

## Writers in Stuttgart - Meeting, January 13, 2024

**Chair:** Barbara

**Minutes:** Jim

**Attendees:** (all on Zoom) Jadi, Jim, Erica, Barbara, Katharine, Andrea, Irene and Cindy

**Prompt by Barbara:** Write about a thing your life has in excess

- Jadi: Curiosity - what is on the other side?
- Katharine: Drama, Chaos.
- Jim: Opportunities and the people I have met along the way
- Cindy: Things to do.
- Andea: Excess love
- Erica: Scream time
- Irene: Reading
- Barbara: Room to be new

**Brainstorming Session:** (replaced a reading)

Jadi would like feedback on a new book she is considering about a man running for president who is half Zebra.

**Feedback:**

- A man who is covered in zebra tattoos?
- A Dr Jeckel and Mr Hyde theme?
- Beauty and the beast?
- An orphan from a science lab?
- Erica suggested looking at a James Patterson series on kids that escaped from a lab.
- Jim suggested that somehow to relate it to AI and research gone wrong. Also about having an animal sperm bank get mixed up with a human sperm bank.
- Andrea thinks that you need a surprising element stemming from international research. Erica also suggested looking at the John Elder Roberson books.

**Discussion: Review of the Merlin reading:**

Barbara thought we should have a director to organize and choreograph the reading. Someone who is not in the group. We also need to have an MC. It is really important that a director also control and manage the rehearsals. People must have integrity and if they commit to reading they must attend the rehearsals or pull out of the reading. We must have better accountability to the group.

Florian was playing too long and a little somber.

Andrea mentioned that another group meeting at the Merlin was disruptive. Charles will ask that they not meet at the same time as a WIS reading.

Erica said that there were about 75 people in the back room and they were very loud. She suggested that we have readings in April and October.

## **2024 Readings:**

Cindy thought that April and October would be better reading time and agreed with having a director.

Jadi agrees that the reading should be moved to April.

Andrea thinks we need to have two live rehearsals before the readings but was disappointed that when we set live rehearsals people do not show up.

Katharine thinks readings should be in April and November. October was too cluttered with happenings from the end of summer. She also felt that the reading did not transition smoothly to the second half.

## **Possible Agenda or topics for the February annual meeting:**

What works and what does not work?

We need member feedback to create an annual meeting agenda

Our monthly meeting time? We have a membership of 15 and averaged 7 members per meeting in 2023 - How do we get consistent attendance?

How many readings per year should we have?

Erica wants to know about Write-ins and Barbara wants to talk about a mulching meeting where we just share ideas.

## **The Website:**

How many use it as a communications tool?

Annual cost of maintaining it

Zoom annual cost - it is owned by the writers in Stuttgart. Members can use it for future personal meetings but should let members know when they want to use it in Member comments.

How much should 2024 dues be? Jim suggested \$35

Treasurer's Report: Jim

## **Business:**

We have decided to make dues due by the end of February to determine the amount of annual dues for 2024 and change the annual meeting to January. Then, keep dues due at the end of January.

Erica will chair in April.

Andrea will not be available in February.

There is another writing group at the DAZ that focuses on Children's, young adults and illustrators books. Andrea suggested that we should have a combined meeting sometime.

Jim will request meeting agenda items posted to Member comments from the group via Member's news email.