Dutch Parliamentary Elections

Prime Minister Mark Rutte tendered the resignation of his cabinet to Queen Beatrix on Monday afternoon, 26 April, following the collapse of talks aimed at restoring order to government finances.

Party for Freedom (PVV) leader Geert Wilders pulled out of the negotiations earlier, saying the impact of the spending cuts “ordered by Brussels” was too great. The decision meant the minority cabinet of People’s Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) and Christian Democrat (CDA) no longer has enough support in the Dutch Parliament, making parliamentary elections inevitable.

The Dutch Second Chamber elections will take place on September 12, 2012. Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will take part in the elections for the first time since the then province of The Netherlands on October 10, 2010. Member of the Second Chamber Ortega-Martijn asked Ministers of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Liebseh Spies whether she had taken note of the recent concerns expressed by the Governors of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba about the costs of organizing the elections on the islands. On September 20 the first meeting of the newly elected Second Chamber will take place. Candidates lists must be in by July 31. New political parties have until June 18 to register their name at the voting Council. We expect local parties may align one or more of the Dutch parties for this election.

Recent visitor to Bonaire, Liesbeth Spies, declared her candidacy in the Christian Democrat (CDA) to contest to find a new leader ahead of the general election of September 12. Candidates may register until May 4. A selection committee will be announcing the candidates for the election on May 7.

**Dutch Party for Freedom (PVV) leader Geert Wilders has called on Muslims throughout the world to leave Islam. He made his call in a speech in New York, to promote his English-language book Marked for Death.** Wilders claimed that his book explains that Islam is a “totalitarian ideology” and is an encouragement to freedom-loving Muslims to turn their back on Islam.

Wilders joins another former Dutch MP, former VVD Member of Parliament Ayvan Hirsi Ali, a former fighter against Islam. Hirsi Ali moved to the US in 2005, and was subsequently named by Time Magazine as one of the 100 most influential persons.

**LINDHOVEN—The Dutch advice and engineering bureau, DHV, will be guiding several construction and renovation projects to improve health and medical care in Bonaire. DHV will guide the extensive renovation and expansion of the San Francisco Hospital and the adjacent nursing home, Kas di Kaids. Both facilities are operated by the Mariadal Foundation.**

The project will be built according to sustainable, environmentally friendly standards. San Francisco is Bonaire’s only hospital and has 36 beds. The hospital provides internal medicine, emergency care, general surgery, orthopedics, ENT specialties and eye care.

**As David Feehan, an expert in the field of developing and managing city centers says, Some People Who Bring You BONHATA at 15**

**Elections**

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Bonaire Reporter—May 11-25, 2012

Liliane de Geus of Link Development coordinated the visit. She was the director of Downtown Management Organization (DMO) in Curacao before her return to Bonaire.

Feehan spoke with public and private sector representatives and held presentations for the Executive Council and others. He concluded that the center of Kralendijk and the street scene aren’t attractive. There are too many infrastructural problems, cars are parked hazariously due to insufficient parking facilities, the town center is unsafe because of sidewalks under repair and clinkers lying all over the place. The available waste containers are often overfilled and there are insufficient public toilets, while the existing ones are not attractive to use. There’s overdue maintenance and a good management plan for the open spaces is lacking. Feehan advised the Chamber of Commerce to assume the leading role and produce an action plan.

▸ Joran van der Sloot, suspected in the disappearance of Natalee Holloway almost seven years ago, is to serve out his 28-year sentence in Peru. Dutch citizen Van de Sloot was found guilty earlier this year of the murder of 21-year-old Stephany Flores Ramírez on May 30, 2010, in a hotel room in Lima. Now the US has requested his extradition to face charges of fraud and extortion of the mother of Natalee Holloway. In the US case, Van de Sloot is accused of asking Natalee Holloway’s mother for €190,000 for information about what happened to her daughter’s body. He is said to have received the money from her.

Peruvian Minister San Martín explained that Van der Sloot might have been able to attend his trial in the US, but that he would have to return to Peru after the verdict to serve the rest of his 28-year sentence.

▸ Bonaire may not have a formal movie theater but it does have a new Movie Bus that runs Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30 from the road in front of the Divi Flamingo. It offers a two-hour plus cruise in the largest bus on the island, a 53-passenger air-conditioned former Greyhound with reclining seats. Viewing is on two flat screen TVs playing DVD movies, with complimentary soft drinks and popcorn. Great entertainment for $12.50 per person! For more specific info, please contact John at Voyager Events 780-4123.

▸ Antrold’s Flamingo Garden Estate is a new housing project on Kaminda Djibou. Construction will begin with a first stone laying ceremony on Friday, May 11. The Estate plans show beautiful landscaping, superb infrastructure, 24-hour security, a central recreation area with a deluxe swimming pool and a fitness center. Prices start at $170,000.

Potential home buyers are invited to attend the first stone-laying ceremony. The reception begins at 16.30. For registration and additional information please contact Flamingo Garden Estate at 5999 525-6053, or by email tfdfl.sales@yahoo.com before 10 May 2012.

▸ Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is looking for volunteer beach keepers to help them protect the nesting sea turtles and their hatchlings. Can you spare a little time each week to walk the beach looking for sea turtle crawls? You will receive full training. Please register now or email program assistant jpr bonaireturtles.org or call 717-2225 or 701-0433. The STCB emergency hotline is 780-0433. An STCB Training Workshop for volunteers will be given on Thursday, May 10, from 6 to 8 pm at the DCNA office at 10A Kaya Finlandia, opposite the City Shop entrance. Call the numbers above to say you’re coming.

▸ Mike Gaynor writes: “After 10 years in the same place, Chat ‘n’ Browse, has moved! Finding the new spot is quite simple. Facing the former location look left and proceed 20 feet. You will be able to enjoy the same great service and smiling faces. Nothing much has changed but they are toying with the idea of serving hot coffee and maybe a snack. How does Chat, Browse, Chew ‘n’ Brew Sound? In any event, they provide free local calls and real cheap ones to the states and Europe!”

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Page 3
I was born in Surinam in 1991 in the district of Nickerie. My early childhood was wonderful. Both my parents had been the youngest child in their family and had therefore been spoiled. When they got me, they automatically spoiled me the same way! My mother, who is a music teacher, had a gospel choir of about 30 people. My dad also sang in the choir and during all the rehearsals and performances I was always present, standing on a chair in the front row, clapping! Naturally I started singing at an early age. The last time I was in Surinam for vacation my mom and I listened to some tapes from when I was two and three years old.

