

# NAUL NEWSLETTER

Netherlands America University League

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It is a wonder that we are still enjoying this wonderfully warm weather, especially here in Ann Arbor. Next week Fall will be upon us with a hard bang. A few of our members have not fared so well in these past weeks, but alas all are now healthy and hopefully happy. The last time we saw Karla Vandersypen her left leg was encased in a large plaster cast. Hanneke Bonnewit had some hip surgery, but she is also on the nicely recovering list. Bert Haas' Holland vacation became much longer than planned after he was laid low with a severe bout of gout. He had to be hospitalized in the Netherlands. After more than a week in hospital, he spent some time resting comfortably with daughter Alida and family. Now he is back in Michigan with son Jerry taking good care of him: no playing soccer, only watching.

On a sadder note, NAUL lost a long-time member Tonia Teernstra, who died on May 27. Tonia moved to Ann Arbor in 1971 and from 1974 to 1998 she worked at the University of Michigan in the School of Education. For many years Tonia (Antonia) was quite active in the NAUL. People remember her knitting a pair of pants (!) at Dutch lunch and her skillful harmonica playing. She made dues paying rather easy and we highly recommend her system. Many years ago Tonia wrote a large check for dues as a payment in advance for as many years as those funds would last. I believe she still has a balance in her account. Rest easy Tonia.

Anneke van der Kooy, the widow of Meindert van der Kooy, who along with his sister Riet Haas and Jan de Vries, were the original founders of NAUL, died in the Netherlands on 9 July. A few NAUL members will remember Alida Haas who married Anneke's son Robert Luteyn, will be surprised to learn that Alida and Robert will soon be the grandparents of the child of young Alex.

## Confused no more?

Do you have the feeling that the longer you are away from daily using your mother tongue, the more you start to doubt your language ability? Do not worry because you are normal, and you are in good company with Dutch speakers at home and abroad. To help you, there is a new dictionary called 'Verwarwoordenboek' which translates as 'Confuse dictionary' and is a dictionary with Dutch words that could be confusing to all Dutch speaking people. The author is Jan Renkema who is well-known among

Dutch language users as the author of *Schrijfwijzer* a very useful guide with advices for correct Dutch. He explains grammar and points out common mistakes etc. The words in this new dictionary are the close synonyms that may have a slightly different meaning or contextual usage, sometimes causing confusion. In English you may wonder what the difference is between 'custom' and 'tradition', or 'frighten' and 'scare'. How subtle is the distinction between 'anger' and 'fury'? One can 'collect' stamps, but not 'gather' them, and what is the difference between a 'scoundrel' and a 'rogue'?

Anyway, here are a few Dutch examples of words with similar meanings from the *Verwarwoordenboek*:

**Akkoord - Compromis.** If you have a difference of opinion, you better find an 'akkoord' rather than a 'compromis', because the latter includes some giving in that you do not want.

**Agrariër – Boer :** Melkboer is ok, but not Melkagrariër.

**Bar-Café- Kroeg :** the difference is often the interior design and the food they might serve. A Kroeg is darker than a Café.

**Das – Sjaal :** one is wider and longer ('das') than the other, which is short and narrow ('sjaal'). The same goes for 'kous' – 'sok'.

**Familie – Gezin :** extended family vs nuclear family, so don't use familie when you mean gezin.

**Klant – Cliënt :** Een juwelier heeft geen klanten en een groenteboer geen cliënten. A matter of money? Also: Als de klant koning is, is de cliënt dan koningin?

**Pastor- Pastoor:** not all pastors are 'pastoor', the latter is exclusively Roman Catholic.

An interesting confusion that I was not aware of, is caused by the spelling van **Ruisdael** and **Ruysdael**, or -i vs. -y. Jacob van Ruisdael (1629-1682) is famous for his beautiful landscapes with lots of clouds. His uncle Salomon van Ruysdael (1603-1670) was more interested in (river) landscapes. So we write 'Ruisdaelluchten' but 'Ruysdaellandschappen'. Does anyone care? There was no official spelling of names before 1800 anyway. And which one hangs in Detroit? The art historians know that it is 'The Jewish Cemetery' by Jacob van Ruisdael, I not Y.

