

Writers in Stuttgart - Meeting Minutes October 14th, 2023

Chair: Barbara

Attendees: Jadi, Barbara, Katherine Breeden, Harish, Cihan, Jim (online), Cindy (online), Andrea (online), Pam (Jadi's sister)

Minute Taker: Andrea

Time: 10:19am - 1:30pm

TOP 1: Our past reading

TOP 2: Prompt

TOP 3: New member presents herself

TOP 4: Topic for our January 2024 reading: "Harvest"

TOP 5: Critiques

TOP 1: Our past reading

Barbara is happy about our last reading.

Pam's feedback (as member of the audience):

Andrea: super solid as the MC; delivery was great; seemed to enjoy her role as the MC; her story: very funny as soon as you realized it was the dog: it was almost like watching a reel (seeing the pictures)

Cindy: took a risk

Cihan: reading was great

As a group: a lot of diversity; collective abilities → maybe give a little gift to Helen Pavel next time?

@JADI: PLEASE ADD MORE DETAILS OF PAM'S FEEDBACK HERE!

Andrea: Thought this was our best performance yet. Cindy was the only one who seem to have reached our audience.

Cindy: We made 120Euro.

Harish: Good structuring of the line-up; understood Andrea better than in the past; the actresses Sylvia and Lisa did a really great job

Cihan: Was his first public reading; it would benefit us to have more rehearsal; I had a hard time finding a good posture; we would need more live rehearsals, including a director, without the audience already in the theater; maybe get Charles on board (?) or somebody else who is used to directing a stage

Barbara: Maybe more WiS members should participate in the rehearsals to contribute to readings, such as directing, giving advice on speaking speed.

Cihan: Free classes at "Musikhochschule".

@JADI or CIHAN: Could you please elaborate on this? I must admit I wasn't quite able to hear it.

Jadi: Maybe we could use our money in the bank for a workshop.

Cindy: Reading went better than expected; nice quaint intimate theater; Helen Pavel is very good to work with; our strength is our diversity; the reading is a performance: it went well but we were lacking a real run-through; grateful to the group and wants to thank that the group gave her enough confidence to take the risk of performing this. Seconds Cihan's suggesting of working with a director for future performances.

Barbara: Feels the microphone wasn't necessary. Thinks that Michael's phone might have been switched on and caused the audio trouble. Loved Erica's piece – it was the best. Is suggesting publishing a **booklet** to go with our readings.

Harish: Suggests not publishing the complete stories but maybe an intro to the pieces in the **program**. It might encourage the audience to engage more with the readers.

Cihan: Suggests **selling** snippets of our writing at reading. A kind of **anthology** or documentation of our readings.

Katherine: Was at our reading – maybe for the first time ever in her life of being at a live reading. Loved the space. Says she, as part of the audience, did react but was sitting in the back. Enjoyed the wide variety of different kinds of work. Came across as being very formal – certainly more formal than she had expected. Seconded Cindy's suggestion of doing more marketing. Katherine only knew about it thanks to our website. She really enjoyed it and thought it was great. Suggests having a different arrangement of the chairs of the audience to create a more intimate feeling.

Barbara summarizes that the reading was a **success** and suggests **talking about publishing an anthology** in our annual meeting in **February 2024**.

TOP 2: Prompt by Barbara

"People talk about how sadness accrues, but never enough about how joy expands".

Task: Write in conversation with this piece.

Katherine shares

Andrea shares

Harish shares

Jim shares

Jadi shares

Cihan shares

Barbara shares

Cindy shares

TOP 3: New member presents herself

Katherine Breeden: from Minnesota introduces herself; in the Stuttgart area since 2009. 8-year-old daughter and a German husband; has a dog. Teaches at International School Stuttgart. Started writing a lot during the pandemic.

TOP 4: Topic for our January 2024 reading: "Harvest"

The following topics were suggested:

The In Crowd

Misunderstandings

Fleeting thoughts / flying words

Con/descending the stairs/stares

Dumbfounded

Lunchtime Rituals

Harvest

The majority of all Writers in Stuttgart present at today's monthly meeting voted for "**Harvest**" to be our topic for our January 2024 reading at Merlin.

Jadi is to inform Charles Urban about this topic.

TOP 5: Critiques

#1: Jim: "Photography means..."

Cihan recommends using one specific addressee that the speaker's voice is teaching in specific, for example a 15- or 20-year-old.

Harish recommends not putting too much info at the same time and to consider creating a blog.

Jadi recommends avoiding run-on sentences.

Cindy thinks the philosophical discussion about what's a photograph versus what's a snap shot is relevant. And does beauty purely lie in the eye of the beholder? Another discussion worthwhile having.

#2: Jadi: "Kill the Rabbit"

A story set 50 years in the future

Tattooed black-and-white individual who identifies as a zebra has been elected governor and is loved.

Jim: would like to have a written copy

Cihan: Would find it more interesting if the character himself did not but somebody (or everybody) else identifies him as the zebra.

Jadi: would like to publish it in a book with the title "Zebra for President" and would like to bring in different perspective in different chapters.

Barbara: Likes that the fact that the character has tattoos.

#3: Cihan: untitled; topic: "Bad Influence"

British individual talking or writing to their neighbor on a facebook friendship.