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**BONAIRE** May 22- June 5, 2009; Volume 16, Issue 11  
**The REPORTER**  
*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

Kunuku Shimaruku, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, Phone 790-6518, 786-6518, email: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) Since 1994

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**Classical Music Debut**  
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*Hans Faassen, Raymundo Saleh, Livo Hermans and Guus Gerritsen at the first concert of Bonaire's Classical Music Board*

# Flotsam and Jetsam

## BOINAIRE The REPORTER

**O**n Thursday, May 7, the Tourism Corporation Bonaire announced that Curaçao-based Insel Air will begin weekly Miami-Bonaire flights with a 152-seat MD-83 on Saturday, July 4. Insel Air flight #71 907 will depart Bonaire at 11:55 am, arriving Miami at 3:05 pm. Return flight #71 908 will leave Miami at 4:25 pm, arriving Bonaire at 7:35 pm. For more information call Insel Air, toll free in the US at 1-877-546-7352, visit their website [www.fly-inselair.com](http://www.fly-inselair.com) or their call center 09-737-0444. In addition, Delta will add a flight from Atlanta starting October 2 this year. Bonaire is getting easier to get to and the vacations values have never been better.



► **InselAir Airlines reported they concluded 2008 with a profit of NAf 2 million.** Partially due to this favorable result, they decided to invest further by purchasing two more airplanes, acquiring additional routes and personnel. The seat occupancy of more than 70% for the flights to Miami and Surinam has strengthened this confidence. Even the flight to Puerto Rico, which started on April 3 is above expectation with an average occupancy of more than 55%, excellent for a new route. A third MD-83 will be added to the fleet in July, and on November 15, a fourth MD-82 will be included in the flight schedule. These two new airplanes will offer business class. The InselAir fleet will grow to four MD8Xs and two Embraer-Bandeirante airplanes. Last season InselAir successfully passed the **European (Dutch) audit** and the airline

► **The last cruise ship of this season has departed.** According to TCB figures 115 cruise ships called at Bonaire. They brought a record number of 229,000 passengers, 90,000 more than the previous season. TCB director Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes gave a short speech on Wilhelminaplein to summarize the season. She thanked everyone for the cooperation and the service to the passengers. Felix "Papi" Cecilia, the white-uniformed Dispatcher (general coordinator) can now relax and fish.

However, between 13 June and 13 October, two cruise ships will make port calls here, *Pacific Dream* and the *Ocean Dream*, bringing 55,000 additional passengers during those months, affording additional opportunities for the vendors at the cruise ship market on Wilhelminaplein.

For next season (2009/2010) 125 ships are expected. They should bring 220,000 day tourists to the island. The previous cruising season earned Bonaire between NAf 14 and NAf 19 million said Economics Commissioner Jeffery Levenstone. Commissioner Elvis Tjin Asjoe added that the "headtax" for the cruising tourists will rise to \$2 per person which will mean an extra NAf 1 million to the government. Compared to Curaçao, Saint Martin and Aruba it is a pittance, but Bonaire is a relatively new player in cruising tourism and feels it must make improvements before a higher head tax can be introduced. ■



has now been placed on the "white list" of the airline companies in Europe. This is the second important international audit completed by InselAir following the **audit by the American Federal Aviation Administration whereby InselAir received the rights to fly to the US.**

► **This weekend, on May 31, there will be a big celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Washington Slagbaai National Park** right in the Park. Entrance and activities are all FREE. There's too much going on to list here so turn to page 15 to get the full story.

► **The supervision of the safety of Aruban and Antillean aviation is satisfactory, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) reported in April.** The cover letter and report was forwarded to the Second Chamber of Parliament by Dutch Minister of Transport and Construction,

Camiel Eurlings.

► **The US Congress will most likely lift 50-year-old embargo on Cuba before the end of 2010.** Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles Rangel told reporters he believes the current Congress, which goes through next year, would lift the trade ban. This would have significant implications for Caribbean tourism. A consultant's report issued earlier this year felt that Bonaire might benefit, rather than suffer, from this development because of its relatively upscale product.

► **Some 85 new community projects worth 126 million guilders were financed in the Netherlands Antilles last year.** An additional 99.5 million guilders was paid out for ongoing projects. Development Foundation Netherlands Antilles (SONA) Governing Board Chairman Jaime Saleh presented the 2008 SONA Annual Report to State Secretary for Interior and Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten last week in

The Hague.

► **Bonaire's Immigration Department announced that beginning May 25 it will be open to the public only in the afternoons between 13.30 and 16.00**

► **Bonaire hotels encourage their guests to not buy bottled water.** Now, for the same reason. New York state government offices will stop buying bottled water in a move to cut costs and fight global warming, Governor David Paterson said on Tuesday. In the US, plastic water bottle manufacturing uses 17 million barrels of oil every year, producing over 2.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide pollution, the Governor's office said. (Reporting by Edith Honan)

► **The island will soon have its first full service international law firm. The law firm, VanEps Kunneman VanDoorne,** will open an office in June 2009 to provide the BES Islands with local, intra-insular, and international

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# "Mama Modelo 2009" Pageant



Runner-up Mirnalyn Soliana and Mama Modelo Winner Ruthaily Cicilia

On Friday, May 8, the "Mama Modelo 2009" Pageant took over the auditorium of Jong Bonaire. The hall was filled to capacity and there was an ambience of elegance and excitement.

Six competing mothers had to give three formal presentations: first a speech about what it means to them to be a mother. After that they presented their own fashion design, which incorporated the theme of the night, which was "Zebra." And last, but not least, they appeared in beautiful eveningwear, and in this round there were questions too. All candidates presented themselves with a lot of energy, poise and charisma. The crowd motivated their favorite moms by yelling, whistling and giving the show that much more excitement.

An inter-Antillean professional jury had to make the very difficult decision as to who would be named Mama Modelo 2009. When all was said and done Ruthaily Cicilia was presented with the crown and was elected Mama Modelo 2009. Runner up was "our girl" (*The Reporter* sponsored her elegant gown), Mirnalyn Soliana, who also did a fabulous job.

During the show there were presentations by the extraordinary dance group, "The New Generation Dancers," rappers "Bollers" and Sir Gaby Simon with his "unforgettable songs."

Congratulations to the winning moms, and we hope to see more of these professional and exciting shows on the island. Again this year the contest was beautifully organized by Angelo Domacassé's AD Productions. ■ *Fleurtje Veldkamp*



At last, the 2009 parrot breeding season is upon us, and the ParrotWatch team has returned to the island to keep an eye on things and to report its findings.

At this time of year it is common to see pairs of loving Loras flying together at dawn and dusk as they spend more time together, feeding and prospecting for potential nest sites. Over the past few weeks we have been observing the behavior of the parrots in some nesting areas and checking the nests that were active last year for any sign of eggs.

ised? Maybe it failed to develop? If so, at which point in its development did it fail? With some



ParrotCam inside a nest; Notice the eggs in circle

It's always very exciting finding the first egg of the season, and from that point onwards, the eggs just start appearing everywhere. It's a bit like a big Easter egg hunt (but it's a good thing the eggs are not chocolate). So far we have found six nests with eggs, and they haven't finished laying yet. The female parrot will lay up to four eggs in a clutch, and this only happens once a year.

After laying her first egg, the female will give herself a day or two off to recover from what looks like a terribly uncomfortable experience. We know this from watching the goings on inside the nest through the eyes of some infrared cameras that we have hidden there. Over that past few years we have gathered some great footage of wild parrots laying eggs, hatching and even the young chicks playing inside the nest before they fledge. They appear to be quite oblivious to the camera, and it doesn't deter them from going about their day-to-day activities in the nest.

Not every egg in a clutch hatches, and this year we are hoping to find the cause of this. Maybe the egg that didn't hatch wasn't fertil-

With some amazing laboratory technology, we are now able to answer these kinds of questions and understand more about the Lora's biology.

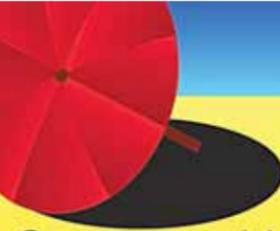
Soon enough, Mrs Parrot will be sitting on her clutch of up to four eggs and depending entirely on her faithful partner to feed her while she incubates. At dawn, he will visit the nest and call to her from a nearby perch. Only then does Mrs Parrot get a chance to stretch her legs (and wings) and get some fresh air. This behavior will continue until the chicks hatch and until they are capable of regulating their own body temperature.

Keeping track of these busy little birdies is tough work, but the parrot watch team has a great time with it all. You can keep up to date with our adventures in the field and watch videos of parrot behavior from inside the nests on [www.parrotwatch.org](http://www.parrotwatch.org).

Story & photo by Rhian Evans

*Nest-Check bicycle provided by DeFreewieler Scooter and bike sales and repair*





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# Born on Bonaire... April 1994 - The Bonaire Reporter

The Reporter celebrated its 15th birthday last month

"I was born on a boat named *Wind Song*. My mom was Jan Smirnow and she named me *Port Call*. One day she left for Las Aves and as she couldn't take me with her, she gave me to Laura and George De Salvo who were in the anchorage living on a boat called the *Oscarina*.

My mom came back several times to see me but she never came to fetch me really and so it was decided that I would stay with my adoptive parents. I grew up the old fashioned way; I had to go to work at an early age and every week I would bring home one guilder. It wasn't that hard though, because I had a lot of help from friends and volunteers. A lot of the sailors would provide me with stories and they also introduced me to newcomers who were more than willing to do the same.

In many ways it was a laid back childhood, but I grew up fast, because nobody saw me as a child. I was present at all the parties and I was never excluded from any adult conversation. Although I never left the anchorage I learned many aspects of sailing around the world and the emotions it evokes: freedom, fear and joy and comradeship... Then,

some business people and several restaurant owners on Bonaire started helping to support me, so I didn't have to ask for money anymore and from December 1994 I became quite independent. Also my life changed in many ways because the stories I was told went from boat issues to a broader context; I became involved in what was going on on the island and in nature.

In 1996 everyone around me became occupied with saving Klein Bonaire from the hands of developers who wanted to build a resort there. It got me so angry because Klein Bonaire was the home of sea turtles, lots of fish

the island - it was owned by developers - and it shocked them. The government and the tourist office were getting letters and calls and international scuba diving magazines picked it up and started writing about it, World Wildlife Foundation was concerned and the Dutch Crown Prince Willem Alexander came to the island and said, 'I don't ever want this island to be developed!' So, what I had started up, together with good people like Bruce Bowker, Kitty Handschuh, Bart Snelder, Dee Scar, Eric Newton and Winfred Dania, the famous artist who made the Save Klein Bonaire poster, and many,

".. my life changed in many ways because the stories I was told went from boat issues to a broader context; I became involved in what was going on on the island and in nature."

and beautiful reefs where everybody did the best diving... I wanted to do something to prevent that from happening and so, every time I came out I told a story about Klein Bonaire. People became aware of the fact that Klein Bonaire didn't belong to

many other qualified people. It became a movement and finally, four years later, Senator Ramonsito Booi called us and said, 'Come to this meeting.' At the meeting he told us that the Dutch government was ready to buy the island from the owners.



The Reporter started out as the Port Call newsheet

And... the best thing about it was that they made the rule that it was going to be undeveloped and protected! It was the end of December 1999.

The way I am telling you this now it may seem that Klein Bonaire was the only thing I was involved in during those years, but in fact I spoke out for many other good purposes as well, like boosting the Bonairean culinary team and the SGB culinary school, and I also used my voice to help the Turtle Club, now the STCB, who'd begun with research into the life cycle of Bonaire's different sea turtles. And already in

those days there was a lot of concern about the reefs and the sewage problem... It's sad to say that nothing much has been done about it so far and I'm really worried now, because to me it seems like we've come to a point of no return, and what will become of the island and its people once the reefs are gone?"

