

Merry  
Christmas

**BONAIRE**

Dec. 21, 2007-Jan 4, 2008; Volume 14, Issue 38

# The REPORTER

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Since 1994



## Marshé Navidad in Rincon

*Three ladies who make it happen at the Rincon Marshé:  
Jenny Crestian, Roosje Vinck, Carmen Thodé*

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Landmarks**

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Rescued**

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**The Dutch Second Chamber has urged the Dutch Government to go ahead with the constitutional change process on the planned timetable.** This means that the "BES Islands" of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, without Curaçao and St. Maarten if necessary, can integrate with Holland by December 15, 2008. Only the PVV party and independent Rita Verdonk voted against the motion.

**In the next two years, in line with the planned December 2008 direct ties with The Netherlands, social and economic improvements, via a Social Economic Initiative (SEI), must be made in Bonaire.** Money to make it happen is beginning to flow in.

The Dutch have assigned one million guilders to come up with an environmentally sensitive development plan, zoning plan, and a strategic long-range strategy for Bonaire. Another one million guilders are allocated to revive the neighborhoods (barrios); another five million guilders for infrastructure (parking, walking- and cycling promenades, improvement of the roads, and street lights). There are 500,000 guilders available to promote the investment climate and 10 million guilders for the labor market and training.

In addition to these projects, the feasibility of moving the sea port and its heavy activities elsewhere will be studied. A Social-Economic Nature Council will replace the current Antillean Social- Economic Council. Two million guilders will be made available to promote tourism.

**The old age pension, called the AOV, will be increased by 3% effective January 1, 2008.** The maximum pension will be increased by NAf20 per month per person to keep pace with the increased cost of

living. The maximum pension will rise to NAf674 per month (\$381/€272). The AOV payroll tax will increase by 1% to 5% on the same date, up to a maximum salary level of NAf72,000.



**Bonaire's Sports Stadium (above) reopened earlier this month** after extensive refurbishing and a new "astroturf" playing field.

**An Aruban judge ordered the release of the last of three suspects re-arrested last month in the disappearance of Natalee Holloway,** ruling the evidence was not strong enough to continue holding him. Joran van der Sloot was arrested November 21 along with two other suspects, who were released from jail December 1 following a similar ruling.

**Mortgage rates are dropping on Bonaire.** The average interest for a new mortgage was 8.2% at the end of the third quarter. Historically, the average mortgage interest was 9.5% in 2003; 8.9% in 2004; 8.6% in 2005; 8.5% in 2006; and by the end of September 2007, the interest was 8.2%. That doesn't mean that lower interest mortgages aren't available. The lowest mortgage interest is currently approximately 6.5%, but with restrictions.

The Central Bank expects two conflicting influences next year: an upward pressure on interest rates because of increased economic activities (a great demand for money) but also a downward pressure due to an anticipated fluid assets input as a result of The Netherlands paying the gov-

**NAf = € = \$**

Prices in Bonaire to be displayed in three currencies in 2008

**The Economic Affairs Department (DEZA) decreed that effective January 1, 2008, all the prices in Bonaire must be reported in guilders, dollars, as well as euros.** The government wants people to get used to the value of these currencies to avoid similar problems to the euro's introduction in Holland in 2003.

The measure applies to the prices for products and services, as well as the amounts on a pay slip. Companies have three months to get ready for this change. Effective April 1, 2008, DEZA will start checking for compliance.

Because the Netherlands Antilles, as a country, will disappear next December, Bonaire must choose a different currency than the current Antillean guilder, most likely the dollar or the euro. The choice is anticipated by July.

**The chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Aubrey Sealy, reacted with outrage** on the government's announcement to require the price of products and services to be specified in three different currencies (guilders, dollars, and euros) effective January 1. The ruling appeared to have been made without consulting the business community. "The people who have thought this out and drew it up haven't got the foggiest idea of the fluctuation of exchange rates," says Sealy. In addition, it also causes uncertainty because during the motivation for a direct relation with the Netherlands, it was always said that Bonaire will most probably go for the dollar and not the euro, he added.

The following reply was sent by Nydia Thielman of DEZA to an inquiry made by a Bonaire businessman questioning the new ruling:

"Exclusively for the purpose of this awareness campaign, the Government of Bonaire has stipulated two fixed rates. The American dollar is fixed at \$1 = NAf 1.78, and the EURO is fixed at €1 = NAf 2.38.

Business will not be required to accept dollars and euros. If a business chooses to make payment possible in other currencies than the Antillean guilder (NAf), the official bank exchange rates should be used for this purpose. Logically, the businesses must communicate the difference between these two purposes to their customers clearly.

The focus of the awareness campaign is to make the consumer aware of the difference in value between the Antillean guilder (NAf), the American dollar (\$) and the Euro (€) by stipulating that all prices must be posted in these three currencies starting January 1st 2008. Controls with sanctions will be effective from April 2008. The awareness and informational campaign concerning this new regulation will commence January 2008. The main goal is to prevent inflation as a result of introduction of the new currency, which has not yet been decided, so as to maintain a stable and healthy economy. Also, to answer your specific questions, yes – the gas stations and government will also be obliged to post in three currencies.

Hoping to have informed you sufficiently, however if you should have any questions or require additional information please don't hesitate in contacting me anytime."

ernment's debts (making more money available).

**The interest for time loans dropped this year for the first**

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# Cultural Landmarks

## History - Mythology - Traditions - Architecture

### Cultural Landmarks – A Gift to Bonaire

Around the island are what used to be empty pedestals. The idea, a number of years ago, was to have an explanation of the particular area and why it was important – historically, traditionally and/or mythologically. The pedestals sat empty for years. However, as a gift to the island and its visitors Frans Booi, whose idea it was so many years ago, and his wife Maggie, have transformed these pedestals into the cultural showpieces they were intended to be. They include the paintings and an explanatory text in both Papiamentu and English. Most of the paintings were done by Frans Booi; four were done by Winfred Dania. Six plaques have been finished and are now in place with another eight to go. Maggie's Wisconsin company, Industrial Graphics Corporation, is printing the plaques as a donation to Bonaire.

The pedestals are all being painted, "faux art stone," each one different, by Winfred Dania.

Beginning this week *The Reporter* will feature one of the plaques with the painting and the text (English version) and tell



Mati Mati

you where on the island you can find it.

To commemorate this project, the Boois are hosting an art show at Kas di Arte this month, "Cultural Landmarks Bonaire – History, Mythology, Traditions, Architecture," with copies of many of the plaques on display. The show is open daily from 10 am through December 31.

This week's feature is Mati Mati, located near the Indian Inscriptions at Boka Onima. Take the Rincon road north and turn off to the right (east) at the Indian inscriptions sign. Just before you arrive at the Indian inscriptions on the same side you can look down a little path and see the pedestal which is located outside the cave. □ L.D.

#### Mati Mati

*In Bonaire mythology Mati Mati means a big hole high up in the ceiling of the cave through which you see the heavens and a mysterious Star, where the Great Spirit comes from. At the end of each year the star shines through this hole and revives the dying forces of the earth.*

*When you look straight up in the cave of Mati Mati you will see the hole where the rays of the Christmas star shines through. There often were Christmas services and Nativity performances under this cave. The Kunuku owner covered the hole with a rock during most of the year to save his goats from falling through. It is a tradition to uncover the hole and Christmas time. □ Frans Booi*

### More Than A Hilton



The announcement of the construction of a Hilton Hotel adjacent to Flamingo airport is just part of a development called the Azul project. "We are not selling a hotel, but a lifestyle. This is the quietness of Bonaire presented in an exclusive scale," said Frank Hoevertsz, Director of Azul Developments during a presentation last Friday for a group of investors, bankers, and lawyers from Curaçao and Aruba. The TCB hosted the potential investors and in cooperation with Bonaire Tours & Vacations, offered them lunch and a tour.

The Aruba Investment Bank (AIB) which also financed the Renaissance hotel in Curaçao is providing a major part of the financing of the project. The infrastructural work for the project is underway, while construction will start in a few months. The official opening is planned for 2010. □ Press release



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*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Cont. from pg. 2) time to under 10%: 9.5%. This percentage was as high as 12.5% in 2003.

For savings, the time deposit percentage was 4.1% in 2005. Last year and until now it's risen to only 4.3%. However, saving accounts are still not paying more interest than 2.7%. Some banks are currently offering 3.5%. The Postal savings still pays 4%.

► **Bonaire Government offices will be closed on December 27 and 28.** The Executive Council awarded employees the holiday in lieu of a Christmas bonus.

► **The Government of Bonaire has petitioned the Central Government to remove all import duty and sales tax (OB) on sports equipment.** The repeal will require a vote in Parliament as well as Antillean Government approval.

► **Marco van de Kreeke**, who resigns his position as Director of Bonaire Airport on December 31, will start working on January 1, 2008, as operational services director at Maastricht Airport, reported *Dutch Aviation News*.

► **Some 2.75 billion passengers will take domestic and international flights by 2011**, an increase of 29% of the total passenger traffic in 2006, the indus-

With great sadness we take notice of the passing away of

**Mr. Edward A. Ridley (Chili)**

STINAPA Bonaire volunteer and coordinator of the Bonaire National Marine Park volunteers for over 3 years

We wish his wife Linda a lot of strength during these difficult days.

