

NAUL NEWSLETTER

Netherlands America University League
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A Dutch Treat

The NAUL's Winter Reception hosted by Erik and Lineke Zuiderweg was indeed a treat. A small but enthusiastic audience enjoyed a performance by Erik, Val Jaskiewicz (violins), Joseph Lange (viola), and Margaret Weiss (violoncello) of a movement of Henriette Bosmans' *Strijkkwartet* embellished with fragments of Ravel's string-quartet. We noticed some new faces among the audience. Lineke's presentation *The Greatest Dutch Art Hoax of the Twentieth Century* was well received. Ton Broos read Dutch poetry and Janet presented the English translations. Sipkje Pesnichak, on the recorder played a selection of Jakob van Eyck's *Der Fluiten-Lusthof*. Lineke presented pots of spring blooms to the performers. Then all enjoyed tasty treats and refreshing libations. Unfortunately, we can't reproduce the music or presentation in this newsletter, but we can share one of the poems presented. The poem is by Willem Wilmink and is entitled *Een vreemde tijger*, or in English, *A Strange Tiger*.

Hoe kan men een zoon van vijf
troosten voor doodsgedachten?
Alle bedenksels falen,
behalve de reïncarnatie.

Dus oude oma is nu
een tijger?

Ja, jongen, maar niet in Artis,
niet in een kooi,
niet een tijger die ijsbeert.

Zij die haar leven lang leed
onder de tyrannie
van geïdgebrek, echtgenoot, crisis,
roddel en burenruzies,
die verzoend heeft en vergoelijkt,
die doof was voor alle kwaad,
en tenslotte voor ALLES doof was,

Zij is een tijger met gruwelijk felle,
gruwelijk mooie ogen,
en de wrede man in de wildernis
die haar ontmoet:
opgevreten is hij
eer hij beseft dat iets op hem toespringt.

Een vreemde tijger is het,
een tijger die soms een wonderlijke
droom heeft: een pasgedweild stoepje,
een pijpenrek met de woorden
'Het is geen man
die niet roken kan.'

Maar een sterke tijger:
die de droom van zich afschudt als regen
en met lange trefzekere sprongen
het dier bereikt of de jager
of de pelgrims bij de rivier.

Een tijger zonder genade.
Een tijger die wraakneemt.

How can one console
a five year old son on thoughts of death?
All suggestions fail,
except reincarnation.

So old granny is now
a tiger?

Yes boy, but not in the zoo,
not in a cage,
not a tiger prancing up and down.

She who suffered her entire life
under tyranny
of lack of money, husband, crisis,
gossip and neighbors' quarrels,
who reconciled and whitewashed,
who was tone deaf for all evil,
and finally was deaf for everything,

she is a tiger with terribly fierce,
terribly beautiful eyes,
and the cruel man in the jungle
who meets her:
is eaten alive,
before he realizes that there is something jumping
on him.

It is a strange tiger,
who sometimes has a strange
dream: a recently cleaned stoop
a pipe rack with the slogan
'A smoke a day
keeps the stress away.'

But a strong tiger
who shakes off the dream like rain
and with long accurate jumps
reaches the animal or the hunter
or the pilgrims near the river.

A tiger without mercy.
A tiger taking revenge.

Received from Lineke Zuiderweg.

Lineke writes "In the olden days sprouts would be cooked for about 45 minutes to one hour and the whole house would smell awfully. ... Here is a recipe called "Fatty 'Cue Brussels Sprouts", adapted from Fatty 'Cue Brooklyn, New York Times." This recipe may convert those who have been turned off by overcooked, smelly sprouts.

Ingredients:

2 small chilies, stems removed
2 garlic cloves
2 small shallots
4 oz. smoked bacon cut into thin strips
1 Tbs. coriander seeds, crushed
1 lb. Brussels sprouts, trimmed and halved
Salt to taste
1/4 cup chicken broth
1 Tbs. maple syrup

Combine one of the chilies with the garlic and shallots in a food processor and puree. Fry bacon in a large sauté pan over medium heat until most of the fat is rendered. Add coriander seeds and stir until fragrant. Transfer bacon to paper towels using a slotted spoon. Add sprouts to the pan, cut side down, and cook over medium heat until golden brown on the underside, about 5 minutes. Season with salt and transfer to paper towels. Put garlic-chili puree in the pan, cook over low heat until fragrant, about one minute. Return sprouts to the pan and cook, stirring 1-2 minutes. Add chicken broth and bring to a simmer. Cover, reduce heat to

low and simmer until sprouts are tender, about 5 minutes. Uncover and reduce broth to the consistency of a glaze. Thinly slice the remaining chili. Remove pan from heat and stir in the syrup, bacon and sliced chili. Adjust salt if necessary.

