

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**

# The **BONAIR** REPORTER

SINCE 1994



**To the top of Alta Mira  
with Soldachi Tours**

# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



Internet photo

A 30-year old Cessna 402 airplane, registration N69404, en-route from St. Marten to Curaçao, made an emergency landing at Bonaire's Flamingo Airport last Friday afternoon. The pilot and co-pilot, the only persons aboard, were uninjured.

The pilot had an indication of hydraulic system failure after taking off and decided on a precautionary landing in Bonaire. After a fly-by of the Flamingo tower showed his landing gear appeared to be down, he attempted to land. Crash trucks and rescue personnel were ready. On touchdown the landing gear collapsed and the plane skidded on its belly for over a kilometer before coming to a stop on the dirt next to the paved runway. There was no fire, but there was significant damage to the plane. The plane is worth about \$140,000.

Airport flight operations were not interrupted because the aircraft was not blocking the runway. Both Antillean and, since the plane carried an American registry, US officials will investigate the cause of the accident.

► Prime Minister Etienne Ys and his team presented their plan to lower the national debt, improve the country's liquidity position and push back poverty to Par-

liament on Tuesday. **This first package of the "Ice Age,"** as this Ys' administration is being called, will cost NAf 55 million.

Ys made it clear that besides reducing expenses, measures to increase revenues from taxes are part of the package. He said his government intended to finalize the integration of the respective federal and island tax services. A good way to start to reduce expenses in Bonaire and to improve taxpayer services would be to re-merge the federal tax collector with the island tax collector.

And expect new or increased taxes.



Ruud, Richard and Evert

► **The Rotary Club of Bonaire** held its annual Turnover Dinner on Friday, June 18th at the RendezVous Restaurant. The new Board for 2004-2005 was presented. It includes: President - Evert Piar; Incoming President - Edsel Winklaar; Secretary - Ruud Vermeulen; Treasurer - Jan Gielen; Sergeant at Arms - Henk Schrijver. Past Secretary Richard Dove was awarded the Paul Harris Award for his years of outstanding contribution to the Club.

► FOL-advisor **Nelson Monte**, who remains the only member associated with the disgraced FOL government **currently**

**locked up**, laments, "I've been incarcerated for 14 months and I'm in great financial difficulties. I only have my pension left. I don't know what to do. My health deteriorates every day." Readers may recall that Monte resided in a VIP suite at St. Elizabeth Hospital until last April when the revelation that he was there, instead of in prison, was the final factor that brought down the Godett government.

His criminal charges related to the Post Office and the Curaçao Airport Authority were reviewed by the Court of Appeals Wednesday morning. Monte was convicted of accepting bribes, forgery and fraud. In court, no new facts were presented. Monte did not testify. Monte, who according to eyewitness reports didn't seem to have lost much weight since being jailed, is pessimistic about his future and doesn't think he got a fair trial. He has been sentenced to a three-year term, but that may be shortened or lengthened based on the outcome of his appeal.

► Monte's confederate, Curaçao's Anthony Godett, convicted of five crimes involving forgery, bribery and laundering, all related to attempt to personally profit from the privatization of the Post Office, **deliberately did not show up at the appeal** of his case on Wednesday. Curaçao's leading vote-getting politician had declared, when the Court of First Instance found him guilty in December, that he would appeal.

Presiding Judge ter Berg expressed both "regret and respect" for Godett's absence. The judge said he had looked forward to hearing what Godett would have to say in answer to a series of questions he had prepared. But the Judge said he respected Godett's decision. It is the right of every suspect to refrain from participating in court proceedings. The court will rule in

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the case on July 16, 2004.

► **Reda Sosial (Social (Safety) Net)** is the Antillean organization that supports many worthwhile projects in Bonaire and all the Antilles. A recent report on its activities in islands other than Curaçao since 1996 revealed that the funding agency "spent" NAf 13.4 million in St. Maarten, NAf 7.5 million in Bonaire, NAf 5.3 million in St. Eustatius and NAf 3.9 million in Saba. *Reda Sosial* is receiving new funds from the Ys government.

(Continued on page 4)

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► Last week the 10th **Hello Tourist program** got underway. Its aim is to acquaint the island's 6<sup>th</sup> graders with the tourist facilities on



the island by giving them all a "free sample" of what a Bonaire visitor can experience. This year 250 students participated. They were from Watapana, Papa Cornes, Reina Beatrix, San Luis Bertran, Kristu Bon Wardador and San Bernardo schools. Kimberley Dammerman and Evelain Marchena, who ran the program, reported that enthusiasm ran high. With Bonaire's economy based mostly on tourism it offers the youngsters an important perspective on their future. In the photo you see a group of the students at the Bonaire Windsurfing Place and Jibe City.

