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**BONAIRE**

*December 7-21, 2012, Year 19, Issue 24*

# The REPORTER

**BES Island News Too**

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**Christmas Season Begins**

# Flotsam and Jetsam



**WEB's rates will hold and there will be no "money back."** Judge R.P.P. Hoekstra agreed with Bonaire's consumer union, "Unkobon," in its case against WEB (Water and Electricity Bonaire) that the retroactive energy and water tariff increase for the period up to October 17 was "unreasonable." But that doesn't mean anyone will get a refund or lower rates in the future.

Unkobon asked that the additional amounts billed to clients for the month of October be refunded and that the government-owned utility company be prohibited from raising its rates retroactively in the future. In this matter the court sided with WEB's argument that refunding money already collected would bring it significant costs and risks.

In a small victory for the consumers' union, the judge advised WEB to sit with Unkobon before deciding on changes in the future. Since the judge was lenient to both parties, each organization has to pay its own legal costs.

**►Bonaire Island Governor Lydia Emerencia gave the Island Council details regarding her complaint filed with the Prosecutor's Office on suspected malfeasance in government.** Her complaint involves the issuing of a taxi permit.



The governor determined that there was cause for suspicion that some of the documents in support of the permit, which

she had signed, were forged. She launched an internal criminal investigation in conjunction with the island prosecutor.

Emerencia said she couldn't elaborate on details of the investigation because the matter now is under investigation. She asked the Executive Council commissioners' complete cooperation in the investigation and confirmed this request in writing.

**►WILLEMSTAD--The Attorney General's Office in Curaçao has announced that several large criminal cases the prosecution has had underway for some time now will come to trial in 2013.** "It involves large long standing investigations, with their own dynamics," stated a press release.

The "Zambezi" case regards a probe into possible fraudulent actions in Bonaire by (former) elected officials and others. The case was abandoned before the Kingdom detectives had completed their work because it was taking excessive time at one point. However, the Dutch Caribbean Joint Court of Justice ordered further prosecution after all, after a complaint by the "Fundashon Bon Gobernashon" (Good Governance Foundation). The expectation now is that this case will go to trial in the first half of 2013.

The "Fiji" investigation into a big Bonaire money-laundering case was brought before the judge the first time on December 18, 2009. This case involves possible investment of criminally obtained funds in real estate projects, heavy equipment and the gold trade. "The hearing of witnesses as ordered by the court is now being finalized, after which the case will be concluded, possibly in the first half of 2013."



**►The Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL) at its 30th Session in October 2012 adopted a resolution calling on the United Nations Decolonization Committee to examine the potential of re-listing Bonaire as a non-self-governing territory.**

Bonaire became a "public entity," a federally governed part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in 2010 following the territory's decision in a referendum in favor of "direct ties" to the Kingdom. However, "direct ties" was not precisely defined and interpreted by the Dutch as a request for a form of political integration. Subsequent efforts by the territory to revisit the matter in referendum were resisted by the Kingdom. COPPPAL wants it reopened.



**►The Netherlands is discussing an extension of the mail concession with the Nieuwe Post N.V.,** which is due to end at the end of 2012. Nieuwe Post N.V. is a Curaçao business which is in charge of the mail distribution on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. The Netherlands are now responsible for the continuation in the mail services in the Dutch Caribbean. A Member of the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament, Bart de Liefde (VVD), asked the Dutch Government numerous questions about the quality of service being provided and what alternatives are available to the government.

**►Bonaire's Education Commissioner Silvana Serfilia recently presented her proposed culture policy to the Secretary of the Island Council, Willem Cecilia.** The proposal outlines a future policy aimed at creating more cultural awareness as the key ingredient for sustainable development of the community. The Culture Department did the necessary research regarding the island's heritage, traditions and customs. They also studied both material and traditional aspects. The intention is to create synergy of thought and action with the living Dutch Caribbean culture where tourism and nature also have an important place.



**►The Netherlands Antilles guilder, the common currency of Curaçao and St. Maarten, and until 2011, Bonaire, could become affected if Curaçao's sovereign rating continues to be downgraded by rating agencies such as Standard & Poor's (S&P).** Finance Minister Roland Tuitt voiced his fear for the currency last week.

**►THE HAGUE--The Dutch Government wants to reduce the summer vacation for secondary schools in both The Netherlands and the Caribbean Netherlands from seven to six weeks.**

The Ministerial Decree along with an Explanatory Note was sent to the Second Chamber and First Chamber of the Dutch Parliament detailing the plans to reduce the length of the summer vacation. The Ministerial Decree should go into effect on August 1, 2013.

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► **Reminder: spear guns and even pole spears are still not allowed in Bonaire waters.** There have been complaints that divers are hunting lionfish with other than approved devices. Marine Park rangers have confiscated several and will keep their eyes open for more. If you see a diver in the water with a spear, call the Marine Park at 717-8444, or E-mail: [marinepark@stinapa.org](mailto:marinepark@stinapa.org).

► **A book about Jake Richter's 15-month battle with cancer entitled Melanoma Warrior is now available.** During his time on Bonaire Jake Richter's life was characterized by openness and friendliness.



He generously shared his experience and knowledge, especially about the emerging Internet that put Bonaire on the forefront during the Web's early days. His untimely death earlier this year was a blow to many. He shared his cancer-fighting experience in a blog that enjoyed wide readership. Jake's final story, primarily

(Continued on page 4)

## Support Your Brains Get Serious and Wear a Helmet



Emma Goma from Santa Barbara, sitting on my Bonaire blue 600cc single off-road motorcycle. For the occasion I positioned myself on the Tomos moped of her brother Max. Max (18) cruises around over the island wearing a ski helmet, which is at least something and better than nothing. (Photograph taken by Emma's father)

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> of a series of *Bonaire Reporter* short articles by J@n Brouwer about helmets and helmet awareness.

Santa Barbara/Bonaire –  
Last week *The Bonaire Reporter* received an email from Emma Goma, a smart and pretty 15-year-old student from *Lyceo Boneriano*. Emma had the intention to deliver a lecture about the im-

portance of wearing a helmet and the need for a law to make wearing helmets obligatory. Emma read the articles about helmet awareness in *The Reporter* and she wanted to get in touch with the author. So last Tuesday I drove my motorcycle up the hill of Santa Barbara. Emma, her father and I had a discussion about helmets and a law which seems to be under construction. Emma had a lot of questions and she was

searching for arguments to develop a law.

For me a law is not the most important thing. I think the most important thing is informing people and creating a kind of awareness. Of course wearing a helmet is important for your own safety. I think driving a bike, a moped, a motorcycle or a quad on Bonaire is even more risky than driving two-, three- or four-wheelers in Europe or in the States/ The quality of a lot of roads is poor. A lot of roads lack efficient lighting during nighttime. Some drivers are drunk or under the influence of other drugs. Some drivers do not have a driver's license and they do not know all traffic rules.

So, in the first place, wearing a helmet is important for your own safety. But there is more. Just think of the problems you create for your parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends when you get involved in an accident and get seriously hurt. Or even worse... And think of the huge amount of money the doctors and the hospital needs to spend. Money the society has to spend on you. Think of the stress you create for society when you get seriously hurt because you fell and you did not wear a helmet and protective clothing! Start wearing a helmet when you mount your bicycle, your moped or your motorcycle. The medical world can repair and replace a lot: arms, legs, joints. It is still impossible to replace a head and brain injury is very hard to cure.

Thank you, Emma, for paying attention to wearing a helmet and the importance of some laws. Thank you for your contribution to a better and healthier world! ■

J@n Brouwer

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*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Continued from page 3) based on the blog, with photographs, augmented from personal letters and other comments has been turned into a book. It can be downloaded free in a variety of formats at [www.tvlicht.de/jake](http://www.tvlicht.de/jake). It was released by Jake's father, Ota Richter, and the Richter family.

► Local fishermen, volunteers, STINAPA rangers and junior rangers scoured the waters of Lac Bay for **conch shells and came up with 326**. All but one had slots in the shell showing they were taken illegally. Almost all the conchs were juveniles and had not reached breeding size. The effort was part of the project to restore the Lac Bay conch fishery. It has long been illegal to take conch from Bonaire waters. A follow-up event is planned for early 2013. by *Diana Sint*



Jago

► **WILLEMSTAD**--In his last public speech as Governor of Curaçao, **Frits Goedgedrag (61) said goodbye**. He was governor of the autonomous country of Curaçao since 10-10-'10, the last governor of the Netherlands Antilles from 2002 and before that the Lt. Governor of Bonaire. He is from a Bonaire family. He said



► **Non-profit foundation Bon Kousa will shortly introduce FireGoogs (shown above) on Bonaire**. FireGoogs are fashionable safety glasses that will protect children and adults from eye injuries during the upcoming fireworks frenzy at the end of December/New Year's Day. The FireGoogs will be introduced on December 15th at the Sustainability Fair at Jong Bonaire and will be available through several retailers on Island. For more info email [info@bonkousa.org](mailto:info@bonkousa.org) or call 717 3839.

he is stepping down early for health reasons.

Goedgedrag's parting address was emotional. He said he was bidding farewell with a laugh and a tear.

"I'm already looking forward to enjoying a relaxed breakfast with Dulcie [his wife, ed.]. I also look forward to visiting and talking with my children at my leisure." Goedgedrag stated that his personal life had been guided by the principles of courtesy, family life and wellbeing during his terms in office.

► **Bruce Zavon, Director of the American Consulting Group, B.V. provides tax advice regarding the Tax Codes that apply in Bonaire for Ameri-**



*Congratulations to our Bonaire team mountain bike riders Frank Bohm and Domingos di Lima who were first in the men's Senior Class in the Aruba Duo Xtreme competition and to Annemieke Heutinck and Martine Been who grabbed a third in the Women's Class.*

**cans resident on the island.** The tax rules substantially changed in 2011 after Bonaire became a Dutch Municipality. In general Americans who pay income tax in the US get a big break, especially retirees. Since everyone's situation is different you should contact Bruce with your own specifics. E-mail Bruce at [bruce.zavon@zavontax.com](mailto:bruce.zavon@zavontax.com).

► **KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Curaçao's InselAir will consolidate their cooperation with a code-sharing agreement.** This will offer Bonaire customers greater convenience and options, enabling them to travel to destinations served by the two partners without having

to re-check luggage in Curaçao. In addition, flight schedules will be closely coordinated so that travel time is minimized. It became effective on December 1.

