

WIS MEETING MINUTES: April 1, 2023

Meeting Time: 10:00 -13:00

Meeting Place: DAZ & Zoom

Chair: Diane

Minutes: Jadi

Present: Diane, Jadi, Ellen, Cihan, Barbara, Andrea, Cindy, Erica virtually

Prompt: from Barbara: "In the afterlife you are given a choice of 7 gates to pass through and indulge in sin for the rest of eternity. What gate are you going through? Your choices are Greed/avarice, lust, sloth, envy, pride, gluttony, wrath."

Critiques: Jadi read an excerpt from *The Taste of Your Name*, her novel-in-progress, describing the morning after a ménage à trois has been taken to the next level. The definition of ménage à trois was discussed. We discussed a deeper exploration of male insecurity and ambivalence in sexual dynamics, and the blind spots we have as writers.

Barbara read her poem *God's Pain*. Barbara connects anger at God for a father's death to warning that God needs to guard his heart, because his neglected children are on a rampage. We debated the ways poems reflect back the reader and his/her life experiences.

Cihan read his poem *This Beating Heart of Flesh of Mine*. Written in the language of Shakespeare it evokes the inexorable decay of stone statues, monuments to achievements and vanity. A discussion followed of what the imagery brought forth hearing the poem with/without the poet's explanation.

Business:

1. This was our first Zoom/in-person meeting at DAZ in 3 years. We will continue to meet at DAZ and hold hybrid meetings.
2. Andrea continues to be responsible for coming to Stuttgart to get the key for our in-person meetings. She remains our DAZ contact person. (NOTE: Andrea should be reimbursed for her transportation costs.)
3. Cihan Azak joined our group. Cihan is an established poet/film producer/author – and the Writers in Stuttgart are his first writing group. Welcome, Cihan!
4. Barbara states the last 2 meetings have been far too chaotic. Members should show up to do what they promised, and we've wasted too much time.
5. Diane pointed out that Jadi takes the Minutes at almost every meeting.
6. Barbara will take Minutes in May. Cihan offered to Chair. (NOTE: I see in past minutes that Jadi said she'd chair in May, so she will do so.)
7. Prompts will remain provided by Barbara and Erica as established.
8. The present situation with Jim running all our computer responsibilities needs to be addressed. Jadi and Jim will schedule a tutorial once he has Internet access again.

9. Jadi successfully sent out the March Minutes as an email to all members. This will remain the temporary solution.
10. Andrea has not received a response from TAO to host our October reading.
11. Cindy will contact Dreigroschentheater as a possible venue.
12. Possible themes for the reading are Legacy or Harvest. We will vote in May.
Cindy is on record as voting to use the theme Harvest.
13. Our next scheduled meeting is May 6, 2023.
14. The meeting ended at 13:00.
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