

Message from the (new) chairman



Oscar Somsen [2040].

Here it is, the first Somsen Newsletter, made by the new board. Last year, after long years of service, we had to say goodbye to our chairman, editor, archivist and organizer of the well-loved barbecues. Fortunately, Adrie joined in and with Berto and myself, there's the three of us. The Somsen Horizon, published earlier this year was produced by the previous board members. But now, it is our turn.

A big challenge. Three people is not quite enough number to keep track of all donors, publish newsletters and maintain the website, while also organizing family activities. We are therefore really looking for those who would like to assist us in our tasks such as the publication of the Somsen Horizon. So, please come forward. Meanwhile, we try our best.

Another challenge is how we would like to continue after such a great reunion last year. Fortunately, new plans have been made for the next reunion in the USA in four years' time. Reason enough to keep on going. To be able to meet each other sooner, we would like to invite you all to a gathering in IJzerlo on Saturday September 1st. This will give us the opportunity to talk about The Reunion and (especially for those from further away) visit the place of our roots.

Unfortunately, this might be too far away for our family abroad. You will have to settle with the written information and the website. We hope that thru this Newsletter, you will have the pleasure of being reminded about our great family.

Save the date: Somsen day IJzerlo 2018, Saturday September 1st

Last year's big reunion was for many of us a great opportunity to meet each other again. For some the end of an era. For others, the first time to meet our family members. It seems long to have to wait for years to see each other again. That is why we thought to meet again in 2018 on Saturday September 1st. For some of our overseas family members this might be too far. But, you are all invited to join us at 4 pm at 't Dorphuis in IJzerlo, the location of last years' reunion.

Plenty of opportunity to eat and drink together and to revive memories of last reunions (feel free to bring your pictures) and more. For those interested, we will visit our family tree and it is possible to stay for dinner. For family members that live further away, it might be a great opportunity to come for a day (or weekend) and explore in Achterhoek. After all that is where we are from.

We hope to see you there. If you are planning to come, please send an email to info@somsen.org. Then we know who we can expect. At least, save the date in your agenda!



Somsens at the Family Tree



Somsens on the terrace

New Board Member

Just before the reunion of 2017, we were happy to receive help offered by Adrie van Dijk [185] and her mother Nellie van Dijk-Somsen [66]. We were even more glad to hear that she would like to join our board. But who is she?

My name is Adrie, I am 41 years old and live with my family in Zoetermeer. Through my grandfather Freek Somsen [62] and my mom Nellie van Dijk-Somsen, I grew up to be partly Somsen. Originally I am from Vriezenveen, but I was, as they say, attracted to the wild west. This led me to leave 18 years ago to move in with Richard [5758]. Together we had our oldest daughter in 2008, Megan Isabella [6063] and we had Hailey Noëlle [7257] in 2011. An extra gift was our youngest, Jenna Kenzi [7934], who was born in 2016. Together with our dog 'Chewie', we form the List – Van Dijk family.

Although I started my career as a caretaker, I soon switched to administrative work. After various jobs at the office, I became a host parent when Megan was born to have the opportunity to see her grow and still make some money. Who knows, I might pick this up again when Jenna will go to preschool in two years. Meanwhile, I work as a volunteer and coordinator at the 'VoorleesExpress' and I am a supporting parent at my girls' elementary school.

My hobbies are photography, reading, crafts and taking vacation with my family. It is a great honor to be working within the Somsen foundation. My first task was to make pictures at last years' reunion. I loved meeting all of you and I hope I get to help out with many more of such great activities. I hope to see you on September 1st.



Adrie [185] and her family in Zoetermeer

News from the Achterhoek: Statue for 'Normaal'

We have not yet written about them in our publications, and they might be unfamiliar for our family members abroad, but in Holland they have long been well known: The Achterhoek rock band 'Normaal'. This year they received a statue from the fans.

The statue of 'the men of Normaal', as the fans call them, is revealed on May 10th, 2018. Both the location and date have meaning for the band. Hummelo is the birth place and residential town of Singer Bennie Jolink. Ascension Day (in 1975) was the birth date of the band.

The life size statue is a gift from their fans and is located in front of Bennie Jolink's parental house. The images of the four members are cast in bronze. It also immortalized the drummer Jan Manschot who died in 2014. Jolink says that he is happy with the result: 'Fortunately, it is not an abstract monstrosity'. Normaal stopped performing in December 2015 for the health reasons. However, the unveiling of the statue was an opportunity for a performance (source: nos.nl)



Band members Bennie Jolink, Ferdi Joly and Willem Terhorst at the unveiling of the statue.

An Unexpected Journey

Some encounters have unexpected consequences. For Hedda Somsen [2848], thanks to the contacts she made she is now on internship in Ithaca, New York.

My name is Hedda, 22 years old. Last year I helped organizing the global Somsen Reunion. In the past 11 years I have met Somsens from all over the world. Because the conversation continues every 5 years, there is always something new to share. In 2007 I attended secondary school and spoke little English. Ten years later I attended as student of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. Fortunately, my English had also improved.

I've had great experiences with the Rice family. As a 12-year-old girl, I got to know them as a great family. Last year I discovered that Edward Rice Jr (Ed) [3849] is also a molecular biologist. Ed proposed to apply for an internship in the lab where he works. This worked out well and now I write this piece from Ithaca, New York during my internship at Cornell University. Not only an opportunity to do great research. I will also meet many American family members again. More news in the upcoming Horizon.



Hedda and Ed Jr. in the Lab

Rectification: Erroneous Picture

In Somsen Horizon 32 of Fall 2017, we presented Adrie van Dijk [185] with pride, as our new board member. In our enthusiasm we unfortunately published the picture of Arron Gurrink instead. Arron is the new resident of the Somsenhuus. Our apologies to both. Here are the correct pictures.



Adrie van Dijk
[185]



Arron Gurrink

Family Announcements

In this section our genealogical advisor Dick Somsen [130] from Zwolle draws your attention to the family announcements. We thank everyone who has informed us again about happy or sad events in the family. This makes it possible to keep the genealogical file 'up to date' and to report about it in the Horizon and Newsletter. We would appreciate if you could send your family announcements to somseogenealogie@kpnplanet.nl or Monteverdilaan 175, 8031 DL Zwolle (preferably with a photo!)

Born: no announcement received.

Married: no announcement received.

Deceased:

- 05-04-2018: Catharina Harmina (Mien) Lammers-Rengelink [3061] 83 years old, Aalten
- 10-04-2018: Grada Berendina (Dien) Somsen-Klein Wolterink [504] 85 years old, Arnhem
- 17-06-2018: James Richard (Jim) Somsen [3479] 70 years old, Jamestown, ND. USA

Zwolle: 19-06-2018.



James Richard
[3479]

The new Somsen Horizon 33 appears in the Fall of 2018. Your contribution is welcome! Please send to info@somsen.org before October 1, 2018.

Kindly remember your donation for 2018! Easily made at www.somsen.org!



Somsen

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Dorpshuus IJzerlo 7-9 July 2017