► **Will there be only one more edition of The Bonaire Reporter?** For those not schooled in New Age prophecy, there are rumors the world will end on Dec. 21, 2012, when a 5,125-year cycle known as the Long Count in the Mayan calendar supposedly comes to a close. We will all know for sure on December 22.

► Dear Readers: **Help keep The Reporter free.** Suggest to the owners of the businesses you like that they could get MORE customers by advertising in The Reporter.

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# On The Island Since...1996 – Siomara Albertus

“Both my parents were born on Bonaire, in Rincon, but because of a lack of education opportunity and jobs they went to live on Curaçao when they were teenagers. Strangely enough they didn’t know each other at all; they met at a wedding in Aruba. First they started writing letters and then they got engaged. They came to Bonaire a couple of times, then they got married here and they spent their honeymoon on Curaçao. They’ve lived on Curaçao for 43 years; my dad worked in hotel management and my mom worked at the hospital and later on in several boutiques and shops. I have a sister who lives in Curaçao and a brother who lives in Holland. My parents moved back to Bonaire 20 years ago and my father built his house in Rincon. My mom is 74 and my father 78.

I was born on Curaçao, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1962. Growing up I suffered from asthma and it made my childhood a bit difficult because I had to go to the doctor so often and I was hospitalized many times. When I was six, a professor from Holland came to study my case and he decided it would be better to send me to the University Hospital in Groningen -in the very northeast of Holland - so they could examine and monitor me in a better way. They found out I had a narrowing of the artery between the lung and the heart, so I was operated on when I was seven, almost eight. I stayed with relatives before the operation and afterwards I recovered at the hospital where I had my own room and where I was terribly spoiled with a lot of attention and little presents by the nurses and the doctors. The only thing they weren’t good at was combing my hair!

I spent one and a half years in Holland and because of all the attention from all the good people, I was never homesick! My family wanted to keep me there, but my mom said ‘No! I want my daughter back!’ So I came back to Curaçao and started the first grade at the age of eight. I had gone to school in Holland, but it had been a private school for sick children. They’d also read a lot to me - so I had no lag in my develop-

ment, but on Curaçao I had to start all over again. Health wise I was completely well – thank God - and I could do anything I liked, I even participated in sports!

I went to Mavo high school and then to Havo, but it was expensive. The books cost a lot of money and I had to find a job to pay for them. I started working for a computer company where I got a contract for one year and I went to school at night. When my contract was finished it was very hard to find a new job. In the 80s it was a time of economic crisis on the islands and it was very difficult to find work, especially for young people. But then I got a job as a cashier in a shop and I also did the book-keeping.

I got married on Curaçao when I was 24 and the marriage lasted 10 years. We moved to St. Martin where I lived for eight years; it was very good and I liked it a lot! St. Martin is very different from Curaçao or Bonaire, but I got to know the island well and also Statia and Saba,” *She smiles*, “even though the word or the place does

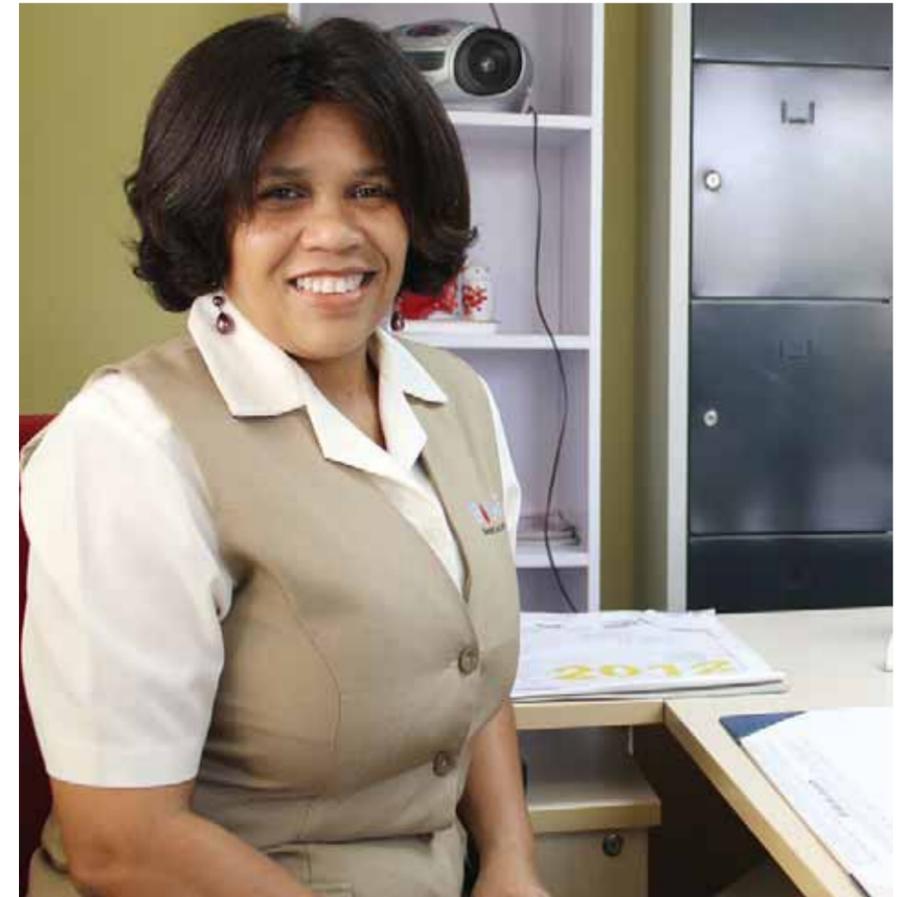
not exist anymore – I am a good Antillean! I thought St. Martin was much more modern than Curaçao and I also found that the government really works for the people. In St. Martin they don’t look at what somebody else is doing, they do what they have to do and they open their mouths. The social system was very well organized and people didn’t have to pay taxes. St. Martin had very good relationships with its French side as well as with the surrounding islands like Puerto Rico, Guadeloupe and the Dominican Republic. So, if there was something they couldn’t get, they went to look for it at the neighbor’s. Many boats came from St. Kitts or Dominica frequently and there was a shop with only goods from the Dominican Republic, and of course, lots of things came from the States. What was expensive was the house, the water, electricity and gas, but food and electronic appliances were cheap! I worked part-time for a trust company and we also joined a church and I worked for the community.

I think I would have liked to have stayed on St. Martin, but the infrastructure wasn’t so good and being under hurricane watch all the time during the season was also a nuisance. However, the fact you could travel so easily to the other islands and the fact that you could get everything, nature included, made it very attractive. Also, all the different cultures are represented and intertwined; it’s a bustling island – the island that never sleeps.

About the time my marriage ended, my mother became ill and I came to Bonaire in July 1996 for the summer holiday to see how my mom was doing. She was really sick. I returned to Statia, where I worked. It was a very quiet place, you could see it as an island with just Rincon – fun for the time being! I took the time to consider whether I should stay on Statia or move to Bonaire. After a while I decided I would go to Bonaire to take care of my mother because she was suffering from a pulmonary embolism. I came here and I found work at the Land’s laboratory, first through an em-

ployment agency, but after eight months I got a steady job with them. I had – and still have – two jobs in the same company. I do the financial and the patient administration. It’s a good job, but you have to be punctual and correct and you have to learn to work under stress. I’ve been 16 years with the lab. Nowadays it’s called Bon Lab.

About six years ago I started writing for *The Bonaire Reporter*. I was always reading it, but what I thought was missing was the opinion of the Bonairean people. In consultation with the editor, Laura De-Salvo, I started my own column, ‘Bonairean Voices,’ in which I had the Bonaireans have their say. In the beginning people didn’t want their name or their face in the paper because they were a bit shy about expressing their views in public. But after some time people started trusting me. They found out they didn’t get into trouble for giving their opinion and they understood it was important and it was also helpful that the paper had a lot of English speaking readers. I’ve written a lot about



Siomara at work



Siomara with her parents, Maria 'Jo' Albertus and Crusito 'Chito' Albertus

**“I found out that here on the island everybody is willing to do something for Bonaire, but they find it difficult to start things up...”**

SGB high school problems like violence, the shortage of teachers, food at school and the lack of maintenance on the buildings.

Here on the island we have several political parties and I’ve written about their history, but I was also very curious about their common goal: Bonaire and what it was they wanted for it. I found out that here on the island everybody is willing to do something for Bonaire, but they find it difficult to start things up – they want to help but they don’t know how. Also, Bonairean people have great difficulty in working together. Someone’s political color or family ties can be a very realistic obstacle. I like to write and I enjoy doing the interviews; I learn a lot about our culture, our people and Bonaire.

I’ve been here for 16 years now and my biggest wish is to build my house. Both my parents are still alive – thank God – and their health is fairly good. I see them every weekend. We go shopping together and I help them. When I drive up to Rincon I always enjoy the beauty of the scenery, especially in the cool early morning hours

or by the end of the day when the light is beautiful. Bonaire has so many magical places and there’s always something to do.

When I am free I go snorkeling or swimming, or I go to soccer or a softball game or I visit friends. I came here for my parents but I decided to stay. I still love to visit the other islands, but to live I think Bonaire’s best! Its nature and tranquility, my friends... Yes, I’ve built my life here. My only wish is that we stop fighting and start working together on Bonaire’s future.

My whole karma is positive; I try to write positively and to make other people think positively. There’s a saying which I’ve always appreciated very much: ‘If you keep living in the past, you never progress.’

*She laughs.* ‘I hope I’m clear and that people will pick it up!’ ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



# Bonaire Coral Puzzle 7: Left vs. Right Creaciones Luz Opening

A peculiar observation regarding corals growing on boat mooring blocks in front of Kralendijk has been discussed in the previous six issues of *The Bonaire Reporter*. The amount of corals on exposed vertical faces of a mooring block appears to depend on the block's position relative to the port of Kralendijk because plumes of pollutants stirred up in the port detrimentally affect coral settlement and growth on the blocks.

Now I turn to the pattern of coral positions on the blocks' vertical faces. Naturally, corals never split perfectly evenly between left and right halves of a block face. On some faces, there happened to be somewhat more corals on the left, like in photo A. These are "left-dominant" faces. Other faces happened to have more corals on the right, like in photo B, - the "right-dominant" faces. Because of the unevenness of coral coverage, each face is either left or right-dominant.

Let's look at the offshore mooring blocks. These are mooring blocks installed along the reef drop-off from Karel's Bar to Harbour Village Marina. There are a total of 71 exposed vertical faces on them. How many of them are left and how many are right-dominant? If the coral positions are random, there should be about the same numbers of these two kinds. And there indeed are. Of the 71 faces, 36 are left-dominant and the other 35 are right-dominant.

