

# NAUL NEWSLETTER

*Netherlands America University League*  
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## SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for the first of a new series featuring NAUL members. The NAUL has a long list of talented people and we anticipate that in the future many will share their knowledge and expertise with the rest of us.

The first presenter in this series will be **Rob van der Voo**. Rob, who has been a NAUL member for many years, is the Frank H. Rhodes Professor of Geological Sciences in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Michigan. Rob's research centers on the earth's paleomagnetism and its application to mountain-building processes and pre-Mesozoic plate tectonics. His PowerPoint presentation is entitled *Why I am Attracted by Magnetism*. It will take place on **Tuesday, October 30, 2012 at 7:30 PM**. The location is **Gretchen's House, 2625 Traver Blvd. Ann Arbor**. Refreshments will be served after the presentation.

**Please Note:** The Traver Road Gretchen's House is different from our Sinterklaas location. Traver is off Nixon Road and Gretchen's House is close to Logan Elementary School. We are looking forward to Rob's presentation. If you have any questions, call Erik Zuiderweg at 734-741-1757.

## DeVries-Vander Kooy follow-up

Congratulations to Annemarie Toebosch for successfully organizing a memorable lecture. The lecture which took place on October 4, was the 17<sup>th</sup> in this series, although it was the very first for Annemarie. This year's lecturer, Jane Wolff, Associate Professor from the University of Toronto, gave a fascinating view of the role of the Dutch in the rebuilding of post-Katrina New Orleans. The lecture was well attended by colleagues and students from multiple areas of the University as well as several NAUL members.

## Of Interest

**Grey Panthers of Washtenaw** will sponsor a forum on aging and disabilities. The event is entitled, *How Responsive is Ann Arbor to Issues of Aging and Varying Disabilities?* NAUL's own Els Nieuwenhuijsen, a Research Investigator with the UM's Dept. of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation will be a participant in the discussion along with Carolyn Grawl, Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, Wendy Rampson, City of Ann Arbor Community Services,, and David Esau, Corner Stone Design Inc. The panel will discuss issues about the growing number of older residents in Ann Arbor and those with various disabilities, and the role of the built, attitudinal, social, and policy environment. The panel will be followed by a participatory round table discussion. This event will be held on **Saturday, November 3, from 9:45 AM to 12 Noon, at the Turner Senior Resource Center, 1401 Plymouth Road**. Admission is

Free and refreshments will be served. For more information call 734-973-5593.

### **Vacation Stories**

For thirty years I had not been able to go on vacation in September, due to teaching obligations. This year Janet and I made a late summer trip to the Netherlands, where everyone was back in school and at work. After a summer of rain, the Dutch were happy with every ray of sunshine and we could not complain. We arrived just before the elections, saw a few debates and heard the many opinions and predictions. You all know the result and let it be a lesson for our elections: polls can be very wrong. On the day itself we had actually left the country for artistic reasons: an exhibition of modern Dutch design brought us to a historic place in Germany. Dutch princess Henriette Catharina, daughter of Frederik Hendrik and Amalia van Solms, married Johan Georg II van Anhalt-Dessau in 1659. Besides her own castle, she had a completely new town built, with symmetrical streets, a central square with a cast-iron orange tree and called it Oranienbaum. The castle is impressive, with Chinese-English gardens, an Orangerie and a Summer Dining room in the cellar covered with hundreds of Dutch tiles. Modernity and history merged in a most interesting way as we marveled at the dining room with leather covered wallpaper and looked out of the window where visitors sat on designer's wheel-barrowed benches. However, the modern design had to cover up also large parts of neglect, with restoration in progress. The result was a wonderful mix of jewelry, glass, clothes, furniture and fantasies on a background of painted decors. Imagine a Victor and Rolf over the top dress in a room with 17<sup>th</sup> century Chinese inspired paneled walls, or a magnetic pop up lace corsage by Petra Vonk, inspired by our princess. The exhibition was a great success. If you are interested in historical castles and Dutch royalty, the so called Oranjeroute is for you. 2600 km of cities and castles with links to the Oranje-Nassaus, e.g. Nassau, Diez, Dillenburg, Stolberg, Oranienburg, Apeldoorn, Vlissingen etc.

We went back to the Netherlands where a birthday party invitation via Facebook went completely out of hand in Haren. A brouhaha started with thousands of rioters causing a million euros damage and several hooligans have been sentenced to jail recently. Riots surrounding soccer matches continue, but the Dutch national team won two qualifying matches. So everything is back to normal again in the Netherlands: a small riot, almost an electoral revolution, museums are opening or closing, modern design crosses borders and Orange is back in popularity.

