

It's  
still  
Free!

Jazz Fest  
Photos

BONAIRE

May 25 - June 1, 2007 Volume 14, Issue 21

# The REPORTER

PO Box 407, Kralendijk, Bonaire - Email: Reporter@bonairenews.com - (599) 786-6125/6518

SINCE 1994

## Awesome Jazz Festival



Laura DeSalvo Photo

Boy Janga on percussion

BONNAIRE

# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

**H**ere's a Parrot Watch update. Oswald and Olivia have eggs! It is an exciting time as there are now eggs appearing in Lora nests across the island. For the Lora research team it is also an anxious time as two of the three ParrotWatch nests are still not active. There are birds in those areas but they just haven't got down to it yet. Is it because the island is so dry?



We knew last week that Olivia was spending more time in the nest so we were watching her closely. Oswald has also been paying her plenty of attention too! As a result there were two eggs in the nest the last time we checked.

It takes considerable effort to produce and lay an egg. Loras, as we all know, are particularly special birds! To put all the right ingredients into a shell takes about two days. The female Lora will typically lay four eggs, so she has over a week of production work to complete the year's clutch. After the first egg was laid we had a good idea when Olivia would be popping out her second and so like overly proud fathers we were there with the video camera! Check out [www.parrotwatch.org](http://www.parrotwatch.org) to see for yourself.



**Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance**  
Conservation management in the Dutch Caribbean



► The Antilles' marine parks now have the royal seal of approval from the Netherlands' Queen Beatrix. In December, following her Jubilee visit to the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba she visited Klein Bonaire. She decided to officially become the Patron of Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA). (Do you recall *The Reporter* photographs of Queen Beatrix walking into the sea to release a sea turtle she helped to tag with Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire staff Mabel Nava and Funchi Egbreghts)

The Queen's representative is on hand for DCNA's board meeting currently underway at Captain Don's Habitat. The meeting began May 22. Also attending are representatives from the six islands of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, Conservation International, De Landschappen, IUCN NL, Samerwerkingsverband Nationale Parken and Bird Life International.

DCNA, led by former Bonaire National Marine Park Manager Kalli DeMeyer, is a foundation representing park management organizations on the six islands of the Dutch Caribbean. Its mission is to protect the biodiversity of the islands while promoting the sustainable management of the islands' natural resources by working with the island management organizations.

Set up in February 2005, DCNA has gone from strength to strength, most recently clinching a deal with the Dutch government to provide 10 years of funding support which will be used to capital-

ize a Trust Fund. Once capitalized, the Trust Fund will cover the operational costs of one land park and one marine park on each island. *The Reporter* will cover the outcome of the meeting in next week's edition.

► **KLM Royal Dutch Airlines is charging passengers an extra 50 Euros for seats with more legroom**, such as exit row seats, in a trial on some long-haul routes, the airline said. KLM, the Dutch arm of Air France /KLM, launched the trial on flights to Singapore, Manila and Curaçao on Thursday, a spokesman said.

If passengers show a willingness to pay more, KLM plans to expand the scheme on other routes including European flights- as it sees an opportunity to generate additional revenue.

► **Amsterdam's Schiphol airport began using advanced body-scanning machines at security checkpoints last Tuesday.** It is the first major airport to use the technology to detect metals and explosives hidden under clothing. Customs authorities will be able to detect if a passenger carries weapons, drugs or diamonds without body searching the passenger as well. Essentially, it is able to see through clothing.

The "security scanner" uses supposedly harmless radio waves to display head-to-toe images of passengers. Going through the scanner is voluntary and takes about three seconds, allowing passengers to avoid metal detectors or body searches. For privacy, the digital images are viewed by security personnel remotely and deleted after they are viewed. Some people object to submitting to the scan because they are concerned about the effects of radio waves, rather than privacy, said Schiphol's Chief Operations Officer, Ad Rutten.

The scanner has been used for a year just for flight crew. Now the scanner will be available for passengers as well. According to Rutten, the scanner will be "customer friendly and more comfortable. Another extra with this new method is that the scan only takes a few seconds, which will make the waiting lines for safety checks shorter." He expects that it will be easier to catch smugglers with the use of the new scanner.

► According to Ibi de Palm, Director of WEB, Bonaire's electricity company, WEB is negotiating a contract with Ecopower to construct a privatized "Build, Own, Operate (BOO)" electric plant to produce electricity for Bonaire. To bridge the one to two-year period needed for construction, WEB entered into an agreement with

Agrekko to produce all the electricity for the island during that period. Agrekko has provided and maintained the generating equipment (housed in containers in the front of the main WEB powerhouse) in Hato since a major fire disabled a large fraction of Bonaire's power producing capacity several years ago.

Four employees of WEB are currently in Dubai to get intensive training on the maintenance of Agrekko's machines.

The contract specifies that Agrekko must be able to produce up to 11 megawatts (a "normal" Bonaire consumption rate).

► Director of Meteorology in Antigua & Barbuda, Patrick Jeremiah, says that atmospheric conditions are currently similar to those that existed in 1995 when the Caribbean region experienced devastating Hurricane Luis. Bonaire, south of the normal path of storms and hurricanes, experiences wind reversals and swell from those events.

Ironically, the names of the hurricanes chosen for the 2007 season are the same ones which affected the region in 1995, with the exception of devastating hurricane names Luis, which is replaced by Lorenzo, and Marilyn, which is replaced by Melissa.

The names for this season are: Andrea (already happened in Florida), Barry, Chantal, Dean, Erin, Felix, Gabriella, Humberto, Ingrid, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Melissa, Noel, Olga, Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastien, Tanya, Van and Wendy.

Forecasters at Colorado State University issued their prediction in early April, calling on northern Caribbean residents to brace for an active Atlantic Hurricane Season. The forecast is for 17 named storms, of which nine will become hurricanes and of that number, five to become major hurricanes with wind speeds in excess of 111 miles per hour. At least one of the major hurricanes is likely to make landfall in the Caribbean.



Extra photo

► Two stagieres (trainees) from Holland have been archiving *The Bonaire Reporter* for the year 2006. The back issues of the newspaper and its archives are part of the *Fundashon Historiko Kulturnal Boneiru (FuHiKuBo)*. Contents have been digitized and indexed in the Document Central of the Foundation making it easy to find information of interest to a researcher. Previously three trainees indexed *The Reporter*'s contents through 2005. Now Anne Smidt and Martijn Kruit completed the indexing up through last year. This voluntary effort to improve the documentation resource archives is an initiative of Tini Willem, head of Kolegio Luis Bertran. There is more of this type of work to be done; if you are interested phone 786-6818. Böi Antoin (at right) coordinates.

► Telbo launched a new Wi-Fi Internet service last Saturday.

The service is especially attractive for tourists as there will be 14 hotspots from where the Internet signals can be received on a laptop. It will be possible to browse the net almost anywhere on the island. Of course this service won't be free. A prepaid ticket has to be bought at Telbo. The prices go from NAf5 for one hour of Internet use to NAf50 for 15 hours of Internet. See ad on page 8



## BONAIRE The REPORTER

### Table of Contents

#### This Week's Stories

Who Saw Yellow Orioles?  
(Count Results)

9th Annual Julia Cup  
(race results)

Training Center Project

Editorial (AMFO policies)

Gear Doc (Regulators)

Letters (Historical homes demolished, Shelter dog hits lottery)

Jazz on the Beach (Cover story)

SGB Art Explosion

(Wall Painting)

Picture Yourself (Kauai/Hawaii)

Flotsam & Jetsam

Bubbles (Flamingoes)

Classifieds

Tide Table

Reporter Masthead

What's Happening

Movieland Film Schedule

Shopping & Dining Guides

Sky Park (Planets line up on ecliptic)

The Stars Have It

Pet of the Week ("Debbie" with Chantal)

Born on Bonaire

(Marvel Tromp-Muller)

► Last Friday was the kick off of a new weekly market in Wilhelmina Plaza, aiming at the locals of the island as their new customers as cruise ships won't be calling in Kralendijk until November. Items such as jewelry, compact discs and clothing are offered at the market place at the moment, but the organizers also want to attract some fruit and vegetable distributors in the future. The first day of the market wasn't a big success, but the organizers continue to believe in it and plan to try to expand the market place every week by offering more items. Call 717-2749 or 786-5136 to sign up.

► Dutch Princess Maxima celebrated her 36<sup>th</sup> birthday last Thursday. Friends and family celebrated together..

► The Netherlands seems to be a 'hot spot' again for Antilleans. The number of Antilleans returning to the Antilles after a stay in Holland is decreasing while emigration to the Netherlands is increasing. In the first quarter of this year 653 Antilleans returned to the island they were born on, but according to the number in 2006 this is a huge decrease. The reasons for more people emigrating to The Netherlands is said to be the favorable economics there and the constant unpleasantness in Curaçao.

► Telecommunications provider, Digicel, reported substantial growth in existing and emerging markets in the Caribbean and Central America in its fiscal fourth quarter.

CEO of the Digicel Group, Colm Delves, reported this week that the company ended its fiscal year (March 31, 2007) with a re-



# Who Saw Yellow Orioles?

## Count Results

The results for the Yellow Oriole and Troupial count have been pouring in over the last week, and we are pleased to be able to bring you the preliminary findings. The organizers were heartened to have widespread support for the count with **45 people contributing**. Particularly important is that participants were spread throughout Bonaire so most areas of the island were covered.

We can confirm that the Troupial on Bonaire is now more numerous than the Yellow Oriole. For every Troupial Kacho (Yellow Oriole) that was seen there were 4.6 Troupials. Interestingly, whenever a Yellow Oriole was seen Troupial were nearly always nearby - fewer than 10% of participants saw a Yellow Oriole alone. This suggests that there aren't many areas where the Yellow Oriole can live unaffected by the Troupial. The count was conducted to assess the status of these two closely related species on Bonaire. The Troupial Kacho has always been here, but many have noted a decline in numbers in recent years. The Troupial, in contrast, was introduced in the 1970s and its numbers have been increasing ever since. Troupial are aggressive competitors for food and nests and may well be contributing to the decline in Troupial Kacho. Basic surveys like this are crucial for detecting potential conservation problems before it is too late.