Let's look at the inshore mooring blocks, the mooring blocks installed on the sand-flat between the reef drop-off and the shore from Karel's Bar to Kas di Regatta. There are 63 exposed vertical faces on them. How many of them are left and how many are right-dominant? About equal, approximately 30 each, right? Wrong! Only 21 of these faces are left-dominant. The vast majority, 42 faces are right-dominant. This difference is beyond random. Something caused these mooring block faces to become overwhelmingly right-dominant!

What was it? What caused this asymmetry? Why would corals preferentially amass on right halves of these block faces? Why would they try to avoid the left halves? How did corals distinguish between left and right

halves of a face? The left and right halves of each mooring block face obviously are at the same depth and temperature, made of the same material, oriented identically, and affected by the same light, waves, and currents. What does differ between them? How does this difference lead to differential coral coverage? Why is this asymmetry evident on the inshore blocks but not on the offshore ones? ■ *Story & photos by Genady Filkovsky*

If you are interested in discussing this puzzle, its solution, or to get more information, write to Genady Filkovsky, e-mail: [lagoenhill20@yahoo.com](mailto:lagoenhill20@yahoo.com).

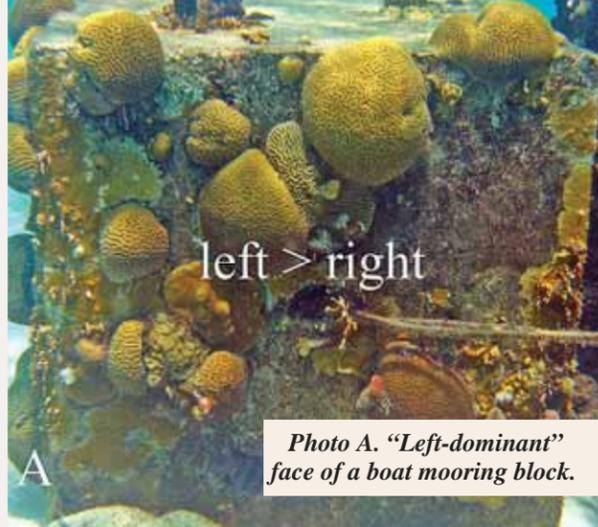


Photo A. "Left-dominant" face of a boat mooring block.



Photo B. "Right-dominant" face of a boat mooring block.



Luz Aida

Bonaire Art & Craft Association member Luz Aida Wesselius Franco opened her new shop in the Royal Palm Gallery, in the center of Kralendijk, Bonaire last week.

Her beautiful shop is called Creaciones Luz (Creations from Luz) and is all about art, craft and fashion.

Friends, family, market members and artists came to celebrate the grand opening, enjoying fine live music, drinks, snacks and the very nicely decorated shop. Creaciones Luz is located in Kralendijk, Bonaire on Kaya Grandi 26D, in the Royal Palm Gallery - Telephone: (+599) 701 0907 Email: [luzafanco24@hotmail.com](mailto:luzafanco24@hotmail.com) ■

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# Special Visit by a Special Author

Last week the well-known Dutch writer Lorena Veldhuijzen of the fantasy children's book *Avonturen van Glas* (Adventures of Glass), was invited to visit the SGB as well as the primary San Bernardus school. Veldhuijzen is the writer of the first European children's book printed in the Dyslexia font that easy to read for people who are dyslexic.

Her book is a big hit in the Netherlands and was reprinted three times in four months. The book is about Kaspar Glas, who after the death of his parents, leads a lonely life with his remarkable grandmother. His only friend is Peter Paksan, the hero of the book series of the same name. Pieter pulls him into a new story and Kaspar cannot help but be swept away. Together with Eva, who followed Peter, he soon ends up in the endless world of imagination where nothing is what it seems.

The children's book, *Adventures of Glass*, encourages children to be who they want to be - daring to live their own legend. This also applies to children with dyslexia! ■ *Marion Baltus*

### Font Used In *Avonturen van Glas* (Adventures of Glass)

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii  
Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr  
Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj  
Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss  
Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii  
Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr  
Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

*Example of the Dyslexie font above.  
One in five people have some form of  
dyslexia*

# Learning From One Another



The Music School, *Skol di Musika*, recently organized teacher workshops. Imagine: all Bonairean music teachers in one room. Well, not all, but quite a few. What can they teach each other? "Everything", according to Carlo Balemans, teacher at the Rotterdam Conservatory. "Everything that either of you would like to learn is present in this room. It's a question of combining strengths." And that is exactly what happened. During five evenings Balemans coached the music teachers in their instructing. Everyone learned from each other, and by being both student and teacher the new insights came automatically. Hopefully the music teachers can put everything they learned into practice soon - perhaps at the new *Skol di Musika*.

The teacher workshop was part of the project "*Skol di Musika op de kaart*", with which *Fundashon Plataforma Kultural* helps the *Skol di Musika* to get back on its feet. More info at [www.plataformakultural.com](http://www.plataformakultural.com) and [www.skoldimusika.com](http://www.skoldimusika.com). ■ *Press release*



*Lorena Veldhuijzen speaks at the high school about her new book*



Bonaire is struggling with a new waste problem. The quantity of waste tires has grown tremendously over the past year. Selibon can only bury the tires. Left in the open air they become a breeding ground for dengue mosquitos.

This year Selibon collected approximately 80,000 pounds of old tires. Last year it was about 40,000 pounds. It appears that the amount of old tires is suddenly growing much too fast. And so is waste on our island. Selibon can't recycle the old tires. Exporting them would cost tens of thousands of dollars—costs the Bonaire community would have to pay.

It is not known why the sudden increase of old tires. One possibility is that serviceable old tires are imported and sold here second hand. These used tires are cheaper than new, but are also less durable.

Bonaire can solve the problem of imported old tires by charging an environmental fee. With the proceeds, the waste tires can be processed abroad. That way only the polluter pays and the tire heap grows less rapidly. ■ *Rudsel Leito for Selibon NV*

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# Guest Editorial

Opinions expressed are those of the writer, not necessarily those of *The Reporter*

## An Example Close By

It was in 1975 that José Antonio Abreu, Venezuelan musician, economist and politician, received 50 music stands from a benefactor. The stands were intended to make a hundred children happy. When it was time to hand them out and only 10 kids showed up there was, naturally, a twinge of disappointment. A lesser man might have given up right there. Fortunately Abreu did not, as it passed he made the children a promise: "The day will come that you will be playing in a world class orchestra, a genuine youth orchestra of Venezuela."

And that is what happened. With extraordinary exertion it was Abreu who founded a great musical movement: "Fundacion Nacional de las Orquestras Juveniles e Infantiles de Venezuela" abbreviated to "FESNOJIV," presently called "Fundacion Musical Simon Bolivar" and commonly known as "El Sistema."

The educational project, "El Sistema," grew into a movement in Venezuela comprising seven regional centres, approximately 150 youth orchestras, and an estimated 300,000 participating children from all backgrounds, including the underprivileged classes.

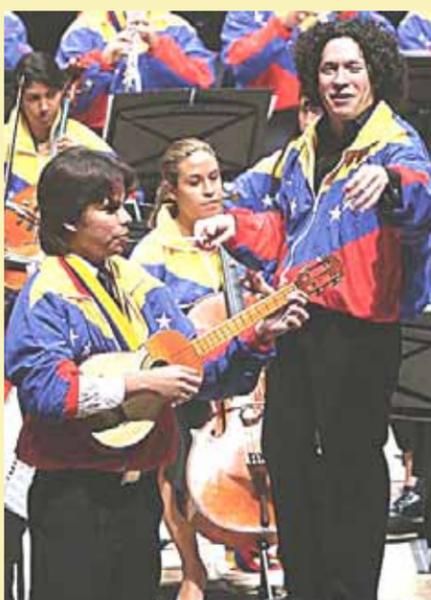
The top orchestra of "El Sistema" is the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela. It is one of five of the best symphony orchestras in the world, made up of an overwhelming 150 musicians who are on average between 20 and 30 years of age. On the 28th of July this orchestra, under the guidance of Gustavo Dudamel, visited the Amsterdam Concert Hall (Concertgebouw, one of most praised concert halls in the world) to perform. Not surprisingly the Concertgebouw proved too small for the Bolivar Orchestra of Venezuela. It was not just the sheer size of the orchestra, or because the concert had been sold out. The audience was taken by storm by the impressive orchestra and the emotional performance and "took the roof off" the concert hall. So maybe the programme was a bit over the top and perhaps they might have added some more compositions by their "own" South American composers, but this notwithstanding, the orchestra, and specifically the conductor, Gustavo Dudamel, made a fantastic impression.

Gustavo Dudamel, a highly sought after conductor for the "top" symphony orchestras in the world (such as the Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic) is himself a product of El Sistema.

Like many other Venezuelan children he attended one of El Sistema's music schools from the age of 10. He was given a violin, a school uniform and played music every day—and not just a rigorous rehearsal of techniques and the musical scales but the playing of music focused towards creating music together with the other children in the program. "Enjoy the freedom of Music" is the slogan of El Sistema.

Dudamel had some interesting and informative things to say about his time in the youth orchestra. "The program of El Sistema does not just enhance the artistic abilities but also makes one into a better citizen. An orchestra is a community with emotions and interacting with it helps to deepen your values."

And: "The most pressing problem of poverty is not the lack of food or shelter, but the feeling of not being a person. El Sistema provides an environment that gives the adolescents the feeling that they belong somewhere and that life has meaning."



A young musician with Gustavo Dudamel

As it happens the project of El Sistema has enjoyed the quite considerable support of the Chavez administration in the form of subsidies, compensation for participating children and facilities. A huge complex has been built in Caracas where various groups receive education and are able to perform. The concert hall of Caracas has become the home base for the Bolivar Symphony Orchestra.

The musical business has cast admiring if not slightly envious looks on the musical educational system of El Sistema. Documentaries and reviews have called it the miracle of Venezuela. There is a project being started in Los Angeles along the same guiding principles: Make the threshold for admission as low as possible, let the children discover the joy of making music and let them do so together, even if they are still very early in their musical development with room for improvement.

José Antonio Abreu has driven home his case by dedication and enormous effort. His idea has grown into a full-fledged musical movement and a world class orchestra. He has been lauded and honored with various homages. In 2011 he was awarded the Erasmusprize in The Netherlands.