More Food Bits

A few Newsletters ago, we wrote about the New York restaurant "**Vandaag**" which was featured in the New York Times. At the end of 2010, a Times food columnist wrote about the 15 best things he ate in New York City. Included in the top 15 was the dish **Hete Bliksem** at Vandaag. This 'Hot Lightening' dish is nothing like the hete bliksem that most of the Dutchies reading this grew up eating. At Vandaag, fingerling potatoes are poached in herbs and spices, cooled, later sliced, and fried until crispy. Meanwhile, the chef has put together a syrup made of butter, cream, molasses, salt, juniper berries, nutmeg, mace and cinnamon. Once the potatoes are fried, they are bathed in this velvety syrup and previously crisped bacon lardoons, and diced tart apples are added. Sounds good, much better than grandma's. Vandaag is located at 103 Second Avenue, New York 212-253-0470. Perhaps you can find the recipe on their website vandaagnyc.com.

For those craving a taste of Belgium, we usually think about the old time favorite **Cadieux Café** at 4300 Cadieux Road, Detroit. Their claim to fame is of course, Belgian style mussels, pommes frites, and other old world favorites. There is a newer and lesser-known brewpub, Bastone (named for the town Bastogne, or in Dutch Bastenaken) located in Royal Oak. Their 'monumental blonde' brewed on the premises is a medal winning beer. There are many others to choose from and one can order samples of various small glasses. Not all of the foods offered are typical of Belgian cuisine, except, of course, mussels and the ever-present fried potatoes, which are indeed prepared the Belgian way, fried twice. Bastone is located at 419 South Main St. Royal Oak.

Check out www.biscoff.com for a selection of gourmet cookies and gifts. Biscoff imports the entire line of Lotus Bakeries biscuits, Liege waffles and other traditional Belgian treats.

Super tomatoes? You betcha and they are produced in Italy. Said to be the first anti-aging tomato (pomodoro if you happen to be Italian), they are square in form and weigh about 70 grams. The anti-aging effect is said to come from a more than 50% content of lycopene, which also is supposed to

prevent cardio-vascular disease, tumors, arthritis and Parkinson's disease. Amazing, if true!! Lycopene is best absorbed in juices, sauces, paste or ketchup! Order me up a crate.

Vacationing in Belgium?

You may want to visit an historical B & B. Consider the "Rentmeesterhoeve" (Bailiff's Farm) in Reningelst, between Ieper and Opperinge, in West Flanders. The 'farm' sits on the grounds of a manor house that was once owned by the great-great grandmother of the late Princess of Wales, Lady Diana Spencer, Louisa Emily Charlotte Bultheel. That family fled to England during the 17th century religious wars.

News about Members.

Hats off to **Michael Daugherty** who received a Grammy Award in February for Best Classical Contemporary Composition. His three-part homage to trains, "Deus Ex Machina", was recorded by the Nashville Symphony on his "Metropolis Symphony" CD. The album also received Grammys for Best Orchestral Performance and Best Engineered Album in the classical musical category. Michael is a UM professor of music composition and is one of the most commissioned and recorded composers on the international scene. Michael is one of the ten most performed living American composers. He and his wife Yopie Prins have been long time NAUL members. Congratulations Michael.

In the Sick Bay

Recovering

Lia van Leer, who underwent back surgery on February 10. The operation was successful. We wish Lia a speedy and complete recovery.

In treatment

Riet Haas who is undergoing chemotherapy for lymphoma. Charter members of the NAUL, Riet and Bert have given generously of their time and energy to NAUL activities and its administration. We wish them both strength in this difficult time and our best hope for a successful outcome.

On the mend

Tonia Teernstra, after a fractured hip. Tonia is at home, seems to be in good spirits, and is able to move around in her home. Tonia is usually a Dutch lunch regular and we hope to see her back there soon.

In Memoriam

Condolences to Donald and MaryKay Hes. Donald's mother **Rini Hes** passed away on January 31, 2011 at the venerable age of 87. For many years, until their retirement to the Netherlands, Rini and husband Alex were long time members of the NAUL. Son Donald, who served as president of the NAUL, became active in the organization while still studying at the UM. Alex and Rini would have been married for 60 years in 2011. Our heartfelt sympathy on their loss to Alex, Donald and MaryKay.

Donald Riddering. Long time NAUL members will remember Don Riddering. We recently learned that Don passed away earlier this year. Don and his wife Ali, together with others, were instrumental in establishing the NAUL. At one time, Don served as president of the organization. Due to illness, they have not been active in recent years.

Consular News

Newly arrived in Chicago, Consul General Dr. Hans Heinsbroek. On September 7, 2010, Dr. H.J.B. (Hans) Heinsbroek assumed the duties as Consul General of the Netherlands. D. Willem Schiff, completed his tenure as Consul on August 26, 2010. For 140 years, from 1870 to 2010 there has been a consular presence in Chicago and the Midwest.

Exhibits etc.

Rembrandt and His School: Masterworks from the Frick and Lugi Collections is on view now through May 15, 2011 at the Frick Collection, One East 70th Street, Manhattan, 212-288-0700. On display are three major paintings, "Nicholas Ruts", "Self-Portrait" recently restored by the Met, and "The Polish Rider". In addition to the paintings, there are prints from the seldom seen Frick collection and a gallery of Rembrandt drawings brought from Europe. For a review of the exhibition, see Holland Cotter's article in the New York Times of Friday, February 18, 2011.

