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BONAIRE Dec. 23, 2011- Jan. 6, 2012, Year 18, Issue 25

The REPORTER



Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Sharsi Anthony is photographed with Acting Governor Peter Silberie and Marga Drewes from the RCN in front of the Jong Bonaire wall she designed. Sharsi is also president of the newly developed Youth Council at Jong Bonaire.

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER

Because of a shortage of the size of newsprint paper used to produce **The Reporter** the number of pages in this issue had to be cut. Hopefully the problem will be resolved for the next edition and your favorite columns and stories will return.



"Sunset" Beach

Sunset Beach status update: On November 15th the citizens' group pushing to make the old Sunset Beach into a recreation area for islanders rather than hand it to a hotel chain met with Commissioner Burney El Hage to familiarize him with the plans *Fundashon Playa Pùbliko* has for the Sunset Beach property and to determine the current status of activity by the government and by BHM (legal owners of the property).

According to El Hage, BHM will choose an outside expert to evaluate various proposals and this will determine the development activities that will occur. We were told that the proposal from *Fundashon Playa Pùbliko* will be one of those evaluated and they delivered a formal request to BHM that their proposal be included in the review. To date the foundation has had no confirmation from BHM.

One point made by El Hage was that public access to the beach will be guaranteed by BHM and the government as pre-conditions of any development although exactly what this will mean is not clear.

Based on this meeting a reply from the "experts" is anticipated early in January.

► The last edition of *The Reporter* related the shock that Bonaire homeowners experienced when they received their year 2011 bill, due in January 2012, for their land lease from the Bonaire government. Increases over 250% were reported. Last week the government extended the deadline to March 31, 2012. Also, a motion was introduced in the Island Council to repeal the law behind the increases, but it was defeated by the UPB/Santana coalition.

In 2010, after approval by the Island Council, the local government set the lease at 6% of the value of the land effective in 2011. The decree

was based on the requirement of the Committee for Financial Supervision. It was the first total adjustment of the land lease rate since 1954. For years, new plots were granted in long lease based on the values set at the time. This led to an enormous discrepancy between what was owed by long leaseholders of plots located in the same district and having similar characteristics, with the only difference being the date on which the leases had been granted. Adjustments were never made once the land was granted in long lease. The Executive Council is also working on a decree for the sale of land in long lease. Those having a lease would get the opportunity to become the owner of the leased land.

► Bonaire has a shortage of jail cells because the prison is full. In view of the limited capacity in the JICN (Caribbean

Netherlands Justice Department), the Prosecutor's Office is forced to release detainees "through the front and the back door," said Chief BES Prosecutor Davis van Delft. Bonaire's prison is not only becoming full due to an increase in crime on the island but since the integration with Holland the JICN is not only for detainees of Bonaire, but also for those from Saba and Statia. Nineteen persons held in custody in Saba and Statia were transferred to Bonaire in 2011. There are no jails on those islands. Some Bonairean prisoners held in Curaçao were transferred to Bonaire. Experts in The Netherlands are working now to determine the capacity for the new prison to be built at Aruba plantation in Bonaire.

► A new casino intends to open in the Plaza Resort in January 2012. Plans to open before Christmas could not be met.

-Air Travel News-

► Bonaire-based airline EZ Air announced plans to expand its route network with four new direct flights from Bonaire to St. Eustatius connecting in St. Maarten. A connection with St. Maarten is required, as no fuel is available at St. Eustatius' F.D. Roosevelt Airport. The aircraft type to be used was not stated.

This is in conjunction with a new service for St. Eustatius and Saba. Calling itself the only official carrier of the new special overseas special public bodies of The Netherlands-Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba- EZ Air said the new service will bring some big changes in its routes.

The "no-frill airline" is currently operating

with two, nine-seat Islanders and one Piper Chieftain for its medical transfers. With its headquarters in Bonaire, the company has been doing business for the last 10 years while operating all flights out of Bonaire. Now EZ Air is going to base an additional Islander aircraft in St. Eustatius, serving Saba and St. Maarten, as well as connecting St. Kitts and Montserrat via St. Eustatius.

► Dutch Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Minister Piet Hein Donner transferred his portfolio to his successor, Liesbeth Spies (45), last Friday. Donner was appointed Vice-President of the Council of State.

► The Civil Aviation Department of Curaçao was not able to comply with the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) deadline of December 14, 2011, for Curaçao to bring the airport into compliance with international safety standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and will face being downgraded from category 1 to 2. What will be lost are the code sharing agreements with US Airways and agreements that Insel Air also maintains with US Airways. Curaçao's "biggest problem" is inspectors or the lack of them along with other safety measures that are not up to par.

► Willemstad- Dutch Antilles Express plans on improving its service between Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao. The airline has just reached an agreement using the same aircraft that used to transport passengers between the three islands. The airline covers Aruba and Curaçao with a Fokker 100 jet. As of January DAE will start flying twice daily between Curaçao and Bonaire with the ATR-42 propjets. DAE plans to add two ATRs to its fleet in April 2012.

► Hope to sit next to a cute blonde or brunette on a long flight, or perhaps share an armrest with a CEO to pitch the latest and greatest ideas? That might just become possible using Air France/KLM's "social seating" service. The idea is that passengers will be able to link their social media profile, such



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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) as Facebook or LinkedIn, to their check in information and then choose a seating partner based on their profile.

KLM said the service would be available next year to all passengers checking in online, but it will be up to travelers whether they make their social media profiles available. The airline said social seating could create networking opportunities for business travelers.

► **Rincon will get a bust of its most beloved social activist, Francisco "Broertje" Janga.** The Prince Bernhard Culture Fund is making \$14,000 available for the project.

► **Two Bonaire charitable foundations have been nominated for the Dutch Orange Fund's "Appeltje van Oranje" award.** Every year the Fund makes grants to organizations to inspire and recognize initiatives of organizations that successfully bring together different groups of people. This year's theme was "green growth."

Bonaire's NGO Platform selected the **Mi Mes Hofito Foundation.** The foundation was founded in 2005 to let people work on green activities such as water tanks and green houses so that they can grow vegetables and fruits in their own gardens. About 65 people participate. The other was **Knuk'i Sur**, the foundation launched by Sûr (Sister) Swinda Seraus, a daycare center in a kunuku (farm) setting where elderly people work together with children and teenagers on land, in the garden and greenhouse as well as cooking and eating together.

It is interesting to note that the Orange Fund received more than 100 nominations. Two from the former Netherlands Antilles were nominated, both from Bonaire. The prize

consists of a small bronze statuette and a generous financial grant.

► **The Dutch Minister of Social Affairs and Employment (Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid - SZW) announced the indexed (adjusted for living cost) payments and financial arrangements of SZW for the Dutch Caribbean.** The amounts are different for each of the three islands because of different inflation rates (5.9% for Bonaire, 6.6% for Saba and 11.2% for St. Eustatius). The payments for Bonaire are:

General Old Age Insurance (Algemene Ouderdomsverzekering - AOV), maximum benefit was \$524, will be as of 1-1-2012, \$555.
General Widows and Orphans Insurance (Algemene Weduwen- en Wezenverzekering - AWW) All amounts raised by 5.9%.
Social benefit (onderstand) The minimum payment is \$80.



► **A green turtle was slaughtered again on Bonaire.** This was determined because an empty shell was found in one of the channels at Lac Bay. STINAPA was notified and in turn informed Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Bas Tol, an instructor of the VIP diving school, found the empty shell.

According to STCB Manager Mabel Nava, the discovery of the empty shell is solid evidence of poaching and that the meat was

taken for consumption. Nava believes people still catch turtles even though it is prohibited by law. The Island Ordinance to Protect Sea Turtles and Lobsters prohibits their killing, catching or possession. Those violating this law could be fined or receive a prison sentence. STCB has been a zealous advocate for the protection and recovery of the sea turtle population around Bonaire since 1991 and called it an "alarming" incident. The organization encourages the community to pass on any information that will help to catch the poachers.

