

Great crossing of 1940 commemorated in Zuiderzee Museum

School programme enables pupils to experience evacuation

On 10 May 2010, the Zuiderzee Museum, Museum Spakenburg and the inhabitants of Enkhuizen and Spakenburg will commemorate the large-scale dramatic evacuation of 1940. In an attempt to resist the advance of eight thousand German troops, a large area east of the Grebbe Line was flooded. One of the consequences was that almost the entire population of Spakenburg had to seek safety in Enkhuizen. Seventy years later, 250 people from Spakenburg will again make the 'great crossing'. From the harbour of Spakenburg they will sail to Enkhuizen where they will be welcomed by the mayor and the inhabitants of Enkhuizen and by primary school pupils from both places.

Bringing back memories

An important part of the programme is a reunion of evacuees and the people who received them at the time. From 14.30 onward they can revive memories in *Het Amsterdamse Huis*, the Museum restaurant. Involved parties and other interested individuals or groups who would like to attend can register for the occasion via e-mail 10mei.1940@zuidereemuseum.nl, or by telephone: **+31 (0)228-351125**.

Role playing

A meeting between primary school children from Enkhuizen and Spakenburg will be held in the Museum Park: *The Great Meeting*. The pupils from Enkhuizen will assume the role of hosts and hostesses, and the pupils from Spakenburg will play the role of the evacuees. A house, the church, the school and a shop in the Park will symbolize the locations where the refugees were received and accommodated in 1940. The pupils will jointly experience where the sudden guests had to sleep, wash, cook and eat. The pupils from Spakenburg will carry a backpack with the things they would take with them if they unexpectedly had to leave hearth and home.

Programme for 10 May:

- 09.00: Departure of the boat *Stad Harderwijk* to the Zuiderzee Museum Enkhuizen
- 11.30: Arrival and reception of Enkhuizen and Spakenburg pupils at the lime kilns in the Museum Park.
- 12.00: School programme *The Great Meeting* at diverse locations in the Museum Park.
- 13.15: Arrival of the *Stad Harderwijk*, reception of eye witnesses by Jan Baas, Mayor of Enkhuizen.
- 14.30: Reunion of eye witnesses from Enkhuizen and Spakenburg in the Museum restaurant *Het Amsterdams Huis*.
- 17.00: End of the programme.

On the Zuiderzee Museum

The Zuiderzee Museum in Enkhuizen is oriented toward art, culture and heritage around the former Zuiderzee area, and to the present-day and future IJsselmeer area. Through its activities, approach and co-operation, the museum has acquired international allure and a wide public reach. Communities, crafts and water are the central features. The museum consists of an open-air collection in the form of a Museum Park, as well as a great many exhibition spaces for the permanent collection, for temporary exhibitions and for studio use.

www.zuiderzeemuseum.nl

Note for the editor, not for publication:

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