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)



► In low tide conditions it was always a hassle for sailors to get their optimists, sunfish, lasers and catamarans out of the water back on the ramp in front of Regatta House without damaging their expensive boats. Not anymore, **thanks to Richard van Duijn of Duijn Bonaire N.V.** on Kaya Industria. He gave the sailing club a few big concrete blocks to create kind of step up to make it easier for the sailors to get their boats back on the land.

In the picture are some of the young sailors. On the left is sailor/coordinator Geerlof, a strong competitor in the Hobie cat class, who has sailed to Curaçao a few times and broke all records sailing from the Regatta House, around Klein Curaçao and back to Regatta House in four hours, 19 minutes, three weeks ago.

► Acquiring funding and creating awareness of the various conservation organizations in the Netherlands Antilles are the immediate priorities of the **Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA)**. Taking a page from Bonaire's Nature Alliance which acts as a focal point for issues, fundraising and communication, formalized over three

years ago, the DCNA declared similar objectives and defined a three-year strategy. It concluded its first meeting in St. Maarten last Wednesday.

Coordinator Kalli DeMeyer from Bonaire presented a priority plan and a three-year plan for the alliance and formulated the statutes. In the coming months she will visit the member organizations to ensure that they are being managed effectively and to offer advice and suggestions for improvements. Since many donor groups look for effective management of the resources they give support to, this is a good place to begin.

► Last week a test case about the recognition of a **same-sex marriage was side-stepped** by a court in Curaçao.

Two men who were legally married in the Netherlands last year initiated the proceedings. They wanted their marriage to be registered in Curaçao. But because they did not follow the proper procedures, the Court was able to withhold stating an opinion. In the new Civil Code of the Netherlands Antilles marriage is defined as a union between a man and a woman. Many consider that formalization of gay marriage is in conflict with norms and values held in the Antilles. The High Court in the Netherlands says a gay marriage must be recognized in the Antilles as it is in Holland. One of the foundations of the Dutch Kingdom is that a law applies equally in all parts of the realm.

► Crown Prince Willem Alexander and Princess Máxima announced that they will **donate the gifts given for the baptism of their daughter, Princess Amalia, to projects of the Oranje Fonds in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.** *Stichting Rose*

## POLICE UPDATE



### POLICE UPDATE

**Assistant Public Prosecutor Justine Gonggrijp** says that it was relatively quiet in her office last week, but there were **six drug smuggling arrests** at Flamingo Airport over the weekend. Three of the smugglers were from Curaçao; one a Dutchman from Holland; one from the Dominican Republic living in Curaçao; and one from Curaçao who's living in Holland.

There was an arrest of a repeat offender, a 16-year-old (C.B.) living in Bonaire but born in Holland. He was arrested for trying to **forge checks** that had been stolen. This was the fourth time he'd been arrested since January. On June 26 he'll come before the Preliminary Judge who will decide on how long he will be jailed. C.B. had been in court at the beginning of June, then was arrested a week later for the current crime.

**From Charles Souriel of the Police Department:**

- A notice was sent out that was too late for publication in *The Reporter* that the Police Department invited those persons who had items stolen from them to come to their offices in Playa last Tuesday, June 22, from 8 am to 5 pm to **view those items that have been confiscated by the Police.** If you missed this opportunity to identify your stolen goods, call the Police Department at 717-8000.
- Last week on Friday, June 18, there

was an intoxicated Colombian woman (H.) who lives in den Haag on the KLM traveling to Ecuador. She was either drunk or under the influence of another substance and exhibited **very annoying behavior** to the other passengers. The incident was reported to the authorities in Bonaire and the Prosecutor ordered that she be taken into custody until she sobered up.

- Last Thursday, June 17, there was a **fire at Lito's Place.** The police and fire department were called and were there in less than 10 minutes. The owner arrived at the same time and tried to go into the building to see what could be saved. The fire department, seeing that it was very dangerous, refused to let the owner go inside, whereupon the owner became very aggressive and the police had to restrain him. The technical department of the Police is investigating what caused the fire.

### Other news:

- Two men, Jerickson Doran and Kenneth Martijn, were arrested and jailed for **10 days for stealing a bicycle.** A scooter stolen from Rent-o-Fun was also involved, but the police had no evidence that the two had stolen it. Also found in their house were other items, among which was a computer with a program for German translation. The owner of the computer identified it as his. □ *L.D.*

Pelletier in Curaçao and the *Imeldahof* Children's Home in Aruba fall under the *Oranje Fonds*. A Bonairean recipient has not yet been announced.