Nickerie was quiet and we were a close-knit family who did everything together – swimming in the creek, playing with marbles and always, always, there was music. My grandparents lived close by and my uncle had his farm a little further. We danced and sang every day, and in the afternoon my grandma's sisters who also lived close, dropped by and then we went fishing in the creek.

When I was about four, my brother was born and a year later my sister. We moved to the capital, Paramaribo, when I was six. My mom had gotten a job as a music teacher there, but every weekend we went back to Nickerie.

Our family got involved in a terrible car accident when I was nine. My little brother was five and he took the biggest hit and his skull split. He should have been dead, but he survived and they called him the ‘miracle child’ and that’s what he is. He was operated on by a neurologist who tried to close leaks to the brain and they also fixed his face. But after six months my parents had to fly quickly with him to Holland, and it appeared that the operations had done no good at all. My brother still lives in Holland and when you see him you wouldn’t think something was wrong with him. But he needed to be operated on again and there are many issues we have to take into account considering him.

My sister and I stayed with my grand-parents in Nickerie, but after a while I got sick with stress and had to go to Polytechnic School, but my mom didn’t agree. She wanted to send me to a school where I would learn how to sew a skirt – but I’m not so much the skirt-sewing type! That’s not my style! Well, to make a long story short: My mom’s sister lived on Bonaire and she and I had a special bond. When I was a baby, my aunt wanted me and asked my mom for me, but my mother always said, ‘I didn’t get any babies to give them away like they were puppies!’

The first time I came to Bonaire I was three years old and I still remember how that was. My grandparents (my mom’s parents) came with us. And before I came to live here I had been here at least six times, so, when I was 14 my aunt said, ‘Come here!’ and I went to live with her on Bonaire.

I went to SGB and did Mavo – technical and then I did Havo and now I’m following management training. My aunt and her family moved to Holland and I’m living with friends of my aunt. Currently I am

(Continued on page 5)
working for RCN in the archives. It’s a good job and I have great colleagues, but it’s got nothing to do with technology. I would love to study aviation maintenance technician and some day I will.

To be young and living on Bonaire… well, I am not the average person. I’m not an internet freak. I do have a Blackberry, but I can’t work it very well and when I want to say something to someone I prefer a phone call. So, I am different from most people of my age. I’m not an internet freak. I do have a Blackberry, but I can’t work it very well and when I want to say something to someone I prefer a phone call. So, I am different from most people of my age. I am a quiet person. Silence and tranquility don’t bother me, and I have no problems keeping myself busy here. I play dominos with my friends, we watch movies, we go for a swim, drive around or we jam in a studio – that’s what we do most of the time! And of course I go out now and then. However, reason number one why I won’t stay here is because I don’t have family here and then, I still want to study more – because I am smart. Here you stay at a certain level and that’s a pity, especially when it comes to my music.

From the time when I was very young I’ve been singing in public. I am part of a girl’s band here: Lucy, Amanda, Mary, Sylvia and me. We play everything- Salsa and Reggae and we do a lot of R&B and I write my own songs and we play everywhere: Little Havana, Wilhelmina Plaza, Sorobon, Plaza Hotel. We’re good, you know! However, one of us is in her final school year and I got a contract with RCN – so, it’s a bit less. I also sing solo and I accompany myself on my keyboard and every Sunday I sing at my church, the Ministry Di Kristu Hesus.” She looks pensive. “To me music is a word with a very powerful meaning. It’s my whole life and it takes me into a different world. Music also means love – a very strong and profound love. I couldn’t live without it. It literally means everything to me. I think that someone who doesn’t love music must have a dead soul.”

Nethanja is very talented. She has an extraordinary pure voice – but also she’s bright and she’s nice. She knows what she wants and she will get there. “Sometimes I feel lonely. I shouldn’t say that, because too many people care for me. But I miss my family. If I’d go somewhere now it would be Holland where I’d like to do conservatory and music theatre. For one year I haven’t studied anything except for my management course. My aunt would like me to study electronics and do my music later so I will have a more solid basis. In a way she’s right because if you want to do something in music you have to be really good! Still, I’m looking for what’s closest to my heart and in the end, it’s always music.

One thing I regret is that I never paid attention when my mother was giving music lessons because I still can’t read music! I am too lazy, I prefer to play by ear. My mom is very good at it, however, she doesn’t play any instrument and that’s what I’m good at: piano, guitar, flute, bass. When I touch it, it starts playing and that’s why I should do something with it because I realize that’s a gift. Another thing is, since I am here, I do what I want with my voice – something I wouldn’t dare to do when I am around my mom! No way! I miss her because she’s strict and she knows I can do much more with my voice and…she’s right!

I wouldn’t go back to Surinam though. It’s beautiful and therefore inspiring to write songs, but both my grandmothers passed away and what’s left are my grandfathers, my parents and my sister. Everybody else is living in other places around the world – amazing when you think of it. I even have relatives in China!

Bonaire has had a big impact on me. I have learned how to express myself and to say what I feel and I don’t get stressed so fast anymore. I’ve become more social and open, but I am still sweet and that’s also important. It wouldn’t be good otherwise!

I also learned to lose on Bonaire because I participated in the ‘Voice of Bonaire’ and I didn’t win, but that’s part of the game too. I had to learn it. And last year at the Caribbean gospel festival on Curacao I didn’t win the solo, but I did win in the duo and also I’ve won other festivals and contests.

So far, I’ve spent my best years on Bonaire and it was also the first place I went on vacation and part of my heart will always be here. I am 21; I started in Surinam and then I came here; from here I will go to Holland and when I am more mature and a producer offers me a contract, then it’s going to be the US. Yes,” she laughs, “you have to think big!”

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra
CHEAPEST CHOICE?

Dear Editor:

Some weeks ago I wrote how sorry I felt when I heard Te Amo Beach had been designated to become the new location for the container pier. I also wrote that I couldn’t understand why Stinapa and TCB had voted for this beautiful location to be destroyed.

However, some days ago I was approached by Ramon de Leon, Marine Park Manager for Stinapa, and he specifically explained to me what really had happened. Mr. de Leon only attended one meeting of the committee which had to advise the Executive Council in choosing the location for the new container pier. That was the only meeting he went to and the only time they asked him something. The committee showed Mr. de Leon two Google air photos: one of Te Amo Beach and one of the WB location. And, as the reef of Te Amo Beach is in much worse condition than the reef at the Webb location, Mr. de Leon said, “Te Amo Beach.” Mr. de Leon was never offered any other option or location nor did he attend any other meeting considering this issue.

I am happy with Mr. de Leon’s reaction because it means that he does care, and on the contrary to what I was led to believe, he was never offered another, more suitable location. To me, it seems that it’s all about money again – as always – as I remember the wife of the Chairman of the Committee saying, “Te Amo Beach was chosen because it’s the cheapest.” So far – so sad.

Greta Kooistra

Editor’s note: Recent developments surrounding the choice of a site for the new cargo port have turned away from Te Amo Beach. We will keep you posted.

REPORTER ABSOLVED

I n our last edition we reported that Laura Dekker (16), the world’s youngest singlehanded circumnavigator, departed Bonaire in company with Bruno Ottens, a Bonaire resident of Dutch descent. Via Facebook the website Zeilmeisje Laura Dekker was critical of this: “Do you really think it’s a good idea to bring Laura’s private affairs in the news?”

The Reporter replied that this was NOT private information since Laura mentioned Bruno, not by name, in her blog herself. In addition Bruno is well liked in Bonaire. Many are interested in his journey as well. Last week Bruno Ottens replied via Facebook:

Dear Reporter,

“OK, Bruno here guys, I think its great that the Bonaire Reporter like wrote an article about me and yes, many people like to know what’s going on in my life ... the Bonaire Reporter is a great newspaper in Bonaire, so I support them. We’re having a great time here, and I hope the Zeilmeisje Laura Dekker organization can just drop it. she doesn’t even like to be called that name, hahahaha!

Bruno Ottens

PS: give everyone on Bonaire my thanks !!!

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Bonaire Reporter - May 11-25, 2012
The national Museum Day is taking place at the Mangazina di Rei. “On May 18, International Museum Day is taking place at the Mangazina di Rei Culture Park with an open house, from 10 am to 4 pm. This means that our doors are open to everyone in order for each one of our visitors to see, feel and taste the culture of Bonaire!” announced Danilo. He continued: “The challenge for all of us together is to deliver to our visitors a unique experience of seeing, tasting and feeling the culture of Bonaire!”, said Danilo Christiana. 

Mangazina di Rei is a key element in Bonaire’s cultural preservation which is managed by youngsters (in training) and community groups. Under the guidance of a group of passionate seniors, professionals and volunteers, the youngsters are being challenged into taking more entrepreneurial responsibilities and using their talents at their utmost best while also working on their cultural and social development. “The challenge for all of us together is to deliver to our visitors a unique experience of seeing, tasting and feeling the culture of Bonaire!”, said Danilo Christiana.

Mangazina di Rei is going to host a two-day event this month. “On May 18, International Museum Day is taking place at the Mangazina di Rei Culture Park with an open house, from 10 am to 4 pm. This means that our doors are open to everyone in order for each one of our visitors to see, feel and taste the culture of Bonaire!” announced Danilo. He continued: “The theme for this two-day event will be sustainability, which is also the goal of Mangazina di Rei. We would like to show the tourists and the Bonairean population the power of culture and its effect on the sustainable development of Bonaire. It would mean a world to us if in the year 2024, when celebrating its 200 years of existence, all that we created today will still be present and in good condition.”

“The following day, May 19, is what we called Mi Zjilea Day. Mi Zjilea in Papiamento means ‘when one feels good doing something one likes very much.’ Or, as they say in English, ‘when one feels like a fish in water.’ On this day we offer a full diverse agenda starting from 6:30 am until 2 am on May 20, with a lot of different activities during the day such as how to bake bread. In the evening numerous local bands like Foyan Boys, for example, will be performing until late at night. For the early birds, Mangazina di Rei will be open on this day for breakfast. There will be a buffet and tickets are available for proceeds. Prior to the breakfast buffet there will be a walking tour guided by Mr Bôi Antoin.”

Besides hosting cultural events, Mangazina di Rei is also a study center acknowledged by many international institutions such as the Dutch Organization CALIBRIS which specializes in health care, social care, welfare and sport studies. At Mangazina di Rei youngsters and (high) school drop outs get a second chance to prepare themselves for re-integrating into the society and the labor market, but this time they will be better prepared.

Danilo elaborated: “What we would like to achieve during this two-day event is to inform people about the Mangazina di Rei. This project is composed of various parts, such as the restoration of the old warehouse while maintaining it as a historic building, to give the heritage of Bonaire a fixed and timeless spot inside the cultural park, creating a food hotspot for the birds in the neighborhood, offering youngsters the chance to practice how to become entrepreneurs so that they may be more understanding and enthusiastic while at the same time cherishing the value of doing business.”

Danilo cheerfully continued: “Another pending project is the eco museum concept of ‘Rincosito.’ We would like to create a miniature version of Rincon. An eco museum is a dynamic way in which communities preserve, interpret and manage their heritage for a sustainable development and it is based on a community agreement.”

I think that Mangazina di Rei is a great place to visit, actually a must see, feel and taste experience as their slogan states. The museum at the entrance is embellished with so many details and gives you a detailed photographic view of how things were done in the past on Bonaire. When I was in there it truly touched me and left me in a complete state of awe. It was like I was taken back in time and that I was part of the scene I saw in those pictures. And for you trainees I advise you to learn as much as possible and do make the most of the learning experience Mangazina di Rei offers you. It will benefit you in many ways for your bright future.

So, remember, folks, there are many roads to Rome, but one only gets there if there’s a will….. Because as you all know, where there is a will, there is way, always…..

Photo & story by Rose Feng

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**Picture Yourself In Marsa Alam, Egypt**

Jovinda Smakman sent us this photo of herself taken at Brayka Bay Resort in Marsa Alam, Egypt, where she and her husband were recently on vacation.

They are from the Netherlands and last October were on their paradise island of Bonaire. They hope to return this year for the sixth time.

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Bonaire/Rincon – As long as Eric Gietman can remember he has been interested in off road riding. Those days, way back in the former century, he lived in the southern part of Holland and he really liked to ride his bike over unpaved roads and through the still existing outback of The Netherlands. Every now and then he fell of his bike but he never got seriously injured and he always wore a safety helmet. One of his last bikes was a Yamaha XT500, the first of a new generation of reliable single-cylinder, four-stroke off-road machines. Then he decided to sell the motorcycle and buy two mountain bikes for Jolande, his partner, and himself. So they were still off road but now the vehicles were powered by human energy instead of by an engine powered by fossil fuel.

