

MINUTES
of the Meeting of
the Novel Club of Cleveland
March 7, 2017

On a rainy evening in March, the Novel Club, 19 strong including guests, convened at the warmly lit bungalow of Jane Hammond, our hostess along with cohost Whitney Lloyd. After the customary convivial conversation promoted by fine wines and incredible edibles, we were gaveled to order by Jay Siegel at 8:15. The evening's guests included John Hammond and Marie Lathers (introduced by Jane Hammond), Molly Berger (by Peter Haas), Sarah Gabel (by Louise Mooney), and Linda Phillips (by Toby Sigel). Thanks were then extended to our hosts, and to Arthur Stupay for taking last month's minutes.

Our treasurer, Jane Hammond, reported our wealth at a munificent \$1,543.

Louise Mooney, who chairs the Program Committee, reported on several challenges the Committee faces. First the Committee is a member short, due to the tragic loss of George Weimer. Louise was encouraged to bring the number back up, though no specific names were proposed. More urgently, the presenters for next month's paper, Joe and Ellen Kelly, have left the club. Louise suggested that we go one month without presentations, and plunge straight into discussion. She volunteered to prepare questions to stimulate said discussion. The following month, the critical paper on 'Cards of Identity' is open (it had been George's). Any takers?

As a final point of business, Arthur Stupay requested that letters of recommendation for prospective new members (it seems we need a few!) be submitted to the Council of Admin and Memb promptly, preferably this month.

Whitney Lloyd then initiated the evening's literary remarks with a biographical sketch of Lily King. This was greatly enlivened by the fact that Whitney is actually personally acquainted with members of the King family. Lily moved a lot as a child, and once said that writing was her home. She has also remarked that she got her ideas from reading, although the three novel that preceded *Euphoria* seem pretty autobiographical.

Leon Gabinet discussed the book, loosely based on the life of Margaret Meade, who described the carefree and sexually uninhibited lives of the young people of Samoa, showing that adolescent angst, contrary to Western belief, is not a necessary human condition. Leon gave an excellent review of the book, interspersed with expressions of his own opinions, insightful and often provocative asides. Among the many questions raised: Was Fen homosexual? (I believe the vote was narrowly 'yes'); Is the famous Grid

actually simple-minded? (yes' again); Comparing the drastically different approaches to anthropological studies by the married couple, was Fen or Nell the better anthropologist? How moral or immoral were they? The latter two questions generated the most, and the most heated, discussion. There was a fairly wide agreement that both, indeed all such anthropologists, are to some degree immoral, exploiting the subjects of their study for fame and fortune which is not shared. Most agreed, though, that Fen's brutal exploitation was much worse than Nell's sharing, giving relationship to the people she came to love.

And so it went, until the meeting was adjourned shortly before ten, after which the usual cordial mixing and munching ensued, followed by the reluctant parting.

Respectfully submitted,

Hamilton Emmons