Yuma, Sanne, Luca and B’Lana at the Children’s Karnaval Parade - page 11
The Queen Beatrix announced that she is ending her reign after 33 years and passing the crown to her eldest son, who has long been groomed to be king but who will have to work hard to match his mother’s popularity.

The widely expected abdication comes at a time of debate over the future of the largely ceremonial Dutch monarchy, but also as calm has descended upon the Netherlands after a decade of turmoil that saw Beatrix act as the glue that held together an increasingly divided society.

The queen, who turned 75 last Thursday, said she will step down from the throne on April 30. That same day, her eldest son, Willem-Alexander, will be appointed king at an inauguration in Amsterdam. He will be the Netherlands’ first king since Willem III died in 1890.

Willem-Alexander is a 45-year-old father of three young daughters, an International Olympic Committee member, a pilot, a water management expert and anonymously as a runner in the New York Marathon.

Over the years, he has struggled to win the affection of this nation of 16 million, but his immensely popular wife, the Argentinian-born Maxima, has helped him gain more acceptance ever since she brushed away a tear during their wedding in 2002.

Over the years, he has struggled to win the affection of this nation of 16 million, but his immensely popular wife, the Argentinian-born Maxima, has helped him gain more acceptance ever since she brushed away a tear during their wedding in 2002.

They are a hard-working couple: Willem-Alexander regularly gives speeches at water conferences, sharing his low-lying nation’s centuries of experience battling to stay dry, while soon-to-be Queen Maxima, a former investment banker, has carved out a career as a microfinance expert. Also see story on page 17.

**The date of April 30 for the succession was logical because it’s Queen’s Day, already a public holiday. It was the birthday of Beatrix’s mother Juliana that Beatrix maintained for the annual “orange” celebrations after ascending to the throne, even though she herself was born on January 31. Besides, she also had succeeded Juliana on April 30, 1980.**

**Bonaire celebrates Rincon Day also on April 30.**

Since Willem-Alexander’s birthday is actually April 27, expectations are that the holiday will continue to be observed by three days and probably be called “King’s Day” starting in 2014.

**What’s the secret to the Dutch Polite Police Force, responsible for relations with the BES Islands, during his visit to Bonaire on 25 and 26 January. Among other things he discussed the current difficult economic situation and challenges the island faces. El Hage said it is now very crucial and urgent to invest in a program of the integrated community development (poverty reduction), the construction of a new (container) port, and programs for education and rehabilitation of the road network. He expressed concern about the declining purchasing power and health care.**

**The latest government figures support feelings that it’s coming more and more on Bonaire. Inflation on Bonaire rose to 2.7% in the fourth quarter of 2012. The third quarter consumer prices were 2.3% higher than in the third quarter of 2011.**

On St Eustatius inflation remained unchanged at 4.6%. On Saba it fell from 3.0 to 2.4%.

Electricity and water prices pushed inflation up on Bonaire. Food prices had a downward effect on inflation.

**Thanks to the efforts of dozens of local residents and business owners, the brothel that was reported as open has had its permit denied. While many folks here understand that this type of enterprise has its place, they just did not want it in a residential/tourism/commercial neighborhood. Apparently they were operating illegally but are now subject to arrest if they continue.**

(Permission Page)

**Every year on the last Saturday of January the Annual Lora Count is organized by the Department of Environment and Nature, STINAPA Bonaire, Echo Foundation and Fundashon Salta Nos Lora. This year during the 18th Lora count a total of 865 Loras were counted. This is the highest number ever recorded.**

The Lora count only gives a general idea of the number of parrots on the island. In 2010, around 800 Loras were counted. The present figure is thus a confirmation of this number and indicates that the amount is stable and slightly increasing. The actual number of Loras is greater.

(Martinus Tomans report)

**Pepper spray in use**

**As of February 1st, the police department of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force were equipped with pepper spray. The members of the Royal Military Police (maatreuchters) will also be given the pepper spray soon.**

The police officers have already been trained to use this new weapon and also the police cars and police station have been equipped with the material for the after the care (cool water to rinse the eyes).

It has been reported that people who have been sprayed got injured or died. However, the cause was never the pepper spray itself, but incorrectly applied control techniques or by accidents after (not) applying aftercare. Pepper spray can be used only by police officers against a person who carries a ready-for-use weapon and who will use it. A weapon, in this case, can even be a stick or a stone.

It is also permitted to use pepper spray on a person who refuses to be arrested or to be brought before the law. As a third option, the police officers can use it to defend themselves against or to control aggressive animals. Pepper spray will not be used against young children, women who are visibly pregnant, people with visual impairment, or elderly persons.

If conditions permit, the officer will first give a verbal warning before using the pepper spray against a person.**

**The wastewater treatment plant in the plantation Aruba area has to date purified about 100 million cubic meters of water. That is 20 times as much as the content of the two large fuel tanks at the airport.**

The treatment plant has been in operation since mid-2011. The wastewater treatment plant is the first of the two large fuel tanks where the plant is now built. That polluting and unhygienic practice has come to an end. At full load, the plant removes 330 kg of organic solids, 74 kg of nitrogen and 65 kg of phosphate every day.

**The Koleg San Bernardo primary school will be completely renewed. As the windows and doors will be installed, the lavatories will be upgraded and renovated. The buildings will be equipped with new air conditioning installations with fresh air and CO2 meters. In addition, new landscaping will be done and the school fence will be renewed. The renovation is expected to last throughout 2013.**

**On January 23 the Bonaire Museum had a “soft opening” at the former Kas di Arte. The site is historic, being the island’s original slave hospital. The museum location will be extensively renovated. At the opening interim Department of Culture manager Liliane de Gee spoke of the plans and goals of the high museum. Also speaking were the Director of Community care Rosa Alcivar, and Community Director of Culture Sylvana Serfilla.**

**Sailing Jan Frederik Wustenhoff has been missing since 22 December 2011. He departed his last port of call, Santa Marta, Colombia, on 22 December 2012, for Aruba. He never arrived.**

Frederik’s family and friends are understandably very concerned and are asking fellow sailors to assist in the search for Frederik, who is now officially a “missing person.” In Aruba the Rescue and Coordination Centre of the local coastguard has been alerted and it is hoped they are contacting the coastguards of the surrounding countries to find and find out any information about his yacht Jeri.

If anyone can assist with advice or tips for the family to aid in their search, please contact them via their website http://frederik.wustenhoff.vermist.an.net.

**Name of the boat: Jeri, Flag: Dutch, Jeannine Sun Rise 35, 10.5 m. long, 5.9 m. beam (Jeannine 34) (bouwnr.) 35189**

**No one thinks damaging coral is sexy, but researchers from the University at Buffalo just made it official.**

Tons out, coral sex is damaged after injury from storms and human activity. Their study shows that while coral adapts to injury events by initially growing back rapidly, reproduction adapts to injury events by initially growing back rapidly, reproduction events such as those incurred from storms and human activity. Their study shows that while coral adapts to injury events by initially growing back rapidly, reproduction events such as those incurred from storms and human activity. Their study shows that while coral adapts to injury events by initially growing back rapidly, reproduction events such as those incurred from storms and human activity. Their study shows that while coral adapts to injury events by initially growing back rapidly, reproduction events such as those incurred from storms and human activity.

