

# NAUL NEWSLETTER

*Netherlands America University League*  
*Volume 38, No.1, February 2016*

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## **MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC**

And much more!

Sunday, February 28, 2016. NAUL's annual musical afternoon will take place at the home of Lineke and Erik Zuiderweg, from 4 to 6 PM. Erik and friends will serenade us and Janet and Ton Broos will entertain us with a selection of interesting poems and Lineke will enlighten us with a power point presentation about architect Piet Blom. A reception follows and NAUL members are asked to bring a favorite finger food. Drinks will be provided. The Zuiderweg home is located at 3605 Larchmont, Ann Arbor; phone 734-741-1757.

### ***Other Events of Interest***

Events for March and April have not yet been scheduled. Works in progress!

### ***May***

Saturday, May 14, 2016. The Annual Meeting and Rijsttafel Dinner beginning at 4 PM will be hosted by Frank and Toos Judge at their home, 2600 Brockman Blvd, Ann Arbor, Phone 734-632-3650. You don't want to miss the delicious Indonesian dishes prepared by your NAUL friends. This is a much anticipated event where NAUL members get to socialize with one another, meet new people and enjoy wonderful food.

### ***June***

*Of Interest to NAUL members*

Dutch and Flemish Studies at the University of Michigan, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures in association with the American Association for Netherlandic Studies will host the 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Interdisciplinary Conference on *Netherlandic Studies*. Scholars from the US and

around the world will gather in Ann Arbor to discuss their work in the areas of Dutch history, culture and language. In addition to the formal sessions, some special events will include a visit to the Detroit Institute of Art, a carillon concert by the UM's School of Music's carillonneur Tiffany Ng. From the UM library Karla Vandersypen is compiling an exhibition of Netherlandic printed works and Arthur Verhoogt will organize a display of ancient papyri. The conference is organized by Annemarie Toebosch. You can reach her by e-mail at [toebosch@umich.edu](mailto:toebosch@umich.edu). Also, check the website of the American Association of Netherlandic Studies.

### ***June or July***

NAUL's annual picnic will be held at Glacier Highland Park in Ann Arbor. Date and details will follow.

### ***August***

The Newsletter is on vacation as is the editor and the NAUL President.

### ***September***

The fall reception will take place at the Broos home. Again, the date is yet to be determined. Details will follow.

### ***October & November***

Works in progress. More next time.

### ***December***

The NAUL's annual Sinterklaas Celebration. Look for the special SINT Newsletter to be issued in the Fall of 2016.

## ***The Euro***

If you happen to find a €2.50 coin, you will only be able to spend it in Belgium. After France objected to Belgium's introduction of a 2 euro coin to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, the Belgians retreated and scrapped 180,000 coins that were already minted. However, not to be defeated by the French, the Belgians invoked a little know EU rule that allows countries to issue euro coins of their choice as long as they are in irregular denominations – thus the 2.50 coin. Seventy-thousands of them have been minted.

The coin displayed a monument of a lion on top of a cone-shaped hill on the site of France's humiliation, as well as lines indicating where troops were positioned when the forces led by Britain and Prussia defeated Napoleon in the countryside near Brussels. This seems like much ado about nothing. Ah well, I think Europe has more to think about than a dispute over a little coin.

## ***The New Rijksmuseum***

The chronological layout of the new Rijksmuseum covers eight hundred years of Dutch history distributed over eighty galleries and includes more than eight thousand objects. Everything, with the exception of *The Night Watch* has been given a new place. The painting still hangs in its original spot at the end of the museum's extended corridor, known as the *Gallery of Honor*.

## ***Back to WWII***

In June 1945 a large number of Amsterdam citizens had gathered on the Dam to celebrate their liberation and wait for the arrival of the Canadian troops. A traditional Dutch street organ played happy tunes. In spite of the five years of oppression, the disappearance of thousands of Jewish citizens, the terrible famine that killed thousands that past winter, the atmosphere was festive, albeit somewhat tense since armed German troops were still in the city. The Germans were told to turn over their weapons to the allied military. However, a fire broke out between them and the Internal Forces. It is unknown what caused it but panic and confusion erupted and forty people were killed and more

than 100 injured. This was three days after the war was supposed to have ended.

