



## Christmas Party and Quiz

Dear ESC Members,

December is already around the corner and, as we all know, it is the month of the Christmas party. So, after a fantastic Bonfire kick-off and before we start setting Burns Supper tables in January, it is time for the ESC to get partying. This year, on Saturday 3 December, we would love for you all to come and celebrate Christmas and take part in the quiz. Everyone is welcome!

The party will be an opportunity for us all to don our 'glad rags' for an evening of glamour! You can wear whatever makes you feel glamorous and special. Dress 'up' as much as you want, it's totally up to you. The main thing is that we want everyone to be a part of what is certain to be a really enjoyable evening. At this red-carpet event, all our wonderful ESC members will be the stars of the show!

The theme of the quiz will follow suit. Yes, it's all about 'Glamour'. So, brush up on your knowledge of the Fashion World. Think Hollywood, think Designer, think icons...

See you all there!

Joëlle Glore, President

## November - December 2022

For more info and updates, visit the  
[What's On](#) page of the ESC website:

...[esc-alsace.org](http://esc-alsace.org)...

## 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

also see: <https://esc-alsace.org/calendar/>

## Coffee Morning

**THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER: 9.30 - 11.30 am**

Members and guests are welcome to visit us for our free coffee mornings in La Robertsau (CSC l'Escale, 78 rue du Docteur François: tram E, buses 30 and L6, good parking facilities, access for disabled available).

The upstairs room has been booked on the following dates: 15/12, 12/01, 02/02.

Call in any time between 9.30 and 11.30 pm for a chat, drinks, biscuits and friendly faces. A selection of books will be on display. Surely you find something you will want to take home. For further details, please contact Maggie at [mvautheny@esc-alsace.org](mailto:mvautheny@esc-alsace.org).



## Bowling Night

**FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER: 6.30 pm**

The last visits to the Orangerie were very popular, so we are proposing to return to play ten-pin bowling on Friday 18 November, starting at 6.30 pm.

The price is €10 for members and €12 for guests. This includes two games, shoe rental and a drink.

The emphasis will be on having fun with expertise being a minor, optional extra, as we say.

A light dinner will be planned afterwards at the Orangerie. We hope you can join us!

Please sign up here: [BowlingOrangerie](#).



## Guided Visit at the Chocolate Museum

**SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER: 14.00 - 16.00 pm**

**Registrations are now closed.**

We're taking you on a cocoa afternoon to discover the secrets of chocolate. At the Chocolate Museum in Geispolsheim, a must for chocolate lovers, you will have fun and a tasty experience! The programme includes a visit of the museum, a spread-making demonstration and a teatime snack in an old train from the famous Orient-Express era.

The price amounts to €14/adult, €13/child from 7-12 and €16/non-member.

Looking forward to seeing you there – rue du Pont du Péage in Geispolsheim.



## Christmas Party and Quiz!

**SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER: 7.30 pm**

As we all know, December is the month of the Christmas party. Therefore, it is time for the ESC to get partying too! This year, we would love for you all to come and celebrate with us at Joëlle and Olivier's in La Robertsau.

The party will be an opportunity for us all to don our 'glad rags' for an evening of glamour! You can wear whatever makes you feel glamorous and special. Dress 'up' as much as you want, it's totally up to you. The main thing is that we want everyone to be a part of what is certain to be a really enjoyable evening.

The theme of the quiz is 'Glamour', led by Véronique and Terence. So, brush up on your knowledge of the Fashion World. Think Hollywood, think Designer, think Icons...

Food and drinks will be provided at a subsidised price of €12 for members, €15 for their guests. This is an adults-only event. Please sign up here [ChristmasParty](#).



## Burns Supper

**SATURDAY 21 JANUARY 2023 - 7.00 pm**

End of January every year, the ESC honours the life and work of the Scottish poet Robert Burns with a dinner and ceilidh dancing, together with the pipers to provide musical interludes throughout the evening. A real treat!

We are delighted to once again offer you the chance to celebrate Burns Night on Saturday 21 January 2023. Book your places now for the Burns Supper and ceilidh which will take place in the usual venue, ESCO, Espace Culturel d'Offendorf, rue du Cimetière, 67850 Offendorf, starting at 19h00 sharp.