So what about an El Sistema of our own? People within the Caribbean islands, and foremost those on Bonaire, are in the fortunate position of having a successful example close by. The proximity allows for a visit in order to draw inspiration as to how one could inject some positive changes into our own small scaled musical education. The minute size of Bonaire can prove to be an advantage: on a small island it takes less to make a big difference.

It does take more than good will. Perseverance. Vision, a fair number of Abreus that take matters in hand with love and passion. Another ingredient is the support of good willing local government and resolutely supportive parents.

Inhabitants of Bonaire and other islands in the vicinity, allow yourself to be inspired. The people who have made a success of "El Sistema" are close by and may be staying on our island.

Godspeed! ■  
Guus Gerritsen



## Bonairean Humor

From the Papiamentu language newspaper *èxtra*,

My father's last wish before he died was for me to sit on his lap. The problem is that he forgot to tell me that they condemned him to death by the electric chair.

Two guys meet on the street. One of them has a sack on his back. "What do you have in the sack?" the one guy asks. "Chicken," the other answered. "If I tell you how many chickens you have in the sack can I have one?" The other guy says: "If you tell me how many chickens there are in the sack you can have both of them." "OK! You have...5!"

"How did it go with the machines at the casino, Buchi?"

"I had tremendous luck, every time I put in the money, I immediately won. So I stayed a long time. The problem is now I don't know what to do with all these cans of Coca Cola."

How does a fool purify water? He lets it fall from the fifth floor so he kills all the bacteria.

A couple of friends were walking on the street. One says to the other, "Look at that beautiful woman there, there was a time they would all run after me." The other says, "Seriously? Why don't they do it anymore?" "Because I no longer steal their purses."

A woman gets on the bus with her child. The bus driver says, "That child is really ugly." The woman, very sad, sits down and the person next to her says, "That bus driver is really rude, go complain to him and I'll take care of that monkey of yours."

A man goes to a lawyer and asks, "How much do you charge for a quick consultation?" Lawyer: "\$500.00 for three questions." Man: "So much?" Lawyer: "Yes, so what is the third question?"

I went to a restaurant with my wife. The waiter took my order first. I told him I wanted a big steak, please. The waiter asked me: Sir, aren't you concerned about the "mad cow?" I said, "No, she can order for herself."

A little boy asked a little girl: "What present are you going to ask for for Christmas?" The little girl answers: "A Barbie. And you?" The little boy says: "I'm going to ask for a Tampax." The little girl asks: "What is a Tampax?" The little boy says: "I don't know, but on television they say that you can go swimming all day, ride a bicycle, ride horses, go to parties, run and do everything and the best thing is that nobody will notice." ■

Translated by Jane Madden Disko

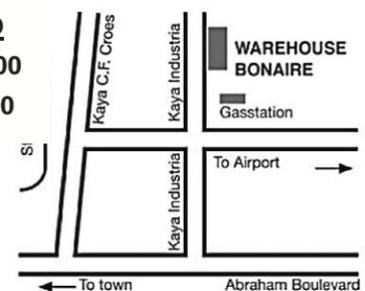


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# Anneke Breaks The Record



The route of Anneke

Our beautiful Green sea turtle, Anneke, has now been migrating to her home foraging grounds for 52 days and has covered over 3,660 kilometers (2,275 miles), surpassing all previously tracked Bonaire turtles in total distance travelled. What an amazing migration Anneke has been on for nearly two months. After breaking sea turtle speed records crossing the Caribbean south to north, Anneke has steadily followed the coastlines of the Dominican Republic, Haiti and now Cuba to arrive at the Canarreos Archipelago. South of the Batabanó Bay in northwest Cuba, the Canarreos consist of about 350 islets. The largest island in the chain is Isla de Juventud, which is roughly 10 times the size of Bonaire. Anneke is currently in shallow water along the Canarreos Archipelago, Cuba. Meanwhile, back on Bonaire the result of her egg laying activity has been remarkable. Her third nest was found to have 97 empty egg shells with only eight dead/infertile eggs, her most successful yet.

Follow Anneke with us on her live tracking website, <http://www.bonaireturtles.org/what-we-do/satellite-tracking/great-migration-game/> to see where she goes from here. ■ STCB Press release

# BONAIRE ON WHEELS

This is the 121<sup>st</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n –wear a helmet - Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire’s interesting vehicles and persons that are “on wheels.” Up to at least 200 articles!

## Famous Fred Ford F100 Kip Tukkie



Photograph: J@n Brouwer

Fred Ros, in front of his unique house and workshop, adding some juice to the fuel tank of his 1967 Ford F100.

Kralendijk/Bonaire – He lives on a kind of peninsula in between Kralendijk and Flamingo Airport. When I park my motorcycle in front of his house he appears to be busy, as always. This time Fred and Jan, a mechanic, are working on the engine of Fred’s life-boat. It seems there is a problem with the fuel pump as the two-cylinder diesel does not get fuel from the tank. Presumably the membrane of the mechanical fuel pump is damaged...

Fred’s partner Barry is the owner of their

old wooden pattern painted Land-Rover model 109, series III, and Fred owns a mint green colored Ford F100 single cab, built in 1967. Fred has been the owner of this Ford for some two years now. The car is imported from the US. Fred is very happy with his treasure. Fred: “I am very happy with my Ford F100. Every time I drive it it gives me a kind of feeling as if I am on holiday. I love the character of the low revving V8-engine and it is fun to use the gear shift which is mounted on the steering column.

(Continued on page 13)

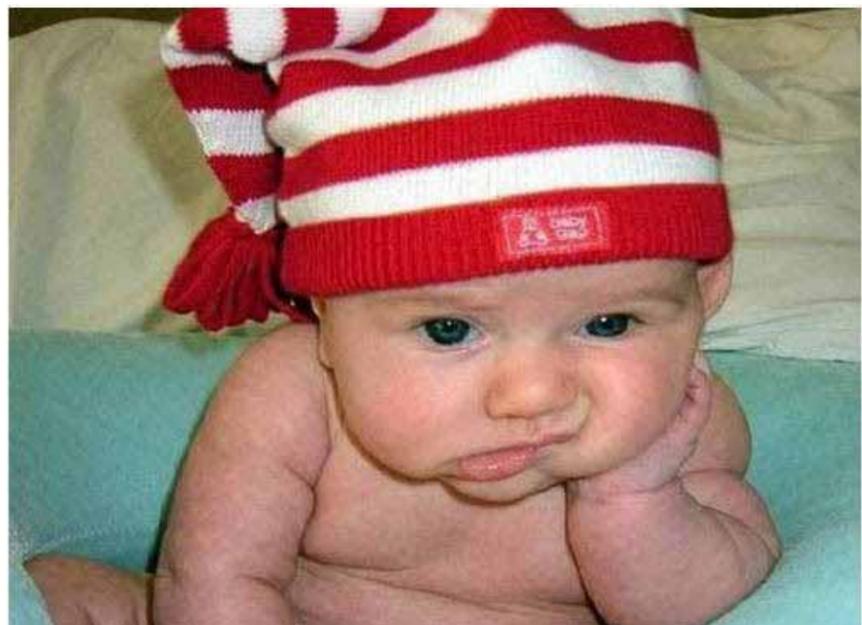
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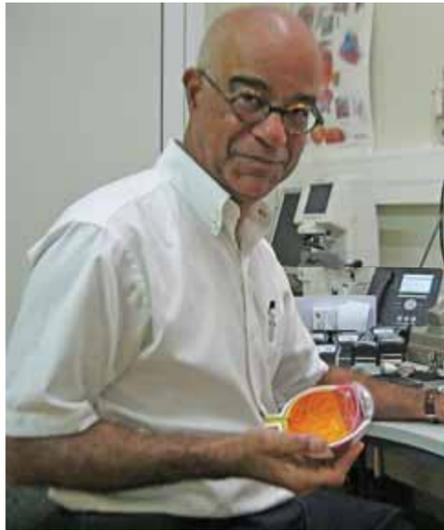
# No More Eyeglasses

My neighbor was euphoric when he told me that, for the first time since he was a child, he was able to get up from bed and put on his slippers without first groping for his eyeglasses. It was because he had had Lasik eye surgery that had painlessly and quickly adapted the shape of his eye's cornea. Years later he still enjoys perfect vision. He travelled to Canada for the procedure, but today he could have it done less expensively in Curaçao.

That's because Dr. Lindsey Spencer (55), the highly qualified Dutch medical board certified ophthalmologist who travels to Bonaire each Friday to care for Bonaire eye patients, has an incredibly well-equipped laser facility on our sister island. It's been in operation since 2004 and Dr. Spencer has successfully performed well over 1,000 Lasik or related procedures.

The *Bonaire Reporter* asked Dr. Spencer why he was promoting laser ophthalmology on our island. He answered, "My Bonaire patients told me that most people on Bonaire didn't know Lasik surgery was available so nearby, so I said, 'Why not let them know.' Bonaire is growing, getting more advanced."

Once you decide that you are interested in living your life without eyeglasses or contact lenses you fly to Dr. Spencer's institute in Emmastad, Curaçao, for a one-hour in-depth eye examination that will determine if you are a candidate for treatment. Most people qualify, but there are conditions than can delay or even contradict the procedure. The examination, which costs about \$100,



Dr Spencer with a model of the eye

will help decide the treatment possibility. If you decide to go for it, the exam cost is included in the cost of the procedure. If not, you've just had very thorough eye exam.

Assuming you qualify as a candidate and want to have your vision improved, the procedure can even begin the very next day. Hard or soft contact lens wearers will have to wait 2-4 weeks and not put in their lenses during that time to allow the eye's cornea to resume its "natural" shape. An early part of the process is a consultation with Dr. Spencer where he describes what will be done, the risks, limitations, possible side

effects and recovery. The doctor feels that this consultation is very important and contributes to his goal of better than 20-20 vision. "20- Happy Vision," as he describes it. His office gives patients a good feeling, but more than that it is Dr. Spencer's experience, his top qualification as a Dutch University ophthalmological medical graduate, further qualification as a refractive surgeon, Vice-president of the Curaçao Medical Society and St. Elizabeth's Hospital, and his state-of-the-art equipment that make a patient confident of success.

