

# NAUL NEWSLETTER

*Netherlands America University League*  
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## Winter Musical Afternoon

### Coming-up Soon – NAUL’s Winter Musical Afternoon

We hope you have already saved the date, Sunday February 19, 2012, to join your NAUL friends at the home of Erik and Lineke Zuiderweg for this Annual Winter Concert and Cultural Event. This year, Erik and his band of merry musicians will perform Bach’s Trio Sonata. Then Ton and Janet Broos will read some poetry in Dutch and in English. After the intermission, Lineke will tell us about “Dutch Waterscapes now and then” and finally, Sipkje Pesnichak will join the trio for Mozart’s Oboe Quartet. The concert will begin a 4 PM at the Zuiderweg home, 3605 Larchmont Drive, Ann Arbor.

Refreshments will be served at the interval and after the program. We ask that you bring some finger food to share with the group. Drinks will be provided by the NAUL.

I am sure the Zuiderwegs would appreciate an RSVP. Call or e-mail Lineke at 734-741-1757 or, [famzuid@yahoo.com](mailto:famzuid@yahoo.com). If you have any questions about the afternoon feel free to ask Lineke. Hope to see you all on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Exhibition of Interest

### *Rembrandt’s World: Dutch Drawings from the Clement C. Moore Collection.*

On now and continuing through April 29, 2012 at the Morgan Library Museum, 225 Madison Ave. New York City. Ninety works on paper, all promised to the Morgan Library, but with only four attributed to Rembrandt.

Although lacking in ‘star power’ the show presents an all-encompassing look at life during the Golden Age in the Dutch Republic.

***Van Gogh Up Close*** – Philadelphia Museum of Art. Now through May 6, 2012.

The show focuses on Van Gogh’s ability to depict nature up close. It is centered almost exclusively on landscapes, with a few still lifes of flowers and fruits. There are no portraits, self-portraits or interiors. Included in the exhibition are 45 paintings. Many are unfamiliar works from abroad, some of which, never before exhibited in this country.

### **Mauritshuis closing for renovation**

You will probably never see Vermeer’s painting “The Girl with the Pearl Earring” in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. Beginning in April 2012, you will neither be able to see it in its home in the Mauritshuis in The Hague. The Mauritshuis will close for renovation in April.

**However**, beginning in January 2013, you will be able to see “The Girl” along with 34 other paintings from the Mauritshuis on tour in the United States. The first stop on the tour of the exhibition ***Vermeer, Rembrandt and Hals: Masterpieces of Dutch Paintings from the Mauritshuis*** will be the DeYoung Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco from January 26 through June 2, 2013. The exhibition then moves on to the High Museum of Art in Atlanta from June 22 through September 29. It will finally open at the Frick Collection in New York City on October 22, 2013.

However, the exhibition that comes to New York will be much smaller than the shows at the two other museums. It will feature just 10 paintings from the Mauritshuis but the show will be mounted in the beautiful Oval Room near the Frick's three paintings by Vermeer: "Girl Interrupted at Her Music", "Mistress and Maid" and "Officer and Laughing Girl". Besides "The Girl", the Frick's show will also include "The Goldfinch" by Fabritius and portraits by Rembrandt, and Frans Hals, and a landscape by Jacob van Ruisdael.

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### News about Members

Margie Barritt's holiday greetings brought the very good news that she and Cecil Miskel were married on April 20, 2011 in Fountain Hills, Arizona. Margie has been a NAUL member since the very early days of the organization and we now welcome Cecil into our NAUL family. Margie and Cecil live permanently in Rio Verde, Arizona but both maintain strong ties to Ann Arbor. We hope that their travels will take them to A2 in 2012 and that we get a chance to see the happy couple. Congratulations.

NAUL member Gwen Shah-Ingram has been elected to the Board of Directors of the "World Association of Former United Nations Interns and Fellows" at the UN. Her term is from 2012 until 2015. Gwen is Director at Large for Western Europe and the Americas. She chairs the Association's Health, Fresh Water, and Sustainability Committee. Gwen volunteers in her community as a DNA Testing Consultant for African Americans and others who desire genetic testing for medication compatibility.

### Survey Results

"What do Flemish and Dutch people living abroad miss most?"

