

# NAUL NEWSLETTER

*Netherlands America University League*  
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## NAUL PICNIC IS BACK!!!

Yes – The NAUL picnic is back. After a couple of ‘dry’ years, we are once again gearing up for the ‘almost annual’ NAUL picnic. The date is **Sunday, June 28, 2009**. The time is from **2 to 6 PM**. We have a new venue for the picnic. As you all know, the metro parks have priced themselves out of our budget (they charge \$125 to reserve a shelter plus the fee to serve beer and wine. The picnic will be held at the Glacier Highlands Park on the southwest corner of Larchmont Drive and Barrister Road. This small park is across the street from the Zuiderweg’s home.

You can check out the park’s website at [www.annarbortown.com/ssi/parkmaps/glacierhighlandsparkmanmap.php](http://www.annarbortown.com/ssi/parkmaps/glacierhighlandsparkmanmap.php). There are many shade trees, but we hear that the park has only two picnic tables and one barbeque. A few card tables and portable grills would be a most welcome addition. Contact Karla Vandersypen if you have such an item to lend.

NAUL members are asked to bring a salad or dessert, lawn chairs for yourself and family and favorite games for your kids. The NAUL will provide the rest – drinks (beer, wine and soft drinks), hamburgers, sausages and all the ‘fixins’. Since our hospitality chairperson will be out of town for this event, Lineke Zuiderweg and Karla Vandersypen will be coordinating the picnic preparations. You can reach Karla by phone at 734-668-1240, or e-mail [vandersypen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vandersypen@sbcglobal.net). Lineke’s number is 734-741-1757 or [famzuid@yahoo.com](mailto:famzuid@yahoo.com).

We are looking forward to seeing many NAUL folks at the picnic.

## Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting and Rijsttafel, which took place on May 16, 2009 at Gretchen’s House, was sadly not very well attended. Those who did attend were very enthusiastic and an exceptional array of rijsttafel dishes was provided. Elizabeth Ong and Karla Vandersypen were re-elected to the NAUL Board of Directors. Elizabeth had taken on the post of treasurer from Riet Haas and Karla is still our indispensable secretary.

At the meeting, a member raised a question about the new regulations for those who still hold Dutch passports. Apparently, some members were under the impression that the Dutch government was closing down its consular operations in Detroit. We assured members at the meeting that it was not the case and that only the procedure for renewing passports had changed. Since the meeting, many of you will have received a letter from Consul Hans Pijls explaining the new regulations. In a nutshell, those wishing to renew Dutch passports will have to travel to Chicago, Illinois or London, Ontario once the passport office in Bloomfield Hills closes on June 24, 2009. If you still have questions, the phone number of the consular office in Bloomfield Hills is 248-901-4050, or after it closes to Hans directly at his office in Detroit 313-983-4999. Hans can also be reached by e-mail [hpjils@plunkettcooney.com](mailto:hpjils@plunkettcooney.com). Yeah, it is a big nuisance! What can this editor say but Become American.

## Of Interest

**Vermeer's Masterpiece, *The Milkmaid*** – September 10 through November 29, 2009 – a new exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum in New York. The show will feature two paintings on loan – one, the centerpiece of the exhibition “Milkmaid” from the Rijksmuseum and the second by Dutch Baroque artist Jacob Backer’s “Woman with a Jug” from about 1645 on loan from a Boston collector. The other paintings in the exhibition are from the Met’s own collection – five Vermeers and other related canvases including Pieter de Hooch’s “Visit” (1657) and an interior by the same artist, Gabriel Metsu’s “Woman Seated at a Window”. “The Milkmaid” has not traveled to New York since it was shown at the 1939 World’s Fair. The exhibition was organized in honor of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Henry Hudson’s historic voyage to New York from Amsterdam. It looks to be a wonderful exhibition and a must-see if you are in New York.

## Some Belgian Trivia

(from Karla Vandersypen)

In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the English King Edward III lured Flemish textile workers to England with promises of great beer, high wages, and beautiful women. Medieval brain drain?