The "operation" with the LASIK (Laser Assisted in-Situ Keratomileusis) or other apparatus takes less than an hour. The cornea (outer transparent covering) is shaped to correct the vision problem (nearsighted, farsighted or astigmatism) based on a computer constructed map of the characteristics of the eye. Patients are advised to take it easy- no diving, beach parties, etc. for the following few weeks. Antibiotic drops are recommended to prevent infection and keep the eyes moist. And most importantly, you won't need glasses any more. The change is immediate and gets even better over time. If you don't see as well as you want to, subsequent laser "touch-ups" are included. The cost? Naf 4500 (a bit over \$2500) for everything including treatment, exams and control exams in Bonaire. A "travel" discount is offered to Bonaire patients too. Most insurance plans don't include this elective surgery. The price hasn't gone up in eight



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At Stinapa's Festival di Planta Palu (Tree Planting Event) on November 21 there were 300 children, aged seven to eight years from Group Five from all the primary schools. The youngsters planted 200 trees, which included 12 different species of local trees. You may see the results near the entrance to Washington Park. The kids had been prepared for this event—with a poster contest and "tree planting" songs composed for the occasion.

The photos capture the enthusiasm of the day. Congratulations, Stinapa, for organizing this event. As head of Stinapa education Desiree Croes says, "This is the age we have to reach to make them appreciate their environment!" ■

Laura DeSalvo

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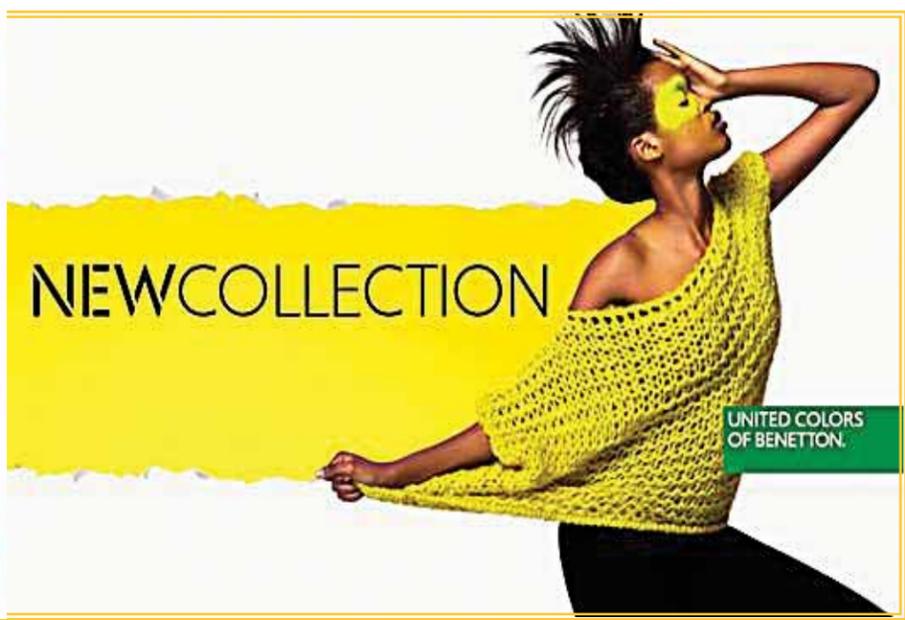
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Big air conditioned market with a friendly staff, the largest selection and lowest prices on the island. They stock what you need.



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**Semper Kontentu goat cheese.** Ask for it at restaurants and look in the markets. Lovingly handmade. Mugs available.

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**The Tung Fong Store** is a great asset to everyone on Bonaire because it stock so many thing we want: clothes, hardware, food, auto and bike supplies. If you don't see it... ask for it. They probably have it.

## WATER TAXI

**Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry.** Ride the *Kantika di Amor*. Hotel or

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MISCELLANEOUS



For sale: Jeep CJ7 Wrangler, 4.0 liter  
straight six cylinder. Good runner, wide  
wheels and tires, soft top, red & black.  
\$5000. Call: 796-3637 or mail to:  
[lisethmol@yahoo.com](mailto:lisethmol@yahoo.com)

FOR SALE: BIRKENSTOCK.  
Brand new WATER BIRKIES. Special  
for hot weather and rain! Size 36/5.  
Haiti Birko-Flor Safari Spikes Brown.  
Really cute! Make an offer. Phone:700 -  
9599.

Looking for a reliable closed car with  
manual transmission. Price should be  
\$4000 or lower. 788-0128 or 787-1040.

FOR Sale Recliner chair, chocolate  
brown \$60 call 788 7919

220 volt Dremel tool \$50 call 788 -  
7919

FOR SALE: side tables, armchair,  
beautiful lamp, 2 new beds incl. mat-  
tresses, clothes, dishes, cups, vase,  
pushchair, maxi cosi. Phone: 795-  
2005.

Real Estate, Rentals, etc...

For rent on 1st January 2013.  
Apartment 36sm, 2 rooms, bath, porch,  
pool, airco. \$660,00 per month all inclu-  
sive Water, Electricity, W-LAN, Cable  
TV, furnished.

Studio 38 sm., one room, bath,  
porch, pool, airco. \$580.00 per month  
all inclusive Water, Electricity, W-LAN,  
Cable TV, furnished. Location: Santa  
Barbara.

E-mail: [bauer.paul@t-online.de](mailto:bauer.paul@t-online.de)

For rent 5 studios on Hato, 1-2 per-  
sons from 2 January.  
[www.bonaireverhuur.com](http://www.bonaireverhuur.com) prices is all  
inclusive also the use. \$452-\$565 per  
month. Incl. TV, internet, furnished,  
gas, WEB, linen set, with full fur-  
nished kitchen 717-2529

For RENT: Spacious apart-  
ment with 2 bedrooms. Quiet and safe  
ambiance at Punt Vierkant in Belnem.

Fully furnished, living + dining area  
with full kitchen. Private garden + free  
parking. Long term \$750.00 per month.

Including Cable TV + WIFI internet.  
Excluding housekeeping + utilities. De-  
posit required. Available per December  
01, 2012. Call 796-5530.

**Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides**

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri 07		01:22 -0.08 ft	07:56 0.82 ft	15:08 0.27 ft	18:43 0.44 ft	6:44	18:10
Sat 08		01:44 -0.08 ft	08:28 0.96 ft	16:20 0.18 ft	19:41 0.33 ft	6:44	18:10
Sun 09		02:10 -0.08 ft	09:07 1.08 ft	17:28 0.07 ft	20:48 0.22 ft	6:45	18:11
Mon 10		02:40 -0.07 ft	09:49 1.18 ft	18:32 -0.03 ft	22:05 0.14 ft	6:46	18:11
Tue 11		03:16 -0.05 ft	10:37 1.25 ft	19:32 -0.12 ft	23:33 0.10 ft	6:46	18:12
Wed 12		03:58 -0.01 ft	11:27 1.28 ft	20:28 -0.19 ft		6:47	18:12
Thu 13	01:08 0.11 ft	04:49 0.05 ft	12:21 1.27 ft	21:19 -0.25 ft	New Moon	6:47	18:12
Fri 14	02:37 0.17 ft	05:57 0.13 ft	13:16 1.23 ft	22:07 -0.29 ft		6:48	18:13
Sat 15	03:50 0.27 ft	07:24 0.21 ft	14:13 1.15 ft	22:52 -0.30 ft		6:48	18:13
Sun 16	04:46 0.39 ft	09:02 0.27 ft	15:10 1.04 ft	23:33 -0.30 ft		6:49	18:14
Mon 17	05:35 0.52 ft	10:38 0.30 ft	16:07 0.91 ft			6:49	18:14
Tue 18		00:12 -0.27 ft	06:19 0.64 ft	12:09 0.29 ft	17:04 0.77 ft	6:50	18:15
Wed 19		00:48 -0.23 ft	07:01 0.76 ft	13:32 0.24 ft	18:00 0.62 ft	6:50	18:15
Thu 20	First Quarter	01:21 -0.17 ft	07:42 0.86 ft	14:49 0.18 ft	18:57 0.48 ft	6:51	18:16
Fri 21		01:50 -0.11 ft	08:21 0.93 ft	16:01 0.12 ft	19:55 0.36 ft	6:51	18:16

For rent; 2 bedroom upstairs apt.  
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month deposit~ call 795 3456

4 Studio Apartments For Rent in  
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*Bonaire on Wheels (Continued from page 9)*  
The engine is quite thirsty, but I am a  
slow and lazy driver. I hate accelerating  
and I hate braking, and distances on  
Bonaire are short. The rear bed of my  
Ford is huge and it holds a two-person  
canoe and loads of beach gear easily.  
This Ford was made in 1967 and it  
started its life as a kind of camper with  
a slide- on unit in the rear.

It is hard to find plastic parts on  
Fred's Custom Cab. It is metal all over  
the place. The dash board is also  
sprayed mint green and made of metal.  
The whole interior is basic and Spartan.  
Just three knobs: "Lights", "Choke"  
and "Cargo." Cargo? A sign informs  
me: "Warning. Turn cargo lamp off  
when vehicle is moving."

In the earlier days the camping car  
was used by an American fisherman.  
Tens of badges in the interior remind of  
the sportsmen's events in the 60s, 70s,  
80s and 90s. It is unknown but proba-  
bly Fred is the second owner. Now  
Fred uses the vehicle as a rolling bill-  
board for his enterprise: broiling and  
smoking delicious chicken!

Then Fred pours some fuel in the  
gasoline tank. He plays a little bit with  
the throttle and one by one the cylin-  
ders pick up. Low idling, enough oil  
pressure. An American Ford V8 is al-  
most indestructible! ■ Story & Photo  
by J@n Brouwer

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**THANK YOU TO BONAIRE'S POLICE FORCE**

Dear Editor:

Last week we were rudely awakened by frenzied barking from our dog, Susie. It took a bit for me to realize that this wasn't her "I hear another dog" bark but was more like "someone is invading my territory". I woke my husband and crept out of bed to see what the problem was only to see flashlights in our front yard. Just as I was about to panic, the doorbell rang with the welcome yell of "Police!"

We had only been back from the States for a few days and, because it was very hot, had left our dining room windows open wide to catch whatever breeze was around. Evidently the police noticed the change and stopped to ensure that we were in fact OK. Since I was neither fully dressed nor wide awake, all I managed at the time was a weak "Thank you" as they were leaving.

I contrast this with what happened only a few years ago when someone was at our back door trying to get in and I called the Police and was told that "They don't work at night because they need to be home with their families" and that I could submit a report in the morning. I know everything hasn't gone smoothly with the many changes on the island, but I do appreciate the fact that the police now do work at night and see keeping us safe as part of their job. So a big thank you to the 3 officers who woke us in the middle of the night to make sure nothing was wrong.

