



SCHENECTADY/NIJKERK NEWSLETTER



November 2011

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Consider going to Nijkerk. It is a chance of a lifetime to make new Dutch friends, stay with host families and experience a new culture.

**Covered Dish Holiday Supper
Schenectady/Nijkerk Council, December 6, 2011
6:00 PM First Reformed Church, Schenectady**

You all are invited to the holiday covered dish supper. Everyone will be asked to bring a dish to share. Ellen McNett will have a raffle tickets available to sell as a fundraiser. Joe Slater and her helpers will be responsible for set-up. She could use some "helping hands". Call Jo at 785-8121 if you can help her.

BULB SALEOur "Tulip Queen", Ellen McNett, Chairperson of Fund Raising, sold bulbs during the month of September – October. Thanks to all that purchased the bulbs. We really appreciate your support. A

special thanks to Ellen – always there to help.



Our sincere sympathy goes out to:

Dr. & Mrs. Holmblad on the loss of their daughter.

Good and Welfare:

Jo Slater - hope you are feeling better

John and Jean Wilkinson - hoping for a speedy recovery for your son from his car accident.

Marion Grimes - a little under the weather - but the "General" will be up and going on all her trips very soon.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

5TH Annual Festival of Trees

Schenectady County Historical Society and the YWCA of NENY

November 25 - December 12

The Schenectady/Nijkerk Council has put up a tree decorated with a Dutch theme. Amy Brule and her elves (Brett Lauren-Kennedy, Sally Clark, Connie Colangelo) did the decorating the set up. The tree was loaned to us by Sally Knutsen. Amy outdid herself - the tree is beautiful.

If you have not had a chance to go and view the trees. It is certainly worthwhile and they are really decorated beautifully - The Stockade Tree, The Red Hat Tree, The Gazette Tree, The Rotary Tree and many, many more. Some at the YWCA and some are at the Historical Society. AND while you are there you should pick up some of the books about Schenectady - past & present. They make wonderful Christmas gifts for your Nijkerk friends and your family. They have the Schenectady Throw, decorated Christmas Ball ornament - you can check on your history just by asking. If you become a member (about \$50.00) you get a discount on your purchases - of course there are other perks. Just helping you with your Christmas shopping!! There is a charge to visit the trees - I think that it is \$5.00.



Schenectady Town, View from Cowhorn Creek, circa 1690

Only a short time remains to see the exhibit with the originals of these Schenectady paintings.

You have until Saturday, December 17th to enjoy *A Journey Through History: The Artistic Works of Len Tantillo*. Fifty pieces of original artwork by historical and marine artist Len Tantillo are on display at the Schenectady County Historical Society's new Franchere Education Center, 1100 Main Street (Route 5S), Rotterdam Junction, NY 12150, next to the Mabee Farm Historic Site. The exhibit is open Monday-Saturday, 10AM-4PM. Admission is \$5.00, free for historical society members, group rates available. The George Franchere Education Center has a full parking lot and is completely handicap accessible. Go to www.schenectadyhistory.net for more information, or contact Curator Ryan Mahoney at 374-0263 or curator@schist.org.

“It’s an extraordinary collection – in the number of pieces, in the stories told of the history or the region, and the welcoming, engaging nature of the pieces themselves.” Joe Doolittle.



Schenectady Harbor, 1814

Other Council News

All is well in Nijkerk. They are a busy bunch and planning for the visit of our youth in July. Then they will be sending their adults to us in September. Big – REALLY BIG celebrations going on in Nijkerk in 2012 and we will be going over to help them celebrate. Our trip will be in September of 2012.

Dr. Susan Senecah will be retiring and devoting more time to the Nijkerk group. Isn't that wonderful!!