The Bonaire Reporter has many faces and many different voices, but it all comes down to one love - the love for the island, the people, the sea, the nature and culture and the animals. And although its voice is strong and

(Continued on page 5)

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Born on Bonaire  
(Continued from page 4)

persistent it will never scream or behave badly, because The Bonaire Reporter knows it's a guest - it's born here, but not from here...

"I'm born here, but I feel I'm a citizen of the world, a child of nature. My father was the wind, my mother the sea and my star is the Southern Cross. My language is English and here it's like neutral; it's also the universal language of business and bargains. I'm not taking sides - I'm reflecting everybody's opinions and because I am a guest I focus on positive things and present the negative only when something better can come from it." *The wind turns over the pages as we move on:* 'I love animals because they give unconditional love and they're better than people sometimes.

When I noticed that Bonaire had a lot of homeless dogs and cats I started the 'Pet of the Week' column in 1997 and as a result of that hundreds of animals have been adopted and that makes me very happy. Another thing I'm interested in are the local artists; there's so much art here and I feel that people have to get to know the artists and their work and so I profiled them in almost every issue.

I'm very passionate about the environment, animals, food, culture and especially the people of Bonaire. They are unique in



Past issues of Port Call and The Reporter

many ways. Money was never the number one thing on this island. Family was important and honesty and a wonderful sense of humor and a great passion for the kunuku and the sea. I grew up with those stories - stories about love and passion: Regatta, Karnaval, Dia di Rincon, Maskarada, Simidan, the music of Nemencio and Glenn I Su Gang and everything in between. I've traveled with the people of the FKPD to Dublin, Ireland, and to Kingston, Jamaica, where they participated in the Special Olympics and I've felt their pride and joy... it was unforgettable. I've seen Elvis Martinus and Patun Saragosa coach incredibly talented children who would later become world champions in windsurfing. I've witnessed the eclipse of the sun at Malmok in 1999 when everything turned dark, the birds stopped singing and the people were silenced when the sun disappeared

and strange shadows flickered over the ground... there will never be a solar eclipse on Bonaire for over 1000 years...

In 2000 my name was changed from *Port Call* into *The Bonaire Reporter*, and in 2001 I popped from an A4 size to a full tabloid size and I expanded from 300 copies every issue to 1,500. I appeared in almost every restaurant, hotel and shop on the island and all this time I've been supported by these sponsors who made it possible for me to stay independent. I want to mention Rocargo, Hair Affair, SSS, the Antillean Wine Company, Benetton, Bonaire Nautico, City Shop, Green Label, De Freewieler, Carib Inn, MCB, Paradise Photo, Pasa Bon Pizza and Sunbelt Realty - these are the ones that have been supporting me ever since I started and ever since they started and they are very special to me. But the ones that have joined me

up until now have become as dear to me. I wouldn't be who I am without them.

Another thing I appreciate very much is that over the years so many people have taken me all over the world, from the top of Mt. Everest to freezing Antarctica, and they've sent me the pictures and when I see them I feel proud, yeah... you can say I've seen the world...

I've met so many people who've touched me and changed me; I've grown into what other people added to me. I grew up from experience of all these people who filled my life. They gave me their passion, their concern, their hopes and their views. And of course I am 'kaweta', I'm nosy, I have to admit it, but... it helps a lot when you're doing what I'm doing!

Before we end this conversation, I want to mention the 2004 referendum. I knew it was going

to make a big change in Bonaire. So I gathered as much information as I could, to inform the people of Bonaire about the choices they had. Now we're getting close to realizing the consequences of the choice the people made and I wonder what will happen.

I'm 15 years old and I've grown up. I've always told the truth, at least how I saw it, and I've always wanted to make people aware of what was happening on the island. I love the island too much, my name says it all; I am *The Bonaire Reporter* and I have to deal with the future whatever comes and I will." ■

Story by  
Greta  
Kooistra



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# 1997: Bonaire's Final Permanent Mooring Placed

Dee Scarr has kept a dive log, fairly obsessively, since her first SCUBA dive in 1972. In celebration of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Bonaire Reporter, Dee went through her logs considering The Reporter's anniversaries, and is writing about some of the differences between then and now.

In general, Nature on our planet is getting more battered as a result of the passing of time.

One of the most distressing things I read, repeatedly, in my dive logs from 1994, '95, and '96, is that the "reef was battered again" or that "we saw some freshly broken coral today." These dives were all between the marina and the Old Pier, and the coral damage was from yacht anchors (and chains); although it was prohibited to anchor almost everywhere around Bonaire and Klein Bonaire long before the 1990s, vessels were permitted to anchor in that area.

There had been a beautiful, perfect brain coral head at Boy Scout. It was four to five feet in diameter (more than 300 years old, I now know), resting at the edge of the dropoff in only about 30' of water. One night a sailboat anchored; the next day I saw that their second anchor chain -- which was draped from the bow of the boat across the reef and down the dropoff -- was hooked under the edge of the perfect brain coral. I contacted the owner of the sailboat, told him that his anchor chain was hooked under a coral head, told him I'd be happy to help him get it out when he was ready to leave, and gave him my phone number. He barked at me that he wouldn't need any help, and he certainly didn't take any. When he left, he left the perfect brain coral upside down. It was much too big to be turned upright again.

Its first polyps to die were, of course, the ones which were crushed and smothered under the weight of the coral head itself. Later, many of those which were turned upside-down expired. Upside-down, they didn't get enough sunlight to satisfy their internal algae, which they need for survival. But there's one lovely little peninsula of living coral left of this cruelly damaged formation, and that peninsula is slowly getting into more sun. (Go, Polyps, Go! Clone and grow!)

Since that perfect coral head was flipped, perfectly legally, by an anchor chain, a wonderful thing happened: Around 1997, in celebration of the Year of

the Reef, the Bonaire National Marine Park placed moorings for yachts in the harbor area. Naturally the yacht owners were much happier with sturdy, secure moorings than they were with anchoring on those difficult coral reef surfaces. "Battered reef" reports disappear from my dive logs.

Shortly thereafter, I began to log something new: notes on the creatures -- including stony corals! -- beginning to live on the new mooring blocks. The corals on the mooring blocks are great examples of the growth rates of coral; the fastest-growing of them reached soccer ball size in about 10 years! The corals growing on the mooring blocks also display how coral colonies of the same species compete for space without hurting each other, while colonies of different species will have a dead zone between them. Most of the yacht moorings consist of three concrete cubes measuring one meter to each side, with a 4" PVC pipe through the middle. In addition to being an excellent base for



Moray peering from a mooring pipe



The mooring blocks are gathering places for critters of many types

larval stony corals to settle, the outer sides of the mooring blocks offer good locations for Christmas tree worm and blenny tubes, fire corals, and sergeant major nests. The enclosures created between the three blocks, and the pipe tunnels through the blocks, provide sanctuary to blackbar soldierfish, small groupers, cardinalfish, morays, crabs, shrimp, and tunicates. Juvenile French angelfish and gobies often establish cleaner stations near the mooring blocks, attracting clients from both the reef and the blue water.

The mooring blocks protect the natural coral reef. They themselves are becom-

ing artificial reefs -- and they host real corals. A win, win, win situation: rare in the world, gloriously less rare on Bonaire.

■ Dee Scarr

Underwater naturalist Dee Scarr is the recipient of numerous awards for her coral reef conservation efforts. Her "Touch the Sea" guided dives are legendary. Catch her multimedia show at Captain Don's Habitat Resort Mondays at 8:30pm.

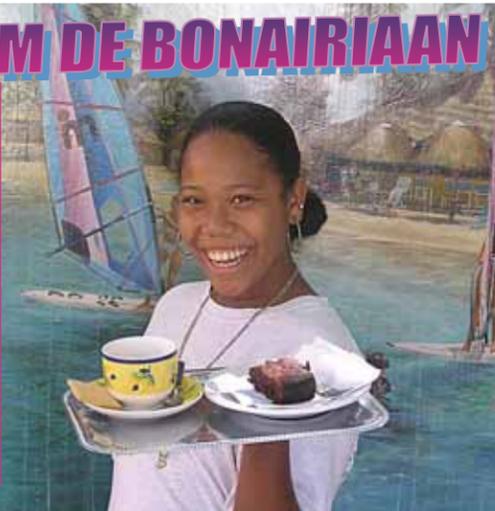


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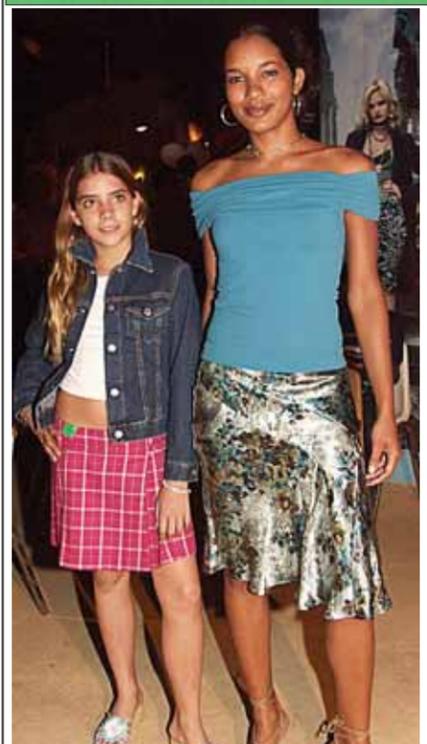
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**BONAIREAN VOICES**

**THE BONAIREAN CHEF**

Last April 30 at the Rincon Day festival you had the chance to taste the best food of Bonaire—inspired versions of all kinds of local food. You had the privilege of meeting with different Bonairean chefs.

Bonaire is full of talented and creative chefs like **Sharlon "Galan" Melaan** (38) father of four children: Shalina (15), Raigil (12), Luiginio (11) and Sharlonson (10). Sharlon started in the kitchen at a very young age, peeling potatoes and preparing other vegetables together with his mother. By the time he got to high school, although he was enrolled in the technical school, his mother, Jacoba Melaan-Thomas, realized that he was more interested in the kitchen than in becoming a carpenter. So in 1981 she decided to send him to *Hotelvakschool* (a culinary school). It was a basic course school year: six months of serving and six months of studying cuisine.

Sharlon explains, "I learned a lot in that year, even how to become a **coordinator** for my own classroom. We didn't have the privileges that the kids today have where they can go to Italy to learn more about cuisine. I learned outside the classroom, by catering with Nel Nicolaas and Frank Goeloe, people who helped and pushed me to make cuisine my art. Frank Goeloe was always there to help me at any time.

When I finished school at 18 I started working as a waiter at the Green Parrot restaurant with Mr. Jim Hough (now deceased) and Ms. Sara Matera, a very kind couple. I can say that the Green Parrot was the real foundation of my career. We were busy every day. We had good team work, a good salary and everybody gave their input. The Green Parrot produced good workers and chefs. Some of them own their own businesses today like Mr. Jimmy Frans, owner of the J&J local restaurant in the heart of Kralendijk.

I had a career of 12 years at the Green Parrot, first as waiter, then as a chef when I got more responsibility. When the restaurant needed someone to manage it because the work was getting more intense they hired Kirk Gosden (today owner of Lion's Den and Sunrise Restaurants) as general manager. I learned a lot from Kirk and I have a lot of respect for him.

After one of those hurricane surges destroyed the Green Parrot, the restaurant could no longer function and everyone had to go their own way. After that I worked at Flamingo Beach as a waiter, at Sonesta as a bartender/cashier, at Donna and Giorgio's, and at City Café where I instructed the staff. At Capt. Don's Habitat/Rum Runners I was honored as the "Worker of the Year" and got the culinary nickname, "Master G," by owner-managers, Floris and Isidor. Now I work with Vernon Martijn in catering.

Nowadays most of the Bonairean chefs



Jane Townsend photo

have grown old. The small group that we have is diminishing. The younger ones who are finishing culinary school must keep their interest in the local cuisine. More competitions should be held so Bonaireans can show their talent in Bonairean cuisine. A Bonairean food festival should be held for everyone who would like to have a taste of local food. Unfortunately, the local cuisine business doesn't pay so much money, so some of these good chefs have deviated from their art and have gone into the construction business to make more money.