Fokker 60

► The Lockheed Orion long range patrol craft, based in Curaçao, are being **replaced by Fokker 60s.** The airplane is a lengthened military variant of the commercial Fokker 50. Only four were built for the Dutch air service. Over the years the Orions have saved many lives by finding lost boats and coordinating rescue efforts. The Fokker 60s will play the same role.

► A new inn, the **Golden Reef Inn, will open on August 1.** It's in Hato on Kaya

Utrecht #30, the former site of The Travelers Inn. Renee Leach from Renee Snorkel Tours will be the property manager.

► Every Wednesday evening there will be a **meditation at Donkey Beach** from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. It's sponsored by the S.H.Y. (Spiritual Human Yoga) group but is open to all. More information call 790-9450.

► Like to go to the beach? A new series, **Hush Hush Seaside Spots**, which will give the details and photos of some of Bonaire's "secret" beaches, begins in this issue on page 9.

► This issue marks the first edition printed by **Computer-To-Printer technology.** It means that *The Bonaire Reporter* remains in digital format until it is put on the big web press at DeStad Printing in Curaçao. That, combined by delivery by BonairExel, means higher quality and faster delivery. Now *The Reporter* is available on Bonaire as early as Wednesday night. □ *L./G. D.*

LETTERS



RESTAURANTS, FISHING AND DISCRIMINATION

To the Editor:

I did not think I would stir up a Hornets Nest with my letter. I have read the comments that you published (last week) and do not agree whole hardly with a lot of them.

It's a shame that *The Bonaire Reporter* is so self centered and opposed to remarks from an American and a resident of Bonaire. In reply to some of the comment letters to my article, I have this to say. I am an avid fisherman and to show a picture in the paper of a Brooklyn seaport is completely out of context. Show a picture of Captree Boat Basin with about 60 party boats or show a picture of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, with about 300 party boats that go out every day. I was only trying to spur interest in this type of fishing as it would help the Island. I have fished all my life and I do go out of Lac Bay with a Bonaire friend, Monkey, who most of you on Bonaire know. I have fished off a little 16-foot boat, caught fish and really enjoyed myself there.

As far as my having hard feelings about any Chinese cooking, I often go to the Surinam bar and restaurant. I am good friends with the owner, Michael, and I would not have a problem eating or giving my name there. Also China Nobo knows me and they have excellent food. These places I never see advertised in the paper. To say I am only here on the island one year is not correct. Make that two years

and you may be correct. One of the first people on the island I met was Sean Paton who is on the radio now. I even know the owner of Pasa Bon Pizza. He was curious if I could help him with the speed of his oven that was not cooking right for him. I always say a good brick oven is the best to cook a good pizza. That is my personal opinion though and people here do not like the opinions of other people. I never had a problem making friends on this island.

I used to mate on some of the fishing boats in Hampton Bays, Long Island when I was 12 years of age. My cousin was the first to go offshore after the war to harpoon Swordfish, catch tuna and we never had a problem with any one glowing in the day. The love of fishing is in me.

But here in Bonaire people do as they please and do not like change. When I talked to Chief at China Nobo today he said he could not cook real Chinese cooking because the expense would be too much for the Bonairean person. He has to make something that will fill the belly at a cheap price. Yet Richard's makes a good American meal and they are not cheap. But the food is good and I can give my name there and would not get turned away.

You tell me why the American is so disliked on this Island. I myself find no problem with the people here. Your articles are all wet and the people discriminate against the American.

The Dutch people who responded to my letter never went out of Holland or visited

another country. I have served honorably in the U.S. Army. I have spent 18 months in Korea. I have visited Japan on R and R and got good relations with the people I had to live with.

Would you like to hire me as a roving reporter giving my opinion of the cooking on Bonaire?

Maybe you can tell me where I can get a good whiskey sour? I have not found a person here that can make a good one. They all like to use Scotch in the drink. I hate the taste of Scotch.