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**How to contact us**
T he Reporter has always been a champion for nature and the environment, but right now there’s something so big on Bonaire that it totally overshadows nature. It’s the poverty of the people that has taken over like an all encompassing black cloud since 10-10-10. Things are so bad that thieves are breaking into houses, not to steal laptops or TVs; they’re taking food from the cupboards and the refrigerators. People are asking the Animal Shelter to give them the out-of-date food that the Shelter receives from local markets for the animals. And since the local brothal has closed we’ve been told that girls are selling themselves on the street. Families are being torn apart and children are suffering. (See Greta Kooistra’s article, Child Welfare and Family on page 6.)

Right after 10-10-10 the Dutch had allocated 10 million euros for nature. But with the new government it’s now 6 million euros (1.5 for Staia and Saba), called Natuurgelden BES.

Laura DeSalvo

Driving Dangerously

Dear Editor:

Even after living on this island for nearly 30 years, I am still regularly shocked when I see the way people drive here.

How many times have you had a scooter swoosh by you in traffic, narrowly escaping an accident, or riding on one wheel? Cars zipping around you while there is oncoming traffic or other near misses? Have you ever seen or heard about a stop for speeding or reckless driving, only a missing tail light or no tags... When it seems the rule rather than the exception to see particularly scooters driving in a hazardous way, how will this change? This is what our kids see as normal; why would they not join the rest in learning to drive this way? Helmet or not, we are going to hear about tragedies that simply should not be allowed to happen in the first place. Enforce the basic road rules and make life safer for all. The police need to do something and they need to be seen.

Recently a friend was hit by a car while crossing the street at the speed bump on Kaya Grandi by Mona Lisa. The car continued without stopping. A local good Samaritan who saw the accident happened chased them down and forced them to return. The police did nothing as they said it was not hit and run, they came back. When the driver explained that they did not see her nor feel that they had hit someone it was acceptable to the police. How do you not notice a person on the street while supposedly driving slowly while crossing a speed bump? Apparently they revved the engine, sped up and swerved before knocking her down at the edge of the road, breaking her arm and speeding off. Another witness reported that they were driving at least 60 km/hour on the stretch between the last two speed bumps on Kaya Grandi. Her broken arm versus their word, … but they came back, so it is not hit and run.

Either way, it is still hit! Is there no penalty for that? Would there have been outrage if it was a child? Or if someone was killed? Or if it were a tourist instead of a local? Maybe if it was a local driver instead of a young Dutch one? Is it "only" a broken arm so is it OK? Or is it simply OK to drive irresponsibly and claim ignorance and get away with it?

Until the police enforce safe driving practices and apply our laws there will continue to be needless tragedies. If they cannot command respect on the street, how can they command respect anywhere on this island. I will not begin on crime in general as that is an entire other article! This is simply a disgrace.

Pam Teitel - Werdath  
Continued on page 7
I was born in Rincon. My father and mother – Marino and Julitza Pouri er – had a shop with a tremendous variety of assorted goods, they had a business in con- suming materials, they owned the Tropi- cana Bar and a movie theatre called Cine Metro. My father also had a boat and some fishermen working for him. All the busi- nesses and our house were located on the same street in Rincon, now the Kaya L.M. Pouri. I had the most wonderful child- hood. I was brought up from a warm and cuddly nest, where norms and values were much appre- ciated and we went to church every day. We were seven children and each one of us had a nanny to braid our hair and get us ready for school. But aside from that it was also expected that we older children would look after the younger ones and really care for them.

Poor Urbá,’ she laughed, ‘was the eldest and she always had to set a good example! When she turned 11 she had to go to Curaca- cio to high school as there were no options for further education on Bonaire at the time. Then my brother became the eldest and two years later he moved to Curacao. So, every child got his or her turn to be the eldest ex- cept for Selly, who was the youngest. She was in school when Urbá came back, graduated, and became her school teacher!

One of the tasks we had was to clean the kerosene lamps (we had electricity only from 6 pm until midnight) and put them on the table with the tray with the thermos flask with tea, the tea cups and cookies and cover them with a clean tea towel, so when Papi would come home at night after he’d closed the bar, he and Mami would sit there chatting and counting the money they had made that day.

Most of the time Mami was working – or she was at church – or she would pray the Rosary with us. Papi was the one who played with us. But to him every game of cards was ‘serious’ and with us girls we were good at it! Even better than the boys! Hahaha! We were all individuals and Papi would come home at night after he’d found a house in a small suburb called Lei- derdorp. For me it has never been difficult to get used to life in Holland. My parents had always taught me, ‘You stick to the rules of the house you’re staying at.’ And I’d be away from home and I’d been speaking Dutch and I was taught in Dutch ever since I was 11. Also, we were raised in a way that we knew who we were and all of us girls were good at it! Even better than the boys! Hahaha! We were all individuals and I never felt less than anybody else.” She laughed. ‘In the back of my mind I always thought, “If don’t like it I’ll go back to our old days.”’ She added. For me it has never been difficult to get used to life in Holland. My parents had always taught me, ‘You stick to the rules of the house you’re staying at.’ And I’d be away from home and I’d been speaking Dutch and I was taught in Dutch ever since I was 11. Also, we were raised in a way that we knew who we were and all of us girls were good at it! Even better than the boys! Hahaha! We were all individuals and I never felt less than anybody else.”

Bonaire culinary team.

Jairo lost his eye because someone threw a stone at him, and I chose to stay with my children to be there for them. Financially it was no problem because my husband had a very good job.

As an immigrant and my husband was a native we were also an example in the village we lived in and soon enough I was asked to join ‘Leiderdorp Aan- gonaam’ (Leiderdorp Enjoyable), an initia- tive of the municipality to bring all the peo- ple who lived in the village together to get to know each other’s cultures and habits. Then politicians got wind of it and I was approached by the Christian Democratic Party to participate in the Intercultural Council. I had to think about it because I didn’t want to be in politics, but what I did know was that the Antilleans needed a voice to speak up for them. I worked for the Inter- cultural Council until 2003. If you ask me why life in Holland is hard for the majority of the Antilleans I would say that that main problem is the language and the fact that many Antilleans feel infe- rior. You have to be assertive and be clear what you want without being rude. Also, you have to mix with the Dutch and other nationalities because just sticking with the other Antilleans won’t get you anywhere.

In 2003 we came to live on Bonaire and, you know, it was Jack who really wanted it. Before that, our daughter Iris had worked as an intern on Bonaire where she’d met an American. First she came back to Holland to graduate, then I sent her to the States to find out about the boy. Then, the man who’s now my son-in-law, came to Holland with the ring to ask us for the hand of our daugh- ter. That was by the end of the 90s. We were pretty pleased! Neat! Especially be- cause in 1969 Jack had asked my parents for my hand in a letter written in Papiamento, which was very much appreciated by my parents.

