

**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

⊕ ⊕ ⊕

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Gino & Carlos/Original Joe's

**Call to Assemble**

It was Notes turn to host and he sent out an invitation:

*Gents:*

*Are you ready to meet? My calendar says we have a get-together scheduled for next Thursday, May 14. If you're ready, let's gather at The Saloon, at 1232 Grant Street (between Fresno and Vallejo) at 6:00. This is an historic, cash-only dive bar in North Beach, "famous for its live blues music and old-school, no-frills atmosphere."*

*Then we'll amble three blocks to dinner at Original Joes, on Union Street across from Washington Square Park. We last dined there in April of 2012, shortly after it opened in this location. When summoning us to that meeting our PoV said the place was "hot, hot, hot." We'll see if that's still the case. Be there or be square.*

*Notes*

*(Note: The location for drinks was changed to Gino & Carlos).*

**Gino & Carlos**

This turned out to be a good place for pre-meeting drinks. The martinis were filled to the brim, the place was quiet enough for discussions, and the slim, bearded bartender's repartee didn't distract from our discussions. We didn't want to talk with him; we wanted to talk about "The Trip."

Our "fabulous experience" turned out to be just that, and we were still buzzing about how well it had turned out, how well we were taken care of all along the way, and how many wonderful things we had seen! ListMan reported that he has received many excellent photos of the trip, especially from the two safaris.

**Original Joe's**

At the appointed time, we paid our overly talkative bartender and sauntered to Original Joe's. The place was buzzing, as tourists and locals filed in and filled the tables almost to capacity. We were escorted to a booth with a square table. DUH PREZ extracted from a paper bag a mini-BURD, which resided in the middle of our table.

**About Original Joe's**

From their website: *Original Joe's history began in 1937 as a 14-stool counter on a saw dust covered floor at 144 Taylor Street in San Francisco's Tenderloin. It was opened by a Croatian immigrant, Tony Rodin, who had witnessed hunger, war and adversity—a man who landed here in search of the American Dream and the promise to provide something great for those who had the will to seize it. It was Tony's will, honest work ethic and vibrant sense of hospitality that grew Original Joe's into the culinary institution it is today.*

The original San Francisco “Joe’s” concept inspired several spin-offs and independent restaurants in the Bay Area, though they are not all under the same ownership. Four are operated by the Duggan siblings (the grandchildren of founder Ante “Tony” Rodin): Original Joe’s, Original Joe’s Westlake, and the Little Joe’s in the Marina District and West Portal.

### **It’d Been a While**

The DHSOS had met once before at Original Joe’s, but it’d been a while – the last time we dined there was April 12, 2012. That doesn’t seem like a long time ago, but much has changed since then. When we met at OJ’s in 2012, our PoV was very excited about getting us into Original Joe’s, because it had just opened (after their previous location had burned) and reservations were hard to get.

“The place is hot, hot, hot” he told us in his invitation, and as we discovered, it was also “loud, loud, loud.”

We were happy to be back. Fourteen years ago, DUH PREZ regaled us with stories of his trip to Spain during Easter week, the Communication Czar’s daughter had just come in 3<sup>rd</sup> (out of 16 teams) in ultimate frisbee and was about to head to Nationals, the PoV was sporting a new hair-do (which he said was an experiment), ListMan announced his intention to have surgery in June, and Notes was planning an out-of-town baseball weekend for the DHSOS.

### **Call to Order**

We had a full agenda, so DUH PREZ called the meeting to order at 7:00 by banging his knife against his water glass. Our waiter took our drink orders, distributed menus, and left us to our own devices.

~

*“Who shot him? I asked. The grey man scratched the back of his neck and said: Somebody with a gun.”*

— Dashiell Hammett, *Red Harvest*

### **Katharine’s Professional Life**

Czar reported that Katharine was recently promoted to V.P. at her company (Brainiac, the American “brain health” snack brand) which has been acquired by French company, Bel Group, the parent company of Babybel and GoGo squeeZ. This sounded like excellent news, and we raised our glasses in a toast to Katharine. Notes added that he hoped it would mean her future travels would be to Paris, rather than Oklahoma.