Guests will enjoy a traditional Scottish 3-course menu including the famous McSween's haggis with wine, water and a wee dram for the toasts. If you prefer vegetarian haggis, please inform us at the time of booking. Additional drinks will be available at the cash bar. As always, this is an event for over-16s only to allow the adults a well-deserved evening out unburdened by the little ones and to avoid any mishaps on the dance floor.

**Places are available to ESC members at the early-bird discounted price of €40 until 20 November**, after which date they will be on general sale at €45. It's expected to be an early sell-out so don't delay booking.

Register with Maggie at [mvautheny@esc-alsace.org](mailto:mvautheny@esc-alsace.org) and make your cheques payable to ESC. Your places are confirmed by email on receipt of your cheque.



# Regular groups

## Mahjong group

ON ALTERNATE TUESDAY AFTERNOONS

Hannelore would gladly welcome you around the Mahjong table to show you the secrets of this fascinating strategy game. The group (4 to 8 participants) meets in private homes on a rotating basis, on a Tuesday afternoon (some evening meetings may be tried in the upcoming months).

To join or for details, please contact Hannelore at [hannelore.bolon@gmail.com](mailto:hannelore.bolon@gmail.com)



## Impro group

MONTHLY MEETINGS ON FRIDAYS 7.00 - 9.00 pm

Theatrical improvisation, impro, is a good opportunity for live practice of the English language, in a games format for fun two-hour sessions which can appeal to natives and fluent non-natives, even if they have no experience or ambition in theatre. You will be gently guided by Nikki to act in several role-playing exercises with an emphasis on spontaneity. Just be ready to let mental barriers down to tap into your creative side! To express interest, please contact Nikki at [nikki.lynn.michaelson@gmail.com](mailto:nikki.lynn.michaelson@gmail.com).



## Conversation groups

The organisation of each group is specific.  
Please get the details of the dates and locations of the next meetings directly from the group leaders listed below:



### English conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Nigel at [nigelpermaul@gmail.com](mailto:nigelpermaul@gmail.com) - 06 75 63 89 98

### German conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Bronwyn at [bharrowfield@esc-alsace.org](mailto:bharrowfield@esc-alsace.org) - 06 85 33 11 24

### French conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Colette at [fredericka06@yahoo.fr](mailto:fredericka06@yahoo.fr) - 03 88 20 21 17

### Spanish conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Maria at [mtremoureux@esc-alsace.org](mailto:mtremoureux@esc-alsace.org) - 06 11 12 68 51

# Strasbourg Write A Story

## Free Creative Writing Workshops 2022-2023

The short story competition Strasbourg Write a Story is back!

The competition will open its doors in January but through autumn 2022, a series of free creative writing workshops are offered as follows:

Location: Lieu d'Europe (8 Rue Boeklin, Strasbourg) near the Robertsau Boecklin - E tram stop.

**19th November 2022 – 14h30-16h30 (sorry, that workshop is now full)**

### Creating captivating characters with Jan Carson

This interactive workshop will give you all the practical tools you need to create fictional characters your readers will both enjoy and remember. The session will be fun, informal and full of exercises and discussions, suitable for beginner and emerging writers.

**10th December 2022 – 14h-16h**

### Get your imagination going with Helen Mundler

This workshop will encourage participants to stimulate their creative processes. Please bring newspaper or magazine articles, photocopied pages from a novel, short story or non-fiction book, scissors, a glue stick, pens and pencils.

**28th January 2023 14h-16h**

Jennifer K. Dick is associate professor at the Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse where she teaches Creative Writing, American Literature and Civilisation.

**4th February 2023 14h-16h**

Bart Hulley is a literary translator with a PhD in Translation Studies, and teaches Literary Translation at the University of Strasbourg.

**13th May 10h-12h Location TBC**

### Giving the Reader What They Need without Actually Giving It, Katy Masuga

This workshop focuses on "show, don't tell" and "less is more" where emphasis is placed on conveying an effect through description instead of narration. We will find ways to ignite the text and reach the reader in unexpected ways.