-Laura and Ben Buchbinder



**PLANT FILE**

Miracle Tree  
*Moringa oleifera*

*Moringa oleifera*  
**The Miracle Tree**  
Beth Door Photo



**Common names:**  
Horseradish Tree,  
Bembom

**Height:** 5 to 10 metres

**Features:** White flowers, pinnate (like a pine) leaves, light cream ridged bark

**Propagation:** Easy to grow from seed in well drained soil.

**Growing:** Be sure to add some form of defence (e.g wire) around the trunk in its developing years as iguanas love the leaves.

**Location:** Not too near paths as they drop hundreds of pods (unless you're the raking type).

Also known as the "Tree of Life," the Moringa seems to be attracting a lot of attention lately. I hear its name or read about it more and more frequently. It's really a wonder tree and one of the most important in the world. It is one of the

fastest growing trees, drought tolerant and all parts can be eaten or used as medicine including the leaves, pods, flowers, seeds, bark, gum and roots. The young pods and flowers can be eaten as greens. The ripe seeds can be cooked and have a peanut flavour. The roots can be used as horse-radish (hence the nickname), but be careful as too much may not be good for you. Its leaves contain 7 times the Vitamin C of oranges, 4 times the Vitamin A of carrots, 4 times the calcium of milk, 3 times the potassium of bananas and 2 times the protein of yoghurt. How about that? ■

Clark Heijbroek



**PRIVILEGED PARKING**

Dear Editor:

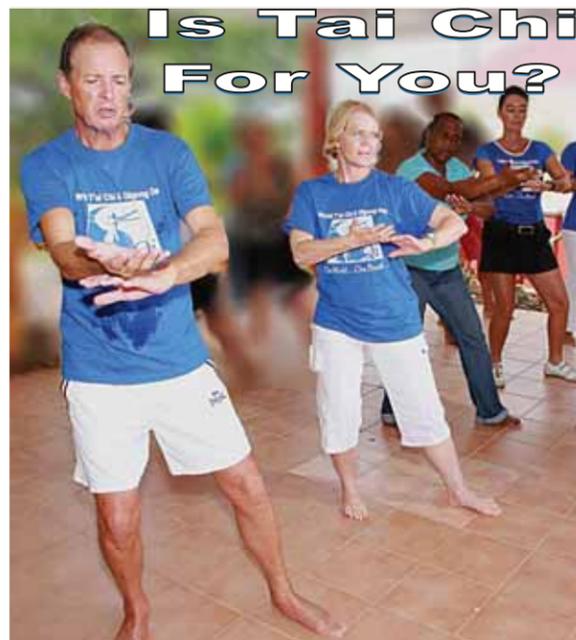
How is it that the BHM group can take this prime parking location in the center of town leaving honest hardworking citizens to park in the dirt?  
How is it that management of private business can use red "No Parking cones" and turn their backs on the general public.  
Shame on you!

-Perturbed in Playa

**Lionfish Feast**



At the Bistro de Paris last week, Jane Madden and Tamara Brown are offered some smoked lionfish by waitress Shakira Silberie. "The Bistro" prepared the fish in several innovative ways. Over 100 lionfish were speared by Bas Tol during two dives in Washington Park.



**Improve Your Body, Your Mind and Get Fit the Easy Way With Tai Chi**

Some folks like to race bicycles, lift weights or climb mountains. But if you would rather care for your body without risking life or limb or increasingly creaky joints, you might consider Tai Chi, the ancient martial art that looks like a cross between shadow boxing and slow-motion ballet. Tai Chi combines intense mental focus with deliberate, graceful movements that improve strength, agility and balance.

At Bon Bida Spa and Gym, the easiest and most popular type of Tai Chi is taught by Master Ron Sewell.

It suits all people, whether young or old. The slow and even motions with steady and light movements and curved flowing lines are easy to make and free of all bodily stress or impact. Just 12 weeks of Tai Chi improved a practitioner's quality of life in a clinical trial. Compared with patients who received wellness education and stretching exercises, those who practiced Tai Chi saw their fibromyalgia become much less severe. They also slept better, felt better, had less pain, had more energy, and had better physical and mental health, says study researcher Chenchen Wang, MD, of Tufts University School of Medicine. The Tai Chi student will improve all round body strength, perception, awareness and reaction.

Come in for a trial lesson. Only \$5 per lesson. Every Monday at 8 am. If you would like to know more and you cannot come on Monday morning, please call Bon Bida Spa and Gym at 717-7224 to let them know that you are interested and what would be a good time and day for you. ■ G.D./Press release

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# Green Fingers



## Native Gardening

So far the current trend for gardens by homeowners on Bonaire tends to be large expanses of gravel with a sprinkle of palm trees. The downside of this is that they provide little diversity to an island where many people live for its flora and fauna or at least enjoy it. On top of this the gravel prices are now astronomically high and palms tend to use an abundance of water as they are generally thirsty. (There are exceptions to this such as the Date Palm or European Fan Palm.) The upshot is that palms require very little maintenance,

they look exquisite and provide us with the idea of being on a 'tropical island' island. That can feel great with a cocktail in hand! The Sabal palm is, however, the only native palm on this semi-arid island (a native plant being defined as plants that have developed, occur naturally, or have existed for many years in an area). What are the other possibilities that could work in Bonaire's climate I hear you say?

Enter Wietze Koopman and his unofficial native botanical garden. He has been on Bonaire for nine years, since 2003, and when asked what he knew about gardening prior to Bonaire he replied, "Pretty much nothing." That is except for sitting in them and enjoying them! This may give some hope to those trying to experiment with their gardens.

Armed with a vague dislike of gravel and a huge barren plot of 1300 m<sup>2</sup> Wietze developed his aims. He wanted plants that could survive the climate using local trees that usually have a hard time here with the goats and donkeys. Although it wouldn't be "natural" he wanted it to look "natural." In short – local trees, a path to walk on and resemble nature. He then approached a few people for designs but eventually came to his close friend Marijke Wilhelmus for help. She had many years of gardening and landscaping experience and they got together to make a plan. This was later synthesized and drawn up by the author of this article. The plan consisted of three separate areas and habitats – a huge succulent garden facing out to the ocean, a large forest of native trees and a small orchard screening the neighbours, and a flowering shrub garden at the back. These are all connected by a meandering path that only forks when it meets shade trees.

The plan was ready and Wietze went about implementing it with the help of friends: a gardener from Hawaii, a rasta from Jamaica and a Scottish/Dutch landscape architect (again the author) as well as his family. This was a motley crew if you ever saw one. With Wietze's diligence and tenacity he marked out the property in square metres to exactly follow the design and fol-

lowed all instructions to the last centimetre. Literally. Marijke requested 1 metre holes to be dug for each tree. He then proceeded to measure with a stick until every hole conformed! There were of course obstacles such as the dumping of all the rocks in a single pile for the succulent garden. This meant Wietze's motley crew painstakingly moved each rock by hand to a new location and semi buried it to form that "natural" look. These measures were "one step beyond" but provided that x factor.

Then it was time to plant – back-filling the holes with diabaas and cocos (local soil and ground coconut waste), planting local and semi local trees (Tamarind, Watakeli, Wayaka, Geiger Tree, Seagrape, Cedar, Indian Coral Tree, Mahogany, Bambom, Flamboyant, etc), and wildlife beneficial/colourful shrubs. These plants were either donated by Marijke and friends or bought from Green Label, Captain Don, and LVV. Finally the garden was finished!

Marijke advised Wietze against buying large plants as the holes were so deep and so much soil had been brought in - meaning they would grow quickly. Wietze waited impatiently, "I wanted them to grow. I knew they had to root but I wanted them to be big from the start." The process was made worse when a friend stopped by on his moped to laugh at Wietze standing there watering his expansive rock garden in order to establish the tiny new plants, "What are you doing?!" Wietze replied, "Watering my rocks!" His friend regularly reminds him of this since.

Three and half years later Wietze is the one laughing, "It's incredible." And it really is amazing. I have never seen a garden grow so quickly or lush on Bonaire. Now you could very well be on a tropical island! But it's using native trees, succulents and a variety of shrubs. This resulted in a garden that only required irrigation for the first year and now only once a week in the dry season. And what does Wietze say to the doubters who use gravel against weeds, "Nonsense, I do 5 hours every three months in the dry season and once a month in the wet season."



Marijke Wilhelmus planting a tree

Now Wietze sits having breakfast watching the Ruby Topaz and Emerald Hummingbirds, Sugar Thieves, Bare Eyed Pigeons, Common Ground Doves, Grassquits, Prikichis, and Loras that visit his garden. Then because of his rock garden all the reptiles that need to regulate their body temperature are there. He even spotted the only snake on Bonaire, the Bonairean Blind Snake, which is tiny like a worm!

Now Wietze knows almost all the plants in his garden and is working on learning the succulents, which are harder to identify. Having such a beautiful garden has seeded some green fingers after all! I asked him if he had any regrets: "Not planting enough fruit trees or leaving space to grow vegetables."

Finally I asked him what his favourite tree was: "Moringa, which is only semi local but it's incredibly fast growing and you can eat all parts of it. You can eat the seed pods, flowers, leaves and roots. But I didn't try the roots yet! The Loras love it."

Clark Heijbroek

Clark is a landscaper at Green Label



Laying out the property for planting (above) ↑  
The result two years later (below) ↓





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Open from Monday till Saturday. Sundays closed.

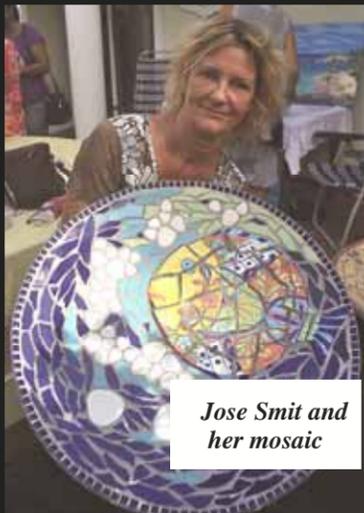
# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Upcoming Cruise Ships— Source: Harbormaster's Office

Day	Date	Ship Name	Time in Port	# of pass.	Cruise Line
Friday	7-Dec-12	<i>Silver Whisper</i>	0800-1700	382	Silver Sea Cruises
Monday	10-Dec-12	<i>Vision of the Seas</i>	1200-1900	2435	Celebrity/RCCL
Tuesday	11-Dec-12	<i>Eclipse</i>	0700-1700	2852	Celebrity/RCCL
Wednesday	12-Dec-12	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Wednesday	12-Dec-12	<i>Noordam</i>	0800-1700	1920	HAL
Sunday	16-Dec-12	<i>Freewinds</i>	615	150	Majestic CL
Monday	17-Dec-12	<i>Freewinds</i>	2000	150	
Tuesday	18-Dec-12	<i>Aida Luna</i>	1000-1800	2194	Aida Cruises
Wednesday	19-Dec-12	<i>Prinsendam</i>	0700-1500	835	HAL
Thursday	20-Dec-12	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Friday	21-Dec-12	<i>Emerald Princess</i>	0700-1400	3100	Princess Cruises

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Saturday, December 8 - Animal Shelter Christmas Market**, at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, from 11 am to 5 pm. More on page 18



Jose Smit and her mosaic

**Sunday, December 16—Kaminda di Arte (Art Tour)**—Visit artists' studios and meet them in person, 11am-4pm. Maps available at TCB and in shops around town.

