

NAUL NEWSLETTER

Netherlands America University League
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What Happens to This Newsletter and Other NAUL ‘stuff’

Some of you may wonder what happens to the Newsletter after it is distributed to the membership, not the one you put in the trash bin. Does it simply get stored in the editor’s computer files? Are paper copies kept somewhere, and if so, who takes care of it all? What about all the other paper that NAUL produces? Where are the program announcements stored? What about meeting minutes: both board meetings and annual meetings? Financial and other reports? Seems like we are producing a lot of paper.

First, let’s take the Newsletter. The current editor, and I am sure past editors have done the same, does keep a computer file of Newsletters that she has produced. This is mainly for her own reference and is not the permanent repository of the Newsletter. For several years now, Newsletters have been published through the Dutch Studies link on the UM German Department’s website. (This is a temporary measure awaiting the NAUL’s own website, which we hope is still in production.) The web site is not the permanent repository, either. Current newsletters will usually replace older newsletters on the web site. The links to follow to access Newsletters or information about the Dutch Studies program at the UM have been listed in previous newsletters and now you will find it in the colophon at the end of this Newsletter. The permanent repository for NAUL Newsletters has been, and continues to be, the Bentley Historical Library for the long term (see next paragraph). In the interim, the Secretary of

the NAUL keeps a paper copy of each issue until transfer to the Bentley.

Moving on to all the other paper the NAUL produces. The secretary of the organization, currently Karla Vandersypen, is the collector and temporary keeper of ALL the documents that the organization produces, Newsletters, Program Announcements, all meeting minutes and all reports, correspondence, traditional and electronic, received or sent – everything. The secretary, now Karla, periodically transfers what has been accumulated to the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan. The Bentley is the official keeper of the NAUL archives. Apart from serving as the official archives of the University of Michigan, another function of the Bentley is “to document the history of the State of Michigan and the activities of its people, organizations, and voluntary associations.” Those records are available to researchers and other interested individuals. The NAUL is part of Michigan’s history.

Belgian Trivia

The Battle of the Stars -- Michelin that is. The coastal resort of Knokke-Heist, which is close to Brugge, has a leaflet, which claims that it has the highest number of Michelin-star restaurants after Paris. It states that within a twenty-one kilometer radius there are 21 one-star restaurants. However, twelve of those restaurants are actually in Brugge. This has infuriated the tourist bureau folks in Brugge who insist that Knokke has only three star-rated restaurants and that Knokke is capitalizing on Brugge’s reputation.

Another bit of trivia about Brugge. The American magazine Condé Nast Traveler ranks Brugge as the seventh most beautiful city in the world. It equals Paris and finishes just behind Vienna.

Pommes Frites

There is an authentic Belgian *frietkot*, in New York City, at 123 2nd Avenue, where you will find Pommes Frites Inc. It was recently featured on the TV Food Channel on the History of French Fries. The program did mention that “french” fries are really Belgian.

Here is Another Hero.

In the Sunday, February 28 issue of the newspaper AnnArbor.com there was an article about a diplomat who was instrumental in saving Jews from Nazi concentration camps by providing them with false passports. The article recounts the story of Ina Polak nee Soep who after her mother’s death in 1980 found a document showing a Salvadoran citizenship certificate for herself, her sister and parents. Some will recall Ina & Jack Polak’s visit to Ann Arbor for the DeVries-van der Kooy lecture. The Soep family were Dutch Jews with no connection to El Salvador. George Mantello was one of a few diplomats who during WWII issued visas or citizenship papers to Jews and others thus saving many thousands of lives. Mantello, himself a Jew, held honorary diplomatic positions for the El Salvador government. He changed his name from Mandel to the Spanish sounding Mantello. He was arrested in 1942 in Belgrade but escaped to Geneva. He became first secretary of the Salvadoran consulate where he was able to work to save fellow Jews.

NAUL Annual Meeting and Rijsttafel Dinner.

The date for the NAUL’s Annual Meeting and Rijsttafel Dinner has been set for Saturday, May 15, at 5 PM at Gretchen’s House, 1580 Dhu Varren Road, Ann Arbor, beginning at 5 PM. Board members whose terms expire this year are, Irene Butter, Mars de Ritis, Nanna Fecteau, Gwen Shah Ingram, and Lineke Zuiderweg. Irene, Nanna, Mars,

and Lineke have agreed to stand for reelection. Gwen has declined because of serious health problems that she must deal with. We wish her well and do hope to see her at our events. Els Nieuwenhuijsen-Eldersveld has agreed that her name be put forward in nomination. As usual, members attending the Annual Meeting will be asked to nominate additional candidates for the board from the floor. Members who wish to submit an agenda item or nominate candidates for the board should submit a request to secretary Karla Vandersypen (by phone 734-668-1240 or e-mail vandersypen@sbcglobal.net). We hope to hear from you.