Sign up on the SWAS website: <http://sxb-write-a-story.org/workshops-2022-23/>

*Free the writer within!*



## Walk to Jaegerthal and Windstein

We were a cosy 'fivesome' for this autumnal hike. Despite an uncertain weather forecast, luck proved to be on our side as the damp mist cleared into brilliant, warm sunshine.

Our starting point was at the cradle of the De Dietrich Industrial Empire in the secluded Jaegerthal valley with its long-abandoned first forge and furnaces. From here we climbed up to Windstein's new (13<sup>th</sup> century) and old (12<sup>th</sup> century) castles built into and on massive sandstone outcrops. There were plenty of exotic-looking mushrooms to be studied on the way ('to pick or not to pick?') and a load of fat chestnuts to take home and roast or save for the Christmas turkey stuffing.



On the way down, we came across several Maginot Line casemates which looked rather like giant mushrooms hiding in the undergrowth but popping up all around us, a sober reminder of the heavy combat that took place in this region at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

Back down in the valley a tasty, home-baked 'tarte au fromage' awaited us at the Windstein Hotel and Restaurant. This to mark the end of not only our day but also the end of the hotel's season as they prepared to close up for the Winter. See you next year!

Polly Stotz

## To Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease,  
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?  
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find  
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,  
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;  
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,  
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook  
Spare the next swath and all its twined flowers:  
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep  
Steady thy laden head across a brook;  
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,  
Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?  
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,-  
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,  
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;  
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn  
Among the river shallows, borne aloft  
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;  
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;  
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft  
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;  
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

*John Keats, Winchester, 19<sup>th</sup> September 1819*

Sent by Maryline Neuschwander



# Past events: September and October

Apéro at La Péniche Mécanique



In Frankembourg castle ruins



Rentrée picnic in Parc de l'Orangerie



At the Ateliers de la Seigneurie in Andlau



*The Dog it was that Died* (Tagora)

# November: Reviews and contributions

## Childhood memories of a Bonfire Night commemoration

For the first 10 years of my life I lived in Chiswick, and my first memories of Bonfire Night on 5th November was when I was 7 or 8 years of age, when my father had come home with a large box of fireworks with the firm intention of setting them off 'one by one' until the box was empty. It didn't go according to plan as the fuse of the first firework my father lit, landed in the open box and before we knew it, my father had sensed the danger and ordered us to get inside the house as quickly as possible and he closed the door. All we could do was watch an hour-long spectacle be reduced to five minutes of mayhem with fireworks (rockets, fountains, banger, Catherine wheels) going off in all directions at pretty much the same time.



At the age of 9, about a week before Bonfire Night, I asked my mother if I could make a dummy of Guy Fawkes and with it, stand on the corner of the main street and call out, 'Penny for the Guy!' To my surprise, she gave me her approval to do it but only after school on the Friday evening – 3rd November.

To bring my project to fruition, she gave me some old, frayed clothes of my father's and lots of old broadsheet newspapers (kept for the coal fire) which I could stuff into the clothes: a pair of black trousers, an old light-blue collarless shirt, a cardigan that had seen better days and, to make the head, one of her old stockings. I filled the dummy up with screwed-up balls of paper and, to make it look realistic, we fitted a Guy-Fawkes lookalike mask on the stocking head.

We had a pushchair and I was given permission to put my Guy Fawkes into it and push it to the end of the road where I was to stay and not to move from that spot. Moreover, she told my middle sister to accompany me and ensure I obeyed her instructions.

Lo and behold, these four words – 'Penny for the Guy' – brought in many pennies, 'thruppenny' bits and the odd sixpence. My sister made sure we were back home in good time and, once home, I set about emptying the tin full of coins onto the kitchen table in the scullery and counting them. In less than an hour, we had amassed about 7 shillings which, in those days, was a fair sum of money.

Terence Boyle

Find more details on:

[The Gunpowder Plot](#)

[Guy Fawkes](#)

(click on the links to [www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage](http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage))



# Thanksgiving

## Tribute to the Newsletter Guardian Angels

In a few weeks, the festive Christmas season will begin. While the Strasbourg markets will open, on the fourth Thursday of November, our American friends living in Alsace will be celebrating Thanksgiving, a great time to reflect and appreciate the things you have and value. A time for families to meet, socialise and enjoy each other's company - something the ESC tries to provide all year round.

