

# Henry Hudson's 400th Anniversary

## Newsletter #2

### Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York

#### Introduction

March 13th, 2008

The preparations for the 'Henry Hudson 400' celebrations in 2009 are continuing. The city of New York is narrowing down the various proposals. Different non-Governmental parties have developed their ideas and new elements are emerging, such as 'the world of finance' and education. The Dutch Government has recently requested Ambassador Eric Niehe to act as a coordinator for its own input and the city of Amsterdam has likewise appointed David van Traa as its point person. Kees van Twist, the former director of the Groninger Museum in the Netherlands, has arrived in New York and has assumed his job as Cultural Counselor for the USA. He will focus on Dutch cultural projects in the framework of next year's celebrations. The Consulate General in New York will continue to act as the coordinator for activities in and around the city, through meetings and - for the time being- through this news-

letter. We are investigating a professional marketing and PR approach to gather as much as possible various activities of diverse players under one umbrella. In this second issue, I would like to focus on activities which are being planned on and around *water*. The subsequent issues of this newsletter will address different themes such as culture, education and business as well as events in the maritime, creative and financial industries. At this early stage not all proposals listed hereunder have been secured, but they do provide a good indication of the wealth of activities which are being considered right now. Many will take place in early September and some will happen throughout the year. However, one of the most important initiatives will merely be symbolic, namely the start of the 'remodeling' of Governors' Island by the famous Dutch landscape architectural firm West 8. It will take some time before the



former 'Noten Eylant' will be transformed into its future shape.

I hope that many of next year's activities will not be 'one-offs' but that they would endure, and can act as catalysts for new structural relations between our two countries!

Finally we are in the process of developing a calendar of events for 2009. You will find a very first draft hereunder, which is tentative and still quite incomplete. As we progress throughout the year, the calendar will obviously improve in accuracy and volume.

*Gajus Scheltema, Consul General of the Netherlands in New York*



#### The long voyage

Henry Hudson had been requested by the Dutch East Indies Company to search for a new way to reach Asia. As we all know, he ended up in North America and sailed past Manhattan Island while looking for a possible passage. He continued his jour-

ney some 200 miles upstream, up to about modern-day Albany. When he regretfully concluded that the river was 'just a river', he embarked on his return journey. Once back in Holland, Hudson described the large bay through which he had en-

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tered as one where ships were able to sail in all directions, no matter where the winds came from. He stared at the waterfront, the virgin lands invitingly stretching out ahead of him. It seemed an ideal point from where to conduct trade and explore the newly discovered interior areas...

It was water that brought Hudson to the New World, and water will therefore be a central theme in 2009.



## Overview water related activities

- **Naval visit** Historically, the Netherlands and the United States have always had a strong relationship. As a token importance of the trans-Atlantic links, the Dutch Navy plans to visit New York City in September.
- **Dutch ships journeys** During the month of September the New Netherland Museum and its replica ship 'Half Moon' will re-create the original voyage of Hudson from 400 years ago. The 'Voyage of Discovery' will start in New York Harbor and arrive in Albany on September 19, the same days as the original Halve Maen. The crew will include 7th grade students, who not only sail the ship but complete science research during the voyage. The Half Moon also plans stops during the summer at several towns in New Netherland (NY, CT, NJ, PA, and DE) to commemorate their Dutch ancestry.
- **Arrival of 'de Stad Amsterdam'** The clipper 'de Stad Amsterdam' is planning to sail from the Netherlands to New York in the summer taking young American and Dutch performing arts students. On that transatlantic trip this ship will act as a stage for a play, that will be performed in New York upon ship's arrival. It will likely be accompanied by Dutch yachts during its Atlantic crossing.
- **Flat bottom ships** About 35 traditional flat bottom ships will arrive from the Netherlands in September and sail up the Hudson together with the 'Half Moon'.
- **Holland Hudson House** Under review is the concept of a floating Holland Hudson House in one of the rivers in New York. The HHH will function as a platform to showcase sustainable construction, and to provide information and



examples of Dutch innovation.

- **Dutch - American cooperation in water management** The Dutch private and public sectors are looking for opportunities for cooperation with American water management experts in New York in 2009, after the successful projects in Louisiana (after Hurricane Katrina), California and Florida.
- **Water conference** In the beginning of September a major Water Confer-

ence (H2O9-Forum) will be held at the Liberty Science Center with high-profile guests as keynote speakers. The event is organized to raise awareness, share experiences and develop partnerships around the topic of water.

- **Yachting and commercial shipping** The Dutch maritime industry is considering several business presentations about yachting and commercial shipping supported by the government.

- **Governors Island** A groundbreaking ceremony envisaged at Governors Island to mark the start of the remodeling of the Island by the renowned Dutch landscape architects West 8.

- **Boat Race** A race in the harbor of New York in September for Flying Dutchman class of boats is currently under consideration.

- **Waterfront project** The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance is working with the State of New York to identify waterfront sites along the Hudson River valley that qualify for physical upgrades. Some of these projects will be highlighted in 2009.

*This Newsletter is for background information only and not for publication*

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> week April - September</i>	New Amsterdam Exhibition City Museum New York
<i>Mid April - mid May</i>	Tulip Mania: Botanical Garden, the Bronx
<i>Mid April</i>	Bulb-flower show, Rockefeller Center
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> August - 3 September</i>	Voyage into the 21 <sup>st</sup> century, Clipper, 'de Stad Amsterdam' with students
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> August - 3 September</i>	Yacht-race Amsterdam – New York
<i>Summer</i>	Exhibition New York Historical Society at Bard College
<i>Summer</i>	Groundbreaking ceremony at Governors Island
<i>Summer</i>	'Voyage of discovery'
<i>1<sup>st</sup> week September</i>	Sailing ship race in New York Harbor
<i>1<sup>st</sup> week September</i>	35 Flat-bottom ships sail up the Hudson river
<i>1<sup>st</sup> week September</i>	'Half Moon' sails upriver to Albany
<i>1<sup>st</sup> week September</i>	Water-conference H <sup>2</sup> O9, Liberty Science Center
<i>Early September</i>	Lincoln Center Festival
<i>September</i>	Dutch Navel visit to New York harbor
<i>21 September</i>	Maps-exhibition Public Library
<i>12-13 November</i>	Seminar on Dutch art, Frick Museum
<i>Mid November*</i>	5 Dutch Days, 5 Boroughs
	<i>* around Netherlands- United States heritage day</i>



- Relevant Links:**
- [www.cgny.org](http://www.cgny.org)
  - [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org)
  - [www.thenaf.org](http://www.thenaf.org)
  - [www.hollandsociety.org](http://www.hollandsociety.org)
  - [www.henryhudson400.com](http://www.henryhudson400.com)
  - [www.govisland.com](http://www.govisland.com)
  - [www.exploreny400.com/home.php](http://www.exploreny400.com/home.php)
  - [www.5dutchdaysnyc.org](http://www.5dutchdaysnyc.org)
  - [www.nnp.org](http://www.nnp.org)
  - [www.HollandDames.org](http://www.HollandDames.org)

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