It's my opinion that we have to create more jobs in the hotels for our Bonairean chefs with fewer foreigners to occupy these jobs. Most Bonaireans with their own businesses don't have the means to grow easily. Small business courses have to continue, but our local banks also have to be more flexible. Give the Bonairean chef his chance to grow.

My main goal is to open a restaurant serving local cuisine at a beach hut together with my family and a staff in local dress and local live music. My son Sharlonson has already started peeling vegetables. So I hope my dream will come true."

Sharlon mentioned also that there was an article about him in *Port Call* (original name of *The Bonaire Reporter*) in February 1997 when he worked at the Green Parrot. We can learn a lot from these chefs although most of you are chefs in your own kitchen. ■

Siomara E. Albertus



Send your comments to *The Bonaire Reporter*, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, or email reporter@bonairenews.com.

**Magic Ed Says Thanks**

To celebrate his eight years of Magic Ed Entertainment, Magic Ed Janga himself threw a big party for the community last Sunday at the Sentro di Bario Nikiboko. Over 100 adults and



Jane Townsend photo

Alan Gross, Magic Ed with his mom, Lulu, his brother, Giovanni

children showed up for the festivities which included games, snacks, drinks and music by Giovanni Mercera (Ed's brother) and his group, Ritmo Latino. Magic Ed, an accredited member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians,

puts on all kinds of parties with entertainment for kids and adults of all ages. For more information check out his website: [WWW.Magic-Ed.com](http://WWW.Magic-Ed.com). Or call him at 717-6401 or 785-9802 or MagicEd@hotmail.com. ■ L.D.

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*Flotsam and jetsam* (Continued from page 2) legal services. The firm also has offices in Curaçao and Aruba, and claims to be the largest law firm in the region.



► **Have you tried lunch at the marina side Patagonia restaurant yet?** It's just been recently reopened during the lunch hours, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm, Tuesday through Friday. Known for their Argentinean specialties the family-run restaurant offers a relaxed atmosphere, yacht gazing, homemade soups and salads and some of the best French fries on the island. They're open for dinner every day except Monday.

► **Hard on the heels of Bonaire's first classical music concert (this week's cover story) is news of another.** Here are some details of the June 13 concert organized by the Classical Music Board Bonaire at Plaza Resort, 8 pm, in Cacique Hall.

First there will be a presentation of a CD by Hans Odin Faassen: "Bonairean Inspirations," all compositions played by Hans Faassen himself.

The theme of the evening will be Classical Local—a classical concert with local musicians and composers.

The artists:

**Hans Odin Faassen** (piano and violin)

**Linda Anthony** (soprano)

**Erik van Silfhout** (tenor and violin)

**Krusa Musika**, a classical Trio

**Quartet Gebby Saleh**

Young talent **Radjwant Gonesh**, (17) playing Antillean composers on piano

**Nancy Vrieswijk** playing *quatremain* (four hands) with her mother, performing works of Beethoven

Other works are compositions of Pergolesi, Bach, Schubert, Haydn, Chopin, Gabriel Faure, Jacques Delcroze Hans Odin Faassen, and Gebby Saleh. Tickets: Naf 25, children up to 14 years Naf 10.- **Presale at Addo's Bookstore, Plaza Resort and Flamingo Bookstore.**

► Feeling stressed and looking for a tranquil little shop to browse through? **"Follow your heart" to Eveline for Body, Mind and Spirit on Kaya Korona #47, in the Bonaire Basics complex of old Bonairean buildings.** Eveline carries organic sun tan lotions and body scrubs, organic candles and incense. She has herbal teas for cleansing and detoxing. There are some gorgeous cards and journals, featuring the words of Buddha and Rumi, a 13th century sage. There's lots more for you to discover for yourself. Eveline is open 10 to 3, Tuesday through Friday. On Saturdays, 10 to 1. Telephone 788-1058.

► **DeFreewieler Bike Shop is in the news** a lot this week. They've been awarded the **"Mi Va Bo"** sticker because they are now handicapped accessible. Owner Frank Bohm is also proud to say the shop now has a **brand new key cutting machine.** It's quicker and easier and

there's hardly a key on the planet that it cannot copy. And there's more. **The generous owner has donated a bicycle to the Parrot Watch project** so the staff can more easily check the parrot (Lora) nests in Washington Park.

► **Work has begun on a small resto-**



**ration of Bonaire's historic Island Council building, the Passangrahan** (pictured above), on Wilhelmina Plaza. Sixty-nine thousand guilders has been budgeted. The company, StreefTec N.V., will do the work.



► **Congratulations to Mick Schmit** (above left, shown being honored at lunch at Antillean House in The Hague) and his Stichting Project for being awarded the Appeltje van Oranje (Apple of Orange), from the Oranje Fonds (Orange Fund), the largest socially oriented social charitable fund in The Netherlands. It's administered by Crown Prince Willem Alexander and his wife, Princess Maxima.

The Stichting Project helps young people with behavioral problems. Their clients are often identified in school situations. Once part of the Project they follow intensive group-specific training to correct anti-social behavior. The aim is bring about behavioral change and offer a wholesome structure. After every phase the youngster is examined to see if he or she can return to their school or remain with the Project. The aim is to keep young people from getting into trouble with the law.

Each year the Oranje Fund donates approximately €22 million to organizations in the Netherlands, on Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles that are concerned with improving social conditions.

► **Do you enjoy reading *The Reporter*?** It aims for a clear layout, no advertising on the front page, local news and authors, emphasis on environmental preservation and island issues. You can help *The Reporter* keep doing its job by encouraging the store and restaurants that you frequent to advertise in its pages.

**Remember readers, *The Reporter* is brought to you FREE through the support of its loyal advertisers.** When you visit them say, "*The Reporter* sent me." If they are not advertisers let them know they will get even more business by placing an ad in *The Reporter*. ■ G./L.D.

► Bonaire visitor, former astronaut and decorated military man, **Charles Bolden is reportedly atop the list to head NASA**, an agency nearing four months without an administrator. NBC and the *Wall Street Journal* report that Bolden, 62, will head to the White House Monday to meet with President Barack Obama and will likely be nominated to lead the space agency.

Bolden, who retired from military service in 2003 as a major general in the US Marine Corps, would be the first African-American to run NASA.

On November 25, 1996, Charles "Charlie" Bolden visited Bonaire to speak at the SGB High school, Jong Bonaire, UniCollege and the Pelikaan School, plus all 6<sup>th</sup> grade school children and the community about his experiences and his belief in setting and meeting personal goals. He answered questions from children and adults during his inspirational visit which was arranged by Bonaire residents Ben and Laura Buchbinder.



► **Curaçao voted YES, to accept the financial bailout from Holland and the regulations to supervise them within a new governmental structure.** Approximately **52% of the Curaçao voters who voted last Friday chose yes in the referendum; 48% voted no.** There were 79,761 votes cast; 41,398 people voted YES. That was 3,035 more than chose NO.



Earlier in the week on Bonaire the results of an unofficial survey of 300 people done by a group called *Awoawo2009* (Nownow2009) revealed that 89% of the Bonaireans polled were aware of the Curaçao referendum and if they had to choose would vote YES by a margin of 3 to 1.

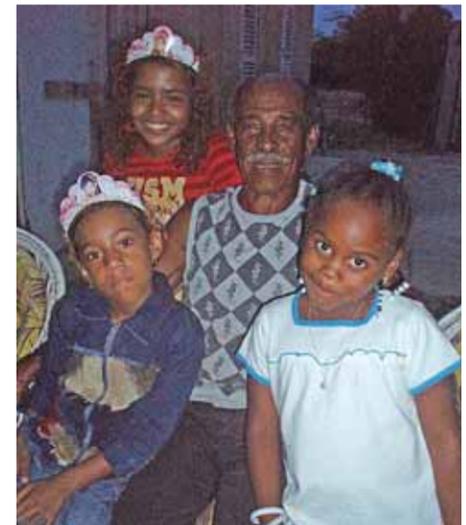
**Of those Bonaireans polled only 18% wanted an analogous referendum in Bonaire; 82% did not want a Bonaire referendum.** A rally organized by the *Awor T'e Ora* movement on the previous weekend to promote a Bonaire referendum attracted 300 people at Wilhelmina Park.

Statistics from the Bonaire neighborhoods who wanted a Bonaire referendum (si) or (no) are listed below:

Rincon	- (si) 9%	- (no) 91%
Nort'i Saliña	- (si) 16%	- (no) 84%
Antriol	- (si) 23%	- (no) 77%
Nikiboko	- (si) 28%	- (no) 72%
Tera Cora	- (si) 24%	- (no) 76%
Playa	- (si) 8%	- (no) 92%

► **Buchi Frans, a true son of Bonaire, celebrated his 79th birthday last week, looking as always, like a much younger man** who's in incredible physical and mental shape. He's known to many as the "Governor of Bolivia" because for nearly his whole life he's had a loving relationship with the area and has been its guardian. "In fact," he says, "I was 'made' in Bolivia, or as my wife says, 'made in the bush!'" He's also the paternal grandfather of windsurfing stars, Tonky and Tati Frans. Family and friends gathered to wish this dynamic guy a healthful and happy year.

**Buchi poses with three of his beautiful granddaughters at his kunuku** ➔



## DO YOU SUDOKU?

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. **Answer on page 12.** Supplied by *Molly Bartikoski-Kearney*

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

**Cover Story**

**Bonaire's Own Grand Piano Makes Its Debut**

On Saturday, May 9, Bonaire's very own grand piano made its debut to a sold out audience at the Plaza. There was a sense of excitement and anticipation as the audience entered to find their seats. The featured artist was pianist Livio Hermans performing Bach, Mozart, Schubert, Chopin, then a series of classical Antillean musical pieces. Hermans, born in Curaçao, is a specialist in the performance of this classical Antillean music which includes mazurkas, waltzes, pasillos, dances and tumba. The artist performed without music and amazed the audience with his repertoire. After the concert there was an informal

"After Party" with the Gebby Saleh Quartet playing in the foyer of the hotel where the members of the audience gathered and socialized with the artist. The program was the first presented by the Classical Music Board Bonaire, showcasing the island's new grand piano. ■ L.D.



**Pet of the Week**

If there were a popularity contest at the Bonaire Animal Shelter, "Marloes" would be one of the winners because she is such a people dog and is so friendly. She gets along fine with her kennel mates but what she really prefers and loves are people! Her previous owner had no time for her; that's why she's here at the Shelter, looking for just the right appreciative new owner. An added bonus is that she'd be a great watch dog. She would say, "I love my owners and I want to protect them as best I can." Well said, Marloes.

Marloes is one and a half years old. She's a medium sized dog with easy-to-care-for short, integrated black and brown fur. She has a hint of dark eyeliner around her alert brown eyes. And of course she's been checked out by the vet, given her shots, worming, sterilized and pronounced in perfect health. The dog adoption fee of NAf 105 includes all this.

Did you know that every pet you adopt from the Bonaire Animal Shelter has been tested not only for its health but for its sociability? Every pet is well known to the staff as to its personality. Does it like children? Does it prefer adults? How about other pets in the household? Will it get along with them? Is it a good watch dog? So often those animals that are so highly bred have "racial weaknesses" - weaknesses of the breed. One thing you can be sure of with the pets in Bonaire, and that is that there is a huge gene pool - with new ones entering the island all the time, brought by their owners! Just about every dog and cat here is one of a kind. You don't have to go through its genealogy to determine who it is - just get to know him or her. That will tell you if he or she is the one for you. Isn't that simple



Marloes

and nice? If you don't believe me just pay a visit to the Shelter on the Lagoen Road and meet some of the adorable personalities there. The Shelter is open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Telephone 717-4989.

We were told that "Evo," our pup of the week in the April 24 edition has been adopted by a very fine pet-loving family. Happy life to Evo and his new owners. ■ L.D.

**BonQuiz #7**

Test your knowledge of Bonaire

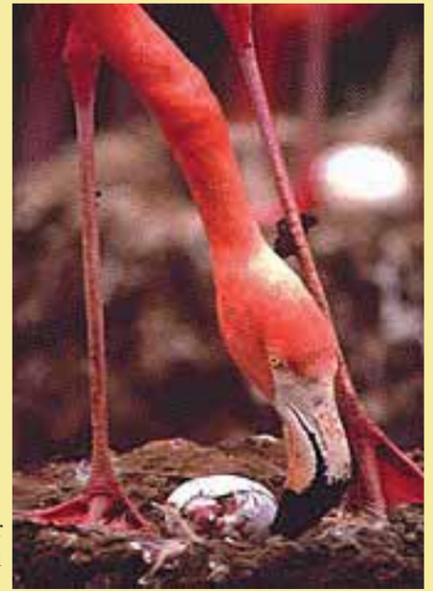
**How many eggs does a Bonaire flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) lay at a time?**

Sometimes we can get so caught up in an event or story or even the daily sights we see, and not even know what truly lies behind them. A little bit of research and love for that subject or object allows you to enjoy or love and respect and protect it even more.

The flamingo that roams this island has been around for 30million years, before any other avian order had evolved! It thrives in colonies, and the crèches (the many baby chicks that flock together after they are born) are taken care of by a small number of adults. The incubation period is about 27 to 31 days, and both parents are present during this period. The eggs size is 78 by 49mm. After about the fifth day following it hatching the chick starts to move around.

The nest is built by both parents, and old nests are often reused. If the water intake into the sanctuary in the Pekelmeer is not controlled, like it has been for years, the flamingo cannot build a nest, a mud mound about 30cm high. Not enough water, the mud is too dry, and the nest cannot be built. If an egg is lost in early incubation a second one may replace the first. So how many eggs does a flamingo lay at a time? ■ Story & photo by Christie Dovale

**Find the answer on page 16.**



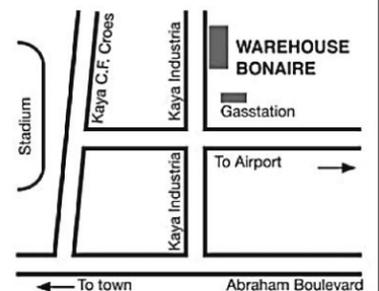
BonQuiz appears regularly in *The Reporter*. It's prepared by Christie Dovale of Christie Dovale Island Tours. Contact her to arrange a tour, Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456 or email: christiedovale@hotmail.com. Comments and suggestions are welcome.



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# Bonaire Freestylers Excel in Austria

Photo courtesy of EFPT.

## The Dwarf8 Freestyle Windsurf Classix 2009, Podersdorf, Austria

This event was the kickoff freestyle event of the 2009 season. The idea came from the main event organizer who earlier this season said, in his own words, that windsurfing needed a change. With this new freestyle format he wanted to get more out of his windsurfing event.

### The Idea:

Each rider has the chance to present moves from three categories: sail tricks, aerial tricks and planeing tricks. The moves are limited in difficulty, which gives many riders a chance to fight for the title. This kind of more classical freestyle begins with a Heli Tack or a Carving 360° and ends with a Spock or Wymaroo. The freestyle level reached its limit and amazing new school freestyle tricks were performed by a smaller group of stylers. New School Freestyle windsurfing is way too specialized... according to the event organizer.

I guess New School or Classic doesn't matter for me; I would participate anyway. I have been traveling to this event for four years now. I like the vans, atmosphere and the organization crew; it is one of the places where I got to hit the stage for the first time two years ago.

On my arrival day at Podersdorf

I heard a funny noise. It was that same noise I've heard before but thought it was only possible to hear in Bonaire. It was that crazy loud noise that **Cesar Fines** makes when calling his beginners at Sorobon while teaching, "Poow woop." After looking around for a few minutes I finally spotted him with a big smile and seconds later spotted another Bonaire dude, **Tonky Frans**, with a bigger smile. We were all three together as some of the first riders who arrived at the event site. After organizing our equipment we spent a mellow sunny afternoon together in Podersdorf Am See. The next day was the signup followed by the riders' presentation and a sound check for my evening performance which is mainly why I was invited. Later, after the riders' presentation I got into my rapping mode and performed two tracks for the crowd of 8,000 people. The sound was amazing and the Austrian crowd was super.



**Rapper Rube**  
Continentseven photo

### Day 1

A Skippers Meeting at 9am with the first guys in the water around

9:30am. Conditions: sunny, winds 15-22 knots, air temperature, 23° C and water temperature, 15° C.

As the heats went by Tonky and I found ourselves in a bit of a waiting period as we both entered the event with a higher seeding than other sailors from the previous year. Cesar, who was in one of the first heats of the first rounds, faced Josh Angulo from Cabo Verde who is currently leading the waves rankings this season. Cesar explained, "My first heat was against Josh Angulo. It started off pretty well but they decided to re run our heat because of the lack of stable winds. In the end Josh Angulo won because I actually used all of my energy before in the first run."

Finally it was time for me and Tonky to hit the water. We were placed in the same heat but facing different riders. I was against Roberto Hoffman while Tonky faced a local kid from Austria. The heat was interesting for me because the event's classic trick list was very limited and every rider could do all the moves on that list. So to be able to win I had to add style and power to those classic moves with a smooth variety of combinations out of the three categories of tricks that we were al-



**Ruben Petrisie wows the crowd in Podersdorf**

lowed to do.

We both advanced and would face each other in the next round. A bit funny as we both do not care so much about winning and basically just stick to the fun part of windsurfing. When it was time to battle each other we both just smiled and planned to go out and put on a show. Tonky managed to get really, really close to the crowds, sliding through some classic moves next so that not even my planeing loops could beat Tonky's crowd pleasing flat water spin loops. Tonky wins and moves on with a smile.

He made it to the finals and got to face the Italian freestyle master, classic hero, Raymondo Casperini, and got stuck with a 3<sup>rd</sup> position while I was in 9<sup>th</sup> position after the single elimination rounds.

The double elimination involved another long waiting period for us as we had to wait for others to

work their way to the top of the ladder. The wind surprisingly kept blowing as the sun set down in the late afternoon. They even managed to run a few more heats.

### Day 2

A beautiful morning, with partly cloudy skies, a nice 18-25-knot lake breeze and mellow spring temperatures. After a power breakfast provided by the organization I headed towards the equipment tent and prepared my 5.2 sail for the morning action. I was up against an Austrian rider.

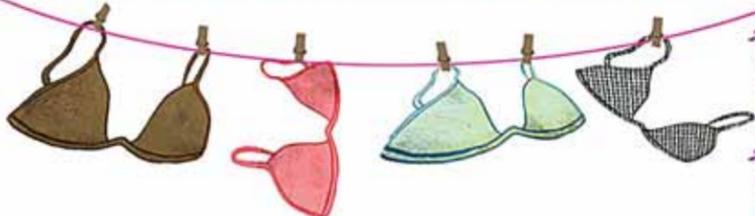
I basically just did every move he did but a bit faster, and when he wasn't looking at me I'd add some small tricks such as upwind 360s and body drags just to keep a nice routine going. I advanced to the next round where I had to defend my 9<sup>th</sup> position. The wind kept

(Continued on page 12)

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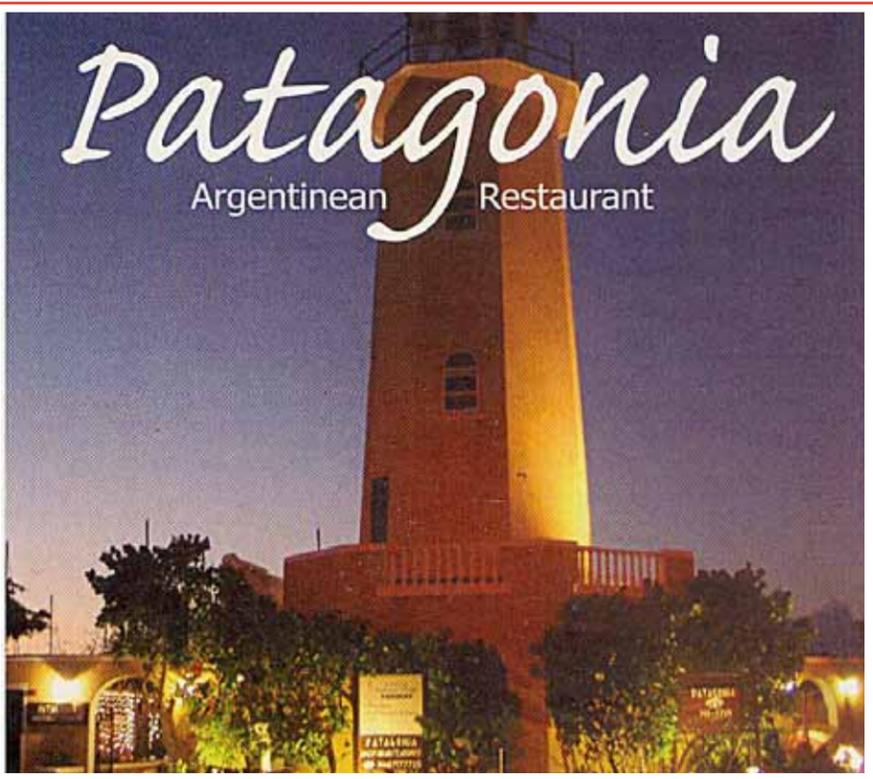


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# Animal Shelter Sterilization Campaign Kickoff

“You can judge a society by how they treat their dogs.” At the Shelter Sterilization Campaign Kickoff last Friday, Lt. Governor Glenn Thodé began with that quote from Mahatma Gandhi.

We can be proud of the work that’s done by Bonaire’s Animal Shelter as every day they take in and care for cats and dogs that have been abandoned, born in the wild or cannot be taken care of by their owners. But their numbers are staggering and not all can be placed in homes. About 350 to 1,000 animals a year have to be humanely euthanized because they are sick or too far gone to be considered for adoption.

One of the reasons that there are too many dogs on Bonaire is that many dogs are allowed to run loose and cause pregnancies at a young age. The resulting puppies – way too many of them – have no future. They roam around, have no food and become sick, either dying a painful lingering death, or become aggressive and cause problems.

But now the Shelter is offering free dog sterilization. It’s the best way to keep your dog healthy and prevent it from roaming around. Female dogs are more alert after being spayed. Male dogs tend to stay around the house more since they are not interested in pursuing female dogs in heat.



LVV Deputy James Kroon, Lt. Governor Glenn Thodé, Shelter Board President Paul Wichers and “Charlie”

Posters will go up in local grocery stores, in snacks and WEB will distribute information with their water bills.

Call the Shelter at 717-4989 or stop by to make an appointment for your dog’s sterilization. You will receive a form that you take to the vet. If you cannot bring your dog to the vet or pick it up the Shelter can arrange for pick up and drop off at your home. The Shelter is on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through

Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm.

Stop by the Shelter and pick up a free “Bonny Superdog” bumper sticker. And to raise funds “Bonny Superdog” Tee-shirts are being sold for NAf15. ■ L.D.

**“Sterilized Dogs Are Better for Bonaire and for Everybody”**

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# ON WHETHER LIFE IS QUANTUM, OR NOT

Janet Thibault photo



John Ashford and Captain Don

## Bonaire, May 21, 2009 : Commemorating the 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Captain Don's Arrival in Bonaire

Last night my girlfriend Belkis and I dropped over for dinner at Captain Don and Janet's kunuku. Glad to say, the Captain is looking good as ever; his spirit, feisty as always, with that peg leg and all. Pushing the middle 80s, he is really concerned about getting published. "Be damned if I'm going into my pyramid without being read!" He pushed two huge loose-leaf manuscripts across the casino roulette table on his garden dining veranda: "Reef Windows" and "Books, Yarns, and Fairytales." His novel, "Living The Script," another of the dozen or so novels he has spun, is about his affair with the schooner *Valerie Queen* which was to be part of a swash-buckling sea adventure film. When the film project failed, he asked "What the hell am I gonna do with this rig?"

Living the script of the swashbuckling-film-that-never-was led Captain Don and his First Mate, Aruban Percy Sweetnam to Bonaire on May 21, 1962, 47 years ago. His schooner *Valerie Queen* sank in front of the Hotel Zee Bad (now the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort) a year later.

On a previous dinner visit to the self sustaining kunuku where the Captain and Janet had nested, surrounded by their Island Grower's plants, two dogs, a cat, a duck, some chickens, hundreds of lizards, the cool Bonairean breeze blowing, we discussed Don's story, "Questions Concerning God," where he point blank asks the question IF GOD EXISTS? I had fired off a hand-written 'smoking gun ricochet' to that one two months before.

Tonight, he slaps my hand-written reply on the roulette "00" square and proceeds to clean dirt from under his fingernails with the sharp tip of a knife that he later tucked into a holster fastened to his wheel chair. "Read it to me, Jaguar!" I figured he either couldn't read my handwriting, or didn't get the message, or both. Reading out loud meant almost yelling, because Don's hard-of-hearing

After I finished Don lifted his left eyebrow. "This stuff goes beyond the Armstrong Opinion, hum?" (Which says: Once a person becomes certified and has some experience, a dive guide is not expected to make the basic go/no go decisions when the diver has all the facts. The ultimate decision is left up to the diver's own good judgment.)

"Precisely, Captain," buddy breathing

now. "You're getting the big picture, thinking out of the mold, not like flat-land creatures struggling to understand the 3-D cube. The Armstrong Opinion is for divers what "Free-Will" and "Living The Present" is for quantum physics. We are co-creators of reality. Look at the universe as a giant computer and us as the programmers of the software that's run by the operating system "Consciousness." The quality that's going in is what's getting printed out. Eastern philosophy calls it illusory, at least most of it, because there is truth in it, too."

Don looked squarely at me. "So what you're saying is that Walter Mitty is real and speaks the truth to me."

"Yep, and that your life is an on-going story... "Living The Script"... I winked, looked squarely back and added, "We can move on to cooler stuff. Are we in sync, Captain?"

"God, as I understand it... is an intelligent, living force field of energy and information that has an absolute resonance that's not localized in space-time, which manifests itself as consciousness and has been around since day one of the big bang."

Alluding to Don's book on Bonaire, "To get the drift... on "An Island Adrift"... I continued, "Know what, Captain? We are at this moment in evolution, in time and space, making one of the most dramatic quantum leaps ever! It's the end of the Mayan 5100 year calendar: December 21, 2012. End of this creation cycle and beginning of a new era, our cosmic destiny... The Galactic Ecliptic! A Quantum Leap. You're quantum. You know where the Living The Script next adventure is going to take you, Mate?"

Don takes a deliberate deep breath, feigning his I'm exhausted look. "Yep, got one foot in there already. See my pyramid yet? Got some sphinxes to place there also."

"Nooo. Since there's no death in quantum terms, your next high seas escapade will be in the vastness of the universe, on that sizzling sea of dynamic energy. High sailing, Mate! Yesirree, you'll be in good company, sir, with all them rogue seafaring souls like yourself. That's your immortal pirate's soul!"

Don stabs the roulette table with his knife, right on the double "00" square. "Hoh! The green punch did it to you this time! Or the nitrox. By God! It was the lamachaca fly that got ya for sure on one of those jungle trips to Angel Falls. It's a fly, no bigger than that..." The Captain presses his index finger to his green thumb. "And you didn't have sex within the hour." ■

John E. Ashford, PADI Instructor/Chopra Center Instructor

## Bonaire Freestylers (Continued from page 10)

increasing and in my next heat I would face a local hero, Mr Chris Sammer, who knew all the classic moves by heart.

The heat started off smoothly with me just repeating all his moves until I lost track and saw him performing tricks in front of a screaming crowd. The wind at the beach is slightly lighter than where I was sailing. I have to say that the guy pulled out some tricks I never really knew about- so classic that I never even saw them before. I felt that it was a close call even though he advanced and actually did beat up everybody on his path all the way to the top four riders until he faced Mr Style himself, Tonky Frans, who performed a nice heat almost as if he were just entertaining the crowd. Tonky advanced to face the Italian old school master, and then Tonky, hungry and on fire, taught the teacher, the Old Guy, a lesson by nailing some one-handed spocks, long sliding willy skippers and of course some classical sail tricks. Moving to the finals Mr Tonky Frans is now one step away from winning this event.

The final heat was between Tonky Frans, Mr Style, and the French Mr Fashion, Nicolas Akgazciyan.

Tonky performed with a smoother style while Nico just hectically exploded and managed to do more moves than Tonky. It took a long time before the judges could decide the winner of that final heat.

Tonky had to beat Nico twice to claim his victory and if Nico won then Tonky would be stuck in second position. After about 10 minutes the race director finally announced the winner.

Later that afternoon they went straight into a super session as the wind kept blowing and the sun kept shining, a crowd of 3,000 people just awaiting more action. With just 10 minutes to go suddenly everyone looked at a windsurfer who had his sail in his arm on top of his head while standing on a wide style board. The light wind master of the world himself showed up with tons of sail spins and light wind trick combinations. It was the first time for many spectators to see such a performance on a windsurf set... Its hard to think of a name to describe what that kid, Cesar Fines, is doing but it definitely impressed everybody including the judges.

The night was packed with live concerts and tons of people. I was invited for a special performance on the event's VIP Boat for sponsors and media. It was actually my first time performing on a boat.

We made a two-hour cruise on the Nue-siedlersee. Food and drinks were served and the DJ was rocking the deck. After an hour I performed in front of sponsors and the media who did enjoyed the sounds. Shortly after I was contacted by a Slovenian event organizer who invited me to Slovenia in September to rock his event. Performing to such a crowd on a boat was totally a great opportunity and experience.

Photo courtesy of EFPT.



Mr. Style, Tonky Frans

The super session prize giving was held later that night on the main event stage. Cesar definitely got credits for showing the crowd something special and took the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize that day.

## Day 3

Bright sun shines, but no wind on this final day. Later that afternoon the prize giving took place at 1700.

## Results:

1. Nicolas Akgazciyan FRA
2. Tonky Frans BON
3. Raimondo Casperini ITA
13. Ruben Petrisie BON
33. Caesar Finies BON

## A few words from Tonky Frans:

"The classic freestyle was a good idea. It's actually the basics of freestyle and I think it's not a bad idea to have some of these events. In one way it is bad and in another way it is good. For me it was a good experience. I am happy with my results, but I also know I could have done better."

Thanks for reading. ■ Ruben Petrisie  
Sponsored by : Loft Sails, Unifiber, Reptile-Masts, Kamoana Clothing

## Sudoku Answer

Puzzle on page 8

324 891 657  
697 235 418  
518 467 392  
146 728 539  
739 654 281  
852 319 764  
485 976 123  
963 142 875  
271 583 946

## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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On Easter Sunday Johannetta Gordijn and Herman van Leeuwen were in The Netherlands and met their old friend and history teacher, Ben Vrietzema, and his wife Mirna at a Landall resort near Apeldoorn. Unexpected! Ben was a history teacher for two years at the SGB. So you can see even The Netherlands is as small as Bonaire sometimes is. ■



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DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
5-22	8:23	0.9FT.	23:05	2.0FT.					75
5-23	9:23	0.8FT.	23:48	2.1FT.					86
5-24	0:26	2.1FT.	10:14	0.7FT.					95
5-25	1:13	2.1FT.	11:03	0.7FT.					100
5-26	2:03	2.1FT.	11:50	0.6FT.					101
5-27	3:00	2.0FT.	12:27	0.6FT.					98
5-28	3:57	1.9FT.	13:07	0.7FT.					91
5-29	5:02	1.8FT.	13:39	0.8FT.					80
5-30	0:28	1.4FT.	6:04	1.6FT.	14:00	0.9FT.	21:49	1.4FT.	69
5-31	2:44	1.3FT.	7:15	1.5FT.	14:15	0.9FT.	21:10	1.5FT.	59
6-01	4:14	1.2FT.	8:17	1.4FT.	14:16	1.0FT.	21:23	1.7FT.	53
6-02	5:39	1.0FT.	9:39	1.2FT.	13:54	1.1FT.	21:47	1.8FT.	52
6-03	6:45	0.9FT.	11:21	1.1FT.	12:35	1.1FT.	22:13	1.9FT.	58
6-04	7:58	0.9FT.	22:42	2.0FT.					65
6-05	8:54	0.8FT.	23:16	2.1FT.					72



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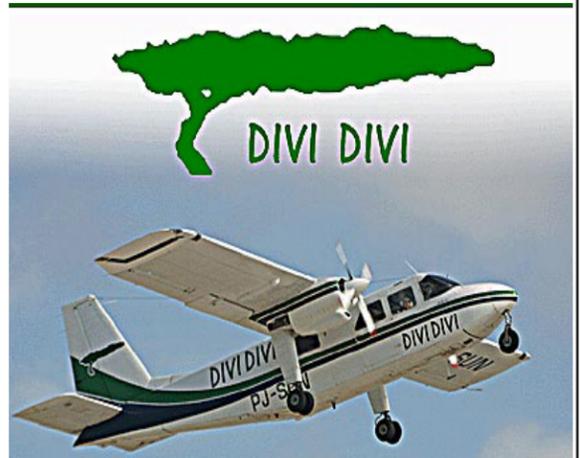
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# The Bonaire Reporter Back In Time To 1997 Commemorating 15 Years

## JOIN US TO GO BACK IN BONAIRE'S HISTORY TO 1997 – 12 YEARS AGO.

**P**ort Call (The Reporter's original name) continued to grow, from 8 to 10 pages. Some new columns that came along in 1997 were: "Antarctic Adventures by R. Dale Stokes," "Chefs of Bonaire," "Pet of the Week," "Cooking Column by Nora," "The Literary Corner," "Who's Who on the Waterfront"

Stories centered on the fight for Klein Bonaire, the environment – above and below the sea, the harbor pilots, Selibon, Bonaire's Yacht Tourists, Letters to the Editor and more.

Some of the top stories in 1997 were: Save Klein Bonaire for the People of Bonaire, Special (single-handed) Sailors, BonaireNet Goes On-Line, Mystery Ruins Uncovered at Fort Oranje, The Coral (disease) Crisis, Reef Census, Capt. Don's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, artist Winfred Dania Honored, Controversy over Mooring Charges, Bonaire on the Tube (TAVA), 30<sup>th</sup> Bonaire Regatta, Tourism Decline, 1997 Culinary Olympics, International Year of the Reef festival, New Mooring System Plans, Klein Bonaire Music CD Released.

Here's a retrospective of some of the news as it appeared in Port Call/The Reporter in 1997.

**Jan.1**  
-A Prediction made in 1996 for 1997 – "Under intense pressure from the Netherlands and the Marine Park the government will give the go-ahead for b (Although Selibon, the waste disposal municipal agency, was named the leader in getting the work done, no solid plans were in place until the end of 2007!)

**Jan.10**  
-Food price increases 2.4%  
-Klein Bonaire Development Co. owes NAf 64,358 in back taxes on Klein Bonaire

-Lisa Gas station opens

**Jan.17**  
-EU places quotas on rice imports from the Caribbean to protect Spanish and Italian rice farmers. This may affect Antillean Rice Mills which mills and cleans rice produced elsewhere, allowing the rice to enter the EU duty free. (The Antillean Rice Mill closed later in the year)

**Jan.24**  
-Nitrox Diving is Here  
-Cooking Columns begin with Nora van Neil – Indonesian food  
-Solo sailers arrive: Pat Henry, American, oldest woman to complete a solo circumnavigation.

Serge Testa – Single handedly sailed around the world in the smallest boat, 12 feet (3.6meters)

-Curaçao sports fisherman, Arturo I, crew arrested. Set illegal nets across entrance to Harbour

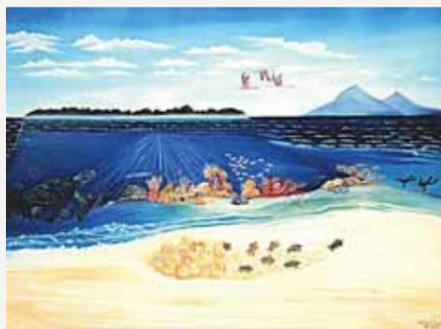
Village Marina and became belligerent.

**Feb. 14**  
-BonaireNet Goes on Line – next week phone lines extended to seven which should handle more than 50 clients. State of the art speed of up to 28.8 Kbps. Cost \$5 to \$6 per hour

-Pet of the Week column begins on a regular basis

**Feb.21**  
-Tall Ship, Sail Training Vessel, Eye of the Wind, visits

-New column series by Laura DeSalvo – Chefs of Bonaire –



-Winfred Dania's poster, Preserve Klein Bonaire, is presented. Proceeds of sale of the poster will go towards the preservation of Klein Bonaire

**Chef Sharlon Melaan of the Green Parrot is the first (see this week's Bonaire Voices, pg. 7, for an update on Sharlon).**

**Feb. 28**  
-Pleas for Klein Bonaire from Hans Hass who dove and photographed Klein underwater in 1939

-ReefKeeper International has offered to do a reef survey at Klein to provide a benchmark reference of the reef's condition

-13 new public yacht moorings added to the 27 already in place (See Dee Scarr's retrospective on the moorings in this issue)

**Mar. 7**  
-Archeologist Dr. Jay Haviser probes the ruins buried under Ft. Oranje before work begins to convert Bonaire's waterfront fort and harbor office into buildings for a judiciary complex.

**Mar.14**  
-Construction of the sea promenade begins

-New kennels at the animal shelter, thanks to Island Government and TechnoConsult

**Mar. 21**  
-Cruise ship Statendam aids animal shelter. Thru a 30-day fundraiser onboard ship they bought supplies (medicines, animal food, etc.) and transported it free of charge

-Bonaire's tourism grew last year 5%

**April 4**  
-Canaries in the Mine? The Coral Crisis. Researcher James Corvino of the Coral Reef Alliance says man's works are killing the reefs.

**April11**  
-Wave Challenge Races with windsurfers, sunfish

**April 18**  
-Marine Park seeks skilled volunteer researchers to do data collection for reef (sponsored by ReefCare International)

-Some supermarkets are no longer providing grocery bags. You may buy one for .25

-KFC Bonaire celebrates third anniversary

**April 25**  
-ALM labor dispute cancels flights for more than 3 days. Except for a few Air Aruba and Avenza flights and the KLM transcontinental flight there was no scheduled air service to Bonaire

**May 2**  
-Dog licenses are required beginning May 1 for NAf 5 at the Ontvanger's office (after 1997 dog licenses were no longer available from the Ontvanger)

**May 9**  
-Reef census begins  
-Preserve Klein Bonaire Poster goes on sale  
-Signs of the Times: Cultimara supermarket no longer closes during the noon hour

**May 16**  
-Executive Council of the island considering a plan to further protect the natural environment

**May 23**  
-ReefKeeper International checks reefs with help of volunteer divers. (Their report was late and ineffective)

-Crown Prince Willem Alexander, on a state visit to Bonaire, takes a boat trip to Klein and says he wants it kept undeveloped.

-BOPEC tugs assisted 45 ships in April, a record number

-Best Bartender on Bonaire is Liz Rijna of Den Laman Restaurant. Liz will be part of the Bonaire Culinary team that goes to Puerto Rico to compete in the Taste of the Caribbean Culinary Competition.

**June 6**  
-Contract signed to renovate the existing Jong Bonaire Center, add a new classroom building, equip them and partially fund the center for the first three years. Construction is expected to begin almost immediately

-Artist Winfred Dania honored by FPKB to mark 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary. The artist painted the mythic representation of the island that was produced as a poster to be used both to increase worldwide awareness as well as to raise funds.

**June 13**  
-STINAPA hires Conservation Education Officer Enit Scholten thanks to a grant from WWF. Her goal: "I want to make the Bonaireans enthusiastic about their



environment." She'll start with an education campaign to protect the native Bonaire parrot, the Lora and its habitat. She'll revive the youngsters' snorkeling program, the Tortuganan di Boneiru. (See this issue's Parrot Watch story for a Lora update.)

-Negative effects of ALM's strike, says TCB – number of passengers transported dropped by a third as compared to April 1996. Overall tourist arrivals dropped by 21%

**June 20**  
-A fully accredited sea school set up to train future licensed captain/engineers of an ocean going vessel. Organized by Pilot Capt. Robbie St. Jago, funds from Sede Antillas, under the auspices of FORMA

-Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) says consumer price index for Bonaire rose by 3% in the 12 months ending in April 1997

-Port Call is now available on the Internet

-Too many cars in Bonaire!

**July 11**  
-Two American divers lost after a night dive at Pink Beach last week. One of the BCs was washed ashore in Curaçao with Bonaire Marine Park tag attached

-One of the reasons for the new sea school set up is that three new Antillean Coast Guard cutters will be provided to the Antilles in 1998

**July18**  
-Mooring Controversy Rages - Discussion over possible Marine Park fees for moorings

-TCB has a new Marketing Director – Burney Felix el Hage

**Aug. 1**  
-Bonaire's Organic Farmer – Popo Morales featured

**Aug. 29**  
-Bonaire filmed for TV  
-Bevolking says Bonaire now has 40 nationalities resident here

**Sept. 5**  
-Island Government issues resolutions reinforcing their stand on a total development ban on Klein Bonaire. Offer to owners by FPKB in behalf of the people of Bonaire – NAf 4.2M, the independently appraised value of the island rejected. Negotiations in Aruba continue. (Klein eventually was bought in 1999 for \$5 million)

-WEB to contract to study setting up a wind power park.

**Sept. 12**  
-ABC English language school to open` (It was discontinued the following year)

-Tourism numbers falling 3.49% compared to 1996

**Oct. 10**  
-Culinary Team wins big at Puerto Rico: Liz Rijna wins gold & bartender of the Caribbean, chefs win bronze

**Oct. 17**  
-Shacks on Klein Threaten Turtles

-MCB begins offering Money-Gram service

-Record number of visiting yachts - 135

-Record for tanker arrivals for September, 1997 – 65  
**Oct. 31**



-Shacks on Klein removed  
**Nov. 14**

-CURO offers short diving or snorkeling course for the politicians and the press

-BONHATA presented the police dept. with four brand new Yamaha motorcycles, two for Kralendijk, two for Rincon. (Little was seen of them after the first few months)

-Many events for Year of the Reef

**Dec. 5-** Foundation DOEN, the Dutch National Lottery, funding the installation of new Helix Mooring Systems →

-Klein Bonaire CD Debut: Ban Kuid'e (Let's Preserve it) – by Piedra di Boneiru

- Antarctic Adventures series by Dr. Dale Stokes begins –research diving with famous underwater photographer Norbert Wu.

**Dec. 12**

-TCB says another decline in tourism, down 11.1% from last October and 5% for the year to date

-Capt. Don installed in the Diving Hall of Fame at DEMA

**Dec. 19**

-Red Cross simulated emergency exercise at airport – what to do if a plane crashes

-Ground breaking for Jong Bonaire building

**Dec. 26**

-Preparations for the Eclipse next year, February 26, 1998. ■ Compiled by Laura DeSalvo.

**Dec. 26**

-Preparations for the Eclipse next year, February 26, 1998. ■ Compiled by Laura DeSalvo.

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-Preparations for the Eclipse next year, February 26, 1998. ■ Compiled by Laura DeSalvo.

**Dec. 26**

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# Bubbles from the Biologist

Photograph by Peter Parks



**Did You Know...** fish can fly? Well they are not actually flying, but fish in the Family *Exocoetidae* can glide above the water for distances up to 400 meters. That is approximately four soccer fields long! Not only do they soar very far, but they can also soar up to 1.2 meters high. That's so high that they are often found on the decks of sailors' ships. Flying fish are able to do this by building up to speeds of 60 kilometers per hour underwater. This gives them a boost to break the surface of the water. Then they flap their forked tails back and forth very rapidly on the surface of the water to push their bodies upward. Their pectoral fins are very large and shaped like wings to help them glide through the air. It is thought that flying fish use this ability to escape from their predators, such as tuna, swordfish and other larger fish. There are about 40 species of flying fish found in all of the major oceans, especially in warm tropical and subtropical areas. You can spot flying fish right off the coast of Bonaire! ■ Michelle von Sternberg (National Geographic)



Von Sternberg is majoring in Marine Biology at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL. She is currently studying at the CIEE Research Center in Bonaire.

## Name That Jelly-Fish



Marijke Wilhelmus photo

### Take part in the Species Naming Contest for the Bonaire Banded Box Jellyfish.

Join a scientific team and help give the Bonaire Banded Box Jellyfish a species name! This new name will become the official scientific name and appear in several scientific publications. (Bonaire Reporter writer Pauline Kayes was one of the first people to capture the stinging jellyfish alive. She stored it in an empty coke bottle! Ed.)

#### Here is how to name the jellyfish:

1. Learn about the Bonaire Banded Box Jellyfish (BBBJ).. Go to the Internet site:

[http://www.yearofscience2009.org/themes\\_ocean\\_water/general/meet-bbbj.html](http://www.yearofscience2009.org/themes_ocean_water/general/meet-bbbj.html)

2. Meet the scientific team that you could become a part of. Check them out at [http://www.yearofscience2009.org/themes\\_ocean\\_water/general/meet-bbbj-scientists.html](http://www.yearofscience2009.org/themes_ocean_water/general/meet-bbbj-scientists.html)

3. Learn the Do's and Don'ts of species naming. Every organism has a unique scientific name - a Genus name and a species name. Once we got a specimen, the BBBJ's features told us that it belongs to the genus Tamoya. But until now, no one has given it a species name. Check out these rules before you create your own at [http://www.yearofscience2009.org/themes\\_ocean\\_water/general/bbbj-rules.html](http://www.yearofscience2009.org/themes_ocean_water/general/bbbj-rules.html)

4. Submit a species name. Come up with a name for the BBBJ. Submit your species name and your reasons why before June 14th. Submit Here: [http://www.yearofscience2009.org/themes\\_ocean\\_water/general/jellyfish-contest-submission-form.html](http://www.yearofscience2009.org/themes_ocean_water/general/jellyfish-contest-submission-form.html)

5. Vote on the top 5 names submitted.

Check back June 19th to 21st to see if your name made the scientists' top 5 favorites, then vote for your favorite. Check back after June 23rd to see what name won and the actual paper the new name is published in. ■ Bud Gillan via Brad Swanson

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**STINAPA** May 31, 09  
 WASHINGTON SLAGBAAI NATIONAL PARK

**40** TH ANNIVERSARY  
 WASHINGTON SLAGBAAI NATIONAL PARK

**SOFT ADVENTURE**  
 All these activities will start at 8.30am and will be guided.

- "Lagadishi Walking Trail" (estimated time 2 hours)
- "Kasikunda Climbing Trail (estimated time 1 hour)
- Climb the Brandaris (estimated time 2 hours)
- Cycle the park (15 or 34 KM)
- Kayaking

**KIDS ACTIVITY PROGRAM**

10:00-12:00	Treasure hunt
10:00-15:00	handcraft possibility
All morning	Painting and coloring project

**PROGRAM "MARSHÉ RINCON" LOCAL MARKET**  
 "Marshé Rincon" will take place at the entrance of the Washington Park and will be open from 8am serving breakfast. There will also be stands of different kinds of local food, barbeque, snacks and sweets and also local products and local art.

