

Writers in Stuttgart

Meeting minutes of November 08th, 2025

Meeting time: 10:00am –1:00pm

Attendees: Jadi, Katharine B., Andrea, Malcolm Carvalho, Erica, Katherine S., Stefan, Marco

TOP 1: Round of Introductions

TOP 2: Our Website

TOP 3: Two Writing Prompts

TOP 4: Round of Critiques

TOP 5: Public Reading Feedback

TOP 6: Dates for WiS Monthly Meetings 2026 & Merlin Reading

TOP 7: To do list Topics for future monthly meetings

TOP 8: December Meeting

TOP 9: WiS Bank Statement

TOP 1: Round of Introductions

New member: Stefan from Romania, writes poems, has published a poem collection in Romania, and is looking to find a group in Germany that helps his writing confidence. buleastefanel@gmail.com

TOP 2: Our Website

If anyone struggles to find the date(s) for the upcoming monthly meeting, please log onto our website, go to “member login” to get to the “Members Only” section of our website. The third item underneath it is “Meeting Dates”. If you have missed a meeting, catch up by clicking on the fourth item, which is “Meeting Minutes”.

TOP 3: Two Writing Prompts

Pick one of the two suggestions made by Erica:

- a) "Write about a thing that bothered you in youth or still bothers you" and/or
- b) "Writing is utter solitude, the descent into the cold abyss of oneself" (Franz Kafka)

TOP 4: Round of Critiques

Andrea: Read a prose poem about becoming a EU-Citizen: "A Cut through the Heart".

Malcolm: Read "Everywhere to hide, nowhere to be seen".

Marco: Read the second chapter of his horror novel.

TOP 5: Public Reading Feedback

We need to make it clearer at what time everyone has to be at the event location at future readings (and/or members need to be encouraged to read the monthly meeting minutes to find out). We need to work on the process of picking an MC, which to some members did not seem to be fair to the new member Paul at his very first meeting. We found out that the theater hosts (Helen Pavel and bartender Ulrike (?)) were a bit rude; we should probably talk about that. Paul did a great a job as our MC.

From the audience perspective of Katharine B., it was one of the better readings of our recent history. She just wished there had been more audience members. Advertising our future readings more efficiently could be our goal to work towards for the year 2026.

TOP 6: Dates for WiS monthly meetings 2026 & Merlin Reading

Andrea is going to ask the DAZ for permission to meet in person at the DAZ on the following dates: She will get the confirmation to you on the December 2025 meeting.

January 10th, 2026

February 28th, 2026

March 21st, 2026

April 18th, 2026

May 9th, 2026

June 13th, 2026

July 11th, 2026

As the DAZ is closed and many of the Writers in Stuttgart tend to travel during the month of August, we usually don't have a meeting during the month of August. In around June we will fix meeting dates for September through December 2026 with the DAZ.

Jadi is going to get in touch with Charles Urban to find out if we can do a public reading at Merlin as part of N.E.A.T.'s **Dark Monday** series on **April 13th**, 2026. She will let us know at the December 2025 monthly meeting.

TOP 7: To do-List Topics for 2026

- How can we improve our presence on social media to increase our audience for public readings? (Including, who might like to keep active our apparently already existing but still unused Instagram account?)
- Having a talk about AI-usage for our future public reading programs.
- We should think about a theme of our next public reading.
- Vote for a theme for next reading.

TOP 8: December Meeting

In an e-mail to all the members on our present members' mailing list, Paul suggested the following for our December 13th monthly meeting: "Perhaps we can have a holiday theme for writing....something about dread and family".

TOP 9: WiS Bank Statement

Our group made 132,00€ with our October 2025 reading at DGT.

The treasurer paid 38€ towards the cover charge for Tom Coats and his wife Renate (14€ x 2) plus two drinks (2 glasses of wine, 10€) for our new webmaster and his wife; 11,30€ to Erica for the cab fare, 11,00€ to Malcolm for getting the programs copied, and 30€ to our musician Florian. As a result, the group presently has 726,68€ and costs for the website will have to be paid to Tom Coats in February, 2026.