

Pikien Slee Benefit Concert

On the 4th of January, 2008, Quota International of Rotterdam organized a benefit concert in the buildings of the Suriname church in Rotterdam. The proceeds of this concert were used to support the Willebrand school complex in Pikien Slee, Suriname. This complex was severely damaged in a flood disaster in May 2006, displacing 300 students who have been unable to attend school or follow lessons.

The benefit concert, held at the request of Quota International of Suriname, was a delightful evening and a success! A grand total of 150 tickets were sold during a period filled with many other festivities and concerts, with a net result of Euro 7000. In addition, QI of Rotterdam was grateful to receive an additional donation of E.5.250 from Cordaid, bringing the total raised for the Pikien Slee project to E.12,250. In addition, the Rotterdam Quota Club was fortunate to have had a press release regarding this event published in the weekly newspaper, ***Ster van Kralingen***.

The church was wonderfully decorated, with special lighting effects that were sponsored. The concert started with the choir *Collegium Caccini* singing the famous Ave Maria and other sacred songs. Subsequently, a young gospel singer, Clarissa Lansheuvel, presented a number of gospels. The Surinam-born piano player, Ernst Paul Fuchs, treated us to music written by Chopin and Schubert. Finally, the famous baritone Anthony Heidweiller performed fragments of famous operas.

The parish building was also nicely decorated. Upon arrival, coffee was served with special cakes, baked by the Quotarians. The evening program was presented by Ms. Nikki Vermaas-Tuns, president of the QI of Rotterdam branch and assisted by Celine Pezie-Laan.

Ms. May Kowsoleea, a representative of Quota International of Suriname, travelled from Suriname to attend the concert.

After the concert a lottery-event started, with attractive prizes. Hotel Torarica in Paramaribo, Suriname, also sponsored us with a number of dinner vouchers. At the end of the concert these prizes were donated to the church in gratitude for making the church buildings available to us. When the lottery ended, there was Quota Hunta's rum punch and delicious snacks, and we danced with much pleasure on the live-music of the Suriname band, Madu.

We are thankful to Elisabeth MacLean and her committee for organising this evening.

Annual New Year's Party

Quota International of Rotterdam and the Rotterdam Branch held a New Year's party night, which was very joyful and amusing. The evening was enjoyable as there were a high number of club and branch members present, and we were joined by May Kowsoleea of Quota International of Suriname. Those attending enjoyed a lovely buffet and a funny dice game.

Our athletic president Marina Wubs climbed on top of a chair in order to welcome everyone and to toast the New Year. Then the game of dice started. Both club and branch members were seated at tables, about 10 members at each table. In the middle of the table was a dice, and depending on the number which was thrown, you could either unwrap a present or pass the dice to the next guest. In the second round, guests were allowed to take away a present from someone else. There were enticing and less wonderful presents, and the pleasure was most of all in taking presents away from others! This game resulted in much joy and laughter.

Marina Wubs then made a speech for the Rotterdam Branch and handed the banner to Nikki Vermaas-Tuns, the Branch president. Elisabeth MacLean gave us some information about the success of the enjoyable benefit concert for Pikien Slee. Afterwards, May Kowsoleea expressed her thanks and the appreciation for the level of the financial support raised for the school. We then proceeded with a wonderful buffet, coffee, another drink and a dance to music compiled on a CD by Eveline Hinfelaar.

Visit with President Daryl Perrine

In the middle of February 2008, Quota International President Daryl Perrine honoured us with a visit. In the early morning hours, Rotterdam President Marina Wubs and Governor Marja Gordijn welcomed her at Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam. During a lunch in the Royal Rowing and Sailing club 'de Maas', Daryl met some of the members. At dinner of the monthly members meeting, which takes place at the horse stable building, the *Kralingsche Manege*, Daryl met other Rotterdam Club and Branch members, including Nikki Vermaas-Tuns. Daryl gave a lecture on Quota International and focused on her motivation on becoming a Quotarian and then reflected on how to retain members. After many

years of work in Quota she has reached a crucial position in Quota International. Daryl then urged us to start as many Quota clubs as possible in The Netherlands and in Europe.

After the lunch, Ivy van den Nieuwendijk took Daryl on a record speed tour around Rotterdam. She showed Daryl not only the old buildings which survived the WW II bombing raid, but also the tilted cube houses, and the famous Erasmus bridge. During a cup of tea at hotel New York, they discussed the relationship between Holland and America. Daryl was so impressed by this City on the Maas and its rich history that she suggested an international conference be held in the City of Rotterdam. As a souvenir of her Rotterdam visit, Daryl was presented with Dutch and Rotterdam objects including the Dutch chocolate windmills and Rotterdam anchors.