



## TULIP TALK

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Winter 2013/2014

# Holland Club of the Tampa Bay area, Inc.



Since 1973

[www.hollandclubtampabay.org](http://www.hollandclubtampabay.org)

Dedicated to keeping alive the spirit, culture and knowledge of Holland in the Tampa Bay area

## January 5 - New Year's Reception

You and your guests are invited to a "Get together" to start the Year 2014!

Let's meet on Sunday, January 5 beginning at 2:00 p.m until 5:00 PM at the Carrollwood Recreation Center, (Yes, our former location)  
This is a "pot-luck" event, at no charge.

- Our club will provide coffee, non-alcoholic beverages and oliebollen
- We would hope that some of our members would bring some dish to share.
- Oliebollen and appelflappen are most welcome.
- There is no pre-requisite for your participation [Bring a friend](#)
- Share the story of your Christmas & New Year resolutions ideas!

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Directions to Carrollwood Recreation Center, 3515 McFarland Rd, Tampa. Coming from Tampa, going north on N. Dale Mabry Hwy, make right hand turn onto Hudson Lane. Make left hand turn onto Orange Grove Drive and continue for about ½ mile till it intersects with McFarland road. You have arrived at the Clubhouse. **Look for the Dutch flag!**



## Other upcoming events

For the next months we are looking at the following events::

- Sunday, February 9, from 2-5 PM annual General Meeting @ Compton Recr. Building
- Sunday, March 9, from 2-5 PM, Picknick/Barbecue @ same place
- Sunday, April 27, from 2-5 PM, Koningsdag (Kings-Day) @ the home of Peter & Kim Schreuder, Tampa
- Sunday, May or June (to be decided), from 2-5 PM, "line-dancing" event (per suggestion of Kim Schreuder)



## Presidents message

An expat in Holland

By now you have had your Dutch-American heritage day. I am an American in Holland at the moment.... finding heritage in different ways.

The wind is fierce and fall leaves give color to the cloudy sky. The red, purple, brown, yellow and green of the leaves and their many shapes surprise me. I haven't seen them since living in Florida. With its trees and fields, Holland still has a lot of nature, immediately noticeable once driving outside the villages and cities. One cannot miss the results of the 'giving back to nature' movement, looking at the small ditches and rivers. In 1960, the focus was to optimize land for agriculture and straiten land and water. Now rivers can meander and have space to overflow.

The Dutch are very modern, as I experienced by simply going for some groceries to an Albert Hein. Everywhere in the store were scanners, which I needed to use to already calculate my shopping basket as I went along. At the door, the only thing was paying the final amount. I did not find this a completely relaxed shopping event. I guess it is a matter of getting used to it. More new design I saw at the Dutch Design Week in Eindhoven. This is an international event where the Dutch show how well they make a car on solar cells, how they can save water by re-filtering used water, how they make the house cozy and organized by furniture with storage space inside. Dutch Design Week was elegantly hosted with lots of restaurants with exciting food from Europe.

As an expat, I feel familiar with the surroundings. On the other hand I am not up to date with things. Taking a bus or train, I needed to have an OV-card. It is challenging to figure out which train and which price, as 3 different companies are running on the rails. The mail system is now divided amongst 3 companies. They wanted to create a competing free market, however the average Dutch person is skeptical about the service and does not see improvements.

The advertisements we receive at the home we live in, are drenched with English words to make the product 'cool.' However, the discussion about the status of the 'black pieten', the helpers of Sinterklaas is not 'cool.' Still, on December 6, Sinterklaas will visit with his 'zwarte Pieten' as most people do not see any problem with that, and I agree.

Carissa is looking forward to Sinterklaas, who will visit her school. Carissa says the school is 'awesome', especially the no homework part! The rules are less strict than at Tampa Palms Elementary School. They have more playtime, no uniforms, iPads in class, performance afternoons. Carissa is settling in fast, making 'play dates' after school.



I wish you Happy Holidays and we will see each other at the meeting in January!



Mieke Caris  
president Tampa Bay Holland Club

## New Dutch consul-general in Miami

Nathalie Olijslager has been appointed as the new consul-general in Miami. She is succeeding Simone Filippini who left the Foreign Office to become CEO of the Dutch not-for-profit organization Cordaid ([www.Cordaid.nl](http://www.Cordaid.nl)). Before coming to Florida, Nathalie worked in Pretoria (2000-2003) and Budapest (2003-2007). She has also been stationed at the Department of Economic affairs. The new consul-general is married to Jan Paul. The

Olijslagers have 2 kids, Stan (11) & Arne (9).

The Holland Club of the Tampa bay area wishes the new consul-general and her family best of luck in Florida.



## Holland Club on Facebook

Our club is also present at Facebook;  
check us out at: <https://www.facebook.com/HollandClubTampaBay>



## Koninklijke onderscheiding voor André Steijlen

Vanwege zijn jarenlange inzet voor de Hollandclub in de Tampa Bay Area heeft koning Willem-Alexander onze oud-secretaris André Steijlen benoemd tot lid in de Orde van Oranje Nassau. Tijdens de viering van het Leids Ontzet op 13 October kwam consul Patrick Willemsen de onderscheiding namens de Majesteit opspelden. Het was een volslagen verrassing voor André die gewoon in korte broek en op sandalen naar de bijeenkomst was gekomen.

Op 22 October stond het verslag van de gebeurtenis in de society rubriek (beter bekend als het Stan Huygens Journaal) van De Telegraaf.