In 1997 Eric and his wife spent their honeymoon on Bonaire and they immediately fell in love with the hardly spoiled island. Of all places, they really loved the small and independent village of Rincon with its proud citizens in the northern part of the tropical island. All kinds of fantasies popped up and plans were created to start a business or something to be able to live on this wonderful island. It took them years and years to create a business plan and when everything was organized and thought over again and again the economic recession changed all plans. Several times Eric visited the Diver’s Paradise to find out how to create a job and a living on Bonaire. Then, in March 2009, Eric, Jolande and their lovely daughter, Rianne, made a giant stride. They moved to Bonaire to live their dream. One year later they bought the former Cinelandia complex in Rincon and started cleaning it. They put a lot of energy and money in restoring the house next to the cinema and they started the Caduhy Distillery, an artisan and traditional factory where they produce their Bonaire liqueur, made of the Kadashi cactus.

Eric: “We love the island of Bonaire, especially the village of Rincon. This is the best kept secret. Rincon is a fine example of the original Bonaire. We bought the ruins of the cinema and the house next to it and we are really into restoring it the way it was in history. The house is over 110 years old and the cinema was built in 1957. It is a Rinconeran copy of Cinelandia in Curacao and it also has those typical art deco style features. We are working on the house and the cinema will be restored too. The roof collapsed as the white ants ate the wooden structure. It took us months to clean everything up and transport the material to the landfill. Some Rinconeros did not even know it existed! We also restored the wooden structure. It took us about 6 months to clean everything up and transport the material to the landfill. Some Rinconeros did not even know it existed! We also restored the wooden structure.

Now the Gietmans are looking for a small motorcycle for their daughter Rianne. Rianne also likes enjoying open air fun on a motorbike and they are looking for a handy small single cylinder. As the twig is bent, so grows the tree. Story & Photos by J@n Brouwer

Honda TransAlp 700 cc V-twin. The engine itself has always been very reliable but the electronics suffered from time and temperature. Eric took several sealed electronic units apart and started measuring, soldering and replacing. Unfortunately he had very little success. Then he bought some aftermarket replacement parts, and after installing the new electronics the machine gained a lost of power. The first time Eric turned the throttle he immediately fell off his bike because he did not expect that amount of extra power! In March 2010 Jolande passed the exam and received her motorcycle driver’s license. Until now she only had experience with a very small single-cylinder two-stroke Solex moped made in France. Eric and Jolande found a second hand Honda 125 cc single-cylinder TransCity. Jolande enjoyed the motorbike and gained a lot of experience. Finally they found out that the difference in power between the 700 cc TransAlp and the 125 cc TransCity was too big so they found a very nice 250 cc single cylinder Honda. Now, they form the happy Caduhy family. Especially during the weekends they get their gear and run the bikes. Eric: “The three of us, we all love riding the motorcycles on this lovely island. It is fun but it is not without a risk. Think of the donkeys and goats crossing the road and think of the other participants in the everyday traffic. They are not really used to bicyclists, mopeds and motorcycles. Most roads are narrow and the edges are not smooth. So Jolande, Rianne and I always protect ourselves with helmets, long trousers and sturdy boots. Especially helmets are a very important part of our protection. They protect our heads and our brains. A human being has just one head and it is impossible to replace it!”

Happiness Is A Good helmet

Wearing a helmet is the single, most effective way of reducing head injuries and fatalities resulting from motorcycle, moped, bicycle and skate board crashes. Wearing a helmet has been shown to decrease the risk and severity of injuries among motorcyclists by about 70%, the likelihood of death by almost 40%, and to substantially reduce the costs of health care associated with such crashes.

Most people on motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles and skate boards don’t use safety helmets on Bonaire. The climate is too hot and helmets are not cool. Last week I did a tour around a lot of shops on Bonaire looking for helmets as I really got fed up with all the people getting seriously injured. Last year several persons even passed away because of injuries. In the earlier days speed was as fast as the top speed of a horse or donkey. Nowadays speed easily reaches 60 miles or so. We have to protect ourselves because of these increased speeds. And yes, a baseball cap or a stainless steel strainer does help a little but there are better solutions. On our own island I found at least four shops where they have helmets for sale: bicycle helmets, mountain bike helmets, ski helmets and motorcycle helmets. Prices vary from $25 to $110. Send me an email or give me a call and I’ll inform you about the variety of helmets available on our island. A lot of helmets nowadays ARE cool.

Have a look at this cool clip about Danny Macaskill’s street trial: Industrial Revolutions”http://www.flvxy.com/danny-macaskill-industrial-revolutions-street-trials.htm

The next article will be about the endurance test of an affordable tuff ski helmet. Story & Photos by J@n Brouwer

Dive Friends 10,000th PADI Certification Goes To Amber Sills

Dive Friends Bonaire has issued their 10,000th PADI certification. The lucky student diver completed a continuing education program that is unique to Dive Friends Bonaire: the PADI Shore Diver Distinctive Specialty. Amber Sills from Colorado visited Bonaire to enjoy a dive vacation. She was already a certified PADI open water diver but was looking for an opportunity to refresh her skills and become familiar with Bonaire’s shore diving sites. The PADI shore diver distinctive specialty was the perfect course for Amber and her fiancé to sign up for. This two- dive specialty teaches divers to plan and conduct independent shore dives. They learn how to pick their dive sites, plan their dives, choose entry and exit points, navigate and problem-solve. To celebrate this landmark achievement, a commemorative plaque was issued by PADI and Amber was awarded a new Lib TECH TCD and a regulator system, compliments of Scubapro. Story & Photo by J@n Brouwer

Why are these people staring in horror? See page 11

Extend Your Life, Wear a Helmet!
This year we decided to enjoy Bonaire from mid March until mid April, the Easter weekend included. A good choice … it was proven!

Through an old (golf) friend, Jos Zuidam, who happens to be the secretary of the Bonairean golf club, ‘Piedra So,’ we were invited to join the Easter Golf tournament on April 9th. Since we already knew some of the members from earlier games we played and because we were familiar with the (renewed) course, we gladly accepted the invitation of the 26-member Bonairean golf club (the golf club so well known for its unconventional course (hard surface, lots of wind and donkeys) and thereto adapted local rules.

Invitees from the UK, Germany, The Netherlands and other parts of the Dutch Antilles accepted the “Easter Golf Challenge” as well. Not just the relaxed and easy going atmosphere but also the good preparations and care (including an Easter breakfast, on-course refreshments/bite and drinks afterwards) of chairman Theo van der Veen and his partner, Welmoed van der Wal, supported by Jos Zuidam (club secretary), made the day another “Pearl of Bonaire!”