### **Where do the Giants Turn?**

Most of us expected an improved baseball season for the Giants this year, after they finished 81-81 last year and then spent \$76 million during the offseason to acquire free-agent players. But as of our dinner they had a record of 18-26, which if pursued would finish the year at 74-88. “What to do,” ListMan asked? Like the Giants management, we had few answers. Da Czar was prepared with notes that indicated that the Giants were at or near the bottom in most offensive statistical areas, and he suggested they work with or replace their hitting coach. Notes went a step further, suggesting they fire their manager.

### **Mountain Play**

Da Czar reminded us that the Mountain Play this year is “The Wizard of Oz,” and we have tickets for the performance on June 13. This year we have reserved seating in the shade with seats, which should make the experience more comfortable. As usual, he will bring drinks and lead a hike to the Forbes Bench (new to us) before the play.



*“Toto, I’ve a feeling we’re not in Kansas anymore.”*

– Dorothy

### **Drakesbad and Gray Eagle**

We discussed our annual glamping trip, which will begin at Drakesbad (August 2,3,4) then recommence at Gray Eagle (August 5,6,7,8). We will scatter the remainder of Misty's ashes (which are at Note's office) at Drakesbad (in the creek near where the waterwheels are installed and according to DUH PREZ are still actually spinning).

### **South Africa Wine**

While we were in Africa, we purchased two cases of wine from the wineries we toured in the Stellenbosch region. We were asked by our spousal units to decide how best to pay for them. We agreed that each of us should pay for the number of bottles purchased and reimburse whoever originally paid for them.

### **Italy and Lake Como**

A committee of the "Gang" is working on a second trip that will take place in 2027 to the Lake Como area in Italy. ListMan and DUH PREZ gave an update. The time frame is April or May of 2027, and a travel agent (Eve Wertsch) has agreed to help us with travel arrangements. There was a discussion of whether the group would prefer to stay at a villa or a hotel, with pluses and minuses outlined for each.

### **South Africa Memorable Moments**

"What were some of your most memorable moments of our trip," ListMan asked. We each named one or two of the best times during a wonderful trip.

- Da Czar remembered when the guides would spot an animal, they would go off trail and often run over bushes, logs, or whatever was in the way.
- DUH PREZ talked about the boat trip on the Zambezi River and the beautiful views and gorgeous sunset.

- ListMan told how much he enjoyed driving back to camp in the dark, with the tracker sitting on the front of the vehicle, sweeping a light across the bushes and trees for animals.
- Notes mentioned the rainbows that appeared at each of the places we'd been.

### **What's in Bloom?**

"Was anything blooming in your gardens when you got home?" Listman asked. Everyone had something, including dahlias in Da Czar's garden, Peace roses in Note's, roses in DUH PREZ's, and jasmine in Listman's.

### **Into the Night**

When we last dined at Original Joes, a terrific rainstorm was raging outside, including several bright flashes of lightening and loud claps of thunder. Shortly after the waiter brought our check, the power went out in the restaurant and in the neighborhood. Such was not the case this evening.

It had been another stellar outing with a group of friends that has endured for more than 30 years, and tonight's meeting involved an appropriate mix of good food, strong drink, and noble friends. We stood outside Original Joe's, across Union Street from Washington Square Park. Tourists were enjoying pizza across the street on a beautiful evening in one of the most popular cities in the world. San Francisco, it seems, is back!

We exchanged hearty handshakes and ListMan wandered off to his car. Da Czar and Notes chauffeured DUH PREZ to one of his many residences, then journeyed onward to their abides. It had been another stellar evening together!

**Next Meeting**

Da Czar has scheduled the next gathering of the DHSOS for Thursday, August 20. He will be the acting PoV.

That's it for now, man.

☞ ☞ ☞