**Niks** is more spoken language than **Niets** : Dat is niet niks is better than 'niet niets'

**Maatschappij- Samenleving :** both words mean 'society' with the first one putting more emphasis on organization and institutions.

A '**Luchthaven**' is larger than a '**vliegveld**' although nowadays they mostly claim to be snazzier and modern by using 'airport'.

**Helaas –Jammer.** The saying "Jammer, maar helaas..." indicates that 'jammer' is more disappointing, while 'helaas' expresses the conclusion that nothing can be done about it. "Helaas pindakaas!"

You can find the *Verwarwoordenboek* online with many more examples and amusing insights. If you are confused or angry about the Dutch language being taken over by English: Het valt wel mee. (it's not that

bad.) Children (often called kids in Holland) frequently use the English “Yes!” making a fist when they have accomplished something, like scoring a goal etc. This does not mean that ‘Ja’ has disappeared. We have added a new word in Dutch with a distinct usage. Yes, indeed. (Ton Broos)

### **Books, and more online**

Our libraries are going through many transformations and one needs some imagination to predict what they will look like in 20 years time. Overloaded shelves with actual books and a bespectacled librarian shushing loudmouths are images from the past. The good news is that digitalized archival sources are newly found treasures that bring forgotten worlds back to our computers and open new horizons. I have been enthusiastic about the dbnl.nl, the database for Dutch literature that sends you Vondel or Bilderdijk or Hadewych into your home. Now I recently discovered another gem:

[www.joodsebibliotheek.nl](http://www.joodsebibliotheek.nl) The advantage of this website is the fact that there are so many relatively modern works (usually 20<sup>th</sup> century, copyright is valid until 70 years after author’s death) i.e. novels, poetry, plays, completely downloadable. Take for instance Herman Heyermans, some of you know the play ‘Op Hoop van Zegen’ or his newspaper columns written under the pen name Samuel Falkland: a list of some 82 titles! Other well known names in Dutch literary circles are Carry van Bruggen, Jacob Israel de Haan, Mary Dorna or Philip Mechanicus. It is a treasure trove of known and lesser known works.

The organization behind this is called Crescas and they aim to save the Jewish Cultural Heritage by offering all books for free online. They are also active in offering educational courses. Extremely interesting furthermore is the so called ‘Joodse Canon’, describing highlights in Dutch Jewish history. Details like the Jodenstraat in Maastricht in 1295, or the first sermon in Dutch in Middelburg in 1832 or the silk industry in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, make for eye-opening reading. This website makes my bibliotheek all of a sudden ten times bigger. Now find time to read it all.

### **New Books in Dutch and Flemish studies held by the University of Michigan Library**

De greppel by Herman Koch ((Ambo|Anthos, 2016)

Why is the Mayor of Amsterdam, Robert Walter, unwilling to reveal the background of his daughter and wife, who was not born in the Netherlands? Is his wife having an affair? Is his 90+ father planning to go out with a bang in a sports car chasing young women? Is Robert hiding a violent past that could end his political life?

‘Herman Koch brilliantly demonstrates how people see things that may not be there at all, how your imagination can run away with you.’ – Het Parool

Note: The third film version of Koch’s international breakthrough novel *The Dinner* (2009), starring Richard Gere and Steve Coogan, was released in the US May 2017.

