

Writers in Stuttgart – Monthly Meeting of Saturday, March 9th, 2024

Attendees: Jadi (DAZ), Andrea (DAZ), Cihan, (DAZ), Barbara (Zoom),
Erica (Zoom), Cindy (Zoom) Jim (Zoom), Katharine (Zoom)

Chair: Jim

Minute Take: Andrea

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

#1: Barbara finds the tone of Jim’s e-mail disrespectful

Every member present at the meeting had a chance to share their opinion on this issue. Jim essentially said it was necessary to make members pay and receive the new WiS password in time for today’s monthly hybrid meeting.

#2: Prompt by Barbara: “You wake up to discover a completely different, unknown face staring back at you from a mirror.”

Writers who share:

#1: Jadi: Waking up on the morning after a drunk Carnival disco night.

#2: Katharine Geldner-Schmidt: Looking into the mirror wondering if the face she is looking at is a mask someone has slipped onto the protagonist’s face.

#3: Jim: First-person narrator is unsure if he is seeing his own face. “Seeing is not always literal. [...] Even with my eyes closed, I see [...]”. “I’m dangerous because I’m thinking.”

#4: Erica: “I used to see myself in my mind’s eye.” On seeing oneself age in the mirror.

#5: Andrea: On seeing a stranger inside the mirror who says: “Come here.”

#6: Cihan: “Woman – question mark” – “Woman – fullstop”

#7: Barbara: “Aged to perfection”; “Here, where the sweetness sickens.”

#3: Reading for critiques:

Jadi: A book report on “The ghost writer” by Philipp Roth from his book series “Nathan Zuckerman” (1980 finalist for Pulitzer Prize among others); uber-Jewish author; Anne Frank is the greatest Jewish writer that ever lived: needy, neurotic; Roth knew Salinger (“The Catcher in the Rye” required reading in US schools in the 1950s and 1960s); Harold Bloom was extremely enamored of Philipp Roth.

#4: Business:

◆Website

A long discussion ensues on the pros and cons of the Writers in Stuttgart website. Even though some members prefer not to actively use it, most members present agree that the

Writers in Stuttgart website serves its purpose and therefore should be continually used by most of the group.

◆**Hybrid meetings vs. meetings at the DAZ**

Members take the opportunity to share their preferences in respect to hybrid as well as in-person meetings at the DAZ.

◆**January 2024 reading at Merlin**

According to our treasurer Cindy we made 91€. Apparently, not even the musician Florian Eisentraut remembers whether or not the Writers in Stuttgart paid him for his musical accompaniment of our January reading. Cindy says we get 80 percent of the take for our Writers in Stuttgart group.

◆**Paying Florian**

Everybody present agrees that Florian should be paid 30€ for the last public reading in January. Jim agreed to pay the money to Florian from the Writers in Stuttgart Bank account.

#5: Prompt by Erica: "All ignorance toboggans into know and trudges up to ignorance again." - e.e. Cummings. Members agree to use the last half hour of the time allotted for the monthly meeting to write.