After the business meeting, members will enjoy a potluck Rijsttafel dinner. We ask that you bring a favorite Indonesian dish to share with others and enjoy some new dishes prepared by the members. The NAUL will provide beer, wine, soft drinks and the table service. If you have any questions about the dinner, call Tanja van der Voo (tvandervoo@comcast.net or 734-663-5506) or Lineke Zuiderweg (famzuid@yahoo.com or 734-741-1757). We hope to see many members at the Annual Meeting.

More Information for Members

First of all, we again ask that you take a look at the address label on your Newsletter. If it shows **10 or later**, your dues are paid up! If it does not, then your payment is past due, so I urge you to send in your dues check. If your label shows **08** you are seriously in arrears, and unfortunately this will be your last newsletter and you will no longer receive information about other events.

The renewal notice that appeared in the last newsletter asked that you provide an e-mail address. We recognize that not all members have or are interested in e-mail. However, we would like to collect as many addresses as we can from those who do use electronic mail. We plan to use those addresses to quickly send reminders for up-coming events. Those reminders would not replace

the postal notices but would simply serve as a follow-up.

In Memoriam

Samuel J. Eldersveld 1917 - 2010

Our dear friend Sam died on Friday Mar. 5, 2010. He was 92 years old – a venerable age. But Sam will be remembered by his friends as always young at heart. He maintained his curiosity up until the end of his life. All his life, Sam was a champion for social justice. While serving as the democratic mayor of Ann Arbor in the late 1950's, he established the Human Relations Commission, which still exists today. The commission aimed to eliminate racial discrimination in housing, banking, education and business. While mayor, he continued to carry out his teaching responsibilities at the University of Michigan's Political Science Department. In 1964, he became chair of the Political Science Department and served in that capacity until 1970. He built the department into one of the most highly regarded in the country. Professor Eldersveld wrote 22 books and countless articles. His students loved him. He received many honors from the University of Michigan and the highest honors from the professional societies in his field. For more than sixty years, Sam was a member of St. Andrews Episcopal Church. A memorial service was held there on March 13, 2010.

Sam loved Ann Arbor, his church, the UM, football, his friends, his family and most of all his wife Els. We remember the day in 2000 when Sam and Els were married in our newly reconstructed garden. It was a lovely summer's day, shared with a few friends, and our neighbors peeking over the back fence. We remember dinners we shared with Sam and Els, especially the Christmas Eve dinners where Sam's favorite dishes were braised rabbit and scalloped potatoes. We remember the monthly poker parties, with Sam always keen to win; how we had to teach Els the art of poker and how Sam would end the party with a raucous round of three-card-monty and we remember lots of laughter. We remember Sam's love of life. We miss him.

Ton & Janet Broos

Note: Memorial contributions in Sam's memory to:

The Breakfast at St. Andrews
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
306 North Division St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1497

or

The University of Michigan Department of
Political Science
Attn: Sandy Staneff
5700 Haven Hall, 505 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Kudos: to Bram van Leer,

Bram is a professor of aerospace engineering at the University of Michigan. He has been honored to receive the AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics) Fluid Dynamics Award for 2010. "The award is given for outstanding contributions to the understanding of the behavior of liquids and gasses in motion as related to needs in aeronautics and astronautics. He was cited for seminal groundbreaking work in computational fluid dynamics, especially in the development of shock capturing methods, and outstanding contributions to aerospace education." Congratulations!

Dutch Composer's works celebrated at Carnegie Hall.

In the April 4, 2010 New York Times Arts section, a full-page article was devoted to Dutch composer Louis Andriessen. A series honoring Mr. Andriessen will be presented at Carnegie Hall beginning April 9 and ending April 17. The series ***Louis Andriessen in New York***, will include works by Mr.

Andriessen and other composers, both Dutch and American. The April 9 program entitled *Louis and the Young Americans*, featured world premier works by John Korstrud, Missy Mazzoli, and Michael Fiday. Mr. Andriessen's Symphony for Open Strings will enjoy its New York premier. On April 15, the New York premier of the concert version of Andriessen's *La Commedia* will be performed. *La Commedia*, which is actually a film opera, had its world premier

in 2008. In collaboration with the filmmaker Hal Hartley, the opera was staged at the Theatre Carré in Amsterdam.

The series continues on April 16 and April 17, with music by Reinbert de Leeuw, Making Music, and Three Naughty Boys and Three Crazy Girls with commentary by Louis Andriessen.

The Dutch Corner

Lia van Leer's column, which usually appears in this space is on vacation.

NAUL Winter Concert was a real Dutch Treat

On February 21, 2010 at the home of Erik & Lineke Zuiderweg, NAUL members and friends enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of music and poetry. All of the presentations were by Dutch composers and authors. The afternoon began with Erik's string quartet. Eric was joined by his fellow violinist Michael Garrahan, Joseph Lange, viola, and Margaret Weiss violoncello. They performed *Strijkkwartet* by Leo Smit, a 20th century composer, and from the 17th-18th century Willem de Fresch's *Concerto Grosso*.

Ton and Janet Broos then read, in Dutch and English, poetry selections by Dutch authors including Balthazar Huydecoper, Guido Gezelle, Annie K. Schmidt, and Mustafa Sitou.

After a short intermission, Ton & Janet read works by Nachoem Wijnberg, Cees Noteboom, Ida Gerhardt, Hendrik Marsman and Ramsey Nasr.

While the audience waited with baited breath, Bram van Leer took center stage for another stellar solo performance. Keeping to the Dutch theme Bram played first on the harpsichord Sweelinck's *Chromatische fantasie*. Before starting the piece, he demonstrated the different sound possibilities that can be made on the harpsichord. It was quite informative and much appreciated by the audience. Next, he turned to the piano, regaling us with a composition by A. Voormolen – *Suite de clavecin*. It was a breathtaking performance. Bravos could be

heard through out the length and breath of Larchmont Avenue.

It is amazing to realize that music is the avocation of all of these performers. That they are successful professionals in non-musical fields and yet so accomplished as musicians, is truly a sign of their love and dedication to music. Our hats off to all.

As has been our custom over the years, we present below a poem from the Broos' readings. We have selected the first and second verses of the *Hudson Sonnets* by Ramsey Nasr, the current poet laureate of the Netherlands written on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of Hudson's arrival in what later became New York.

De Hudson Sonnetten

I - Hudson's shortcut

in wezen lagen jullie in de weg
wij kwamen meegevaren op de droom
van een malloot: die hudson had gezegd
dat hij een shortcut kende naar den oost

immer gerade aus langs de noordpool
dan kwam je snel in indië terecht
en wij geloofden deze vent, we volgden
zelfs toen hij ijskoud polste: 'of naar west . . . ?'

kapitein hudson was al eens ontslagen
en toen hij aan een vreemde baai bezwoer
dat we om in azië te raken slechts nog
dwars door amerika heen moesten varen
toen voeren we al niet meer – rotsvast geklemd
van kop tot kont in 't nieuwe continent

II - nieuw amsterdam

de baai lag als een uitgestrekte vinger
vanaf het vaderland op ons te wachten
wij gingen er op pad, we stampten rond
wegwijzend in een leeg maar vruchtbaar gat

wellicht dat enkel uit ons lijf, dat nimmer
één volk, één god voor zich had kunnen winnen
dat zelf oprees uit schuim van minderheden
een babelstad als dit zich kon ontspringen

wie leerde u hier het ware smelten? wie
zei: handel vrij, wees anders, wees gelijken
dat dromen zich als aandelen verspreiden?
de wereldkampioen in immigreren
dat waren wij, een verre vonk van vrijheid
amerika een holland in het klein

I - Hudson's shortcut

our outcome was that you were in the way
we sailed to that conclusion on a dream
dreamt by a fool: our captain hudson claimed
that he could find a shortcut to the east

go straight and keep the north pole on your left
then you can slip down quickly to the indies
and we believed the guy and followed him
yes, even when he said: "or maybe west . . . ?"

henry hudson had been dismissed before
and when he swore on the shore of a foreign bay
that all we had to do to reach the orient
was set a course straight through america
we'd wisely lowered sail – already wedged
from stem to stern in this new continent

II - new amsterdam

the waiting bay lay like an outstretched finger
at the end of an invisible dutch arm
we went exploring, stamping round we found
our way in a deserted fertile backwater

perhaps no other body but ours, which never
managed to win one god, one people for itself
which rose from drifting, loose minorities
could lay the seed for such a babelopolis

who taught you how to use the melting pot?
who said, be equal, be diverse and free
your trade, who told you, dreams can spread like
shares?

the true world champions of immigration
we were, a distant spark of liberty
america, the netherlands writ small

A Language Lesson: Here are some common
words borrowed from the Dutch in English and
Amerindian. What is interesting is that some
Amerindian words seem to be closer to the Dutch.

basket English
mand Dutch
manodah Amerindian

button English
knoop Dutch
kenóp Amerindian

chicken English
kip Dutch
kipkip Amerindian

congregation English
gemeente Dutch

geménde Amerindian

shirt English
hemd Dutch
hamet Amerindian

(Taken from *Cookies, Coleslaw and Stoops:*
The Influence of Dutch on the North American
Languages by Nicoline van der Sijs, 2009)

Dues Reminder

Look at the label on this Newsletter. If it doesn't
show 10 or later, your 2010 dues are overdue.

Family	\$30	Individual	\$20
Senior	10	Student	10
Senior Couple	20	Sponsor	50
Sustaining	100		

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