For a few years, I've been signing the newsletter issues as the editor. I would like to let you know of the precious help I get in the process. Let's now give thanks to those unsung heroes.

In 2018, Véronique and I started working on refreshing the appearance of the magazine. We received a decisive support from Clara Boyle who brought her graphic design skills to our association. Clara creates multilingual websites and all types of communication media for a company based in Schiltigheim. She deserves our praise for her contribution to the new layout, as well as for the

infographics and colours that give our flyers and banners their unique visual identity.

However much attention I give to the texts, being French, every time I'm about to send the newsletter, I'm anxious about possible mistakes in the articles. The proofreading is an essential task that requires a specific competence. For this, I trust the sharp eyes of Maryline and Frederick who never failed to answer promptly, despite having to do this over weekends! Additional help comes from my faithful fellow committee members.

Our monthly bulletin is one of the means of communication from the committee and events' organisers towards you, the members, along with the website and the Facebook pages. I hope the newsletter can also be an open space for members who would like to exercise their writing abilities by sending a review of an event or articles on subjects of interest to them.

Catherine Manini

## A Thanksgiving... in Canada

In early October 2018, I spent a week in Toronto, Ontario, with my eldest daughter, Clara, who had chosen to spend at least one year in one of the English-speaking provinces of Canada on a work-holiday programme.

Clara had planned a weekend trip for us to discover the Bruce Peninsula National Park, a four-hour drive north of Toronto, to enjoy some beautiful scenery and, if luck should have it, to see some of the wildlife (black bears, wolves, coyotes) observed in this Park from one of its different lookout towers.

A lovely surprise awaited us shortly after we had reached our accommodation as the hostess asked us whether or not we would like to share a Thanksgiving meal with them.

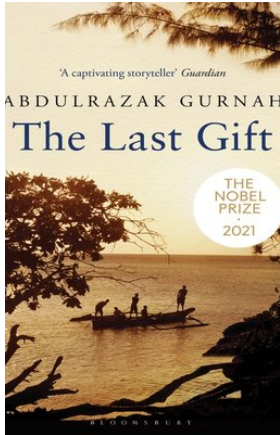
I was puzzled as I had only associated the Thanksgiving dinner with the USA and I knew that that event was held on the 4th Thursday of November. We accepted their offer and they brought into our room a bottle of red wine and the Thanksgiving meal made up of slices of Roast Turkey + stuffing, Brussel sprouts, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, cranberry sauce and for dessert we were served a pumpkin pie. We could not thank the hostess enough for her kind gesture.

The following day we spent a glorious day in the National Park and on our return journey to the accommodation, we stopped off at the only restaurant in a 30-mile radius in hope of enjoying a light meal. But they had only one dish on offer and guess what it was: 'Thanksgiving' dinner.

Terence Boyle

# Book club reviews

## “The Last Gift” by Gurnah Abdulrazak



“ Why does he cry so much? What has he done? Faced by the mental collapse of her silent husband, she feels helpless. ”

“The Last Gift” is an entangled narrative of tangled lives on distant shores, which makes secrets more difficult to decipher.

Feeling immensely tired, an old man called Abbas collapses at his front door and from his bed relives his past life in his delirium.

His wife Maryam wonders... Why does he cry so much? What has he done? Faced by the mental collapse of her silent husband, she feels helpless.

Despite a large age difference - Abbas was 34 while Maryam was only 17 -, the couple had fallen in love and had led a hard-working life with two children, Hanna and Jamal. Despite what seems to be a normal life, the children have the feeling that they did not really belong to their social background and wonder about their dysfunctional family.

They find out that their mother Maryam was a foundling, and their immigrant father keeps hiding in silence. This frustrates Hanna who is looking for answers; “I just want some simple boring details”.

Abdulrazak Gurnah skilfully handles the problem faced by the second-generation of immigrant families today, in post-colonial Britain. To adjust to life and be accepted, children need answers to their identity problems. It makes them stronger.

Quite an interesting topic in multiracial post-colonial Britain.

