

NAUL NEWSLETTER

Netherlands America University League

Volume 39, No. 1, March 2017

Editor: Janet Broos

E-mail: naul-aa@comcast.net

Website: www.naul.info

A Big Thank You.

Many thanks to all those kids, young and not so young, who helped make Sint's visit in December a huge success. Our very special thanks go to those NAUL members who donated bottles of wine and beer and many boxes of candy. Also in the raffle were gift cards for Trader Joe's, made possible by a gift from Irushka DeRitis. And, of course, 'pizza, pizza, pizza – three coupons from Little Caesar's.

Culinary Trivia

Is there such a thing as 'Dutch cuisine'? Gerrit Jan Groothedde, who writes a column for the magazine *Dutch* says NO! According to Mr. Groothedde, the Netherlands has no cultural identity – for food that is. So, you may ask, "Are there any real Dutch specialities?"

Well, perhaps a few. What about *zoute drop* (salty licqorice, croquettes, raw herring and one may claim *patatje oorlog* (french fries smothered with mayonnaise and peanut sauce)? According to our expert Groothedde, the fries are the only one that is Dutch. The others are outdated or not Dutch.

Food Trivia

For the average Dutchman, his favorite cuisine was his own national cuisine. When asked for examples of favorite dishes, the three overwhelming winners were macaroni, chilli con carne and nasi goreng. No joke! A majority of respondents said that teriyaki was Greek and risotto was Asian. How's that for refined taste? And what happened to Boerenkool met worst, Snert, Hutspot met klapstuk, saucijzenbroodjes and (especially in Brabant) worstebroodjes? Our editor could mention some wonderful desserts and especially the enormous selection of 'gebakjes' and 'koekjes' which one may purchase from the 'banketbakker' or pastry chef store. Anyone for a Bosche Bol, a Weeter vlaaitje, an Arnhems meisje, a Zeeuwse boterbabbelaar or a kletskep?

News from our correspondent in The Hague.

In times of political upheaval it is a breath of fresh air to go back in history and bring some perspective and a deeper stage decorum to the play that is being performed in front of us. Not many people know that the first American embassy abroad was in The Hague and that the first ambassador was John Adams. Most people learned that France was the first country to recognize the US, but even before that, Friesland (ok not a country, but close) had already voted in favor of independence of the US. This is what John Adams wrote on February 27, 1782: "Friesland has at last taken the Provincial Resolution to acknowledge the Independence, of which United America is in full possession. It is thought that several Cities of Holland will soon follow their Example, and some say it will be followed forthwith by the whole Republick. The first Burgomaster of this City has said within a few days past, that in six Weeks at furthest, the Independence of America would be acknowledged by all Seven of the United Provinces: but I have no Expectation of such Haste. This Government does nothing with such Celerity."

An almost hilarious account is given by Adams of his visit to William V at court: "1782. On the twenty second day of April I was introduced by the Chamberlain to his most Serene Highness the Prince of Orange. Knowing that his Highness spoke English, I asked his Permission to speak to him in that Language, to which he answered smiling, "if You please Sir." Altho' French is the Language of the Court, he seemed to be pleased and to receive as a Compliment my Request to speak to him in English. I told him, "I was happy to have the Honor of presenting the Respects of the United States of America and a Letter of Credence from them to his most Serene Highness, and to assure him of the profound Veneration in which the House of Orange had been held in America even from its first settlement; and that I should be happier still, to be the Instrument of further cementing the new Connections between two nations professing the same Religion, animated by the same Spirit of Liberty, and having reciprocal Interests both political and commercial so extensive and important; and that in the faithful and diligent Discharge of the Duties of my Mission, I flattered myself with Hopes of the Approbation of his most serene Highness." His Highness received the Letter of Credence which he opened and read.

The Answer that he made to me was in a Voice so low and so indistinctly pronounced, that I comprehended only the Conclusion of it, which was that "he had made no Difficulty against my Reception." He then fell into familiar Conversation with me and asked me many Questions about indifferent things, as is the Custom of Princes and Princesses upon such Occasions. "How long I had been in Europe? How long I had been in this Country? Whether I had purchased an House at the Hague? Whether I had not lived sometime at Leyden? How long I had lived at Amsterdam? How I liked this Country & ca.?" [...] I have the Honor to be, with great Esteem and Respect, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant J Adams."