*Ton Broos*

### **More on the Dutch in New York**

We all learned in school that the Dutch bought (stole?) the island of Manhattan from the Indians for \$24. The closest history comes to supporting this sale is the Schaghenbrief of Nov. 5, 1626. This is a letter from Pieter Schaghen, the Dutch representative of the West India Company, addressed to "High and Mighty Lords". He reported the arrival in Amsterdam on Sept. 23 of a ship from New Netherland. He cataloged the ship's cargo, "7,246 beaver skins, 178-1/2 otter skins, 48 mink skins, 36 lynx skins, 33 minks, 34 muskrat skins and oak timbers and nutwood" and wrote that "they have purchased the island Manhattes from the Indians for the value of 60 guilders". He added "Our people are in good spirit and live in peace". Peace however, did not last. The Dutch launched an unprovoked attack on the Indians in 1640.

### **An Alternative Holiday**

Nestled in the middle of the cities of the Randstad lies a sparsely populated, rural area known as the Green Heart (Het Groene Hart). You can stay there, away from the hustle and bustle of the cities right in the middle of the Green Heart. More than a decade ago six farm families decided to offer visitors a quiet and friendly place to stay. Now there are 28 "farms" offering fully furnished apartments or spacious and comfortable rooms. Wake up to cows outside your window, have a hearty

country breakfast, and enjoy the best of both worlds. [www.holidayfarm.nl](http://www.holidayfarm.nl).

### **Do you Know?**

That the paper for the US dollar bill is made in West Flanders? The Belgian flax industry is responsible for the look and feel of the US dollar bill. For the past fifty years, Vervaeke Fibre in Kuurne has produced the flax destined for the US for the production of the dollar bill. Although not the only supplier, Vervaeke is the oldest flax business in the world. The Federal Reserve commissioned them to turn cotton and flax fibers into paper for the greenbacks. The paper is 75% cotton and 25% flax. Vervaeke notes that “a dollar makes much less noise than the crackling euro notes.” The euro notes are 100% cotton.

### **Dialysis**

Working with tin cans and washing machine parts, during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands in 1943, the Dutch physician, Dr. Willem J. Kolff, built the first dialysis machine.

### **Trivia & Other Bits of Useless Information**

In Holland there are twice as many bikes as cars. Almost every person, regardless of class or status owns a bike.

Holland has more museums than any other region in the world. Amsterdam alone has over 50.

According to the Belgians themselves, Bruges was voted the best city in the country. The participants based their opinion on housing, security, mobility, employment, health care and education. Second and third were the cities of Hasselt and Leuven.

There's a place called Nederland, TEXAS.

The Groote Beer, a Victory ship, built in 1944 in Portland, Oregon and converted to a post-WWII immigrant ship, made thirty Atlantic crossings, more than any other Dutch ship, during the 1950s Dutch immigrant exodus.

The “Beer” also made trips to the Dutch East Indies and Australia.

### **Dutch Film**

*Meet the Fokkens* – A 2011 documentary portrait of identical twin prostitutes, Louise and Martine Fokkens, age 69, plying their trade in the picture windows in Amsterdam's red-light district. The film was shown in New York in August and was reviewed in the New York Times by Manohl Dargis

### **Exhibitions of Interest**

Now through December 30, Washington DC. *Prêt-à-Papier: The Exquisite Art of Isabelle de Borchgrave*. This exhibit brings together more than 25 of the artist's trompe l'oeil paper historical costume and haute couture dresses. At the Hillwood Estate Museum and Gardens, [www.hillwoodmuseum.org](http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org).

Now through February 28, 2013, Lafayette, LA. *Louisiana: 200 Years Later*. Features the Fabrique Nationale (FN) Browning/Winchester Collection. A selection of more than 40 historic, rare and modern firearms on loan from Belgian manufacturer Fabrique Nationale. At the Lafayette Science Museum.

Now through January 13, 2013, Los Angeles, California, Getty Center, *Drama and Devotion: Heemskerck's Ecce Homo*. The exhibition explores Maerten van Heemskerck's (1498-1574) striking altarpiece painted in 1544. Heemskerck is one of the most admired 16<sup>th</sup> century Netherlandish painters. [www.visitorservices@getty.edu](http://www.visitorservices@getty.edu)

Now through March 11, 2017, National Gallery of Art, Washington DC, *Civic Pride: Group Portraits from Amsterdam*. On long-term loan from the Rijksmuseum and the Amsterdam Museum, two large-scale group portraits from the Dutch Golden Age by Govert Flinck and Bartholomeus van der Helst. [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov).

**Reminder**  
**Sinterklaas 2012**

We hope you have marked your calendars for the Sinterklaas Celebration which will take place on Saturday, December 1, 2012. Sint will meet NAUL people (big and small) at Gretchen's House on DhuVarren Road. Details will be provided in the Sint Newsletter and by e-mail.

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**NAUL Dues**

**Get a head start for your dues for 2013. They will be due on January 1, 2013. Remember to look on the mailing label of this Newsletter. It should show (12) or later. If your mailing label shows earlier than (12) your dues are long overdue. If we do not receive your payment, this may be your last Newsletter.**

**Dues categories are:**

Family with young children	\$30.00
Individual or Senior Couple	20.00
Sustaining	50.00
Sponsor	100.00

**Send your payment for 2013 to:**

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