

Volume 15 no 6: June 20, 2025
Geneva, Switzerland

LIBRARY IN ENGLISH

Writers' Workshop

Next Meeting July 18, 2025

at 10:30

at:

Lieu: Frutties

Planet Charmilles, Charmilles.

Assignment: Fairytales & Myths

Leader: Françoise

On a beautiful day, one before the midsummer equinox we settled in at Frutties where we met for our meeting as the Reading Room of the Library is not available to us at present.

Those in attendance were **Marlene** (leader and secretary) **Françoise**, and **Carolyn**. We received apologies from **Mer**, **Rose** and **Zinat**.



Business:

As there was no business to attend to, we proceeded to share our submissions for the assignment 'Grandparents' which turned out to be quite educational and illuminating.

Reading:

Marlene's 'An Enigma' delved into the fact that without having her own children, she had to live vicariously through others and could only draw on her own experiences and memories of her paternal and maternal grandparents and their contribution to her youthful memories. From receiving special treats, licking spoons when baking cakes to go-carts and milking cows, her memories were rich and character building.

Françoise never knew her grandparents and built their history from stories told by her family. All four of them came from very different backgrounds, cultures and religions which made their stories interesting and filled with possibilities. Her maternal grandparents were well educated. Her grandmother was an intellectual feminist and entertained many in her Cairo home. When she died her tomb was next to that of her husband with a window between the two for eternal connection. Though the one remaining warning from her replacement, was to avoid marrying someone from a different background, country and religion.

Carolyn lost both her grandfathers before her birth but has vivid memories of her grandmothers. Her paternal grandmother, Elisabeth, came from Egypt to live in Beirut with them and had a loving presence and was a significant figure in Carolyn's life. Her chocolate pudding brought back fond memories. Her parents came from Russia, and Elisabeth was born in Jerusalem. They then went to the Sudan then to Germany. She spoke, English, French, German, Yiddish, Italian and broken Arabic. She died in 1975, just a month before the civil war broke out in Lebanon and the family had to flee. Though whenever Carolyn felt sad or desperate she drew strength from the security and

loving feeling her grandmother engraved on her heart.

Secretary: Marlene Jeanrenaud

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Leader: Rose Yarom

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The schedule and topics for 2025 is as listed below. Any changes will be advised before the due date.

Jul 18: Fairy Tales & Myths

Aug 15: Open

Sep 19: Travel Writing

Oct 17: Landscapes

Nov 21: Adventure

Dec 12: Open