STINAPA Bonaire



the Cerianthid habitat of Cha Cha Cha Beach based around the sand anemones (Tube-dwelling Anemones). Harley Moody, from Texas, is well known for his amazing underwater photographs, which are on display at Texas A&M University. There will be pre-dive briefings on the anatomy and natural history of the anemones. The dive plan is to observe the anemones as they emerge from their tubes at sunset, watching them release their last meal from the night before, watching them feed in the currents, understanding the photophobic nature of the anemones and their reaction to pressure, vibration and other factors. Contact Harley Moody at Dive Inn.

► It's only a month late but it has arrived at AWC (Antillean Wine Company) on Kaya Industria: **The Beaujolais Nouveau wine, just in time for the holidays.** No pesticides used, no artificial fertilizers, no harvesting machines, no SO<sub>2</sub> added. Pure fermented grape juice from the Gamay-noir-a-juice-blanc grape.

try body IATA said in Geneva last Wednesday.  
► **For the sixth consecutive year Bonaire topped *Scuba Diving Magazine's* "Reader's Choice Awards."** Bonaire scored as "Top Shore Diving," "Top Destination for Beginners," "Top Destination for Advanced Divers," "Top Destination for Underwater Photography," "Top Marine Life," and second place for "Top Value." The TCB thanks all those involved in Bonaire's dive-hospitality industry for their involvement.

► **If you're quick you can make it to the SGB High School's Christmas Market this Thursday, December 20.** It runs from 7 pm to 11. Everyone's invited to this fun and exciting event. Entry is Naf 1.

► **The delicate balance of the Caribbean's coral reefs is in jeopardy as more parrotfish**

**end up on dinner plates, according to international scientists.** The colorful grazing fish, named for their parrot-like beaks which are used to scrape up algae, play a vital role in stopping algae from smothering coral. They're common on Bonaire's reefs. Parrotfish are not considered a food fish on Bonaire but are elsewhere, where their numbers are now being threatened by over-fishing. New research based on computer modeling shows parrotfish are a key defense in preventing the vulnerable reefs from becoming a very different ecosystem – one dominated not by living coral but by blooms of algae or seaweed.

► **Dive Inn tells us that dive photographer Harley Moody** would like to invite divers interested in discovery to join him for **complimentary guided night dives** (please bring your own equipment and tanks) to explore

Or ring 560-7539 and they'll bring!

► **City Shop just gets bigger and better. New merchandise coming in has made the management push the walls out to expand the shop** so that now you can find just about anything for the home: big and small appliances, furniture and beds, children's furniture, accessories and toys, kitchen ware, air conditioners, computers and more. City Shop is at Kaya International #36. Telephone 717-4630.

► **Bonaire's construction boom is causing utility problems.** After Thursday's power failure caused by a crane that touched a high-voltage cable in Belnem, it appeared later that two important underground high-voltage cables in Belnem and Sabadeco were seriously damaged. WEB personnel worked 14 hours non-stop on Thursday to get the situation under control.

Yet another problem on Friday, when a contractor who was working on Boulevard J.A. Abraham broke a water pipe and left Playa Pariba without water. The problem was solved after four hours.

► **DeFreeweiler, Bonaire's foremost scooter and bike shop, is now carrying exciting new accessories for the bicyclist:**

(Continued on page 18)

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*Continued on page 5*

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# What's Coming Our Way?

Wow, there is a lot of construction going on in Bonaire these days. Just try driving over the island for 10 minutes without seeing someone carrying bricks, making concrete or painting walls. You will probably not make it, not even on a Sunday.

We want to know what is coming our way on the island, so in future issues of The Reporter we'll go somewhere and find out.

This time exploring for "What's Coming Our Way?" we don't see anyone carrying bricks at the construction site in the middle of the *mondi* along Kaminda Sorobon (coming from Playa, just past the water windmill and Rancho Chapparal, on the right hand side). Actually, it does not look like a regular construction site at all; a wooden house is being assembled here.

This is the first house, of six planned on this piece of owned land of almost two hectares, and all will be assembled (including full kitchen, three bedrooms and baths) in a time frame of just three weeks.

Three weeks Did we hear that correctly? Yes, it's true.

There's a philosophy behind this project, we are told. The natural area surrounding the houses will stay as it is right now. It has always belonged to

goats, donkeys, parrots and others, and it will remain that way. This means no fences, no separate gardens, no nothing.

The land has been touched only by a limited number of small holes drilled where anchors have been placed. These anchors hold the wooden beams that support a platform 2.40 m. (8 ft.) high, on top of which the house is built. You can imagine the views at this level over the nearby mangroves and the countless flamingos around. We've been there and we're very impressed. The platform itself is 320 m<sup>2</sup> (approx. 3,444 sq. ft.) in area.

Septic tanks and other systems have not been dug into the ground, but installed above it, right under the platform. Simple and effective, isn't it? The stairs to the platform can be pulled up automatically by just turning a key, when one is away or just wants the 'door' to be shut.

We actually expected mosqui-

toes at this location, especially in this season, but we couldn't find any, not even at dawn. We first thought it had to do with the Manzanina trees that are around (handle with care as the leaves and branches can be pretty harmful), but we later learned this is not the case. We still have to figure it out.

From the first moment we arrive we can tell this project is really innovative. Some examples: water for showering, etc. is re-cycled for flushing toilets; the wind blowing in has free access under the roof which consists of two layers. As a result the house is cooled in a natural way.

More? The swimming pool (indeed, above the ground, on platform level) is filled up during every rain shower that passes. The water falling from the roof will create the necessary foun-

tains.

Want more yet? Cooling of the bedrooms is not through conventional air conditioning units that use lots of energy but by a simple but efficient system, where shade air from under the platform is led through a freezer installation towards the bedrooms, using just 300 Watts.

We are told that all six houses on this particular property have already been sold 'among friends,' but there are very serious intentions to build more of these houses on Bonaire elsewhere. In fact, we may expect that more of them will be set up in the middle of nature north of Kaya Statius van Eps (the straight road from Belnem to Sorobon), on a plot of 80 hectares. The same philosophy—no fences, no gardens, no building in Ramsar area, natural surround-



ings to remain untouched—will apply there.

At the same time, the creative minds behind this concept offer the very same wooden house as an assembly package to anyone who wants to have one set up on their own piece of property.

Another good thing to hear is that the Sabal Palm will be brought back to Bonaire as part of this project. Before the arrival of the Spaniards this used to be the native palm on the island, but all of them were chopped down as the wood was used for building boats. Now we will see this beautiful palm tree coming back to Bonaire. The first ones are already being cultivated as we write.

Next issue we'll go somewhere else finding out "what's coming our way" on Bonaire.

There are many places we want to know more about. □ Marcel Leurs

Marcel Leurs is a developer himself (Brisas Lodge)



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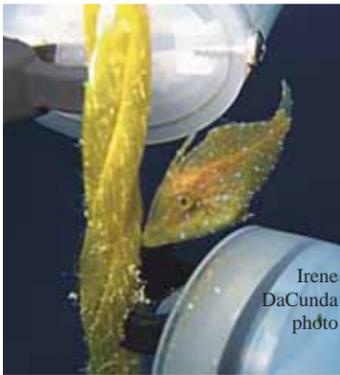
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# CLEAR BLUE WATER NEWS

## BONAIRE'S REEF-WATER QUALITY

Bonaire, known as one of the top three dive destinations on the planet and recently rated #1 as "The Top Dive Destination Overall" (Caribbean/Atlantic) for the sixth consecutive year in *Scuba Diving Magazine's* Readers' Choice Awards 2008, continues its leadership role in Reef Conservation, with its effort to capture sea water quality and chemistry data in a long-term study, needed to evaluate the health of the reef. This past August, the Bonaire National Marine Park, under the advice and guidance of Ramon de Leon, BNMP Manager, *Stichting Nationale Parken Bonaire* (STINAPA), announced the launching of the Light and Motion Sensor Program (LMSP).



A juvenile file fish between two LMSP sensors

Irene DaCunda photo

In cooperation with BNMP and STINAPA, prominent American scientist, Burt Jones, and his partner, researcher Tom Reynolds, developed a unique, low-cost solution that, with the cooperation of on-island diver volunteers, meets Bonaire's needs. Early in 2007, with the help of Albert Bianculli, well known diver, author, photographer and Bonaire resident, testing of the concept was conducted for several months off the coast of Klein Bonaire. As a result of this effort, after a review of the data collected and customized fine-tuning of the in-water hardware, the "Rainbow Mooring Cluster Array" was created. Its purpose, as Phase 1 of the study, is to establish a "Base-Line" data bank of existing seawater conditions for "trend analysis." Each independent mooring line contains nine specialized instruments that continuously read and record data every eight minutes. With further cooperation of the Harbormaster, the battery powered optical sensor devices are being deployed in the sea at selected locations along the entire leeward coast of Bonaire. Unseen from the surface, the Rainbow Moorings do not interfere with boat traffic or the natural beauty of the coast and are visited by a team of on-island diver volunteers each week for service and data retrieval.

This 10-year-long project is entirely funded by private donations from concerned and interested individuals and is being carried out by volunteers on Bonaire and at the University of Southern California (USC), under the administration and guidance of a newly formed non-profit NGO called, the Sea Monitor Foundation. The purpose of the foundation is fund-raising, administration, data processing and release, and logistical support for the duration of the program. The Sea Monitor Foundation is totally independent and is a gift to the people and the island of Bonaire.

