

**It's Still
FREE**

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The REPORTER



Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Sanikolas & Swartepiet On Island
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“I was treated well, but in my opinion it was absolutely unnecessary to put me in jail because of an investigation into something that happened three months ago,” said **Ralph van Hof (above), Director of Ecopower.** He was jailed overnight after the Kingdom Detective Cooperation Team (RST) interrogated him about the electric power interruption on August 24 at the Ecopower plant. The prosecutor started a criminal investigation because she suspected that the outage had been deliberate (violating article 167a of the BES Penal Code).



Ecopower and WEB are in conflict over contractual payments. Van Hof was held upon his return to Bonaire because he was suspected of giving the order to turn the power plant off. Van Hof claimed the generators had to be turned off because the fuel supply was low and there was danger of getting air in the fuel lines. Van Hof said he desired to cooperate but was blindsided by the arrest. “I simply wanted to cooperate with the investigation, because we have nothing to conceal,” he said. According to him, WEB is deliberately attempting to slander Ecopower and its employees. “WEB N.V. is deliberately telling lies about Ecopower. These stories have been told so often, even the police started believing them.”

► The **cruise ship mall** that the Beta Bonaire Corporation (BBC’s other interests include the Bonaire District shops, Bonaire Gift Shop, Atlantis) is building means **Bonaire no longer has a secure harbor area, and this has consequences for the island,** wrote the Maritime Association of Curaçao (SVC) in a letter to Bonaire Commissioner Burney Elhage. International rules say cargo and containers may only be transported via “IPS Marsec Level 1 areas” and these areas maintain required security measures to prevent delays and thefts. Therefore, the SVC member shippers are forced to take extra measures before transporting cargo from Curaçao to Bonaire, resulting in additional costs and problems for the population. The association urges the commissioner to solve the problems at the Bonaire harbor as soon as possible.

► The *Fundashon Bon Gobernashon* (Good Governance Foundation), in a letter to the Dutch crown’s representative Wilbert Stolte, asked that the **Bonaire Beta Corporation’s building permit for a cruise ship mall be revoked.** They allege possible dispute with the transparency principle and suppression because the Executive Council “underhandedly” had not invited tenders but purposefully and exclusively negotiated with BBC and “deliberately did not appear in court to dispute the grant.” **Representative Stolte had previously said the case was a local, not a crown, matter.** On October 5th the court ruled that Beta Bonaire Corporation could begin with the construction at south pier and granted the area to the BBC.

► Island Councilmen Jeffrey Levenstone (UPB) and Rafael Santana (Independent) stated that **service to the public by the departments and staff of the Island Government of Bonaire leaves much to be desired.** “Not because the personnel are unsuitable or because the means are lacking, but because of their moodiness and cunningness, a lack of passion to serve and personal preferences,” they are quoted as saying.

As examples, Santana and Levenstone want an end to answering the telephone in an untimely manner or not at all, to the lack of dedication and goodwill in helping citizens at the counter or on the phone, to visibly getting upset over the very presence of citizens at the counter, to waiting too long for written replies, to delayed issuing of permits and threatening the Executive Council.

► Political leader of the “Pro Hustisia i Union” (PHU) political party, Michiel Bijkerk, is convinced that **Rafael Santana (photo right), who declared himself an independent member in the Island Council of the Public Body Bonaire, will return his seat to the party** “in good conscience or otherwise. We don’t want him to return the seat in a tainted way. The PHU asks everyone to leave Santana, his family and his possessions alone. We shall win, but without violence or sabotage. That’s not the way it’s done,” explained Bijkerk.



► **SELIBON is conducting an investigation into the composition of household waste** during the month of December. The outcome of the analysis will determine the adoption of new policies on waste separation and recycling. It is intended that the analysis will be conducted three times a year.



► **Tiara Air Aruba recently signed a Lease Agreement for a Boeing 737-300** with the Air Capital Trust aircraft lease company based in the US. At present, the 737-300 Boeing Aircraft with 141 seats is getting all its required livery and maintenance checks and will soon be arriving in Aruba. Tiara was recently authorized to do business in the US. Will Tiara use the new plane to soon start flying to the US... from Bonaire?

► **WILLEMSTAD— The financially-strapped Curaçao-based airline, Dutch Antilles Express (DAE), said in a press release that it will expand its fleet with an MD-83 jet this week.** The company is also negotiating with several suppliers for the delivery of turboprop aircraft for the inter-island flights between Curaçao, Aruba and Bonaire. There are also rumors of its takeover by a Florida-based US airline.

► The AMR Corporation, the parent company of American Airlines, said on Tuesday that it had **filed for bankruptcy protection** in an effort to reduce labor costs and shed a heavy debt burden. AMR was the last of the major legacy airline companies in the US to file for Chapter 11. Analysts said that its reluctance to do so earlier had left it less nimble than many of its competitors. American has flights between Curacao and Miami that many Bonaire visitors use. Airline spokesman said that flight schedules would not be affected... at least for a while.

► In St. Maarten the **Nature Foundation is recommending that the invasive lionfish not be eaten** because a recently concluded study of flesh samples of larger lionfish caught in St. Maarten waters showed levels of the poisonous ciguatera that causes ciguatera (or fish) poisoning. **Ciguatera is almost unheard of in Bonaire so our lionfish supposedly can be**

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How to contact us

Letters to the Editor:
Reporter@bonairenews.com
Story tip or idea:
info@bonairenews.com
The Publisher:
George@bonairenews.com

Box 407, Bonaire,
Dutch Caribbean
Phone 786-6125
Phone 786-6518

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
eaten without worry. But it would be good if someone would test some lionfish to confirm its absence.

Ciguatera poisoning is caused by naturally occurring toxins, called ciguatoxins that are produced by microscopic plants – *gambierdiscus toxicus* – that live on seaweed and other surfaces within coral reef communities. When fish eat seaweed or algae they consume the organisms and the ciguatoxins build up in the fish's flesh. The toxin is stored in the fish's body and not excreted, so it builds up as it goes up the food chain. The bigger fish eat the little fish and the toxin is passed on until it is consumed by humans who exhibit neuromuscular problems.

► Martin Ramaker of "Project Bonaire Dengue Free" believes that there is too little information available about Dengue in Bonaire, specifically what exactly Dengue is, how to prevent getting it, what to do if you think you have Dengue or what to do if you have it.

He says that the Department of Health and Hygiene claims to have a major campaign in preparation. But since the rollout of this campaign is not fast enough, he provided an information poster himself (The message from the poster is on page 7). The rainy season - and the Dengue season - has begun and it is important that everyone knows what they can do to prevent Dengue.



At the meeting of the Bonaire Executive Council on Tuesday, November 29, a report from the World Health organization was presented that said that in the period from August 2010 to August 2011 there were **668 confirmed cases of Dengue recorded on Bonaire**, a quadrupling of the previous two years. In addition many Dengue cases go unreported. The good news about Dengue is that this disease is **only** transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, and which **only** breeds in relatively clean stagnant water around houses and buildings. If everyone keeps his/her environment free of standing water, the number of dengue cases can be cut.

► An inquiry is underway on why some residents in the upscale neighborhoods of Sabadeco, Hato and Belnem received notices that they had to pay **huge increases in their land-lease rent (erfpacht)**, some as high as 280%. This is on top of an increase last year. The fee was levied by the local government (*Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire*) and has to be paid in two weeks.

► **Effective last week payments for most island government services (driver's licenses, permits, taxes, etc.) must be done at the Civil Registry (Bevolking) rather than at the Ontvanger's office.**

► The excavation of Bonaire's streets has turned up more than old pipes. In the road near NAPA, what appears to be a **small burial vault was found** that contains suspected human remains. Further investigation is underway to solve the mystery.

Speculation is that it was part of an ancient cemetery.

► **THE HAGUE--The Dutch Second Chamber on Tuesday approved a law amendment to drastically reduce the number of unqualified teachers at secondary schools in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Unqualified teachers must get their degree within two years.** The percentage of unqualified teachers in secondary education on the islands stands at 18.2%. The move is expected to upgrade the quality of education.

► Again this year **Bon-Fysio & BonBida Spa donated Christmas packages to the Pasku Briante program** that provides Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children. Shown in the photo at right are Jendrick Janga of BYOF (Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation) who received the gifts from Robert Smaal and Marjolein Smaal-Rijkema of Bon Bida/Fysio (photo above).



► Good news from More for Less Supermarket. **You may still get your fresh, organically grown fruits and vegetables and**

fresh flowers flown in from Ecuador every week! The non-stop KLM Bonaire-Quito flights have ceased but the More for Less owners report that the produce and the flowers are still getting here via Bogota and Curacao. They come in on the 8 pm flight on Saturday evenings and are processed and put in the **More for Less Supermarket by 8 am every Sunday.** And it's all the same wonderful stuff – fresh lettuces and other vegetables, succulent strawberries and beautiful bouquets of flowers, roses included! **More for Less** is open Monday-Saturday 8 am to 6:30 pm, Sundays 8 am to 1 pm.

► **The 10th Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon will be held on March 4, 2012.** We're telling you now so you can put it on your calendar and start training.

► **Correction:** Last week in the list of downtown restaurants serving lunches ("Lunch Explosion") "Eli Deli" was listed. That was the name of owner Ana Makaai's old restaurant at the traffic circle in Hato. But her new restaurant on the waterfront next to Watta Burger on the site of the old Capriccio's is called **Porto Deli.** We apologize for the error. Despite the mistake it got a vote anyway. You readers **still have time to vote** for your favorite. Pick one restaurant from the list and send to *The Reporter*, P.O. Box 407, Postkantoor Playa, or go online to The *Bonaire Reporter* website, www.bonsairereporter.com.

► **Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all our readers and advertisers from all of us at The Reporter. We appreciate all your support.** ■ G./L.D.

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On the Island Since... 1995 Ernestina Amanda Victoria 'Lucia' Beck

"I was born in Heerlen, Holland, in 1970. Holland as a location was more by coincidence because my father, Heinz Beck, is German and my mother, 'Mamita' Fox, is from Curacao. My father is a musician and at the time he played all over Europe. My mom was working as a nurse in a hospital in The Netherlands, but she used to be a dancer - 'mashed potato' and 'rock 'n roll' - in the 60s. That's how they met.

Until I was five I lived in Germany and my first words were in German. I remember sitting in the window with my mom, waiting for my dad to come home and my mom would teach me to count in Papiamentu and I was roaring with laughter because it sounded so funny!

When I was five the three of us moved to Curacao where my dad still lives. Then my mom divorced my dad. As a single mom she brought me up, but after school I would always stay with my grand-

mother, Lucia, as my mother was a business woman and she worked late hours.

