

NAAM Newsletter

www.dutchclub.org

December 2005



President's Message

Dear members and friends of NAAM,

NAAM thanks Elly and Ron Mettler, Nicole Mettler and Jim Rickard for preparing the delicious Indonesian dinner which capped the annual meeting on Oct. 29. Jan Witte and Karen Davis expertly organized the beverages, and John and Coby Buursema accepted RSVP's for the dinner. Thank you!

Welcome to new Board member Elisabeth Beelaerts, who prefers you call her 'Liz' if you don't speak Dutch! Liz, husband Alexander, and their three children are recent arrivals in Minneapolis. Welcome, friends!

NAAM also thanks Jenneke Oosterhoff, Ray Wakefield, and the Dutch Studies Program at the University of Minnesota for a superb Dutch-American Heritage Day borrel on Nov. 17. Marco IJzer presented an interesting and informative history of safe sex campaigns in the Netherlands.

At the request of KLM, a group of children sang Sinterklaas songs at a company party held at the offices of Northwest Airlines. NAAM thanks Grietsje van Reeuwijk for organizing this special event. Of course, yours truly crashed the party and enjoyed a cup or two of hot chocolate. Yum.

More than 350 people attended the Dec. 3 Sinterklaas party in Eden Prairie. Grietsje van Reeuwijk organized the festivities, with Marc Al as emcee. Thanks also to Henriët Hendriks and the families Al, Boorsma, Carlson-Jagersma, Danielson, Haffmans-McFalls, Ibes, Leebens, van Reeuwijk, Sullivan, and many others who jumped in and helped where needed. Many people made this party a wonderful success. So, THANK YOU to all who volunteered!

NAAM is energized and thriving because so many talented people contribute their time, work, ideas, and enthusiasm. Happy holidays, and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year 2006! Mark Boorsma



Netherlands-American Association of Minnesota



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The deadline for any submissions in the next Newsletter is 1 March 2006.

Travel the World without a Passport at the
2006 Festival of Nations
May 4, 5, 6 & 7
RiverCentre
Downtown St. Paul

The Festival of Nations is one of the nation's largest and longest-running multi-ethnic events. It showcases Minnesota's ethnic diversity, celebrates ethnic traditions and encourages ethnic understanding

Taste food from around the world – buy souvenirs – kids activities – watch dance and music shows

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For preparing Dutch food and help in the Dutch café – assist in the cultural exhibit – demonstrate with the klompenmaker – sell Dutch souvenirs and more... It's Fun!

NAAM Board Biography

(Board members Dirk and Carla will be covered in the next edition)



Mark Boorsma - born in Minneapolis, his Dutch link was a grandfather born near Leiden. Mark married Mary Smith in 1995. Daughters are Rika and Lydia, with a third child on the way. Mark is our very active NAAM President.



Bonnie Kuipers Danielson lives in South Minneapolis with her husband Michael. She works for the textbook purchasing and sales department at Macalester College in St. Paul. In her varied working life, she has been a radio announcer for a classical station, an English teacher, a school principal, an accounts payable and payroll clerk for the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and a bookseller and accounting clerk for two of the States most well known independent bookstores, Tattered Cover in Denver and Hungry Mind in St. Paul. She grew up in a Dutch-American enclave along the Missouri River in South Dakota. Her family roots are in Friesland and Groningen. She loves to read, hike, snowshoe, and travel. Her greatest joy this past year was to walk part of the Camino pilgrim trail in northern Spain and to hike the West Coast Trail on Vancouver Island in Canada. Bonnie is NAAM's Treasurer.



Afgelopen zomer ben ik, Elisabeth Beelaerts, van Rotterdam naar Minneapolis verhuisd. De aanleiding was een aantrekkelijk werkaanbod voor mijn man, Alexander Kleijngeld bij Research International. Voor mij betekende het een beetje thuiskomen, aangezien ik een jaar als studente in Iowa heb gewoond. Inmiddels ben ik moeder van drie kinderen (2, 4 en 6 jaar oud). Naast het moederschap, ben ik hier een fotografie-cursus gaan volgen aan MCAD, in de ouderraad van de preschool gegaan en ... heb ik enthustias mijn vinger opgestoken toen tijdens de jaarvergadering een nieuw bestuurslid werd gevraagd.



Andrew van Reeuwijk was relocated to Minnesota through his employer, Seagate Technology in May 2002. They had lived in Kudelstaart, close to Aalsmeer in Holland. He was born in South Africa from Dutch parents and moved to Holland when he was 24. He and his wife Grietsje live in Eagan and have 2 kids (5 and 7) with a 3rd on the way. Andrew and his family have a passion for traveling and visiting exotic locations. Andrew is the NAAM secretary and newsletter editor.



Albertjan Planten
Vanafton, VP on NAAM's board and a little over a half century old. He lived/worked on 3 continents

before he arrived in America 11 years ago. He studied agriculture, worked in that field and was a business owner at some point. He now enjoys working as a land surveyor for the state and sailing on the St. Croix when the opportunity presents itself.

Sinterklaas feest 2005



- Sinterklaas and 'hulp' Sint Demi van Reeuwijk
- Sint and his Pieten bezoeken de kinderen in Minneapolis
- NAAM and Boekenwurm children sing at the NWA/KLM Sinterklaas party

Op 3 december kwam Sinterklaas alle kinderen bezoeken in Minneapolis. NAAM en de Boekenwurm hadden Sinterklaas en zijn Pieten uitgenodigd om naar Eden Prairie te komen in een grote zaal van St. Andrew Lutheran church.

Voordat de Sint arriveerde waren er knutselactiviteiten en spelletjes voor de kinderen en de koffie en hapjes stonden klaar. Windmill Imports was aanwezig en verkocht nederlandse lekkernij en de Boekenwurm had er ook een informatietafel met activiteiten. Op de achtergrond speelde Sinterklaas muziek...Het was gezellig.

Sinterklaas had dit jaar maar liefst 5 zwarte Pieten meegenomen! Een paar van zijn Pieten deden een schimmenspel achter een groot doek. Daarna was het moment aangebroken dat de Goedheiligman zou binnenkomen maar ..was dat wel de echte Sinterklaas? Deze was veel kleiner en jonger en ... Het was "hulp Sinterklaas Demi" die al gauw werd "ontmaskerd" door de kinderen. Er moest natuurlijk ook gezongen worden maar dat moeten we nog een beetje meer oefenen hier in Minneapolis maar ondanks dat is Sinterklaas gelukkig toch gekomen. De Pieten renden om het gebouw, stormden door een papieren deur, strooiden pepernoten en vlogen door de zaal op skeelers en steppen. Sinterklaas en zijn Pieten hebben weer vele kinderen blijgemaakt en vele zijn weer vereeuwigd op de foto met Sinterklaas. Toen Sinterklaas weer verder moest kwam Bill de juggler nog langs en is er weer veel gelachen om zijn trucs. Bij de uitgang was er voor de dames een leuke attentie van Dior verzorgd door Annemarie Kuipers.

Dank je wel Sinterklaas en zwarte Piet!, vergeet ons vooral volgend jaar niet!

The Club and you

Naam Year-dinner speech, 2005 (edited for publishing)

Welcome to your club's year meeting and dinner.

On the surface the American culture looks and feels much like any West European culture. However, there are some startling and surprising differences.

I needed more time to adjust than I first thought. Some small examples of what I encountered are:

1) Indoor doors stay open all the time. And here I am, for as long as I can remember I hear my mother say "close the door, how often do I have to say that, we lose all the heat!"

If I close a door in my own house, Mary thinks I am angry. I had to "reprogram" myself to carefully leave doors open making sure I am not sending the wrong message.

2) Dish washing is done with running water. If we have guests from the Netherlands the standard question at some point is "waar is het afwas teiltje?" (Where is the tub for doing the dishes?)

3) Stopping for stop signs. As well as I am trained to close doors, Americans are trained to stop for stop signs. In Portugal, the country I lived for 4 years, stop signs are only a polite suggestion.

4) Language adjustment from British English to American. I always thought I speak my languages acceptably. As a student I worked a summer in France, and people would say "Boy you speak you France language very well. (yea well, I worked hard at that for 6 years so).

In the former British colonies in Asia, the office language is Indian British and working there for a couple of years made me think that I mastered the English language pretty well. So it was a bit of a shock to come to America and have people tell you:

" He man , you got some accent, where you from ?". Clearly I had some trouble with the American language.

Mary, being married to a Dutch guy and more Dutch than the Dutch, found out about some Dutch club's year dinner, so we had to go. At one

point there was a request for some Dutch café help.

I clearly hear them say "we need someone to tap beer." Shoot I can do that, great, as a student I got really handy behind the bar. Before someone else could steal that job I jet my finger in the air. Later I understood they asked for a "volunteer" not someone to tap beer, but by that time they had already locked me in as café chairman. To tell you the truth, it really was a wonderful job that Mary and I did for 3 years. We got to know a lot of people in a short period of time.

You see, I think it is not so much "what do I get for my contribution?" as is, "what opportunities do I open up for myself being a member and volunteer". It is just great fun to get to know people and help out.

We need about 90 people each year to help run the festival of nations and it would be great if some of you would let the board know if you can spare a couple of hours.

Another very nice ongoing activity that Mary dragged me into is our Dutch dancing club. "de Nederlandse klompen dansers". I thought, look, my family in the Netherlands can't see me, so what the heck. No, just kidding, Mary and I danced for 4 years. It is really a great group that has a lot of fun together, and is always welcoming new people in their midst. Whether you go as a single person or as a couple, just sign up, or try it out first. You won't regret it! For information go to www.dutchclub.org

There is a lot of opportunity to create value with your contribution, you just have to open the doors. Open those doors and make the Dutch club experience a memorable one for yourself and others. Go to the events and meet other members.

I would like to conclude by saying , " look at your yearly club dues and say let's have some fun and volunteer!"

Yours,
Albertjan Planten Vanafton
NAAM Board Member

INTERVIEW met ...

We interviewed Carla Leebens, known by most of you from the Dutch store, Windmill Imports in Hopkins. Read her interview below and find out who she likes to invite for an interview in the next NAAM Newsletter...

Can you please tell us something about yourself?

I was born in Velsen, Noord Holland, and lived in IJmuiden during the war. After we had to evacuate, we ended up in Haarlem, where I went to school through the first class of the MULO. After that I went for two years to a boarding school in Culemborg. I worked for two years in Amsterdam, and then went to England and worked for the Brenninkmeijers. After that I worked for an English family. My brother, who had left Holland to study in America (in 1948) asked me to come and help him and his family in the USA, when his wife was expecting their fourth child. I was planning on staying no more than a year, but when I went to work at the First National Bank in Minneapolis, I met my husband. I went back to Holland to let my parents know that I was going to stay for another year. (I had gotten an immigration status already). I came back to my job at First National Bank and Jim asked me to marry him. He went in the service for six months and when he came back we went to Holland and were married in Haarlem.

We have three children. One girl and two boys. Our oldest daughter Michelle has two children, and Richard has also two children, Eric is not married.

Most people know you from the Dutch store "Windmill imports". Can you tell us something about your store and how did it start?

After working for a department store for many years, I was laid off because of downsizing. I told my husband I wished I could have my own store. He said this was the time to do it, before I got too old. Corrie Jochems also wanted to have her own business, so we got together and started to sell lace curtains from Holland. After finding out that premade curtains were always either too short or too long, or not wide enough I started to make them myself. We did it from our basements but Corrie wanted a storefront. She found something in Anoka. We added some Delft to it after many people asked about it. When Corrie decided that she could not do it anymore I took over.

I started to look for something closer to home, and Jim and I found our present place in Hopkins. We added the food line to our inventory and enjoyed having people come in and tell us about things that they missed. I then would try to add it to our inventory.

We heard that you stop with your store in January. Do you have other plans?

We are scaling down, as the taxes are eating us up. Jim would like us to have more time for ourselves. We will try to limit our inventory so that we can go on at our home. The Delft and all gift items are now 50% off to help in this effort.

What other activities keep you busy?

I have been very busy helping to take care of my mother in law, who is in a nursing home. I go and see her every morning. Every night after a quick dinner at home I go and help and an elderly Aunt of Jim get ready for bed at another facility. There is not much time left to do my hobbies, which are crafts, sewing, knitting etc. I also love to work in the garden. Traveling is on the top of my list, especially to our little place in the Ardennes, Belgium, where we learn to relax. I enjoy my grandchildren but unfortunately don't have enough time to be with them.

Hoe kijkt u terug naar Nederland nu u hier al zo'n lange tijd woont?

Ik woon hier nu al sinds 1961. Ik heb nog steeds grote bewondering voor dat kleine landje en alles wat men daar voor elkaar krijgt voor zoveel mensen. Ik vind het heerlijk om tenminste een keer per jaar naar "huis" te kunnen. Speciaal omdat ik daar nog heel wat zusjes en een broer heb wonen.

Kunt u iets vertellen over uw huis in België?

Het was iets waar ik nooit over gedroomd zou hebben maar mijn zusje "vond" een kleine chalet in de Ardennen. Het leek mijn zus een goed idee dat haar dochter dan voor de huisjes (2) zou zorgen mbt onderhoud en het verhuren aan vakantiegangers. Jim en ik vinden het daar heerlijk. Er zijn veel Hollanders die naar de Ardennen gaan voor een weekeind om uit de drukte van ons eigen land te kunnen en toch niet zo heel ver weg.

Graag een korte reactie op het volgende:

Lekkerste gerecht? schol maaltijd
Mooiste moment? mijn trouwdag
Waar houdt u echt niet van? ferreswheerl
Favoriete muziek? classical, Andre Rieu

En als laatste - wie zou u willen uitnodigen voor een volgend interview en wat zou u van deze persoon willen weten?

The Bierma's - about their coming to America and their lives here. Thank you Carla!

Got News?

Do you have some news or anything else that you'd like to share in the NAAM newsletter? If so, e-mail it to andrew@dutchclub.org, and you could see your piece in the next newsletter.



For a submission to be considered for publication, it needs to have some connection to the Netherlands or the Dutch community in the U.S. In addition, it needs to be of general interest to the readers of the NAAM newsletter.