**Tuesday, December 25—Christmas Day**

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

## REGULAR EVENTS

• **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

• **We Dare to Care Park children's playground** open hrs 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm entrance fee 1.00 per child & 1.50 per adult. Saturdays open for free. Closed on Sundays.

### Saturdays

• **We Dare To Care Playground Bazaar**, Flea market tables are \$10 except first Saturday of the month when they are free. Open 9 am - 2 pm. - Call Marissa - 701 1103. Everything for sale, old & new: household items, plants, baby things, clothes & shoes. Food riot, BBQ. All funds go toward maintaining the Park.

• **Open House at Semper Kontentu milk goat farm. Second Saturday of the month** 8 am to 12 noon.

• **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. Tel. 717-4989

• **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **Second Saturday of the month**, 7-9 pm. (Always call to make sure it's on: Tel. 560-7539.) 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—796-7870.

• **Petanque- Jeu de Boules**, Saturdays 2:30 pm Tera Cora ranch. info: 786-0150

### Sundays

• **Kunuku 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.

### Tuesdays

**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.

**Girls Night Out at Bistro de Paris Restaurant** at Harbour Village Marina. 3-course menu \$25, 1/2 price martinis and house wine bottle

### Fridays

**Happy Hour Crafts Market at Wilhelmina Park**, sponsored by Bonaire Arts and Crafts Association. 5-9 pm.

**Happy Hour party at Bistro Di Paris.** Ricky Thomas performs Reggae, Soul, Latin and more 6 - 9pm

### 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

**Museo Sentro Chichi'Tan**, historical home, behind Rose Inn, Rincon, open 10am-4pm daily. Tel. 786-6420

**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 Thursday evening at 7.30pm. Call 700-7751 or 701-8728

**Bridge Club** - Every Wednesday, Bridge Club on Bonaire. 19:15, contact Jeroen Seegers for information tel. 717-4200 or 788-2819 or [jeroen@telbonet.an](mailto:jeroen@telbonet.an)

**Darts Club** plays every other Sunday at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

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

**Lions Club** meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya

Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

**Rotary lunch meetings Wednesdays**, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

**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:

( VPGB ), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10 am in Dutch.

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service-8:30 am in Papiamentu/Dutch.

Children's club-every Saturday from 4:30 -6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.) Contact: Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffe@hotmail.com

**International Bible Church**, Kaya Papiago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. Tuesday 7:30 pm-Adult Bible study class. 717-8377 for more info or ride [naireibc@yahoo.com](mailto:naireibc@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 Cheffí). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wed. 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 Alexandri # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held Sunday mornings 10am-11:30am. Bible studies in English on Monday nights from 7-8 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) 10:20am - Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors welcome: Information: Call 701-9522 .

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

Send notice of your activity or event to *The Reporter*: call 786-6518 or [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)

## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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# Get Ready To Fish

Early next year Bonaire will hold its 25th International and Local Fishing Tournament. The International and Local components of the tournament will be held concurrently from **January 17th through the 19th, 2013**. The organizers are looking forward to a bigger and better event than in previous years. There will be cash prizes of \$15,000 to be split among the winners so they look forward to a lot of participants and good competition.

For the International tournament there will be participants from Aruba, Curaçao, Venezuela and Bonaire. The winner will take home \$6,000 CASH! **The International tournament is a Billfish catch-and-release tournament.** Fishing will be on Friday and Saturday. The grand prize is a double cab Toyota Hilux Truck for breaking the Antillean record of 803 lb. Blue Marlin.

The 2013 local fishing tournament is anticipated to be larger than ever. There will be two categories, boats less than 17 feet and those 17 feet and larger. For each group there is over \$1000 in prizes to be split up. This tournament is for those looking for



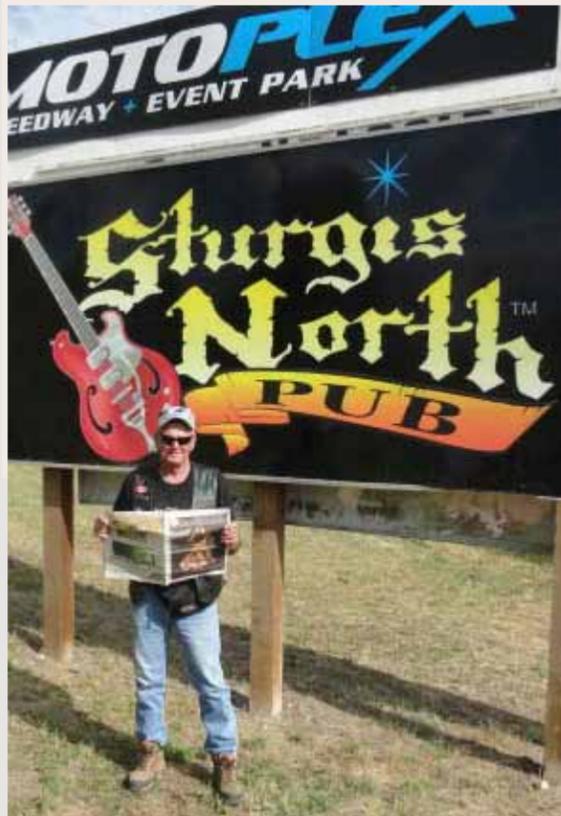
fish to eat, not billfish to release! This is open to all boats who would like to join.

To entertain one and all, the evening festivals feature great bands and DJs, fabulous buffets and a full bar. On Saturday, there will be a **Ship to Shore Boat Party with self-built boat races**. The organizers are looking for fun and simple boats, floats and contraptions able to move at least two people about 50 meters and back. The most important rules are to have fun, stay safe and don't pollute! **Stop by Budget Marine to register.** Start building now and compete or just come cheer them on! There is fun for all at this event! For more information you can visit the web site at [www.bonairefishingtournaments.com](http://www.bonairefishingtournaments.com).

Pam Werdath/ Press Release

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter British Columbia, Canada

Bonaire resident and pioneer Wild Side dive guide Larry Baillie spent two weeks in Canada on a Larry Wild Hog trip to British Columbia, Canada, to attend Sturgis North in Vernon B.C. There he was accepted into the 3rd CAV (Canadian Army Veterans) motorcycle unit as the overseas representative of over 8,000 members with all Canadian Army Veterans units. ■



**For Picture Yourself in the Bonaire Reporter WE NEED PHOTOS! WIN GREAT PRIZES!** Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. E-mail to: [info@bonairereporter.com](mailto:info@bonairereporter.com)



## Piece of Paradise

Answers to your Bonaire real estate related questions. Please email your questions to

### APPRAISALS : WHO'S YOUR GO-TO?



Usually buyers or owners request a real estate appraisal to finance the buying of a property, to get a new mortgage, to refinance or to assess the value in case the property is sold, or when discussing the value of a property for financial or tax reasons.

To sell your home you do not need a real estate appraisal report. When you list your property your real estate agent will appraise your real estate so that he or she can assess the asking price together with you. However, in such a case you do not receive an official appraisal report. In case the buyer wants to know the value of a property before he buys he will need to apply for an appraisal report himself. Professional appraisers will be able to provide a report based on actual market figures, based on their day-to-day experience in the real estate market as well as their technical and financial background.

In general for financing requirements a bank will demand that an appraisal report is produced by a certified appraiser who at the same time is very well informed about the local situation.

For value assessment for balance purposes, or discussions with the tax authorities, it is recommended that you use an appraiser who has a solid reputation as an appraiser, preferably sworn in at one point in their career, and has a longstanding day-to-day-experience in the local real estate market.

The first value, the **market value**, is the maximum price a property can be sold for on the market, when it is presented in the best possible way to as many potential buyers during a listing period that is normal for the region.

The **execution, or forced sale value** is the price that would be paid for the property when it is sold via a public auction by the bank. This means that the property is no longer sold in the best possible way to as many potential buyers during a listing period that is normal for the region. Therefore usually the forced sale value is less than the market value.

The **reconstruction value** is the amount of the costs involved in reconstruction the property into its present state of repair. The building and material costs at the time of appraisal are important for this amount. The reconstruction value of a monumental home will therefore be much higher than for a more standard property. It can therefore even be possible that the reconstruction value is higher than the market value. In the assessment of the reconstruction value is included that there will be no need to rebuild the foundation for a property when it will be reconstructed. This reconstruction value is often needed for the building insurance, whereby you can usually choose to include or exclude the insurance for reconstructing a foundation. ■ *Corine van der Hout © Sunbelt Realty*

Three values are mentioned in the appraisal report: the market value, the execution value and the reconstruction value.



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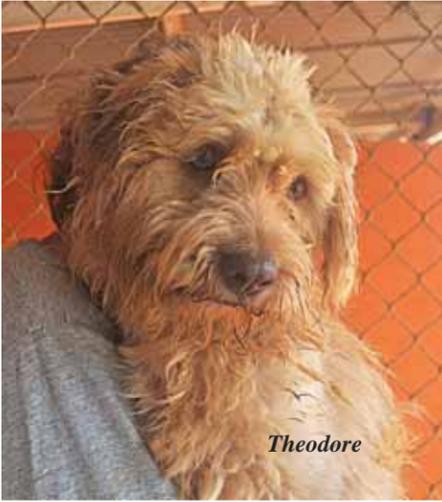
### Sudoku Puzzle

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

### Sudoku Solution

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

# Pet of the Week



Theodore

This little treasure, "Theodore," was found abandoned with two other dogs in a cage in a house. A good Samaritan discovered them before it was too late and brought them into the Bonaire Animal Shelter for care. One has already been adopted by a Dutch couple and brought back to Holland to live a good life, the other was sick and died, but Theodore is still with us and doing great. Just look at that adorable face. He's about a year old, he's in top health having been checked out by the vet and given his worming and shots. With all this care and attention Theodore has come into his own. He's very smart like an alpha (leader) dog and gets along very well with children. It does seem sometimes that these animals that have had a bad experience in their lives turn into the best examples of appreciative, well behaved pets. That's the case with Theodore.

If you or someone you know can't keep a

pet, please call the Shelter. The animal will be examined by the vet and given all appropriate shots and put in a group situation with like pets. Dogs are social animals and appreciate being with others rather than being locked up in an individual cage all alone. Together with the volunteers the staff makes sure the animal gets plenty of "social interaction" time with people as well. When you choose a pet from the Bonaire Animal Shelter you know you are getting the best—both in health and social ability!

You may see Theodore and the other pets up for adoption at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Up to date Website: WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com.

## SHELTER NEWS

**The Bonaire Animal Shelter Christmas Market is coming this Saturday, December 8, at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road from 11 am to 5 pm.** Don't miss this fun event where you'll find books, next-to-new items for yourself, children, pets and the home, enjoy cold drinks and snacks. And thanks to the DA store in Hato there will be fantastic Christmas decorations—both new and used donated by the DA store. Thank you so much, DA store!

Can it get much better than this you ask? Yes, it can because between 3 and 4 pm there will be a special appearance by Santa Claus. See photo and description below.

All the funds raised on this day will go towards keeping the Shelter open to receive, care for and prepare for adoption abandoned or unwanted cats and dogs.

■ Laura DeSalvo

## For Sale



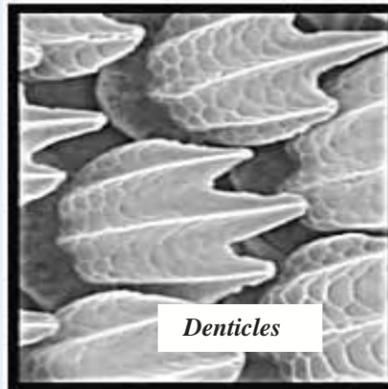
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wb.seale@comcast.net  
or  
Lelle: 701-2483

# DID YOU KNOW?



Images from: <http://www.macroevolution.net/>



Denticles

That sharkskin actually helps a shark move faster through the water!

If you have ever touched a shark, its skin is rough like sandpaper. This is because sharp, tooth-shaped scales called denticles cover the top layer of sharkskin. As a shark swims, the denticles disturb the water flow along the shark's body, reducing drag and allowing the shark to swim efficiently through the water. Recently, it has been discovered that denticles further benefit the shark by propelling it forward. The denticles cannot move, but when a shark bends and curves while swimming,

denticle arrangements in the sharkskin cause swirling patterns of water flow over its surface. These water patterns are what thrust the shark forward and increase a shark's speed by up to 20%! The efficiency of sharkskin has inspired the production of several materials, including Speedo® racing swimsuit fabrics. However, manufacturers have not yet been able to reproduce the newly discovered propulsion that sharkskin provides a shark. So far, when it comes to swimming, sharks have a clear advantage. ■ Story by Christine Rholl



Christine Rholl is a Biology and Mathematics major from Bowdoin College in Maine. She is currently studying in Bonaire for the Fall 2012 semester at the CIEE Research Station.

## Santa Paws



At the Shelter's Christmas Market this Saturday, December 8, at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road (from 11 am to 5 pm) there will be a special appearance of Santa Claus between 3 and 4 pm. So bring your pet(s) along and have a photo taken of them with Santa. What Fun! Santa is not just there for kids anymore. For a small donation you will have a unique photo of your pet. It's perfect as a Christmas card or as a gift framed for someone or yourself! ■ Laura DeSalvo

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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## SEE EVERY PLANET

Yes, it'll be possible to see every planet of the solar system on these December 2012 nights. Given clear skies – and optical aid in the case of **Uranus and Neptune** – our Sun's family of planets will be yours to behold.

With the International Astronomical Union reclassifying **Pluto as a "dwarf planet"** in 2006, that leaves a total of eight known full-fledged planets inhabiting our **Solar System**. In their outward order from the sun, these planets are **Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune**.

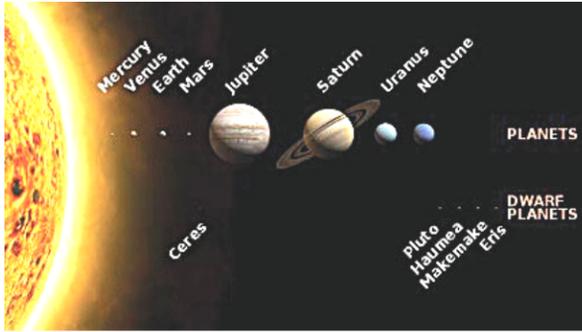
Four of these planets are found in the evening sky, starting at nightfall. Going from west to east, these planets are Mars, Neptune, Uranus and Jupiter. The farther west the planet is at nightfall, the sooner it sets after the Sun. You can't miss dazzling Jupiter in your eastern sky at nightfall, but the three other evening planets in the south to southwest sky – Mars, Uranus and Neptune – will pose much more of a challenge.

Three of the four December 2012 evening planets going from west to east: Mars, Neptune and Uranus. You'll need an optical aid to see Neptune and Uranus.

Mars follows the Sun beneath the horizon shortly after nightfall, so it might behoove you to search for the red planet low in the southwest as soon as darkness falls. Although about the same brightness as the **Summer Triangle star, Deneb**, the near-horizon view of Mars could be murky. If you have binoculars, they may help you to see Mars in a sky that's less than crystal-clear.

Uranus and Neptune are well positioned for viewing at nightfall and early evening, though you'll need good binoculars and/or a telescope, and a detailed sky chart to see them. You'll have no trouble seeing Jupiter, the fourth-brightest celestial body after the Sun, Moon and Venus. Jupiter shines all night long whereas Venus rises above the southeast horizon shortly before the onset of morning dawn.

Because the planets revolve around the Sun on nearly the same plane that the Earth re-



Sizes of the four outer gas giant planets - Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune - in contrast to our sun. Image credit:

volves around the Sun, the planets are always found on or near the **ecliptic** – Earth's orbital plane projected onto the dome of sky – the same pathway traveled by the Sun throughout the year. Even without an optical aid, you can imagine seeing Uranus and Neptune with the mind's eye, lining up on the ecliptic in between Mars and Jupiter.

As the Earth spins eastward under the heavens, Mars sets shortly after nightfall, followed by Neptune at late night, and Uranus after midnight. As for Jupiter, it'll be out all night long. When Jupiter shines low in the west during the wee hours before sunrise, look for the morning planets – the ringed planet Saturn, Venus and Mercury – to light up the southeast sky. Saturn rises first, followed by Venus and then Mercury. Early December presents the best time of the month to catch Venus, the sky's brightest planet, and Mercury, the innermost planet, in the predawn darkness or early dawn. Whereas Venus and Mercury fall toward the glare of morning twilight throughout the month, Saturn climbs away from it, rising several hours before dawn by the end of the month.

You don't have to stay up all night to view all the planets. **The four evening planets – Mars, Neptune, Uranus and Jupiter – can be viewed at nightfall, and all three morning planets – Saturn, Venus and Mercury – are visible some 90 to 60 minutes before sunup.** As darkness starts to give way to dawn, look for Saturn, Venus and Mercury in the southeast sky. Take advantage of these December 2012 nights to see every planet of our Solar System! ■ *James Albury*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

December 2012

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't bother getting even; they'll make themselves look bad. Your boss may not be in the best of moods this week. Be careful; you may upset someone you live with if you don't consult with them. Use your obvious talent to work with detail and you can come up with something great. Your lucky day will be Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You must consider yourself for a change. Your creative talent may well be recognized by others this week Don't put all your cash in one place. You will be entertained and intrigued by the logic foreigners possess. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Contracts will not be as lucrative as you think. Get together with people who stimulate you mentally. If you can't get away, make plans to do something special with friends or relatives. A trip to visit relatives should be rewarding. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Your emotions have been pulled out of shape and you need to do a little backtracking. A need to be in love may fool you. You can meet potential new mates, but make sure that they aren't already committed to someone else. Be careful; you may say something you'll regret later. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You may find your self in a romantic situation. Take a second look; another person's philosophy may be extremely different from yours. Make arrangements to meet friends at your local dance club. You can dazzle members of the opposite sex with your quick wit and aggressive charm. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your ability to do detailed work will dazzle those who are less creative. You can make sound financial investments if you act fast. Relatives will want to get together. Put your plans into motion by presenting your intentions to those who should be able to give you financial support. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You mustn't be so trusting. You can't live your life for others. Let go of the past in order to progress. You will be full of good ideas, and your choice of activities may bring you enrichment far beyond your expectations. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Check your project over carefully if you were not the only one contributing to the end result. Don't let your emotions interfere with completing your chores. You could experience delays in shipments or mail, and should be careful while traveling. Your mate, however, may not be too pleased with you. Get down to business. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Short trips will prove to be more fruitful than you imagined. Make changes regarding your friendships. Money can be made if you use your ingenuity. You need to do more research before you make your final decision. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Try not to push your philosophies on others. Self-improvement could bring amazing results. Problems with your boss could lead to unemployment. Your ability to converse with charm will entice someone you may have had an interest in for some time now. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Educational pursuits can bring interesting, helpful people. To avoid any minor health problems, don't get too stressed. Relationships may be hard to handle. Ask those in key positions to help you overcome the delays and to support your concerns in order to move on. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You can enjoy doing things that include children. Don't let your personal partner hold you back or slow you down. Your outgoing nature will win hearts. Relatives may play an important role in your social activities. Your lucky day this week will be Monday. ■

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Spacious home with covered back porch in residential area.



**Kralendijk, Kaya Proud 20**

This spacious two bedroom home provides a lot of living space inside and out. The wide covered porch and garden are the spots to lounge in the morning or during day-time in the refreshing trade winds. The covered front porch is nice to enjoy the sunset at the end of the day. The two bedrooms are spacious and with two bathrooms. The storage provides ample space to secure bicycles or water sport gear. Lay out: entrance through covered front porch, living room with open kitchen and dining area, door to the wide covered back porch (with storage), master bedroom with private bathroom, bedroom, bathroom. Walk-in and drive-in gate. Lot size: 8,672 ft<sup>2</sup> (806 m<sup>2</sup>). Living area: 1,721 ft<sup>2</sup> (160 m<sup>2</sup>).



**Asking price US\$ 168,000**

Sunbelt Realty Kaya L.D. Gerharts 3 & 8 Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean T +599 717 65 60 F +599 717 65 70 info@sunbeltbonaire.com www.sunbeltbonaire.com

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