Nachtblauw by Simone van der Vlugt (Ambo/Anthos, 2016)

‘A beautiful story about the fate of a seventeenth-century woman and the early days of the blue-and-white pottery from Delft... You live and suffer with Catrijn.’ – Nederlands Dagblad

De idealisten : Nederlandse kunstenaars in Oost-Berlijn by Hans Olink (Uitgeverij Prominent, 2016)

In the 1930s, millions of people fled from Germany. After the war, returning survivors were joined by Dutch artists who settled in East Berlin. They wanted to help build a new socialist state. There are portraits of nine artists working to bring their ideals into practice.

jAmbras! Cervantes en Flanders by Frank Adam (Bebuquin, 2016)

In this play, the Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes wanders through Flanders, looking for his missing brother Rodrigo. Literary hypotheses, historical facts and confrontational contemporary parallels are the building blocks of an intriguing, unprecedented story. Written in a unique West Flemish!

If you would be interested in seeing what new books are being added to the UM Library, there is a Google spreadsheet anyone can view with this link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zMa7hjc79obaFC-hK5JRoi7q4ilnZzbFDEAyLQKR1RQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Anyone can visit the campus libraries and use materials in the buildings. There are also options to obtain borrowing privileges for non-students/staff/faculty <http://www.lib.umich.edu/borrowing-and-circulation>

*Mars de Ritis (selector for Netherlandic literature, lene@umich.edu)*

#### **In other news:**

Do you have friends visiting the Campus? You may want to consider taking them on a campus tour. The undergraduate admissions office offers twice daily tours to both central and north campus area. Register online at [engine.umich.edu/form/walking\\_tour\\_reg](http://engine.umich.edu/form/walking_tour_reg) or by calling 734-647-7101.

Sometimes we forget the really unique places we have right in our own backyard. How about the Michigan Union? If you were here in 1960 you could recall that on October 14, a soon to be young president John F. Kennedy spoke from the steps of that building announcing the plan that would become the Peace Corps. Another campus favorite is the Burton Tower. Former athletic director Charles Baird offered the University a set of carillon bells as a memorial to president Marion Burton. Many Dutch and Belgian 'carillonneurs' have entertained us with their music.

By now everyone should know about the 'passport' days at the Netherlands Consulate General in Chicago. "From November 6, 2017 through November 12, 2017, passports will be taken at the Consulate. Check listings online.

#### **SINTERKLAAS ALREADY?**

Information about our Sinterklaas celebration will be sent by e-mail in November. Mark the date: Saturday 2 December 2017 at 6 pm.

**AGING AND ENGAGING: DUTCH PRAGMATIC INNOVATION IN THE CARE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.**

This is the title of the new DeVries-VanderKooy Memorial Lecture by Gea Sijpkens on October 12 at 8 pm. in the Michigan League, Hussey Room. Our speaker will be Gea Sijpkens, who is CEO of Humanitas Deventer, a long term care community and social service organization that brings elderly residents and students together under one roof. Most of our members will have received the information from the Department of Germanic Languages, also encouraging everyone to support Dutch and Flemish Studies. We support this wholeheartedly!

**NEW AND FRESH IMPULSES FOR NAUL**

In our last Board meeting we welcomed three visiting students, who are eager to give our organization new ideas and approaches to improve our visibility among students and the community. They are students of Dutch and they came up with some wonderful suggestions. For instance, not many members realize that we have a Facebook page and it was recommended that we present ourselves better via this modern medium. Soon you will be able to enjoy this. Perhaps you have a family member or friends in the Netherlands and Belgium who are willing and able to have a conversation across the ocean with a student of Dutch via Skype or Facetime.

It was also recognized that beginning students of Dutch do get overwhelmed when they visit the Dutch lunch and must admit that most of the conversation passes them by. Especially for them there are two periods of time reserved in the Language Resource Center, North University Building, Monday 5-7pm. and Wednesday 7-9pm., to casually meet all interested in Dutch. It was noted that some Dutch material for beginners would be a welcome addition to the few old dictionaries that are now on the shelf. Feel free to donate some bits and pieces that could help, or stop by in person to meet our Dutch speakers of the future.

**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. Categories are:

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

Send your payment to;

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