In 1662, a loaf of bread cost six Belgian francs, or about 0.15 Euro.

In 1621, the Antwerp merchant Willem Usselinckx made a proposal for the establishment of colonies in America, and in that year, the Dutch West India Company was chartered.

In 1566, Antwerp numbered 100,000 inhabitants, yet some 40 years later only 54,000. Most had moved to the Netherlands, in the Protestant north.

## Global Warming

### **The Dutch are Getting Ready for the Deluge**

Because of rising sea levels, the Dutch are now embarking on a decades-long plan to improve their flood-control system. It is

expected that this could cost \$1.27 billion per year through 2100. It would include raising the dikes and reinforcing the storm barriers. The proposal also includes improving the defenses of Rotterdam, Europe’s largest container port.

To extend the shoreline, millions of tons of sand would be dumped off the North Sea coast over the course of a century. The Dutch are even now testing a system of sensors that could eventually replace the army of volunteers that now fan out during storms to visually inspect the stability of the nation’s dikes.

The Dutch have the best flood protection in the world today, but are still preparing for the future. The Dutch campaign is still in its early stages and lawmakers are trying to figure out how to insure long-term financing. With a 220 mile long coastline and 1/4 of the country lying below sea level, the risk of flooding is ‘drastically increased’ in large parts of the Netherlands. Sixty percent of the population lives in the most vulnerable areas and sixty-five percent of economic output is produced in the lowest part of the country, which includes Amsterdam and The Hague.

According to Tracy Metz, a journalist and member of the Delta Commission II, the project will take decades and “Everyone is going to have to learn as we go along.”

## **Miep Gies is 100 and Anne Frank would have been 80 on June 12.**

Miep Gies, who helped Ann Frank while in hiding during WWII, recently celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday quietly with family and friends. After the hiding place was betrayed and the Frank family arrested, Miep found Anne’s diary and kept it safe. When the war was over, she returned the diary to Otto Frank, the only survivor of his family. She received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Yad Vashem medal and was knighted by Queen Beatrix. In Ann Arbor, Miep Gies received the Wallenberg Medal.

## The Dutch Corner

### Een Amerikaan in Amsterdam

Jaren geleden moest ik een nieuwe dokter zoeken. Dat was erg moeilijk, want ik gebruik slaappillen, en die willen ze hier niet voorschrijven. Je moet ervoor naar een psychiater. Want: er is altijd iets *diepers* met je aan de hand. Ik moet zeggen dat ik graag iets *diepers* zou willen hebben: even vertellen aan zo'n persoon en je slaapt als een roos. Maar zo gaat het niet met de meeste slapelozen. Ze liggen te denken in bed en daar kunnen ze niet mee stoppen, maar diep is het niet. Hoe dan ook, je kunt hoog of laag springen, maar je moet naar de psychiater. Die gelooft in die diepte, want het is zijn vak. Zonder die diepte is hij nergens meer.

Ik kondigde dus aan dat ik naar Holland terug zou gaan, want ik wilde niet langer bedelen. Daar was ik niet voor naar Amerika gekomen. Als je zoiets zegt, moet je er heel sterk zelf in geloven, anders voelt de andere partij dat je wel over te halen bent. Nou, ik heb het goed gedaan, want ik kreeg de pillen. Overigens begreep de man niets van mij en mijn filosofie. Ik kon net zo goed van de maan zijn gevallen.

Op een keer begon de psychiater zelf te praten. Hij was in Amsterdam geweest. En waar denk je dat hij naar toe was gegaan? Naar de Wallejtjes. Ik zei: "Maar dokter, dat doet iedere Amerikaan." Maar nee, voor *hem* was het anders. Dit was een kans voor hem, als psychiater, om het verschijnsel te bestuderen. Ik had naar beneden zitten kijken, want ik voelde iets in mij opwellen. Ik keek hem aan en zei: "Ja, ja..." en begon toen toch verschrikkelijk te lachen. Ik zag hem in gedachten lopen, een schriele figuur, typisch een man voor wie de vrouwen op de ramen zouden tikken.