Al Curry

Dear Al,

*Thanks for your letter in answer to the three responses we printed in last week's paper. I can't remember when we received more mail or phone calls on something printed in The Reporter. We only had room to print three.*

*Contrary to what you wrote, we do publish and appreciate the opinions of yourself and other people. By the way, the three people whose letters we printed in answer to yours are all Americans. What made you think they were Dutch? I did not receive even one negative response from a Dutchman. And I don't think you will find many Americans who think they are discriminated against, as you do.*

*I can't help by hiring you as a roving restaurant reporter as you ask (we already have a restaurant reporter) but can help you get a good whisky sour. Ask the bartender to make the whisky sour with rye whisky, like Canadian Club. It will taste more like what you'd get in Brooklyn. Ed*

# Referendum Chronicle

**NOS FUTURE, BAN P'EI  
(OUR FUTURE-LET'S GO FOR IT.)**



This week a flood of statements, press releases and correspondence seemed to indicate that the Referendum was coming alive after a month-long hiatus. Hans Els, the former President of the Referendum Commission, was thanked by the government for his leadership role. Upon stepping down, Dr. Els offered some suggestions for the formation of the reconstituted commission. He believes that more expert advice, in addition to that being provided by Mikiel Bijkerk, should support the Referendum effort. He feels that the Commission can be expanded to include representatives from labor unions, NGOs, and commercial interests. Last week two new Referendum Commission members were named: Filomina Janga and Rudolf Davelaar.

While the island government still wants to hold the Referendum on September 3<sup>rd</sup> there may be reasons to further delay the vote, perhaps to December, 2004, to allow reports pertinent to the Referendum to be completed and even until April, 2005, when the Dutch Referendum on a new Constitution is scheduled.

The opposition Democrats said in a letter to the ruling Patriotiko party that they would not join in a bi-partisan approach to the Referendum unless the present Referendum structure is set aside and a new one developed with the concurrence of the Island Council with UN and international consultation.

The island of Saba has also joined in the Referendum passion and named a committee to oversee its own poll regarding its fu-

ture as part of the Antilles constellation. The Saba Referendum Committee, chaired by Xavier Blackman, met with its committee members last Wednesday. The committee decided its objective was to ensure that the voting public received accurate information on the different options offered. □ G.D.

***The following article is the first of two by Jiri Lausman describing life on Aruba as shaped by its 1986 decision to leave the Netherlands Antilles and become a separate member of the Dutch Kingdom. We hope it can offer some perspective as one of the choices a voter may select in the Bonaire Referendum is Status Aparte.***

## BONAIRE AND ARUBA'S STATUS APARTE

Based on a recent poll it seems that an overwhelming majority of Bonaireans wish to split from the Curaçao-based Netherlands Antilles government. I would like, after living long years on Aruba, to share with you my experience with *Status Aparte* (not "*Apartê*"), first given to Aruba by the Kingdom of the Netherlands in 1986. Aruba's will to become independent from Curaçao was stronger than it seems to be

today on Bonaire. On Bonaire more people have family ties with Curaçao than do Arubans, and the connection between Bonaire and Curaçao has been always very strong. While Bonaire in the past seemed to accept the leadership of Curaçao, Arubans never recognized it, feeling themselves superior to the "lazy" people on the "sister island." One "proof" of this impression is the fact that, while there is currently high unemployment on Curaçao, Aruba has, in recent years, recruited tens of thousands of workers from Latin America and countries as far away as the Philippines to work mainly in the growing tourist industry. Leaders of the main political parties on Aruba had long tried in vain to convince the Dutch government of the necessity of Aruba becoming independent from the Central Government of the Netherlands Antilles on Curaçao. However, **at that time Aruba was offered only two alternatives - to remain in the existing Antillean constellation or to become a fully independent island country.** It was a hard choice for the Aruban population, the majority of whom wanted to maintain links with the Netherlands. In 1986, Aruba, led by its charismatic politician Betico Croes, declared that it had decided to become an independent country. The Kingdom of the Netherlands agreed, after long negotiations, to grant Aruba a special status called *Status Aparte* for the 10 years leading to independence in 1996. As preparation for that independence, **Aruba, during this transition period, would be independent from Curaçao and would**

have its own government, parliament and currency, the Aruban florin. It is necessary to emphasize that **Aruba did not choose this status (as often wrongly mentioned in the press) but it was given to it as a condition for the preparation for independence.**

It did not take long for Aruba to realize that the coming independence from the Netherlands would bring with it more disadvantages than advantages. As the date of the planned independence approached, the Aruban government attempted to convince the Dutch that it would be irresponsible to push the small island into independence with all its uncertainties. The catastrophic situation in Surinam, a former Dutch colony like the Antilles, served as the main argument. After the Netherlands, during a period of international decolonization, made Surinam independent in 1975, against the will of the majority of its population, an entire third of the inhabitants immigrated into the Netherlands, causing enormous problems there. Then, a brutal dictatorial regime took power in the newly independent South American country and executed opposition leaders.

