

Writers in Stuttgart – Monthly Meeting of Saturday, April 13th, 2024

Attendees: Jadi (Zoom), Jim (Zoom), Michael Hilton (Zoom), Katharine (Zoom), (DAZ) Katherine B (DAZ), Andrea (DAZ), Erica (DAZ), Barbara (DAZ)

Chair: Erica

Minutes: Jadi

Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Prompt from Erica: Embarrassment. Is it different for adults and children? Write your most embarrassing moment.

#1 Jadi: walking off a dock as a child and everyone laughing

#2 Katharine: at a pool; embarrassing her mom; pointing at someone

#3 Barbara: poem

#4 Jim: his son spitting up on someone's back in a store; Jane's wig ripped off her head

#5 Katherine: even as an adult she feels embarrassment as a child

#6 Erica: got caught rooting out her neighbor's Burger King coupons from his mailbox

Critiques:

#1 Michael: *If I Forget*. Psalm 137: If I forget you O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! A Dramatic Poem concerning the Middle East situation at present. The poem is a dialog of 2 deceased young people, one killed October 7 and in Gaza. Their souls are conversing in an afterlife. "The heart can only go in so many directions at the same time." He used regular font and italics to indicate the two voices, a technique used by Toni Morrison in *The Bluest Eye*. Comments: he could use the visual display of poem on the page to present voices. Poem could be shorter and more powerful if it's clear that they are dead earlier in the poem. The word 'they' in the poem is vague.

#2 Jim: He hasn't been able to write for the last 6 months, appalled by the world's situation. Watching 60 Minutes is being sucked in the proverbial rabbit hole away from the present. He's sick and tired of wasting his days. Story in the first-person present tense. His phone screen suddenly pings and shows "Reset your mind. Make the future you proud of the current you," with the word in the bottom center: CALM. This was not a fortune cookie moment. It was synchronicity. Comments: Jane appears in all his pieces. Jim could write a story about her care, vis-a-vis the state of the world. Carl Jung's synchronicity. Jim's technical writing background makes his writing succinct and gives it clarity. The dissonance between the technical and personal gives it a good tension. Also, Jim's humor serves his pieces well!

#3 Katherine: Untitled. Poem about tongue chewing, being cursed by grandfather's chewed tongue, and ballerina. Comments: Assonance. Connection between grandfather and child. A discussion of the word 'hypnagogic'. Erica recommends to the group *Man and His Symbols* by Jung about our collective (communal) consciousness.

Business:

#1 A group vote for theme for October 18, 2024 reading at Dreigroschen Theater: Fierce Flights & Gentle Landings. Andrea wrote to let Helen Pavel at 3GT know.

#2 The next meeting is May 4th. Jadi will take Minutes. Jim will Chair. Members signed up for the following tasks:

June: Chair: Katherine B, Minutes: Michael

October: Chair: Katharine, Minutes: Barbara

November Minutes: Erica

Recent Member Writing Achievements and Honors:

#1 Jadi's show *The Heart of a Song* connecting barbershop quartet songs will premiere July 1, 2024 at Merlin.

#2 Jim's photography is showing at Reichenau next weekend and has published in book form.

#3 Katherine's poem "Chimera" was a semi-finalist in Lefty Blondie Press Editor's Broadside series, a women owned and run small press in Pittsburgh. Her poem "Mom Body" was recently published in Vol. 2 of Anodyne Magazine based in Berlin.

The meeting concluded at 12:52.