My great grandmother was very well known and respected and also the 'man' of the house. She never married but she had a lot of kids and she had her own *toko*, a window in the wall where she sold all kinds of things. My grandma Lucia had eight kids. She also divorced my grandfather when my mom was very young. Grandma Lucia was also a business woman; she traveled the world, buying and selling, and she was also a hair-dresser.

My mom, 'Mamita', whose real name is Escolastica, which means 'the Enlightend', studied to be a nurse, then she did reflexology. She wanted to practice it on Curacao, but people thought she was a witch doctor - you know - pressing on your toes and taking away your headaches! So, she started her own beauty parlor. My mom is well known on Curacao. She was

always very involved in politics, she was part of various women's organizations, of women's emancipation. She is best friends with Liberia Peters - who was prime minister of the Netherlands Antilles - and all the other powerful women. For many years she had a radio program in Curacao, her own column in the newspaper and she did a lot for charity. Amongst others she made sure that the first cancer radiation center was established on Curacao. She raised the money for it. So, you can say I come from a family of very strong and independent women.

I spent my childhood on Curacao. After school I would go to my grandma Lucia's with my two cousins who were somewhat older. I was a real tomboy, growing up in Otrobanda, where the shops were my playground and everybody knew me.

When I was 15 years old my grandmother died of breast cancer.



Lucia Beck at her office. Behind her is a poster of Gandhi saying "An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind."

It had a big impact on my life as I not only witnessed the whole process, but she was also the one holding the whole family together. My mom stopped working for six months and nursed my grandmother until she died - very conscientious. After her death the whole family fell apart.

I was still young and I was wild and I became a rebel. I decided not to go to school anymore and I became pregnant. Then I did finish high school and I was 18 when my daughter was born. I named

her Thibisay - it's Cacique for warrior, chief, and that's what she is too. I am very thankful for my daughter because she rescued me. I had something to fight for. She was my mission in life. Thibisay was always with me and my mom until she finished high school at 16. Then she went to Aruba, to the house of a very good friend, to study hospitality management. She's 23 now and studying international business at the UNA, the University of Curacao. She's do-

(Continued on page 5)

"...I feel that after 40 you have to stabilize your life and work towards your retirement. You can have mini adventures but no radical changes..."

							
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On the Island Since (continued from page 4)
 ing her bachelors and wants to go for her masters. My daughter is even stronger than I am. She's a very strong and caring girl and I am so proud of her. Everywhere we go people know her and love her; she is very lovable.

After she was born I thought I was woman enough to be on my own. My mom bought me a one-way ticket to Holland and I took my daughter with me. Every morning at 4:30 I woke up and went to clean offices, came home, took my daughter to day-care. Then I'd go to school and after school I would clean offices again. I finished my MBO (middle professional education) in tourism and moved back to Curaçao with my daughter when she was five years old (what a coincidence...).

I started working for my mom in her business, but after a while I realized I didn't like it and I went back to school, HBO (higher professional education), doing marketing and PR. When I finished I couldn't find a job in Curaçao. A friend of mine said, why don't you go to Bonaire to try and find a job? Well, one day I had an interview with TV 11, Flamingo TV on Bonaire, and I was hired on the spot as a news editor, starting the same afternoon! I moved here without anything and as soon as I found a house I had my daughter and my mom come over. So that's how we ended up here. You can say I am Bonairean by choice!"

Lucia Beck is an outstanding professional with great charisma. She's very organized and to the point, but she's also a people's person with a good sense of humor and understanding of the human mind.

"I worked for TV 11 for a couple of

years, then I worked for the government until I saw an ad in a European business magazine looking for an international journalist. I applied, got the job, went for some training and two weeks later I was in a 5-star Hyatt Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. My job was to interview top executives. After two months in Atlanta I was in Singapore for six months. It was the highlight of my life. I was allowed to interview the brother and the son (who is now the prime minister of Singapore) of Lee Kuan Yew, the father of the nation of Singapore. It was a big deal. I also interviewed the richest man of Southeast Asia, back then, Mr. Kwek Leng Beng.

After Singapore I worked in Hong Kong, Trinidad & Tobago, Belize, Aruba and then Baltimore, Maryland. I would spend a minimum of three months in each country, then two weeks at home with my daughter and mom. After three years it was getting to me and I decided to quit. I had already met my ex-husband and I came to live with him on Bonaire, working for the Bonaire Management Group (BMG). Then my son Timothy was born. He's turning 10 in December. I decided to start my own business, but it wasn't what I'd expected, and I went to work for a government owned company.

Then there was an ad in the paper for a communications advisor for Bonaire. The whole procedure took about four to five months with eight or nine job interviews with different people. Why? I wanted to make sure I was making the right decision and the Dutch government wanted to be sure they had the right person who would be 'the face' of the Dutch government. I started in April 2010 and in November 2010 the head of the Communication De-



Mamita Fox, Timothy and Lucia at home

partment at the time asked me if I wanted to take over his position and I said 'Yes'.

The last few years I've worked hard on my self improvement and personal development through courses and training abroad. It caused me make a lot of radical changes in my life. Not only was I turning 40, but also I am a very organized person and a perfectionist who plans her whole life in many ways. I figured whatever I have at 40, I have to stick with until I retire because I feel that after 40 you have to stabilize your life and work towards your retirement. You can have mini adventures but no radical changes. So, I am where I want to be: really, really enjoying life and my

work. I feel good about being part of this process and at this moment my main objective in life is for me and my communication team to be the bridge between the local communities on the three islands and the Dutch government. It might sound like a cliché, but that's what I stand for. That's what I am going for and I believe in it. And... when I retire I'm going back to Curaçao, to my family and my roots." ■Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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Sanikolas Arrives



Last Saturday, under cloudy, rainy skies, Sint Nicholaas (*Sanikolas*) and his assistants, the Black Piets (*Swarte Pieten*), arrived in Bonaire aboard *The Good Return* charter boat. A welcoming crowd of excited children and adults swarmed the pier to catch a glimpse of him and the Swarte Pieten. Sint Nicholaas and the Swarte Pietens were then driven to the Sport Hall accompanied by the soul-stirring beat of the drum corps. The Swarte Pieten cavorted through the crowd, dancing, swinging their sacks and ropes, teasing the children and throwing candies. This year a number of kids from Jong Bonaire were Swarte Piets. They had to undergo a lot of training for the job!

Although Sint Nicholaas is associated with gift giving and the Christian holiday, his history lies in Dutch folklore and tradition,

originating more than 600 years ago when the Bishop of Madrid, Spain, gave gifts to everyone on his birthday, December 6. This bishop, it is said, originally came from Turkey with his helpers who were black (*swarte*). At that time Holland was ruled by Spain, so when Sint Nicholaas comes he arrives from Spain by boat. He always arrives in November because he has so much work to do, finding out which children have been good enough to receive presents. The Sint Nicholaas tradition is totally Dutch, but the people in the former Dutch colonies have embraced it, so much so that it seems to be completely accepted that this cleric, bearing gifts and dressed for very cold weather in heavy robes, cloak and miter, does not seem unusual in such a tropical climate as that of Bonaire. ■ L.D.



THIRD ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT

Get into the holiday spirit. On Saturday, December 17, Bonaire's Third Annual Holiday Concert will be performed at Plaza Resort Bonaire's Cacique Hall at 8 pm. The traditional year's end concert is again organized by the Classical Music Board Bonaire. See poster on page 10 for more details.

A variety of well known and soon-to-be-known Bonairean artists will perform in a special program prepared for the evening. Reflecting the array of local performing artists, the highly varied program includes singing, classical piano pieces, jazz and easy-listening recitals, choral works, Krioyo music and perhaps, an occasional a sing-along.

Beloved local tenor **Julius Andrew** will sing both famous and lesser-known songs, including boleros. He will be accompanied by organist and pianist **Franklin Scherptong**.

Very young but especially accomplished pianists, **Devanie Poerrier** and **Grep Linkels** will perform a Hungarian dance.

A special treat will come in the form of

the 15-member children's choir, which has been working for months under the direction of **Frans Lauxen**. You can enjoy selections from their repertoire both before and after the intermission.

Bonaire's renowned Silver **Bullet Steel Band** comes with a special Christmastide repertoire, and **Ramiro Schobaar** will treat all to versions of his beautiful trumpet refrains. Then there will be various improvisations on the concert grand – easy listening in a jazzy style by **Jasper Blokzjil** and classically styled compositions by **Hans Faassen**.

And if that were not enough, the concert will be followed by an after party, featuring a newly formed but superb jazz trio of **Jasper Blokzjil** (keyboards), **Gaby Mercera** (drums) and b (bass).

This will be an evening not to be missed: Tickets \$20 (at Addo's Books & Toys and Flamingo Bookstore on Kaya Grandi, at the Plaza Resort Bonaire Reservation Desk, or Chat 'n' Browse at Sand Dollar Shopping Plaza); \$25 at the hall. Tickets may also be reserved in advance at www.classicalmusicbonaire.com.

Take note:

On Sunday, December 18, from 2:30-5:30 pm, there will be a public performance of the Bonaire Music School at Cacique Hall of Plaza Resort Bonaire. The public is invited to this student performance in an intimate but professional setting. Come, enjoy... perhaps even consider taking lessons. ■ CMBB press release, Bob Gilmour

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Kelly Corbett, Beth Corbett, Paulo Ailee from TCB, Bebi Howell and David Howell

New Bronze Medal Bonaire Ambassadors Bebi and David Howell, Beth and Kelly Corbett - tell why Bonaire is special:

“Bonaire is such a unique treasure - which is why Bonaire is one of our favorite places in the world. Of course, we first came in search of the beautiful pristine reefs and the freedom that unstructured shore diving gives a person. What we found was an island home that has unique, delicious restaurants, warm friendly people, easy to drive around, and that has managed to retain its own culture and has not become “Americanized.” Candidly, if we wanted a McDonalds on every corner and tall glitzy hotels, we would stay at home.

We’ve calculated that over the past 15 years we’ve spent almost a year of our lives on Bonaire and we often refer to Bonaire as

our second home. We first stayed at the Sunset, and since have stayed at the Plaza, Carib Inn, Lighthouse, Belmar, Eden Beach, Den Laman, and the Caribbean Club. Our adventures have been varied, from being the very last people to enjoy and leave the Green Parrot restaurant the night Hurricane Lenny destroyed it, to performing CPR and attempting to save a diver in the back of a pickup truck while rushing him to the hospital.

The plethora of friends we have made on Bonaire are too numerous to list, but I will say that we have always been welcomed and treated like family by the people of Bonaire, never a tourist. For all of these abundant treasures and blessings - we thank you. ■

Story & photo from TCB press release, Paulo Ailee



WATERFRONT PURSE SNATCHING

Dear Editor:

The new street lamps along the waterfront roads Kaya J.N.E. Craane and Kaya Play Lechi DO NOT DETER CRIME!

During the evening of November 19, at 19:00 (7 pm), my wife was walking north from the center of town, along the waterfront sidewalk of Kaya J.N.E. Craane. She was returning to our home, after an ice cream stop in town, with two girlfriends.

After walking past the Kas di Regatta, near Kaya H.J. Pop, she was attacked from

behind. A man ran up to her and with both hands, grabbed her shirt between her shoulders, and ripped the shirt off with a forceful downward motion. This effort also broke her purse strap, perhaps the man's intention. This thief then ran down Kaya HJ Pop with the entire contents of my wife's purse.

Immediately my wife and her friends drove to the Police Station and met with a detective. This officer with two other policemen returned to the crime scene with my wife to look for evidence and information. None found.

This experience has shaken our relationship with Bonaire but not defeated us. We now will walk in the evening without purses, shinning bright flash lights, and always looking over our shoulder.

Please, do not be the next victim....

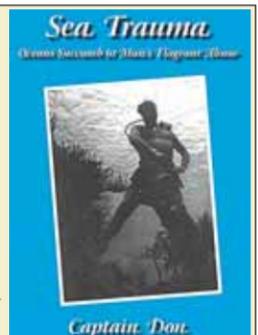
Tom Quinby

The latest novel "Sea Trauma" by Captain Don Stewart deals with nothing less than the threatening disaster of our world. Due to excessive pollution of the sea the ability of the phytoplankton to produce oxygen by photosynthesis has decreased to a critical point, effecting not only all the oxygen-depending beings of the sea itself, but also all the terrestrial oxygen breathing creatures, including mankind.

A handful of idealistic people are searching for a solution to reverse the malign process, and they seek this solution in the pristine waters surrounding a little tropical island, named Comaree. It is the last remaining healthy sea on the whole planet, with living coral gardens and an intact ecosystem. In the descrip-

tions of the island and the underwater world the reader easily can feel the passion that the author has for it. Captain Don, a person who himself is living on a small tropical island and taking care for nature since decades, writes right from his heart. The book tells us very clearly, that when the seas are dying, the world in the way we know it will stop to exist. Discover how the idealists try to resolve the problem by buying a copy of the book for yourself. ■

Marcus Taurer



STOP DENGUE NOW IN 5 EASY STEPS



STEP 1. Remove ALL standing water regularly. The dengue mosquito ONLY breeds in water storage containers around your house and other buildings. It does NOT breed in nature (pods, ponds, salina's etc.) So cleaning up you surroundings is NOT a waste of time. It CAN be done. Help Bonaire to get Dengue Free.

Turn over all water pails and water storage containers every alternate day. Or remove them permanently or store in a dry place.

STEP 2. If you THINK you have Dengue please visit your physician (doctor) and ask for a lab test! By doing this you will set of a procedure in which the Hygiene Department of Bonaire will search the area you live in and destroy as many breeding places as possible. (they only get to know the area of a dengue case, not who's the person who has it)

STEP 3. If you HAVE Dengue, please protect yourself even more against mosquito bites! By doing this, you will prevent the spreading of the disease. Protect your family and neighbours. Use insect repellent during at least 7 days (especially at dawn and dusk) or wear long sleeve shirts and pants. Sleep under a musquitonet (clamboe).

STEP 4. Involve your local community. Dengue is a problem of all of us. The Aedes Egypti, the Dengue mosquito, has a average living area of 250 meters in diameter. So if your garden is clean, but your neighbours is not, you can still get sick! Set up a small local community, ask KIDS to help!! Your neighbourhood can be a safe place to live in.

STEP 5. Don't just do this at home. Keep up the spirit at your work area too. Check for breeding places on your companies premises. Protect your colleagues and guests. Especially check Construction Sites, Storage areas, Sanitary rooms, etc.

Thank you for helping! For more information please visit: www.stopdengue.webs.com



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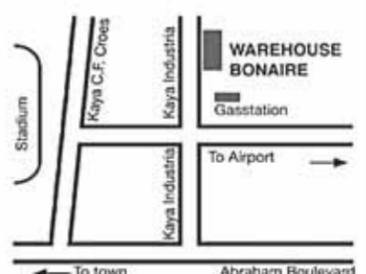
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BONAIREAN VOICES

A DELIGHTFUL CULTURAL AWARD NIGHT IN RINCON



The popular group Foyan Boyz were prize winners

On Sunday, November 20, we enjoyed a cultural festival at the Rose Inn in Rincon. During the afternoon there were different cultural groups and we could taste different cultural platters. At nightfall people continued to celebrate with the music of the group, "SaSon Boneiriano" (Bonairean Seasoning).

At 7:30 pm the ceremonial night started with the welcome words of the MC, Mr. Johnny Leoneta, followed by Mr. Hubert Vis, director of SKAL (the government cultural office) Gorgeous prizes made by Mr. Gibi Bomba were awarded to the winners.

The prize, "Premio Karko," made in the shape of a conch shell, is a musical award. The award winners were Tony Leijnse for his contribution of ranchera (Mexican) music which has been sung by Bonaireans over the years. "Gebby and His Stars" received an award for the real Antillean music played on his piano.

Between the award giving amazing young talents performed: Gags & Leo@babbiie, Stephan "Ste" Evertsz, Rincon Krioyo, Yom Krioyo and Sur & B Talent. This last one received an award because of their theatrical event, "B'a Trahe, Krie Awor." It's a comedy based on the lives of young parents and their consequences played by some SGB students.

Also the famous krioyo musical group, Foyan Boyz, received an award as well as Ronald "Tony" Trinidad for his excellent CD, "Regalo Krioyo."

Last but not least, Calixto Coffi and Orlando Tjin-A-Sjoe received special recognition for their long time achieve-



Hubert Vis gives Gebby the "Premio Karko" for his Antillean piano music



Commissioner Kroon awards the Yom Krioyo group

ment in Bonairean music and talent.

The awards were handed out by the commissioner that night, Mr. James Kroon, who addressed his final words to all the winners and the public—"Continue to celebrate our culture."

After the ceremony everyone could enjoy more music with the tunes of "SaSon Boneiriano." ■

Photos & story by Siomara Albertus



Kaminda di Arte- Art Walk



11 of the 14 Kaminda di Arte artists

The "Kaminda di Arte" (Art Walk) began last year and was a big success. Every third Sunday of the month the public is given an opportunity to meet the artists in their own homes and studios.

There are 14 artists participating in the Kaminda di Arte, which is held from 11 am to 5 pm on the following Sundays: **December 18, January 15, February 19, March 18. Participating artists:** Stephanie Bennett, Fred van den Broek, Nochi, Coffie, Wil Dijkstra, Edith Foks, Guno Gerling, Ans Klein Heerenbrink, Janice Huckaby, Wolmoet Jansen, Mira Mann, Rob Mienis, Monique Reekers, Jake Richter, Linda Richter, Lous Rood, Henk Roozendaal, Jose Smit, Anne Versteyleen, and Luz Aida Franco Wesselius

There is a new map showing the artists' locations as well as phone numbers so everyone should be able to find the places easily. The maps and more information about the artists are available at Addo's Book Store, at resorts, website <http://www.bonaireart.org/2010/11/03/kaminda-di-arte-bonaire-art-tour/> and local newspapers. ■ Press release



Where can I find The Bonaire Reporter? Just about everywhere!

- | | | | | | | | | | | |
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MCB (Playa & Hato branches)
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Pasa Bon Pizza

More Than Just the Best Pizza...



The Pasa Bon team: Joe, Luis, Blanca, Julienne, Lisa, Paulette. Maritza not pictured

Joe Pilarz started coming to Bonaire in 1988 and in 2000 he moved here “without a plan or clue.” “I came from New York and Ditta Morrison, who used to have the Leeward Inn, picked me up at the airport. She was the first person I met on Bonaire – she is lovely! After the Leeward Inn, she and her husband Don had the brilliant idea to start a pizzeria. We became friends and I had nothing to do – I wasn’t working at the time – and so I started helping out at the bar. After a while, another guy, Fred, an American who was retired on Bonaire, was helping them out as well. Then Ditta and Don decided that a pizzeria was not what they needed at that point in their life and so they offered me and Fred to buy the business and we started Pasa Bon Pizza in October 2000.

My family comes from generations of restaurant people, including my grandparents who had a tavern in Poland. So the business wasn’t new to me. Bonaire was multilingual without being Americanized. The people were friendly. It was the perfect little island!

The first two years we were struggling; business was very up and down and the up wasn’t very up... When Fred decided to leave the island Lisa Pawley bought him out.”

Lisa continues. “We – Susan Porter, my partner, and I— arrived here in 2001. I was working as a manager at Rum Runners and I’d had restaurant experience in the States since 1991. Joe had put an ad in *The Reporter*, but Susan and I were also customers and so we started informal negotiations. Then Joe basically agreed to continue the business with me as his new partner. That was October 2002, but I didn’t actually physically start working here until January 2003 because I had to finish my contract with Rum Runners. However, on my off hours I trained here.”

More from Joe: “Laurence Snelder – God bless her soul - helped me until Lisa came in January, and Susan was also helping me out. When I’d bought the business it had the old oven from the Leeward Inn, then when it broke down we bought the oven from the old Sandwich Factory from Donna (Gassert). Then Lisa came and she said, ‘We’ve got to get a new one!’ So in 2004 she ordered a new oven for us and had it flown in from Italy!”

“As business continued to grow,” Lisa explains, “that oven was insufficient. In the fall of 2006 we went to New York City

for a pizza show/convention and that’s where we purchased our current oven and even that’s sometimes not enough! I only have two hands! When I started here they would do 30 pizzas a night. It was slow – it was a struggling business. When I get a night like that I get the coloring book out and start coloring! Ha! But those nights never happened again. My first night here we did like 60 pizzas and that was really busy for us! Now we do 150 a night and then I quit! Enough! It’s too hot!

The reason I am in the kitchen is I wouldn’t be as nice to the customers! Ha! Ha! Really, in all my restaurant experiences, even when I was a general manager, I was in the kitchen on the line. I jumped in and helped the cook. I like the kitchen – I like cooking. So, Joe is out in the restaurant.”

“I am too old to do the kitchen,” Joe says. “It’s a young person’s game. But we love each other to death! Ha! Seriously, we couldn’t have done it this long if it wasn’t working well, but it’s not just us. We are grateful to have employed some of the best restaurant people on the island. You need your staff, you can’t do it yourself and we’ve got some of the best! When Jasmine left to go to Switzerland we got Blanca and then we got Julienne.” “Currently,” Lisa says, “we are a staff of six, including ourselves. Next to Blanca and Julienne there is Paulette and then Maritza and without her in the morning we couldn’t do any of this. She is a really important person. And somebody else who lives here and who is quite famous,” she laughs, “is our black cat Pia, who came here with two kittens in 2003. We had her sterilized and now she’s just fat!”

I guess one of the biggest measures of our success is that we have such strong support from the local community. This is a real local hangout and we’re very fortunate to have such support! When the day comes we’re done with this I will still be on the island,” she says. “We’re not going anywhere anymore.” “The options of where to live otherwise are very meager,” Joe adds. “This is not a glamorous life – works sucks, but I like living here!” ■

Greta Kooistra



Pia- The Pizza Cat

LOCAL SIGN COMPANY OFFERS \$500 FELLOWSHIP AWARD TO BUSINESSES AND FOUNDATIONS

For over 10 years, Sign Studio has been on Bonaire providing quality signs, banners, large format prints, logo graphic design, vehicle graphics and more. For 2012 the company has announced the establishment of the Sign Studio Fellowship Award.

“We want to give something back to businesses and the community that help support us each year,” says current manager Michael LaFortune. “Bonaire is changing and growing. This is our way of helping local businesses and foundations and the people of Bonaire.”

The Sign Studio Fellowship Award is given to any new or existing Company or Foundation that is need of signage from the

services they offer. \$500 worth of services will be awarded to an entrant who sends a one-page letter or email explaining why their business makes a positive difference to the people of Bonaire.

From the submissions emailed or sent to Sign Studio on or before December 31st 2011, one will be selected. The winning entrant will then be notified and published in *The Reporter* after January 31st 2012. “Our goal is to make this an annual event,” LaFortune said.

If you’d like more information about The Sign Studio Fellowship Award please call Michael LaFortune or Rhonda Bennett at 786-3389 or email Michael at info@bonairesigns.com. You can also visit their website at www.BonaireSigns.com.



14 members of BonKarate and their Sensei Peter Silberie with Desiree Silberie competed in two tournaments in Curacao. The team returned with two gold medals, won by Jursley Jansen and Everone Vrutaal and two bronze medals for Kia-San Silberie and Ashanti Martina.

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Dec. 17, 2011 a one day intensive course in **HEALING TOUCH** (8am - 7 pm)

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Fee: \$95.00 per class Both classes: \$180

To register please email Susan at blueskyvz@idiom.com or Bonaire Basics annemiek@bonairebasics.com or Tel:786-3341

Minimum of 5 students

Parrot Watch Update

LIFE GOES DOWNHILL
FOR SID AND MARVIN

Sid was the youngest and possibly the most adorable of the Loras rescued on July 1st. In the past five months he had changed from a tiny pink bundle of joy into the one of the most handsome of birds. His condition was tiptop and his glossy green feathers shimmered in the light. He was, too beautiful.

Marvin had arrived starvin' a little later in July. The Echo team's diligent care of the poor bird had produced a pleasantly plump Lora. Marvin too, was a most handsome and eligible young chap.

In many respects Sid and Marvin lived enchanted lives. Each morning and afternoon they were served freshly chopped fruits and vegetables. As young Loras they were still being fed by hand with a delicious gloop of nutritious baby Lora food. Their home was cleaned daily and fresh branches were provided three or more times each week. They were kings.

The afternoon of September 14th was typically sunny. Sid and Marvin had been growing agitated because the humans had been reducing the amount of delicious baby food forcing them face the indecency of foraging for themselves. This afternoon, they reassured each other, things would be back to normal. So it came as quite a shock when the human brought the afternoons 16 dishes to be distributed among the Loras and parakeets but then turned and left without serving the young kings their baby food.

"An oversight for sure," Sid told Marvin,

but he was wrong. The next afternoon the very same thing happened. This continued and it became clear to the young kings that the good times were through. No sooner has this dawned on them then construction work began. Great sheets of plywood were fastened to the aviary preventing the Loras from seeing the nice humans as they arrived to serve the endless dishes of food. Dear Reader, do not be concerned. It is not as though young Sid and Marvin are now in a box. The entire other side their large aviary is open to views of the surrounding habitat.

They waited to see how the humans would deliver their food dishes now. It was funny because they knew the food would arrive in a bowl as it always had done. Just as one supermarket is pretty similar to any other supermarket, but still when the food arrived through the new little slot for a feeding dish they just had to check it out for themselves.

Sid and Marvin thought it was a terrible shame that they couldn't use their relatively large eyes to watch the human approach their palace. You will no doubt know that Loras, like most birds, have incredible vision. Not only can they see full colour but they can see the Ultraviolet light too. The shimmering feathers of a boy Lora may look the same as those of a girl Lora to our human eyes but to them, the difference couldn't be clearer.

Parrots like pigeons have their eyes on the sides of their head allowing them to spot predators from afar. I'm sure you'll agree, Dear Reader, that while pigeons of course deserve to be eaten, parrots like Sid and Marvin should remain sacred and never be preyed upon. Unlike parrots the Merlin and

Peregrin falcons that find their way to Bonaire each winter without the need for a jet plane, have heads that are quite wide. This enables bifocal vision and brings great accuracy to their hunting. If in doubt about the value of bifocal vision we suggest you close one eye and try and touch a specific point some way in front of you. Merlins and Peregrines are of course the birds that eat pigeons.

They are now flying above and around Bonaire in great abundance and if you'd care to use your myopic human eyes you'll easily be able to spot one.

Dear Reader, we must get back on track. The reason Sid and Marvin found themselves closed off and excluded is because they are in a cage and the Echo team would like for them, or anybody else, even those on religious sailing vessels, to be free. Sid and Marvin of course were not aware of the Echo team's intentions and so when the human entered the aviary to clean the aviary they flew down to say hello. In that same moment a tremendous noise could be heard. Sid and Marvin looked at each other in bewilderment and fear. For a passing moment Sid thought that it might just be yet another Icelandic volcano erupting, only this time on Bonaire. Similarly Marvin wondered whether the Mayan calendar, and indeed the crazy Hollywood movie they'd watched the



Sid and Marvin (pictured) lived like kings with fresh branches brought to them three or more times each week

other week were true. Was the world coming to an end?

The terrible noise continued for some moments. The human continued with his cleaning task. Sid and Marvin were terribly afraid and they realised the human must not be aware the world was ending. Very quickly the human left the aviary and as the door closed the noise ended. The young kings were puzzled and they thought about the world ending long into the night.

The next morning the food dishes were served as normal. The Loras ate, they played a little, they digested and all too soon it was afternoon again. Sid and Marvin were expecting the afternoon dishes to be served with the dedicated tedium the parrot team know all too well but instead a human entered the aviary and suddenly the world started to end once more.

(Continued on page 13)

SATURDAY December 17, 2011
starting at 8 PM

classical music board bonaire

Plaza Resort Bonaire, Cacique hall

musicians from bonaire for bonaire

DECEMBER HOLIDAY CONCERT 2011

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HANS ODIN FAASSEN
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Kas Karko

A safe haven for children from 8 to 18

Kas Karko is a home for boys and girls from the ages of eight to 18. Every child who is admitted to Kas Karko has been placed there by the Youth and Family Department of the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare and Sports. But in the end Kas Karko decides who it admits, as the new child has to fit in with the children who are already living there. It's the judge who decides to give the state the custody of the child if the child is neglected, abused, sexually abused, or/and suffering from behavioral problems. Each child has his or her own supervising guardian appointed by the judge. This guardian has the end responsibility for the child. The guardian takes over the parental authority. The home has room for eight children and there is one room available for crisis admission.

"Kas Karko takes care of the children 24-7, from Monday to Monday, and from January to January," says Jona Chirino, the interim manager. "Before Kas Karko, Bonaire had the Maria Höppner Foundation, but three years ago it was closed and the children who were living there went to live with foster families until the Youth and Family Department took over and it was decided that two new homes would be opened. So far, Kas Karko is the first one."

Aisheline Lacroes worked at Kas Karko from the very beginning in September last year. She has an HBO-sph education - higher professional education in social pedagogic assistance. She's 27 years old, involved and passionate. "Last year after the Regatta we started admitting the first children," Aisheline says. **"Our children can't live at home because it's not safe for them.** They arrive here, one by one, and before they come to live here we discuss whether the child would fit here and how we're going to go about it. Once the child is admitted he or she is introduced to the other children and also gets his or her own personal assistance plan.

Our team consists of eight people; there is one senior pedagogic assistant and five other pedagogic assistants. There are two night guards. The night guards don't sleep here. They are supposed to stay wide awake; they are always accompanied by a pedagogic assistant. That person could doze off a little bit, but most of the time it doesn't work that way, at least not for me, because I always hear who's coughing, who is going to the bathroom and who talks in her/

his sleep...

Before the child is admitted here we don't have any contact with him or her. They come through the Guardianship Board or through the Youth and Family Department. Our starting point is housing the children in an environment that is as homey as possible. So, if, for example, the child went to the Reina Beatrix elementary school before coming here, they stay at that school. We don't change that. They also stay with their own doctor they had before they were admitted here. And when a child needs professional assistance from - for instance - a psychologist, we arrange that and take them there.

Here, at Kas Karko, we live together like any other 'family'. We have breakfast at 6:30 and at 7 am we take the kids to school in our van. If there's a child who goes to the Watapana School (an elementary school for children with special needs in Rincon) they will be picked up by the bus from the Watapana School. After school we all lunch here. Lunch is prepared by the night guards. We try to cook as healthily as possible and the same goes for breakfast. But we also prepare 'snacks' for the children when they feel like it! After lunch everyone takes a rest for one and a half hours and then various activities are planned for the afternoon - such as workouts at the sport school, Jong Bonaire, social skills training and yoga. We also have two computers the kids can work on, but we do supervise them while they are on-line. During the weekends we cook with the children, we go swimming, we go shopping - just like a regular household. And everything the child needs, whatever it is - shampoo, soap, shoes, clothing, cosmetics- it's all provided by us. And when a child has a birthday we celebrate it just like in any other family. At 9 o'clock at night everyone goes to bed.

Each child has his or her own room but now we have two sisters who are sharing the 'master bedroom' with their own bathroom and a balcony. On the premises we also have an apartment where a child lives 'under guidance.' That's the eldest child of the group who is ready to live independently and he or she has to arrange almost everything by herself/himself. We do have a bicycle available and the child has its own personal mentor like any other child in this house. The mentor is one of the pedagogic assistants who work here. We also have a



(Left to right) Three strong women: Aisheline Lacroes, Jona Chirino and Mona Lisa Domacassé

very good 'makamba', a professional, a volunteer, who supports us by helping the children with mental disabilities.

When a child is admitted - the whole plan for his or her future is created. If we see the possibility of the child returning to its family, the supervising guardian will guide the family situation so the child can return to the family. We strive to keep the child here not too long. He or she could go home for the weekends. That route is decided by the supervising guardian, a social worker or a social pedagogic assistant. The child is totally guided by us according to the plan we made for him or her. But everything we do with the child is supervised by the guardian.

In case a child cannot return to its family, the guardian will first look into the network of the other family members of the child to see whether they can take care of the child. If that's not possible we will look for a foster family.

Now, let me tell you," Aisheline says, **"after the age of eight a foster family is not an option anymore.** It's almost impos-

sible because people don't want to get involved with problems and a foster child comes with its luggage. **So, the older the children are, the more difficult it gets to find a foster home.** And for the ones who turn 18 it is very hard to find a house they can afford, because most of the time they're still at school and they don't have the money. When a child leaves here at the age of 18 they can still have aftercare, but that's voluntarily. Really, **I think the state should have a subsidized follow-up until those kids are 21.** I know people are brainstorming at this moment about the issue, but so far there's nothing yet..."

The emergency measures on Bonaire are not sufficient, but this is what we have at this moment. Right now every department on Bonaire is busy setting up their own *toko* (shop), and a lot has changed, all at the same time, at every single department since 10-10-10. We've been busy now for a little over a year and we've accomplished a lot, but **we do miss a follow-up and also professional care.** I have to admit that the

(Continued on page 12)

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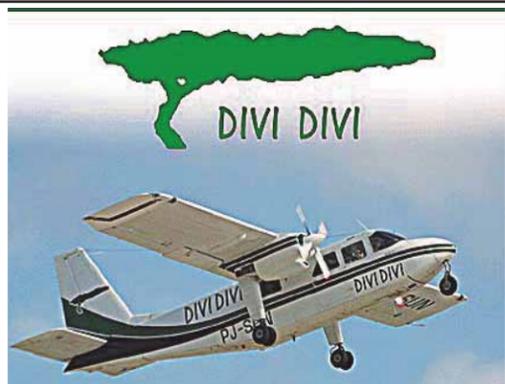


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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

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

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri 09	11:42 1.02 ft	21:47 -0.10 ft				6:45	18:11
Sat 10	12:19 1.03 ft	22:26 -0.14 ft	Full Moon			6:45	18:11
Sun 11	12:58 1.02 ft	22:57 -0.16 ft				6:46	18:11
Mon 12	13:39 1.00 ft	23:22 -0.17 ft				6:46	18:12
Tue 13	14:21 0.96 ft	23:42 -0.17 ft				6:47	18:12
Wed 14	15:05 0.89 ft					6:47	18:12
Thu 15		00:00 -0.16 ft	06:38 0.44 ft	10:09 0.41 ft	15:52 0.80 ft	6:48	18:13
Fri 16		00:17 -0.15 ft	06:40 0.57 ft	12:02 0.38 ft	16:42 0.68 ft	6:48	18:13
Sat 17	L Quarter	00:37 -0.14 ft	07:02 0.73 ft	13:33 0.31 ft	17:36 0.55 ft	6:49	18:14
Sun 18		00:59 -0.14 ft	07:33 0.89 ft	14:54 0.21 ft	18:34 0.42 ft	6:49	18:14
Mon 19		01:26 -0.14 ft	08:10 1.04 ft	16:07 0.10 ft	19:38 0.29 ft	6:50	18:15
Tue 20		01:55 -0.13 ft	08:51 1.16 ft	17:16 -0.01 ft	20:47 0.18 ft	6:50	18:15
Wed 21		02:28 -0.11 ft	09:36 1.24 ft	18:20 -0.10 ft	22:05 0.11 ft	6:51	18:16
Thu 22		03:04 -0.07 ft	10:24 1.28 ft	19:22 -0.17 ft	23:31 0.07 ft	6:51	18:16
Fri 23		03:43 -0.02 ft	11:15 1.28 ft	20:19 -0.22 ft		6:52	18:17

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Kas Karko (Continued from page 11)
situation has improved compared to 10
years ago, because now, for instance, there
are psychologists living on the island and all
the people working in this sector are quali-
fied. But because of the existing rules and
regulations **a child can only see a psy-
chologist nine times a year when he or she
needs to see the psychologist at least 20
times a year!** Our kids do carry a whole lot
of baggage. You have no idea! It is tough,
very tough. These children are just like ice-
bergs – what you see is not even 25% of
what's going on. We are constantly trying to
find out what the problems are and how we
can get involved and more importantly – we
are not doing this alone – **we are doing this
together with the schools, the house doc-
tors, psychiatrists, the judiciary, the
Guardianship Board etc, etc."**

She looks at Jona who is a die-hard and a
solid professional, someone who has been
involved in this work on Bonaire for a very
long time, who also is a very strong and
charismatic woman with a big, warm heart
and a great knowledge and experience in
this field. She worked with the child welfare
board for six years, with the political party
Paboso, with the family welfare institution.
She started Fundashon J.O.N.A. (to help/
organize development norms and values for
parents and children), she worked at Forma
as a social worker – she was again politi-
cally involved, but more importantly, she
was always there for the people.

"I'm here for three months", Jona says,
"and I am supposed to reorganize and fix
this place and turn the co-workers into a
strong team and make it ready for somebody

else to take over. It's not an easy task we're
coping with, and that's why the team needs
a pat on the back now and then! Often! It's a
challenge!"

"You need a lot of creativity and man-
power to keep the continuity of the daily
routine," Aisheline says. "And next to that
we're trying to get the best out of the chil-
dren – every single day! **Also we want to
make sure they understand they're worth
it, because they are! They have to get
back their self-respect and all of us are
working on it, day and night!** We're con-
stantly on the job, even when we're sick or
off duty. People who work in this sector go
a long way because their heart is in their
work and they feel responsible. We work to
get things done and if we would charge
RCN for every minute that we work they
would go bankrupt!"

**The best thing that could happen is that
people would react when they see a child
being neglected and abused because
many times people know. They see it,
they feel it.** The schools, the neighbors,
family members, doctors, infant welfare
centers, everyone involved – when you see
something and you feel, you know, it's not
right – report it! **Ring the bell! The earlier
the better, because it's just like cancer –
it goes unnoticed
and everybody is in
denial and before
you know it, it's too
late and a life has
been destroyed..."**

Story & photos by
Greta Kooistra



Bonaire Real Estate Reflections

BUILDING: 10 POINTS TO CONSIDER

I am frequently asked, "Should I build?" My response always is there are two ways to build. This approach is especially important on Bonaire.

Most of the private home building on Bonaire is for second homes. Building a home from thousands of miles away complicates and exacerbates all of the "normal" problems.

The first way to build is to quit your job, move to Bonaire immediately and go to the jobsite everyday and take lots and lots of tranquilizers. The second way to build from far away from Bonaire is to quit your job and travel for two years until the house is finished. You will have a great time, you will see the world and you will never need tranquilizers.

There is no easy way to build a house. There is no easy way to build a house when you are thousands of miles from Bonaire. There is no easy way to even have a house built for you when you are thousands of miles from Bonaire.

Building a house is hard work. It requires special skills and expertise. Knowing what you like or want does not make it happen. Making something happen can be expensive beyond belief. Being far from Bonaire means you must be extra diligent in every-

thing you do.

Having built two homes of my own and as a consultant to dozens of builders and clients I assure you that when it's done right building your own home is a fantastic experience. It may be very rewarding financially and emotionally. The key is in doing it right.

Point One: What is the condition of your market? I have built in hot and super hot markets and it is hard work. Every time you go to the store the cost of material goes up. Every time you call the tradesman the cost of labor goes up. Material does not arrive on schedule and labor does not arrive at all.

When the market is slow the situation reverses itself. You pinch yourself because the prices are stable, material is always available and the crews show up and work all day, even on Saturday! You can even stay on budget! The market on Bonaire is very slow right now. It is an excellent time to build here.

Point Two: You must have a budget covering every item right down to the cabinet knobs and toilet paper holders. I learned this lesson from a mentor who built more than 20,000 houses, condos and apartments all over America. He told me that once he budgeted for every cost he began to make "real money." Recent tax law changes have made some aspects of importing materials less expensive on Bonaire.

Point Three: Have a team of talented people. Do not start unless your team includes

people you trust who understand architecture, engineering, design, construction and every component of building. I always want my team to have dirty hands. I want my architect to have real world experience building. I have looked at hundreds of "pretty" plans that cannot be built. My engineer has to have experience in the trenches not just in supervision. There are people on Bonaire with these skills. Look long and hard to find the right ones.

Point Four: Your team needs to be practical. The best plans will be changed in the field. Change can be very expensive and if done by people with practical experience it can also save you money. On Bonaire you often will have to improvise.

Point Five: Budget 10% extra for the unexpected. If it is a big house, make that 20%. If you or your spouse change the plans budget 40% for the changes.

Point Six: If you are not knowledgeable about construction hire someone who is. Your architect will watch the overall design and some key construction points. Your architect will not be on site 8 hours a day. Many deviations in construction will be covered up long before the architect makes a weekly inspection.

Point Seven: Hire a general contractor who is the best in the business for your type of construction. Your home is not a place to cut corners or a practice time for the inexperienced. Building small homes is not like building big homes. Doing quality construc-



Small Bonaire house under construction

tion is different from slap dash construction.

Point Eight: Hire a very knowledgeable overseer who must be on site four hours a day and on call all day. This is a great investment. A great overseer will save you much more than his or her salary.

Point Nine: When you are on island go to the site everyday preferably 30 minutes in the morning and 30 in the evening. Insist that your supervisor and general contractor call you everyday with a 5-minute update. This is mandatory.

Point Ten: Be prepared for the unexpected and celebrate your successes. ■ Anna & Art Kleimer

The Kleimers are founding partners of Bonaire Island Real Estate, B.V. Email:



Anna@Bonaireislandrealestate.com



Parrot Watch (Continued from page 10)

Sid and Marvin quickly decided they didn't like humans anymore. The humans didn't bring them their food dishes anymore, it just arrived through the slots and whenever the humans were there the world nearly ended. It was as though the humans were a bad thing. Sid and Marvin decided they would stay well away from humans from now on.

Hopefully, Dear Reader, this will indeed be the case. Once we are absolutely adamant that Sid, Marvin and the other Loras have a healthy dislike of humans it will be possible to release them back into the wild on Bonaire. It has been a long journey to

reach this point and only possible thanks to incredible donations and funding Echo has received. Please do keep up to date with the latest news at www.facebook.com/echobonaire.org.

Sam Williams

Dr. Sam Williams has been studying Bonaire parrots since 2003. He founded the the Echo Foundation dedicated to conserving Bonaire's natural environment. is supported by contributions. Special thank to Storehouse Mangazina.



DO YOU SUDOKU?

To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region.

Sudoku Solution

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

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

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BonQuiz #70



RINCON MONUMENT

This Rincon monument reflects respect and admiration, pride and love for its culture, sports and people.

The Foundation, FUDECU, stands for Fundashon DEporte i KULTura and is Rincon's Foundation for Culture and Sports. Initially founded to manage the Rincon stadium, in later years a very popular "culture day" sprang from it....

Q) Who established the foundation? Which popular culture event was born?

Answer on page 18.

BonQuiz appears regularly in *The Reporter*. It's prepared by Christie Dovale of Island Tours. To arrange a tour, contact her via her website:

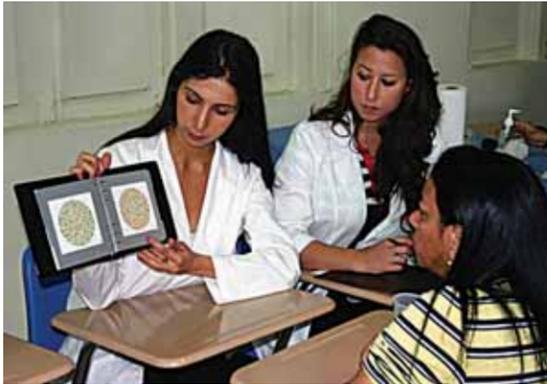
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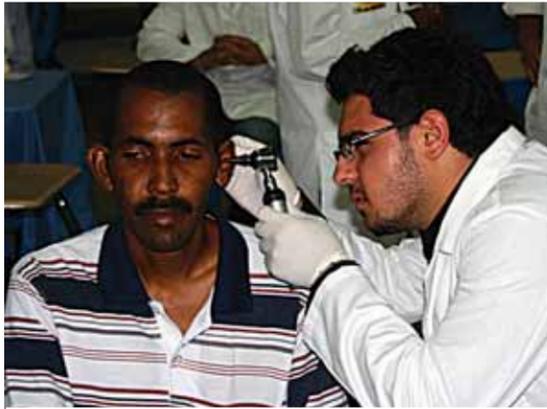
Saint James Health Fair 2011



The St. James School of Medicine continued its community service by offering regular "Health Fairs" free of charge. Between the health fairs at Noord Salina and Playa, over 100 people received medical screening. On hand were 42 students and 12 staff. They performed a variety of tests for blood pressure, lung function, body fat, body temperature, pulse rate, tendon reflexes, pupillary reflexes, visual acuity, color vision, waist: hip ratio, BMI, urine dipstick for 10 indicators. Then the results were explained by clinically qualified staff. This is a wide swathe of non-invasive tests. The Playa Health Fair is an annual event, but the Noord Salina event was a first for Bonaire, in association with the Public Health Department who said they want to visit more neighborhoods more often.



At the Community Centre in Noord Salina on 12th November between 8 am and noon there was a free primary health care screening arranged by the Public Health Department. The screening was done by 3rd and 4th semester SJSM student volunteers under the supervision of a qualified clinician.



Scenes from the health screenings

Ten students gave up part of their study weekend to improve their clinical and interactive skills, and a total of 41 people visited the clinic for testing during the hours it was open. Any results outside the normal ranges were immediately referred to the attending clinician, who then advised the subjects how to best proceed.

The subjects all signed consent forms, their ages ranging from 21 to 83, representing all age groups, with roughly an equal gender mix. Feedback from the subjects was very good and they expressed appreciation for the efforts, both of the SJSM students and the Public Health Department, in making the services available and accessible.

About two weeks later on Sunday 27th November the annual Health Fair in Playa was held.

Just about all of the preparation had been done the day before, so really all that had to be done was set up the registration desks, hang the banner and set up the refreshments tables. As every previous time, there were a few early birds before 9, but most people arrived between the start and about 11:30. After that it started to ease off, with just ones and twos signing up. The event went very smoothly, the students did their jobs extremely well and gained invaluable

**Happy
Happy
Birthday**



Sunday, December 4th

Feurtje Veldkamp celebrated her 24th birthday, and we wish you many, many more to come and share with your loved ones, Sweetheart. May this year be beautiful, filled with lots of blessings, love, good health and success. You are always on my mind and always in my heart. Love and kisses from all your friends on Bonaire and from Mom. ■

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in... Middle of the World Museo de Sitio Intinañ-Ecuador



Greta Kooistra and Peggy Bakker at the middle of the world in Ecuador at the Museo de Sitio Intinañ, supposedly the location of the Earth's equator. The Museo has fascinating exhibitions about - amongst others - the Amazon people and the ancient trade of shrinking heads and amazing exhibits about astronomical geography. One of the highlights is the solar chronometer, an instrument made in 1865 that shows precise astronomical and conventional time, as well as the season, month, day, hour and minute, all by using the rays of the sun. Also, one can balance a raw egg on the head of a nail and there are water and energy demonstrations to prove that one does weigh less on the equator. The museum is not only great fun, but also it makes you realize once more how brilliant and what geniuses the ancient people could be. were. ■

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experience in interacting with the public, as well as having fun doing so.

When taken in conjunction with the Public Health Department Noord Salina event a significant proportion of the Kralendijk population was screened. The vast majority got the reassuring news that they are healthy, at least as far as the tests we could carry out indicated, while a few were given an early warning of potential prob-

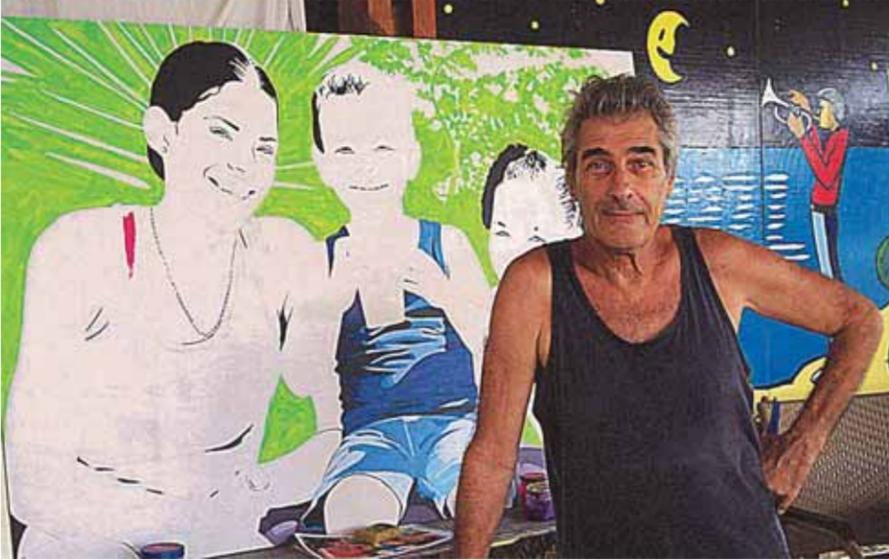
lems which they will need to see their doctor about.

This SJSM Health Fair has become a regular, annual event and will continue to appear on the calendar as long as it still serves a purpose for both the public and our students. ■

Professor Bruce Davidson for SJSM.

Art Focus

Featuring artists exhibiting at Bonaire's Kas di Arte



HARD EDGED AND COLORFUL

When I met Henk Roozendaal my first impression was that he was a quiet, reserved man. Since then Henk has visited Kas di Arte several times and has placed his art on the walls. I wanted his work on display - it's very edgy and electrical- and in his work I see a person different from my first "reserved" impression. I see someone with something to say in a medium that allows self-expression in fabulous works with brilliant splashes of color.

Even while living in Holland during his youth he thought about living on a tropical island. In a career lasting from 1968 - 1999 Henk was in advertising as an art director, copy writer and creative director. He was a shareholder in an advertising agency for TV campaigns, commercial art and more.

In 1992 he began his quest to live on an island in the Caribbean, visiting lots of islands. One day while standing on an empty lot in Sabadeco he and his wife decided to make Bonaire their permanent home. They moved to Bonaire in 1999.

Henk is a self-made man, a self-taught artist, he tells me, as we sit outside his studio surrounded by lush gardens, which, as he proudly tells me, his wife has cultivated. You can see he is influenced in his colorful art by the garden itself. As we sit and talk Henk warms to the subject he likes- art of course- and explains how he

first started painting murals. He describes how in 2006 his art form evolved beginning with two books he co-authored with Guus Gerritson. They published Portraits of Bonaire featuring Henk's portraits and Guus' stories of interesting people living on Bonaire.

Over the years he has had several extensive exhibitions on Bonaire, Curaçao, and at the Broadway Gallery in New York City. He's not changing his style anymore, he says. The colors he uses have a wide spectrum from cool to warm.

Henk starts with photos of his subjects and then goes beyond, reflecting their personality with color. His subjects can vary from cool to flamboyant, depending on his interpretation of what he sees. After meeting the person he is going to paint Henk usually visualizes a color surrounding that person.

His medium is acrylic. While oil painting was traditional, he wanted to break free of that and go into another medium. He chooses saturated acrylic colors to create the effect he wants, a three-dimensional result providing highly stylized realism.

As I sit outside with him, chilling in the cool afternoon air, I am again reminded of how passionate artists are about their work. Henk tells the story of how his inspiration often comes from his subjects, especially his commissioned clients. He spends months on one painting, and he is happy with his colorful people. His hard edge painting style gives a feeling of constant motion, he tells me.

As we wrap things up, Henk talks about

his son Boy, which brings smiles, and I ask why he named his child Boy. He replies, "Well, he is a boy, right? And also look how many here have that same name, only with a different spelling."

We smile again, and I think, Henk has his childhood dream, in living color, every day, and I am reminded of how a single thought, followed through, although somewhat changed, can brighten the life of many.

■ Story & photo by Sandra Johnson.

Johnson is the administrator of Bonaire's Kas di Arte, the island's waterfront art gallery. Kas di Arte is also on Facebook.



Adam Littman presented Kas di Arte manager Sandra Johnson an elegant glass and mirror cabinet on behalf of Littman Jewelers.

The Kas will use the cabinet to display the many beautiful jewelry items produced by Bonaire's gifted artists. ■ G.D.

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SHOPPING and SERVICE 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.

ART

Henk Roozendaal is one of Bonaire's most accomplished artists. His specialty is portraits that capture not only the spirit of the individuals but also offer a glimpse of their lifestyle.

APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

City Shop, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. In-store financing too.