Much more research needs to be done into how these two species interact to find out what is really going on. For now at least we have a baseline with which to compare with future years.

The organizers would like to thank everyone for their support and give a special mention to the staff of RBTT bank. The count was organized as part of the Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival by Rowan Martin and Sam Williams along with STINAPA. □

Rowan Martin; photos by Sophie Williams

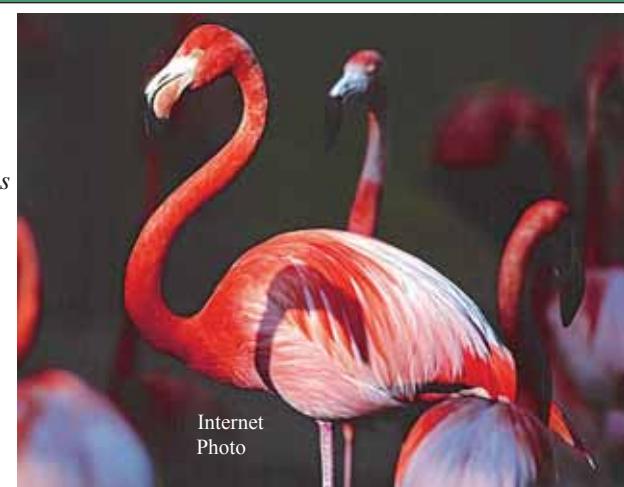


## Bubbles from the Biologist

**D**id You Know...  
Bonaire is one of only four remaining nesting areas for Caribbean Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber ruber*)?

The other three areas are Great Inagua Island in the Bahamas, the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, and the Galapagos Islands. Like sea turtles and sea gulls, flamingos have evolved salt excreting glands above their eyes to help get rid of the salt they ingest while feeding on tasty brine fly chrysalids and larvae, algae, mollusks small fishes and such. One flamingo needs 32,000 brine-fly chrysalids or 50,000 larvae per day! Many of our flamingos fly south to Venezuela to feed, and while most adults leave, others are left to care for large groups of chicks called creches. The parents, both male and female, return the next day to feed 'crop milk' to their young chicks. The foods flamingos feed on are rich in alpha and beta carotenoid pigments that give flamingos the beautiful pink color that we all love. Some say that the brighter pink the flamingo, the healthier it is and the more sought after it is by potential mates. So, knowing all this, we should be very proud and protective of our beautiful national symbol, the Caribbean Flamingo. □ Caren Eckrich

Caren Eckrich teaches Coral Reef Ecology and Scientific Diving to American University students at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire. She's also the Director of Sea & Discover, a marine education center offering interactive learning programs to kids and adults. You can reach her at 717-5322 □ .



Be an Angel -  
Pass on The Reporter to a Friend

# 9th Annual Julia Cup



Liesje, Thea, Amira, Netty, Margo, Jessica, Mosa and Fabiola. Julia herself in the polka-dot bikini in the foreground and Julia's dad, Elvis, in the background.

**O**n Mother's Day the Aquaspeed Bonaire Windsurfers Foundation organized a competition at Sorobon, Lac Bay. Eight windsurfer moms were on hand to watch the kids compete. Results listed below.

Mothers Della Thode, Amira Finies Soliano and Jokasta Inias got gifts courtesy of City Shop and the Bonaire Gift shop. □ Story & photo by Jessica Sint Jago

## Race Results

### Girls

1 place Marvely Velandia

2 place Anais Paulette

Under 14 ( Girls)

1 place Nadia Dabboussi

### Women

1 place Beth

2 place Kita

3 place Monique

### Boys

Under 0-7

Nathan Finies

Under 9

Jurgen Saragoza

Under 11

1 place Amado Vieswijk

2 Place Jamil Jonis

Under 13

1 place Youp Schmit

2 place Mozart Sances

3 place David Lee Winklaar

### Under 13-2

1 place Dylan Robles

2 place Youp Schmit

3 place Mozart Sances

### Under 15

1 place Bjorn Saragoza

2 place Rodderick Boekhoudt

3 place Jeath Koeks

### Under 17

1 place Demenson : Kiri " Thode

2 place Arthur " Payo : Soliano

3 place Cymbert Sances

4 place Marvellous Mangoit

5 place Jeager Sint Jago

### Men

1 place Elton " Taty " Frans

2 place Constantino :Patun" Saragoza

3 place Everon " Tonky " Frans

### Master

1 place Evertson " Choko " Frans

2 place Ethienne Soliano

3 place Elvis Martinus

### (Flotsam & Jetsam Continued from page 2)

cord 4.7 million subscribers representing a 144% increase when compared to the previous fiscal year.

Last month, Digicel was awarded a license to operate a GSM network in the newly liberalized market of Suriname. Digicel Suriname is expected to launch later this year.

► **Roan Jaspers at Kiteboarding Bonaire has planned a kids' clinic in order to make the sport more accessible to the local youth.** The event will be on the weekend of June 16-17 and will be open to young people, ages 10 to 16. The event will be an introduction to kiteboarding, where the main focus will be FUN! The kids will start flying small trainer kites, and on the second day will be flying the kites in the water (body dragging). Also there will be a rescue motor boat so the kids can safely practice their water starts. At the end of each day there will be a BBQ and drinks and all the participants will receive a T-shirt. (Ann Phelan)

### ► The St. Elisabeth Hospital (Sehos) signed an agreement with a consortium of seven local financial institutions today

**for a loan of NAf72 million.** Sehos is the secondary care hospital for Bonaire. For it to happen the tax department had to withdraw its claim on hospital property.

The loan is for 20 years at an interest of 7% during the first three years, followed by the market interest of the moment. Three banks - MCB , Banco di Caribe and Girobank - and four pension funds - Ennia, Fatum, Vidanova and APNA (Government Pension Fund), whose loan share is the largest - are making the loan. The loan agent is MCB. RBTT is not part of the consortium.

► In Curaçao, after the new island government coalition of PAR, FOL and PNP takes office, it will present the Curaçao Island Council with the final statement (*Slotverklaring*) again for approval. **If okayed this time, then all the Antillean islands will move together towards the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles.**

► According to the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba Meteorological Service **the haze blanketing Bonaire since last Tuesday, May 15, is dust from the African Sahara.** The greasy, gritty dust is more common during the dry summer months. The sand becomes airborne due to huge sand storms in the African desert and is carried by the wind to this part of the world.

► **Researchers have installed a seismometer atop the active undersea volcano, 'Kick 'em Jenny,' under the Caribbean Sea to warn of eruptions or earthquake activity,** scientists said Saturday. Several years ago a Bonaire preacher warned that 'Kick 'em Jenny' was going to cause a tsunami that would overwhelm Bonaire. It never happened.

The seismometer allows scientists to collect real-time rumbling from tremors or as bubbling magma and gases are released from the volcano, about 820 feet beneath the sea's surface off Grenada's northwest coast. "The system essentially acts as a kind of doctor's stethoscope so we can directly listen to the pulse of the volcano," said Richard Robertson, Director of the Seismic Research Unit at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad. He said the seismometer is connected to a flexible hose that runs to a buoy, where a high-frequency radio transmitter sends readings

to an observatory in a northern Grenadian village - all within mili-seconds.

Since its discovery in 1939, when it shot a cloud of ash 900 feet above the sea surface, 'Kick 'em Jenny' has erupted at least 12 times, most recently in 2001. The volcano, which rises above the sea floor on the steep inner western slope of the Lesser Antilles ridge, has not caused any deaths or injuries.

► **There is a proposed BONAI (youth group) project to conduct research of the World War II period on Bonaire and the visit of Eleanor Roosevelt in 1944.**

The project has now received sufficient funding to take a beginning step. Initial coordination of this BONAI project has been done by Dr. Jay Haviser, Raymundo Saleh of the Economic Platform Bonaire, Jackie Bernabela of BONAI, Hubert Vis of SKAL, and Captain Mike Napier of the *Freewinds*, among others.

Donations have been received to begin the first phase of Archival Research to be done at the US National Archives and Military Archives in Washington DC. Dr. Haviser took 10 days to review documents relating to the US military presence in the Netherlands Antilles with particular focus on the visit to Bonaire by US President Franklin D. Roosevelt's wife, Eleanor, in March of 1944.

The next phases of research include a presentation lecture by Dr. Haviser to the Bonaire public about the results of the archival search on Monday, May 28, at 7:30pm on the *Freewinds*. He will also do oral history interviews and archaeological excavations at specific sites on Bonaire with interested SGB students of BONAI (probably in June-July). As a closure for the project a book on the subject will be written by Dr. Haviser and a new commemorative plaque will be placed to recognize the visit of Eleanor Roosevelt. Both of these latter activities should create a very positive, dynamic and interest-generating view of Bonaire for American tourists, as well an important education about the period for our local people. (Jackie Bernabela).

► **The policy on punishment of drug couriers at Schiphol airport is back to normal now** that the flow of smugglers is ebbing, the Prosecutor's Office in Haarlem announced. Seven years ago the number of drug couriers, predominantly from the Netherlands Antilles and Suriname, arrested at the airport increased so much that the justice chain in the Netherlands was strained. According to Prosecutor Maarten Vos, the revised policy gives equal treatment to all drug couriers. The milder guidelines were only applicable for those couriers apprehended at the airport. It's no longer necessary to maintain these milder guidelines as the number of couriers arrested at the airport has decreased significantly. In the past, about 3,500 couriers per year were arrested, only 900 were arrested in 2006. The 100% inspection at the airport will continue.

**jong Bonaire**



Eleanor Roosevelt  
1944

# Training Center Project

The goal of the Training Center Project is for youngsters to find a connection again with education or employment. We try to achieve this by offering the youngsters learning, development, and employment experiences. To help us achieve this, companies have a very important role. Because the Project is a small training center we can react quickly to the company's needs.

At this moment the youngsters are very busy preparing for a dinner, made entirely by themselves, to be served to a number of managers from resorts and restaurants.

