



### Annual General Meeting 2022

Since, as a registered association, we are required to hold an AGM once a year, the committee is determined to make the event as interesting, informative and fun as possible.

To that end, and to give the widest possible opportunity for attendance, it is planned to hold the 2022 meeting on the evening of Thursday, 3rd March at the Maison des Associations in town. The official business will be followed by a social get-together with a buffet and drinks.

Besides reports from the president, treasurer and auditors, there will be news of a new website under development, and the opportunity to share your own observations and suggestions for events and activities.

Please note that only paid-up members will be allowed to attend, so don't forget to renew your membership for 2022! Attendance is free of charge, but a HelloAsso event will be created to allow us to plan the catering.

The committee is of course keeping a close watch on pandemic developments and, if the risks of an in-person meeting seem too great, it may be necessary to revert to an online format.

Mike Wraith

### February 2022 - Inside this issue

- 2 • New! Mahjong
- 3 • Looking back at a Galette des rois family party
- 4 • Book club selection

### new ESC contacts

- General: [contact@esc-alsace.org](mailto:contact@esc-alsace.org)
- Newsletter: [newsletter@esc-alsace.org](mailto:newsletter@esc-alsace.org)
- Events: [events@esc-alsace.org](mailto:events@esc-alsace.org)

# Upcoming events

## Monthly coffee morning at l'Escale

THURSDAY 10 MARCH: 9.30 - 11.30 am (change of date)



Maggie will welcome members who would like to come and visit the Escale upstairs room (78 rue du Docteur François, La Robertsau, tram E) between 9.30 and 11.30 am. The room has been booked on the following dates: 7/04, 12/05, 16/06. The *pass sanitaire* will be checked.

Coffee, tea and cakes will be waiting for you.

A selection of books will be on display. We have some new ones, so surely you will find something you want to take home.

For further details, contact [mvautheny@esc-alsace.org](mailto:mvautheny@esc-alsace.org).



## Would you give Mahjong a try?

TUESDAY 8 FEBRUARY: 2.00 pm



Hannelore Bolon would like to start a Mahjong group. Hannelore has been playing Mahjong for a number of years with a Strasbourg group affiliated to the Fédération Française de Mahjong and would like to show you how to play this fascinating game.

The group could meet on a Tuesday afternoon or evening. The first meeting would be on the 8th February as of 2.00 pm. A second one is planned on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Come and find out about pungs, chows, kongs as well as dragons and winds. Interested? Please contact Hannelore at [lolo.bolon@wanadoo.fr](mailto:lolo.bolon@wanadoo.fr)

# Notice

## Catholic Masses in English

We have been informed that the Catholic Archdiocese has started having masses in Strasbourg.

For the time being, the mass will be held every fortnight on Saturday at 5.00 pm at the Church of the Dominicans, 41 boulevard de La Victoire in Strasbourg. The next mass is on 12th February.

# Past event

## Sharing a Galette des Rois, a cheerful family event!

Galette des Rois is a very important event for my children and we were delighted to know that the ESC was organising such an event for families. My family and I never participated in ESC activities but our friend Vlada told us about it. For my children Leo (7 y. o.) and Eleonore (4 y. o.) it is a moment of winter magic time and they were very excited to attend.

Maggie and Henri are just lovely hosts and we were very happy to spend time at their place. Even if our children are not fluent in English, they could participate in activities and share the Galette des Rois with their friends. Leo was the lucky one to find the *fève*. Fortunately all the children had made their crowns, so there was no misunderstanding! The children could listen to a Bible story about the Three Wise Men, nicely read to them by Christine. They were sitting quietly and it was a wonderful Epiphany moment. The grown-ups had their own Galette and our family was lucky one more time as my husband got the *fève*.

All the children enjoyed a lot playing in the garden while the adults had *Crémant* and a friendly conversation. In addition, they left with fancy little gifts. They enjoyed the afternoon at Maggie and Henri's place so much that I hope we will participate more in ESC events in the future.

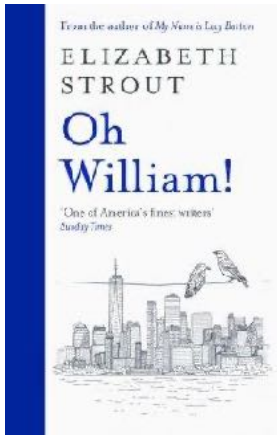
It is very important to continue social activities during this complicated time, and I am very thankful to ESC members for their attention, hospitality and organisation. It was such a pleasant moment!

Liza Gryson



# Book club review

## “Oh William!” by Elizabeth Strout



“ The author explores feelings of loneliness and the impossibility of knowing another person. ”

A small group braved the cold foggy weather to share our thoughts about Elizabeth Strout's latest book. I had gone against all accepted rules by choosing a book that I had not even read. So I was delighted to find that I enjoyed reading it, as did the other members of our group.

The deceptively easy conversational style of writing of the novel was liked by some but put others off.

Although the book can be read on its own, those of us who had read “*I am Lucy Barton*” by the same author were pleased to find out more about the characters in that book, especially Lucy's ex-husband William.

William's desire to find out more about a family secret takes him and Lucy on a road trip where we learn more about their fears and insecurities as well as their other marriages. We also found out more about their childhood experiences and how these had influenced their adult lives for better or worse.

The author explores feelings of loneliness and the impossibility of knowing another person.

“ We are all mysteries. ”

Maggie Vautheny



Elizabeth Strout is the author of several novels, including *Abide with Me*, an American bestseller. In 2009 she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for her book *Olive Kitteridge*. Her short stories have been published in a number of magazines, including *The New Yorker*. She teaches at the Master of Fine Arts program at Queens University of Charlotte.

Interested in joining the book club? Contact Joëlle at [bookclub@esc-alsace.org](mailto:bookclub@esc-alsace.org)

The next books for discussion are:

“ Snow ” by John Banville on 14th February,

“ The Spinoza Problem ” by Irvin Yalom on 14th March,

“ The Humans ” by Matt Haig on 11th April.

To renew your registration with the ESC, just click on the link in red below.

**ESC Membership / Registration 2022:** <https://esc-alsace.org/Join>

Feel free to contact the treasurer at [membership@esc-alsace.org](mailto:membership@esc-alsace.org).