Ellen McNett is chairing the Adult exchange and already has a wonderful bunch of ideas. You can help her. Just give her a call: 372-1270

WEB SITE: schenectadynijkerk.org

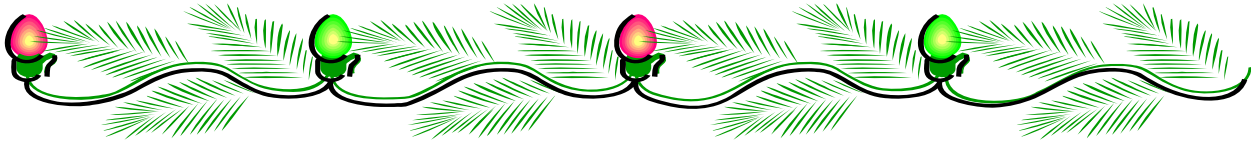
The exchange program for the next years:

2012 Youth from Schenectady to Nijkerk
2012 Adults from Nijkerk to Schenectady

2013 Youth from Nijkerk to Schenectady
2013 Adults from Schenectady to Nijkerk

2014 Youth from Schenectady to Nijkerk
2015 Youth from Nijkerk to Schenectady
2016 Adults from Nijkerk to Schenectady

2017 Youth from Schenectady to Nijkerk
2018 Youth from Nijkerk to Schenectady
2019 Adults from Schenectady to Nijkerk



HOLIDAY PARTY
SCHENECTADY/NIJKERK COUNCIL INVITES YOU
THE FEAST OF SINTERCLAUS

Holiday Covered Dish Supper

TUESDAY, December 6, 2011 at 6:00 PM

First Reformed Church, Schenectady

8 North Church Street

Bring Your Favorite Holiday Dish to Share

COME WELCOME IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON



12 Days of Christmas

There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

This week, I found out.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.-
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history for today. This knowledge was shared with me and I found it interesting and enlightening and now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol...so pass it on if you wish.'

Merry Christmas Everyone



The Tradition of Sinterklass

One version of the legend of Sinter Klaas stated that he rode a horse through the skies dressed in Bishop's clothing, (see Odin above). Children in the Netherlands celebrate the legend by filling their shoes with hay and carrots for the horse of Sinter Klass instead of hanging up Christmas Stockings. The legend says he was sometimes accompanied by Black Peter, an Elf, who whipped naughty children.



What committee would you like to be a part of?

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SCHENECTADY/NIJKERK COUNCIL

WE ARE NOW COLLECTING DUES FOR 2012

Your dues play a very important role in helping to support the Adult and Youth Exchanges. All of the wonderful trips and activities that occur during these visits are supported in part by your membership dues. We need your support to keep all these wonderful programs going.

Schenectady/Nijkerk Council Membership

Since 1984 the Schenectady/Nijkerk Council has been arranging for cultural, educational and business exchanges between the residents of Schenectady County and the city of Nijkerk in the Netherlands. As of the summer of 2011, we have had 31 exchanges with Nijkerk. We invite you to be part of the “Dutch Connection” either as a traveler, as a host family or as an interested participant in events as they unfold.

Now it is time to show your support for the Schenectady/Nijkerk Council as a new or returning member. Membership dues are \$25 (not-for profit tax exempt) annually. Next year we will be sending our youth to Nijkerk and will be hosting the Adult Exchange to Schenectady in September. Let us know of your interest by returning this form along with your dues. Please check the volunteer form below and let us know how you can help carry on the work of the Schenectady/Nijkerk Council.

SCHENECTADY/NIJKERK COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP – 2012

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ NY, Zip: _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

_____ \$25 (FAMILY) MEMBERSHIP ENCLOSED

Make checks payable to the Schenectady/Nijkerk Council and return to

Kay Ackerman, 806 Pinewood Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12309

NOTE: please indicate below your committee choice, complete volunteer form and send it to Kay. Any questions can be sent to Kay at 393-5000 or kaydonack@aol.com.

THE SCHENECTADY/NIJKERK COUNCIL COULD USE YOUR HELP IN 2012

I would like to help with the following:

_____ Adult Exchange Committee

_____ Meeting Arrangements

_____ Auditing Committee

_____ Membership Committee

_____ Board Member

_____ Council Officer

_____ Fund Raising

_____ Nominating Committee

_____ Hospitality

_____ Youth Exchange Committee

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE SCHENECTADY/NIJKERK COUNCIL