Coming to the DIA. An exhibition focusing on Rembrandt's images of Jesus, **Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus**. The idea of the exhibition originated at the DIA and brings together approximately 40 Rembrandt paintings, drawings, and etchings. It opens first in Paris in April, then to Philadelphia for the summer and early fall, and arrives in Detroit to open on November 20, 2011.

Soon to be released: "**How Europe is Changing**" by Kader Abdolah – 50 columns by the

Dutch-Iranian author. Edited by Jeroen Dewulf, translated by students in the Dutch class, with introductions by Ton Broos, J. Dewulf, E. Ham & C. Hosea.

Website of Interest. Want to visit the Rijksmuseum or the Van Gogh museum without having to travel to the Netherlands? Go to **GoogleArtProject.com** for a look inside the museums.

Dutch American Newsletter. Members may wish to check out their website.

www.dutchinamerica.com. The newsletter is distributed on-line. It provides English language news for the Dutch-American community. Topics include Dutch-American cultural events and cultural affairs.

ANNUAL MEETING: Mark your calendars now for the NAUL's annual meeting and rijsttafel. The Meeting will take place on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at Gretchen's House. Details about the meeting agenda will be forthcoming. We will include the slate of candidates to be elected to the Board of Directors. At the general meeting, members will also be able to propose candidates to board. If you have an agenda item you wish to present, please contact Secretary, Karla Vandersypen. Her e-mail and phone number appear at the end of this newsletter.

Suriname

Our friends and NAUL members, Paul and Magda van den Muysenberg recently returned from a holiday in Suriname. They had a grand time and wrote about some highlights of their trip to friends and family. This got me to thinking about how little I know of this country that has a long, strong, and sometimes tumultuous Dutch connection. As an American, I cannot remember learning anything at all about Suriname in school. Paul writes that in school, he learned very little about the country – and that was in the Netherlands. So, first a little background on the country.

Suriname is a Republic. The capital is Paramaribo and the official language is Dutch. There are 16 regional languages. It is located in northern South America and has a land area of 64,000 square miles, (about 4 times the size of the Netherlands' 16,158 sq. miles) with an estimated population of just over 500,000. French, Spanish and English explorers visited the area in the 16th century. A century later plantation colonies were

established by the Dutch and English. Disputes arose between the two powers, (what else is new!) and the Dutch prevailed. In 1667, The Treaty of Breda ended the 2nd Anglo-Dutch War, although many territorial disputes remained unresolved. During negotiations, the English offered to return New Nederland (New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut) for the sugar factories on the Suriname coast. The Dutch declined, preferring to keep a hold on Suriname and we all know what happened to New Nederland. The West Indies Company and the province of Zeeland actually governed Suriname, quite profitably, making many in the home country very rich. In December 1954, Suriname became a country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands and finally achieved independence on November 25, 1975. Suriname has a very hot tropical climate with little variance in temperature throughout the year. The lowland coastal area of the north is cultivated and most of the population lives there. The southern part consists of tropical rainforests and sparsely inhabited savannas. The Dutch planters relied heavily on African slaves and their treatment was notoriously bad. Slavery was officially abolished by the Netherlands in Suriname in 1863 but the enslaved were not fully released until 1873 having been required to work for minimal pay during a so-called transition period of ten years. Most of the former enslaved people abandoned the plantations when they were truly freed preferring the city, Paramaribo. The planters brought in contract laborers from the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) and from India through an arrangement with the British and during the 19th and 20th centuries small numbers of men were brought in from China and the Middle East. As a result, though the population remains small, Suriname is one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse countries in the world. Paul noted that after 1863, to encourage the plantation owners to free their slaves, the Dutch Government paid 600 guilders per head to the slave owners. To escape the inquisition, Jews migrated from Brazil to Suriname and established sugar and coffee plantations. The present Jewish community is small but the first synagogue in the Western Hemisphere was built in Paramaribo. Today, Suriname is a constitutional democracy. The legislative branch consists of a 51 member National Assembly, elected for a five-year term. At present, there is a coalition government. The president is also elected for five years by a two-thirds majority of the National Assembly. The vice president, elected at the same time, needs only a simple majority. The judiciary is headed by the Court of Justice (Supreme Court). Members are appointed

for life by the president in consultation with the National Assembly and other groups. DeVries-Vanderkooy lecturer Anton van Kalmthout advises the judiciary. Modern Suriname has had a rather turbulent history, especially in the 1980s and 90s. The present president Desi Bouterse was elected in July 2010 despite charges against him for the 1982 killings of prominent citizens who were accused of plotting against the government. At that time Bouterse was head of the military and responsible for ordering the round-up of political opponents.

Today, most of the plantations are gone. Bauxite and gold are mined, and there are natural gas and oil fields, which are government controlled. New oil fields have been discovered along the coast. More than 80% of Suriname's land-mass consists of unspoiled rain forest, and the Central Suriname Natural Reserve was established in 1998. In 2000, the reserve was named a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Look at the label on this Newsletter. If it doesn't show 11 or later, your 2011 dues are overdue.

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Senior Couple	20	Sponsor	50
Sustaining	100		

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Dues Reminder