

NAUL NEWSLETTER

Netherlands America University League
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BREAKING NEWS

Sint will be back in town. The date is **Saturday, December 5!** He hopes that all his NAUL friends, young and old will be gathered at **Gretchen's House, 1580 Dhu Varren Road, here in Ann Arbor at 6 PM.** The dear old fellow still hasn't mastered the social media sites, but at least now he does know a bit about e-mail. His message said that he is looking forward to seeing his old friends and the young ones too, and making some new ones.

A registration form is included in this Newsletter. It gives you all the information you need to know to sign up your kids, grandkids, and yourselves. Your contact for registering is Nanna Fecteau. Nanna will coordinate the names of all the children and adults who will be attending. It is very important that you mail, e-mail, or call your response by the registration deadline of Monday, November 23. Registration is for everyone, even those who do not bring a child. Don't miss the deadline and don't disappoint the children.

This year the 'event planners' have decided that we should only host a 'snack potluck'. Members attending are asked to bring their favorite savory or sweet snack to share. Drinks will be provided by the NAUL, but liquid contributions will also be welcomed.

Money in the Bank

In 1648, Yale University acquired a 1,000 guilder-bond which was written on goatskin and is among the five oldest bonds in the world that still pays interest. Yale acquired the bond in 2003 as an artifact. They will be paid €136.20 (~\$153). The bond was issued to pay for a pier in the Lek river in the Netherlands.

SINT vs SANTA

By now you know everything there is to know about Sinterklaas and Santa Claus. For instance, that Santa lives in the North Pole and Sint lives in sunny Spain. Perhaps Sint lives in Spain because he can save a lot of money on his heating bills. Santa must have very high heating bills. Santa dresses in a bright red suit with furry white trim while Sint wears an elegant long red cape with beautiful golden trim, over an exquisite long gown of silk and lace. On December 24, Santa flies from his home in the North Pole on a sled pulled by a couple of tired reindeer, spends a lot of time sliding down chimneys, often landing hard on his bum. Then he fills a lot of, sometimes smelly stocks, hung by the chimney with care, and leaves toys and other presents around the Christmas tree. Now, on the other hand, in November Sint, with his faithful horse trots down to the steamboat for a leisurely ride from Spain, stops to do a little sightseeing along the way, and arrives in Holland on December 5. He stuffs some shoes, also smelly, with presents and returns to sunny Spain to enjoy a quite Christmas. Now, I ask you, "is all this fair". It seems to me that Santa works a lot harder than Sint. What do you think?

Meet Rudi Reindeer

This past summer your editor visited the North Cape and met Rudi who is a very special reindeer. He is employed by Father Christmas (AKA Sinterklaas and Santa Claus) but was on a well-earned vacation. Rudi is very conscientious and works very hard to get Father Christmas ready for his annual trip around the world on Christmas Eve. He spends a lot of time searching

maps and atlases looking for short-cuts from their home in the forest to all the places Father Christmas must travel to in December.

One bright and sunny spring day while Father Christmas was trying to nap in his lounge chair, Rudi started muttering that he had no time to look up and smell the flowers.

By that time he knew all the roads, towns and villages Father Christmas would take on their long trip in December and just wanted to spend some time to stroll in the woods, nap on a beach or visit his old Auntie Mildred. Father Christmas heard all this muttering and agreed that Rudi needed a holiday. Rudi did not want to go to far-off places like Hawaii, but just wanted to go north to see his Auntie.

That night, Rudi and Father Christmas enjoyed a wonderful farewell dinner of spaghetti and meatballs, a huge salad and strawberry ice cream for dessert. The next morning Rudi packed his bag and tucked in his atlas. He sheepishly told Father Christmas that it was "for a little bedtime reading". He would visit Aunt Mildred and promised to be back at the beginning of August. Father Christmas didn't do much while Rudi was gone. He ate a lot of junk food and most days just lounged on his patio. One day the postman brought a card from Rudi from the North Cape. He wrote that he was having a wonderful time and hoped that Father Christmas was not eating too much junk food. He sent his best wishes, also from Auntie Mildred.

As the first week of August drew near, Father Christmas kept looking and listening for Rudi's return. Alas, Rudi was not seen nor heard from. Father Christmas was beside himself with worry. He decided to travel north to search for Rudi. Upon his arrival, he went to the tourist office asking "Where is Rudi". Poor Father Christmas - he was despairing of ever finding Rudi. The nice lady in the tourist office, tried to reassure him that Rudi would be found. Next thing that happened, Father Christmas found himself in a car traveling to the North Cape, peering out left and right looking for any sign of the lost reindeer. All of a sudden, the car stopped close to a small lake and the driver shouted, 'there they are, a whole bunch of them'. Indeed, a herd of reindeer were eating grass, playing games, talking and laughing and having a good old time. But where was Rudi?