Some had taken their own golf clubs but many of the guests made use of the club’s equipment to enjoy the nine-hole tournament. Even 11-year-old Benjamin Lloyd was rewarded with the ‘troetelprijis,’ a genuine golf glove.

Hugo Leter (member of Piedra So) and Tom Barnsley (UK) shared the third place. So the final results on April 9th. Since we already knew some of the members from earlier games we played and because we were familiar with the (renewed) course, we gladly accepted the invitation of the 26-member Bonairean golf club (the golf club so well known for its unconventional course (hard surface, lots of wind and donkeys) and thereto adapted local rules.

For his good behavior, tough competition and fair play Benjamin Lloyd was rewarded with the ‘troetelprijis,’ a genuine golf glove with a perfect fit (photo).
Can it get any better? That’s the Dia di Rincon, considered one of the best parties on the island when Rinconeros go all out to celebrate with food, drink, music, entertainment, and warm hospitality. And everyone is invited. Costumed visitors come from Curacao and Aruba to entertain and march in the harvest parade. From the photos you can see that everyone is having a wonderful time.

A special treat this year was the MCB group of 60 employees and their families in matching traditional costumes who joined the parade to celebrate the bank’s 50 years. They were accompanied by a group of Bonaireans living in Curacao, Grupo Komper. Special thanks to MCB director Sr. Evert Piar who made it happen.

By the following day, Tuesday, May 1, the streets of Rincon had been swept clean. Unbelievable. Thank you, SELIBON! (Continued on page 13)
I think it’s an upgrade for Playa, to have the “Happy Hour Crafts Market” on Friday evenings, because the artists tell me, “This is a good start for the Happy Hour Crafts Market.”

From the Arts and Crafts market I walk to the Taste of Bonaire and the whole atmosphere is just happy and animated. There’s a sizzling mood, and everybody is having a good time – together. At the Wilhelmina Plaza there is a SWAT team pushing through the crowd. It’s the people.” Well, here’s all the people from Bonaire – kids and adults, from very young to very old, all nationalities and everyone is having a good time – together.

There’s plenty of food and drinks. China Noah is represented and so is the Woodwind and RCN who is recruiting people for jobs. Esa Kleyn Heerenbrink, one of the artists, tells me, “This is a good start for the Happy Hour Crafts Market because the Taste of Bonaire is attracting a lot of people. The whole purpose of this market is to tide us over the period when there are no cruise ships in town, but at the same time we also want to entertain the local people and the ones who are not going on vacation. We also want to entertain the local people and the ones who are not going on vacation. We also want to entertain the local people and the ones who are not going on vacation.

People are walking back and forth and El Mundo is taking care of the drinks and at the plaza people are selling their arts and crafts—from all different types of jewelry to perfect little wooden slave huts filled with salt, driftwood art, paintings and photographs. It’s original and artistic and there’s no words for that, it’s just a feeling – an overwhelming feeling of happiness. It couldn’t have been more fun!

I spot Marie Rosa, from TCB USA sharing her food with a pretty brown dog, and she tells me that the Wounded Warriors will be coming August 18th through August 25th and then I see Lara Chirino, head of TCB together with Nick Lucey, who appears to be the host of an American TV show called “Into the Drink.”

Happy Hour Crafts Market because the artists tell me, “This is a good start for the Happy Hour Crafts Market.”

“Into the Drink” is shown on HD Net, Tuff TV and National Geographic International and for people who are interested in seeing Bonaire’s episode, go to www.intothebackyard.tv – promise you it will be fun!

Then people start dancing the Simadan harvest dance, more drinks are drunk, the food is almost gone, everybody is talking to everybody else. It couldn’t have been more animated.

It’s Bonaire the way it used to be. There are no words for that, it’s just a feeling – an overwhelming feeling of happiness – Hopi ambiente! ☀

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra
It’s been nearly three years since saxophonist Henk van Twillert began his successful in-concert tours to the ABC Islands, accompanied by his friend Tjako van Schie at the piano. Since then they have played at locations throughout the world, leading up to their recently released CD, “A Bag of Music.” Here is an eclectic “trunk full” of music, ranging from European classical pieces to tangos, from contemporary Jazz to classical Antillean compositions. This CD forms the basis of their musical “Tour d’Azul,” coming to Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao and St. Maarten from May 24 through June 2, 2012.

Henk van Twillert is a gifted musician who demonstrates superb technique combined with a special emotional interpretation which carries away his fellow musicians as well as his audience. He is truly a musical world citizen, inspired by the various places he has lived but not easily pigeonholed by either place or type. These days Van Twillert’s hometown is Aveiro, Portugal, near where he teaches in Porto, and where he is inevitably influenced by the “fado.” In his native Netherlands, he grew up with the European classics, studying at the Amsterdam Conservatory, and he continues to pass on his knowledge of classical musical literature. In Venezuela, where he is a guest lecturer at “El Sistema” of The National Youth Orchestra of Venezuela, he has become especially attuned to the great South American composers. And in New York, where he has spent two years pursuing doctoral studies, he has become deeply involved in Jazz composition. During previous tours in the Dutch Antilles, Van Twillert discovered the classical Antillean music of Livio Hermans, Wim Statius Muller, Padu Lampe, Jan Gerard Palm, Rufo Wever and others. His love for what he’s found there is easily understood in his renditions of these works in the CD, “A Bag of Music.”

The influences from every aspect of this musical Odyssey can all be heard in this three-part CD compilation, which was launched September 2011 in the Amstel Church in Amsterdam. Since that time this music of Henk van Twillert and Tjako van Schie in concert has continued to draw enthusiastic full halls in the Netherlands, Belgium and Portugal.

Following Henk van Twillert’s second successful appearance in the Antillean islands in 2011 (this time with a 10-member-strong saxophone youth orchestra, “Vento do Norte”), Van Twillert and Van Schie return again, now augmented by two additional guests, Ines Soares, a fado singer of great class, and “all round” percussionist Marlon Conradus of Curacao.

Their touring performance, “Tour d’Azul,” inspired by the CD, “Bag of Music,” begins on Curacao on May 24th, arriving on Bonaire May 26th, continuing to St. Maarten on May 30th, and closing out on Aruba, June 2nd. On each of these islands, their public concerts will be supplemented with additional concerts for local school children and workshops for aspiring musicians. The programs for each of the concerts will include works by Bach, Rachmaninoff and Faure, tangos by Piazzolla, brilliant fados by Jesus Sing and Mario Martin Guia (featuring Ines Soares), Jazz pieces by Gershwinn and Sidney Bechet and Antillean compositions by Livio Hermans, Wim Statius Muller, Jan Gerard Palm and Padu Lampe. For a complete listing of all of these concerts in the Antilles and on the many CDs featuring Henk van Twillert, please refer to www.saxlimited.com. Information on the just-released triple CD, “Bag of Music,” and on other recently-released CDs by Henk Van Twillert, including those with Jaap van Sweden, fado singer Carlos do Carmo (Henk joined him in concert this March in Amsterdam, capturing a rousing “capella” rendition of “Titi”), another with the Amsterdam Saxophone Quartet, a solo-saxophone interpretation of cello suites by Bach, and still another by Van Twillert’s own Saxophone Youth Orchestra, “Vento do Norte,” will be found there.

Bob Gilmour

I n 2010 I wrote an article about Cocari (Comision Cuido pa Grandinan di Rincon), an elderly care foundation existing in Rincon since 1982. The need for this special care was very important in Rincon at that time as well as the need to expand and reorganize. With the help of the government, Cocari finally got the special care they really needed. Last year, in 2011, under the direction of Mr. Boy Claerenda as president of the foundation, different caring programs were reestablished.

The board consists of specialized nurses from the hospital’s Fundashon Mariadal to make sure the “visitors” of Cocari are being taken good care of. A volunteer worker from the foundation, Nurse Jolanda Domacassé, tells us, “Volunteers are diminishing and the cost of living is getting higher. Volunteers cannot fill the working hours between 8:30 am and 2 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays any more because life expenses make them need to have a paying job. They can’t afford to work without getting paid because they have a family to take care of. And what they earn from donations is not enough for all the care that’s needed.”

This has completely changed. Now they are being well taken care of by the hospital’s Fundashon Mariadal. The nurses will be at Cocari three times a week, supplying this day care center with different help. There are more activities for the visitors and more special care. Due to these activities the visitors at Cocari have increased. But there is more that needs attention.

As one of the visitors said, a new building and a new bus is necessary. As she, Mrs. Maria Albertus (74), explains, “Now, under the care of Holland, we are going to get a new building soon. It’s getting crowded where we are now.

Thanks to the Rotary Club, in 2010 we received 35 wheel chairs, 10 hospital beds and 15 mattresses from Holland. In 2011 we came under the special care of Fundashon Mariadal and on March 20th this year during the Volunteer weekend, BON DOET, the Cocari yard got cleaned and a greenhouse was built. Because of this greenhouse Cocari can now grow its own veggies and the visitors can take care of it.

On April 26th Cocari had its first Simadan parade, taken care of by the Fundashon Mariadal, the first in all of Cocari’s 30 years of existence. Participants from the elderly homes in Playa came to join us with pre-celebrations of Rincon Day. It was a great experience for all the people in Rincon.”

We can see that Cocari has progressed from a few years ago. Now we have specialized care, and in the future because of the increasing demand for care of the visitors we will have five days of Cocari instead of just three days. Soon the old school yard will be rebuilt for a new elderly home for Rincon people.

On Sunday May 6, Fundashon Cocari celebrated a fashion show for the elderly entitled “Machi Modelo.”

So you can’t imagine how much has been changing at Cocari. If you wish you can visit and see for yourself. Call Josephine Trinidad (717-8900), the nurse in charge of Cocari activities.

Bob Gilmour

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A Medley of Tunes

“From Vienna to Broadway”

Eribie Blake’s “Memories of You” and Sidney Bechet’s “Petite Fluer” (both arranged by Art Marshall), or as quartets for: “Kurt Weill’s “Mack the Knife” and Gordon Jenkins’ “Goodbye” (both arranged by Art Marshall).

In trio performance of Piazzola’s “Oblivion” (arranged by Dragoto), Andrew Solomon took the lead role on oboe, accompanied by piano and clarinet, expressing the overwhelming melancholy of the piece with perfect pitch in a marvelous rendition. Ms. Anderson’s vocal range had to be severely tested throughout the demands of the (mezzo) soprano highs required by the operatic arias to the lower, more earthy registers of the Jazz-oriented numbers, where she seemed more at home.

The name of Benny Goodman, a friend of Marshall’s when Goodman was a seasonal visitor on St. Maarten, was invoked various times as formative influence on both Marshall’s style of clarinet and the arrangements as well.

All told, the group was warmly received by its Bonaire audience, which responded with numerous standing ovations and “bravos.” The Classical Music Board Bonaire’s next performance will be offered on Saturday, May 26, at Plaza Resort’s Cacique Hall, featuring the return of saxophonist Henk Van Twillert, accompanied by pianist Tjako Van Schaic, and this time augmented by two additional guests, Ines Soares, a fado singer of great class, and all “round” percussionist Marlon Conradus from Curacao.

Mozart’s “Minuet” and Allegretto con Variazioni,” for a piano-accompanied clarinet solo by Bob Gilmour. Anka and oboist Andrew Solomon, performance by pianist Ilja Huang was joined in the evening’s performance by fado singer of great class, and this time augmented by two additional guests, Ines Soares, a fado singer of great class, and all “round” percussionist Marlon Conradus from Curacao.

The Classical Music Board Bonaire’s next performance will be offered on Saturday, May 26, at Plaza Resort’s Cacique Hall, featuring the return of saxophonist Henk Van Twillert, accompanied by pianist Tjako Van Schaic, and this time augmented by two additional guests, Ines Soares, a fado singer of great class, and all “round” percussionist Marlon Conradus from Curacao.

Bonaire Tours & Vacations held a big party at El Mundo restaurant on April 26 to mark the closing of cruise ship season 2011-2012. Attending were the many tour operators and individuals who serve the hundreds of thousands of Bonaire visitors that come by ship.

Next year about 50,000 fewer cruise visitors (148,000-from Harbormaster figures) are expected. But that number is preliminary.
On April 26, 46 persons were granted Dutch citizenship by interim Governor Peter Silberie. In a brief ceremony following the oath of citizenship the Governor congratulated the new citizens and related their rights and obligations as part of nation of The Netherlands.

What a fantastic group of people! Some, but not all, of the staff of The Bonaire Reporter, their family and friends, at the celebration at Norca’s Deli Café on April 19. They were treated to Norca’s inimitable and delicious snacks and drinks and had a chance to mingle and get to know each other.