That is how he ends his letter, which included a bit of politicking about the loan of a million dollars to the US. The Dutch agreed, but they had a clause in the contract. John Adams writes: "The Clause, reserving to the Dutch their Rights in the East and West-Indies, is unnecessary, and I was averse to it, as implying a Jealousy of us. But as it implies too a Compliment to our Power and Importance; was much insisted on; and amounted to no more than we should have been bound to, without it, I withdrew my Objection. The Proviso of conforming to the Laws of the Country, respecting the external shew of public worship, I wished to have excluded; because I am an Enemy to every appearance of restraint in a matter so delicate and sacred as the Liberty of Conscience; but the Laws here do not permit Roman Catholics to have Steeples to their Churches, and these Laws could not be altered." Who knew about these anti-papist rules? Times may have changed, but attitudes do certainly have their equivalencies in history. We can learn, put into perspective, and try to understand. John Adams was convinced that the Dutch were most instrumental in the American independence, and the Dutch, hoping for a profitable trade partner, would soon find out about the competitive strength of America all over the world. Ton Broos.

Temptation

Someone recently remarked that there are many NAUL-members who are, or were Catholics, sometimes called cradle Catholics. They might want to know that at the moment there is some commotion in the Dutch Catholic world about the Lord's Prayer. What happened? After the 2d Vatican Council, the Netherlands and Flanders did not come to an agreement about the wording of the Lord's Prayer. Recently, a so called Commissio Mixta came with a compromise. In Flanders they used 'hemelen' for 'heaven' while Netherlanders prayed to 'onze vader die in de hemel zijt'. For the forgiving of the trespasses the northerners recited 'schuld' en 'anderen', but in Belgium they used the plural 'schulden' and 'schuldenaren'. The committee decided on 'hemel' and on the plural of the Belgian variant. So far so good. However, a whole new element in the prayer is the use of a new word for 'temptation', 'bekoring' in the old version. That became 'beproeving', or 'brenge ons niet in beproeving, maar verlos ons van het kwade'. According to some, this new temptation will not deliver us from evil, but the committee thought that 'bekoring' was too positive. There is some murmur in the small Catholic Dutch speaking communities, but bishops and the Holy See gave their permission. They would not agree with the Broos addition to the prayer "Geef ons heden ons dagelijks brood, en 's zondags een rozijnemikske" or "Give us this day our daily bread and on Sunday a raisin bread." Of course there is always confession when we need it.

On our annual cultural and musical soiree at the Zuiderweg residence in February we were entertained with music, art and poetry, and we would like to share the following with our readers:

Ben Ali Libi

Op een lijst van artiesten, in de oorlog vermoord,
staat een naam waarvan ik nog nooit had gehoord,
dus keek ik er met verwondering naar:

Ben Ali Libi. Goochelaar.

Met een lach en een smoes en een goocheldoos
en een alibi dat-ie zorgvuldig koos,
scharrelde hij de kost bij elkaar:

Ben Ali Libi, de goochelaar.

Toen vonden de vrienden van de Weduwe Rost
dat Nederland nodig moest worden verlost
van het wereldwijd joods-bolsjewistisch gevaar.
Ze bedoelden natuurlijk die goochelaar.

Wie zo dikwijls een duif of een bloem had verstopt,
kon zichzelf niet verstoppen, toen er hard werd geklopt.
Er stond al een overvalwagen klaar
voor Ben Ali Libi, de goochelaar.

In 't concentratiekamp heeft hij misschien
zijn aardigste trucs nog wel eens laten zien
met een lach en een smoes, een misleidend gebaar,
Ben Ali Libi, de goochelaar.

En altijd als ik een schreeuwer zie
met een alternatief voor de democratie,
denk ik: jouw paradijs, hoeveel ruimte is daar
voor Ben Ali Libi, de goochelaar.

Voor Ben Ali Libi, de kleine schlemiel,
hij ruste in vrede, God hebbe zijn ziel.

Ben Ali Libi

On a list of artists murdered in the war
is a name I had never heard of before
So I looked at it with curious inspection
Ben Ali Libi, magician.