**Confronted with these tragic consequences of independence in one of its former colonies, the Dutch government agreed to withdraw the clause defining the independence of Aruba from the decree on *Status Aparte*.** In this way, Aruba ultimately got its will. A statue of Betico Croes, called "Libertador" (Liberator) of Aruba (not from the original Dutch colonial power but from Curaçao), stands in Oranjestad, capital of Aruba, opposite a statue of Simon Bolivar, liberator of South American countries from Spain.

When Aruba chose independence from the Netherlands, **its economy was in very bad shape.** In 1985, Esso closed its refinery

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Status Aparte Continued from page 5)

there, once the largest in the world. It had produced 40% of all fuel needed for allied planes during WW II. Thousands of unemployed Arubans left for Holland. But there was a treasure, until that time practically undiscovered - miles of pristine, wide, white beaches on the northwestern coast of the island, probably the most beautiful in the whole Caribbean.

**Unprecedented tourist development began when large resorts, managed by leading international hotel chains, were built.** The government of Aruba, with its *Status Aparte*, did not need “upstairs” approval for its decisions to allow the new projects. **Without any supervision or binding advice from the Netherlands, and often neglecting urgent recommendations of the Central Bank of Aruba and large banks, it made, unfortunately, some bad decisions on some large projects and their financing.**

In order to stop the explosion of immigration by workers and their families, mainly from various Latin American countries, the government declared, after ignoring the situation for several years, a moratorium on construction of new hotels. **The uncontrolled influx of people had led to an increase in crime, traffic jams and problems with insufficient capacity of schools and medical facilities.** At the same time, construction of three large hotels on the famous Palm Beach was stopped because of the bankruptcy of the Italian contractors.

The Aruban government, which gave guarantees for these projects, lost a court battle that would have let them back out of the commitments, and has to pay now, and far into the future, millions of dollars to Italian banks. While two of the hotels would be eventually completed, the government decided to demolish the third.

Most Arubans still cannot understand why this almost completed, magnificent tall building with large glass doors and windows, had to be destroyed. Additional scandals and adverse court decisions followed and are still coming, obligating the government to pay to various investors tens of millions of dollars. For example, a judge in Miami recently decided that \$20 million had to be paid to a US investor in connection with a never realized speedway race track

**Another striking example of government mismanagement and money squandering is the new building at Aruba’s Reina Beatrix Airport. The final construction costs exceeded the original estimate by about 300%! Aruba now has a gigantic airport building complex with a capacity that far exceeds all future needs.** It is larger than the ultramodern new airport on the huge tourist island of Martinique in the French Caribbean with population almost five times the population of Aruba. The airport operates with enormous losses compounded by KLM’s decision to switch its Ecuador and Peru flights to Bonaire.

Now the current government has thrown out the hotel moratorium. A gigantic new time-share hotel complex, towering above other hotels, is currently being built, and another hotel site is being prepared on the **last pristine section of Palm Beach, which is to Aruba the same as Lac is to Bonaire**, in spite of fierce protests by the environmental factions.

It is difficult to determine whether all these developments would have taken place if Aruba did not get *Status Aparte* almost 20

The aim of the **Chronicle** team of editorial

and staff writers is to inform, not to influence public opinion or “sell” a particular option. Critical comments, useful additions and questions by the readers are welcomed and pub-

years ago. The fact is that the **corruption under this Status and irresponsibility of the ministers and other public servants has resulted in millions of dollars of waste and has caused an enormous financial burden to the island.**

Nevertheless, in spite of all the negative aspects, it seems evident that *Status Aparte* **has brought unprecedented wealth to Aruba.** Based on this financial affluence one might expect that in Bonaire’s coming Referendum, if the voters decide to leave the constellation of the Netherlands Antilles, a majority of the population might vote for an Aruban style *Status Aparte*.

In my opinion, as far as the future of Bonaire is concerned, I believe it is necessary to keep a tight lid on tourist development to preserve the pristine beauty of our island. No permits should be given for construction of new hotels and facilities needing foreign labor for their operation. Rather, the standard of the existing hotels should be further improved. **The uncontrolled tourist boom on Aruba should be a warning for us.**

**Any future development on Bonaire should serve only for reaching the full employment levels for local people.** If this is observed, the Aruban situation can be avoided and Bonaire will remain an island enjoyed by visitors for its splendid, unspoiled nature and coral reefs- the most beautiful in the whole world. □ *JL*

*Jiri Lausman is a retired civil engineer, born in Prague, living as a Dutchman the last nearly 40 years, 18 of them in Aruba. