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Windmill Whispers

December 2011



President's Corner

Dear Members,

As this is my last President's Corner for the year, my family and I would like to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year! Last month was the General Meeting and the Herring & Hutspot Night. For those who did not choose to voice their opinion and sample the Hutspot and Herring, you really missed out. It was delicious! The herring was wonderful and a thank you goes out to the Little Dutch Girl store who sold it to us at cost. We actually made some money this year which I don't think has ever happened. Thank you to Anneke Junier, for setting up a raffle with some nice prizes. Ilse Henni was the winner of the Hutspot cook off and won a nice basket with Dutch goodies which Corry Bekker had purchased on one of her trips to Holland and donated. Thank you, Corry, it was very much appreciated and in addition, thank you for the use of your lovely home.

I truly wish that more of you would have come. I saw the same faces I see every year, not a new one in the bunch. At the meeting I made it a point to ask each member what they thought of the future of this club, how they felt or what they would like to see. We went around the room and most people had their say. It was pretty much a 50/50 split. Some wanted it to keep it going, others said it was a sinking ship.

The Holland Club has a very good Board in place for next year, with most returning for their sixth year. We have two new board members, Leo Valk, the new editor, and Annemieke Luckey our new but not new to the Board director. Thank you for stepping up and we welcome both of you with open arms! Some changes will be made for next year and we will keep you posted.

Come October 2012 I will step down as President and I know some of the other board members will step down too. I know we keep saying that, but next year is THE year. Decisions will have to be made on what's going to happen with the Holland Club because it seems nobody wants to serve on the board. We cannot even get some of you to come to an Annual Meeting to discuss why you are not coming! The Board Members are staying on because nobody will take our place, and the two that will join us this year took some arm twisting. Truly, I think that they felt sorry for us and finally caved in. And we are glad they did! I am asking all of you to drop me a line via email or by mail. What do you want the Holland club to be for you? Be honest with yourself and us. Do you want to keep going on or are we a sinking ship? Perhaps we just need to close the doors. Whatever we do, all members will need to show up at a special meeting to vote on what it is you exactly want and let your voice be heard. So, I had my say. I will be looking forward to the many letters I will be receiving from our loyal members.

Sinterklaas will be arriving in Houston soon and will come visit us. If you want your little ones to see him please contact Marion Pope as soon as possible, so she can get on with ordering the goodies.

The Annual Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange will take place at Petra and Sean Cochran's home on Sunday, December 11. The food for this event will be catered by The Lasagna House III. The only thing you will have to bring is an ornament, if you participate in the Ornament Exchange game. If you are planning to attend, I ask you to contact me as soon as you can I, so that I can put in the order for the food. Please do not wait till the last minute!

Till next year,
Your president,
Frieda Stephens

Birthdays

December

9 Robert Junier
9 Joe Pope
10 Rory Jagdeo
12 Joe Petcosky
19 Bethel Wijnberg
22 Corry Slot
25 Marion Pope
27 Laetitia Smulders

Allemaal van harte gefeliciteerd!

Hospitality

Please contact Anneke Junier at 713-783-5871 or robjunier@aol.com if you hear of a member being ill or hospitalized. Anneke will act on behalf of the club.

Board Meeting Report

The Board met on Wednesday, November 16 at the home of Anneke Junier.

The Annual Meeting, Herring & Hutspot evening was reviewed. The food was good and herring tasty. Around 39 people attended. The Annual meeting was held and the future of the Holland Club discussed. The 2012 Board was elected.

Plans for the Sinterklaas event are under way.

The Christmas Party was discussed. Because the Dutch Heritage event was canceled it was decided to have the Christmas party catered. Frieda will arrange the food. Guest do not have to bring anything, except an ornament for the ornament exchange game. Reservations are essential for this event.

The next Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 18 at the home of Frieda Stephens, 18618 Keystone Oak St., Houston, 77084. Contact Frieda if you would like to attend: frieda4art@yahoo.com / 281-398-4438
Board meetings are open to all members.

2011 Calendar of Events

Saturday, December 3 - Sinterklaas Party
Sunday, December 11 - Christmas Party

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Barry Weprin, R.S.
Pest Control Services
281-497-6308

Board of Directors 2011

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281-398-4438

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Koffie Uurtje for December

Titia van der Meer will be hosting the Koffie Uurtje on Friday, December 2, starting at 10.30 a.m. At the same time we will be celebrating Sinterklaas, so please bring a present (about \$5) for the gift exchange.

Titia's address is: 1246 Mickey Way, Houston, 77055.

Please contact Titia by November 30 if you are planning to attend: phone 713-465-1445 / email: titiaavdm@aol.com

We look forward to seeing you!

Adri Bormans

Koffie Uurtje Coordinator

Mark your Calendar!

Christmas Party, Sunday December 11, 4:00-8:00pm

At the home of Petra and Sean Cochran, 15203 Rainhollow Drive, Houston, 77070.

If you are planning to attend this event, please give Frieda Stephens a call or email. She needs a head count for the food: frieda4art@yahoo.com / 281-398-4438

(More details to follow after the Thanksgiving holiday.)

Researcher Looking for Participants

My name is Nyssa Bulkes, and I am a graduate-student researcher at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I am seeking Dutch heritage speakers for a linguistics study I am currently working on. Some of the members in our Dutch community might fit this description. If anyone has spoken Dutch as a first-generation American or Dutch-American immigrant, and they know Dutch fluently, please contact me. (see email address below.)

The study poses no risk for participants, and participation would require about 30 minutes of time filling out two surveys online. I would be happy to give more information if you like.

Thank you for your time!

Nyssa Bulkes

Linguistics Department Graduate Student

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

nyssabulkes@gmail.com

Pest Control Corner by Barry Weprin R.S.

I was reminded last week why I always write in November over the same thing. I observed a stack of firewood at one of my customers homes with thousands of Fire Ants in a mound under the stack. When you take any wood from outside always throw it on to the ground and inspect it. There could be Spiders such as Black widow or Brown Recluse living in the stack. Mice and rats might have made a home under it. Roaches may have laid

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Tony Beekenkamp

eggs on it. When you do bring it in do not keep it for too long without using it. Other problems this time of the year will be ants entering your home to get warm. Don't forget the rats and mice who love to winter in your home.

For Pest Control call me at 281 497-6308.
Barry Weprin

Thank You from Art Janszen

What a surprise to receive so many "Get Well Wishes" from members of the Holland Club, during my recovery from surgery.

Thank you all very much!
Greetings, Art Janszen

Recipe Corner - Banana Cream Pie

Ingredients

banana pudding:

1/4 cup white sugar
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 cups milk
3 egg yolks, beaten
2 tablespoons butter
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
4 bananas, sliced

graham cracker pie crust:

2 sleeves cinnamon graham crackers
15 vanilla wafers
1/2 stick of butter

topping:

cool whip or whipped cream mixed with teaspoon of vanilla extract
chocolate curls (optional)

Directions

- For crust: Melt butter. Crush up crackers and wafers. Mix together. Press into a large pie pan.
- In a saucepan, combine the sugar, flour, and salt. Add milk in gradually while stirring gently. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture is bubbly. Keep stirring and cook for about 2 more minutes, and then remove from the burner.
- Stir a small quantity of the hot mixture into the beaten egg yolks, and immediately add egg yolk mixture to the rest of the hot mixture. Cook for 2 more minutes; remember to keep stirring. Remove the mixture from the stove, and add butter and vanilla. Stir until the whole thing has a smooth consistency.
- Slice bananas into the cooled baked pastry shell. Top with pudding mixture.
- Chill for several hours. Top with whip cream or cool whip.

Enjoy! Thanks to Cynthia Dehlavi for sharing this recipe with the Holland Club.

Please send your favorite recipes to [Anneke Junier](#) for publishing in the Windmill Whispers.

News From Holland

Wim Wijnberg passed along this interesting story. Thank you, Wim.

World's oldest woman had DNA mutation - Saturday 15 October 2011

The Dutch woman who was the oldest person in the world when she died at the age of 115, appears to have rare mutations in her DNA, NOS television reported on Saturday.

Hendrikje van Andel-Schipper, who died six years ago, left her body to medical science.

A team, led by Henne Holstege of VU University's medical centre in Amsterdam, is examining her DNA for clues as to what protected her against dementia and other diseases of old age. Andel-Schipper's brain showed no signs of dementia when she died. At the age of 113, she scored the same as a 60 to 75-year-old in a memory test. She died of gastric cancer.

The results of the investigation so far were presented at a medical conference in Canada, according to British media reports. 'Now, six years after her death she has become the oldest person to have her complete genetic code sequenced as scientists hope to unlock the secrets to her good health and longevity,' the Daily Mail reported.

The paper says Van Andel-Schipper was an avid supporter of Ajax football club and attributed her old age to not smoking, plenty of herrings and limited alcohol.

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