## ***Etty Hillesum Center***

On October 1, 2015, the Roosevelt Study Center hosted the opening of the Etty Hillesum Center, a research facility focusing on the study of the letters and diaries of Middelburg-born Jewish author Etty Hillesum who died a Holocaust victim in Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1943. The Center is an educational institute located in the Zeeuws Archief (Zeeland Archives) in Middelburg. Its objectives are to coordinate international research on the work of Etty Hillesum and to explore the history of the Jews in Zeeland.

## ***NAUL DUES***

An increase in most categories of the NAUL was announced in the November 2015 Newsletter. The increase begins as of January 2016. Dues amounts have been increased by \$10 in all categories, except for sponsor and sustaining categories. Dues for 2016 are as follows:

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

Send your payment to:

NAUL  
P.O. Box 4592  
Ann Arbor, MI 4810

Dues payments were due on January 1, 2016. Look on mailing label of this Newsletter to see if your dues are up to date. If it does not show (16), your dues are late.

## ***A Bit of Art History***

As we are writing this, the organizers of the exhibition in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston have probably finished packing and u-hauled everything to Kansas City, Missouri. On February 20, the exhibition *Class Distinctions; Dutch Painting in the Age of Rembrandt and Vermeer* will open in the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and stay there until May 29, 2016. A wonderful book of the same title accompanies this exhibition which aims at showing the unique way of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch painting tradition. "Freed from the

constraints of royal and church patronage, artists created a rich outpouring of works that circulated through an open market to patrons and customers at every level of Dutch society". Over five million works were painted in the Northern Netherlands and this exhibition shows the different social classes represented in the paintings of regents, wealthy merchants, professions and trades, women at work, labor and the indigent. Imagine the movement across borders, as Holland's population doubled between 1570 and 1670 to 880,000. The various paintings show these immigrants from different classes on Dam Square or the Stock Exchange in Amsterdam, on the ice or at the country fair. Many well-known artists are represented: Frans Hals, Jan Steen, Pieter de Hooch, Gerard ter Borch, Rembrandt and Vermeer. Judging by the book, it is a dazzling array of paintings. By the way, it was recently announced that the Kansas City Museum just learned that their painting, "The Temptation of St. Anthony" was an authentic Jeroen Bosch. It can be admired in Den Bosch where there is currently an exhibition of his works.

Antonius (*Ton*) Broos

### *In Memoriam*

It is with sadness that we announce the death of long time NAUL member Anna 'Anneke' Winkler-Prins. Anneke died peacefully in her home on December 15, 2015. She was a loyal member of the NAUL since its earliest days. Anneke loved to maintain the Dutch traditions and with her husband Vincent, attended many NAUL functions. We extend our condolences to her husband and children. Anneke will be missed.

### *A Milestone to Celebrate*

In 2016 the NAUL will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It seems appropriate that this milestone should be commemorated in some way to include as many NAUL members as possible. We solicit your suggestions and ask that you send your ideas to [tonbroos@umich.edu](mailto:tonbroos@umich.edu) or [janetbroos@comcast.net](mailto:janetbroos@comcast.net). Some members have already proposed group possibilities, for instance, a trip to the Willow Run Air Museum, docent tours of the Detroit Institute of Arts or the Toledo Museum of Art. Other suggestions are a tour of Meijer Sculpture Gardens in Grand Rapids or the Netherlands Museum in Holland, Michigan.

### *Elvis from Spakenburg*

The Museum of Spakenburg welcomed many American visitors last year as they showed an exhibition called Tussen Droom en Daad dedicated to extraordinary people from the local community. In the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century a Teunis Eliassen emigrated from Bunschoten/Spakenburg to the United States. He produced a large number of offspring and, believe it or not, one of his great-great-great-great grandchildren was Elvis Presley! The king of rock never visited this little village at the former Zuiderzee, but the local folks are mighty proud.

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