**LIVE MUSIC BY LOCAL BAND**

**MUSEUM WILL BE OPEN FROM 8am TILL 5pm**

**THERE WILL BE TRANSPORTATION TO SLAGBAAI**

DATE: Sunday, May 31, 2009  
 PLACE: Washington Park  
 TIME: 8am - 5pm

ENTRANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES IS FREE

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 E-mail: [info@stinapa.org](mailto:info@stinapa.org) • [www.stinapa.org](http://www.stinapa.org)

PROGRAM MAY 31, 09

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Happening Soon

**Friday May 22 - Art Exhibit** - Join Dominique Serafini at the Bistro de Paris for the opening of his 3D underwater painting exhibit, featuring the most spectacular dive sites in Bonaire: the reefs, the piers, the windward side, and the wrecks of the *Hilma Hooker* and *Windjammer*. Rum punch, 3-D glasses and films from the Dream-wrecks series. 7pm

Exhibit continues till the end of June. Make your dinner reservations with Patrice of Bistro de Paris at 717-7070.

**Sunday, May 31- Celebration of Washington-Slagbaai National Park 40th Anniversary.** Activities at the park from 8 am. All free. See notice on page 15 for details.

**Sunday, May 31- Educational walk by historian Boi Antoin** through the Gurubú area, an important district for the residents of Tra'i Montaña. Cost is NAf 12,50 and includes fruit, water and soup. Meet at 6:30 am. This is the latest in a series of walks organized by Top Health Fitness. For information and signup call 796-3109 or 567-1055.

**June 4-7—5th Annual Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival.** See complete details on back page.

**Saturday, June 13 -Classical Concert** -organized by the Classical Music Board featuring local musicians and composers. At Plaza Resort, 8 pm, Cacique Hall. More details in the next issue. Get tickets (NAf 25, children up to 14 NAf 10 at Addo's Bookstore, Plaza Resort, Flamingo Bookstore

**Sunday, June 14 -Presentation by students of the Skol di Musica of Bonaire** at Plaza Resort Cacique Hall : start 2: 0 pm, entrance free.

### REGULAR EVENTS

- 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 cooler evening hours.

### Saturdays

- **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. **Big Marché first Saturday of the Month**—www.infobonaire.com/rincon.

**Flea Market at Parke Publico** every first Saturday of the month, 3 to 7 pm. Everyone welcome to buy

and to sell. NAf10 per selling table. (NAf 5 goes to up-keep the park). NGOs can have a free table. More information and reservations for a spot call **Vicky Bissessar - 786 1592.**

- **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **second Saturday of the month**, 7-9 pm. Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 (NAf17,50) per person. Tel. 560-7539.

- **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.

### Mondays

- **Soldachi Tours of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria, 717-6435-best island tour value

### Fridays

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

### FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

**Sunday- Creature Feature**— John and Suzie Wall of Buddy's Digital photo center present a multimedia slide presentation about Buddy's House Reef - pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 6:30-7 pm, 717-5080

**Monday-Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea Slide Presentation**, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm. 717-8529

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

**Tuesday-- Bonaire Land and Ocean** presentation by Fish-Eye Photo staff, 7pm on the big screen inside the Sunset Bar and Grill at Den Laman Condominiums.

**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.

### BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

**Kas Krioyo 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 December 25th. and January 1st. Call **788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681**

### CLUBS and MEETINGS

**AA meetings** - every Wednesday at 7pm. Phone: 786-4651 or 786-7971

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

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

**Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:15 pm**— All levels, NAf2,50, at ZeeZicht Restaurant upstairs.

**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 Jaycees) 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call **510-0710.**

**Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm** - 'Pirate House', above ZeeZicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-2066

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

### CHURCH SERVICES

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire:** Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10 am.

**Rincon**, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papi-

amentu, 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: Centro di Bario Nord Saliña**, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0379.

**International Bible Church of Bonaire**, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Korona.) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Pastor's home, 7 pm. Fridays, 6 to 8 pm, Light & Life Club, children 5 to 12 yrs. Tel. 717-8332.

**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.

**Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church** located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:** Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request) 10:20 Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors Welcome: 701-9522 for Information

Send event info to:

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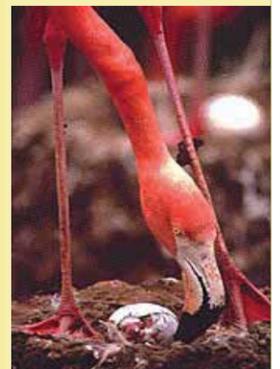
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## BonQuiz Answer

A flamingo most often, lays just a single egg. However, they have been known to lay two, but the second rarely hatches if the first is successful.



Question on Page 9

# SHOPPING and DINING GUIDE

## 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

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## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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

**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.

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## Ralph Nolen and His Howling Air-Cooled Porsche

The 47<sup>th</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."



Bonaire/Hato -

A very long time ago... back in the year 1978, Ralph Nolen came to the island of Bonaire. Those days he had to deliver a tug boat from the US. Ralph, as a training captain or tug master, stayed on the island to give tug boat handling training. And after this period of instructing he stayed on the island and he will stay on the island forever. And Ralph does not have one single intention of passing away so forever here really means forever.

Since March 2009 Ralph has been the owner of a real Porsche. Until recently the car was parked next to one of Ralph's other classic cars, a DAF YA 126, a so-called *wapendrager* (translated, something like a weapon carrier/jb). The silver colored, all-wheel drive Dutch-made truck will be the subject in one of the Wheels articles in the future. And then there are also a nice Chevrolet El Camino, built in 1958, and a Datsun 240Z, built in 1972, making up part of his Bonairean veteran, vintage and classic collection. And there are some nice and special cars stored in the US. Ralph was once the owner of a 1948 V12 Ford Lincoln Sedan. A V12! And there was a range of Model A Fords. So Ralph really knows about nuts, bolts and pistons.

It is a bit of a pity that I did not really take the right picture at the right moment. For some time the Porsche was parked next to her Dutch family member. But the cars were parked on private property and I was too shy and too humble to go there. And then suddenly the lemon colored rectangular flying saucer was parked in front of the house with the guns along the Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot. And later on, when I finally was prepared with my camera, the sports car was parked in the caves of the pirate. And I could only admire her hips and her rear.

Ralph says, "This is an original VW-Porsche 914, built in, more or less, 1971. It is a co-production car made by Volkswagen and Porsche. (The first Volkswagen was designed by Ferdinand Porsche/jb.) This very lean and sleek car is powered by an air cooled mid engine. This is the first Porsche with a little computer

and with fuel injection. Just a few days ago I was slightly irritated because the former owner of this beauty had left the little bonnet in the center of the body open and salt and rainwater were able to get into the engine by the exposed air cleaner. I had some rings of the pistons stuck so I poured thin oil on top of the pistons to soak the rust and to free the pistons. I have had a lot of cars but I have never owned a bad car. I never had to overhaul a complete engine."

Then Ralph informs me about his other metal beauties on the island, about his completely water-tight DAF truck, about the Marshall plan, the prices of the new military DAFs and the very low mileage of the truck. The VW-Porsche he bought was owned by an Englishman, Steve Thuell. The VW-Porsche 914 Targa is said to be mounted with a four-cylinder, air cooled engine on a six-cylinder frame. The car had been used for races, those days...

Then Ralph opens the little bonnet and connects some wires. He creeps into the very tight cockpit of the car and starts the engine. Four stroke. Four cylinders, howling air cooling and steady revs. The car idles nice. A little bit high. Oil pressure builds up and the sound produced by the engine becomes more and more regular. Every part is getting greased, oiled and soaked. Ralph presses the pedal. The engine screams up to some 6,000 revs per minute. Sounds good and healthy. Ralph's light irritation of some days before is completely gone now. He fell in love with a German lady! There are twinkles in his eyes. This Porsche stole his heart. Soon this car will be on the road again!

Of course there are still dreams in man's mind. Ralph dreams of being the owner of a Ford 1932 Coupe Deuce once: "A street dragster, motor cycle wheels in the front, thick rubbers at the rear, a big bore V-eight, a cast away bonnet. A nice dragster: chopped and channeled!" ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



# Island View Lost

Internet photo



Stranded on an island, not knowing where you are. You are completely lost in this world and nobody is able to find you. Unfortunately the message in the bottle would not work because there is no way to explain how anybody can find this island.

Sound familiar? Well, that is the feeling that keeps creeping up on me lately. The only thing that remains a constant is the fact we are still on Bonaire, but everything else is about to change. The Netherlands Antilles will cease to exist, Curaçao and St Maarten will no longer be a part of our island group, and we will become a *bijzondere gemeente* -Special Municipality. But nobody knows what that is. So here we are in this no-man's land without a compass.

Bonaire will be closely tied to a country in Europe. The culture and the people from the Netherlands are so very different when compared to Bonaire. What if our differences are so big that we will be squabbling siblings for generations to come? First we must know what our differences are.

Let's start easy: food. Beside the fact that the ingredients are different in the respective menus, the time to eat a warm meal is different. On Bonaire people can go home to eat their warm meal during their lunch break. In the Netherlands the distances to your job are mostly too great to hop back home on your lunch break, so a lunch exists of a sandwich. Take a bunch of Bonairean kids to the Netherlands and they will comment on the amount of bread (and milk) that is consumed each day. To compensate for the fact they cannot have a warm meal in the middle of the day, they will take anything warm from the cafeteria: croquet, sausage roll, croissants, nice, warm and fat.

The music played here has a history which goes back all the way to Africa. European music had to accommodate the movements women could make while wearing corsets in the olden days. Now the Dutch are known for their stiff dancing, and the Bonaireans seem to have very loose bone connections. Luckily for us music also is getting more and more international. The way the Bonairean youth and Dutch ypingsters dance becomes very similar.

Those are very obvious differences and not hard to overcome. Let's move on to some more difficult ones: governing and rules. A very long time ago some very wise people decided that government and religion don't mix. While you are thinking

up rules to make living in a country safe and smooth for everyone, you cannot be religious about it. Rules have to be made for the benefit of everyone and not just for a group of people who are lucky enough to believe in the same things as the people who make the rules. In the Netherlands that divide is very clear and very few people dare to cross it. On Bonaire I sometimes get confused whether I hear a minister talking or a representative chosen by the people to govern.

While we are talking about the rules, let's explore further. Bonaire seems to have fewer rules when compared to the Netherlands. Not only are there a lot more people living in the Netherlands, but also the population density is 10 times that of Bonaire (500 people per km<sup>2</sup> in Holland compared to 50 people per km<sup>2</sup> on Bonaire). For everybody to live safely and peacefully you need rules. The Dutch, like no other, know what it is like to live in an overcrowded country. You can pretend you don't need those rules on Bonaire, but we are growing fast. There may come a time when you cannot avoid those rules (seatbelts, noise nuisance, nature preservation, etc.) from entering the borders of this island.

So, now we have established that there are differences, some fundamental. But still we are trying to make some connection, without the loss of our own identity. In this situation Bonaire is not an equal partner of the Netherlands. For starters we asked the Netherlands for this arrangement. Secondly a lot of Bonaireans have chosen this arrangement because of all the money that the Bonairean government promised would come. The hand that receives is always below the one that gives. So we need to think really hard what our identity is and what we are willing to change. Changes are coming because of this arrangement. Better be prepared.

