

NAUL NEWSLETTER

***Netherlands America University League
Volume 34, No. 4, November 2012***

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Sint in Ann Arbor

We hear that Sint will arrive on Saturday, December 1, 2012. He sent Ton Broos an e-mail message via his I-Pad to tell him the good news. At last, Sinterklaas seems to be joining the 21st century and says that he loves his I-Pad. You will remember that last year he was still contacting Ton by snail-mail and telephone. Our Sint still won't use Twitter and Facebook. Perhaps some of the NAUL kids can persuade him to give it a try.

The festivities will start at 5:30 PM at Gretchen's House, 1580 DhuVarren Road here in Ann Arbor. If you are going to welcome Sint to our town on December 1, it is very important that you complete the registration form that is included with this newsletter. It gives you all the information you need to sign up your kids, grandkids, and yourselves to greet Sint. Nanna Fecteau is your contact for registering. Alas, Sint had to leave his Zwarte Pieten helpers in the Netherlands because some bureaucrats in the Homeland Security Department wouldn't give the helpers visas to travel. All the Pieten developed chicken-pox while in the Netherlands so they are in quarantine. We wish them all a speedy recovery. However, the horse was OK and will travel with Sint. You can mail, e-mail, or phone your response to Nanna by the deadline of Wednesday, November 21, 2012. If you miss the deadline, it will be very difficult to accommodate your children. Don't disappoint them.

Els Nieuwenhuijsen will be coordinating the treats for the party. I know we will enjoy wonderful bread rolls filled with all kinds of

savory treats. We ask that members bring a sweet or savory snack to share. NAUL will provide beer and wine but Els won't refuse those contributions as well. Please keep in mind that Gretchen's House is a peanut free facility – so no peanuts or peanut products in the dish you bring. Els can answer all your questions. You can reach her by phone at 734-995-1817 or e-mail elsni@comcast.net.

After Sint leaves, we will have our annual raffle. Karla Vandersypen will coordinate the raffle gifts. If you have any questions, e-mail Karla at vandersupen@spcglobal.net, or by phone 734-668-1240.

Sint's talented helper Sipkje Pesnichak will lead the musical welcome to our evening celebration. Finally, remember that this is a 'for members only' event and that you dues must be up-to-date to participate. If you haven't paid your 2012 dues, take a moment to do so now, or be prepared to pay on the evening of the party.

To see if you are paid up, look at the label on the Newsletter. It will show (12 or later).

What is Sint doing before December 5?

We are informed that Sinterklaas will be arriving in Roermond on November 17. Roermond is a town of 56,000 inhabitants in Limburg and the name translates as 'mouth of the river Roer'. Two other rivers meet there also: Maas and Swalm. Therefore, Sinterklaas will have no problem with his boat. See www.sinterklaasnaarroermond.nl where you

can also vote for the 'gouden pepernoot' award.

We found out from the New Metropolis Science Center (NEMO) in Amsterdam that to practice walking on slippery rooftops, Sinterklaas uses the roof of NEMO. An excellent place for a warming up! The organizers write to us: "We invite you to come and encourage Sinterklaas, his horse (Amerigo) and the Zwarte Pieten on the 21st November. Make sure you are on the roof of NEMO at 14.30, admission is free. Maybe you'll get the chance to ask Sinterklaas a question. After the event, you can visit NEMO where the Zwarte Pieten cause a chaos in the Chain Reaction, a show about cause and effect.

Program

14:30 Gather on the roof of NEMO with hot chocolate and sing songs with the mini Pieten orchestra.

15:00 Sinterklaas and his horse Amerigo climb the roof of NEMO. Children can encourage them and Sinterklaas will do an experiment and answers questions from the children.

15:30 Sinterklaas and his horse take the elevator down.

15:45 Free entrance to Science Center NEMO, until closing time (17.00).

16:00 Chain Reaction show with the Zwarte Pieten.

We also read in the Dutch media that good old Sint goes to Heeswijk-Dinther in Brabant, close to Den Bosch to sleep in a box bed (bedstee) in the Museum Boerderij on November 24. All children can come and wake him up in the morning. They can also pet his horse Amerigo (bring a carrot!) and can qualify to become one of his helpers by doing all kinds of tricks. They will receive a diploma and pepernoten. For the parents there is the usual 'kopje koffie' with original 'speculaas'. You can check it out on www.museumboerderij.nl

Rotterdam organizers made a special song to welcome Sinterklaas for the 60th time. All the Rotterdam kids are asked to learn this for the big welcome parade.

Find www.sinterklaasfever.nl.

Every Dutch kid watches Dieuwertje Blok, who everyday reports on television what is happening with Sinterklaas. Fun to watch and you can too via www.sinterklaasjournaal.nl or www.uitzendinggemist.nl.

Did you know? That for the adults there is a special secret Santa, www.lootjestrekken.nl or drawnames.com.

In the USA:

Sinterklaas Craft Fair

4th Annual Craft Fair to benefit Sinterklaas. Free event! Sunday, November 18 from 10:00am-4:00pm at the Rhinebeck Town Hall, 80 East Market St (across from the municipal parking lot) in Rhinebeck, NY.

And of course: Sinterklaas in Ann Arbor on December 1, 2012

Some Sinterklaas treats to make at home.

Pepernoten (spiced cookies)

This is a 19th century recipe adapted from the 1838 edition of *Nieuw Nederlandsch Keukenboek* (New Dutch Kitchen Book).

Makes about 30-40

1-1/2 cups flour

1-1/2 cups sugar

1 teaspoon each ground cinnamon,

nutmeg, cardamom, and anise seed

1 tablespoon minced citron

3 eggs beaten with a fork, divided

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, and spices.

Add about half of the beaten egg and knead to a stiff but pliable dough. The eggs are the liquid in this recipe; therefore add more egg a tablespoon at a time, so as not to make the dough too soft. Take off small pieces of dough and roll into balls the size of a hazelnut. Place on a buttered baking sheet and bake for about 15 minutes.

Every Dutch person knows boterkoek and this recipe comes from Toos Judge. I can tell you it is really delicious.

Boterkoek (Butter cake)

Preheat oven 375 degrees F.

1-3/4 cup flour

3/4 cup sugar

7 ounces unsalted butter at room temperature

Pinch of salt

2 Tbs. (more or less) slivered almonds (optional)

2 Tbs. (more or less) candied ginger, minced (optional)

Butter a 12 x 10 baking sheet and coat with bread crumbs. Spread dough in pan, flattening dough with the palm of your hand. Brush top with egg yolk, loosely beaten with a few drops of water. Bake for about 20-30 minutes until golden brown. Keep your eye on it so it doesn't burn!! When cool, break up into pieces.

NAUL's New Series

Rob van der Voo's lecture on October 30, was the first in the NAUL's new series featuring its own members. Rob is a long time member and 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 fascinating power-point presentation entitled "Why I am Attracted by Magnetism" was well received by the NAUL members and guests in attendance. We certainly look forward to more of these programs by NAUL's many talented members and thank Erik Zuiderweg for his work in organizing this event. A little bird has told us that Paul van den Muysenberg will be the next presenter.

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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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