

**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, February 15, 2024

Specs/Chinatown Muni/John's Grill

Call to Assemble

It was time to meet and da Czar, serving as temporary PoV, summoned us together:

Studs, our plans for February 15 go like this:

- *We will meet at Spec's at 6 pm and stay for an hour or so*
- *We will then walk to the Chinatown Muni station, see what there is to see, and then ride it to Market Street*
- *We'll walk from the MUNI Market Station to John Grill; our dinner there is at 7:30 pm*

Specs



As requested, the DHSOS assembled at Specs (or Specs' Twelve Adler Museum Café, as they like to be known) for a cocktail or two. We were welcomed and

treated cordially at this dive bar of all dive bars, where we fit in beautifully! This time, unlike a previous visit, we were not accused of being with the FBI (because we wore shirts with collars).

Shortly after being seated, DUH PREZ unzipped his jacket and displayed a gold-colored shirt upon which was emblazoned the letter **M**, **NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**, and **Go Blue**.

We reluctantly raised our glasses in a toast to Jim Harbaugh's final national championship college football team.



Chinatown Muni

After cocktails and problem-solving the DHSOS strolled from Specs through Chinatown to the new Rose Pak station at the north end of the Central Subway Project, and we rode MUNI from there to

the Powell Street station, near our dinner destination. In this newest MUNI stop, we descended the 100-foot escalators into the depths of the station which is ornately decorated with murals of fighting warriors on horseback, dragons, and historic San Francisco scenes. It looks clean and new, but does not smell that way. Is this 1.3 mile T-Third line (from Sunnydale to Chinatown) worth the \$1.6 billion and six years it took to build it? Call us skeptical.

John's Grill



Our dinner was at the legendary John's Grill, the original home of Da Burd, and a frequent watering hole of Dashiell Hammett. We had been there many times before, but not for a while, and it was good to be back!

As we waited for a table, DUH PREZ ran across the street, up several floors, rescued Da Burd from the trunk of his Porsche, dashed back down the stairs, and met us in front of the restaurant. He was barely breathing hard. We were immediately surrounded by hoards of lovely ladies, wondering how we were so fortunate as to have the original, authentic Maltese Falcon in our possession. About that time, we were summoned to our table.

Call to Order

DUH PREZ banged his knife against his water glass and called the meeting to order at 8:04 PM. We were officially under way.

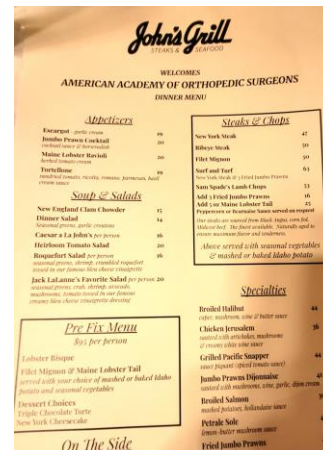
Da Burd



Da Burd presided over our table throughout dinner and attracted quite a bit of attention, including being fawned over by our waiter and several nearby patrons. No one mistook him for an eagle.

"Talking is something you can't do judiciously unless you keep in practice."
- Dashiell Hammett *The Maltese Falcon*

American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons



The knee and hip cutters were in town for their annual convention, including the husband of a friend of DUH PREZ. Several of them dined near us, and they were a boisterous group! One or two stopped by our table to exchange pleasantries and compliment Da Burd.

Speaking of Hips



Da Czar regaled us with the details of his upcoming surgery to get a second new hip. The procedure, on February 19, took place in Marin County, will require a few days of recovery and a month or so of rehab, after which Da Czar should be back at it.

We raised our glasses in a toast and wished him well!

Redwood Treehouse Report

DUH PREZ gave an update on improvements being made to the Redwood Tree House, aka the DHSOS vacation home. And, when pressed, he offered to send a list of potential dates for another gathering there of the DHSOS.

Da Sunroom is (Finally) Done!



Notes reported that the sunroom he has been working on (and reporting on) for

years is finally finished! He furnished a photo of the new facility and reported that his spouse is in the midst of furnishing it.

In Hot Water

Da Czar reported on an incident at his abode that started off as a simple lack of hot water and turned into something much larger. He manfully stepped up, got the incident resolved, and he and his spouse are once again enjoying hot water.

Travel Plans

Each of us have a major trip planned for 2024:

- DUH PREZ and spouse will visit Peru in March, as part of a University of Michigan Travel Group tour. A highlight will be exploring Machu Pichu.
- Da Czar and spouse will tour France in September/October and will include (among other highlights) a hiking tour with Backroads.
- ListMan and spouse will tour France and Spain in May, including time in the City of Lights.
- Notes and spouse will tour southern Spain in May, including cycling with a local company.

What did Dashiell eat at John's Grill?

In the novel, *The Maltese Falcon*, Sam Spade eats at John's Grill, ordering "Chops, baked potatoes, and sliced tomatoes." DUH PREZ came close, with "Sam Spade's Lamb Chops", mashed potatoes, and seasonal vegetables.

Joel Cairo: You always have a very smooth explanation ready.

Sam Spade: What do you want me to do, learn to stutter?

Baseball Outing

A discussion ensued about possibly attending a Giants baseball game or two this season and Notes volunteered to peruse the schedule for possible outings. Here are some options he identified:

Home Games:

Thursday, April 18, 6:45 PM vs Diamondbacks*

Sunday, June 2, 1:05 PM vs New York Yankees

Thursday, July 11, 12:45 PM vs Toronto Blue Jays

Away Games:

Saturday, July 20, 5:10 PM vs Rockies at Denver

Thursday, July 25, 1:00 PM vs Dodgers at Los Angeles

Friday, August 23, 7:10 PM vs Mariners at Seattle

Healdsburg Outing

Since the stellar getaway to the Redwood Tree House last year, the DHSOS has expressed interest in pursuing a similar outing again in 2024. DUH PREZ offered to review the calendar and identify possible dates.

Giants Prospects

We love the SF Giants, and Spring Training is starting, which always brings hope of a better team and better season. We discussed the Giants rather lackluster off-season acquisitions and their chances of a winning season this year. Notes lamented the emphasis on super-stars, rather than developing younger players. But now, it appears the Giants are going to try to play several of the younger players they have been trying to develop. This is their probable starting lineup and batting order, per one prognosticator:

1. Jung Hoo Lee CF
2. Thairo Estrada 2B
3. LaMonte Wade 1B
4. Jorge Soler DH

5. Michael Conforto LF
6. Wilmer Flores 3B
7. Mike Yastrzemski RF
8. Patrick Bailey C
9. Marco Luciano SS

Into the Night

SPADE AND ARCHER PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS

We finished our drinks, stumbled out of John's Grill, and stood in front for a few minutes, taking in the atmosphere and night air. The corner window of the fourth-floor office in the building across the street read "Spade and Archer – Private Investigators", which was lost on most of the orthopedic surgeons milling in the street, but it was not lost on the DHSOS. We issued a round of manly double fist bumps and headed out into the damp night air. It had been another stellar night out for a group of outstanding friends!

That's it for now, man.

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