The dinner will be organized so that the youngsters can practice in front of people and managers in the hospitality business so they can get to know the youngsters and the Project's training program. To prepare for this dinner and to see how things work in a



restaurant the kids had dinner at Mambo Jambo. After dinner they discussed the experience; now they are practicing with making and serving dishes themselves.

Also the kids are making key chains for all the rooms at Buddy Dive. They are sawing figures, painting them and putting on the room numbers. Buddy Dive takes care of all



the materials and tools for this assignment.

Of course there is a time for relaxing and fun. Jibe City offered the youngsters windsurf lessons. And they were not just any old windsurf lessons. The famous Tonky Frans was their instructor.

These are some of the examples how the Training Center Project works together with different companies with the goal of creating perspective for the youngsters. □

*Story & photos by Mick Schmit*

# Editorial

## AMFO ANTICS

Amidst great hoopla the Antillean co-financing organization foundation, acronym AMFO, opened its new main office in Curaçao last week. Readers may remember that four years ago AMFO quietly went into operation based in Bonaire under the leadership of Werner Weils. In a very short time money was flowing to the poor on Bonaire as well as to the other Antillean islands. It was quite a change from the previous years when Dutch aid disappeared into a "black hole" on the way to Bonaire from Holland via Curaçao.

Politically savvy people said that the Bonaire-based AMFO was doomed from the start. A whole cadre of people who filtered the Dutch aid funds in Curaçao suddenly were out of the picture, and politicians were denied access to funds they could use to demonstrate their concern for the poor.

Despite its proven effectiveness in consistently delivering direct financial support, the "establishment" found fault with AMFO's bookkeeping and shut it down. The only fraud ever found was by a St. Eustatius NGO worker who mixed a small amount of AMFO money with his personal account. It's a far cry from the millions that never got to the poor in earlier years.

But last week we all had a glimpse of what happens to some of the money that doesn't get to the needy. It goes into extravagant galas for the AMFO directors and "officials." For several days it was hard to find an edition of a local paper that didn't have photos of the Byzantine chain of command of the reopened AMFO making pronouncements or sitting in a theater to listen to Antilles Governor Goedgedrag speak or unveiling a new sign.

At the top appears to be Interim Director Stanley Betrian, a former Curaçao Lt. Governor, and Supervisory Council Chairlady, former Dutch minister, Sybilla Dekker. Then there's Acting Chairman Luis Santine and Secretary Alba Martijn. They spoke eloquently about the restart of the organization to fund projects of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The remaining bureaucracy members are yet to be named, but Interim Director Betrian says his new "constellation" of team members will work directly to fight poverty.

We wonder how many of the island's poor could have benefited from the money that was spent on airfares, rentals, refreshments and other expenses involved with the hoopla surrounding the reactivation. We'll be looking to see how much of the first installment of NAf23 million reaches the needy on Bonaire and the other islands and how much drops into a "black hole." □ G.D.



*Bruce Bowker's*



# Gear Doc

## Regulators

**B**uying a regulator is an investment that should be given some thought. Many people ask me, **What is the best regulator?** First of all no one makes a bad regulator. You can buy a bad set of cheap tools. You can buy bad watches on the streets of New York City for a few dollars, but no one manufactures a really cheaply made regulator with bad parts. On the other hand there are some companies that are really awkward to deal with, but their regulators are still good.

What makes one regulator more expensive than another? Features! A swivel on the first stage, balanced first and second stage, piston versus diaphragm, environmentally sealed, titanium - all these and more make a price difference, but that does not mean one regulator is made better than another.

Another question many ask is **What is a balanced regulator?** It is somewhat difficult to answer in simple terms, but let's start with this. A tank has 3000 psi and that pressure is trying to get to your mouth when you breathe. The first stage reduces this to about 140 psi which is called intermediate pressure. This is the pressure in the hoses (except for the high pressure hose of course). The 2<sup>nd</sup> stage reduces this pressure to whatever is required according to depth – that is called ambient pressure.

An unbalanced regulator is just a simple open and shut valve – sort of. It would be like a door. It opens and shuts – sort of. One needs to pull that door open and then push it shut. In a regulator that “door” is pulled open by inhaling and pulling the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage diaphragm against a lever which in turn pulls back a rubber seat which in turn allows the air to flow. When you stop breathing a spring shuts that “door”.

In a balanced regulator there is someone on the other side of that door helping you open it making it easier to breathe. That someone else is air pressure which is on both sides of that valve “balancing” it,

making it move easier. Some brands allow you to choose what 1<sup>st</sup> and what 2<sup>nd</sup> stage you want. You can have a balanced 1<sup>st</sup> stage and an unbalanced 2<sup>nd</sup> or both can be balanced. I would say if one were to buy a balanced 2<sup>nd</sup> stage then don't buy an unbalanced 1<sup>st</sup> stage - like having a Ferrari with a small VW engine. Why?

The difference between the breathing of a balanced versus unbalanced is noticeable but not so much that it would be like breathing through a straw. If you were at 100 feet and breathing nicely with an unbalanced regulator and someone gave you their balanced regulator, you would say you can feel the difference but you would not go back to your regulator and not be able to breathe. All the other features such as swivels etc are really personal preference as is the manufacturer.

Which brings up another often asked question. **What regulator is the easiest to get fixed when traveling?** The answer – none of them and all of them. It seems every destination has a popular brand but this can change from island to island, place to place depending on how good the sales representative is and how well the company supports that area. For instance



here on Bonaire at one time Dacor was the regulator. Then it became Sherwood and then Aqualung and then Scubapro and on and on.

When buying a regulator ask questions. Soon you will get a picture of what you want. □ *Bruce Bowker*

*Since 1980 Bruce Bowker has been the owner-operator of the Padi 5 Sta Gold Palm Carib Inn. Tel. 717-8819.*



*Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 4)*

► **This Friday, May 25, Jong Bonaire will have its annual Song Festival.** The Festival begins at 8 pm and will run to about 11 pm. The cost is NAF 10 and tickets are available at Jong Bonaire or from the participants. Ten young people will take part.

► **Dance until the sun rises?** Bonaire's nightlife mainly consists of three well known clubs and bars, City Café, Karel's Bar, and Little Havana. These are the meeting points for almost anybody looking for a nice night out. However, something is missing, says a Dutch Communication student, Roeland Knoester, a.k.a. de Knoest. Knoester: “I like those places a lot, but the choice being offered to everyone who's looking for a fun party is quite limited. Week after week it's all the same. My objective is to offer what's missing.”



In the Netherlands, “de Knoest” organized a couple of parties with some great names like Marco V and Cor Fijneman. May 25<sup>th</sup>, he's going to give it a shot at **Sunrise at Sand Dollar** (the former Barracuda club), a place very suitable for a great night. His partner, Euson, will spin the platters in an effort to make the audience go crazy. (See ad on page 2) Bonaireans might not recognize the music style of Vocal Trance, House and Techno. By combining these Dutch music styles with the exotic flavors of the Caribbean, Meringue and Salsa they think they can fulfill the needs of everybody.

Euson: “We see it as a challenge to bring the big party vibe to Bonaire. Everyone is looking for a Friday evening where they can lose their stress after a week of hard work.”

Their ambitions are lofty. “If next Friday is a success, we're hoping to give a big full moon party next month,” says de Knoest.

► City Café is pulling out all the stops to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. **For 10 days, from June 1 to June 10 there will be activities, prizes, markets, festivals, jump ups, music, 5<sup>th</sup> Jong Bonaire Triathlon and more.** Check their schedule on page 9... and join in the fun. All the proceeds from the events will go to Jong Bonaire to help them with a sound system. □ *G.D./L.D./D.R.*

# LETTERS

## INVESTORS: CONSIDER OUR HERITAGE BEFORE DEMOLISHING OUR HISTORICAL HOMES

Dear Editor

It is very difficult for many to comprehend, despite for example the attention given to old houses on Bonaire by Wilna Groenenboom for months on end in *The Bonaire Reporter*, why all the uproar by locals and expats alike each time an old home is demolished by ignorant people who do not respect the Bonaireans' (Antillean) heritage. Why does this phenomenon still exist? The Blue Moon (restaurant) is now being threatened with being torn down. Next, you know, the old home adjacent on the corner will also follow the same fate because, of course, what the hell, it's right next door. Let's buy that one too and tear it down and place an ugly modern building that has no place whatsoever in between the old homes of Bonaire!

Bonaire's skyline is unique in the world; the old homes along the coastline were some of the first ever built, after 1868, when it was allowed to build on this island!

Maybe if investors became a bit more interested in the island's history and culture they would learn that it does hurt us every single time an old 'home' is gone. Especially if it belonged to your family, and for reasons out of their reach they had to give it up. Please tread carefully and reconsider before destroying Bonaire's beauty.

Old buildings can be used and nurtured as our heritage and pride, and shows the respect you show the world in conserving it!

"Renovate and conserve" is the motto on Bonaire. Be there or be square!

Christie Dovale

## ANIMAL SHELTER DOG HITS LOTTERY!

Dear Editors,

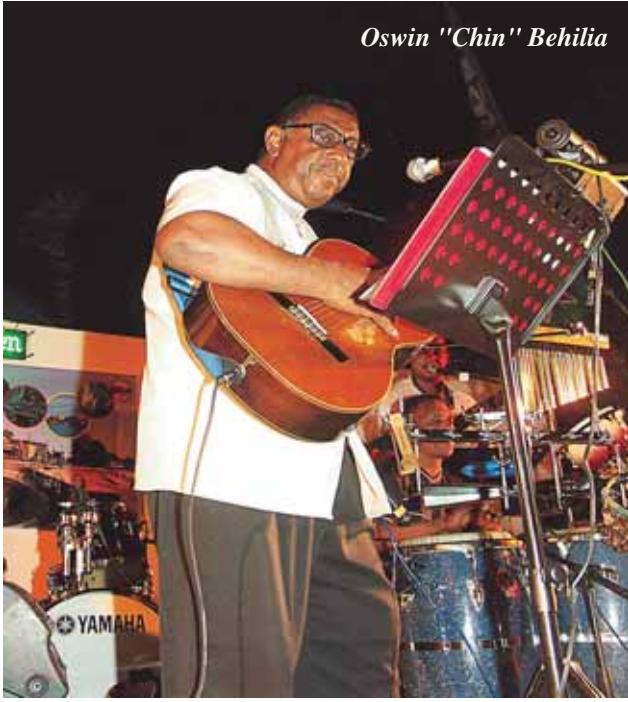
Here is our new pup, Bria, playing near her new home on the Columbia River in Washington State. We adopted her from the Bonaire Animal Shelter in December '06, where she had lived for most of her two years of life. She loves running free on the sandbar after the gulls and digging in the mud for clams.

