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Lead Voice

Fresh News



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2nd Voice

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DUTCH TREAT!

by Jill Wickham, Sebago Lake, Maine

On behalf of all of us privileged enough to have been at Amsterdam, '05, I would like to offer a "dank u wel" to the "Super Team" who gave us a convention that was just, well,....sheer "CLASS"!

to Henny Grote, Rob van Alberda, and Jan Smeding for the beautiful and superbly-organized program, meals, and hospitality room; and to Palle Christensen for the great FF literature, freebies...and just about everything else! Special kudos to Rein de Graaff and the Four Freshmen for the superb music that continued non-stop for three nights, featuring jazz trios, jazz orchestras, jazz vocalists and entertainers; and of course our favorite "fellas" performing at their very professional and humorous best. It was a veritable PARADISE for lovers of tasteful music!

It has been suggested that every third convention be held in Europe, because those who stayed home need to be given just one more chance to see what they missed!....AND because our foreign friends proved to be hosts and hostesses 'par excellence' !!

Een grote "hartelijk dank" van ons! (transl: a big thank you very much from us!)

THE AMSTERDAM CONVENTION

AUGUST 4-6, 2005

by Dot & Harry Lydic, Pittsburgh
(Home of the Steelers and the 2006 FFS Convention)

The 2005 Four Freshmen Society Convention was held outside the U.S. for the first time - in the enchanting city of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. The convention committee worked long and hard to make this convention a success, and it was!

The committee will undoubtedly be presenting their final report in the *FRESHNEWS*, but we would like to offer our thoughts and experiences of this event.

The Holiday Inn, under the management of Pascal Aartman, was very hospitable to the FFS conventioners. They had a large photo poster of the Freshmen displayed in the lobby, in clear view of everyone entering the hotel. They even had a Four Freshmen flag hanging on a tall pole outside, waving between the regional flags.

Harry and I arrived a day early, which gave us the opportunity to see many areas of Amsterdam. We thoroughly enjoyed walking the streets of the city, especially around Dam Square, and admiring the architecture. Strolling along the canals (there are 88 of them!), lined with charming gabled houses, and walking across the small bridges was our favorite part. We were amazed at all the bicyclists and how well they maneuvered in and out of traffic!

Along one of the canals sits the well-known "Anne Frank Huis," the hiding place of the Frank family during World War II. We toured the museum of family photos, Anne's diaries, and other memorabilia and visited the rooms where the Jewish family hid for two years before being discovered by the Germans. Another well-known book and movie about the persecutions during this time was "The Hiding Place." This is the story of the Ten Boom family of Haarlem, Holland. Harry and I, along with FFS members Joyce and Mike LeBlanc of Colorado Springs, took a 15-minute train ride from Amsterdam to visit this lovely village and the "hiding place." It was very interesting and inspiring, and a spot worth visiting if you're in the area.

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Vince Johnson
Baritone Voice



Bob Ferreira
Bass Voice