This past week the first donation to the new Sea Monitor Foundation, a full Rainbow Mooring, value \$450, was received from three visiting divers from the Slovak Republic: Eva Hanackova, Karol Gottschal and Erik Batora. With this donation from visitors from Eastern Europe the Foundation extended its reach for funds in a new area. The Sea Monitor Foundation is launching an aggressive public awareness and funding campaign and actively seeks the cooperation and support of all interested parties, individuals, dive operators, resorts and related business enterprises on Bonaire and elsewhere.

Here are the new Sea Monitor Deployment Reports for two new Rainbow Mooring Sites on the south coast and an additional site, north of Hato, completing the planned installations for 2007:

**Site #10, "Runway,"** aka, Flamingo Airport/Donkey Beach/Windsock, Mooring Name: "Carrie," donated by: Cassandra and Franklin Neal.

**Site #11, "Pinkie,"** aka, White Slave, Array Names: 5m- "Bill & Donna Goodwin," donated by Venny Cable; 12m- "Vinnibu," donated by Vincent DePietro; 20m - "Hanulia," donated by Barbara and Robert Gillmour.

**Site #12, "Sabado,"** aka, Andrea 2, Mooring Name: "Harmoni," donated by Harrie Cox. □ *Albert Bianculli*

**For more information, to donate or to volunteer contact:** Ramon de Leon, Manager of the BNMP, [marinepark@stinapa.org](mailto:marinepark@stinapa.org) or Albert Bianculli, President, Sea monitor Foundation, email [directab@gmail.com](mailto:directab@gmail.com) or Blue McRight, LMSP Off-island Coordinator, Fundraising [bluiness@earthlink.net](mailto:bluiness@earthlink.net). □

# Community Involvement—Hawksbill Rescued

On Tuesday, December 11, a sea turtle was rescued due to the vigilance and effort of the community.

Earlier in the day, around 8am, STINAPA received a phone call from Clinton Sint Jago, a resident of Rincon, reporting a turtle in trouble. While walking along the shore at Morotin, in the northeast part of the island, he came upon an entangled and stranded turtle. STINAPA called



STCB staff, Bruce Brabec, Mabel Nava and Funchi Egbreghts with turtle.

STCB and both teams traveled to Morotin and found the turtle alive. In all likelihood, this adult male hawksbill got entangled with ropes and thick nylon lines somewhere in the open seas and had drifted for quite awhile. Now, weakened and hurt, it had washed ashore and probably would have died if Clinton had not happened upon it.

STCB staff checked the turtle after cutting the lines. The turtle was measured and tagged. He was then taken to Boca Onima for release. Everyone present was impressed to see how fast the turtle entered the water.

In order for STCB and STINAPA to accomplish its conservation goals it is essential we get reports of problems in a timely fashion. This is a happy example of how a sea turtle was saved and it would not have happened if it weren't for the concern and effort of Clinton. We encourage everyone to become part of this very important network and always report problems promptly. STCB would like to thank Clinton and BNMP Rangers, Din Domacassé and Angelo Duvale. □

*Mabel Nava, STCB story & photos*



The tangled turtle would have died

## LMSP Volunteer Report

"Cleaned and read all sensors. Everything looks good. Noticed a large Tarpon standing as a sentinel while we did our job. One pygmy file fish was present on the mooring line at the 5-meter level. During the dive, we saw a cute juvenile Balloon Fish asleep deep in a thick growth of rope sponges. I love their colorful, sparkling eyes. We had a "first" on this dive. We saw our first Porkfish ever.

Just as we were about to exit, I was watching a couple Goatfish exhibiting a kind of activity I had never seen. They were sort of charging each other, and as they met they intertwined their "feelers." Don't know if it was a mating behavior or a territorial behavior. Fun to watch anyway. So, a "first" and a "second" on this dive turned an otherwise routine dive into a special one. □

*Bill Wildin*

## DO YOU SUDOKU?

Sudoku means "the digits must remain single" in Japanese. To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. For a tutorial visit the web site [www.Sudoku Shack.com](http://www.Sudoku Shack.com). **Solution on page 12.**

Supplied by *Molly Bartikoski-Kearney* (who has to solve all the puzzles first.)

		9	7	2		1		
		8			6	4		5
3		6	9					8
	4		3	1			7	2
9					5			6
8	3				7		4	
5					1	9		7
1		3	8			6		
		4		9	3	2		



# The Pastor's Pen

During the holiday season we thought it appropriate to reflect on the meaning of this holiday.

## The Night Before Christmas

“T was the night before Christmas,” begins Clement Moore’s poem written in 1823. Perhaps nothing ever written has so influenced our secular view of Christmas than this poem. Is Christmas only secular or is there a biblical and spiritual component? Here is the clear Scripture record of four events.

**First** there is the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, their frantic search for quarters, their settling down in a shelter for cattle. The “fullness of time had come for Mary.” For months she had been pondering in her heart the annunciation of the angel, the words of Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45), the angel’s assurance to Joseph, and the Old Testament prophecies she incorporated in what we call “the magnificat” (Luke 1:45-55). All these things were now moving to a climax in Mary’s heart. She is now in Bethlehem with Joseph.

**Second**, there is the virgin birth of Jesus. Isn’t it remarkable that

the event on which all history turns was unheralded, unattended, and unknown except for the animals and the angels? This was the advent of that ancient prophecy that a virgin should conceive and bear a son and call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23). Hosts of angels fell down to worship and rose up to sing.

**Third**, there was the appearance of the angels to the shepherds. Unto these simple and faithful men, who believed the prophecies and had prepared their hearts, the veil that separates earth from heaven was drawn back, and they saw and heard the heavenly hosts. How wonderful was the announcement, how glorious their praise.

**Fourth**, in a far-off land the Magi, as they studied the skies, saw the appearance of a new star that night. Perhaps no part of the Christmas story has a greater appeal to popular fancy than that of the wise men mentioned in Matthew’s gospel. Who were they? Where did they get the information they had to have

about the promised king? What was their country, their nationality? How many of them were they? It appears they were men in search of the truth regarding the birth of the promised king. Thus they embarked on the long journey. When they saw the star they knew somehow that the King had been born. In them we have divine provision, through their gifts (gold, frankincense and myrrh) of safety and financial security for the long journey to Egypt of Mary, Joseph and the infant, and the return to Nazareth. □ *Pastor Baran (International Bible Church of Bonaire)*



# Annual Animal Shelter Auction



Excitement was high as the auctioneer called out “Do I hear NAf 450?” The prices went higher and higher and the guilders rolled in from the bids being made on the donated art work that was sold last Friday night at the annual fund raising event of the Bonaire Animal Shelter held at Sunrise Restaurant.

An internet web site was prepared in advance of the auction by Bart Landheer, displaying all of the items.

Viewers could place their highest bids online which set the starting prices on the pieces being offered.

The evening began with an Indonesian dinner prepared by the restaurant Warung Louise and was followed by a special surprise – a concert of Christmas Carols sung by the group Kreater led by Rhonda Bennett.

This annual auction raises much of the needed funds to

support the budget for the shelter each year.

Thanks to the skill of auctioneers Rene Essink and Annië Schouten (above) and the generosity of those bidding, the net total earned for The Shelter was NAf 15.700.

The evening ended with final comments by Shelter president, Paul Wichers, which included thanks to the evening’s sponsors Warehouse Bonaire, ASECOM Business Support, N.V., Jacobs Architecten NV, Papagayo Restaurant, Pension Exclusive Bonaire (PEB), Flamingo Communications, Sunrise Restaurant, and to all those who helped make this the most successful fundraiser ever held for the Shelter.

□ Story and photos by *Bob Lassiter*



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# More Guides



Rona Aguilar photo

Bonaire visitors are most fortunate when they are guided by a graduate of Sue Ellen Felix’s In-Depth and Guiding Skills Class. Earlier this month the latest group of 24 students received their certificates after an intensive 10 weeks (70+ hours) of study at a ceremony at the Black Durgon Inn. Governor Herbert Domacassé presented the certificates, Helen Thode of TCB offered congratulations following a talk by Archeologist Jay Haviser on his research into Bonaire’s WW-II involvement. Student Suze Joukes and her husband Philip catered the food for the evening.

The course consisted of classroom instruction and practical work as well as tours of Bonaire, Kralendijk, Cargill Salt Co., Butterfly Farm, BOPEC, San Francisco Hospital and the recompression chamber. Experts from various sectors of Bonaire freely gave of their time and knowledge in classroom lectures. Rona Aguilar assisted Ms. Felix in the conduct of the classes.

A special “thank-you” goes out to all of those who shared their knowledge and helped to make this course a success. □ *Sue Ellen Felix*

# Fundashon Kuido pa Bista i Oido -FKBO- Receives MCB Annual Award.



Evert Piar, Managing Director of MCB (Bonaire) N.V. (right) hands FKBO founder, Wicha Coffie a token of the bank's award. Looking on are Assistant Managing Director Orphaline Saleh, Assistant Managing Director Rudy Gomez, current FKBO President Elka Coffi and FKBO Secretary Roxanne Timp.

MCB's Orphaline Saleh explains: "At the occasion of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we introduced the Annual Award to recognize each year one organization which has excelled with activities benefiting our community at large. We are presenting the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Award to FKBO which joins the ranks of distinguished previous winners such as Bonaire Sailing Foundation (BSAF, 2002), Bonaire Special Olympics (2003), Sentro pa Hubentut Jong Bonaire (2004), Bonaire Youth Outreach (2005) and Prinses Wilhelina Fonds (2006).

FKBO is an organization dedicated to citizens with sight and hearing limitations, while at the same time providing preventive education about good eye and hearing care to the public. Active since 1975, this society

or foundation was originally named *Blindenzorg* (Bonaire Foundation for the Blind). Mrs. Wicha Coffie, who with an immense dedication used to drive and pick up all her 'blind friends' and take them to have a good time. She and her team worked endlessly to achieve miracles with very little resources.

In 2002 the foundation was re-activated under the direction of Onnie Emerenciana, pioneers Wicha, Elsa Molina and Lelia Booi, and a new board. Now the president is Elka Coffi, who followed in her mother Wicha's footsteps. Everyone remembers the powerful Radiothon that captured all of Bonaire's attention, raising funds to purchase a new bus. In the same period, their target client was expanded to include, besides patients with eyesight problems, also

those with hearing problems, while adding guidance and prevention to their objectives. Armed with new bylaws and a new name, the foundation went to battle for their own office center, with advanced equipment, which they successfully achieved.

Additionally, they completed extensive and professional surveys to determine the need for care on Bonaire. Contacts were made and alliances formed with similar organizations outside Bonaire, and so obtaining know-how and information to share in our community. Several educational lectures for the public were organized, also highlighting good care and prevention. An information campaign and trainings were executed to familiarize Bonaireans with the "White Cane" used by the blind.

These are just a few examples and only the beginning! The organization is working

hard on a number of important projects, which will surely benefit not only those with seeing and hearing limitations, but our society as a whole.

Generally speaking, *Fundashon Kuido pa Bista i Oido* has raised awareness on Bonaire about our co-citizens with seeing and hearing limitations, to encourage their active participation in daily life, while at the same time educating each one of us how to better care for our eyes and ears to prevent damage. We often do not realize how precious the senses of seeing and hearing are, and most of us cannot imagine what it means not to be able to see or hear. This is why the role of FKBO in our community, to make us more aware and emphasize proper care, is so important and valuable." □ Orphaline Saleh

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# Rocargo Youth Talent Show

Rocargo's Youth Talent Show for Bonaire's elementary schools demonstrated how much talent Bonaire's youngsters possess and how hard they can work to show it. The entertaining program at the SGB auditorium on Sunday, November 25, played to a large and enthusiastic audience and delivered lots of surprises.

The afternoon was opened with

children of the primary schools of Bonaire today."

And then show itself began. One after the other the kids of the schools San Luis Bertran, Kristu Bon Wardador, Papa Cornes, Reina Beatrix and the Watapana presented very diverse shows with songs, rhythmic poetry, playback, drama, dancing, choir music, a fashion extravaganza and brass band music. The

public was enthusiastic again and again in their applause. The intense preparation of the performers was evident from the very original costumes and the smoothness with which

pressed by what they had seen. He urged the children not to stop, but to continue and develop the talents they had demonstrated today.

Precisely when MC Miss Kathy was to announce the results there was another surprise. It was Sinterklaas who wanted to see the show but arrived a bit late. But he was just in time for the announcement of the three winners.

And the winners were: First prize: Kishaya Melaan and Luigi Molina from Skol Papa Cornes with their presentation playback of Shakira.



a vibrant presentation by Angelo Domacassé's New Generation Dancers. Nataly Coffie sang a beautiful welcome song then asked Marisela Croes, Director of Rocargo Services, the program's organizer, to come forward to officially open the event.

Marisela welcomed everyone with a thoughtful message: "Why promote art expression by young people? Stimulating education in artistic expression helps the development of self-esteem, self-respect, communication and expression skills, appreciation and respect for the work of others, cooperation, and critical thinking skills. All these skills are extremely important for the shaping and guaranteeing of our

the show proceeded. From the side the teachers coached their student protégées. Their faces reflected the emotions they were sharing with their students.

One of the surprises of the afternoon was the appearance of Tio Sandy from Curaçao as guest star. Tio Sandy brought everyone in the room into motion, both



future leaders, our children. But perhaps the most important advantage is that the children get to experience the excitement of being creative. This is arranging, performing, reciting poetry, acting, dancing, singing, or playing an instrument! I am certain that you will all enjoy and feel stimulated by the presentations of the

those standing and sitting. Around 7:30 pm the jury had their decision ready. It was a rather heavy task to select the three winners. Mr. Errol Martha, the jury president, first addressed the children. He complimented them on their presentations. He said also that all the jury members were very im-

Second prize: J-Son Carter, Magmelino Clarinda, Gentle French, Raigel Molina, Luigi Molina, Larry Melaan, Zildjan Melaan of Skol Papa Cornes. They presented as Hember Brass band. (Bucket brass band). Third prize: Francisco Manuel from Watapana Skol. Francisco presented a rhythmic poetry, *Lagoen i Orea pa tende*. Rocargo thanks all children, their teachers and their schools. Also the jury members Angelo Domacassé, Byron Tromp, Al-

mar Nicolas, Shaedra Baromeo and Errol Martha as President. Also Ms. Kathy the MC, the Press, Playa Trading, Claire Sealy and all who helped to make to show a success.

Also a big thank you to the organizing committee who took care of the stage, the program and full coordination: Yardline Sint Jago, Ludsilla Rosaria, Mariella Goeloe, Jo-Ann Thielman, Albert Sint Jago and Rodney Thode. Incidentally, the stage backdrops and decorations were all made with recycled ma-

terials.

There have been requests to repeat the show and also to organize a Youth Talent Show for the students of the SGB. The possibilities are being considered. □ Marisela Croes; photos by Claire Sealy





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# Press Corps Honored A Choir is Born –“Kreater”



Bonaire's Press with MCB's Evert Piar, Orphaline Saleh and Rudy Gomez; Bubui Cicilia (Bon FM), Papi Antoin (Extra), Aubrey and Claire Sealy (NOBO), Micheal Pietersz (Ultimo Noticia), Aimeed Ayub (BO TV), Zamir Ayubi (Radio Digital), Alfred Ronde (BO TV), George and Laura DeSalvo (The Bonaire Reporter), Charly Anthony (La Prensa), Cliff Frans (Telecourant)

Last Friday the MCB Bank Bonaire hosted a Press Appreciation evening at the Chibi Chibi Restaurant at Divi Flamingo. The event which has become a tradition for the last six years is the Bank's way of saying thank you to the members of Bonaire's press corps. Evert Piar, MCB Managing Director, put it this way. "Especially for our friends of the Press, I would like to express on behalf of Bo Banko Amigu our great appreciation for your contributions. On many previous occasions I have already thanked you for your efforts to inform and educate our co-citizens and the critical role that you fulfill. Your function in society is extremely important to keep our community informed about events and

developments that impact our daily lives directly. Particularly now, when our island and people are at a crucial point, and we have already started feeling the effect of the constitutional changes, you carry a serious responsibility. Besides keeping us all well-informed about developments, you hold the tools to generate healthy discussions and call attention to situations requiring adjustment or improvement. In doing this, Press objectiveness is key. By offering objective information, constructive criticism, and mature dialogue, you hold the keys to a form of social control which keeps us all alert and I hope on the right track. Today, once more, I thank you for playing this significant part." □ L.D.



Bob Lassiter photo

The choir in full voice at the Animal Shelter Auction

The choir, "Kreater," was founded this past September by John and Mieke le Noble who recently moved to Bonaire from Holland where they'd created another choir, also called "Kreater." Since Kreater's inception on Bonaire 21 members have joined. They practice once a week on Mondays from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm in the Brazil Room at the Plaza Resort. Everybody is welcome to pass by and join them. Rhonda Bennett of Sign Studio is the conductor. At the moment the monthly fee for members is Naf 25. During this holiday season they are performing Christmas music. Last Friday they sang at the Rotary dinner and offered three performances for auction for the Animal Shelter Dinner and Auction last

week. They entertained the elderly at the hospital and will sing for the FKPD. Those performances were for charity. You may hear them on December 23 at 8 pm at Donna and Giorgio's and on December 25 at 9 am at Yacht Club Apartments. Rhonda has a lot in mind for the next year for this group which considers itself a pop and rock choir. They sing mostly with digital music, but anyone who can play an instrument is welcome as well. Rhonda does plays guitar and sometimes accompanies them. For more information contact Amanda at Harbourtown Realty: amanda@harbourtownbonaire.com. □ Amanda/L.D.

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# Guest Editorial

The opinions in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the editorial opinion of this newspaper.

## Dirt Drivers

People on Bonaire like to drive. Everywhere they want to go they mostly use the iron donkey: to go shopping, to the beach, to take the children to school, etc. You can even see people driving with their garbage! That always strikes me as odd because usually they are not going towards the *lentfel* (landfill). More and more you find little garbage heaps in the *mondi* (wilderness). Some people still think it is normal to put garbage in the back of the car and then dump it along the side of a more desolate road.

There are a few things that are very strange about this concept. Firstly, the garbage is already in the car, so why not drive it to the *lentfel*? The *lentfel* is not picky. Or is this some very special garbage that cannot be treated in such a trivial way? Does it need its own special place in the *mondi*?

Secondly, is there no guilty feeling? Does Bonaire need to become one big garbage heap? Everyone knows that one is not supposed to dump garbage just anywhere. And SELIBON is doing a perfectly good job. Do these 'dirt drivers' really think that waste alongside a dirt road is never going to be witnessed by a single living soul on Bonaire? And do they think that they are the first to ever take their mess to a wilder part of the island? Of course not!

There can be only one explanation for this shameless behavior. These 'dirt drivers' believe in wind spirits. They believe that as soon as they leave their token out in the wilderness, the wind spirits will come and take it from them. Well, for your information, there are windspirits, but they do not clean up your mess, they clean up your mind.

It is like the contents of a closet. You just throw in some junk that you do not use daily, and then you forget it. You could not tell the contents of your closet even if your life depended on it! The wind spirits make people forget what they have done. "Come now," you say, "wind spirits..? Pfff...what a load of baloney!" And you are right; there is no excuse to take your garbage out ... for a drive. □ *Mary Ann Koops*

NO TIRA SUSHI  
AKI BAI LENTFEL



Mary Ann Koops photo

"Don't throw trash here. Go to the landfill."

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## SOLUTION TO DO YOU SUDOKU?

Puzzle on page 6

4	5	9	7	2	8	1	6	3
2	7	8	1	3	6	4	9	5
3	1	6	9	5	4	7	2	8
6	4	5	3	1	9	8	7	2
9	2	7	4	8	5	3	1	6
8	3	1	2	6	7	5	4	9
5	8	2	6	4	1	9	3	7
1	9	3	8	7	2	6	5	4
7	6	4	5	9	3	2	8	1

# Picture Yourself With The Reporter Presidential Palace, Suriname



It's becoming a habit to take *The Bonaire Reporter* to weddings in Suriname. So, Janto Djamin (The beloved IT-Guy here on Bonaire), Mudji Djamin (Medical analyst in the San Francisco Hospital) and Michelle Djamin (pupil of the Hardin di Chikitin) are here posing at the wedding of their sister and aunt Murni and her newly-wed husband Marciano Dasai in front of the Presidential Palace in Suriname. After the wedding the couple went on a three-year honeymoon trip to Indonesia. □

**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: [info@bonairereporter.com](mailto:info@bonairereporter.com). (All 2007 photos are eligible.)

# Bubbles from the Biologist

## Did You Know...

**M**arine mammals evolved from terrestrial ancestors? Throughout the millions of years it took for them to adapt to the marine environment, they went through many changes. For instance, for insulation in cold water, some marine mammals developed a layer of blubber while others have thick fur with a waterproof underlayer. As a diver, the area that intrigues me the most is how marine mammals have evolved to dive to great depths and to stay there for extended periods of time. Many have lungs that collapse at great depths and the air is forced into the windpipe where nitrogen can no longer be absorbed into the bloodstream and later cause decompression sickness upon ascent. Some marine mammals undergo bradycardia, a condition where the heart rate and the flow of blood to the extremities slows. Some humans undergo bradycardia when submerged in cold water. Toothed whales, like the sperm whale, can dive and hunt for their prey for more than an hour to depths more than 3000m. Some incredible people, after years of training, can free dive to depths over 500 feet and can hold their breath for more than 8 minutes! □



Biologist-Author Caren Eckrich teaches Coral Reef Ecology and Scientific Diving to American University students at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire. You can reach her at 717-5322 .



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# DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Balashi Beach Bar</b> Bar and Beach Service At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront	Open every day 8am - 8pm. Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm.	On the beach Extensive snack/salad/burger menu available daily from noon.
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant, Buddy's Pool Bar</b> Sea Side 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; Mon. - "Dive and Dine;" Wed. - "Live Cooking by the Chefs;" Fri. - Free Rum Punch Party (5:30-6:30 pm) and All-u-can-eat BBQ for \$19.50 (7-10 pm)
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 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 28,50 or \$16.
<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 Great value anytime.
<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>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debrot 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

# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



## AIRLINES

**Divi Divi Air.** 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.

## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

**City Shop,** 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.

## BANKS

**Maduro and Curiel's Bank** provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

## BEAUTY PARLOR

**Hair Affair.** Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.

## BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

**De Freewieler** rents bikes, scooters and quads. Professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.

## CELLULAR SERVICE

**Mio** offers the clearest, most reliable signal on the island. And their personnel are trained and friendly. Check out their "rugged" phone.

## DIVING

**Carib Inn** 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.

**Dive Friends Bonaire (Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine)** -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their monthly cleanup dives and BBQ.

**Dive Inn**—For your diving with a personal touch. Located in town at Chacha cha Beach. Drop ins and cruise ship passengers welcome

**WannaDive** - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.

## FITNESS

**Fit For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall.** Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

## FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

**Interiours—(formerly Plantation)** New name, same owner and location. Has lots of beautiful, often one-of-a-kind furniture, antiques, crafts and accessories from mainland China and Indonesia.

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

**Green Label** has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Now in new expanded location off Kaya Industria.

## NATURE EXPLORATION

**Outdoor Bonaire** for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rappelling/abseiling and more  
reservations : 791-6272 or 785-6272 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com

## PHOTO FINISHING

**Paradise Photo** in the Galeries Shopping Center downtown offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services. **Full digital services.**

## PHOTO SERVICES

**Capture Photo** at the Divi Flamingo. Photo classes, camera rental, digital processing, all state of the art!

## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

**Caribbean Homes,** "the Refreshing Realtor," specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management.

**Harbourtown Real Estate** is Bonaire's most experienced real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer service, top notch properties and home owners insurance.

**Re/Max Paradise Homes:** Lots of Choices—International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them to sell fast.

**Sunbelt Realty** offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

## RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

**Buddy Dive Resort** offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration. Full service dive shop and photo shop too.

## RETAIL

**Benetton,** world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

**Best Buddies and Pearls**—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Under new management.

**Valeries Airport Shops** — Convenient shopping for unique items, magazines, gifts and more.

## SECURITY

**Special Security Services** will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

## SHIPPING

**Rocargo Freight** Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent.**

## SUPERMARKETS

**Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria**—Biggest air conditioned market with the, largest selection and lowest prices on the island.

## WATER TAXI

**Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry.** Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup. Easiest landing on Klein

## WINDSURFING

**The Bonaire Windsurfing Place** 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.

## WINES

**Antillean Wine Company.** 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.

## Scuba Sales

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## CARIB INN

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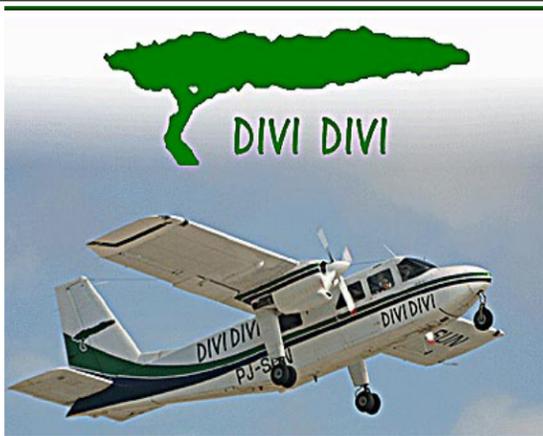
## KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
12-21	10:30	2.2FT.	19:56	0.8FT.					76
12-22	11:17	2.2FT.	20:44	0.7FT.					87
12-23	12:00	2.2FT.	21:41	0.6FT.					95
12-24	12:45	2.2FT.	22:28	0.6FT.					100
12-25	13:35	2.1FT.	23:06	0.6FT.					100
12-26	14:19	2.0FT.	23:42	0.7FT.					97
12-27	0:11	0.8FT.	15:12	1.9FT.					89
12-28	0:43	0.8FT.	15:57	1.7FT.					79
12-29	1:01	0.9FT.	9:25	1.5FT.	13:00	1.4FT.	16:48	1.5FT.	67
12-30	1:06	1.0FT.	8:44	1.6FT.	15:25	1.3FT.	17:44	1.4FT.	54
12-31	0:50	1.0FT.	8:49	1.7FT.	16:50	1.2FT.	18:44	1.2FT.	43
1-01	0:00	1.0FT.	9:08	1.8FT.	18:10	1.1FT.	20:12	1.1FT.	35
1-02	9:32	1.9FT.	18:50	1.0FT.					34
1-03	9:56	2.0FT.	19:40	0.9FT.					38
1-04	10:21	2.0FT.	20:18	0.8FT.					46
1-05	10:50	2.1FT.	20:50	0.8FT.					54
1-06	11:23	2.1FT.	21:31	0.7FT.					63
1-07	11:52	2.1FT.	22:09	0.7FT.					71
1-08	12:23	2.1FT.	22:40	0.7FT.					79

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## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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# It's Christmas & New year's Eve time at Buddy Dive Resort!

## Christmas Eve

5.30 - 6.30 pm

Happy Hour with Free Christmas Snacks and Santa Claus is on the resort to hand out gifts to all the children staying at Buddy Dive from 5 till 6:30 pm..

6.30 - 10.00 pm

**3-Course Christmas Menu (\$ 25.75)**

We will be serving a delicious 3-course Christmas Menu on the beach and in the Poolbar. The menu consists of the following items:

*French Union Soup with cheese gratin*

*Traditional Oxtail Soup*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Turkey Breast stuffed with Spinach and Blue Cheese*

*Red Snapper with an Orange Sauce*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Mango Dessert*

(A la Carte Menu also available)

Live music :

Moogie's Christmas Carols unplugged!