The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, content, and length. The ultimate decision to include a submission in the NAAM newsletter rests solely with the editor.

Alphenaren gezocht!

Beste Nederlanders in het buitenland,

Voor de nieuwe Alphense krant 'alphen.cc' ben ik op zoek naar mensen uit Alphen aan den Rijn die nu in het buitenland wonen.

Ik wil graag een serie verhalen maken over 'Alphenaren in den vreemde' en tegelijkertijd een netwerk opzetten van Alphense 'correspondenten'. Via onze website willen we internationale contacten tussen Alphenaren in het buitenland tot stand brengen.

Heb je wortels in Alphen aan den Rijn en zin om mee te doen? Mail naar rien@alphen.cc.

Rien Floris
verslaggever alphen.cc
06 20211116
rien@alphen.cc
www.alphen.cc

Here are the new NAAM members since the last newsletter, Welcome!

Bert & Molly Bouwman, Eden Prairie
Joel Hoekstra, Minneapolis
Alexander Kleijngeld & Liz Beelaerts, Minneapolis
Arnout & Annelies Lijesen, Edina
Ivo Merks & Kim Thommes, Eden Prairie
Jennifer Parshley, Minneapolis
John J. Van De Weghe, Saint Paul
Krista & Maarten van der Heijden, Saint Louis Park

In memoriam:

NAAM member JoAnn Wolcott Menning of Bloomington passed away Nov. 25. JoAnn is survived by husband Ralph, three sons, four step children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

FOR RENT – Are you interested in spending time in Europe? There is a lovely **B&B or 3-bedroom** house for rent in the Ardennes Belgium, just south of Liege. For more information:

Fam. Verstege
Grandrue 15
6960 Grandmenil, Manhay Belgium
tel: 011-32-86456234
fax: 011-32-478327554
email: entre2pays@xs4all.be
internet: <http://www.xs4all.be/~entre2>

DON'T FORGET – For all your Dutch goodies and gifts:

Windmill Imports Inc.

1513 Mainstreet
Hopkins, MN 55343
Tel/fax: 952-988-0852
Email: windmill-exports@worldnet.att.net

NAAM Membership

NAAM has some 220 paying member households! To become a NAAM member, or to renew your membership for 2006 (NAAM's fiscal year started October 1), fill out the coupon below, write a check payable to NAAM and mail both to:

Mark Boorsma
P.O. Box 67
Cleveland, MN 56017-0067

Membership Benefits

- Quarterly newsletter, highlighting social activities, consulate information, and more.
- Reduced or free admittance to events.
- Videotape conversion. To convert PAL (European) format videotapes to NTSC (American) format, or vice-versa, contact the NAAM secretary. Please include blank tapes and \$10 per tape (check or cash) for postage. For members only!

NAAM Board

Mark Boorsma (President)
phone: 507-931-3401
e-mail: chair@dutchclub.org

Albertjan Planten (Vice-President)
phone: 651-436-2527
e-mail: albertjan@dutchclub.org

Bonnie Kuipers Danielson (Treasurer)
phone: 612-721-1654
e-mail: treasurer@dutchclub.org

Andrew van Reeuwijk (Secretary)
phone: 651-340-0423
e-mail: andrew@dutchclub.org

Dirk van Toor (Director)
phone: 651-224-1719
e-mail: dvantoor@dutchclub.org

Carla Leebens (Director)
phone: 612-922-3142
e-mail: carla@dutchclub.org

Elisabeth Beelaerts (Director)
e-mail: elisabeth@dutchclub.org

For up-to-the-minute information on NAAM activities and all things related to the club please visit <http://www.dutchclub.org/>. Check out the new Blog too at <http://dutchclub.org/bb/>

- I want to (check one):
- join NAAM and receive all the membership benefits
 - renew my membership for 2006

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

- Membership type (check one):
- \$20 – family
 - \$10 – individual
 - \$10 – senior

Write a check payable to NAAM and mail both to:

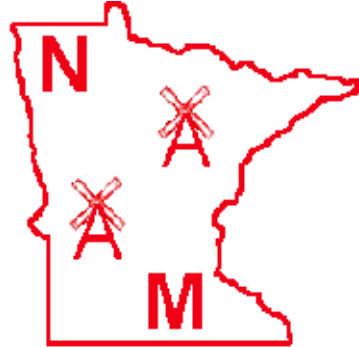
Mark Boorsma, P.O. Box 67, Cleveland, MN 56017-0067



NAAM

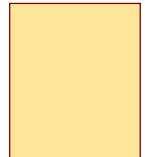
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Netherlands-American Association of Minnesota
c/o Mark Boorsma
P.O. Box 67
Cleveland, MN 56017-0067

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<http://www.dutchclub.org/us/newsletter.htm>