With a laugh and a shmooze and his box of magic tricks
And a careful chosen stage name put into the mix
He scrimped and he saved for his daily nutrition
Ben Ali Libi, magician.

But then all the friends of Nazi-widow Rost
proclaimed that the Netherlands, before they had lost,
should get rid of all Bolshevik-Jewish suspicion
And of course they were thinking of that magician.

He who often had hid a small dove or a flower
Could not hide himself when they knocked with such power
An armored van ready for their murderous mission
For Ben Ali Libi, the magician.

He might have shown in the concentration camp too
some of his magic tricks, one or two
With a laugh and a shmooze, sleight of hand in addition
Ben Ali Libi, magician.

But always whenever a loud mouth I see
With an alternative for democracy
I ponder: your paradise, how much recognition
For Ben Ali Libi, the magician?

For Ben Ali Libi, the little schlemiel
May God have his soul, and may peace be his deal.

This moving poem by Willem Wilmink, was translated by Ton Broos, who tried to keep with the original rhyming lines and comments that rhyming on 'magician' is a stretch here, and who thanks Hanneke Bonnewit for some valuable suggestions. It is obvious that many people are not familiar with 'Weduwe Rost'. This refers to Mrs. Rost van Tonningen, the controversial widow of a famous Dutch Nazi who kept propagating nazi ideals even after the war. Ben Ali Libi was indeed a famous magician, whose real name was Michel Velleman. He was arrested on June 20, 1943 on Merwedeplein in Amsterdam (neighbor of Anne Frank) and was murdered in Sobibor. More info and pictures on YouTube

EVENTS

Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 7:30 PM. A presentation by J. Henrike Florusbusch PhD, Program Coordinator, African Studies Center, University of Michigan.

Her presentation **Doing Anthropological Field Work in West Africa**. The lecture will take place at the home of Toos and Frank Judge, 2600 Brockman Blvd., Ann Arbor. Refreshments will be served. RSVP to nanfecteau@comcast.net or by phone 734-332-8856.

Sunday April 23 Join us in the Video Viewing Room in the North Quad Building (Washington Street opposite the Modern Language Building) for the film **Confetti Harvest [Dorsvloer vol confetti]**. Based on the bestseller novel by Franca Treur, it described the coming of age of a teenager in Zeeland, who tries to grow out of her religious upbringing on a farm with strict parents and six brothers. Filmed in 2014, in Dutch with English subtitles, 90 minutes.

Saturday, June 3, 2017 beginning at 5 PM. The Annual Business Meeting and Rijsttafel dinner. This will take place at the Judge's home, 2600 Brockman Blvd. Ann Arbor. Dinner will be served after the business meeting Agenda items to be discussed include: Election of board members. Members whose terms expire in 2017 are: Ed Bonnewit, Gemaya Griffin, Ton Broos, Annemarie Toebosch, and Arthur Verhoogt.

Sunday, July 16, 2017 Annual Picnic.

The picnic will be held at the home of Frank and Nellie Petrock, 2064 S. Seventh Str. Bring a salad or dessert, lawn chairs for your family, and any favorite games, especially for the kids. NAUL will provide the rest - drinks (beer, wine, soft drinks), hamburgers, sausages, and all the "fixins". If you have any questions about the picnic preparations call Els Nieuwenhuisen at 734-995-1817 or e-mail elsni@comcast.net. Els would appreciate an RSVP to the above phone or e-mail address.

NAUL DUES

Dues payments were due on January 1, 2017. Look on mailing label of this Newsletter to see if your dues are up to date. If it does not show (17), your dues are late. Categories are:

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;

NAUL

P.O. Box 4592

Ann Arbor, MI 48106-4592

Netherlands America University League naul-aa@comcast.net

President - Ton Broos 734-994-9276 tonbroos@umich.edu

Vice-President - Nanna Fecteau 734-332-8856 nanfecteau@comcast.net

Secretary - Karla Vandersypen 734-668-1240 vandersypen@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer - Gemaya Griffin gemaya_de_ruijter@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor - Janet Broos 734-994-9276 janetbroos@comcast.net

Webmaster - Erik Zuiderweg zuiderwe@umich.edu

NAUL's website - www.naul.info