## Christmas Day

5.30 - 6.30 pm

Happy Hour with Free Christmas Snacks

6.30 - 10.00 pm

**4-Course Christmas Menu (\$ 29.75)**

The delicious 4-Course Christmas Menu consists of the following items:

*Carpaccio with a Raspberry Dressing*

*Mushrooms in Beer Pastry served with Toast*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Vegetable Bouillon*

*French Mustard Soup with Ham*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Filet of Cod with a creamy Salmon Mousse*

*Tenderloin and Bacon served with a Red Wine Sauce*

*Tournedos of Turkey with a Stroganoff Sauce*

*Classic Spinach Lasagna*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Belgium Waffle served with Warm Cherries and Vanilla Ice Cream*

*Key Lime Pie served with Vanilla Ice Cream*

*Main Course is served with: Apple Compote, Green*

*Salad, Broccoli, Rice and French Fries!*

Live music by the Latin Jazz Quartet!

## Boxing Day

5.30 - 6.30 pm

Happy Hour with Free Christmas Snacks

6.30 - 10.00 pm

**Boxing Day Beach Cooking (prices vary)**

*Our chefs prepare a 1-, 2-, or 3-course dinner while you are watching for only \$ 3.75 (soup/ dessert), \$ 18.75 (main course) or \$ 24.75 (3-course)*

*There is a choice between: Meat, fish, chicken and shrimps for main course*

(There are only a limited number of seats available, so make your reservation at the Poolbar)

## Happy New Year! Buffet

On new Year's Eve, we will prepare a delicious buffet for you in order to prepare you for a nice party!

The buffet runs from 6:30 till 9:30 pm and is only \$ 24.75!

## New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve, Buddy Dive organises one of the nicest parties of Bonaire at the Poolbar!

The Kaumati Thrillers will play live music from 10.00 pm till 2.00 am.

**Reservations are advisory - Call 717-5080 ext. 538**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## HAPPENING SOON

**Now Through December 31 – Art Exhibition by Frans Booi and Winfred Dania at the Kas di Arte.** Open daily from 10 am. See page 18.

**Now until December 31—MCB's 45th Anniversary Celebration—** See page 4

**Thursday, December 20—SGB High School Christmas Market—**at the high school— everyone's invited, 7 pm to 11pm. Entry is NAf 1.

**Saturday, December 22—Winter begins**

**Saturday, December 22— Doubles tennis tournament,** starting at 9am sharp. Youth players can sign up at the Harbour Village Tennis Center before December 22nd. Registration fee is NAf 10 and includes lunch.

**Sunday, December 23—Full Moon**

**Sunday, December 23—Kreater Choir sings Christmas Carols,** Donna & Giorgio's, 8 pm

**Monday, December 24—**The International Bible Church is having a **candle light service and a concert** by Barbara and her husband Keith Johnston from Canada. Service starts at 6:30 pm at the church building across from the TWR station  
**Tuesday, December 25—Christmas Day -** Banks and most shops closed

**Tuesday, December 25—Kreater Choir sings Christmas Carols,** Yacht Club Apartments, 9 am

**Wednesday, December 26—Boxing Day –** Banks and most shops closed

**Monday, December 31—Celebrate new Years Eve at Buddy Dive.** Buffet 6:30 to 9:30 pm; Kaumati thrillers entertain 10 pm to 2 am. Champagne at midnight; big fireworks show— see page 13

**Holiday Banking Hours: December 24 and 31—8 am to 12 noon; January 2—Normal opening hours**

**Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Days, 10 am—2 pm:** Sunday, Dec. 23—*Maasdam*; Tuesday, Dec. 25—*Amsterdam*; Wednesday, Dec. 26—(2 ships) *Crown Princess, Queen Elizabeth II*; Tuesday, Dec. 27- *Galaxy*; Thursday, Dec. 29-*Aidavita*; Sunday, Dec. 30-*Club Med 2*; Tuesday, Jan. 1—(2 ships) *Emerald Princess, Sea Princess*

## REGULAR EVENTS

- The popular **SGB High School restaurant, Chez Nous**, has recently reopened to the public. Four-course dinners with welcome cocktail on Tuesdays. Seating begins at 6 pm. Lunches on Wednesday & Thursdays. Call 717-8120, ask for

Chez Nous or email: keesleeman@telbonet.an

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 6-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**

- HH—50% off- **Buddy Dive Resort**, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

- Divi Flamingo Casino** open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm– 4 am; Sunday 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) with live mariachi- **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. 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.

- Soldachi Tours**—See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information—796-7870.

- 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.

- Mountain Bike Training for riders of all levels (also Tuesday)** at 5pm. Bonaire Wellness Connexions, Eden Beach, 785-0767, email [info@bonairewellness.com](mailto:info@bonairewellness.com)

### 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

- Chill Out with the Flamingo Rockers** at Den Laman's Reef Restaurant. 4 pm. and goes to 7:30. Hear your favorite Rock 'n Roll, Reggae, Soul, Country and Calypso.

### Mondays

- Dinner and a Show at Casablanca Argentinean Grill—Reporter** writer Albert Bianculli presents his **Multi-Image Production "Bonaire Holiday"** at 6:30pm, 7:30 pm & 8:30pm

- "Dive & Dine" **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6:30 –9:30 pm

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

### Tuesdays

- Margarita & Taco Tuesdays!** With \$2.50 Margaritas and a Taco bar! Plus Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, 6-8pm **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**

### Wednesdays

- "Live Cooking by the Chefs" with live music by the Flamingo Rockers Unplugged - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6-10 pm

### Thursdays

- Flamingo Rockers, at "Admiral's Hour"** for yachtsmen and others, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7

### Fridays

**Le Boulevard Restaurant**, open 9 –10:30

am. Only on Fridays. Coffee, tea, homemade baked goods. Stichting Project. Kaya J.A. Abraham#27

- 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

- Friday Weekly Market at Wilhelmina Park** with local art, music and food; summer fashions, jewelry, glasswork, Bonaire pictures, driftwood art, paintings and all kinds of Bonaire souvenirs, 9 am to 2 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, Live music by Flamingo Rockers, **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 6-7 pm

- Free Rum Punch Party** (5:30- 6:30 pm) with Moogie Nation, followed by all-u-can-eat BBQ, 7-10 pm, **Buddy Dive Resort**

## FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

**Saturday- Discover Our Diversity** slide show-pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 7 pm, 717-5080

**Monday- Land & Ocean Bonaire** by Fish-Eye photo staff, 8 pm on the big screen in front of Bonaire Dive & Adventure.

**Tuesday—Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, **Buddy Dive Resort**, 7 pm—717-3802.

**Wednesday- Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*, every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8819) at 7pm.

**Wednesday—Diving Facts And Fiction - An Evening with DIR** slide/video show by Caribbean Gas Training, 8 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure, 786-5073

## BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

**Kas Kriyo Rincon**—Step into Bonaire's past in this venerable old home that has been restored and furnished so it appears the family has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell you the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9–12, 2-4. Weekends by appointment. Call 717-2445.

**Mangasina di Rei, Rincon**. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060/ 790-2018

**Bonaire Museum** on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

**Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center**. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

## CLUBS and MEETINGS

**AA meetings** - every **Wednesday**; Phone: 786-4651 or 786-7699 .

**Al-Anon meetings** - every **Monday** evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

**Cancer Survivor Support Group** Majestic Journeys Bonaire N.V. Lourdes Shopping Center 2nd Level Kaya LD Gerharts # 10. Call 717-2482/566-6093.

**Weekly Bonaire Talker Gathering and Dinner** at Gibi's - **Tuesday - 6:30 pm** - call 567-0655 for directions.

**Bridge Club - Wednesdays**, 7.30 pm at Sunrise Pool Bar. all levels, NAf2,50. Call Joop 717-5903 or be there by 7:15. **Darts Club** plays every other **Sunday** at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

**JCI - First Wednesday of the Month**- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jay-

cees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

**Kiwanis Club** meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other **Tuesday**, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

**Lions Club** meets every **2nd and 4th Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome.

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

**Toastmasters Club** meets every **two weeks**. For more information call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

## 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 Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10 am. *Rincon*, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children's club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk

Sunday School, Sundays, 4 pm, in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, Thursdays, at 8 pm, Kralendijk.

**New Apostolic Church:** 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 Papiamentu, Spanish and English.

**Catholic:** *San Bernardus in Kralendijk* – Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8304.

*Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol*, Saturday at 6 pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

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

**Ministerio di Kristu Hesus** Services Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

**Send event info to:**

**The Bonaire Reporter**

**Email reporter@bonairenews.com**  
Tel:790-6518 or 790-8988

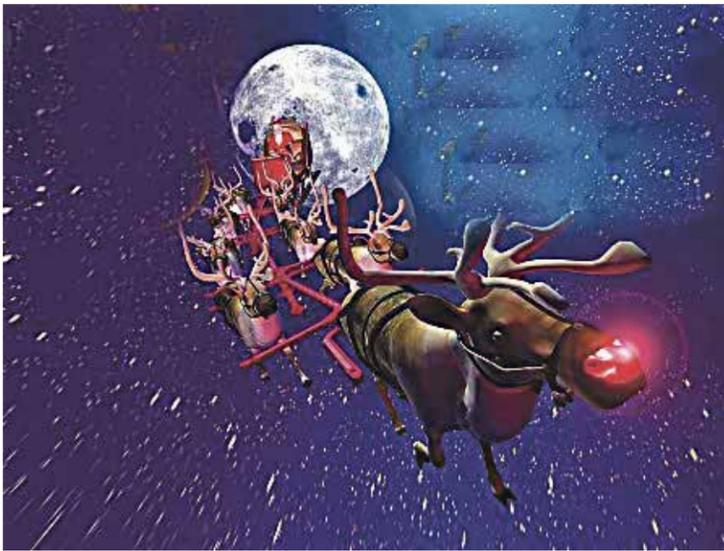


# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

"What Do Santa Claus, the Moon and Mars Have in Common?"