She is a smart and gentle girl and we feel WE are the lucky ones to have found her. Hope you can use this photo in your paper to encourage others to adopt and bring home to the USA the greatest dogs from Bonaire. It is a easy thing to fly them home with you, as you both know.

Carol and Mike Solbach



# Jazz on the Beach



Oswin 'Chin' Behilia

helps artists with their financing.

But the actual real kick off of the Jazz Festival was on Thursday night. To attend the main concerts held that weekend at the Plaza Resort, this night was probably meant as a final pull for the few people who hadn't bought a ticket yet.

The plan was to get started at 7:30 pm at Fort Oranje in Kralendijk (Playa). But due to problems with the electricity there was some delay. Luckily for the organizers the first band that was scheduled that night, Oswin 'Chin' Behilia, had become famous for their performances on the street, therefore they didn't need electricity to entertain the audience. They improvised and gave an impressive unplugged version of one of their numbers while the organizers could work on finding a solution to the problem with their generators.

When the electricity was finally back online, Oswin continued on stage in the company of the beautiful Bonairean vocalist, Linda Anthony, accompanied by her husband, Eric Van Silfhout, on violin. The result was some swinging Latin jazz.

The jazzy night continued at City Café again with some Latin jazz from percussionist Geraldo Rosales and his band and the swinging local band, 'The Stingrays.' They got some help from guest player, Scott Katzev, who was phenomenal with his saxophone. He had never played before with the band but easily adjusted to their rhythm. The Stingrays seemed to

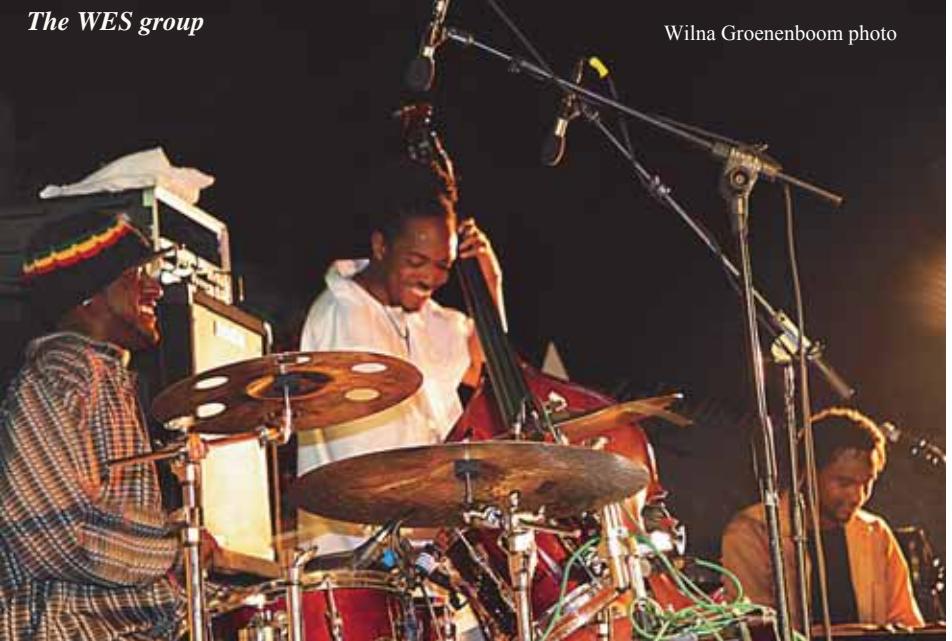
know exactly what the audience wanted that night and got many people enthusiastic and on their feet with their rock 'n roll tunes.

Friday night was the first concert night on the beach of Plaza Resort Bonaire in front of the Tipsy Seagull Restaurant. As well as the night before, the Oswin 'Chin' Behilia Quintet with the vocals of the famous singer from Curaçao, Behilia, opened the evening. Accompanied by Hershell Rosario, Rudy Emerencia and the well known local Bonairean music teacher and percussionist, Boy Janga, Behilia immediately claimed the attention of the audience. He especially received big rounds of applause for his protest songs. Behilia intro-

duced one of these songs: "There are a lot of bad people in this world, but in their heart they also have some good. But with some people this good part is hidden, and we have to try and find it." Behilia concluded his show with the popular song Zikinza, but also gave a little extra by playing the song Bombokati in the final. The night continued with the Dutch Yuri Honing Trio and was ended by Geraldo Rosales Mangomania with some salsa and Latin jazz influences. Rosales invited the local singer Adreina Mercano to the stage to show her vocal abilities to the audience and got a lot of people moving around on their seats again.

All the seats that night were filled with peo-

The WES group



Wilna Groenenboom photo

(Continued on page 9)

The beach in front of The Tipsy Seagull was a perfect location for a Jazz Festival full of international caliber last weekend. With some mellow tunes from some great performers, jazz lovers could relax on the chairs and lounge chairs that were laid out on the beach in front of the stage.

The first scheduled event and the start of the festival was the opening art exposition "Polyrhythmic" at Kas di Arte last Wednesday with live jazz in the background. Artists from the ABC islands showed their best works in the hope of selling it. A nice addition to this event was that 40% of the profits of art works sold will be going to an art foundation that

# Jazz on the Beach



Student Band



Bongo's Beach

Continued from previous page

ple, but they seemed a little too comfortable, though. The dancing area in front of the stage was empty all night. This was compensated for at Little Havana, where the jam sessions of the artists playing at the festival took place. This formula really worked. The lazy atmosphere at the Tipsy Seagull was exchanged for some heavy duty footwork on the dance floor in Havana.

The second night at the Tipsy Seagull was programmed with even more mellow jazz music compared to the night before, with the exception of the local Student Band though. This young talented band stole the show of the night. The big band, which was put together by Boy Janga, played like their lives depended on it. And the help of the experienced guest players, Franklin Granadio and Scott Katzev, added to their enthusiasm. Not surprisingly, the Student Band has been invited to another jazz festival in Caracas to give a performance.

After the Student Band, it was time for the WES group, led by American Will Smith, to give a show. The band, originating from Washington DC, clearly enjoyed performing, especially band member Nathan who had a broad smile on his face the entire concert. Nathan explained, "I love the island of Bonaire and its Jazz Festival. Having the opportunity to play here was a big honor for us. What surprised me though, is that the audience is quite tame. We played at another festival in Anguilla before we came here, and there everybody was a lot more enthusiastic and dancing a lot. Here it seems that everybody likes to enjoy the music by sitting and listening. It's funny to experience the differences in cultures. The



Jazz Stage

feedback we got from the audience after the show was overwhelming though."

Comparing it with the night before, the beach wasn't nearly as packed. But the true die hard jazz fans who have been attending the Festival for the last three years were there of course. For the other, mainly younger visitors who attended the Festival this night out of curiosity, the program clearly didn't have enough variation. A comment frequently heard was "boring and sleepy music." The Festival at The Tipsy Seagull concluded with a performance of Paoli Mejias Latin Jazz Quintet. Until the late hours there was a jam session again at Havana's.

On the last day of the Festival, visitors and all the artists had the opportunity to catch their breath at the Divi Flamingo Resort with a healthy brunch. In the afternoon with the sun setting, the *Freewinds* band made their appearance at Bongo's Beach. Their music was uplifting, and the attendance of the many performers who were playing at the festival gave it just the little extra it needed.

After all, quite a successful weekend, and an event that will probably continue for many years ahead. □ David Radomisli—Photos on this page by Wilna Groenenboom

## Bonaire Reporter Classifieds— Are still free Got something to buy or sell?

Non-Commercial Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words):  
Free ads run for 2 weeks.

Commercial Ads only NAF 0.80 per word, per week.  
Call 786-6518 or 7866125 or email [ads@bonairereporter.com](mailto:ads@bonairereporter.com)

### JANART GALLERY

Kaya Gloria 7, Bonaire Local Art, Art Supplies, Framing, and Art Classes. Open Tu-We-Th & Sat 10 am- 5 pm Friday 1- 7 pm; or phone 717-5246 for appt.

### IS YOUR HOUSE NEW TO YOU?

*Make it more livable from the start.*

### FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS

Also interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy, healing, China-trained. Experienced. Inexpensive. Call Donna at 785-9332.

### BONAIRENET

The leading consumer and business information source on Bonaire. Telephone (599) 717-7160. For on-line yellow pages directory information go to <http://www.yellowpagesbonaire.com>

### CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

Trees and plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m<sup>2</sup> nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don & Janet). **786-0956**

### Bonaire Images

Elegant greeting cards and beautiful boxed note cards are now available at Chat-N-Browse next to Lover's Ice Cream and Sand Dollar Grocery. Photography by Shelly Craig [www.bonaireimages.com](http://www.bonaireimages.com)

### Searching For GOOD Maid Service?

### For Quality House Cleaning CALL JRA

Serving Bonaire for more than 14 years Honest, Reliable, Efficient, Thorough, Low rates, References. One time or many Phone 785-9041 ... and relax

### LUNCH TO GO

Starting from NAF 5 per meal. Call CHINA NOBO 717-8981

### OUTDOOR SPORTS



Rock climbing/Rapelling/  
Abseilen Every Saturday.  
Call Outdoor Bonaire 791-6272 / 785-6272

### JELLASTONE PETPARK

Pet boarding / Dierenpension  
Day and night care. Phone 786-4651

### Vacation Rental

Cozy guest cottage available

Studio with kitchen, airco, cable TV, two single beds (or king) pull-out sofa, porch, yard and private entrance. Five minute walk to seaside promenade; 10 minute walk to town. \$50/night.