If I'd have a say in something that has to change, that would definitely be the name: BES-island. BES, who thought of that? It means "berry" in Dutch. And where the heck does the "E" come from? It is Bonaire, Statia, Saba; no "E" in sight. Let's call it: Bonaire, Statia and Saba are the BOSS-islands. A nice strong name; we need it. ■ *Mary Ann Koops*

*Koops is Antillean and a biology teacher at the SGB high school.*





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

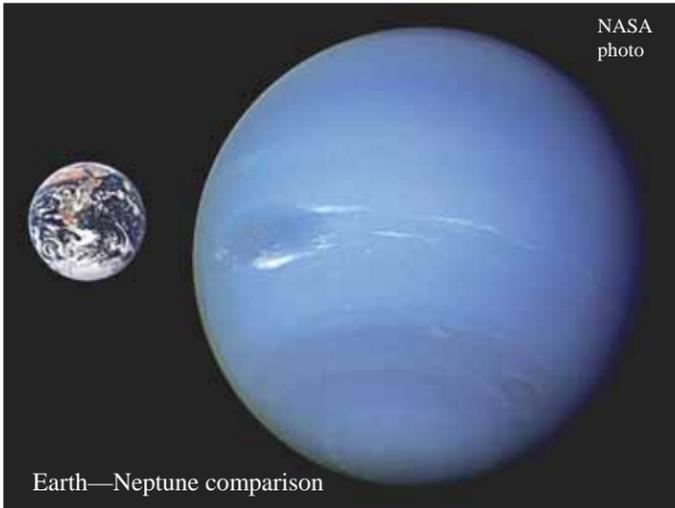
## How to Find the Last of the Planets Using the King of the Planets

This week and next you can use the King of the Planets to find the last of the planets. And, sorry folks, I'm not talking about **Pluto** because it got bumped from the planet register. So by last planet I mean the planet named for the Roman god of the sea, **Neptune**. It's invisible to the naked eye, but if you have a pair of binoculars or a small telescope you will be able to find it right beside **Jupiter** for the next two weeks.

About one hour before sunrise face southeast where the two brightest objects you'll see will be the star called **Fomalhaut** in the constellation, **Piscis Austrinus**, the southern fish. And almost directly above it, much brighter, the king of the planets, 88,000-mile-wide **Jupiter**, which is always wonderful to view with the naked eye and which through even the cheapest telescope is magnificent because you can always see its vast bands of horizontal atmosphere which continually encircle the planet. Plus you can be entertained almost hourly by the ever changing positions of Jupiter's four largest moons, three of which are larger than our own **Moon** and which constantly change position in relation to the planet as they continually orbit around it.

Indeed these are perhaps the four most important moons in our solar system regarding man's intellectual development because it was the observation of these four moons 400 years ago by **Galileo Galilei** which signaled the beginning of the scientific revolution and which we are celebrating this year with the **International Year of Astronomy** commemorating Galileo's discovery of these four **Jovian Moons** which are still called to this day the **Four Galilean Satellites**.

But while you've got your telescope trained on Jupiter and its moon ballet you will notice a tiny greenish-blue light off to the side. And that, dear friends, is 31,000-mile-wide **Neptune**. And since I always like to do comparisons with our **Earth** think of it this way. Since our Earth is 8,000 miles wide we could fit almost four Earths side by side across Neptune. But almost three Neptunes could fit across Jupiter. Wow! And talk about distant! While our Earth is approximately 93 million miles away from the **Sun**, Jupiter is approximately 500 million miles away. Neptune, however, is a super whopping six times farther away than Jupiter, 2.8 billion miles. And if you remember that the farther away a planet is from the Sun the slower it moves think of this. Whereas it takes Earth only 365 1/4 Earth days to make one trip around the Sun, Jupiter is so far away it takes it 12 Earth years to make one trip around the Sun. But you ain't seen nothing yet because Neptune is so far away it makes one trip around the Sun only once every 165 Earth years. Talk about a slow poke! So get out some time next week to find the last planet using the king planet. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*



Earth—Neptune comparison

# StarPower

By Jenny Lynch

May-2009

### ARIES:

March 20th - April 20th

You'll feel more passionate and ready for fun now that Venus and Mars are in your sign! If single; it will be easy to find somebody new to love! Mercury retrograde in your 3rd house of communication could cause misunderstandings. Think twice before you speak or sign off on important documents!

### TAURUS:

April 20th - May 21st

Money is a biggie this month. With a new Moon and Mercury retrograde in your house of cash you could find new ways to earn more. But finance isn't the only thing on your mind. While ruler Venus hooks up with sexy Mars you may uncover a mystery about a loved one.

### GEMINI:

May 21st - June 21st

A new Moon in your sign has you brimming with new ideas; yet since your ruler Mercury is retrograde it might be better to keep some things to yourself. Venus and Mars in your house of friendship send a flurry of social invitations your way. This is also a time when a friend may introduce you to someone new or even become a new love!

### CANCER:

June 21st - July 22nd

A Scorpio full Moon in your 5th house of creativity and romance makes you more passionate; but it can also bring jealous tendencies to the fore. It's best to avoid love entanglements and focus on career intentions. With Venus and Mars in your house of honors you could develop a fan base for one of your talents. If single, you find romance with a higher up!

### LEO:

July 22nd - August 23rd

While Mercury retrogrades your career sector, you may feel the grass is greener elsewhere - yet this is not a time to be overly optimistic! Jupiter in harsh aspect to your ruler (the Sun) at the time of the full Moon; suggests you think twice about jumping ship or even changing lanes. Romance can be found.

### VIRGO:

August 23rd - September 22nd

That sudden flash of light you see at the end of the tunnel causes you to feel more hopeful about your future! And a new Moon in your career sector could certainly bring a real opportunity your way. Yet - ruler Mercury retrograde (in practical Taurus) suggests you review your possibilities, take a study course or investigate before you make a new move!

### LIBRA:

September 23rd - October 23rd

Ruler Venus with Mars in your house of partners puts you in a mood to have fun! If single - you will enjoy ardent others or actively pursue someone new! You may also uncover some secrets while Mercury retrogrades your house of mysteries. It's a good time to study something esoteric or enhance your psychic ability!

### SCORPIO:

October 23rd - November 22nd

A full Moon in your sign could bring relationship tension. Disagreements may arise over shared money or resources while Mercury back pedals into your partnership house. On a more positive note - singles may find a new relationship brewing on the work front, thru everyday activities or while exercising!

### SAGITTARIUS:

November 22nd - December 21st

Venus and Mars in your house of love promises much romantic pleasure! If single, you have a good chance of meeting someone new - when you least expect it! A combination (of the Full Moon at odds with ruler Jupiter and Mercury going retrograde) in your work sector demands some fast action and new solutions to a work related crisis!

### CAPRICORN:

December 21st - January 20th

A new Moon in your house of health marks a perfect time to begin a new regime. You can use this Mercury retrograde best by getting checkups or changing your diet around. With Venus and Mars at the bottom of your chart; your organizational talents can work wonders by making home improvements or your personal life more meaningful!

### AQUARIUS:

January 20th - February 19th

Love planets Venus and Mars in your house travel marks a perfect time for a quick get away. Because you're in a mood to chat things up - you'll enjoy conversing more than usual. If single; a new Moon in your house of romance is a good time to join an Internet dating site.

### PISCES:

February 19th - March 20th

Venus and Mars in your money house makes you more confident about your spending and earning power. Because you're in the flow; you might also receive a gift from someone! While Mercury retrogrades in your house of thinking you may change your mind more than once. Singles enjoy hearing from some in their past. It's a good time to catch up with others! ■

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# BONAIRE HEINEKEN JAZZ FESTIVAL 2009 PROGRAM

For the fifth consecutive year the Bonaire Jazz Foundation will host the Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival 2009, which, considering the quality of the participating musicians, promises to be another big success. The Festival will take place from 4 to 7 June.

Mr. Edward Thielman, acting Lt. governor of the island will open the Festival at the first concert at Fort Oranje where a traditional, varied program of "Jazz and Poetry" will be presented. The evening will start with a presentation by Gebby Saleh Quartet, well known on Bonaire for their quality light classical and Antillean music. This is followed by the Cabaco Trio, also from Bonaire and featuring jazz singer Andreina Marcano. Finally, jazz singer Denise Jannah, of Surinamese/Dutch descent will perform together with musicians from Curaçao Hershel Rosario and Marlon Conradus. All quality artists, together with the romantic setting under the stars at Fort Oranje will assure a very enjoyable evening.

The second evening (Friday, June 5) which will be held at the Topsy Seagull of the Plaza Resort, starts with a performance by the Silver Bullet Steelband of Bonaire. This will be followed by Denise Jannah with a different program from the opening evening, together with Ronchi Matthews, Pierre Dunker and Marlon Conradus. Finally the Venezuelan salsa band Alfredo Naranjo y El Guajeo will delight the crowd with their Latin jazz and salsa dancing type music. For those of us who just cannot get enough there will be a jam session with festival musicians starting around midnight and going until the early morning hours at Sense, located right across from the main entrance of the Plaza Resort.

The third evening of the Festival will also be held at the Plaza Resort and promises to be the real smash. Well known Bonaire Jazz Band Dikazz will open the evening, followed by Hans Dulfer and his band from the Netherlands. Hans has performed on Bonaire before and needs no further introduction. The main act of the evening

will be none other than the Monty Alexander Quartet, from the US. Monty has performed in just about every jazz festival in this world and has made such a name that surely many jazz fanatics from Bonaire and abroad will come to see and hear him. Again the evening will be crowned with jam sessions after midnight at Sense.

On the fourth and final day the Festival, Sunday June 7, will conclude with a Jazz Brunch at the Divi Flamingo Resort, where festival musicians who are still on the island together with local musicians will present a rousing jam session while guests can enjoy a wonderful brunch. This too was a big success last year and as tickets will be sold out you should get your tickets early.

Starting times on Thursday, Friday and Saturday will be at 7:30 pm and the concerts will continue until about midnight. The Jazz Brunch at Divi Resort starts at 11:30 am and will go on until at least 1 pm. Thanks to the support of our sponsors the entrance fees have been held relatively low. For the Jazz and Poetry evening the ticket price is NAfl. 15 (available at the gate at Fort Oranje) and for the main concerts on Friday and Saturday it will be NAf 35 for each (or NAf 60 for both evenings). Tickets will be available at Plaza Resort, Divi Flamingo Resort, It Rains Fishes, Kontiki Beach Club, Flamingo Bookstore, Addo's Books & Toys, Hotel Rochaline and TCB. The Jazz Brunch costs \$27.50, and tickets will be available at the Divi Flamingo Resort.

The main sponsors of the Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival 2009 are: Heineken, Littman's, Rocargo IFC, MCB, Plaza Resort, Divi Flamingo, Restaurant It Rains Fishes, Kontiki Beach Resort, Telbo/MITV, Notaris-kantoor Maartense, Breathe-IT, Bonaire Fun Travel and Caribbean Homes and Sense.

More information about the Festival, the program, sponsors, locations and especially the artists, including their music and recordings can be obtained on web site: [www.bonairejazz.com](http://www.bonairejazz.com)

■ Press release

At the 2008 Jazz Festival



For more information [www.bonairejazz.com](http://www.bonairejazz.com)

**June 4th, Jazz & Poetry at Fort Oranje**

Gebby Saleh Kwartet, Cabaco Trio, Denise Jannah accompanied by Lonte Conradus and Hershel Rosario

**June 5th, Main Concert at Plaza Resort Bonaire**

Silver Bullit Steelband • Denise Jannah accompanied by Ronchi Mathews, Lonte Conradus and Pierre Dunker • Alfredo Naranjo y El Guajeo

**June 6th, Main Concert at Plaza Resort Bonaire**

Dikazz • Hans Dulfer Band • Monty Alexander Quartet

**June 5th & 6th, After Parties at Sense**

Jam session of different artists from the Jazz Festival

**June 7th, Jazz Brunch at Divi Flamingo Resort**

Jam session of different artists from the Jazz Festival

Tickets will be sold at Addo's Book Store, Divi Flamingo Resort, Flamingo Bookstore, Hotel Rochaline, It Rains Fishes, Kontiki Beachclub, Plaza Resort Bonaire, Sense and TCB.



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