Starting in 1984 as Port Call, The Bonaire Reporter is in its 19th year of publication.
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RESTAURANTS
Bistro de Paris—is back at a new location at the H.V. Marina. Superb menu, genuine French dishes in a waterfront ambiance.
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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.

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

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

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BARS
Zazu Bar at the Harbour Village Marina is all you expect in a great bar. Super bartender, quality drinks and friendly service. Plus Bonaire’s only Rum Bar—over 50!

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The Storehouse (Mangazina in Papiamentu) offers secure storage for Vehicles, Household Items, Diving and Sporting Gear, Business Files or Invention. Across from the northern hotel row.

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Big air conditioned market with a friendly staff, the largest selection and lowest prices on the island. They stock what you need.

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

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Page 16
Bonaire Reporter- May 11-25, 2012
Rincon Day Road Run/Walk Results April 30, 2012 (photos, pg. 10)

Overall winner Eva de Jong 1:18:21

Age Class
16-24 Sarah de Groot 1:35:50
25-29 Eva de Jong 1:18:21
35-39 Diedre Pedersen 2:18:56
Gini Ilario 2:35:46
40-49 Mucha Le Pooie 1:36:35
Yke Constanda 1:36:35
50+ Paulien Wijnvoord 1:37:09
Angelien Jurei 1:46:28

Men
Overall winner Virgil Isenia 1:08:42
Age Class
16-19 Virgil Isenia 1:08:42
Luigi Eybrecht 1:29:38
25-29 Bienvenido Koffie 1:17:41
30-39 Captian Collins 1:24:16
Julio Statie 1:21:33
40-49 Kenneth Abraham 1:25:12
Mark Beenhousers 1:58:33
50+ Herbert Pier 1:29:41
Heldicr Waarde 1:32:34
60+ Hildo Plaatje 1:51:15
Gerard Treumiet 2:57:05

Speedwalk
Men Nazario Alberto 1:49.00
Herman Winklaar 2:01.50

Ladies
Amber Linsenk 2:25.15
Marianne Linsenk 2:55.13

Relay
Team 764 Norti di Salinja 1:11.44
Team 765 Norti di Salinja 1:15.24

REGULAR EVENTS

- Rooi Lamoechu Kunuku Park Tours $21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489-450-9600.
- We Dare to Care Park children’s playground open every day in the cooler afternoon-evening hours.
- Festival Di Arte—Ongoing child and sale of work of different artists. Open Wednesday-Saturday, 9 am-noon, 1-6 pm. On the sea promenade

SUNDAY, MAY 26

- We Dare To Care Playground Ba-zaar, 9 am-1 pm. Everything for sale: household items, plants, baby things, clothes & shoes, everything old & new. Food riot, BBQ. All funds go toward maintaining the Park. No entrance fee. Rent a table: monthly pass $25; weekly-$10
- Marshi di Kunukeru (Farmers’ Market) 1st Saturday of the month, at Kriabon, Kaminda Jato Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am to 12 noon.
- Marshi di Kunukeru (Farmers’ Market) Last Saturday of the month at Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter’s “Garage Sale—see below”), 8 am noon.
- Bonaire Animal Shelter’s “Garage Sale” Pakus di Pruga—every Saturday, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Belliar, across from Brandaris Café. Lots of free parking. Tel. 717-4989
- Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company’s“warehouse” on Kaya Indu- stria, second Saturday of the month, 7-9 pm. (Always call to make sure it’s on: Tel. 566-7539) Snacks and tasting of six wines for $10 per person.
- 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—796-7780.
- Petanque—Jeu de Boules, Saturdays 2:30 pm Tera Cora ranch. info: 786-0150

Sundays

Jannie Arawak - Music, drinks, local food, dancing, 10 am—6 pm. Live music starts at 4 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.
- Chez Nous Restaurant—Multi- course dinner prepared by students, under direction of teachers, $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. Ban & Harrie Acoustic Guitar Duo at Spice Beach Club, 6-9 pm, Eden Beach.

FRIDAYS

Happy Hour Crafts Market at Wil- helmia Park, sponsored by Bonaire Arts and Crafts Association. 5-9 pm.
FREE SLIDE/VIDEOWI SHOWS

Monday — Touch the Sea— Dee Scar, 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 Conserva- tion Bonaire (STCB) presents an in- formative slide show: “Sea Turtles of Bonaire” at 8 pm, 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 717-4000/ 790-2018

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

Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors’ Center. Open daily 8:30 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 Thursday evening at 7:30 pm. Call 700-7751 or 701-8728
Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:15 pm— All levels, cost is $1, call Renata at 443-5991 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, 650-7539.
JCI - First Wednesday of the Month- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ADVO build- ing, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone welcome. Con- tact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252
Kiwani Club meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other Tues- day, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5959, 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 beach meeting Wednesdays, 12:15-2 pm— Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting upstairs above the dive shop. All Rot- tarians welcome. Tel. 785-0046.
Toamasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Cru- sita de Palm at 786-3827 or Luciana Mar- tinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: ( VPGH ), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhel- mina; Sunday service; 10 a.m. in Dutch
Rincon, Cayo C.D. Crestian; Sunday service; 8:30 am in Papiamento/Dutch Children’s club, every Saturday from 4:30 till 6 pm in Kralendijk,(annex of the church). Contact: Maryt- jino@gmail.com or Daisycof- fie@hotmail.com

International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysia/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debroet. Sunday 9:00 am Worship ser- vice in English; 10:45 am Sunday school for all ages. Tuesday 7:30 pm Adult bible study class. 717-8777 for more info or ride bonaireirec@yahoo.com

Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamento, 717-8304.
Our Lady of Coronoto in Antiel, Sat- urday at 6 pm in English. Mass in Papiamento on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.
Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios): Kaya Trianon (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamento on Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

Ministerio de Luz Heus Services Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bon- aire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamento. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

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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**Pet of the Week**

"Foepie" looks like he’s straight out of the old time movie series, “Our Gang Comedy.” He’s all white and he even has part of a black patch around his right eye. Hollywood should be calling soon! But actually, Foepie is very happy in Bonaire; it’s just that he would prefer to belong to a loving owner. And to make things perfect it would be nice if whoever adopts him can also adopt his best friend, “Nina,” a brown and white very cute girl dog who was found with him and brought into the Shelter. Both dogs are full of fun and love to play. They’re great with each other and get along well with all the other dogs in the pen. Foepie is about five months old now. Both dogs are in perfect health, have been checked out by the vet. There are many ways that your donation to the Bonaire Animal Shelter can help. Here are three:

- **$8.50 helps to microchip a pet**
- **$50 buys a day’s worth of pet food — for dogs and cats**
- **$450 spays or neuters 10 dogs**

Support Bonaire provides a way for Americans to donate to the Animal Shelter Bonaire and claim charitable deductions on their American income tax. The Support Bonaire Web site accepts credit card donations for the Bonaire Animal Shelter. 