BANK

ORCO Bank offers one-on-one attention., personal banking works. Each client is a client, not a number. Office in the historic building at Kaya Grandi 48.

BEAUTY PARLOR

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing.

CARS AND BIKES

De Freewieler sells bikes and all kinds of bike accessories. They do professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. **Have your keys made here too.**

DENTURE REPAIR

All Denture Lab—for the best denture care by an experienced professional. Repairs while you wait. Next to Botika Korona on Kaya J. G. Hernandez.

DINING

Pasa Bon Pizza is Bonaire's best. Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Nice bar too. Very cool jazz music! **780-1111** Call ahead to eat-in or take out.

ON & IN THE WATER

Budget Marine has what anyone with a boat needs, and if its not in stock they can order it quickly. You can also find special hardware for general use and components for solar and wind electric systems.

Carib Inn is the popular 10-room inn with dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

Dive Friends has four dive schools and three retail shops so you always get the best deals and can be assured of top notch training. Rremodeled shop open now

UNDERWATER VIDEO

ScubaVision - Pro video of your Bonaire vacation, above and/or below the water with a custom DVD by Bonaire's top videographer, Hendrik Wuyts.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Off Kaya Industria, behind TIS.

HOME CARE

Bonaire Second Home Care can handle all the needs of second home owners on Bonaire including inspection, management and cleaning.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Bonaire's creative video and still photographer for the wedding or other important events in your life. ScubaVision, Kaya Grandi 6, see website scubavision.info or YouTube

REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

Bonaire Island Real Estate, B.V. Brings personal attention, experience and integrity to property transactions.

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



RETAIL

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

Le Garage has lots of the quality things everybody needs which weren't available here before at great prices: household, garden, children's.

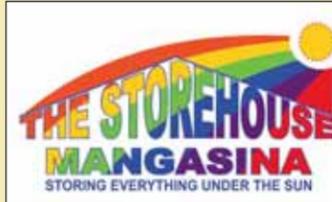
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SECURITY

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

STORAGE

The Storehouse (*Mangazina* in Papiamentu) offers Secure Storage for Vehicles, Household Items, Diving and Sporting Gear, Business Files or Inventory. Across from the northern hotel row.



SHIPPING

Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent. What would we do without their superb services?**



SPAS/GYM

Bon Bida Spa & Gym World Class fitness and health facility—Classes, top notch machines, trainers. Day, monthly or annual rates.



Face and Body Day Spa by Nubia.

Professional massage therapy, facials, reflexology, lymph drainage, Shiatsu, deep tissue massage and other body and facial treatments

SUPERMARKETS

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



More for Less

Bonaire's "boutique" supermarket with a wide selection, specializing in organic fruits and vegetables, unique products and fresh flowers. On the Nikiboko Road North

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor*. Hotel or downtown pickup The only water taxi to Klein Bonaire with built-in ramp

WINES

Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Kaya Industria 23, Mon.-Sat. 9 am-1 pm.

Fortnightly Advertisers in The Bonaire Reporter are included in this guide. Free!

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New Super Supermarket



On Thursday, November 24, the Van den Tweel Supermarket was opened officially to a multitude of invitees and officials (photo). Owner Gerard van den Tweel and his wife along with friends and acquaintances were on hand for the opening. Van den Tweel initially intended to open the supermarket under the well-known name of Albert Heijn. However, due to a conflict with them, van den Tweel chose to open a supermarket on Bonaire under his own name.

The announced public opening on Friday was delayed until Saturday because of some missing product scan codes, disappointing many people who visited the market only to be turned away. The opening was nevertheless an overwhelming success the following day. Bonaire hasn't shown such enthusiasm for a new thing since the Flamingo Fast Ferry, *Chogogo*, began service to Curaçao exactly 10 years ago.

The market is first class by any standard. The supermarket's layout, products, service and ambience are what you'd expect in an urban European setting. Because the vast majority of signage in the market is in Dutch we were astonished by the slogan, in English, posted above the entrance/exit doors, "No Guts, No Glory," an American military inspirational quote meaning without taking risks one will never achieve great success.

The selection and storage of vegetables is especially appealing with varieties perhaps never before seen on Bonaire. There are onions that would win blue ribbons, six different varieties of potatoes and pots of live herbs. On an island where you often have to take what is offered, having a very wide selection of brands of similar foods is refreshing: coffees, including decaf beans, snacks, baby food, cereals, cheeses, beers, wines, frozen foods and more. We saw local products, not only European ones: Aletta's *Semper Kontentu* goat cheese, Lovers juices and milk products, including fresh milk. The cheese variety offered is extensive.

The meat department was very European. There were few American cuts of beef and lots of expensive marinated meats. There were no fresh berries or the organic produce from South America. There's an aisle offering household goods, pots and pans, dishes and even a Dutch language book section.

The staff is composed of local people with some European Dutch (10% of the staff is Dutch according to van den Tweel), who seemed well trained for their jobs.

The frenzied activity had vanished by the end of its first week but there were reasonable numbers of people in the store. The nearby Warehouse Supermarket seemed less crowded than usual, but those shoppers often had full shopping carts while the carts in the van den Tweel market were much less full.

The Bonaire food shopping scene has changed to the benefit of the consumer because of the van den Tweel Supermarket. Ultimately its success will depend on the competitiveness of its prices, its ability to keep its shelves stocked and the level of its service.

The van den Tweel flagship has begun navigating the consumer waters of Bonaire and must contend with the established supermarkets, Chinese markets, tokos and the emerging farmers' markets. It's a big investment and getting a reasonable return from Bonaire's small, but growing, population may be a challenge. ■ G.D.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Crafts Market at Wilhelmina Park on Fridays and Cruise Ship Visiting Days—usually 10 am until ship departure.

Day	Date	Ship	Arrive/Depart	PAX Cap	Line
WED	12/7/	Noordam	0800-1700	1918	HAL
WED	12/7/	Caribbean Princess	0700-1400	3100	Princess Cruises
THU	12/8/	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
FRI	12/9/	Zuiderdam	0800-1700	1918	HAL
WED	12/14/	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
TUE	12/20/	AidaLuna	1000-1800	2050	AIDA Cruises
THU	12/22/	Caribbean Princess	1200-1900	3100	Princess Cruises
THU	12/22/	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
FRI	12/23/	Westerdam	0800-1600	1918	HAL
FRI	12/23/	Zuiderdam	0800-1701	1918	HAL

Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Saturday, Dec. 10

—Animal Shelter Dinner & Auction at Sense—see page 18

—Jong Bonaire Youth Center re-opens

—AWC presents Beaujolais Nouveau 2011 Chateau Cambon, El Mundo Restaurant, 7 pm, opening at 8. Info, call El Mundo 717-4601.

Sunday, Dec. 11- Christmas Market at Hotel Roomer— Local Art and Crafts, Christmas songs with Roly Casimiri— Free. From 4-6 pm.

Saturday, Dec. 17—December Holiday Concert, sponsored by the Classical Music Board Bonaire, 8pm pm, Plaza Hotel.
www.classicalmusicbonaire.com

Sunday, Dec. 18

—Kaminda di Arte, visit 14 different artists in their studios. Maps at Addo's Bookstore and on the TCB website. More on page 8

—Public performance of the Bonaire Music School, Cacique Hall of Plaza Resort, from 2:30-5:30 pm. All invited to this free student performance.

Dec. 21-22—Winter Solstice—more on page 19

Sunday, Dec 25— Christmas Day

Monday, December 26— Boxing Day—banks and businesses closed

REGULAR EVENTS

- **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.
- **We Dare to Care Park children's playground** open every day in the cooler afternoon-evening hours.
- **Kas di Arte—Ongoing exhibit with different artists.** Open Wednesday-Sunday, 9 am-noon, 1-6 pm. On the sea promenade

Saturdays

- **Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) 1st Saturday of the month**, at Kriabon, Kaminda Jato Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am to 12 noon.
- **Farmers' Market, last Saturday of the month**, at Pakus di Pruga, 8 am- noon, Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café.
- **Bonaire Animal Shelter's "Garage Sale" Pakus di Pruga—every Saturday**, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Lots of free parking. Tel. 717-4989
- **Monthly flea market at "We Dare To Care" Playground, 1st Saturday of the month**, 2- 6 pm. Rent a table for \$10. Information: Marissa Jansen (Tel: 701-1103) or Kim de Raadt (Tel: 787-1475)
- **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 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.
- **Chess Training** - Children & adults. \$5, 512-9660. Volunteers welcome

Sundays

- **Kunuku Arawak** - Music, drinks, local food, dancing, 10 am—6 pm. Tel.786-7210
- **Soldachi Tours of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria, 717-6435-best island tour value
- **Meet the Captain Night at Captain Don's Habitat Bar**— Get up close and personal with Bonaire's dive pioneer. The Captain will autograph your copy of his newest book Reef Windows.

Tuesdays

Chez Nous Restaurant—Multi course dinner, \$20, at the high school. Reservations mandatory 700-4628

Wednesdays

Chez Nous Restaurant -Multi-course lunch, about \$12, at the high school. Reservations mandatory 700-4628.

Ben & Harrie Acoustic Guitar Duo at Spice Beach Club, 6-9 pm, Eden Beach

Thursdays

• **Bonaire Chess & Draughts (checkers) players get together** on from 19.00 till 21.00 at the SGB-school: Kaya Frater Odulfinuz z/n

Fridays

• **Jong Bonaire Chess & Draughts** players get together from 17.00 till 19.00 at the SGB-school. Kids can start at age six. Tourists are welcome. Contact Serapio Pop, at 701-9660

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 -- Touch the Sea -- Dee Scarr, honored as a member of the Women Divers Hall of Fame conducts Bonaire's Touch the Sea programs of personalized dive guiding. She presents a unique perspective on critters and corals, plus an updated Bonaire lionfish report, every Monday when she's on-island at 8:30 pm in the Aquarius Conference Center at Captain Don's Habitat, Call 717-8290.

Wednesday - Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in the conference room at Captain Don's Habitat (717-8290)

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

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: 790-7001 and 796-4931

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

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:15 pm— All levels, cost is \$1, call Renata at 796-5591 to find out the evening's location.

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 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

Rotary lunch meetings **Wednesdays**, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 701-1100.

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Crusita 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, 10am. *Rincon*, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

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

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

New Apostolic Church: Centro di Bario Nord Saliña, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0379 .

International Bible Church, Kaya Papiago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. De-brot. Sunday 9:00 am Worship service in English; 10:45 am Sunday school for all ages. Tuesday 7:30 pm Adult bible study class. 717-8377 for more info or ride bonaireibc@yahoo.com

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.