► **Satellite signals indicate Jklynn, the female hawksbill sea turtle, is on the move to the north and most likely has begun her great migration home... wherever that may be.**

Since September 30th, when she laid her first nest on the protected beaches of Klein Bonaire, Jklynn has crawled back on the beach to nest an impressive six times in 70 days. In fact she has been nesting on Bonaire so long that her first nest has already hatched 118 baby turtles into the sea. After Jklynn laid her second nest on October 14th she was fixed with a satellite transmitter device in order to track her movements and learn more about her migration path and home foraging grounds.

► **Correction:** The photo of Henk Roozendaal in last week's art focus was by **Christie Dovale.** Sorry for the mistake. Lunch Explosion results in the next issue.



► **Gleidy Kamperveen, the girlfriend of Charlon Thomas, wants Reporter readers to know a Bonairean is working to rebuild Iraq.** Charlon is working on repairing damaged concrete structures for the Dutch company Balm BV. Charlon and his parents, Cristina and Arsenio, are from Nort di Salina, the "Kunuku Bieuw."

► **Look for The Bonaire Reporter at the new Van der Tweel Supermarket.** If you don't see them, ask the guard or someone at the checkout counters.

► **Correction: the participating artists in the Kaminda di Arte are:** Nochi Coffie, Wil Dijkstra, Fred van den Broek, Anne Versteyle, Janice Huckaby, Alejandra Riquelme, Wolmoet Jansen, Rob Mienius, Catharina Teegelaar, Henk Roozendaal, Ans Klein Heerenbrink, Luz Aida Franco Wesselius, Jose Smit, Jannie Koning. The next Kaminda (Art Walk) will be on Sunday, January 15.

► **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers and advertisers from all of us at The Reporter. We appreciate all your support. Hope to have you back in 2012. ■ G./L.D.**

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On the Island Since... May, 1976 -Astrid Felipa

"I was born on Curaçao in 1951. My parents raised us well and I am thankful for that. After high school I went to work for Texas Instruments, a company that makes electronic units for all kinds of apparatus.

My mother died when I was 18. It was hard to lose your mom at such a young age. I remember the day as if it was yesterday. I was busy getting ready to go to work when my sister called me and told me, 'Better not go because mama is very, very sick,' and that afternoon at 3 o'clock, December 30th, 1970, my mom died at the age of 60.

Life went on and I stayed with Texas Instruments, but six years later the company was having troubles and almost all the staff was laid-off - with full payment - for three months.

I went to visit an ex-colleague and friend on Bonaire and I stayed at her house with her sister and her parents. They all wanted me to stay on Bonaire and during

that week all of them tried to find me a job. My girlfriend was working for Avis car rental which belonged to the Mayer family.

The office and the house were where Pasa Bon Pizza and Bistro de Paris are now and the garage and storage were on the land in between. During that week I helped my friend drive cars back and forth to the airport. She spoke to Karl Mayer, the owner, and asked him if I could have a job. He told her to send me to him.

One day when I was taking a car from the airport to the garage, Mr. Mayer drove behind me. I drove the way I always drove on Curaçao. When Mr. Mayer arrived at the garage he asked, 'Who was driving that car?' It was a Toyota Corolla, a small model. I answered, 'I did!' Then he asked me how fast I'd been driving and I said, 'I don't know!' Then he said, 'Slow down, girl, because you were driving 100 kilometers an hour and I couldn't keep up with you!'

Then I went back to Curaçao and one week later I got a call to come to Bonaire to talk to Mr. Mayer about a job. I asked Texas Instruments if it was okay with them. They said, 'No problem.' So I bought my ticket, packed a small suitcase and on May 5th, 1976, I arrived on Bonaire. May 6th I went to talk to Mr. Mayer and that same day I started working at 2 in the afternoon.

During the first years I was a car rental agent, then after three years Mr. Michel - the son-in-law - asked me if I wanted to become a supervisor for Avis. At that moment my heart started trembling because you are going to do something and you don't know what's in it and you're taking full responsibility... but... I did not say 'no'!

I accepted and told Mr. Michel that I would learn how to do it. It wasn't easy, but my boss, Mr. Karl Mayer, was a good boss and he taught me what it means to be a supervisor: you're not there to



Astrid at work

ruin each other's lives, you are there to help and support each other and to get the work done.

In January 1980 my son Sergio was born and in December 1981 my daughter Dirtsia (it's my name, written backwards). During the time I worked for Mr. Karl Mayer I also had a very good relationship with his daughter Suzy and Suzy and I are still okay. Mr. Mayer's son Leo I met again through Facebook!

In 1984 they went bankrupt. Karl Mayer had passed away a couple of years earlier and his

son Leo had taken over and he became ill. Mr. Norman Everts was the manager and when he left, René, the grandson, became the manager. René asked us to resign voluntarily to save the company. Then he arranged jobs for us: Budget or AB car rental. I chose AB and on June 30th, 1984, I started working for Mr. Akkerman. Here on Bonaire I don't have to look for a job. All doors are open for me! I see it as a blessing!"

(Continued on page 5)

"At that moment my heart started trembling because you are going to do something and you don't know what's in it and you're taking full responsibility...."

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On the Island Since (continued from page 4)

Astrid is a wonderful lady, a wonderful mom and grandmother. She's very open, tolerant and bright and a very hard worker.

"Well, Mr. Akkerman said, 'I can't give you the salary you were making at Avis (I was earning NAF 1400 a month there) and I can't pay you more than I pay my supervisor (who was making NAF 780), so I will pay you NAF 775. It was half of what I had made at Avis.

I started out at AB with nine cars, all Datsuns, and I have to tell you honestly that Mr. Akkerman's character was very similar to Mr. Mayer's. I began as a rental agent and after three years Mr. Akkerman asked me to become his secretary. I said, 'Ah! Oh! I can't! That's not my job!' And he said, 'Don't be afraid. I know you can do it!' It turned out that it wasn't so hard after all and Mr. Akkerman would say, 'If you can't finish today, leave the rest for tomorrow.' He never pushed me. I did it for about 10 months and then Mr. Akkerman fell ill and had to go to Holland immediately. He hired someone as a secretary and made me supervisor of AB car rental. It was 1987 and my second daughter Indira was born that same year.

I learned a lot, and over the years the fleet of cars grew to 150-170 cars. I was working shifts 7am-3pm and 3 to 11pm and at home I had three children. However, when I wasn't working I was always 100% there for my children. There was this lady, who was like a mother to me - she died this last year - who helped me to raise them.

Mr. Akkerman was a very precise person

when it came to his car park. Every day he would check the cars at the parking lot and if he found a little dent it was no time to be around! He made the employee who'd checked in the car pay for the damage they hadn't noticed! It was his way of teaching us to be neat and thorough and responsible and it worked!

Once, some tourists refused to pay for the damage on their car. I called Mr. Akkerman for advice and his answer really hurt me as he told me, 'I don't have time, you sort it out!' I managed to make the people pay for the damage and half an hour later Mr. Akkerman calls me 'Hey girl! Did they pay? Good for you!'

Two years after Mr. Akkerman had passed away, his wife Maria sold the business to Ton van Berge Henegouwen. I stayed as a supervisor until 2006, then I became a rental agent again because it had been enough. I've been in the pressure cooker many, many times, but I'm still here! I am happy to be able to motivate and stimulate my colleagues and I know that with a lot of perseverance and stamina and with the love of God in your heart, you can reach for whatever it is you want.

In July this year I became 60. I wanted to work less, but I didn't want to retire. Luckily it was no problem! Now I have more time to spend with my children and grandchildren and with my foster child. Whenever there is something to do, we go everywhere together. I am a grandmother of five grandchildren (one pair of twins) and the foster mother of Juriendro, who came to live with me when he was one year old. Now he's 11. His mom lives on Curaçao, his dad on Bonaire.



From the left to the right: Astrid and her foster son Juriendro, granddaughter Shanti, friend Daniel and grandson Otniel, all in front of the mini van she got years ago as a present for her extremely hard work from Ton van Berge Henegouwen.

I've also decided to go every year and see something of God's beautiful creation - this world. People can tell you a lot, but to see it with your own eyes is so much more fun!

I've been to Cuba, to Venezuela, Costa Rica, Trinidad, Colombia, Miami and Dallas. And with the police sports week (the father of my children is participating in the sports) I went to Aruba, Curaçao, St. Martin, Surinam, Anguilla and Saba. And when I am home, I am quiet! I do my Bi-

ble studies and participate in the services of the Baranka di Restorashon church.

The way I see it, there are good times and bad times and times you don't want. But all of it is life and I am a blessed woman."

■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra





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Extended Medical Access

A new family physician's office is open Monday through Friday 18.00-24.00 and Saturday and Sundays from 08.00-24.00 at Centro Medico Phone 717-0111.

Since October 1st the doors of Centro Medico Central – the doctor's clinic across from the hospital – have been open all the time except for the earliest dark morning hours

The Continuous Family Physician Care Bonaire Foundation was established with the goal of providing more continuous medical care by family physicians after usual office hours and during weekends, and all eight Bonairean family physicians are involved in the foundation.

The medical director of the foundation is Dr. Hermelijn; interim chairman is Dr. van der Vaart. Dr. Bernabela and Dr. Schröder are members of the board.

"The foundation was established at the request of the Medical Care Department of RCN," Dr. Dick van der Vaart told me. "They asked me to set it up because they wanted to use my building because it is located right across from the hospital and has sufficient space.

All the family physicians discussed the plan and concurred and agreed to use Centro Medico Central because nobody wanted to use their own office after hours or during weekends because they would need extra personnel and as their financial situation has not improved since they had to privatize after 10-10-10.

The foundation is paid for by RCN and we have a contract until the end of the year. Then it will be evaluated as a pilot study and hopefully the contract will be renewed for 2012.

In this system one family physician substitutes for all the other doctors so they are truly free that night or that weekend. With all eight of us in and with Dr. Hermelijn, each one of us works one evening once every two weeks and one weekend every eight weeks. But in reality Dr. Hermelijn is working most shifts.

In the past we did the same at the hospital, but the doctor on call was also taking care of the whole hospital situation during those hours and he or she was working the emergency room as well as the intensive care. As it was no longer doable, the hospital hired six ward doctors who came from Holland. Now there is a clear separation between the hospital work that's taken care of by young Dutch doctors and the medical work of the family physicians which is done by the doctors themselves on evenings and weekends at a family physician post – a location right across from the hospital. So, now there are two emergency centers. If it's, for instance, a child with diarrhea or a person who has the flu, the reception at the hospital will refer them to us. In case of a real emergency - and we're talking about trauma, heart attacks, traffic accidents, drowning, etc.—, the people will be admitted to the hospital.

When we get cases in for which we need an anesthesiologist we can count on the



Doctor's office/surgery

hospital right away. On the other hand, when there is no doctor available at the hospital, we'll take care of the patient until the hospital is ready to take over.

Most of the patients who come here are feeling sick, but they don't know what's the matter with them. So therefore this post and the physician on duty are totally capable of handling worst case scenarios like lung embolisms or heart attacks. Here we have all the equipment and know how to administer medication intravenously, to insert infuses, to defibrillate, etc.

You have to be prepared for the worst, because sometimes there is no time to take the patient to the hospital and the anesthesiologist has to come here. Once you are reanimating a person it's preferable to leave the person where he or she is until they are stable enough to be moved.



Dr. van der Vaart explaining an inter osseous infusion.

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(Continued from page 6)

Since October 1st we have seen about 1,500 people at the clinic during the evenings and the weekends. By the end of the year that number might be 1,750. For instance, this weekend, from Friday at 6 pm until Sunday midnight we saw 170 people.

When this system was introduced in The Netherlands some 20 years ago it was meant to handle only emergency cases, but in reality it turned out that many people came to see a doctor during these hours because they couldn't see their doctor during office hours.

I expect it to become the same here and, to be honest, it's already like that. There are many people for whom it's very difficult to see a physician during the regular daily office hours – if you consider just single working mothers with children!

Every person who comes here will be seen by the doctor. You won't know who's on duty, but it's always a Bonairean family physician who speaks Papiamentu and next to that Spanish, English or Dutch, and who has an extensive number of years experience on the island. Something you cannot say of the young doctors at the hospital." *He grins.* "There is no hostile competition, but there is a commercial competition! Our rates are significantly lower than the ones at the hospital!

The fact is, after 12 midnight we are closed, between midnight and 8 in the morning people need to go to the hospital in case of an emergency. We would like to open up our doors 24/7 but that would cost more money and maybe the medical care department would say it's not worth it, because during those late night/early morning hours not many people come to see a doctor unless it's a matter of life or death.

When you come to see the doctor here, you will get the medicine you need from our own dispensary (pharmacy) and a prescription for the following days. A copy of the report about everything that's been done with the patient will be at his own family physician at 7 the following morning, so their own doctor knows exactly what has happened. In case it's necessary, the doctor will also do an ECG, lab work, blood work,

echos and X-rays. Let me give you a tour through the clinic..."

Dr. van der Vaart takes me from one room to another and everything is spacious, clean and well-organized. He points out a back valve balloon, an AED, the medication which needs to be administered in case of a sudden heart attack, an ECG apparatus, a blood pressure cuff and an intra osseous infusion, which looks like a small handgun with which the physician can 'shoot' an infusion directly in the bone (as the bone is one big blood vessel and only the outside is hard). This is used in case the patient is in shock and/or has no blood pressure or the doctor can't find a blood vessel. It can be used for babies, children and adults. Also he shows me the instruments that are used to intubate a baby, a child or an adult in case of suffocation. "Everything is clean, organized, at hand and there where it should be," Dr. van der Vaart says. "The worst thing I can think of is that when you need something right now and it's not there!"

We return to his office and he says, "Through advertisements I was able to find two qualified doctor's assistants of Bonairean descent in The Netherlands, and they re-immigrated with their families to Bonaire. So now we have Omaira Nicolaas and Nataly Leonora working for us, along with Madeleine Frans, who is almost qualified and for the time being, working under supervision.

We – the Bonairean family physicians – also have advanced plans to go on **one** database. If all eight of us take Promedico (a medical information system) then Promedico is willing to create an electronic patient's dossier so we can look into each other's files, and that would be very convenient! Right now we're negotiating about the amount of money and who is going to pay for it – the doctors or RCN. It took a year and a half year to establish where we are now, and I think we're doing pretty good! Let's hope we can continue!" ■ *Story & photos by Greta*



CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Dear Editor,

We found *The Bonaire Reporter* online—what a wonderful ambassador to the world at large!

Your cover story on Sanikolas and Swartepiet took me back to my wife's childhood in Germany, waiting with expectations (and a twinge of apprehension) for Sankt Nikolaus and Knecht Ruprecht. The Christkindle brought presents on Christmas, but Nikolaus and Ruprecht visited on 6 December.

Heavy tramping of boots up the stairs – the clanking of chains, a heavy knock on the door, the door creaking open and – lo – Heilige Nikolaus in his flowing white beard and red cloak and miter—and his assistant, dark and foreboding Knecht Ruprecht – all in black with a big book and a big stick. Ruprecht (in retrospect) looked and sounded lot like their uncle – as he read out a list of the children's misdeeds over the past year. They stammered out their poems and presentations, sang their carefully rehearsed carols, and miraculously avoided punishment-greedily clutching sweets, fruits and nuts



Sigrid and Laddie with The Bonaire Reporter in Port Ludlow, Washington (USA).

instead.

We're visiting your beautiful island on Thursday, 22 December (Winter Solstice) aboard the Caribbean Princess—by way of Puerto Rico, St. Maarten, St. Lucia, and Grenada. Our stay in Bonaire is all too short—just seven hours. And then we're off for Curaçao, Aruba and back to Puerto Rico, before returning home to 30° (F) temperatures, bare trees and evergreens, and probably a dusting or more of snow in North America's Pacific Northwest.

Looking forward to trying Pasa Bon Pizza and visiting Pia the Cat, viewing the odd Green Lora and maybe visiting the new Super Van den Tweel Supermarket.

Best wishes to all,

Michael and Sigrid Howard

Enjoy Our Reef Fishes

Let's Not Eat Them

A message from Caribbean reef pioneer **CAPTAIN DON STEWART**

Captain Don

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Artwork by Dominique Serafini

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Parrot Watch Update

EVEN FAT PARROTS NEED HELP

Unlike Fat Sally, Kota had never tried to convince himself that he had big bones. He had tried to hide his growing proportions, but it was clear to him that he was getting fat. He took to sitting with his feathers fluffed up all the time. It was a bit like wearing ever-baggier T-shirts and yes, it sort of worked, at first.

It wasn't long though before his growth was so considerable that bare skin emerged from between his dull feathers. The low slung under carriage that drooped between his legs grew and grew, as did "the padding" on his hips. Soon he altogether stopped looking like a parrot and started looking rather more like a giant bell.

Kota was fat, it was obvious, and he didn't like it. His liver too was in terrible shape, possibly worse than an alcoholic's, he said. Sadly poor Kota was powerless to do anything about it. All he was fed were those delicious, oily and addictive sunflower seeds. They were like a dieter's nightmare encased in a cute black and white striped suit. It goes without saying that Kota's living conditions were so diabolical that there was never a hope of his getting exercise.

It was as though Kota came from Houston. He ate too much fatty food and he never got any exercise. This situation is unfortunately normal for many people in Houston and it is normal for many parrots on Bonaire. Kota weighed about twice the weight he should have. So it was like a handsome Spanish man who might typically weigh 75 kgs

(150lbs) actually weighing 150kgs or 300lbs.

Kota was so fat that his bell-bottom couldn't hold any more and so another rather more unsightly fatty lump grew on his neck. It was a grotesque double chin and Kota thought it made him look like a turkey. For any parrot, and parrots, Dear Reader, as you know are second only to the great apes in terms of intelligence and rather more beautiful besides, to be treated this way was a humiliation.

Sadly for Kota, he was like a turkey and at best he could only waddle along. It seemed there was no hope of his ever flying again. In a strange way Kota was glad that the lump appeared and grew on the front of his neck. He had been having trouble perching and the weight on his neck helped balance that hanging on his behind. It did, however, mean there was even more weight on his feet.

Poor Kota had terrible foot problems. His ancestors had evolved over millions of years to perch on the branches of trees and yet here he was on a metal perch with a uniform diameter. Whenever he climbed down the rusty cage wire to the floor of his home the joints of his feet hurt as they arthritically flattened and stretched out.

From the floor of his cage Kota would occasionally see wild parrots as they flew past shimmering in the sunlight. Seeing the wild parrots inspired Kota but at the same time it left him utterly depressed and dejected, as he knew there was no hope for him. A wild parrot may live for over 40

years, but the chance of Kota getting past 10 were incredibly slim. Truth be known in these moments Kota actually wished he was a Turkey.

Kota wished he was a turkey, especially at this time of year, because he knew then there would be a good chance that some human or other end his misery and roast him. This poor Kota believed was the only hope of changing his miserable life.

Dear Reader, you will of course be aware that it doesn't have to be this way. You may not, however, be aware that you can help Kota. You can change Kota's life and many other parrots like him. With your support the Echo team will be able to provide veterinary care for these incredible individuals who have no option to choose a better life. Fatty lumps like Kota's can be removed with a simple surgery. In addition our charming Spanish vet Jon will be able to discuss with parrot owners how they could improve the care of their pet parrots. With your support the Echo team will be able to make repeat house visits to ensure these parrots are getting the good care they deserve.

Please visit www.echobonaire.org if you wish to make a (US tax deductible donation). Alternatively you can donate directly to Foundation Echo's bank account at MCB #404.216.06. Please help Bonaire's parrots. ■ Story and photo by Sam Williams



Kots... with his weight problem

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





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MCB Bonaire Award to Diabetic Foundation

Members of the Bonaire press corps were invited to MCB's annual year end party last Friday night at Buddy Dive to recognize the press corps as well as an organization that has made an extraordinary contribution to the Bonairean community, one that has a purely social and voluntary purpose. The winner is chosen among different organizations nominated by MCB Bonaire employees and by employee vote. This is the 10th year that MCB has made an award. As well, Managing Director Mr Evert Piar said, this same time Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V. is celebrating its 95th anniversary.

This year the award goes to the foundation *Stichting Diabetiko Boneriano* (SODIBON). Mistress of Ceremonies, Assistant Managing Director Orphaline Saleh explains (in an abridged version).

"SODIBON is a foundation consisting purely of volunteers, founded in 2007. It gives support and assistance to our citizens who have to confront the illness of diabetes, or, as it's called on Bonaire, *Suku* (sugar). The objective of the foundation is to promote activities which lead to an improvement in the well being and wellness of people with diabetes mellitus. Among other things they organize activities to inform, educate and create awareness in patients as well as the general public: lectures about healthy nutrition, how to take care of extremities (feet). They promote healthy exercise with group walks, organize the yearly Health Day with Fundashon Mariadal. They work hard to create awareness among chil-



Yolanda Anthony, Sylvia Marchena, Mevris Dissel, Joyce Amelia-Dennis, receiving the Award from MCB's Evert Piar
Sodibon member not shown: Corrie Saleh

dren, visiting schools and neighborhood centers for presentations to children. SODIBON's primary objective of care and prevention and preferably achieving a cure for diabetes is becoming more and more crucial for our island considering the increasing tendency of obesity.

For this noble work and for all they are achieving with the sweat off their brows and very little funds, we congratulate SODIBON and with great pleasure present them with the MCB Bonaire 2011 Annual Award." ■

Orphaline Saleh/Laura DeSalvo

Past MCB Award Winners:

- 2002 Bonaire Sailing Foundation BSaF
- 2003 Bonaire Special Olympics
- 2004 Jong Bonaire
- 2005 Bonaire Outreach
- 2006 Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds
- 2007 Fundashon pa Kuido di Bista I Oido (FKBO)
- 2008 Stinapa
- 2009 Sebiki
- 2010 Fundashon Historiko Kultural Boneriano (FuHiKuBo)

Dive Inn Prepares For Handicapped Divers

Bonaire/Kralendijk

During the last few weeks Dive Inn (Dive Friends of Bonaire) trained and examined some divers to reach the level of Instructor for Handicapped Divers and Buddy for Handicapped Divers.

Chris Verstappen is the instructor-trainer and member of the IAHD (International Association for Handicapped Divers). The goal of this international non-profit organization is to promote diving for disabled or "different abled" persons and to train new instructors.

This time Verstappen trained Sander Vegt to become an Instructor for Handicapped Divers and Lex van Everdink to reach the level of Buddy for Handicapped Divers. Sander and Lex were assisted by Andrew Stanway from Great Britain. Victim/volunteer was Harry Schoffelen, rescue diver, connected with the Dive Inn.

It takes a lot of energy and preparation to make it possible for a handicapped person to dive. All in all it takes about half a day to make a dive of about one hour possible. A serious briefing has to be held in advance. Communication is very important. It took three divers to make a dive possible for the victim: Harry van Schof-



From left to right: Andrew Stanway (volunteer), Lex van Everdink (student), Harry Schoffelen (handicapped diver/volunteer), Sander Vegt (student) and Chris Verstappen (instructor trainer).

felen. Harry acted as a paralyzed diver who could only use his head and move his right hand. Lex and Andrew had to "mount" Harry on a ladder to transport him to the sea. Everything was controlled and supervised by Sander Vegt. Verstappen was the critical Instructor Trainer who examined the whole operation.

Lex van Everdink explains: "We are all divers and we are all volunteers. The IAHD is a non-profit organization. We just like to learn and experience more. We really like to make it possible for disabled persons to get to know the world under water. We just like to share our love for diving and it is the sunrise on the face of the disabled diver we do it for!"

Harry Schoffelen survived all exercises and Sander Vegt and Lex van Everdink successfully passed their tests! Congratulations. ■ *Photo & story by Jan Brouwer*

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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 23		03:43 -0.02 ft	11:15 1.28 ft	20:19 -0.22 ft		6:52	18:17
Sat 24	01:07 0.08 ft	04:26 0.04 ft	12:07 1.24 ft	21:12 -0.26 ft	New Moon	6:52	18:17
Sun 25	02:45 0.14 ft	05:19 0.13 ft	13:00 1.17 ft	22:01 -0.27 ft		6:53	18:18
Mon 26	04:04 0.23 ft	06:37 0.22 ft	13:54 1.07 ft	22:44 -0.26 ft		6:53	18:18
Tue 27	04:56 0.33 ft	08:20 0.29 ft	14:47 0.95 ft	23:23 -0.24 ft		6:54	18:19
Wed 28	05:38 0.45 ft	10:05 0.34 ft	15:40 0.82 ft	23:57 -0.21 ft		6:54	18:19
Thu 29	06:15 0.55 ft	11:41 0.33 ft	16:31 0.69 ft			6:55	18:20
Fri 30		00:27 -0.16 ft	06:48 0.66 ft	13:06 0.30 ft	17:22 0.56 ft	6:55	18:20
Sat 31		00:53 -0.12 ft	07:20 0.74 ft	14:21 0.24 ft	18:13 0.44 ft	6:56	18:21
Sun 01	First Quar- ter	01:17 AST -0.08 ft	07:51 AST 0.82 ft	15:26 AST 0.18 ft	19:03 AST 0.34 ft	06:56 AST	18:22 AST
Mon 02		01:37 AST -0.04 ft	08:21 AST 0.88 ft	16:26 AST 0.12 ft	19:53 AST 0.25 ft	06:56 AST	18:22 AST
Tue 03		01:54 AST -0.01 ft	08:52 AST 0.92 ft	17:25 AST 0.06 ft	20:45 AST 0.17 ft	06:57 AST	18:23 AST
Wed 04		02:09 AST 0.01 ft	09:24 AST 0.96 ft	18:22 AST 0.01 ft	21:44 AST 0.11 ft	06:57 AST	18:23 AST
Thu 05		02:18 AST 0.03 ft	09:57 AST 0.98 ft	19:18 AST -0.04 ft	22:56 AST 0.06 ft	06:57 AST	18:24 AST
Fri 06		02:19 AST 0.03 ft	10:31 AST 0.99 ft	20:11 AST -0.08 ft		06:58 AST	18:24 AST

Looking: Tony from Chicago,
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Art Focus

Featuring artists exhibiting at Bonaire's Kas di Arte

CARIBBEAN INSPIRATION

Trudy Canwood speaks of how the Caribbean islands inspire her in so many ways and on so many different levels.

Trudy started painting in 2003 for the first time. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001 and because of having to change her lifestyle, stayed home for one year.

She began to use the computer to express herself with her art. She tells me after making a few drawings on the PC how she paints acrylic on canvas, then does it on a larger scale. She still uses the computer for greeting cards, but her art is now sketched out on canvas and then painted. **In the last year she's used a lot of patterns, which she applies within the framework of her art,** and says how this is very therapeutic for her.

In 2002 she visited her mother-in law on Curaçao. Seeing her with curlers in her hair while she worked taking care of the house inspired Trudy to paint that. Her mother-in law is very proud of her work and is a real inspiration for her.

As we talk Trudy takes me back to the days when she was in chemotherapy and radiation, telling me that in order not lose hope in her condition with two young boys, and a husband to care for, she decided to do something positive with her life.

After spending a year at home and in response to her friends and public opinion telling her she should sell her work, she decided to send some photos to a gallery on Curaçao. She talks of how nervous she was when she did that and how in two weeks after they received her original art it was sold. In the end she was glad to quit her job at the bank where she worked, as her art now supports her.

Her sons were young at the time and very supportive of her work, especially when she



Art by Trudy



Trudy Canwood

told them that if she sold, they would get some money. To this day they still joke about that.

I find Trudy to be the kind of artist everyone wants to meet - respectful, kind and talented—all rolled into one nice person, who with time and perseverance has created her own little niche in the art world. She will continue to forge ahead, not only because of her past, but also because art makes her forget everything else external and brings a quiet and tranquil feeling within her.

It's a great opportunity to start a new future using this path, she explains, to see that with free painting you can quit your job and devote yourself fully to art.

I am so glad I got to meet Trudy and to spend some quality time with her. She is refreshing and an inspiration to all women - that when your life course is altered you can still find yourself on a new road, with new beginnings and happy moments to treasure.

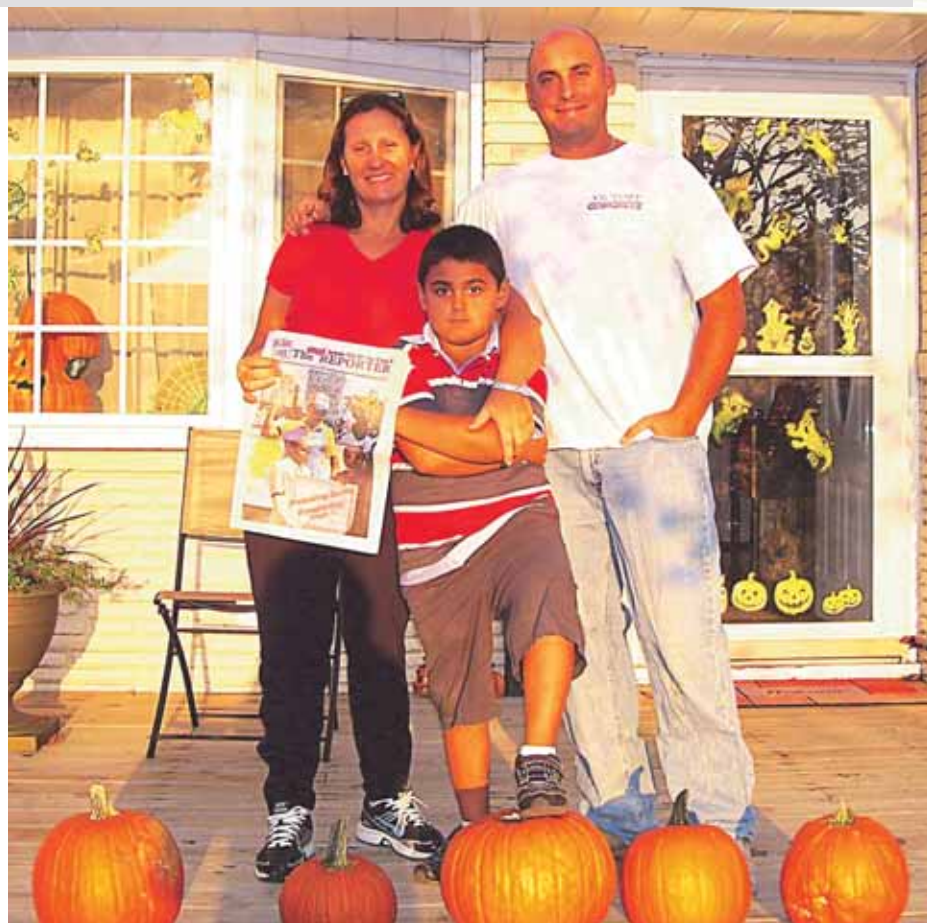
Trudy's month-long exhibition will be on display at Kas di Arte beginning December 18 for all to enjoy, Wednesday-Sunday, 9am-noon, 1-6pm.

Story by Sandra Johnson. Art & photo provided by Trudy Canwood.

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



Picture Yourself With The Reporter in... Bellmawr, New Jersey, USA



It's *The Bonaire Reporter* at Halloween time in the US. Beatriz Toth of the Rumba Café took *The Reporter* along when she visited her son Fred Noguera and grandson Alex Noguera in October. ■

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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.



RESTAURANTS

Puerto Deli - Much more than a deli with tapas and a wine bar. Fresh-baked bread sandwiches, delicious soups & salads, big burgers, top ingredients.

RETAIL

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

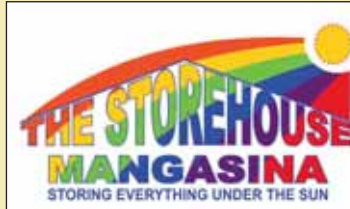
Le Garage has lots of the quality things everybody needs which weren't available here before at great prices: household, garden, children's.

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?**



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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 from Ecuador. 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 an easy on/off 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!

To place an ad call 786-6125, 786-6518 or email laura@bonairenews.com



Congratulations to Aaron Martis and Lucy Diaz on the occasion of their marriage. May their honeymoon last forever.

"Djasabra, 10-12-'11 a kontrae matrimonio, e nosido pareha Aaron Martis & Lucy Diaz na pasan-grahan Bonaire. Despues di e seremonia ofishal a sigui un resepsion na Plaza Resort, Caribbean Point Rest. Ku Bon Dios keda na timon di Boso Barko Matrimonial pa pasa dor di tur e ola nan di bida. Deseo nan di un i tur pa un Eterno luna de Miel"

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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
FRI	12/23/	Zuiderdam	0800-1701	1918	HAL
SAT	12/24/	Emerald Princess	1200-1900	3100	Princess Cruises
MON	12/26/	Azura	0800-1800	3080	P&O Cruises
MON	12/26/	Sea Cloud II	0900-2400	150	Sea Cloud Cruises
WED	12/28/	Noordam	0800-1700	1918	HAL
THU	12/29/	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
SAT	12/31/	Zuiderdam	0800-1600	1919	HAL
TUE	Start 2012	AidaLuna	1000-1800	2050	AIDA Cruises

Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Sunday, Dec 18—
January 15, 2012
Trudy Canwood art exhibit at Kas di Art.



Wed.-Sun. 9am-noon, 1-6pm. Admission free. See page 11

Dec. 21-22—Winter Solstice, longest night of the year.

Sunday, Dec. 25—Christmas Day

Monday, Dec. 26—Boxing Day—banks and businesses closed

Saturday, Dec. 31
—Fun Run, 1-2-4-5 Km
—Fireworks all over Bonaire—before and after midnight.

Sunday, Jan. 1—New Years Day.—
Maskarada- Mysterious, silent masked people perform skits, dance, tease. (Tentative schedule): 12 noon, Wilhelmina Park, then hospital, old folks home. After 4 pm in Nort di Salina.

Saturday, Jan. 7—Farmers' Market, local fruits & vegetables—Kriabon, Kaya Nikiboko North, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am to noon

Sunday, January 15
—Kaminda di Arte (Art Walk). Visit 14 different artists in their homes or studios, 11 am to 5 pm. Maps at Addo's Bookstore, on the TCB website, resorts or local newspapers. Every 3rd Sunday of the month.

Energetic Healing Class

Come learn about helping your family and friends

Advanced Techniques Class At Bonaire Basics

Date Change to 15 January 2012

Call Susan 790-8988

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 Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am to 12 noon.
- **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
- **Mondays**
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

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 Jatu 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 Salina, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0379 .

International Bible Church, Kaya Pápago 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. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

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

Foundation Fountain of Living Waters, Centro Fuente, Service Sunday at Kaya Aruaco 4 at 6 p.m. Preaching in Papiamentu and Spanish. For Marriage Counseling, contact 717-2161.

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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Nubia of Face and Body Day Spa

“I was born loving my profession,” says Nubia Obando, owner of Face and Body Day Spa. “My father was a healer and taught me a lot. People come to me who don’t feel so good and they leave feeling well!”

Just to enter Nubia’s place is to feel good already. There’s soft music, maybe some Mozart or Beethoven, soothing colors and the light fragrance of candles. “I believe in the integration of mind and body,” she says. Nubia is an expert at not only massage but reflexology, neuromuscular massage, lymph drainage, Shiatsu, aroma therapy, programs for weight loss. She’s a master at skin work: facials, peeling, masks. She even has a machine for dealing with wrinkles.

“I like to stay at the top of my profession,” Nubia explains. The wall displaying her certificates attests to her quest and why she attends international conferences and courses. Born in Colombia, Nubia began her career at the age of 18 in San Cristobel at an esthetic clinic. At 30 she moved to Caracas, Venezuela, to work in one of the top spas. She was invited in 1996 to come to Bonaire to work at the Harbour Village



Nubia at work

Spa. Then in 2001 she opened her own Face and Body Day Spa.

“I have good and faithful clients,” Nubia says proudly. I know I can help them and I do many things that people need and make them feel better. I love my job!”

Is there someone on your list who would love a visit to Nubia’s? Give them a gift certificate and don’t forget yourself!

Face and Body is open Monday-Saturday at the Sand Dollar Plaza, Kaya Gob. De-brot 79. Tel. 785-3398. 10 am 6 pm by appointment only but other times are available. ■ Laura DeSalvo

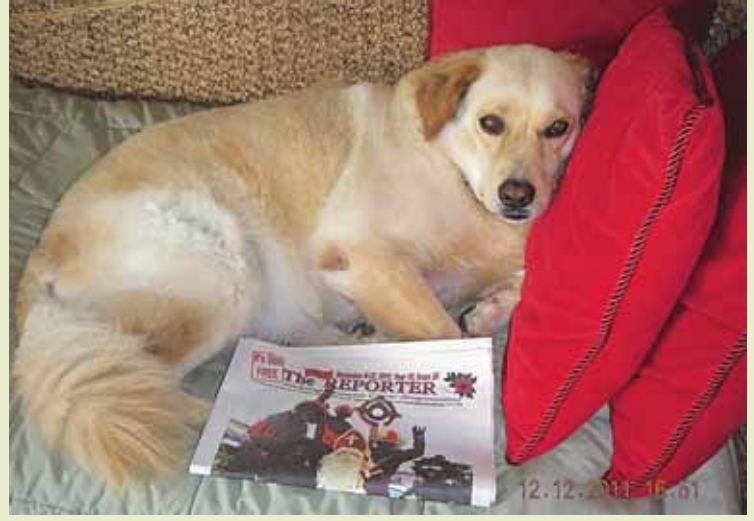
Pet of the Week

Buddy, a lovable golden retriever-Labrador mix, is featured as this week’s Pet of the Week in *The Reporter* because his owners, Bruce and Karen Zavon, won the auction (for “Pet and Pizza”) at the recent fundraiser for the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Although he was not adopted from the Bonaire Shelter he was a rescue dog in the US.

Buddy spends his days on Bonaire chasing lizards, swimming, and napping. You may have seen him at a few of his favorite local places eating bread sticks at Wil’s Tropical Grill, tortilla chips at Paradise Moon, or visiting his girlfriend, Senna, at Roomer Hotel.