## Luchtig lintje in Florida

Meer dan twintig jaar is André Steijlen uit het Amerikaanse Tampa in Florida als secretaris de drijvende kracht achter de Holland Club in Tampa Bay geweest. Reden voor koning Willem-Alexander om hem met het lidmaatschap in de orde van Oranje-Nassau te eren.

Tijdens een druk bezochte ledenbijeenkomst werd de 80-jarige Steijlen in het zonnetje gezet. Het was een volslagen verrassing voor de man, die nietsvermoedend in korte broek en op sandalen was komen opdagen.

De Nederlandse consul **Patrick Willemsen** uit Orlando spelde de medaille op het T-shirt van het verblufte oud-bestuurslid, die onlangs zijn functie had neergelegd. Het was voor Willemsen, die nu vier jaar als honorair consul in centraal Florida zit, de eerste keer in zijn carrière

dat hij een koninklijke onderscheiding mocht uitreiken. Het komt maar zelden voor dat een Nederlander in het buitenland een lintje krijgt. „Ik vond het dus een eer om dit te mogen doen”, zei de consul, die zijn vrouw *Judith* had meegezogen.

André Steijlen is van 1992 tot 2013 onafgebroken secretaris van de Nederlandse club geweest. Terwijl vele voorzitters kwamen en gingen, bleef de in Harderwijk geboren secretaris als een rots in de branding op zijn post.



• Consul Patrick Willemsen en zijn vrouw Judith met de verraste André Steijlen in hun midden.  
FOTO: BERT WIERINGA

Daarmee was de pret voor André nog niet over

want op 19 November kreeg hij in Orlando de prestigieuze “First Salute Award” uitgereikt. Deze prijs wordt jaarlijks toegekend aan diegene die zich heeft ingezet voor verbetering van de relatie tussen de VS en Nederland. (in Florida).

Als klap op de vuurpijl publiceerde “the Daily Herald” uit St. Maarten op 7 December een uitgebreid artikel over onze oud-secretaris, die jarenlang in overheidsdienst op het Caribisch eiland heeft gewerkt en tot de ‘bekende’ inwoners behoorde.

Meer info op onze website:  
[www.hollandclubtampabay.org](http://www.hollandclubtampabay.org)

## Obituaries

### Walther Kitzmann (55)

passed away in North Carolina on October 23

Walther is the son of our member Christien Kitzmann of Sarasota. He was a self-employed builder of garden fixtures. Walther was born in Hoogezand on July 17, 1958.

On December 1 a celebration of his life took place at his mothers place in Sarasota.

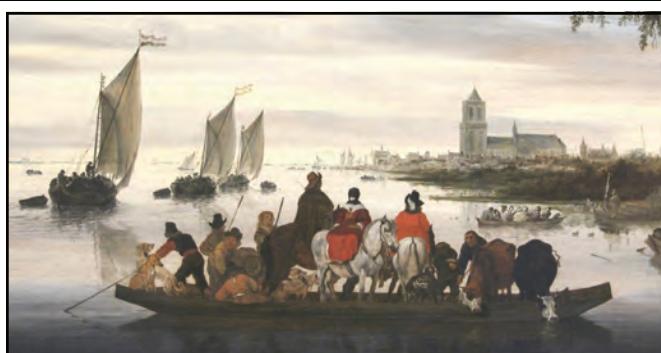


### Pieter van der Meijden (87)

passed away in Oostvoorne (NL) on November 21

Pieter is the father of our member & former president Els Wiemken.

In the last couple of years he visited the Holland club several times. Pieter was born on September 21, 1926. The funeral was on November 27.



### Best wishes for 2014

The board of the Hollandclub of the Tampa Bay area wishes you a happy new year.

### De beste wensen voor 2014

Het bestuur van de Hollandclub in de Tampabay area wenst u en de uwen een gelukkig en bovenal voorspoedig nieuw jaar.



# TULIP TALK

Newsletter of the Hollandclub of the Tampa Bay area, Inc.

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[hollandclubtampabay.org](http://www.hollandclubtampabay.org)

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## 2013 Coalition International Night

A lot of Holland Club members attended the 2013 Coalition International Night on December 5 in hangar 3 at MacDill Air Force Base.

More than 55 countries are assisting the US in the fight against terrorism. Once a year the military representatives offer their culinary delights and show some of their culture in an informal way. It's a great

opportunity for camaraderie, education, fun and the appreciation that their language and cultural differences serve to unify the members of the USCENTCOM coalition.



## Sinterklaas visited Holland Club in Tampa

St.Nicolas (Sinterklaas) birthday party at the Holland club in Tampa on Sunday afternoon (Dec 8) was a great photo opp for parents and grandparents. The kids loved him, and even more his presents! Two black Pete's (zwarte Pieten) did a fantastic job in helping the old bishop with handing out presents and spreading out cookies and pepernoten. Great job guys!



## Members e-mail address.....send us an update!

Our club has a few members that have no e-mail address. Also there are some members that do have e-mail but forgot to tell us.

**If you have e-mail, we urge you to send your e-mail address to [wieringa.usa@gmail.com](mailto:wieringa.usa@gmail.com)**

We will not sell or give your address to anyone, any company or any organization under any circumstances.

## Dues

Treasurer Chris van Leeuwen Jr. wants to thank all the members that recently have paid their dues for 2014. If you have not been able to pay your dues yet, send a check of \$15 for single members or \$25 for a whole family to Paula van Leeuwen, 13976 Clubhouse Drive, Tampa, FL 33618

A membership form can be downloaded from our website, [www.hollandclubtampabay.org](http://www.hollandclubtampabay.org) click on membership and then on the button between the arrows:

<http://www.hollandclubtampabay.org/membership.html>