Suddenly, Father Christmas spotted him, lying alone on a hill, humming to himself, and gazing at the herd below. Father Christmas shouted, "Rudi, why are you still here"? Rudi smiled wistfully and said that yes, it was almost December. Father Christmas became angry and told Rudi of all trials and tribulations he endured looking for him. He wanted Rudi to pack his bags and together they would be off home. Rudi replied "No". Of course Father Christmas became angrier and shouted at Rudi that he was irresponsible and selfish. He insisted that Rudi pack for home. Again from Rudi - NO - saying Rosa said that shouts and threats are no way to settle an argument. "Rosa, Rosa, - who is Rosa, anyway?"

But, Rudi kept staring down toward the herd. Finally Father Christmas roared, "Don't tell me you have fallen in love". Rudi replied - "I have, with Rosa". Father Christmas knew that when dealing with people in love, it was best to be understanding. So, he gave a fatherly pat to Rudi and asked to be introduced to Auntie Mildred. They found Auntie Mildred with some older reindeer listening to a young fellow singing and playing the guitar. After a lovely afternoon with the family, Father Christmas took Rudi for a walk around the lake to try to convince him to come home. But Rudi was adamant that he could not leave. Father Christmas promised that he could return after Christmas. Still NO from Rudi! Finally he confessed that it was because of Jeremy, the singing reindeer who was also in love with Rosa. Shy Rudi had done nothing but talk to Rosa and adore her from afar, while Jeremy was courting her, giving her presents and paying her many compliments. Jeremy called Rudi nasty names and called him Father Christmas' little helper. He challenged Rudi to a swimming race but Rudi, being a flying and racing reindeer was bound to lose. Jeremy laughed and all the other reindeer did also, except Rosa. Rosa waved, and began walking across the water, then she took a leap in the middle of the lake and began walking in the air. Rosa was also a flying and racing reindeer. Rosa had kept that a secret from the other reindeer but she longed to travel and see distant lands. So she immediately applied for a job as one of Father Christmas' Sleigh reindeers. Father Christmas thought that was wonderful, and from that day on, on a dark night before

Christmas Eve, you will see a sleigh dashing twice as fast as ever over snow, the northern lights, and shooting stars! And if you would like to know how Rudi and Rosa spend their summer days, then just like Father Christmas, you will have to visit them in the globeflower meadows of the North Cape!

Inspired by Eva Schmutterer's RUDI

De Dikke Van Dale

There are not many Dutch speaking people who have never heard of Van Dale and many of them know this as Fat Van Dale [Dikke Van Dale]. This refers to the most popular name of a Dutch dictionary which in early editions was indeed as fat as a doorstopper. This Fall the latest edition of this immense work was published. This is great news because editions printed on paper seem to be on their way out [see: encyclopedias]. It turns out that this fifteenth edition, compared to the previous one in 2005, has added 18,000 new keywords, more explanations and many example sentences. You will also get access to the online version for your gadgets like I-phone and tablet, and you can even add words and pictures from your own imaginative brain. Only the sun rises for free, and there is a price tag: €179. The name Van Dale comes from Johan Hendrik van Dale, who was born in Sluis [Zeeuws Vlaanderen] in 1828, number five in a family of twelve. At age 16 he became 'teacher fourth class', at age 20 'onderwijzer tweede rang' [teacher second class.] That was all his education, and from 1854 on he started work as a primary school teacher, worked for the local archive, published a grammar and was asked to put a wordlist together. He was also asked to revise an existing Nieuw Woordenboek der Nederlandsche Taal [New Dictionary of the Dutch Language] in 1867 because the spelling had been changed. It took a few years to complete because he added new words and meanings. He finished it in 1872, did not get paid a lot and wrote in the introduction: "Het schrijven van een Woordenboek is een ondankbaar, een verdrietig werk." [writing a dictionary is an ungrateful, a sad labor]. Sadder is the fact that Johan van Dale died that same year of smallpox. He would not share in the glory of his work, in fact, his assistant Jan Manhave did all the necessary correction work of later editions, but he never got any recognition. J.H. van Dale got a monument in Sluis in 1924.

His famous signature was printed on the fifth edition in 1914 and is now widely recognized as the logo of the publishing house that also sells dictionaries in French, German, Spanish and English etc. My good old dictionary has been 'repaired' with rolls of tape, but has not been completely replaced by an electronic gadget.

Ton Broos

Announcement

Beginning in 2016 the NAUL's membership dues will be increased by \$10 in all categories, except for sponsor and sustaining categories. If you have not paid your 2015 dues, (and you know who you are, please do so now). We thank those who have paid in advance for 2016 and congratulate you for saving yourself \$10.

NAUL DUES

Dues payments were due on January 1, 2015. Look on mailing label of this Newsletter to see if your dues are up to date. If it does not show (15), your dues are late. Categories are:

	2015	2016
Couple or family with young children	\$30.	\$40.
Individual or Senior Couple	\$20.	\$30.
Individual Senior or Student	\$10.	\$20.
Sustaining	\$50.	\$50.
Sponsor	\$100.	\$100.

Send your payment to:

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