Jaren later kreeg ik zijn aantekeningen onder ogen, die wij voor een Long-Term-Care verzekering moesten overleggen. Ik kwam er achter dat hij een keer gedacht had dat ik "bi-polar" was. En waarom? Omdat ik een keer heel erg had gelachen, terwijl ik anders nooit lachte. Hij had niet opgeschreven *waarom* ik zo gelachen had.

*Lia van Leer*

## Members' News:

It is with sadness that we report the death of **Raffaele de Ritis** at the end of March 2009. Raffaele was the husband of **Iruschka** who has been a faithful NAUL supporter for many years. He was also the father of board member Mars de Ritis and grandfather of Lilly (our Sinterklaas raffle MC) and Nora Dwyer. Raffaele died suddenly at their home in Florida. After dealing with a slow US bureaucracy, Iruschka and Mars took Raffaele back to Italy for burial. Iruschka and Mars traveled back to Florida in late May and returned to Michigan sometime later. If you care to send them a note, Mars's e-mail address is [lene@umich.edu](mailto:lene@umich.edu) and Iruschka can be reached at 734-971-2028.

On a happier note, **Paul van den Muysenberg** celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 25 surrounded by many friends and relatives who traveled from the Netherlands. Paul, who for many years served as honorary consul of the Netherlands for Detroit, has been a constant supporter of the NAUL since its earliest days.

Another octogenarian who celebrated a birthday in May is **Bert Haas**. On May 21, Bert turned 82. He certainly is still 'sharp as a tack' and keeps his sprightly step.

Also celebrating a birthday since the last Newsletter was our favorite former mayor of Ann Arbor, **Sam Eldersveld**. Sam's birthday was on March 29 and he turned a venerable 92. Sam and Els Nieuwenhuijsen celebrated their wedding anniversary on April 18. Sam does not get around too much these days, so, I am sure that a cheery little note wishing him well would be appreciated.

On the mend: **Marjorie Cripps** – from hip replacement surgery. Marjorie is rehabilitating in Glacier Hills but expects to be home and back to her myriad activities by mid-June.

Moving: **Irene Grace and Richard Goldszer**. We will be sad to lose our long-time NAUL members Irene and Richard. In

July, they will move to Pittsburg, Pa., where Richard will take on a new job. Irene has retired from her teaching job with the A2 School system. Irene has been on the NAUL board for several years. We will miss them and wish them all good happenings and much success in their newest venture.

News from 'old' members. **Jeanette & Dennis Morse.** They moved to Connecticut two years ago. Dennis was transferred to Pfizer in Connecticut. Jeanette says there are not too many Dutchies there. She hasn't met a real one in the two years since moving and being 'dutch' means that your 3 times great grandfather came to the US. She enjoys reading the Newsletter and say's HI to everyone.

### **The Saga of Belgian Jennie**

Jennie was a young Belgian girl who left her abusive husband and emigrated to the US in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. She made her way to Jerome Arizona, at the time a booming mining town of some 15,000 people and known as the "wickedest city in Arizona". Ninety percent of the population was male and starved for female company. The cowboys called the ladies of the evening 'soiled doves'. These doves were supposedly tolerated by other women as being a necessary evil. Even amongst the 'doves' there were two types of bad girls. 'Painted ladies' were those who made their living offering sex for pay and the other type, the dance hall girls who were said to be widows and women with 'high' moral standards who were forced to earn their own livings. Our Jennie was an attractive self-promoter who soon became a madam and the richest woman in Arizona. However, as more and more people 'got religion', prostitution became less and less tolerated. Jennie's neighborhood burned down three times. Because she was still popular with the male population, her establishment was usually the first to be rebuilt. Billy the Kid, Wyatt Earp and other legends of the Wild West were said to be very familiar with Belgian Jennie. Eventually Jennie wanted to love only one man. But alas, she picked the wrong one.