Contact: [bonairecottage@aol.com](mailto:bonairecottage@aol.com)

Page 10

**FOR RENT- 2 bedroom fully furnished apartment** available at the end of June, Kaya Mandolin 2. Call after 6pm **795-3456**

**For rent: Nice apartment for rent in Hato.** Rent per month: NAF 1.500,. All included. **796-3637, digital-is1956@flamingotv.net**

### SUPPORT BONAIRE

The Island you love could use your help! **Support Bonaire, Inc.** provides support to Bonaire's non-profits. To learn more about making a US tax deductible donation visit [www.supportbonaire.org](http://www.supportbonaire.org) and help make a difference!

### For Sale

**For Sale** Mares high dive boots, hard sole, size 6, used once. \$50.00. email:

[bubblheads@mac.com](mailto:bubblheads@mac.com) or leave message for Corky Halberg at Carib Inn (717-8819). available until June 9th.

**MARES, H.U.B. fully integrated medium, BCD, 3-yrs,old,100 dives, includes: 1<sup>st</sup> Stage, 2<sup>nd</sup> stage , octopus, inflation/deflation control, all hoses, Gauges, console and weight system, black & gray. New \$1,999, E-Bay \$1,124. Bonaire \$500. Phone, 791-2214**

**For Sale: Sony Digital Camcorder, boxed and unused,** Model DCR HC96E in PAL format, takes Mini DV tapes has widescreen, 3 Mega pixel still camera, Carl Zeiss Lens, 2 Years guarantee, includes new case, tapes etc. Unwanted gift \$720, Call: 717-2675

**Fantastic Phantom bag-less cyclonic canister vacuum cleaner** practically new, NAF100-. Call 786-3117.



**NIKONOS III – Camera and Macro tube Set.** Still the best UW camera for macro shots. Original owner. NEVER been flooded. Ideal back-up camera. Complete NAF200. Call George 786-6215.

**All must go!! Saturday 1000-1300. please call for address 786-3558**

Fridge, dining table, computer (flat screen, 2 spkrs, printer, keyboard, mouse, webcam, surge protector / ironing board and iron / dining table / wine rack / beach mat / 3 jackets / books...so many Dutch books / shopping cart / bar stool/Tunisian rug & Portuguese blanket/ 2 backpacks / kitchen stuff-cutlery / excl Vodka collection / toaster/tuner radio/clothes/baby bed / antique wagon wheel.

**Pass the word around!!!**

### Cars & Scooters

**Chevy Blazer, 1993**, techn. good condition, body double anti-rust protection, NAF 6.500. Tel. **796-5582**

### Property

Harbour Village Marina Front

**Condo For**

Sale- Large one bed-room, 2 bath apartment located in a secluded all condo building away from the hotel traffic. Full kitchen and laundry, tons of storage space, large patio with walkout to marina dock. Private owner sale. [www.luxurybonaire.com](http://www.luxurybonaire.com)



### Housesitting

Two responsible and dedicated parrot researchers looking for **housesitting from June 8th - July 1st**. Many references available. If you can help call 717-2675 or email [r.o.martin@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:r.o.martin@sheffield.ac.uk)

**Bonaire experienced house sitters with references** available 3-8 July & 22-27 July. Contact [roben@dds.nl](mailto:roben@dds.nl)

Reporter staff member wishes to house sit long-term starting now. Call **David 700-7536**, email= [dradomisli@hotmail.com](mailto:dradomisli@hotmail.com).

### Lost

**Lost: our black mid sized dog.** J@n Brouwer, Hato, 796-3637, digital-is1956@hotmail.com

### JOBS

**AB Carrental is looking for Rental Agents.** Forthright, customer oriented, experience with computers and administration. Written and spoken communication in Dutch, excellent, spoken communication in English good. Spanish and Papiamentu desirable. Owner-drivers license. tel: **09-5112561**



**Bonaire's coziest resort is looking for full time colleagues in the restaurant/bar & kitchen-** Preferably speaking Dutch/ English/ German. Experience is required! Do you want to be part of our team? Call **717-7901** or send an email to: [info@caribbeanclubbonaire.com](mailto:info@caribbeanclubbonaire.com).

### SEEKING

**Looking for: Looking for a workshop manual** and/or other information for a Jeep Cherokee. J@n Brouwer, 796-3637, digital-is1956@flamingotv.net

# SGB Art Explosion!



Last weekend five SGB high school students of Havo3 and VWO3 did a great job. They created a wall painting, 10 by 3 meters, in classroom 35. The H3 class was given the assignment by teacher Roozenburg-Postema to design a surrealistic landscape in a Salvador Dali style. If we are talking about Dali, then it means mostly a design with parts or objects from the human body. Surrealistic painters like Salvador Dali want to create unreal fantasy worlds, dreams to be caught in a painting, but painted in a very realistic way, almost like a photograph. This theme gave the students a lot of inspiration, as we can see by the photos. Each of the students, Rosalie, Andrea, Jurna, Frank, Geruliane, Jose Minguel, Lothar, Leidy, Farahnaz, and Martina, made a design. The teacher made one composition of these 10 creations, and Jose Minguel, Lothar, Leidy, Farahnaz, and Martina helped to create this magnificent mural in their classroom with the help of their teacher. It looks like we have a lot of previously unknown (art) talents at the SGB! But lately there has been even more art created at the SGB. A few weeks ago Manuela Winklaar made the landscape painting in the SGB staff room which we will show you in the next issue. And with the first SGB face-lift day, some class rooms got a mural outside. □ Story & photos by Wilna Groenenboom

**KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)**  
*Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides*

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
5-25	4:42	1.3FT.	7:58	1.4FT.	14:48	1.0FT.	22:11	1.6FT.	36
5-26	6:07	1.2FT.	8:50	1.3FT.	14:23	1.0FT.	22:17	1.7FT.	38
5-27	7:19	1.1FT.	9:56	1.1FT.	13:37	1.0FT.	22:31	1.8FT.	44
5-28	8:23	1.0FT.	22:51	1.9FT.					51
5-29	9:16	0.9FT.	23:17	2.0FT.					59
5-30	10:06	0.8FT.	23:48	2.0FT.					67
5-31	0:13	2.0FT.	10:42	0.7FT.					74
6-01	0:46	2.1FT.	11:24	0.7FT.					79

**Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter**

Take *The Reporter* Home—Subscribe Yearly Mail to US \$110; On-line \$35  
Published weekly. For information about **subscriptions, stories or advertising** in **The Bonaire Reporter**, phone (599) 786-6518, 786-6125, E-mail:

[Reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:Reporter@bonairenews.com)

**The Bonaire Reporter**, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. Available on-line at: [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com)

**Reporters:** Jackie Bernabela, Bruce Bowker, Caren Eckeridge, Wilna Groenenboom, Jack Horkheimer, Greta Kooistra, Rowan Martin, Ann Phelan, David Radomisli, Mick Schmit, Jessica St. Jago, Michael Thiessen

**Features Editor:** Greta Kooistra **Art Editor:** Wilna Groenenboom **Translations:** Peggy Bakker **Production:** Evelyne van de Poel **Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie (Playa); **Housekeeping:** JRA . **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

©2007 The Bonaire Reporter

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

**MOVIELAND**

**WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES**

**Late Show (Usually 9 pm)**  
Call to make sure  
**The Reaping**  
(Hilary Swank)

**Early Show (Usually 7 pm)**  
The Lookout  
(Joseph Gordon-Levitt)

**Kaya Prinses Marie**  
Behind Exito Bakery  
Tel. 717-2400  
Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)

**NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY**  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
THURS THRU SUN  
2 MOVIES 7 & 9PM  
MON THRU WED. 1 MOVIE 8PM

**SATURDAY 4 PM**  
June: T.M.N.T.

## THIS WEEK

**Friday, May 25 Sunrise Dance Pool Party** at the Sunrise Pool Bar and Restaurant at Sand Dollar. "Dress Less to Impress." Starts at 2100. DJ Euson. Cost NAf10 in advance/NAf15 at the door. Must be 18 or older. Details on page 2 and in Flotsam and Jet-sam.

**Friday, May 25-Jong Bonaire Annual Song Festival.** The Festival begins at 8 pm and will run to about 11 pm. Cost is NAf10 and tickets are available at Jong Bonaire or from the participants

**Thursday, May 31 – Full “Blue” Moon**

**June 1-10 – City Café goes all out to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary** with 10 days and nights of activities and celebrations – See page 9

**Sunday, June 3 – 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Washington-Slagbaai Park Celebration** – at the entrance to the Park, all day. Entertainment, games, music, stands from the Rincon Marché, guided tours, mountain biking. More information call STINAPA 717-8444.

**Sundays, May 27, June 3 & 10 – Bonaire Culinary Team invites you to a tasting of their competition 3-course meal with cocktails and wine.** At the SGB's Chez Nous, 7 pm. All proceeds help to send the team to the Taste of the Caribbean Culinary Olympics in Miami in June. Tickets NAf50 (\$29), Margreth Kloos, Tel. 717-2897 or email [margreth@bonaireyellowsubmarine.com](mailto:margreth@bonaireyellowsubmarine.com). Reserve early; only 30 tickets per evening.

## COMING

**Sunday, July 1 – 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Dia di**

**Arte in Wilhelmina Park** – All day and evening starting at 10 am. Artists, musicians, craftsmen and top notch local foods and drinks. Participants: sign by starting May 31. Call Edwin Martijn **786-8400**, Mishuyla Sint Jago **786-2292**

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Daily

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 5-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- HH—50% off- **Buddy Dive Resort**, 5:30-6:30

• **Divi Flamingo Casino** open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Mon. to Sat. 8 pm– 4 am; Sun. 7 pm– 3 am.

• By appointment – **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

• **Parke Publico** children's playground open every day into the evening hours.