Much of survey was collected at the Sinterklaas party in December, with adults and children participating. It is a hodgepodge of answers but here it is: Cycling was #1 with 4 respondents. Croquettes #2 with 3 respondents. Tied for #3 with 2 respondents each: family, trains, Vla (a sort of pudding), koeken (a sort of cookie/cake), new herring, French fries, and smoked eel. Finally, with

one respondent each: tulip fields, chocolate, Amsterdam, polders and dikes, shrimp, poffertjes, good Dutch bread, bitterballen, farm life, Dutch gin, shopping, and any sort of food from snack-bars.

For those really missing "Dutch" stuff, or just because you like the food, you can satisfy all your cravings for most "missed" items at VanderVeen's Dutch Store in the Grand Rapids neighborhood. You will find croquettes, koeken, bitterballen, friet sauce, and most everything else Dutch in their store. They have a nice on-line catalog, which makes shopping easier: [www.thedutchstore.com](http://www.thedutchstore.com). However, you will not find Dutch gin there. The State of Michigan prohibits its sale here.

### Food Salsify

Janet Broos recently discovered the vegetable salsify (scorzoneria in Italian, and schorseneren to the Dutchies) which Ton knew from Holland and which Janet now likes very much. So far, Plum Market in Ann Arbor is the only place Janet has been able to find the vegetable and it is only available when in season. Most European cookbooks have recipes for salsify and I am sure the dutchies have their own favorite way of preparing it. BUT – did you know that salsify dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century and comes from Spain. It was known as "viper's weed" because it was used to treat people with snakebite. It came into use in Europe in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it had become quite popular as a root vegetable. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, it disappeared almost entirely from markets, but now seems to be making a comeback. Janet would appreciate an e-mail from anyone who happens to see it in a market other than Plum's. Also she welcomes your interesting recipes for salsify.

After more than 10 years, New York Times food critic, Mark Bittman, recently returned to Amsterdam to find real Dutch food. He states that he found it after much research and eating. He goes on to say that nothing in Amsterdam is Dutch in the same way a trattoria is Italian in Tuscany but he does say that in the restaurants he writes about you will

know that you are in the Netherlands. Some of the places he reviewed were Restaurant As, Wilde Zwijnen, Blauw (Indonesian), Lastage (fancy) and Greetje. If you subscribe to the Times on-line, you can check out the article, which appeared on Sunday, January 22, 2012.

## SPORTS Calendar

Mostly soccer (voetbal)

European Cup – from June 8 to July 1. Venue stadiums in Poland and Ukraine.

Netherlands – Denmark June 9: Netherlands –

Germany June 13: Netherlands – Portugal

June 17: Quarterfinals June 21-24: Semi-finals

June 27-28: Finals July 1.

June 30 to July 22: Le Tour de France

July 27 to August 12: The Olympic Games in London

World Cup qualifying games:

September 7: Netherlands – Turkey

September 11: Netherlands – Hungary

October 12: Netherlands – Andorra

October 16: Netherlands – Rumania

### THIS AND THAT (mostly trivia)

Some of the comments from Ton's students on the DeVries-VanderKooy Memorial Lecture presented by Professor Ludo Beheydt on October 20, 2011 were quite interesting. One student noted "...Dutch paintings were ... so realistic that modern day dermatologists could identify certain sicknesses and physical problems of the people in the paintings." From another student who summed it up nicely "In my opinion I thought the lecture was pretty interesting and I am not a fan of art so it was pretty good if it impressed me."

Jakarta has the worst air quality in Indonesia. There were only 27 days of clean air per year. Samarang and Bandung do not seem to be much better, with only 30 days of clean air per year. A survey of Asian cities has found that Jakarta fares just as poorly as Bangkok, Hanoi, Manila and Jinan in China.

The Belgian film *Bullhead* was nominated for an Oscar in the Best Foreign Film category.

A survey, published recently, reveals that at the end of 2009, the Netherlands ranks as the world's leader in both outgoing and investments abroad and incoming foreign investments. Data from the IMF reveals that the country's direct investments abroad totaled \$3,700 billion and the amount of foreign investments in the Netherlands totaled \$3,000 billion.

An 11-year-old Dutch girl, together with her parents, reached the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Although not the youngest to reach the summit, Yvet Renkema is the youngest Dutch mountaineer to accomplish this feat. Several ten-year olds climbed to the top of the mountain before her.

### Dues Reminder

See the Dues Notice included with this Newsletter. Dues for 2012 are due now. Complete the form and return it to the address show on the form.

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