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Take The Reporter Home—1-year subscription: By mail to US \$75; By mail to Europe \$170. By Internet, Free (asking a \$35 donation.) For information about subscriptions, stories or advertising in **The Bonaire Reporter**, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean; phone (599) 786-6518, 786-6125, E-mail: info@bonairereporter.com

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Did You Know...



Wikipedia photo

Sea turtles are thriving in hot temperatures?

Climate change is threatening marine organisms around the world, but it turns out some species are able to adapt to such changes! Research has shown that eggs laid by turtles on black sand beaches are better suited for warmer temperatures than those laid on white sand. Scientists studied turtles who laid eggs on a small island in the Pacific called Ascension Island and found this association between hot temperatures and increased hatching success.

The baby turtles born here were both larger and had a greater chance of survival. This is great news because it shows that some animal species can handle change and continue to survive. - Luke Powell

An interesting note is that the sex of sea turtles is temperature dependent and warmer incubation temperatures result in more female hatchlings. The authors from this study (Weber et al 2011) state that the black sand beaches are 'feminizing' and that the adaptive trait of thriving in warmer temperatures is more than likely passed on to offspring through the mitochondrial DNA of the females. ■ Caren Eckrich



Powell is a junior from Arizona State University located in the very sunny, Tempe, Arizona. He is studying the interaction between human society and biology. This fall he is studying with CIEE Research Station Bonaire.

Pet of the Week

Meet sweet "Berta," who is shown taking a break from playing with her pals at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Berta was brought into the Shelter when her owners returned to Holland. Berta is a shepherd lookalike and is such a kind and loving dog who deserves to go to a good and stable home where she can devote herself to pleasing her owners. She's good with other dogs too as has been proved by her living with a group of her peers at one of the Shelter pens. She's social and healthy. She's been checked out by the vet, given her shots, worming, sterilization and tests. Berta is ready to go. The \$75 adoption fee for dogs includes all this.



As opposed to other places in the world where dogs are kept in separate cages, the Shelter houses their animals together in groups. Dogs are natural pack animals and do best when living with others. Hierarchies are set up and each dog learns his or her position in the pack. How wise. And it's a good way for the staff to evaluate each dog as to its personality and temperament – a plus for new owners as their potential new pet is a known factor, not just a guess.

Auction – entrance is free. Want to see what's being auctioned? Check out the Website: BonaireAnimalShelter.com. You may even make a bid! All proceeds will go towards keeping the Shelter open for unwanted cats and dogs.

Holiday Gift Suggestions

The nearly perfect gift for everyone on your list is a **Bonaire Animal Shelter tee shirt or tank top**, available in kids' and adult sizes, various colors - \$8 - \$12. Get them at the Shelter gift shop or at Carib Inn. The gift shop has toys and accessories for dogs and cats too – all priced low as the items have been donated.

Animal lovers would appreciate a **donation in their name to the Shelter**. As an example \$8, 50 helps to microchip a pet, \$50 buys a day's pet food, \$450 spays or neuters 10 dogs.

Meet all the dogs and cats up for adoption at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Website: Bonaireanimalshelter.com. Always updated!

Animal Shelter News

It's this Saturday, December 10, the Shelter Annual Dinner and Auction at Sense. Dinner will be served from 6 to 8:30 pm. Tickets are \$35 and are available at the Shelter. The Auction will begin at 8:30. If you can't make the dinner, come to the

For "Animal Shelter General Donations" the account is MCB Bank #102.37800. For the "Sterilization Fund" it's MCB #10616410. ■ Laura DeSalvo

FUNDRAISING AUCTION

ANIMALSHELTERBONAIRE

proceeds will benefit renovation of shelter facilities

- location: SENSE
- saturday december 10, 2011
- starting at 8:30 pm
- win great PRIZES in the FREE lottery!
- prior to the auction an **INDONESIAN meal**, (tickets available at the animal shelter)

www.animalshelterbonaire.com

Poster Design: Gisela van Steenberg

Chat 'n Browse, The Next Level

For almost a decade Chat 'n Browse at the Sand Dollar Plaza had been an outpost of information, good conversation (not to mention its close proximity to Lover's Ice Cream) and an assortment of client services and gifts. Internet, phones and advice have always been dispensed with a smile and good fellowship.

With all the changes here on Bonaire, we have decided to change our business model. We will continue to offer Internet and WI FI on premises as well as 4G Internet to go.

"We will also offer the full array of DIGICEL services. As a satellite location, clients will be able to take advantage of the ease of parking and expanded business hours. With 7 days a week, it will be more convenient for those who work during the week," said Marlene Zalm, Manager.

"In order for us to be able to remodel the premises, we are having a clearance sale of all the merchandise in the store. There are some great buys just in time for Christmas," according to Marion Wilson, Sale coordinator." Pass by and check them out. ■



BonQuiz Answer

Question: Who established the foundation? Which popular culture event was born?



Answer: Fransisco 'Broertje' Janga was the founder. FUDECU now organizes Dia di Rincon, Rincon day, celebrated annually on April 30th

Question on page 13

You Ring- We Bring

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

THE REASONS FOR THE SEASONS

This is the time when the Northern Hemisphere, which of course includes Bonaire, experiences the shortest days and longest nights. But this month there is a turnaround in the Sky Park because every day after December 22, the Sun will get higher in the sky and stay up longer above the horizon. The Sun will stop its southward migration and start heading north again.

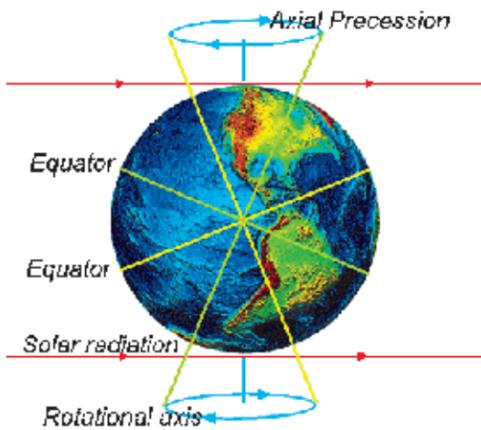
Let's tell you "The Reasons For The Seasons."

The changing seasons and the changing amount of daylight we get during the year are caused by the tilt of the Earth. As our planet rotates daily on its axis, we also revolve around the Sun. But our rotational axis is tilted with respect to our orbit around the Sun and we keep this slanted view.

The Earth is tilted 23 1/2 degrees and this is the cause of the seasons. When we, in the Northern Hemisphere, are tilted most directly toward the Sun we soak up solar energy to the max. That day is called the Summer Solstice and it usually occurs on June 20th or 21st. At this point the Sun's rays shine most directly on us in Bonaire. We get more energy per square inch and thus it's hotter.

Now the opposite occurs when the Earth swings around to the opposite side of the Sun. Here, we, in the Northern Hemisphere, are tilted away from the Sun. The Sun's rays feebly strike us at a low angle spreading out the same energy over a larger area. Each square inch gets a lot less energy than in summer. We call this the Winter Solstice and that usually occurs on December 21st or 22nd. Bonaire, however, because it's relatively closer to the mid line of the Earth, the Equator, doesn't have the extremes of light and dark that the US and Holland do.

The Sun's output is the same all year round. But the difference in our seasons is caused by how much of that energy we soak up. It has nothing to do with how close or far we are from the Sun. We're actually closest to the Sun every year in January and farthest from the Sun in July. So the distance isn't the difference.



On December 22nd trace the path that the Sun takes across the sky on this, the shortest day of the year. The Sun will rise south of east, and reach its highest point in the southern sky around noon. Then the Sun will set south of west.

Dean: For Bonaire you'll get about 11 hours of daylight on this day. That also means you'll get 13 hours of darkness!

Let's compare this to the Spring Equinox. Next year it will be on March 20. Then the Sun will rise due east, reach its highest point above the southern horizon and then set due west.

The Sun goes higher in the sky than it did in December. The higher the Sun is, the more direct energy we get.

On that day we get 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness. Equal day, equal night. That's why they call it the equinox. On the summer solstice June 20th, 2012, we can watch the Sun rise north of east, go very high in the south and set north of west. And we get about an extra hour of sunlight. In most of the US and The Netherlands they reach a whopping 14-15 hours and only 9 or 10 hours of darkness. And all of this is caused by the 23 and a half degree tilt of the Earth. The winter and summer solstices mark the extremes in the daily passage of the Sun. So, on December 22 watch where the Sun sets. But after the Winter Solstice, the Sun will begin its slow trip north until we reach the other extreme: summer solstice on June 20. ■

Dean Regas & James Albury,



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
December 2011

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Make plans to meet your lover in the near future. Monitor your budget carefully to avoid unnecessary stress. Tie up your personal papers or push to have legal settlements completed. You will be able to work with fine detail this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You may find it difficult to communicate with someone at work. You can finish projects early, which will bring you praise from superiors. Older relatives may make unreasonable demands. Try not to hang out with coworkers if you wish to avoid problems later. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Drastic changes regarding your personal attitude are evident. Your courage and willpower will enable you to get rid of destructive habits as well. You will have to be careful not to fall into traps set by jealous colleagues. Travel will be in your best interest regardless of whether it is business or pleasure. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You need to spend some time with individuals who have more experience than you. Try to put your money away for a rainy day. Use your quick wit to win points with friends. You can clear up important legalities and sign contracts this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Be considerate and avoid being overly opinionated, or arguments will ensue. Avoid getting too close to coworkers or employers. Don't bother complaining, do the work yourself. Back off if you want to keep the relationship intact. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You will have to be sure not to burn the candle at both ends. Don't let your emotions interfere with moneymaking deals. You won't have to look for the action. You need to take a long, hard look at yourself and your personal situation. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) They will not be in the right frame of mind to put up with tactless comments. You can get your point across and make valuable connections. Take a second look; another person's philosophy may be extremely different from yours. Children may be less than honest with you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Visitors are likely to drop by and chances are, they may even stay a little longer than you want them to. Organize social events or family gatherings. Be careful not to get roped into uncertain joint financial deals. Money may slip through your fingers. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) If you address those in a position to grant you favors you should get the support you require. You can meet a new romantic partner or secure the love connection you already have by going out and entertaining yourself. You will be drawn to individuals who can provide you with both intellectual conversation and physical passion. Don't let emotional upset force you into the poorhouse. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Talk to others about your plans. Take things slowly, especially for the sake of those you love. Avoid getting too close to coworkers or employers. Get busy putting your place in order. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Take that long overdue vacation if you can. You may be emotional if you allow your lover to take advantage of your good nature. Be prepared to take advantage of your good fortune. Plan some family outings. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Concentrate on work. Deception is evident around you. If you can't get away, make plans to do something special with friends or relatives. It's a great month to attend social functions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday. ■

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