### Saturdays

- **Steak Night** On the Beach (a la carte) - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—10 pm
- **Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. [www.infobonaire.com/rincon](http://www.infobonaire.com/rincon). **Extra big Marshé 1st Saturday of the month, 6 am-2 pm.**

• **All You Can Eat BBQ** at **Divi Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9 pm, NAf26.50. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.

• **Wine Tasting** at AWC's warehouse, **2nd Saturday of the month**, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines. NAf20 per person for 6 to 8 wines.

• **Flea Market** every first Saturday of the month from 3 to 7 pm, Parke Publico. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf5 per selling table. For more information and reservations for a spot, call 787-0466.

### Sundays

- **Live music 6-9 pm while enjoying a great dinner** in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar**, **Divi Flamingo**. Open daily 5-10 pm

### Mondays

- **Fish or Meat Dinner Special for only \$10.** **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—9:30 pm

• **Reporter writer Albert Bianculli** presents his Multi-Image Production "Bonaire Holiday" at 6:30pm , 7:30 pm or 8:30pm, Casablanca Argentinean Grill

• **Soldachi Tour of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

### Tuesdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers**, 5-7 **Divi Flamingo**, **Balashi Beach Bar**

• **Wine & Cheese/** \$1 glass of wine, 5-7, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**

• **Caribbean Gas Training free** "Beyond Gravity – An Evening with DIR," 6 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure 786-5073.

### Wednesdays

- **Live music by Flamingo Rockers**, **Divi Flamingo**, **Balashi Beach Bar** 5-6:30

• **Caribbean Night A la Carte - Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—10 pm

### Thursdays

**Live music by the Flamingo Rockers**, **Divi Flamingo**, **Balashi Beach Bar**, 5-7

- **"Admiral's Hour"** for yachtsmen

**and others**, **Vespucci Restaurant**, **Harbour Village Marina**. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7

- **Buddy's Bingo Show** - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 8- 9:30 pm

### Fridays

- **Mixed Level Yoga** 8:30am, **Buddy Dive** 786-6416

• **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 - 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225

- **Live music by the "Flamingo Rockers"** **Divi Flamingo**, **Balashi Beach Bar**, 5-7 pm

• **Swim lessons** for children by Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at Sunrise Poolbar and Sportsclub, for children 0 – 18.

- **Manager's Bash**—free Flamingo

Smash & snacks, **Divi Flamingo**, 5-7 pm

- **Free Rum Punch Party** (5:30 pm - 6:30 pm) & All-u-can-eat BBQ, 7-10 pm, **Buddy Dive Resort**

**Rotary** lunch meetings **Wednesday**, 12 noon-2 pm - Now meeting at 'Pirate House', above Zeezicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Bonaire Arts & Crafts** (*Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonaireano*) 717-5246 or 7117

**The Bonaire Swim Club**- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451; [Valarie@telbonet.an](mailto:Valarie@telbonet.an)

**Bonaire National Marine Park** - 717-8444.

**Bonaire Animal Shelter** - 717-4989.

**Donkey Sanctuary** - 560-7607.

**Jong Bonaire (Youth Center)** - 717-4303.

**Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care)** Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.

**Special Olympics**– Call Claire 717-8290

**Volunteers to train children in sports.** Contact Quick-Pro Track and Field - Rik

717-8051

## CHURCH SERVICES

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire.**

Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamento, Dutch, English on Sundays 10 am. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, Services in Papiamento on Sundays at 8.30 am. Children's club Saturday 5 pm in Kralendijk.

**Sunday School** every Sunday at 4 pm in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, every Thursday at 8 pm. in Kralendijk.

**New Apostolic Church**, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

**International Bible Church of Bonaire** – Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle) Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30am. In Papiamento, Spanish and English.

**Catholic San Bernardus** in Kralendijk – Services on Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamento 717-8304 . Saturday at 6 pm at *Our Lady of Coromoto* in Antriol, in English. Mass in Papiamento on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

**Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios)**, Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamento on Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

**Send event info to:**  
**The Bonaire Reporter**  
Email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)  
Tel:786-6518 or 786-6125

# DINING GUIDE

**See advertisements in this issue**

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Balashi Beach Bar Bar and Beach Service</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront	Open every day 8am - 8pm. Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm.	Extensive snack/salad/burger. Menu available daily from noon.
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast daily 6:30—10 am - . Lunch daily 11:30 Dinner on theme nights 6—10 pm	<b>Buddy's Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Sat. - Steak Night A la Carte; Mon. - Fish or Meat Dinner Special (\$10,-); Wed. - Caribbean Night A la Carte; Fri. - Free Rum Punch Party (5:30- 6:30 pm) and All-u-can-eat BBQ for \$ 19.50 (7-1 pm)
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> Kaya Gob. N. Debröt 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch Monday - Friday 11 am-3 pm Dinner Monday - Saturday, 6 to 10 pm	<b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
<b>Calabas Restaurant &amp; Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	<b>Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday</b> from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28 or \$15.75.
<b>Casablanca Argentinean Restaurant</b> One block south of the Post Office 717-4433	Moderate Lunch Tues-Sat—11:30-2:30 Dinner 7 nights— starting at 6 pm	<b>Indulge your whim—beef seafood, chicken, vegetarian</b> Mondays—All you can eat and special slide shows starting at 6 pm
<b>Hilltop Restaurant</b> At the Caribbean Club Bonaire—on the scenic Rincon Road 717-7901	Moderate Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner	<b>Bar-Restaurant poolside—in Bonaire's hill country</b> Frequent Dinner Specials Happy hours 5 to 6 daily, to 7 on Tuesday BBQ night.
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> Kaya Grandi 70 717-3293	Low-Moderate Open Tuesday through Saturday 7:30am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-2pm	<b>NAf10 take out lunch every day -</b> main dish with 2 side dishes. Special on Tuesday and Thursday: Lasagna.
<b>Papaya Moon Cantina</b> Downtown—Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate Open everyday except Tuesday For Dinner	<b>Margaritas a Specialty</b> 2 for 1 Happy Hour 6-7:30 Incredible Mexican Cuisine
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debröt ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The <b>Real Thing!</b> Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 780-1111
<b>Patagonia Argentinean Restaurant</b> At the lighthouse, Harbour Village Marina 717-7725	Moderate Lunch Tuesday-Friday Dinner Tuesday-Sunday	Authentic Argentinean Cuisine Owned and operated by the Pablo Palacios Family from Argentina The beef is here and more.
<b>The Bonaire Windsurfing Place</b> At Sorobon Beach Get away from it all.	Low-Moderate Open from 10am-6 pm daily,	A genuine sandy beach restaurant cooled by the trade winds Top quality food and friendly service. Reserve for the <b>Wednesday Beach BBQ</b> .

# SHOPPING GUIDE

**See advertisements in this issue**



<b>AIRLINES</b> <b>Divi Divi Air.</b> Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Now flying to Aruba.	<b>GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES</b> your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Incredible selection of pots.	<b>RETAIL</b> <b>Benetton</b> , world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.
<b>APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS</b> <b>City Shop</b> , the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. Fast service and in-store financing too.	<b>GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR</b> <b>The Bonaire Gift Shop</b> has a wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts - all at low prices.	<b>Best Buddies and Pearls</b> —Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Under new management.
<b>BANKS</b> <b>Maduro and Curiel's Bank</b> provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.	<b>NATURE EXPLORATION</b> <b>Outdoor Bonaire</b> for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rappelling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 785-6272 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com	<b>The Touch Skin &amp; Body</b> —Birkenstock shoes for men and women.
<b>BEAUTY PARLOR</b> <b>Hair Affair</b> . Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.	<b>PHOTO FINISHING</b> <b>Paradise Photo</b> in the Galeries Shopping Center downtown offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services . <b>Full digital services</b> .	<b>Valeries Airport Shops</b> — Convenient shopping for unique items, magazines, gifts and more.
<b>BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS</b> <b>De Freewieeler</b> rents scooters and quads; professionally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.	<b>PHOTO SERVICES</b> <b>Capture Photo</b> at the Divi Flamingo. Photo classes, camera rental, digital processing, all state of the art!	<b>SECURITY</b> <b>Special Security Services</b> will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.
<b>DIVING</b> <b>Carib Inn</b> is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.	<b>REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS</b> <b>Caribbean Homes</b> , "the Refreshing Realtor," specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management.	<b>SHIPPING</b> <b>Rocargo Freight</b> Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. <b>FedEx agent</b> .
<b>Dive Friends Bonaire (Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine)</b> -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their monthly cleanup dives and BBQ.	<b>Harbourtown Real Estate</b> is Bonaire's most experienced real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer service, top notch properties and home owners insurance.	<b>SUPERMARKETS</b> <b>Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria</b> —Biggest air conditioned market with the largest selection and lowest prices on the island.
<b>WannaDive</b> - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.	<b>Re/Max Paradise Homes:</b> Lots of Choices—International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them to sell fast.	<b>WATER TAXI</b> <b>Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry.</b> Ride the <i>Kantika di Amor</i> or <i>Skippy</i> . Hotel pickup. Easiest landing on Klein
<b>FITNESS</b> <b>Fit For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall.</b> Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.	<b>Sunbelt Realty</b> offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.	<b>WINDSURFING</b> <b>The Bonaire Windsurfing Place</b> can fulfill all your windsurfing dreams and more. They offer expert instruction, superb equipment on a fine beach. Lunch and drinks too. BBQ and windsurf videos Wednesday nights.
<b>FURNITURE, ANTIQUES</b> <b>The Plantation</b> Has lots of classy furniture and antiques at very competitive prices. Stop in to see great teak furniture and Indonesian crafts.	<b>RESORTS &amp; ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Buddy Dive Resort</b> offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.	<b>WINES</b> <b>Antillean Wine Company.</b> You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Shop at Kaya Industria 23, Monday-Saturday 9 am-12 noon.
<b>GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES</b> Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain		<b>ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:</b> Put your ad in <b>The Bonaire Reporter</b> . Tel. 786-6518, 786-6125 Email: reporter@bonairenews.com

Did you know that listing in the Guides is FREE for weekly advertisers?

