks, our surroundings, and each other's company, but it was too loud to conduct business, so we crossed New Montgomery Street to seek a quiet corner in the Sheraton Palace Hotel.

Revisiting History at Maxfield's

It had been 16 years (last time was October 15, 2009) since we had a meeting at the Sheraton Palace Hotel/Maxfield's Restaurant. From that night's minutes, here was what was on our minds:

"A meeting of the DHSOS occurred Thursday, October 15, 2009, at the renowned Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Drinks were in the historic Pied Piper Bar, and dinner occurred at a round table in Maxfield's Restaurant.

It was not an easy venue to secure. On the night the DHSOS met, President Obama was in town, as was the Oracle Convention. As reported by the Procurer of Venues:

Tomorrow night's dinner has been absolute hell to arrange. The big Oracle shindig has messed everything up royally. I'm not sure we will even have a table when we arrive. We will see.

I had a "special" tour of the hotel, including the presidential suite, set up for us at 6pm. The tour has totally fallen through and it hacks me off. So now we will meet in the Pied Piper bar at 6pm for drinks, then we will have dinner at 7pm in the attached dining room at a round table (I think). This week I called to confirm the arrangements. Not only did I learn that the tour was off,

but they told me they were no longer taking reservations in the Pied Piper dining room.

I think I have gotten the dinner arrangement reinstated, but it is still iffy.....I realize this is a repeat for us of a previous dinner at this establishment, but because it is their 100th birthday, and with the tour, I thought it would be special. Now it looks rather pedestrian. Anyway, the gin and the vodka will taste good. They can't screw that up.

A View of the Pied Piper



It was too crowded and noisy to talk in the bar, though there were some interesting blond patrons perched on bar stools. We shuffled into a hallway, where we were well-attended while we waited for a table. Promptly at 7:00 we were escorted to our seating, which, while not round, was well-situated and had an excellent view of the Pied Piper painting.

Da Burd



Da Burd made the trip to the Sheraton Palace Hotel, emerged from its traveling case, and sat proudly in the center of our table, occasionally looking over at the Pied Piper painting. Marcella, our friendly server, asked about him, and when we told her he was the Maltese Falcon and filled her in on Humphrey Bogart, the movie, and Da Burd's role, she said she wasn't familiar, smiled, said, "That's interesting ...", and went about her business.

DUH PREZ called the meeting to order at 7:08 by tapping his butter knife on the side of his glass.



World Series Summary

The first item of business, which was continued from the House of Shields, was to digest the recently-concluded World Series, which the Los Angeles Dodgers won four games to three, coming from behind in the 9th inning of game seven. We agreed it had been a very exciting series, with close games, interesting plays, and spectacular individual achievements by the Dodgers' Yoshinobu Yamamoto (who was named Series MVP), Shohei Otani, Will Smith, and Miguel Rojas -- and by the Blue Jays George Springer, Max Scherzer, and Trey Yesavage.

We toasted Da Czar, who has been a lifelong fan of "The Boys in Blue".



State of the Giants



The Giants recently announced the hiring of Tony Vitello as their manager, the first major league manager to be hired with no major league experience. We agreed it was a gamble by Buster Posey and the Giants ownership group, which could pay off big or go up in flames. We also agreed that hiring Bruce Bochy, former Giants manager, as a consultant was a good move that should give Vitello and his staff some help.

What Has Surprised You about Aging?

ListMan brought this subject up after he saw a “60 Minutes” episode that featured Dr. Peter Attia who has identified that many people’s physical fitness and mobility “fall off a cliff” at around age 75. That landed like a sack of potatoes with our group.

“So, I’d kind of like to know ... what has surprised you about aging?” ListMan asked.

- Da Czar said he has been surprised by how much the body deteriorates – for example, he now uses hand railings for support while walking down a flight of stairs.
- ListMan pointed to a “big linear drop” in health that seems to have occurred to him (largely related to back issues) around age 75.
- Notes said he’s been surprised by how fast time goes now, compared to earlier ages – “just when you want it to go slower,” he added.
- DUH PREZ talked about his diet, his walking routine, and stated that he finished 4th in the Michigan wrestling in high school (145-pound division).