Thanks to *The Bonaire Reporter* for sponsoring this prize. Buddy says, “Adopt a pet from the Shelter and you will have a loyal friend for life.” He may even share the large pizza from Pasa Bon Pizza he won with his owners. Karen Zavon

ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS ⇨



Shelter Manager Marlies Tiepel writes: “We made \$15,000 at the Shelter Auction on December 10! This was the most successful fundraising event ever for the Shelter. And actually we made more because a Dutch animal welfare fund, *Dierenlot* (www.dieren.nl), doubled the first \$1,750 we raised that evening, so we raised \$16,750 (\$15,000 + \$1,750)! We sold 110 dinner tickets for a fantastic Indonesian meal. The chefs were Rosita Paiman, Boudewijn Scholts and Jerry van de Weteringe. The auction was organized by Annemarie Rozendal and she did a great job! With the money we made that evening we going to build a totally new cage for the dogs!”

The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday-Saturday, 9am-1pm and 3-5pm. Tel. 717-4989 ■ Laura DeSalvo

Cover Story



The drum band and folkloric dancers performed for the rededication ceremonies to celebrate the renovations that enlarged the facility and created more space to host programs. In addition to the official ceremonies the event included sports competitions with teams from the police, fire department, Coast Guard, hospital and other groups competing against teams from Jong Bonaire. More info and photos in the next edition of *The Reporter*. ■ J.T.

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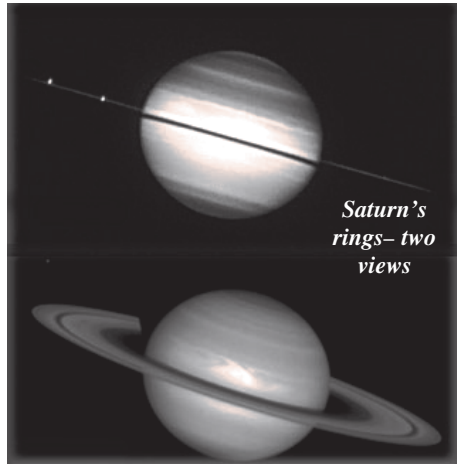
HOLIDAY PLANETS

This year the cosmos is very happy to bring you, free of charge, five fabulous planets for your holiday viewing pleasure. In early evening you can see dazzling **Venus**, and giant **Jupiter**, and in the east just before sunrise you'll find the pink planet **Mercury**, the ringed planet **Saturn** and the red planet **Mars**. And if you're one of the lucky ones to get a telescope as a holiday gift the viewing will be absolutely super, although as always, this quintet will look great to just the naked eye.

On any clear night during the last two weeks of December at about 6 pm face southwest where, close to the horizon, you'll see the planet which many people have mistaken for the **Christmas Star** all month long because it's been so dazzlingly bright, Venus, the planet often called **Earth's** twin sister because it's almost the same size, 8,000 miles wide. Like our **Moon**, Venus goes through phases, and through a telescope, Venus always looks rounder and closer to full when it's farther away from us. If you watched it through a small telescope for the past several months you would have seen it grow in size as it steadily came closer to us. But even though it's gotten bigger and bigger as it's gotten closer, its phase has become smaller. It now looks like a **gibbous Moon** and if you start watching it this week with a small telescope, you'll actually be able to watch its phase shrink like a **waning Moon** all throughout this spring.

Now look southeast and about half way up in the sky you'll spot a brilliant point of light, the **king of the planets, Jupiter**. Jupiter and Venus will keep getting closer every night until they have a spectacular meeting in the western sky in early March.

We have a special holiday treat for you in the Sky Park on the night of December 26. A two and a half day old skinny young Moon will be seven degrees to the right of Venus. On the next night Tuesday the 27th, the three and a half day old Moon will be above Venus. This should also be a good time to see "**The Old Moon in the New Moon's Arms**." Just before dawn next week we'll have three



Saturn's rings—two views

bright planets to look at. Closest to the horizon, with a bright star beside it, is pinkish Mercury. Just off to its right is **Antares, the bright red heart star of the scorpion**. Watch for several mornings and you'll easily see Mercury moving away from Antares.

Up to the right of this pair of early morning beauties is another pair of bright lights, the **bright blue star Spica** and to its left is the exquisite ringed planet Saturn, which looks good in even the cheapest telescope.

If you were lucky enough to get a new telescope for the holidays here's a great place to put it to use. Look for Saturn with your new scope. You'll never forget your first glimpse of Saturn and its rings. Keep looking every day and you'll be able to watch Saturn steadily brighten week after week throughout the spring. Saturn's rings are now wider than they've been in years, which will help make Saturn even brighter. 75,000 miles wide, Saturn is not as bright as Mercury because Saturn is so much farther away.

Then look up and to the right of Saturn and you'll find another bright planet, Mars, named after the Roman god of war. Mars and Mercury will both be brighter than Saturn even though they are much smaller. Here they are again. Mercury beside Antares, Saturn to the left of Spica... and Mars. And be sure to get out the nights of December 26 and 27 to see the skinny crescent Moon by Venus in the early evening sky. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury,*



Café Astrology

January 2012

Aries Horoscope (March 21-April 20):

Whereas the group may be the proving ground that transforms you, it will be your personal work with family that provides the care and sustainability you need to bring forth future resources. Concentrate therefore on each minute of each day and infuse it with the light of information. Study is essential.

Taurus Horoscope (April 21-May 21):

A time for study will take hold of you once again which will impact your future. Simultaneously you will need to focus on financial matters, taxes, the estate, inheritance, and all joint monetary concerns. It is important to hold back on spending, maintain secrecy, and do everything to conserve your health.

Gemini Horoscope (May 23-June 20):

You will be focused on relationships, friendships, alliances and intimacies, allowing them to know you better. It's a good idea to have a party. Then you should visit a different part of the country. Above all establish complete harmony wherever you go and whatever you do. Don't get entangled. Just observe and cooperate.

Cancer Horoscope (June 21-July 20):

Are you making plans that involve the future? Are things at home making you feel like you need a few luxuries? Are you concerned about money and worried about job issues? It's important to focus on paying for the holidays, accomplishing everyday tasks, and cooperating a bit more with associates. Don't criticize anything.

Leo Horoscope (July 21-Aug. 22):

Some sort of change is about to transpire. You may not feel at ease with this but it will be good for you and put a bit more fire into your life. You need some entertainment, some fun, games, and recreation. You need an attachment that favors your creativity. You need a child to watch over. You don't need difficulties, extravagance, or insecurity. You need a trip.

Virgo Horoscope (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

Something feels tedious, irritating, too close for comfort. Something feels like it needs to end so you can make changes that will not unsettle your security. Do nothing too quickly. Working with someone may prove difficult for a time. Stay with it. It will soon ease. Then a family obligation occurs and you are busy, organized, and happy.

Libra Horoscope (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

Most importantly is your loving relationship with siblings. If that is not the situation then something educational, which furthers your life goals, is immanent. Do begin to read the newspapers and listen to the news. An awareness of the world deepens your attractiveness and develops your public image. You will need to be practical and tolerant soon. Tend to your career with care.

Scorpio Horoscope (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

Finances and investments need careful scrutiny. Increases come about through ideas and flashes of insight. Therefore, be a stay-at-home as much as possible so that you are available for impressions concerning your monetary situation. Thrift is a value you might incorporate into your value system. Do you know where your important papers are?

Sagittarius Horoscope (Nov. 22-Dec. 20):

Don't spend too much. Instead begin to save more so you can create new projects and move forward on your home situation. There are some habits you might consider either increasing or stopping. Whatever they are, begin now. Force nothing, don't make haste, and seek spiritual nourishment at the gate.

Capricorn Horoscope (Dec. 21-Jan. 20):

Matters concerning your health are emphasized. Therefore maintain more alkalinity in your diet. That means very few carbohydrates, more protein, and mostly vegetables and salads. Careful at the month end when family and intimates seek you and you seek solitude. Find it, care for it, tend it. Dwell not on limitations and/or mistakes. Laugh.