She threw him out after he disrespected her. He returned to shoot her in the head three times. He was tried for murder and hanged. The locals were said to be 'filled with grief' at the passing of Jennie. Today Jerome has a population of only about 450, mostly artists and crafts-people, the town being close to Sedona of vortex fame. A pizza parlor on Main Street "Belgian Jennie's Bordello Bistro & Pizzeria" keeps the ghost of Jennie alive. (*Adapted from a story in DeGazette van Detroit*)

### **Future Events**

#### **De Vries - VanderKooy Annual Lecture**

This year's lecture to celebrate Dutch and Flemish Studies will be given by Michiel van Kempen under the title "**Circular Journeys: On Going Native in Post Colonial Studies**" on **October 15 at 8 pm** at the Michigan **League**. Van Kempen is Professor of Dutch West-Indian Literature at the University of Amsterdam, and well known for his extensive studies of Surinamese literature. He wrote the authoritative *Geschiedenis van de Surinaamse Literatuur* (History of Surinamese Literature, 2002) in five volumes, *Mama Sranan; 200 jaar Surinaamse verhaalkunst* (Mama Suriname; 200 years Surinamese story telling, 1999) and many other literary anthologies. Besides a large Suriname-project at the Amsterdam University Library, he wrote many literary essays, translations, texts for theatre and film and is also the author of several collections of short stories, two children's books and two novels. His novel *Plantage Lankmoedigheid* (Plantation Indulgence, 1997) depicts the difficulties of different cultural origins in a Surinamese setting in the years of the "revolution" and repression following the coup of 1980. His latest novel *Vluchtwegen* (Escape Routes, 2006) deals with the story of the immigrants' quarter Bijlmermeer in Amsterdam. Professor Van Kempen received many awards and was knighted in Suriname in 2005 (Honorary Order of the Yellow Star) and The Netherlands in 2007 (Order of Orange- Nassau).

**Ton Broos**

### Netherlands Visiting Professor Fall 2009

The Center for European Studies has announced that **Henco Bekkering** is the Netherlands Visiting Professor (NVP) for the Fall 2009 Term. He is a professor of Architecture and Urbanism at the Delft University of Technology. He specializes in city form and the relation between architecture and urban design. While in residence at the UM, Professor Bekkering will teach one course, "Theories of Urban Design".

### Winter 2010

**Linda Senden**, a professor of European Law at Tilburg University will be the NVP for the Winter Term 2010. She specializes in European governance and regulation, institutional and constitutional law, sex equality law and judicial protection. While in residence at UM's Law School, Professor Senden will teach "European Legal Order".

### Visiting from Berkeley, CA

Ton Broos has arranged a visit to the UM by **Kader Abdolah**, Visiting Writer-in-Residence in Berkeley. Mr. Abdolah will be in Ann Arbor from March 17 to 21, 2010. He was born in Iran, studied physics in Teheran, and was active in the student resistance during the Khomeini regime. He fled his homeland in 1985 and in 1988, he settled in the Netherlands. He mastered the Dutch language quickly, and began writing in it. Abdolah is a prolific writer and an unusual and unique voice in Dutch literature. His themes hold up a mirror to his new compatriots. He subtly questions the famous tolerance of the Dutch and the supposedly peaceful coexistence of races and beliefs in the Netherlands. In 2006, he published the award-winning novel *Het Huis van de Moskee* (The House of the Mosque). In 2008 he published an alternative translation of the Koran underlining a more moderate and human Islam. His name, Kader Abdolah, is a pen name created to honor friends who died under the oppressive Iranian regimes. We are looking forward to the visit of this highly acclaimed Dutch author, who though

not a native speaker is leaving a positive mark in the Dutch literary scene.

### Dues Reminder

Look at the label on this Newsletter. If it doesn't show 09 or later, your 2009 dues are overdue. Pay today:

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