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As you get older three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two.

Drakesbad and Gray Eagle



Dates for next summer’s “camping” trips have been agreed: Drakesbad will be August 2-4, and Gray Eagle will be August 5-8. (The “ashes scattering” ceremony will be August 3.) Gray Eagle management have been notified (though some of us have not received confirmation of the dates). However, Drakesbad is somewhat up in the air, as not everyone has reserved lodging. The Drakesbad website does not seem to allow changes, and they have not responded to phone or email inquiries. We agreed to keep trying and to notify each other if something changes.

S. A. Vacation and Beyond

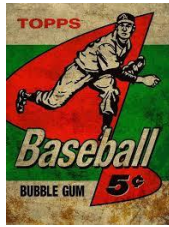
Plans for the “Misty” trip to southern Africa next April are pretty much set, and we’re all looking forward to it. We discussed the second trip (which will take place in early 2027), and ListMan and DUH PREZ agreed to begin making plans for it early next year.

Uses of ChatGPT for Aging Hipsters

“Do any of you use AI?” ListMan asked. While everyone agreed it’s a hot topic and will likely be even more so in the future, there was little response. Da Czar reminded us that many responses to internet inquiries now come from AI, and Notes said he uses it to help him with research.

DUH PREZ reminded the group that years ago, the PoV conducted a survey of what each officer thought was the greatest threat to the world. There were a variety of responses, he remembered, including over-population and nuclear war – and that Beck had named AI. We toasted Beck and went on with our business.

Baseball Card Collecting



ListMan asked if we collected baseball cards as kids. Most of us had, though not everyone enjoyed chewing the bubble gum that came with them. Some of us played “games” with friends, using the cards. None of us have our card collections now. We’re surprised by how valuable they’ve become, and that some people make a “living” buying and selling them.

What’s your Exercise Routine?

Following up on our topic of aging, we shared our exercise routines. We all work out regularly, and we all try to eat a healthy diet. Over time, this topic has been hotly debated; for example, Jack LaLanne said, “Exercise is king, nutrition is queen. Put them together and you’ve got a kingdom.” Rodney Dangerfield countered, “I’m on a thirty-day diet. So far, I’ve lost 30 days.”

Travel

ListMan reported a recent golfing trip to Pacific Grove with a group of friends. It was beautiful weather, he reported, and when pressed he acknowledged he played well – winning the tournament and playing his age.

DUH PREZ and PJ have planned a trip to Denver for family business. They will ride back to the Bay Area on the Zephyr train, enjoying the views, dining in the dining car, and sleeping in a sleeping car.

Notes has an upcoming trip to Mexico City to explore the city and look at Frida Kahlo museums and monuments.

What’s the Best Part of Your Week?

This question from Notes ended the formal portion of our meeting. What part of your

week, he wanted to know, is the most enjoyable?

- Da Czar said Tuesday, which is the day he gets to spend with his granddaughter.
- ListMan said Friday, when he plays golf -- and any golf weekend.
- DUH PREZ said any day he doesn’t have to work for his church, which is going through an extensive remodel and eating up his time.
- Notes said Sunday mornings, when he sleeps in and reads the Sunday newspapers.

Next Meeting

Da Czar has scheduled the next gathering of the DHSOS to take place Thursday, February 26, 2026. DUH PREZ will be the temporary PoV.

Into the Night

It had been a stellar night in a vibrant section of our favorite city. The gorgeous Sheraton Palace Hotel, bustling House of Shields, and sophisticated Maxfield’s Restaurant suited us well. San Francisco’s Financial District appears to be coming back. We gathered our hats, issued a round of manly fist bumps, strolled up to Market Street, and headed out into the warm Indian-summer night.

That’s it for now, man.