**Did You Know...**

Levels of carbon dioxide (CO2) have been rising not only in the atmosphere but also in the Earth’s waters. The ocean is a large carbon sink and studies have shown that the increasing levels of carbon dioxide can cause problems for corals. A recent study by Nilsson et al. 2012 has revealed that high levels of CO2 can also alter fish behavior by affecting their brain functions. Increased CO2 concentrations affected the sensory system of baby reef fish, corrupting their sense of smell, causing hearing loss, and affecting their coordination.

Baby reef fish had a corrupted sense of smell and reduced survivorship because they were unable to smell the chemical aromas secreted by their predators. A loss of hearing deterred the fish from the reef during the day, increasing their chances of being seen and preyed upon. The fish most at risk are species that require high amounts of oxygen.

CO2 levels are increasing at a steady rate, which may give fish enough time to adapt to the changing environment. If, however, the levels of CO2 become too high or the rate of increase too fast, there is a greater chance of severe neurological issues as seen in this study. The best thing we can do to reduce human CO2 emissions into the atmosphere is limit our use of fossil fuels.

Crystal Wilson
Edited by Caren Eckrich

**SHELTER NEWS**

Good News: Within 24 hours of The Bonaire Reporter being “on the streets,” last issue’s “Pet of the Week,” Isaac, the cat, was adopted. Isaac will join a fine group of other pets in his new home. Congratulations to all!

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- $8.50 helps to microchip a pet
- $50 buys a day’s worth of pet food — for dogs and cats
- $450 spays or neuters 10 dogs

You may give cash or check or do a bank transfer to MCB *Foundation Animal Shelter Bonaire MCB 102.378.00*

**Dive Friends of Bonaire Clean-up Dive**

Some 90 volunteers made the last clean up dive, organized by Dive Friends of Bonaire into a success. Briefing of the quarterly clean up dive took place at 10 in the morning at the Yellow Submarine location. Cleaning area was in between Club Nautico Pier and It Rains Fishes. This time no water scooters were salvaged but still loads and loads of cups, tins, plates and miles of fishing line. At around six a pot luck barbecue was organized. Plenty of tender meat and sufficient drinks were supplied by the sponsors. Side orders were prepared by the divers and other volunteers. This time sponsors: Selibon, Ouray, BMP, Deep Blue Gear, East Coast Diving, At Sea, Dive Shades, Bon Photo, Tusa, Van den Tweel supermarket, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, Reef Safe Suncare and Your Scuba Store. Thank you all for making Bonaire as clean as possible!
For the last several months there have been great views of the planets in the Sky Park. This will prove to be true throughout the month of May as well. Those of us with telescopes can obtain dramatic views of phase changes in Venus, spectacular rings around Saturn, and near surface markings on Mars. There will be an “annular” solar eclipse in the late afternoon of May 20th. Unfortunately for us east of Mexico the Sun will already have set, and we will miss it entirely.

An annular solar eclipse happens when the Moon directly on the Earth-Sun line also reaches the farthest point from Earth in its orbit around us, and therefore appears a little too small to fully block the Sun. About 90% of the Sun will be blocked in this eclipse, but at mid-point of eclipse, the Sun will appear as a “ring” of light in the sky. The next such event will not happen until 2023.

But let’s get back to what we CAN see. Venus will jump out at us early in May as soon as the sky darkens. Look west for this brilliant “evening star.” It is at maximum brightness of 4.7. On May 1st it was some 30 degrees above the west horizon and not set until 11:30 pm. But its orbit around the Sun, smaller than ours and inside ours, is bringing it closer to us and “tucking” it between us and the Sun. Saturn, so far away that its orbit wraps around the Sun, is much closer to us. Telescopes will show Saturn’s lovely rings, tilted 13 degrees to our line of sight, and can reveal several of the planet’s over 60 moons.

VENUS is visible in the W to NW evening sky. It gradually, then more rapidly, closes with the Sun and vanishing into its glare before month’s end. VENUS is visible in the W to NW evening sky. It gradually, then more rapidly, closes with the Sun and vanishing into its glare before month’s end.

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your depressed mood has been hard to shake. Try to join groups of interest such as ballroom dance classes or perhaps an internet organization. You may jump from the frying pan into the fire if you make a move this month. Don't let your boss make you feel guilty enough to take work home with you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21– May 20) Opportunities to make financial gains through investments look promising. Don't let relatives get the better of you. Any difficulties with peers could be unnerving. Short trips will prove to be more fruitful than you imagined. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Don’t hesitate to come right out and ask for the pertinent information. You may find your mate somewhat perturbed. Don’t expect others to live up to your promises and you won’t be disappointed or find yourself stuck with delays. Social events will be rewarding. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You are best to work at home if you can. Pay attention to small but important details. Standing friends about your problems. You may need to make a few alterations your living arrangements. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Try to curb overindulgence this month. Concentrate on home improvement. Small details will make a difference. Your mate may be distressed if you refuse to make a commitment. Sudden changes regarding colleagues may surprise you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Keep watching this site for a public event to observe it. MARS is visible in early evening, in Leo. It is fading (magnitude: 0.7 at the start of April, to -0.5 at the end of May) and shrinking in apparent size (13" at the start of April, to 8" at the end of May) as its distance from Earth increases again following a March 14th opposition. SATURN is visible most of the night, in Virgo near the bright star Spica.

Libra (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your mate somewhat perturbed. Don’t expect others to live up to your promises and you won’t be disappointed or find yourself stuck with delays. Social events will be rewarding. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Concentrate on work. Anger may cause you grief; control your temper and try to sit back and calm down. Romantic encounters are evident through travel or educational pursuits. Throw yourself into your profession. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be fair, not colorful. You’ll be prone to tears if your mate is harsh with you this month. Dinner, theater, or a comedy club may be the place. Try to visit a country that excites you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Hard work will not go unnoticed. Offer consolation, but don’t give them the correct. You need to focus on yourself, not on others. Keep tabs on your spending. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Before you proceed be sure to talk your plans over with those they will affect. You can make new friends by taking part in social events involving colleagues. Concentrate on work. You might find group functions tiring. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

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