In case you are wondering exactly what Santa Claus, the Moon and Mars do have in common the short answer is all three will be up all night from Sunset Christmas Eve to



Sunrise Christmas morning. In fact old Saint Nick will be able to fly all night long guided by the light of the highest riding full Moon until the year 2023, accompanied by Mars at its highest until 2040! Plus Mars will be at its closest and brightest until the year 2016! And if that's not enough, Mars will also be officially at **opposition** on Christmas Eve which means that it will be at its very best for this close encounter! Let me explain.

On this Sunday December 23rd, one hour after sunset, face east where you will see a brilliant full Moon, called the **Moon before Yule**, and right below it is the 4th planet out from the **Sun**, half the size of our **Earth**, 4,000-mile-wide, rouge-gold Mars which will not be this close or this bright for another 8 1/2 years. In fact Mars will be brighter than any star in the sky. Plus if you go out every hour you will see that Mars and the full Moon will stay beside each other all night long, climbing the sky until they reach their very highest point around midnight. After that they will slowly descend toward the west and will set in the west as the Sun rises in the east. So they'll both be in the sky all night long from sunset to sunrise.

Now 24 hours later on Christmas Eve Mars will be officially at opposition, which means that it will be directly opposite the Sun as seen from Earth and thus will be in the sky all the hours that the Sun is not. So wherever you happen to be on Christmas Eve if you look to the east just after sunset you will be able to watch Mars rise higher and higher above the eastern horizon followed by the Moon. And they'll travel across the sky together in this formation all night long. So dear old Santa will have two celestial companions to light up the night, a super bright Moon and a super bright Mars.

But just how close is Mars this Christmas Eve? Well about 14 months ago, September 30th 2006, Mars was 242 and 1/2 million miles away. But by January 1st of this year Mars was only 221 million miles away, and we've been chasing it ever since. On June 1st it was only 150 million miles away, by December 1st only 57 1/2 million miles away, but on Christmas Eve it will be only 55 million miles away and so bright it will knock your socks off. So if you get a telescope for Christmas make sure that one of the first things you look at through it is good old rouge-gold Mars. And if it's not cloudy out Christmas Eve I guarantee you will see both Mars and the Moon. And I think I can safely say that this year Mars' red light will completely outshine Rudolph's! □ *Jack Horkheimer*



December 2007

**Aries**-Focus this month is on branching out, expanding your interests, higher education, adventure, and perhaps some travel. Venturing beyond your routine is something you're itching to do now. In fact, an opportunity to travel to somewhere exotic, a chance to reach a wider audience in the work you do, a financial break, or a publishing deal could drop into your lap this month.

**Taurus**-An insurance settlement, tax rebate, or an inheritance could come your way, and this is an excellent month in which to work on financial planning and strategy. Financial gains may come through a partnership. Sexual and romantic opportunities abound in December, or your focus on one partner becomes more expansive, warm, and intimate. This is a brilliant month for working with a special partner.

**Gemini**-December is a month in which you could see dazzling changes to a partnership. You can negotiate more successfully than ever, and, if applicable, win in negotiations or legal matters. Challenging problems from the past can be resolved, and more casual disputes can be settled. Good publicity may come your way this month with a positive, winning attitude.

**Cancer**-December is a month in which you enjoy important, positive changes to your health or your job. It could also be a time when you receive a healthy bonus or promotion. Your winning attitude and display of confidence on the job will go a long way towards advancement and satisfaction. Improvements to your working environment are likely.

**Leo**-Your love life and creativity thrive in December! Creative projects could possibly even bring some type of recognition or reward mid-month. Coming out into the open with a personal interest or hobby can figure now. Love and romance may enter your life or existing ties are deepened and enhanced. Pregnancy or childbirth may occur during this period, if applicable.

**Virgo**-December is a power month for you when it comes to positive changes to your family and home life, as well as to your basic sense of well-being and security. Some form of reward may be offered to you now. Don't pass up on any opportunities that come your way. Opportunities to buy or sell real estate for financial gain may present themselves

**Libra**-This month, you find much joy in communicating, learning, and socializing, dear Libra. You may decide to buy a new car, or transportation opportunities present themselves, making it much easier for you to get from point A to point B. Gifts and opportunities may come through visits, short trips, messages, emails, or through contacts with siblings, classmates, and neighbors.

**Scorpio**-A strong financial month is in store for you, dear Scorpio. Monetary problems from the past may clear up, especially in the first three weeks of December. A major purchase or sale is very possible. A significant gift or bonus could also come your way. This is a good time to rally for a raise, apply for a loan, or take part in various dealings with financial institutions.

**Sagittarius**-A fabulous conclusion to Jupiter's transit through your sign occurs this month, when personal influence and prestige is very strong. Events occur that help you overcome problems that previously seemed challenging or even insurmountable. The impression you create on others is distinctive. You feel considerably more free to be yourself, and others tend to accept you more readily.

**Capricorn**-The first half of December is a power period for you when you could uncover awesome opportunities that were previously hidden or unrecognizable. Work that involves serving others may begin now and bring you much joy. Help seems to be there when you need it. Work and career matters prosper, friends are especially helpful, and business income is strong.

**Aquarius**-The achievement of a long-term goal is likely to occur this month, dear Aquarius. You may have opportunities to join or lead clubs and groups. Group activities and associations could be avenues for fulfilling your own goals. Your inclination to believe that "if you wish it, it will be" truly takes you places in December.

**Pisces**-December is a power month for your career, professional influence, and reputation. Some form of reward and recognition comes your way now. This can be a time of achievement, career advancement, and success in business. There could be a promotion, new job opportunity, a diploma or other boon. □ *Annie Fox*

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**BONAIRE ON WHEELS**

The 24<sup>th</sup> in a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

## Bastian and His "Big Foot" Unimog

Bonaire/Kralendijk – Bastian Kuipers rolls his "Big Foot" four-wheel drive Unimog along the boulevard of Kralendijk very carefully, heading for the harbor where a huge cruise ship is anchored. It is high season; the Unimog truck fits 14 passengers and Bastian and his vehicle are prepared to show the tourists the beautiful island of Bonaire.

The impressive Unimog monster truck has recently been fitted with huge new tires over a yard in diameter. The view from the passengers' compartment of the soft-top-open-air-hardly-no-windows truck is more than excellent. No air co, just air; no plush or leather, just wooden benches; no windows, just wind. Enjoy the view of the island!

The green – and every time a bit more yellow – colored Unimog mastodon can be frequently seen on Bonaire's paved and unpaved roads. The truck is almost three yards high and goats and small donkeys can easily walk underneath the vehicle to continue their path.

Bastian imported the Unimog from the continent. The car served in the Swiss Army and was later bought by a Belgian collector and addict of Unimog trucks. Bastian fell in love with

the sturdy vehicle and shipped it to our tropical island where he and his partner Anke are busy creating "Bamboo Bali," the complex of apartments under construction between Kralendijk and Hato, opposite Captain Don's/ Hamlet Oasis, on Kaya Gobernador Debrot. This week Anke will open her hairdresser's salon in one of the buildings of the organically growing complex of apartments. (We shall report about her funny little tiny purple Fiat 500 back pack on wheels in the future./jb)

The Unimog is a "small" German-made truck produced by Mercedes-Benz. Unimog stands for Universal Motor Geraet (Universal Motor Machine). They were first developed on the first of January 1946, and the first prototype was ready at the end of 1946. The Unimog was designed for agricultural uses and the distance between two wheels was as big as two rows of planted potatoes. The first production vehicles were fitted with diesel engines, producing 25 horsepower. Modern Unimogs are fitted with Euro III-diesel engines, producing over 215 horsepower. Unimogs are used as ambulances, in armies, in the woods, as snow plows and by fire departments. In 2006 two Unimogs were very successful in



The green and yellow colored "Big Foot" Unimog, owned by Bastian and Anke, parked next to a palm tree. In the back is one of the glass icebergs that visit our island regularly during the high season, delivering tourists.

the Dakar Rally.

Bas adds, "This Unimog was built by Mercedes in 1970. It is fitted with a huge six-cylinder in-line petrol engine. There is an old fashioned mounted carburetor. This engine drinks more than his boss! I never really checked it but I am convinced that she uses a lot of fuel. (Luckily not only the car but also the fuel tank is of an impressive size. /jb) My Unimog has permanent traction on all wheels. The car has been fitted with a high and a low gearing and lock-differentials in the front and rear axles. There is a set of sprockets mounted underneath the ends of the two axles, therefore the heart of each wheel is situated under the heart of the axles which gives the vehicle an even greater ground clearance. Theoretically this car can climb a wall!"

It is obvious that, apart from Anke, Bastian completely fell in love with his iron lady. He continues, "Unimogs served in the Swiss, German, French, Belgian

and Dutch armies. The best maintained trucks served in the Swiss army. There was no war in Switzerland for centuries so the only thing the Swiss could do was shovel snow, blow their Alp horns and maintain the vehicles. The Unimogs were used to carry the crew and to pull artillery. My Unimog is a crew carrier, able to transport up to 14 passengers. She is completely original: original paint, all the maintenance booklets, all the tools. When I bought her she had only 9,000 kilometers on the odometer. I use this car every day. During the high (tourist) season I transport and guide tourists from the cruise ships. Normally the car helps me, carrying building materials and working on the land with apartments along the road to Hato. Being an ex military man I really like this honest vehicle!" □

Story & photograph by J@n Brouwer

## Marshé Navidad in Rincon

Cover Story



Bonaire Police officers on patrol but enjoying the ambience at the Marshé Navidad in Rincon: Inspector Rosales, Trainee Hassanein and Brigadier Schlleper.

A special Rincon marshé to celebrate Christmas, Marshé Navidad, was held last Saturday at the plaza in the center of Rincon. Christmas music and holiday ambience permeated the square where people were selling Christmas ornaments, crafts and gifts, plants, medicinal herbs, sweets, BBQ and local dishes like piska salu (salt fish) and kabrito stoba (goat stew). Live music and dancers entertained the visitors into the night. □ L.D.

Flotsam and Jetsam (Cont. from pg. 4) bike pants, bike shirts, clip-on bike shoes, helmets, camel water packs, goggles, tire kits, bells, horns and slime for flat tires. DeFreeweiler is also the agent for Giant, Bikkell and Gouden Leeuw bikes. If that's not enough they also reproduce keys from a countless number

of key blanks that, we believe, cover several centuries. De-Freeweiler is at Kaya Grandi #61, across from INPO. Telephone 717-8545.

► **Congratulations and best wishes on the marriage of Tourist Corporation Bonaire Director Ronella Croes**

and Economic Minister Elvis Tjin-A-Sjoe last Saturday. It's to be noted that since Ms. Croes has been director, tourism in Bonaire has grown significantly.

► **All of us here at The Bonaire Reporter wish our readers and**

advertisers a very happy holiday season. We hope the New Year will bring joy and love into all our lives. □ G./L, D.



## The Dive Inn Bonaire

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# NGO

Plataforma Boneiru  
Fundashon Fuente  
Di Awa Bibu

## Helping People Help Themselves



Mr. and Mrs. Francees are a Bonairean couple who have been married for 46 years. Before retiring Mr. Francees worked as a clerk at the courthouse and Mrs. Francees has an education in childcare. Together they raised seven children, so the house was always full. The kids would bring friends over after church and Mr. and Mrs. Francees would drive them home in their van. From then on the kids' play dates grew into a kids' club and later on developed into the *Fuente di Awa Bibu* Foundation that now has 20 years of history.

The foundation combines spiritual, recreational and social work for kids as well as adults. The name, *Fuente di Awa Bibu* means "Source of Life Water." This phrase comes from the Bible and shows that the foundation works from an evangelic base. The Franceeses use their knowledge of the Bible in their work, for example, by choosing themes to structure their activities and by telling stories.

Mrs. Francees is a well known story teller. Several schools have invited her to come and speak around Easter and Christmas time. Also for visitors on the island she will tell stories of biblical times as well as Bonairean folkloric stories. She uses her own handmade craft works to illustrate the stories, which the public always seem to love.

### Kids' Club

In 1987 they founded the Foundation *Fuente di Awa Bibu* and started with their first activity: the Kids' Club. For many years every Wednesday and Saturday they would organize activities with children, not just from Nort Salinja or from their church, but from all around Bonaire. Together they did arts and crafts, sports and theater. The Franceeses would take them to the kunuku (farm), explore caves together and go camping and swimming.

The kids of the Francees family as well as the other kids from the beginning years of the foundation are now all grown up. One of the sons has moved to Aruba and has taken part of the foundation with him, so the foundation is in its second gen-

eration! On Aruba they do practically the same as their parents on Bonaire. The family has stayed in touch with many of the kids who spent their childhood years with them and they love seeing how they ended up.

On Curaçao there is also a kids' club thanks the Foundation *Fuente di Awa Bibu*. The Franceeses went there a couple of years ago to help set up the activities program and to train the youth leaders.

### Adults

With their years of experience in marriage, raising kids and dealing with so many different people, the Franceeses have also become counselors for anyone who needs help with marriage problems, family affairs, problems with raising kids, dealing with addiction and so on. It is a task that was given to them as more and more people came to them for advice or a listening ear. The Franceeses love to help anyone in any way they can.

Also the foundation organizes workshops and seminars on different topics which aren't always easy such as suicide, menopause and anger management. In May 2008 they are planning a seminar especially for men to explore the different roles as sons, husbands and fathers.

Another project from the *Fuente di Awa Bibu* Foundation is the collection of goods, such as clothes, toys and food. A couple of years ago they got a container full of these items all the way from Canada! Also they helped people get things such as crutches that were not covered by health insurance. This is just one example, after 20 years of helping people. The list is just too long!

For all this work Mr. Francees was made an honored citizen of Bonaire. The Governor of Bonaire gave him this title on *Dia di*



With doll "Annie"

Boneiru in 2004 as an acknowledgment for all the efforts he and his wife have made over the years.

### Plans for 2008

Even though Mr. and Mrs. Francees are reaching respectable ages (72 and 69), they are still not thinking of stopping with their foundation. With help from their kids, volunteers and other organizations such as *Palabra di Bida*, they have several activities planned for the year 2008, such as seminars, sports and a new kids' club, which will now have their grandchildren as members.

On Saturday January 26th this new kids' club will start with an afternoon full of kids' activities. If you want your kids to join or if you want to support the foundation, you can contact Mr. and Mrs. Francees at: 717-2161. □

Story & photos by Annemarie Klöne

Annemarie works at the NGO Platform Bonaire, where all of Bonaire's NGOs can come for information and support. You can find the office at Kaya Grandi 23F or call: 717-2366.

## Pets of The Week

As Bonaire Animal Shelter staff member Monique Degenaar says, "These two sisters are so beautiful and so nice that they should be in a good home, not at the Shelter!" Monique is shown with the two, "Jessica" and "Julia," who are doing what they like best, sitting on someone's lap. What attractive looking pups these are with their blond wavy fur, very much like that of a cocker spaniel's. Julia has a long curly tail; Jessica has a shorter one. The pups are adorable to see; they're peppy, enthusiastic, love people and should be very easy to train. They're about eight months old now and have had their shots, medical tests and have even been sterilized. They're ready to go to a loving home. See them at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Telephone 717-4989.



Monique with Julia and Jessica

And don't forget to check out the Shelter's Gift Shop. It's stocked and open with dog and cat accessories: toys, treats, leashes, collars, harnesses, toys, catnip treats, cat tunnels, even a feather boa (only one!) for a cat. All these items are brand new and priced below normal retail as they have been donated by Bonaire Talk visitors, tourists and residents. All the proceeds go directly to helping to keep the Shelter open for unwanted cats and dogs. L.D.



### Calming Your Pet During New Years Eve Fireworks

As we look forward to the New Year holiday, here's information about Rescue Remedy, a natural solution for pet stress. This is a homeopathically prepared formula which was invented by Dr. Edward Bach in London, about 1930. He discovered the calming properties of certain flowers and then prescribed them for people under stress. The following flowers are helpful for all levels of stress-even for sounds of firework blasts: Clematis, Cherry Plum, Rock Rose, Impatiens and Star of Bethlehem. Perhaps due to the dilution it has no side effects. The solutions are preserved by trace amounts of alcohol and vinegar and the mixture tastes like water.

Giving your pet this stress relieving remedy is easy. Simply drop one drop into the pet's water dish, early on December 31<sup>st</sup>. This will allow it to work all day, as your pet drinks. During the firework's loudest noise, if you are able to get near the pet you may give it on the pad of his foot. Place one or two drops on the palm of your hand, then apply to the pet's foot pads. It may be added to food as well.

Happy 2008 for you and your

pet!

Thanks to previous demand, The Pet Project has expanded its availability. Rescue Remedy may be found in the following places, the weekend before New Year's.

- Bistro de Paris, Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46.
- Sand Dollar Grocery, Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 79
- Chat and Browse, Kaya Gob. N. Debrot, Sand Dollar Mall
- Tropical Flamingo Grocery, Kaya Carlos A. Nicolaas 4
- Warehouse Grocery, Kaya Industria 24
- Cultimara Grocery, Kaya L.D. Gerharts 13
- More For Less Grocery, Kaya Nikiboko Noord 56
- The Animal Shelter, Kaminda Lagoen

The Shelter will benefit by the proceeds. Volunteers will package the remedies Friday December 28<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 12 Noon. Florence Ditlow will be present to answer any questions about the remedy.

As a reminder, be patient. If five minutes go by and the remedy has had no effect, you may repeat it and place another drop on the foot pad. Repetition is the key, not large amounts. Remember that this isn't a sedative. It is first aid for stress.

You may purchase it for two guilders, with proceeds going to the shelter.

Special thanks to all those who helped make the Pet Project available in Bonaire, especially Botica Korona, who secured dropper bottles from Holland. □

Florence Ditlow



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