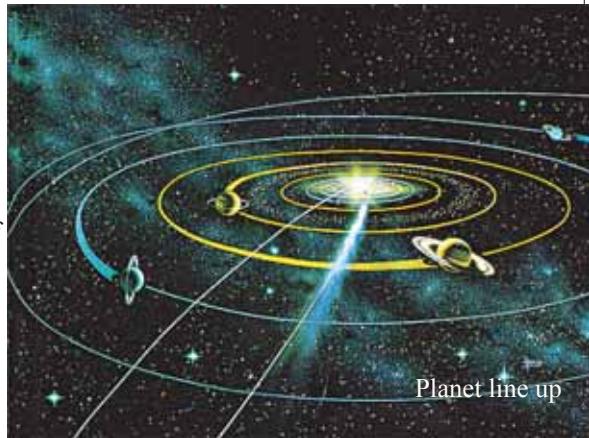


## BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

# Planets Line Up Along the Ecliptic

You know, every time we have long holiday weekends (*Memorial Day is celebrated on Monday, May 28 in the US*) I always try to find things of interest in the night sky to help you relax during the holiday activities. If you'd like, spend some time outside in early evening after sunset or early morning just before sunrise because this coming weekend the cosmos is being very good to us because not one, not two, not three, not four, but five naked-eye planets are placed just right for your viewing pleasure.



Planet line up

This coming weekend, Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup>, Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup>, and Monday the 28<sup>th</sup>, one hour after sunset face west where you'll see three bright lights which appear to lie along a straight line which astronomers call the **ecliptic**, which is the invisible path in the sky along which all the planets travel. The brightest light in the middle is super dazzling planet #2, 8,000-mile-wide, Earth-sized **Venus**. And just below it close to the horizon is the pink iron planet, planet #1, 3,000-mile-wide **Mercury** which looks pink because it never gets very high above the horizon so we always see it through the dusty layers of our **Earth's** atmosphere which give it this false coloration. It's called the iron planet because it has more iron in its core than our Earth has.

Now just above Venus on the ecliptic you'll see planet #6, 75,000-mile-wide ringed **Saturn**, which is just begging you to take a look at it through a small telescope before it disappears from evening skies in mid July.

So once again, close to the horizon we have planet #1, Mercury, above it planet #2, dazzling Venus, and above it not quite so bright planet #6, super **Saturn**. Now if you extend our imaginary line, the ecliptic, you will find yet two more naked-eye planets along it. But you'll have to wait until about 11 o'clock when the next planet has risen and you'll have to look southeast. So all this weekend if you go out around 11 pm and look southeast you'll see the second brightest planet, planet #5, the king of them all, 88,000-mile-wide **Jupiter**, which is also fabulous for viewing through a small telescope. Now if you extend our line even further and wait until about one hour before sunrise, still looking southeast, the brightest object you'll see will be planet #4, rouge-gold, 4,000-mile-wide **Mars**, which is getting steadily brighter every month as it races towards us for a close encounter this December.

So to repeat, in reverse order, if you go out any morning this coming weekend about one hour before sunrise and look southeast you'll see Mars. If you go out around 11 pm you'll see giant Jupiter, and if you look west about one hour after sunset: Saturn, Venus and Mercury. And finally, there will be a chance to sing "**Blue Moon**" in Bonaire in the middle of next week, on May 31<sup>st</sup>. A Blue Moon is said to occur when there are two full moons in one calendar month (the first one being May 2nd). This phenomenon doesn't occur often, thus giving rise to the phrase "Once in a Blue Moon." The next won't be until December 2009. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, May 27 to Saturday, June 2 2007

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Secret affairs will only lead to heartache. Your irritability may drive your loved ones crazy. Consider applying for a job in another part of the world. Avoid any gossip and be careful that you aren't misinterpreted. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Opportunities to pamper yourself may unfold. Be sure that you have all the facts before you take action. Extravagance and overindulgence are not a cure if you're feeling sorry for yourself. You will find it easy finalizing personal papers if you make an effort. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You need an outlet. You can certainly gain popularity; however, don't do it by paying for everyone else. Don't let other people meddle in your private affairs. You are best to concentrate on work. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Changes in your residence may be financially favorable. You can help a close friend find solutions to personal problems. You could meet potential new mates if you go out with friends or take pleasure trips. You will be able to get along well with colleagues. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Deal with in-laws this week. Find ways to mellow out. Relationships will become stronger. You are best to avoid such unsavory circumstances, especially if you're in a group situation. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You may be likely to have difficulties with females. Beware of someone who is trying to make you look bad. Residential moves look hectic and sudden changes in your life are likely. You will reap the benefits if you put money into upgrading your residence. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Involvement in groups of interest will bring you in touch with important individuals. Your mate may not have been honest with you. You can get others to do things for you but be sure not to overpay them or lend them money. Secret enemies will be eager to spread rumors about you. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) A lot can be accomplished if you organize your time. Try to understand their point of view. You may be experiencing emotional turmoil in regard to your mate. Don't get intimately involved with a coworker. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

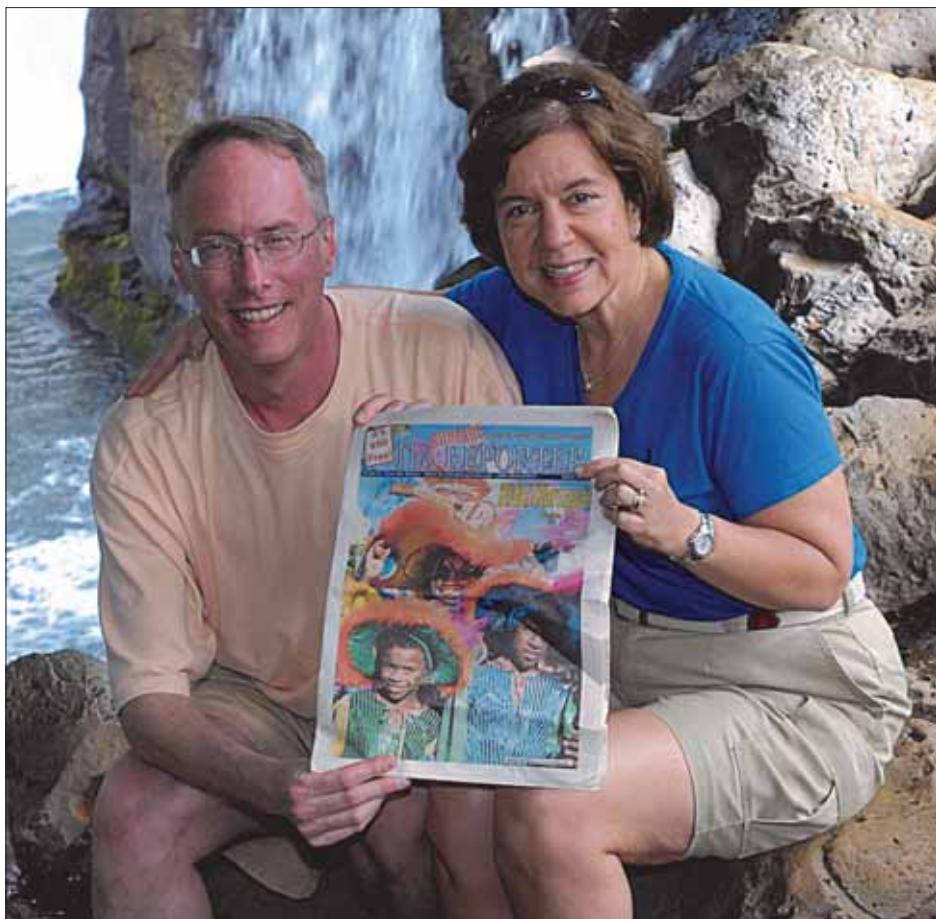
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be supportive in order to avoid confrontations. Changes in your home are apparent, and you must be willing to bend if you don't want to find yourself alone. Problems with in-laws may cause friction in your personal relationship. Don't let your partner get away with spending too much of your money. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Your involvement in interest groups may bring you popularity. Changes in your domestic situation will prove to be favorable in the long run. Don't take advantage of your expense account. You can expect to feel confused about your personal prospects. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Avoid lending money or belongings to friends. Take part in stimulating debates that will allow you to show off your intelligence. It's a good time to make changes to your living quarters that will give you more space. Disappointments are likely if your mate embarrasses you in front of friends. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You could meet an interesting individual you'll want to get to know better. You can learn a great deal if you listen to those who are older or more experienced. You will get along well with your colleagues this week. Channel your energy into decorating or household chores. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

# Picture Yourself With The Reporter



## Kauai, Hawaii

Alan and Joan Zale, condo owners at Sand Dollar, hold a copy of the February 16, 2007, Kids Karnaval issue of *The Bonaire Reporter* in front of Kipu Falls in Kauai, Hawaii. Alan and Joan live in Hartsdale, NY and were vacationing in Hawaii. Photo by Arlene Pollard

**WIN GREAT PRIZES!** Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES. Mail photos to Bonaire Reporter, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: picture@bonairereporter.com. (All 2007 photos are eligible.) □

# Pet of the Week

Puppy "Debbie" is shown in the arms of her new owner, Chantal Dortalina. Debbie is the 62<sup>nd</sup> pet adoption this year from the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Everyone is so happy and Debbie got carried to her new home in a pretty, soft cushion-lined basket. Debbie had no problem with that; she just settled comfortably in the basket as if she had been in it her whole life! Congratulations to both Debbie and Chantal and may you both have many happy years together.

As are all the pets up for adoption at the Shelter, Debbie was checked by the vet, given her tests and shots, wormed and declared in excellent health. When she is old enough she will be sterilized. All that is included in the NAf105 adoption fee for dogs.

Debbie is one of the lucky ones. People are still dumping puppies and dogs in the mundi where they are left to die a long, lingering death due to thirst and starvation. And because these dogs are so terrified it's nearly impossible for even a Good Samaritan to catch them. How very sad. But how simple it is to just drop them off at the Shelter – no questions asked - where they could have a chance for a good life. The gates of the Shelter are always "open" to unwanted cats or dogs.