So, Iris lived in the US and Jairo had moved out and we came here. Jack enjoyed Bonaire for only four years. He passed away in 2007. It was totally unexpected, an aneurism. I miss him every day. I am alone in this house, but I need this place because the children need a home when they come. Iris has two sons and Jairo and his girlfriend have a little baby daughter – very cute – sweet children and of course I go and visit them whenever I feel I have to see them. Every year I procure exams at SGB – all health care courses. And every day I go to see my siblings. One brother and one sister have passed away and one brother lives on Aruba. I’ve got one brother and two sisters here and although my kids are not here, I do have a life. And there is Mirna who helps me and who is a big support to me, always positive!

My old age pension comes from Holland so I am okay, but when I see the poor Bo- naiers, dream people and the prices at the shops I think, ‘How in Heaven’s name are they going to make it?’ This situation is an abso- lute disgrace. The best thing that can happen in my opinion – is that in 2015 we will become independent within the Kingdom just like Curacao, Aruba and St. Martin. But… that’s another story!”

Sra. Matera

Sara Matera, the general manager of the Divi Flamingo Resort was given a rousing goodbye party by her boss, co- workers and friends on Friday, January 25. The turnout seemed to be over 100 strong and ranged from housekeepers to the highest Dutch and island officials. Sara is known for her extensive com- munity involve- ment as well as fine manage- ment. One of her planned fu- ture projects is to revive the Bonaire culinary team.

Get ready for the 11th annual Special Olympics fundraiser Walkathon set for Sunday, March 3 at 5 am. Start to train for the 30 km. walk tracing the route of the slaves from the white slave huts to Rincon.

For tickets please contact: Chio 540- 6840, Arlene 525-8496, Aura 796- 0101, Eldie-701 1999 or Ruth 796-6020

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New Hand At The Helm of the TCB

The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) recently appointed Ethsel Pieternella (48) to be its Director and Chief Operating Officer (COO). According to published statistics, tourism accounts for eight out of 10 jobs on Bonaire. Two weeks ago we met him so we could tell our readers more about the newest key player on Bonaire’s team to attract and retain tourists.

Ethsel is a modest, articulate man, easy to approach. He was born in Curacao but has spent a large portion of his working life in The Netherlands in marketing (for RABO Bank among others) and as an economics instructor at Mondriaan College. Most recently he served as president of MAAS Rotterdam foundation and as a consultant in Den Haag, where he organized several businesses in the tourism sector.

He married relatively late in life and has two children ages four and six. One of his main outside interests is music. He is an accomplished composer and singer. To his fans he is known as The Count – Conde*.

Before arriving here he had no family or friends on Bonaire. His only connection was through his wife, born on St. Eustatius, who attended high school on Bonaire. He and his family are settling into life on our island.

Ethsel applied for the TCB Director position through the Ban Bonaire Bef website which aspires to bring talented Antilleans back to their home ground. Following extensive email correspondence and Skype interviews with members of the TCB Board of Directors he travelled to Bonaire and accepted the job. Ethsel says he is impressed by the experienced TCB office staff. “They are more than just colleagues, they are friends,” he adds. The staff has been without leadership for some time and he looks forward to working with them to get the TCB moving forward, to help them become organized to meet the challenges of the future.

In 2013 he plans “to lead by example” and hopes others will imitate the TCB. In April the present TCB website will be scrapped and replaced by a new site that will be modern, accommodate not only computer but smart phones. It will offer “Apps” to add to the user’s experience and take advantages of social media like Facebook.

He sees TCB’s role on island as helping its workers, rather than businesses, in relationships with the island’s visitors, especially with service issues. This includes restaurant workers, taxi drivers, and shopkeepers. He hopes to build on the already existing pool of tourism-related expertise and add additional competence. Ethsel believes the TCB should also support local cultural activities and that TCB funds be allocated for this activity.

For overseas markets Ethsel sees the Bonaire TCB office providing leadership, streamlining the overseas operations and measuring the success of those offices in attracting visitors. He hopes to learn more about the joint TCB/KLM/Sky Health project that could introduce medical tourism to the island.

He believes that having accurate tourism figures is important and stands behind the recently released tourism statistics going back a decade and is confident that the new collection methods will yield good results. Of course, he recognizes the possible errors that can be introduced by the significant numbers of travelers from The Netherlands who come not as tourists, but on official government business… especially in winter. He perceives no conflict between the TCB, BHG (Bonaire Holding Group that oversees Bonaire’s government-owned companies) and BONHATA (Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association). BONHATA’s role is to promote its business members; TCB’s role is to promote Bonaire as a vacation destination, he says.

The Reporter hopes that the people of Bonaire reach out to Mr. Pieternella and let him see the real soul of Bonaire that that cannot be expressed in print or on the air. Invite him to parties, social gatherings, meetings and sports events. Make him an honorary “Child of Bonaire,” for he is Bonaire’s face to the tourism world.

* Ethsel “Conde” Pieternella is also a composer and singer known for his unique silken voice and wide repertoire. He is the co-founder of Rotterdam’s Orquesta Salisque. Europe’s number one Latin band, and can perform in different languages - Spanish, English, French, Dutch, Italian and Papiamento, and some Surinamese. The musical styles include Salsa, Zouk, Merengue, Son, Boleros, Bachata, Pop, Gospel and Bigi Pokoe. He’s performed in Eastern Europe as well and has been involved with international artists such as Jose Papo Rivera, Anthony TC Colon, Rica’banda and the famous Ilvio Pietersz. (Source-Internet, http://www.palante.nl/)

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**Bonaire Reporter - February 8-22, 2013**
I had met several people who had been working in the Dutch Caribbean and they told me about the way things were working on the islands and that improvisation and inventiveness were very important, something that attracted me very much.

Now, after being the Director of Child Welfare and Family Guardianship for one year and a couple of months, I came to a cautious conclusion: I started here with the idea that a lot of things had been accomplished. The building had just been dedicated, it was a very nice work environment, there was quite a lot of personnel working as a team but, after a while I began to see what serious and complex problems we are facing in the work that needs to be done for our target group.

Here on the island, there are many children who are having a very tough time because the parents have to work several jobs and don’t have the time or the energy to look after their children. Because there is little supervision of the children they grow up in the streets. Then there’s a group of parents who are coping with drug addictions, and another factor is that the parents themselves had little education. On top of everything there is poverty – a poverty that is unheard of in Holland – I never had to deal with this kind of poverty. On the islands there is poverty because the legislation which applies to Holland does not apply here, so, on the islands has past the critical level and it is clear to The Hague that the poverty on the islands has past the critical level and is unheard of and doing so much damage. Together with all the other authorities and the public body we should ask for more attention and help.

Brenda Simmons – Family Guardian.

