

Only in Holland, Only the Dutch

Hoboken author Marc Resch to speak at Symposia

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Looking to take a nice trip to Amsterdam, but afraid of the stigma? Just tell people you're going to Holland, or so suggests Hoboken resident Marc Resch, author of *Only in Holland, Only the Dutch*, a new book billed as "An in-depth look into the culture of Holland and its people."

"When people say they're going to Amsterdam, people assume you're going for drugs or prostitutes," said Resch. "Say Holland, and people think of tulips and wooden shoes."

Resch will speak about his good humored and readable novel about the culture, history, values, and psyche of Holland and its people at Symposia Bookstore on Friday, March 4, at 8 p.m.

Resch lived in the Netherlands for over a year, working as a business consultant. He found the culture enthralling and distinct.

"There were challenges on a daily basis for me dealing with the Dutch in their mannerisms, traditions, and idiosyncrasies," Resch said. "So when I decided to write a book, it was pretty obvious I was going to write about the Dutch culture."

Resch touches on the more controversial social policies including prostitution, soft drugs, euthanasia, and same-sex marriages, noting that until recently, those things were illegal, but tolerated.

"A main characteristic of the Dutch is their tolerance towards anything," said Resch. "As long as it's not harming society, they'll tolerate it."

He also talks about the culture's worldly impact.

"The Dutch comprise .0003 percent of the world's population, but their impact is felt on all corners of the globe," said Resch. He noted that New York City was once called New Amsterdam and Dutch settled areas as wide spread as Australia, Indonesia, South America, and New Zealand.

The original Dutch settlers of the new world landed in Jersey City.

The book has been available in Europe since November, and in the United States, this month. It is in English, since most Dutch speak the language.

"They like the American perspective on their 'strange little country' as they call it," said Resch. "It's being well received over there."

Resch is a consultant for technology management and business. After receiving his master's degree in 2002, he began his book.

"I wanted to know what the next challenge was going to be," said Resch. "I figured it was the perfect time to write a book, and I figured the Dutch and the Netherlands was a perfect topic, so I just dove in deep."

Resch will keep the atmosphere fun, funny, and informative at this weekend's reading. He describes himself as a part-time historian. He also enjoys hiking, fishing, and the outdoors, in addition to visiting local watering holes, which he plans to do with the group after the reading. For more information on the book, visit www.onlyinholland.com.

Symposia Bookstore is located at 510 Washington St. Hoboken.

Sidebar:

Top 10 things Hoboken has in common with Amsterdam

1. Amsterdam has scantily clad ladies in the Red Light District. Hoboken has scantily clad out-of-town suburban girls on the weekends.
2. Amsterdam and Hoboken both have extremely high rent prices for shoebox sized apartments with long walkups and no elevators.
3. Amsterdam and Hoboken both have watering holes on practically every street corner.
4. Commerce and tourism flourish in both cities, but it takes a miracle to find a parking spot.
5. The term Knickerbocker refers to the early Dutch settlers to the NY/NJ region. The New York Knickerbockers played baseball at Elysian Fields in Hoboken in 1846.
6. Both cities have Dutch names - Hoboken is named after a town in Northern Belgium (formerly of the Dutch United Provinces) and Amsterdam is Dutch for "Amstel River"
7. Smoking is still permitted in bars and restaurants in both cities, but you can smoke more than just cigarettes in Amsterdam.
8. The first Brewery in America was built by the Dutch in Hoboken in 1642. Hoboken residents haven't stopped enjoying good beer ever since
9. Amsterdam has Anne Frank. Hoboken has Frank Sinatra.
10. Hoboken and Amsterdam established a lucrative shipping industry and both cities flourished because of their maritime prowess. - Sidebar by Marc Resch.