The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989. We've just received a report from the Shelter that our "Pet" last week, "James," the cat, has been adopted along with another sweet kitten. Also the pups from the week before, "Sharon" and Shirley," have gone to new homes. Beautiful ends to what could have been sad stories had these animals been left in the mundi. Congratulations to all. □ L.D.



"Debbie" with Chantal

# Born on Bonaire

## Marvel Tromp – Muller

**B**oth my parents, Thomas Muller and Atancia Semeleer, were born in 1899 on Bonaire. When my dad was 14 he left for New York to live with some friends in the Bronx; he stayed there for almost 10 years. When my mom was very young she went with an aunt of hers to live in Venezuela. When he came back from New York and she from Venezuela they met on Bonaire, and on March 31<sup>st</sup> 1922, they got married here. I was born September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1937, and I was their fifth child.

When I was three months old I moved with my brothers and sisters and my mom to Aruba where my dad had found a job at the Lago oil refinery. He was a carpenter and was teaching at the Lago Vocational School. After me one more brother was born on Aruba.

My childhood was very good. My two eldest sisters got married when I was very young and so I stayed at home with my two eldest brothers, who were much older. I never had to wear a dress that had been my sister's! We were living near the sports park so my parents decided I should do sports. I played tennis, softball and basketball; I also had dancing lessons, I sang in a choir and from the age of seven I went with the scouts as a Brownie. It was a very strict upbringing with a lot of discipline. You become like a little soldier and I liked it – neatness, rules and regulations – I am still like that."

*Her eyes wander around her pretty living room:* "You see, you have to maintain your things, and if you do so they stay beautiful and you're always surrounded by beautiful things and you don't have to buy new stuff all the time.

I finished MULO high school on Aruba and my parents wouldn't allow me to go and study in Curaçao or Holland because I was naughty. I was a daredevil; I could even ride a horse! I grew up with my brother's friends and whatever they did – I did it too! So I took a course on Aruba to become a kindergarten teacher and I worked in the profession for about four years. At a birthday party on January 16<sup>th</sup> 1958 I met Niki Tromp, and we got married that same year, November 25<sup>th</sup>. I was 21 and he was 20. Niki was from Oranjestad, Aruba's capital, and I was living in San Nicolas, Lago's oil-town, and in those days people from those places didn't get married. Like on Bonaire someone from Rincon would not marry someone from Playa. But Niki and I were both scouts. I was a leader and so was he, but he was on a higher level.

The first time I saw him, I didn't like him because he looked so strict. He was a perfectionist; he could do a lot of things. But... I was an excellent dancer and so was he and that's how we found each other. And the funniest thing was that I

am a short person, 1.59 meters, and he was very tall, 1.90 meters! We loved music, every kind of music – waltzes from Strauss and all the boleros, the tumbas and the rumbas and the meringue and the foxtrot. We had such fun when we were dancing, and dancing is healthy, you know, because you use every muscle of your body and you're laughing because you can't dance with a sour face!

In August 1959 our first daughter, Yselle, was born and our son, Byron, in December 1960. It was hectic and not so easy because we were so young and I couldn't work anymore. Niki was working at the refinery's laboratory and we stayed until 1963 on Aruba. Then Lago started to lay off people. Niki had been with them for 10 years, but there were people who had been working for the refinery so much longer.

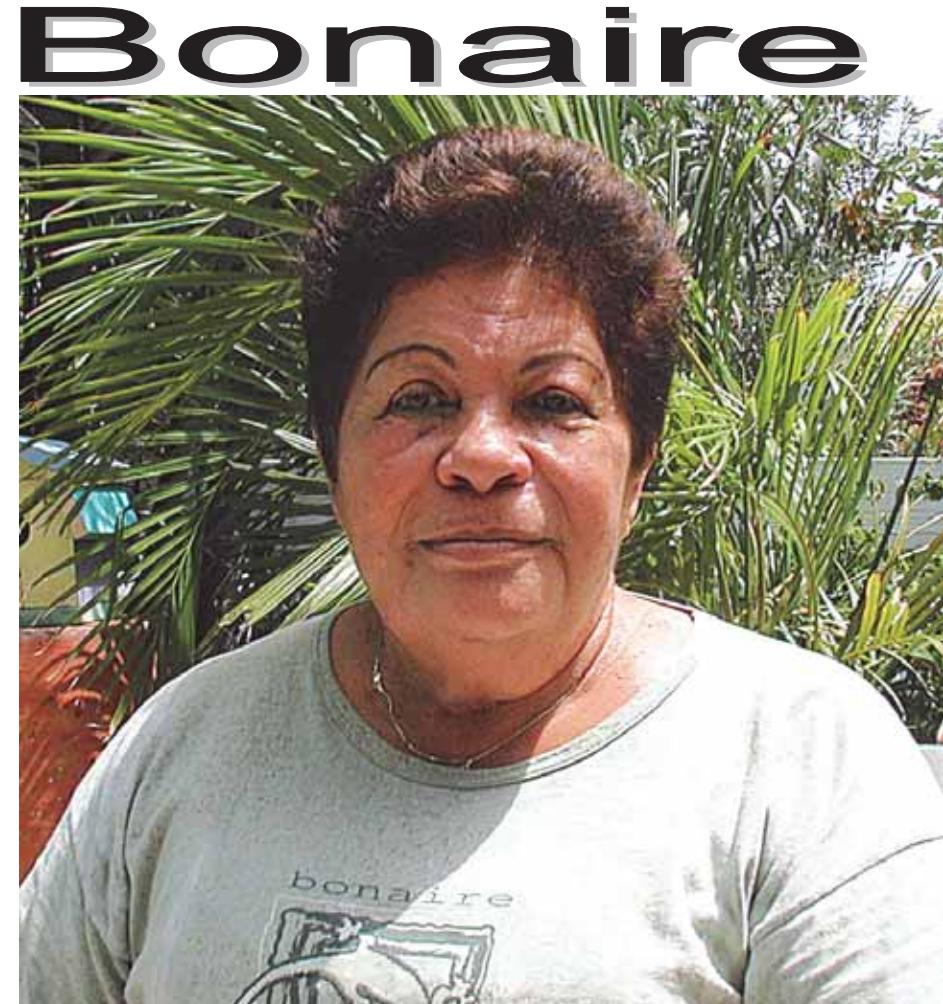
My dad and mom had gone back to Bonaire after my dad's retirement and so I decided to go there too. Niki went to work on Curaçao as an insurance trainee for British American which was planning to open a branch on Bonaire.

**"We will prosper, we will flourish; Bonaire is so beautiful. People get spoiled fast, but if things are not going so well for awhile one should become creative because it changes your way of thinking and then you will find a solution."**

On Bonaire I celebrated my 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. I liked it so much; we lived at Playa Pariba, what is now Abraham Boulevard, and we had electricity only until midnight. We didn't have running water, and for drinking water I had to go to a neighbor to get it from her rain water cistern. I would boil the water, filter it through a cloth then pour it into bottles.

We were 5,000 inhabitants when I came here. It was beautiful, very, very beautiful. You know, what I like is to share with people and to be friendly and to help each other, and here I could do all that. I don't think much about those days because then I get nostalgic. I am a now-person - that's what I am trying to be - and I live much happier. I never leave anything for tomorrow; I finish everything as if it were my last day, even when I am dead tired. That's how I am and I hope to go on this way for many more years..."

*Marvel Tromp (69) is a lady of great compassion and understanding; she's a spiritual person and she's active and fit and very much down-to-earth.* "In 1964 my husband came to Bonaire. He and I were very happy, we always had a lot of things to do – work and sports – and we had a club where we would always celebrate every occasion together and we



*Marvel Tromp*

helped each other. After a couple of years working for British American Insurance, Niki was asked to work for the government, and he went into tourism. He became the deputy head of the tourism bureau, but they always called him the 'director of tourism.' I was the first woman on Bonaire to become a tour guide. A big cruise ship came and there weren't enough tour guides and Niki told me, 'Here's the *Bonaire Holiday* (a touristy newspaper published by Rudy Dovale in Curaçao). Learn it by heart and go for it!' And that's what I did! Guts! I also became the first hostess at Hotel Bonaire, but I was not only a hostess; I did everything. Just a few people could speak English and we had to help the ones who didn't. I feel like everything I did, I did for others. From the time when I was seven and a Brownie I was taught first to think of other people and then of yourself, and now it's in my blood and also in my children's blood.

From 1964 until 1986 I worked for Hotel Bonaire and every time it closed I worked somewhere else. My daughter, Darinka, was born in 1964 on Curaçao when we lived there with my husband just before he came here. My son, Delno, was born in 1967 on Bonaire and he's the only Bonairean because my daughter, Nadia, was born 'accidentally' on Curaçao, where I had to go for the delivery.

I have four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They live on St. Martin, Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire, and my son Delno is still in Kenya – and because of the instability there I will be ever so happy when he comes back.

Since 1975 I'm doing yoga. We started it here and I am still into it. I am also a Reiki master and in spiritual human yoga I have reached the seventh level, almost a master. When people need help I do it, but not for money.

My husband Niki passed away in 1992 at the airport in Curaçao where he'd gone on a tour of duty for the Regatta. At the time Delno was studying in Puerto Rico at the university and I went to live with him for awhile. When I came back I moved out of the house in Hato. I sold everything and moved to Kaya Hulanda, then to Tera Kora, where I lived in one of the government houses and where I made friends, good friends. Then I came here, to Light-house Beach Resort.

I feel privileged; I walk along the shore and the sea is so beautiful and the salt adds taste and flavor and it gives a spiritual strength, and we have the corals – so many elements that are good, that will never let us down. We will prosper, we will flourish; Bonaire is so beautiful. People get spoiled fast, but if things are not going so well for awhile one should become creative because it changes your way of thinking and then you will find a solution. Every day when I get up I go outside and say, 'Thank You.' I always say thanks to everything for everything; it gives me joy. I like to pray; I believe in little prayers. I'm going to be 70 and I am satisfied and very grateful because I have children, grandchildren and a great-grandchild, I've been lucky..." □

*Story & photo by Greta Kooistra*