“I’ve worked in Holland for 20 years at the Board of Child Welfare and before that for 10 years at Huzue St. Jozef, a home for boys and girls in Curacao. Here, at Child Welfare and Family Guardianship, there are six family guardians and each one of us has about 25 cases, and mind you, one case can have one child but it also can have six children. A family guardian is like a social worker/personal trainer. I like my job; it’s interesting and diverse, but it is also tough. I enter people’s lives who didn’t ask for it and for most parents it’s hard to admit things are not going well and a change has to be made. Before I can get to work and solve the problems I need to gain their confidence. Some parents understand they need help while others continue to resist. However, the most important person is always the child.

When a child is placed under supervision it is at first a temporary measure. A guardianship status is always pronounced for a certain number of years. The child must then be placed with foster parents or in a home. At the moment two homes are being subsidized: Rosa di Sharon and the extended stay home of Stichting Projekt and then there is Kas di Karko which is part of Youth Welfare and Family Guardianship. Also, we have more than 60 foster families who are extensively and carefully screened to see if they are up for the task and… we can always use more!

Working here is different from the way it is in Holland. On one side you have more freedom because the legislation which applies to Holland does not apply here, so, on the other hand there is a lot of legislation missing on which the organization must meet. It gives you that freedom, but it can also make you insecure and you have to ‘invent’ things, which gives you a bigger responsibility.

I do want to say, that the interaction and cooperation with the other authorities here is much better than in Holland. In Holland it’s a fortress, here it’s people – you need, because the problems are so complex that you cannot do it on your own. Also, I think it is of great importance to make it clear to The Hague that the poverty on the islands has past the critical level and is unheard of and doing so much damage. Together with all the other authorities and the public body we should ask for more attention and help.”
Dear Editor:

In the last edition of The Bonaire Reporter a letter written by Laguna Aquamarijn was published on page five as a “Letters to the Editor.” Needless to say: “Opinions expressed are those of the writer, not necessarily those of The Reporter.” Above all, after Finland, The Kingdom of the Netherlands is the second in line who talks about freedom of speech and freedom of publishing. I am very glad Laguna Aquamarijn reads The Bonaire Reporter and pays attention to my articles about helmets and helmet awareness and I would sincerely like to thank Aquamarijn for the contribution to our matchless newspaper. Aquamarijn is definitely right mentioning riding a bike (and a skate board, and a moped, and, last but not least, a motorcycle) is a vulnerable way of transport and that using a helmet reduces that vulnerability. I do not even wish to make wearing a helmet obligatory. As a free spirit I strongly believe people are able to decide for themselves. As long as there are no laws, every person is free to decide to wear a helmet or not. And even when laws are there which make wearing a helmet obligatory you can still decide not to wear a helmet and enjoy the wind blowing through your hair. For sure the risk of being stopped by the police and receiving a fine is not really that big. And then you can decide to pay the fine and continue being a member of the traffic, not wearing a helmet.

I’ve worn helmets for more than 40 years now and my only intention as a thinking human being and reporter is to inform the people by the spoken or written word. And if I can and I love life. That is for sure too. So, at least as long as I enjoy my life and the living with others, and as long as I can also have fun, I want to live as long as possible. Wearing a helmet contributes to my safety when I am on my motorcycle or my mountain bike. In the beginning, wearing a motorcycle helmet, I felt stupid because I looked stupid. Those days motorcycle helmets were not obligatory and the tough guys on their multi cylinders spent all their money on their bikes. No money was left for protective gear. Even now, wearing a bicycle helmet for the first time in my life in 2013 I felt a little bit dumb because of my silly outfit. I looked in the mirror and wrote the editor of this newspaper that all photographs taken from me, wearing a helmet, showed a silly face with a stupid and insecure expression because of wearing that helmet. I did not like those pictures at all and I did not send them to my friends and relatives. I have to admit that I got more and more comfortable during my first trip to Kralendijk, wearing a helmet on my mountain bike. I have to admit it helped, wearing a tough looking helmet with a forceful color and shape. I do not want to look like a sissy! It appeared wearing a helmet is not so uncomfortable. It is not that hot either.

The sturdy and reliable olive green DAF YAD4442 military truck, surrounded by tropical palm trees. Behind the truck the contours of the old world of differences, compared to their normal training and working area: the new world of Europe. The mechanic of the DAF trucks says: “It is a pleasure to be here. It is warm or even hot but we have to train to be prepared to help and assist under all circumstances, wherever we are. We are used to leafy trees in the woods and here we found lots of cactus which makes it different and difficult. This is an extra challenge for us. We really have to get used to the high temperature of the tropics and the completely different environment. We try to get to know the island and the people. Not all maps are as accurate. We helped the animal shelter and the turtle organization. In case of natural disasters like hurricanes we will be here to help wherever we can, and in case of calamities the Bonairean government can ask for assistance.

Nice guys, those Dutch soldiers, training under our bloody hot sun, sleeping with not even a cramp in a heavy duty military single-axle trailer are visible. This go-anywhere DAF vehicle is powered by a Dutch-built six-cylinder turbo diesel and equipped with optional four-wheel drive.

Bonaire/ Kralendijk –
On a Friday I drove my Mongoose mountain bike in the direction of Kralendijk to deliver some examples of the latest edition of The Bonaire Reporter. Along the way I drove my Mongoose mountain bike and recorded that same hill with a low speed makes me vulnerable because I am not the only user of dirt tracks and the public roads. I know I cannot ban everything dangerous in this world. That is for sure. I know I love my life and I love to live. That is for sure too. So, at least as long as I enjoy my life and the living with others, and as long as I can also have fun, I want to live as long as possible. Wearing a helmet contributes to my safety when I am on my motorcycle or my mountain bike. In the beginning, wearing a motorcycle helmet, I felt stupid because I looked stupid. Those days motorcycle helmets were not obligatory and the tough guys on their multi cylinders spent all their money on their bikes. No money was left for protective gear. Even now, wearing a bicycle helmet for the first time in my life in 2013 I felt a little bit dumb because of my silly outfit. I looked in the mirror and wrote the editor of this newspaper that all photographs taken from me, wearing a helmet, showed a silly face with a stupid and insecure expression because of wearing that helmet. I did not like those pictures at all and I did not send them to my friends and relatives.

I have to admit that I got more and more comfortable during my first trip to Kralendijk, wearing a helmet on my mountain bike. I have to admit it helped, wearing a tough looking helmet with a forceful color and shape. I do not want to look like a sissy! It appeared wearing a helmet is not so uncomfortable. It is not that hot either. At least it is not hotter than riding your bike without head protection.

Of course, to a certain level, you are free to do what you want. I intend to be one of those last persons to tell others what they have to do, what is best for them and what is forbidden. I don’t even tell my own kids to wear a helmet. I just inform them and try to share knowledge while we are adjusting and greasing the bearings of the vehicles to make the ride as smooth and comfortable and as much fun as possible. Note from the writer: My son died in an accident downhill his long board in 2013 I felt a little bit dumb because of my silly outfit. I looked in the mirror and wrote the editor of this newspaper that all photographs taken from me, wearing a helmet, showed a silly face with a stupid and insecure expression because of wearing that helmet. I did not like those pictures at all and I did not send them to my friends and relatives.