Aquarius Horoscope (Jan. 21-Feb. 18):

Life seems more calm and quiet. This benefits your sense of self-esteem and allows you to see who your real friends are. You must seek new social groups that are intelligent and inspire you. Perhaps it's time for school, a new educational emphasis. There's a light in your life. What is it?

Pisces Horoscope (Feb. 18-March 20):

You are preparing for new professional work. At first this feels difficult. But as you ponder on your abilities you realize you are more than able to assume new endeavors. Something you do will involve parents and children perhaps. This will develop into new social contacts and responsibilities. Begin preparations from the inside out... ■ *Annie*

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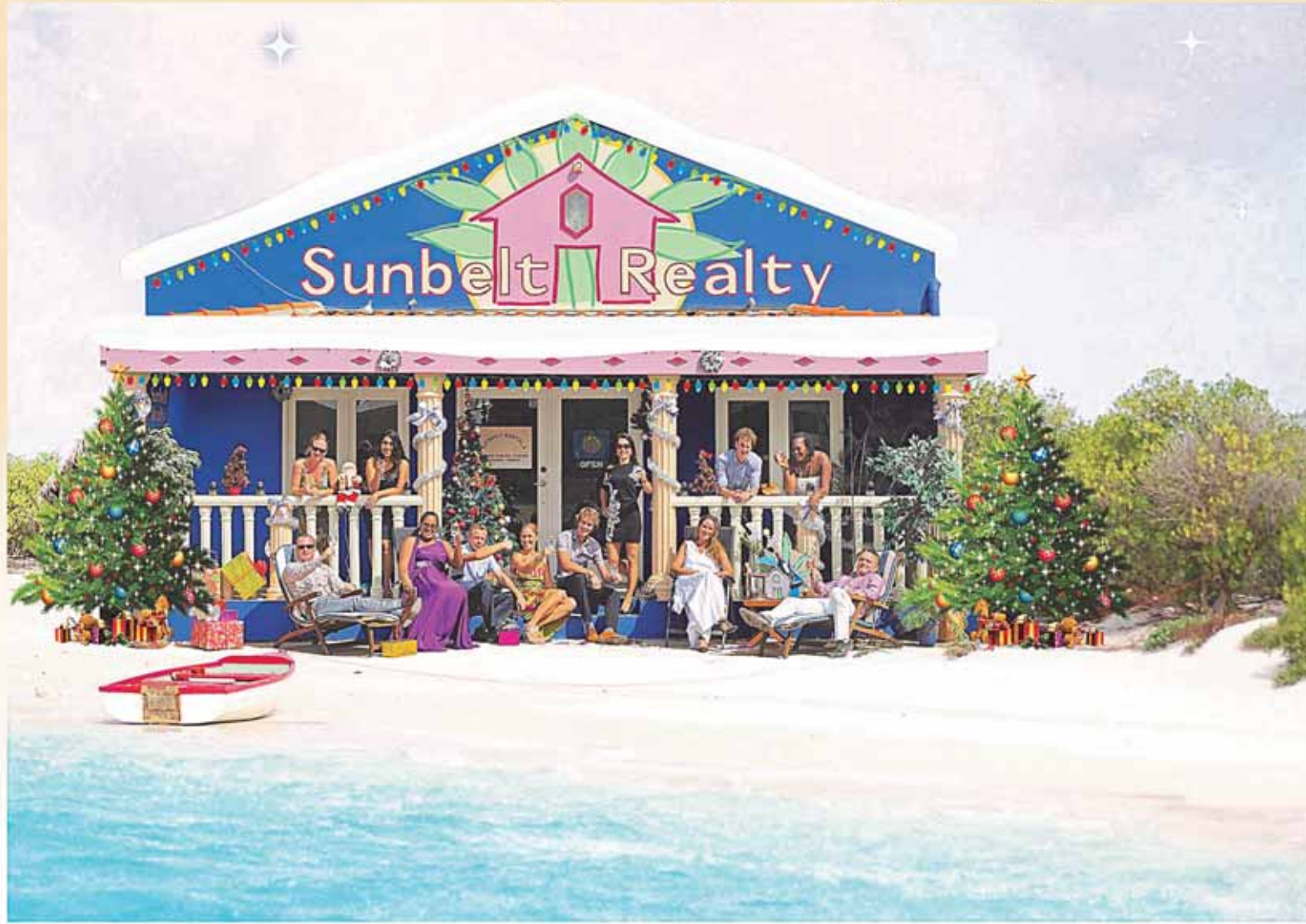
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Dia di Nort di Saliña



No need for police during Dia di Nort di Salina

It felt like a very early Christmas. On Kaya Yuma, one of the streets in Nort di Saliña, a little baby donkey was born at six o'clock in the morning right in front of my friends' door and the dogs were not even barking.

This year Dia di Nort di Saliña was a quiet one. Thursday morning, the 15th of December, the skies were grey and it was drizzly, damp and cool. A holiday, as it was also Kingdom Day, and I guess everybody took it like that and stayed in bed.

Nort di Saliña is 'my' neighborhood, a village which I love with all my might because its humble and typical houses are

sprinkled out over lush green hills, there are numerous winding little dirt roads, there is always a rooster somewhere, there are dogs who come to visit my dogs every day, there are goats and cats and donkeys and loras, prikichis, white owls and bats and then there are the people... This is a neighborhood that gets under your skin; it's like a miniature metropolis in a country setting. It has everything – the good, the bad and the ugly and its very own special beauty.

Well, around 10:15 am from my house I heard someone singing the national anthem and after that someone was giving a speech. It was raining and I didn't feel like walking to the *sentro di bario*, so I stayed home. A couple of hours later when the sun came

through and bands started playing I went to see what was going on. There weren't many people yet, but of course there was Alex Semeleer and his lovely wife Faizul and so I started talking to Alex. "It's way too quiet," he said. "We were expecting many more people. We announced it on the radio and all the people who have a talk show on the radio have paid attention to this event. I think it's because of the rain. The governor was here – he's also originally from Nort di Saliña – and he was telling just now how he used to sleep on the floor on a mat *kama di pushi* (the bed of the cat), but it wasn't for the cat because nobody had a cat inside the house. Mr. Thodé also spoke about his upbringing: about his grandmother who always told him, 'From what little that you have you should make the best!' And then Mr. Thodé said, 'and that's what I did!' And then he added that we still didn't have much but he also told us that there are ways and possibilities to reach your goals. And he's right, because I experienced the same as Mr. Thodé did. Nobody here in Nort di Saliña had running water or electricity, but I went to the library every day and by the light of a kerosene lamp I would read and finish my book in two days! That's how I learned Dutch!

This village lacks unity and with the celebration of this day, we – the Nawati Foundation – are trying to make the people appreciate their neighborhood more. It's also a lack of knowledge. People know very little about their culture and so we are trying to tell them about their history. One of the stories goes as follows: In Nort di Saliña there is a family named Alberto and a family named Melaan (amongst others) and then we were talking about how many mis-



Papito Thomas and Alex Semeleer of the Nawati Foundation which established Dia di Nort di Salina

takes the registry office made, because there was a man named Kaitano Alberto and his brother was named Polie Melaan and they had the same mother and father. What a blunder!

Well, I'm going to make a power point presentation about all these stories and we hope more and more people will become involved and come forward with their stories and so we're aiming on bringing the people closer to each other so that all of us will be proud of this village again. And let's hope next year many more people will visit this event." I leave Alex and meet with Papito Thomas who's the vice-president of the Nawati Foundation, and we make an appointment for an interview another day. I take some photos, walk home and at night I return once more. By then the party has become lively, groups of men are hanging out together, families and children and grandmothers are eating and drinking, the usual teenagers are hanging out on the dark corners of the streets, Glenn i Su Geng are playing 'Kunuku Bieu', the anthem of Nort di Saliña, and all is good." ■ *Greta Kooistra*