Claudine Marbach



Born in 1948 in Zanzibar, Abdulrazak Gurnah became world-famous as a novelist when he was awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize for his work, namely *Paradise* and *By the Sea*. Most of his books deal with the impact of colonialism and the life of refugees.

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

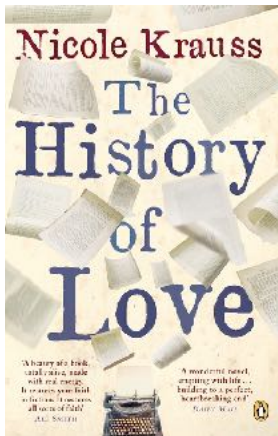
The next books for discussion are:

“ The Crying of Lot 49 ” by Thomas Pynchon on 14 November

“ Small Things Like These ” by Claire Keegan on 12 December

“ Piranesi ” by Susanna Clarke on 9 January

## “The History of Love” by Nicole Krauss



Nicole Krauss weaves three intersecting storylines all with intriguing ambiguity, so even though we understand that the stories are related, it isn't clear *how* until about two-thirds of the way through.

With its exploration of chance and coincidence and its multi-layered plot, Krauss skilfully differentiates the voices of her many narrators. And as the stories of Leopold Gursky, Alma Singer, and Zvi Litvinoff are told to us, we get drawn into their complex world. Spanning space and time from 1940's Poland under Nazi invasion to America 60 years later, we follow the story of Leo and his novel, as they both disappear and are re-found.

Although many of us got lost in the plotline of this mystery story, we all agreed that *The History of Love* is a beautifully written novel, with fascinating characters who spoke to us all. Krauss reminds us that all we really want is to remain visible - to be known, to be loved, and to be remembered by those who knew and loved us.

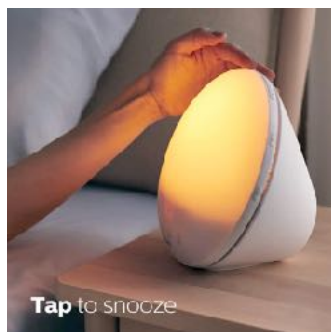
Sue Norman Fleck



Nicole Krauss was born in 1974 in Manhattan. Born to English American parents, she spent most of her life in Israel. Her maternal grandparents were of German origin, mainly from Germany and Ukraine who later travelled to London. She is best known for her four novels *Man Walks into a Room*, *The History of Love*, *Great House*, and *Forest Dark*, which have been translated into 35 languages.



# Classified ads



## For sale

Philips Wake-Up Light Alarm Clock Coloured Sunrise Simulation, 5 Sounds and Radio Function HF3520/10

Sunrise simulation Adjustable with warm light for more natural wake-up Radio, Dusk Simulation, 5 Natural Sounds, 2 alarm time + Tap Snooze, Touch Screen, Dimensions: 7.36 x 2.91 x 11.18 cm; 1.11 kg



English plug, European adapter can be provided for free - Selling Price 40 Euros

Contact: Anke BRAUN - [anke\\_braun@gmx.net](mailto:anke_braun@gmx.net) - 06 95 55 05 57

# It's time to renew your membership

Please remember that the cut-off date to renew your subscription with the ESC is 31/12/2022.

🎄 Do so now, before we all get into the Christmas spirit. Thank you! 📺

ESC Registration 2023, click here: [www.esc-alsace.org/Renew](http://www.esc-alsace.org/Renew)

The fee remains a bargain €30 for singles or €40 for couples/families. [Full details on our website \(Join Us\)](#). If you have another question, feel free to send an email to [membership@esc-alsace.org](mailto:membership@esc-alsace.org).

(Note that those new members joining from September to December 2022 are already considered to have paid up until the end of 2023).

## Newsletter Publication

We'll publish your announcements/advertisements, space permitting, limited to 100 words. Advertisements may be repeated twice if you let the Editor know if you need your ad repeated. This service is free to ESC Members, €40 for non-members and businesses, which should be included with submission. Items for publication should be in English. Please forward items to [newsletter@esc-alsace.org](mailto:newsletter@esc-alsace.org)

The deadline for next bimonthly copy (in January) is Sunday 24/12/2022

Cover picture: **On the way to Frankenburg**, 10-2022 - P. Stotz