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HOW TO DEFINE WHICH HOME IS A CANDIDATE FOR YOUR OWN PIECE OF PARADISE

The purchase of a home very often is the most important financial transaction many of us will make in our lives. This can make some potential buyers very insecure about the final decision about which is the right property for them. Today I would like to try and assist buyers with assessing how to decide which property is best for them.

First of all, for the majority of home buyers they are buying just that, a home. A home for their family, friends, to feel safe and secure in, and to retreat in from our hectic work life. We all know people who purchased a home at one point and then made a huge profit by selling it at a later date. If you want to make sure that you will do the same, then you need to look at any property that you are considering purchasing with the eyes of the person that you would like to sell this property to within a reasonable amount of time. In this case you are running the risk of not buying the property that will most feel like home to you. If you are looking for your own home for a reasonable long time to come, then you should take the following into consideration.

In order for a place to feel like home you will need to be able to have the peace of mind that you are definitely able to afford it. To be having sleepless nights (in your own home) about making it the next mortgage payment does not give you that secure place (about making it to the next mortgage payment does not give you that secure place) about making it to the next mortgage payment does not give you that secure place. When you visit the homes that on paper are in line with your requirements, try to imagine the property already yours. Do not get caught in details of the present decor of the home. Try to see what it can be, not necessarily what it is. On the other hand, when a home is well staged, try to remember that it is not that great coach or plant that you are buying, but your home.

I hope that this advice is useful when you are ready to take the steps towards owning your own piece of paradise and go into a realtor’s office to research your possibilities.

Furthermore you will have to realize that owning a property comes with the burden, or joy, or maintenance. Take a good honest look at yourself: the life cycle of your family, your own age and abilities. Establish for yourself how much time and money you are willing to spend on a regular basis on your property, and keep that in mind when you start looking at properties.

Then, make a list of how much room you need ideally, and how much room you need at a minimum. How many people are in your family, how many bedrooms and bathrooms do you need? How often do you use your kitchen, do you prefer to have living space inside or outside? What are you most prepared to give up, and what are you most definitely not willing to give up? Do not forget to define how much storage space you are looking for. Especially in Bonaire where homes are built for different uses (long term use vs vacation use), the amount of storage space varies significantly.

When you visit the homes that on paper are in line with your requirements, try to imagine the property already yours. Do not get caught in details of the present decor of the home. Try to see what it can be, not necessarily what it is. On the other hand, when a home is well staged, try to remember that it is not that great coach or plant that you are buying, but your home. I hope that this advice is useful when you are ready to take the steps towards owning your own piece of paradise and go into a realtor’s office to research your possibilities.

Conditions were perfect and following the race there was food and drink. Finishers are listed at the right. G.D.
In the article ‘Bonaire Coral Puzzle 6: The Culprit Returns!’ published in the Bonaire Reporter of November 23 - December 7, 2012, I described how plumes of polluted sediments stirred up in the port of Kralendijk and drifted along the reef, causing the inshore blocks to be covered with more corals than the offshore ones. I explained that the observation that more corals covered right halves of the inshore mooring block faces which are oriented toward Karel’s Bar than their left halves is indeed.

Now let’s take a closer look at this phenomenon. The right halves of the abovementioned faces are closer to shore than their left halves. In a sense, the right halves of these faces are their “inshore” halves, the left halves are their “offshore” halves, and the corals on these faces cover the inshore halves more than the offshore halves. A reader from Canada wrote, “I believe this follows the same theory as your inshore blocks vs. offshore blocks.” It does, indeed.

Refer to Figure A – it has all the answers! It depicts schematically a cross-section of the plume being viewed in the direction of its movement from the port toward Kasi di Regatta (imagine yourself under water with the port being behind you). The axis of the plume is near the lower left corner in the picture – this is where the concentration of polluted sediments is the highest. The offshore mooring blocks are located in this area and thus are affected less by the pollutants than the inshore moorings located in the outskirts of the plume. This effect explained the inshore block vs. offshore block phenomenon, as described in previous articles of this series.

Now look at the “Left vs. Right” phenomenon. As Figure A shows, the concentration of pollutants differs between right and left halves of the inshore block face: the right half receives less pollution than the left half. Although this difference is not as large as the difference between the inshore and the offshore block faces, it is sufficient for coral larvae to prefer the right rather than the left halves for settlement. Why was this preference expressed only on the inshore mooring blocks? As Figure A shows, there is almost no difference in the pollutants concentration between the right and the left halves of the offshore block faces; that is why corals did not exhibit any right vs. left preference on these faces.

Pollutant concentrations in the plume differ between the right and the left only in the plume movement direction as depicted in Figure A. That is why the corals exhibited the right vs. left settlement preference on the faces oriented toward Karel’s Bar - that is, toward the port, from where the plumes come. Positions of the corals colonies on these faces reflect this concentration gradient, as schematically shown in Figure B.

The same plumes of polluted sediments that caused coral coverage to differ between the inshore and the offshore moorings caused the differences in coral settlement between the right and the left halves of inshore block faces oriented toward the port. The polluted plumes drifting from the port are the culprit behind the “Left vs. Right” puzzle as well.

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If you are interested in discussing these puzzles, their solutions, or to get more information, write to Genady Filkovsky, e-mail: jannem.hill20@yahoo.com.

All previous issues of the series can be accessed through the website www.filkovsky.net/bonaire-coral-puzzle.html.

* Editors note: In the last edition the article number was shown as #8, it should have been #10.

For some years the Mystery Gourmet and his even more mysterious wife have enjoyed dining at La Balandra, the seaside restaurant at the Harbour Village Beach Club. The restaurant, arguably blessed with the prime sea view location of any eatery on the island as well as some of the best fare, has suffered a misfortune, undeserved reputation, probably due to the what forbidding gates at the resort entrance, the 24 hour security staff and a block or more walk through the resort gardens to the beach. Many folks on the island feel that the restaurant does not welcome diners other than hotel guests or Resident Club Members. Nothing could be farther from the truth, La Balandra welcomes local residents and visitors, during most of the year, simply a call to the Concierge desk to make reservations will guarantee a table, service and excellent food and drink, although during peak periods when the hotel is full capacity and the condominiums are occupied by their owners, reservations are then limited to guarantee great service for local traffic as well as hotel guests and Club Members. Otherwise La Balandra is more than delighted to welcome Bonaire diners.

Furthermore, Harbour Village Beach Club also makes available “Beach Passes” for day visitors. These passes are available for $47.70 per person and include a $15.00 resort credit that can be redeemed at La Balandra. The beach pass will provide beach towels and lounge chairs for a memorable day on its private deck.

For many years La Balandra suffered the defect of being good weather dependent, the restaurant being shaded by canvass sheets, pleasant enough on sunny, windy days but not being all that comfortable should it experience one of Bonaire’s infamous tropical showers. Very little shelter was available, thus one had to check the weather prior to planning a party. A year of so past, management constructed a beautiful roof over the entire area, ceiling fans and improved lighting were added, the ambiance, utility and comfort were measurably improved. Indeed, a shower or two might be welcome from time to time.

A special treat is available for those who would enjoy a specially romantic meal. In dry weather, with request, lunch or dinner on the beach can be arranged. Lunch at an umbrella shaded table or dinner with torch light is routine. On this evening, having made reservations for two, the Gourmet and spouse were graced with one of the best tables available, prompt, gracious greetings and service were provided. The restaurant has an excellent bar, the wine list is quite good. The menu offers soups, salads, beef, lamb, seafood, chicken and fish dishes, desserts, coffees and more. Almost every day lunch and dinner specials are offered, the catch of the day is, in fact, the daily catch. Excellent fish sandwiches and cheeseburgers are always available.

This evening the mysterious couple shared a bottle of cold Pinot Grigio and both being lobster hungry and noticing specials available, ordered the lobster salad, the entrée, grilled lobster tails and for dessert, a deliciously spiced grilled pineapple concoction, very appropriate after the rich meal.

The food, service, beverage and ambiance could not have been better. The mysterious pair lingered over coffee, enjoying the soft music, gentle breeze and stupendous view of the lights to the north and south, along the shore.

An evening dining experience to remember...

The Mystery Gourmet and Spouse
The Lighthouses of Bonaire (5)

Fort Oranje, Kralendijk

This is the last of the Lighthouses of Bonaire articles in The Bonaire Reporter by author-photographer Wilna Groenenboom. But this one presented several mysteries to be solved.

Leaving beautiful Klein Bonaire behind we headed back to Kralendijk on the vessel Good Return Bonaire. Having visited almost all of the five working lights on Bonaire, we now walked from the Town Pier to my car, still parked in front of Fort Oranje. A lighthouse is still there but it’s no longer in operation.

The mystery begins:

It is said that the Fort Oranje foundation was built in 1639 by order of the West Indian Company and was used as a defensive fort until 1837. And, in 1932 a tower was built as a replacement for its wooden predecessor. During the 20th century the fort was used as the fire brigade building, police station and public prosecutor offices. At the moment the Criminal Court and the Harbor Police are using the buildings.

But in the text above what is the meaning of the words “the foundation was built in 1639” and “fort”. In the past the word “fort” could have different interpretations. It could be just for a military location, for protection and a lookout system. It could be built as a fortified earthwork with a reinforced earthen wall, or as a wooden palisade ring (pillars put in the ground close to each other, to form a wall) or a building with stone walls. Today we can see that the fort has a plastered stone wall surrounding some buildings, but how did it look in the past? And how far back is the “past?” Some sources say it was built “about 1636” and others, “1796”?

And secondly, what does the word “foundation” mean? Could there be an old foundation of a fort under the present fort? At the beginning of any investigation about the history of Bonaire I always start with the book, Bonaire, from Indian to Tourist by Dr. Jol, Hartog, my Bonaire “Bible.” And indeed he writes about a fort on Bonaire in 1636:

A Dutchman, Van Walbeeck, who started working as a cartographer and navigator for the West Indian Company and who later was a member of the political board and did some exploratory tours, occupied the island for the WIC in the spring of 1636. From reconstructing the available information it’s been determined that a small fort was erected near Koeput (Pos di Baca/Spaanse Barbudo). It was a simple palisade ring, housing 60 persons, including 40 soldiers, so it wasn’t that small!

In 1642, Ray Fernandez de Fuenmayor tried to return Bonaire to Spanish rule. He came to the island with 300 men, 100 of which would occupy the fort which he thought was abandoned; 100 went to the harbor and the rest to the salt pans. But the Dutch, who were inside the fort and fearing that 1,000 men would be in the attack force, set the fort on fire and sailed for Curacao, leaving the burning fort behind them. After 40 years it still wasn’t rebuilt.

I think that we can conclude that this fort, built of palisade wood, was not in the same exact location as the present Fort Oranje. Archeologist Dr. Jay Haviser told me that they never found Spaanse Barbudo, but he agrees that it was probably in the Punt Vierkant area, for logistical reasons and coastal visibility.

But this still leaves the question of when the present Fort Oranje was built.

By researching more and surfing the internet I learned more and more about the history of Bonaire. Maybe I’ve found some facts to conclude that Fort Oranje is not that old, but it is still the first stone building on Bonaire, built in or just after 1796?

For these facts we have to go back in history, once again, to the foundation of the Comité Militaire (Army Committee), in 1796 in Curacao.

In 1796 the Republiek der Vereenigde Nederlanden (Republic of the United Provinces/Bataafs Republic) was allied with the French, so French warships were free to enter the harbor of Curacao. Then in September 1796, the Dutch became engaged in their war with England. A group of high ranking officers of the land and sea power, from Swiss, Dutch and German backgrounds (Commander of the naval forces Albert Kikkerr; Captain Lieutenant at sea G.L.H. Hesselhaus, the German Captain of artillery J.H. Gravenhorst; and some others), decided that the ABC islands should be better protected. The Comité Militaire was born, led by the Swiss Johan Rudolf Lauffer who later became Governor. Their first act was to set up a proper defense for the colony to protect the harbors of the three ABC islands. So they gave an assignment to build:

- Fort Zoutman on Aruba in 1797 (the lighthouse was built in 1886)
- Fort Oranje on Bonaire in 1796 (but got this name after 1816)
- Fort Republiek on Curacao in 1797 (after 1816 known as Fort Nassau, but once known as Fort Oranje Nassau)

More sleuthing and some answers in the next issue of The Bonaire Reporter. - Wilna Groenenboom

Sources: Dr. Joh. Hartog, ‘Van Indiennen tot toeristenden’; Forten van de Nederlandse Antillen – Curacao Maritieme Museum; Forten van de Nederlandse Antillen en Aruba Deel 2: Aruba, Bonaire, St Maarten, St Eustatius, Saba; Dr. Joh. Hartog, ‘Het Oude Fort van Aruba: de geschiedenis van het Fort zoutman en de tooren’; Uitgeverij Van Gorcum 1995; Dr. Jay Haviser.
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Bonaire Reporter- February 8-22, 2013
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Fine-tune your pH and step into perfect balance and health. Feel free to call Rosita Paiman for an appointment 512-6375 or email fit4life_fitness@hotmail.com or rose_paiman@hotmail.com.

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**Sudoko Puzzle**

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**Sudoko Solution**

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1 6 8 9
2 9 5 7
3 2 4 1
4 9 6 2
5 3 8 9
6 7 2 5
7 8 1 4
8 5 7 3
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---|------|-----|------|------
Fri 08 | 04:06 | 10:49 | 19:11 | 16:59
Sat 09 | 00:01 | 05:12 | 11:45 | 20:01
Sun 10 | 01:13 | 06:32 | 12:44 | 20:50
Mon 11 | 02:22 | 07:48 | 13:47 | 21:36
Tue 12 | 03:23 | 08:39 | 14:53 | 22:19
Thu 14 | 05:03 | 12:19 | 17:02 | 23:35
Fri 15 | 05:45 | 13:20 | 17:58 | 24:14
Sat 16 | 06:10 | 14:00 | 18:49 | 00:01
Sun 17 | 06:41 | 14:41 | 19:34 | 00:41
Mon 18 | 07:11 | 15:48 | 20:15 | 01:13
Tue 19 | 07:42 | 16:32 | 20:56 | 01:13
Wed 20 | 08:12 | 17:17 | 21:37 | 01:13
Thu 21 | 08:42 | 17:51 | 22:19 | 01:13
Fri 22 | 08:03 | 14:04 | 18:43 | 03:12

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**Sudoku Solution Sudoku Puzzle**

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

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The Kaminda di Arte (Art Trail) on Sunday, February 17, will be one of your last chances to visit the studios of 11 different artists on the island. From 11 am to 4 pm the artists open their doors to showcase their individual art. Set up three years ago by a group of artists and their mentors, this tour gives the public an opportunity to get “up close” with the artists, meet them personally and view their work. No appointments necessary, just stop by. The Kaminda has been such a success that this is third year. There will be only one more Kamina this year after this weekend, on March 17.

The 11 artists participating will be showing works in watercolors, oils, mosaics, refined driftwood pieces and other mediums. Free maps of the Kaminda di Arte are available in shops, resorts and at the TCB.

Artists are: Janice Huckaby, Ans Kolin Heerenbrink, Elena, Wolmoet Jansen, Alexandra Jansen, Fred v.d. Broek, Luz Aida Franco Wesselius, Jose Smit, Alejandra Riquelme, Henk Roozenaal, Margriet Faassen-Pijpers.

Pictured above are just three of the artists you may meet and see their work on the Kaminda di Arte on Sunday, February 17. Story & Photos by Laura DeSalvo

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Ship Name</th>
<th>Time in Port</th>
<th># of Pass.</th>
<th>Cruise Line</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11-Feb-13</td>
<td>Vision of the Seas</td>
<td>1200-1900</td>
<td>2435</td>
<td>Celebrity/RCCL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12-Feb-13</td>
<td>Aida Luna</td>
<td>1000-1800</td>
<td>2194</td>
<td>Aida Cruises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>13-Feb-13</td>
<td>Eclipse</td>
<td>0700-1800</td>
<td>2852</td>
<td>Celebrity/RCCL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>14-Feb-13</td>
<td>Grandeur of the Seas</td>
<td>0800-1800</td>
<td>2446</td>
<td>Celebrity/RCCL</td>
</tr>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>17-Feb-13</td>
<td>Sea Cloud II</td>
<td>2359</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Seacloud Cruises</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>20-Feb-13</td>
<td>Grandeur of the Seas</td>
<td>0800-1800</td>
<td>2446</td>
<td>Celebrity/RCCL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>21-Feb-13</td>
<td>Emerald Princess</td>
<td>1200-1900</td>
<td>3100</td>
<td>Princess Cruises</td>
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**Who’s Who on The Bonaire Reporter**

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Guest Editorial

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

Beatrix, Queen of All the Dutch

This past week our Queen has managed to surprise us all with a long-awaited decision. She will end working for our country and abdicate on the 30th of April, and that same day we shall have a new King of Orange, King Willem Alexander, her oldest son.

During her televised speech she recalled among other things the warm bond she felt with the Caribbean (the Antilles and Surinam). It is not an exaggeration to say that many Bonaireans felt that in reciprocitity. It isn’t just my neighbor struggling with a tear of emotion, many people on Bonaire still cherish the warm feelings associated with Beatrix’s visits to Bonaire. She was there when there was something to celebrate, and she was also there when the going was rough. She made no secret of her concern for the situation on Bonaire and, on frequent occasions, emphasized the importance of sticking together. She was a symbol of trust, style and respect, not just in The Netherlands but also in Bonaire, one of the little bits of Overseas Kingdom.

Beatrix has shown more kindness and compassion for our island than the governments of The Netherlands of the last 31 have combined. That attitude was a cool and distant one, drenched with mistrust towards our administrators and our population. Let us forget about that period and hope for a King who wants to be there for all the Dutch including those who don’t live in Amsterdam or The Hague. The fact that he will have an ambitious and intelligent wife from Argentina at his side seems positive. She is a firm lady who, in part because of her descending from South America might show some understanding for the predicament of her Caribbean compatriots.

The servants of the new King, ministers, secretaries, island administrators might seize the opportunity to be slightly more helpful. By no longer giving the island representatives the runaround and sending them from one window of the administration to the other, from one ministry to the next. The new seemingly fresh and perky minister Ronald Plasterk appears to be a breath of new wind in this respect. At the beginning of this week he visited Bonaire and stated that he wants to be the minister for Bonaire. He will in first instance take the questions, problems and complaints on himself rather than have them ping-ponged around by officials of both Netherlands and Bonaire, or have them stew on a small fire into eternity as his predecessors turned into an art form, championed by former minister Donner.

Plasterk was handed a petition by the firemen and officials and informed them and the members of the island council that they had very little hope for a raise of their compensation and certainly not for full-time salaries for the work as island representatives. He compared the situation of the Bonairean administrators with that of the council members of the Dutch islands of Texel and the other Wadden islands and came to the conclusion that an island councilmember or administrator has a part-time job. Now that is how it can be done. Swift and to the point, a big improvement over the usual endless stalling and stewing. A new Dutch attitude? That would be a major turning point.

A historic event took place on Bonaire in 2010. The government of the island has become more integrated with that of the homeland The Netherlands. A process by no means straightforward, it has had results but has also generated exertion and resentment. Another historic event will now be added to the mix: our gentle Queen who, to the Bonaireans seemed more of a caring mother than a ceremonial symbol of the state, will bid us farewell on Dia di Rincon. We can be pleased with the interest she took in the Antilles. Hopefully her son and the future administrator has a part-time job. Now that is how it can be done. Swift and to the point, a big improvement over the usual endless stalling and stewing. A new Dutch attitude? That would be a major turning point.

I wish Queen Beatrix a beautiful future as Queen – Mother. I hope that she will visit our island for a nice quiet vacation, without an agenda full of obligations.

Who will invite her?

Guus Gerritsen
Pets of the Week

It’s puppy time at the Bonaire Animal Shelter and they’re coming in from everywhere — brought in by owners who don’t want dogs anymore, put into the Drop Off Cage (Kooschi di Bes-tia) in front of the Shelter and picked up by Good Samaritans who find the dogs abandoned. In two of the cases the pups are still with their mom so you can see what their background is. The moms we saw were handsome dogs with intelligent expressions — and very good mothers. One mom watched my every move — and very good mothers. One mom didn’t get too close to her precious babies. At the Shelter the pups and the mom get the best of care — good food, fresh water, shots, worming, socialization, and the very important puppy killer disease. The mom and the pups get the shots, worming, socializa-
tion,  and the very important water, shots, worming, socializa-
tion, and the very important puppy killer disease. The mom and the pups get the

It’s a good time to pick a pup from the puppy killer disease. Parvo shot which protects them, and the very important puppy killer disease. The mom and the pups get the

To see the puppies and all the other pets up for adoption visit the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Web site: WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.co m.

Contrary to what you might expect after visiting other animal shelters, this one is a happy place with happy dogs and cats, housed in groups so no one gets lonely! They get excellent care, the staff gets to know each one’s personality and can advise you on which one would fit into your lifestyle. L.D.

Bonairean Humor

From the Papiamentu language newspaper extra

You know, my son Juan has a guaranteed future already. When I call him he doesn’t come. He’s going to be a great waiter.

A guy was painting the dividing lines down the middle of the street. The first day he painted 10 kilometers, the second day 5 kilometers, the third day 2 kilometers and the fourth day only 10 meters. The contractor asked him: Why did you do such a great job the first day and painted 10 kilo-
meters and today you only painted 10 meters? The guy told him: It’s totally logical. Every day the paint can was further away.

The teacher was giving a lesson on verb tenses and she asks Juan: Juan, if I say “I ate”, that means I have already eaten. If I say I am beautiful, what does that mean? Juan answers: It means that Teacher has an over-active imagination.

Two friends are walking down the street. All of a sudden one of them stops and yells: “Uh oh, look, my wife and my girlfriend are walking with each other!” His friend answers: “What a coincidence, I was just going to say the same thing.”

A woman asked her son: What do you want to be when you grow up?

The boy answered: I want to be an idiot. Why, the mom asked.

Because Dad is always saying: See what a good looking girlfriend that idiot has, see the new car that idiot bought, look that idiot won the lottery.

Two kids arrive to class very late. The teacher asks them: Why did you both arrive so late? One of them said: Teacher, I fell asleep and was dreaming that I was on a trip and visited a lot of different countries. The teacher asked the other kid. And you, why are you also so late? The other kid said: I had to go pick him up at the airport.

There was a woman that was so, so ugly that once she went to a contest for ugly women and they told her she couldn’t participate because they were not accepting professional ugly people.

Two guys are conversing in a bar. One says to the other: I have some bad news for you, your wife is cheating on you.

Translated by Jane Madden-Disko

DeSalvo Story & photo by Laura DeSalvo

Bonaire Reporter- February 8-22, 2013
A near-Earth asteroid – a called “2012 DA14” by astronomers – will pass very close to Earth on February 15, 2013. Astronomers estimate that when it’s closest to us, it’ll be within the orbit of the Moon (which is about 240,000 miles away), and within the orbits of geosynchronous satellites (about 26,000 miles). 2012 DA14 will be about 21,000 miles (35,000 kilometers) away. It will not strike Earth in 2013. Astronomers’ calculations of asteroid orbits can be trusted. After all, even decades ago, they knew enough about calculating orbits to send people to the Moon alongside them. So, no, 2012 DA14 won’t strike us in 2013. There was a remote possibility it might strike us in 2020, but that possibility has been ruled out also.

Asteroid 2012 DA14 will pass closest on February 15, 2013. As the image above shows, it will pass much closer than the orbit of the Moon - closer even that orbiting geosynchronous satellites (22,000 miles). What will happen when it passes us? The short answer is: nothing. On the day it passes, most of us won’t see it or be aware of its passage, in any way. The asteroid won’t alter the tides. It won’t cause volcanoes. It’ll just sweep closely past us – as millions of asteroids have done throughout Earth’s four-and-a-half-billion-year history – some in your own lifetime.

The asteroid will be within range for small telescopes and solidly mounted binoculars used by experienced observers who have access to appropriate star charts. Here’s what NASA says about its visibility:

On February 15, 2013, the asteroid will travel rapidly from the southern evening sky into the northern morning sky with its closest Earth approach occurring about 19:26 UTC when it will achieve a magnitude of less than seven, which is somewhat fainter than naked eye visibility. It will look for 4 minutes after its Earth close approach, there is a good chance it will pass into the Earth’s shadow for about 18 minutes or so before reappearing from the eclipse. When traveling rapidly into the northern morning sky, 2012 DA14 will quickly fade in brightness. Asteroid 2012 DA14 is a little guy, compared to some asteroids, although its size has not been pinned down precisely. It is thought to be about 45 meters across (nearly 150 feet), with an estimated mass of about 130,000 metric tons. If a space object 150 feet wide were to strike our planet, it would’n’t be Earth-deestroying. But it has been estimated that it would produce the equivalent of 2-4 megatons of TNT. How does that compare with other known impact events on Earth? In 1908, in a remote part of Russia, an explosion killed reindeer and flattened trees. But no crater was ever found. Scientists now believe a small comet struck Earth. That event has been estimated at 3 to 20 megatons. So 2012 DA14 is in the same approximate realm as the Tunguska comet (which, actually, might have been an asteroid instead). It would not destroy Earth, but it could flatten a city.

Of course, about 70% of our world is covered by oceans. That means the most likely landing spot of any incoming asteroid is in the water – not on a city or other populated area. Astronomers at the Observatorio Astronómico de La Sagra in Spain discovered 2012 DA14 in early 2012. We know 2012 DA14’s orbit is similar to that of Earth. That is one reason the asteroid eluded astronomers until recently. You can be sure that many astronomers are carefully tracking 2012 DA14 now.

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Spacious villa with sea views in residential area.

Sabadeco, Crown Court 12

This well built villa offers dramatic views combined with the privacy of a corner lot. Situated on the edge of a cliff, one can enjoy panoramic views over several homes to the Caribbean Sea and Klein Bonaire. The spacious living-dining area has a dramatic cathedral ceiling culminating in a cupola (skylight) which brings light in and leaves the area cool. A separate upstairs apartment with its own sun deck ensures privacy for family or visiting guests. The lot is large enough for a pool & garden if desired. Lay out entrance into living room with sliding glass doors provide access to a covered porch with decorative arches framing the sea views. Spacious live-in kitchen has a pantry, granite countertops and back-splashing windows to viewing area on porch. All is downstairs bedrooms has outside access into an armoire for washer & dryer. Large master bedroom with porch, private marble-tiled bathroom, walk-in closet and built-in dressing tables and cabinet. Guest bedroom with built-in closet & separate bathroom. Outdoor stairs leading to uncovered terrace with guest apartment with bedroom, kitchenette and private bathroom. Spacious garage (with off street parking) and outdoor shower & rinse facility. Lot size: 15,794 ft² (1,467 m²), Living area: 3,530 ft² (326 m²).

Asking price US$ 619,000

Announcement

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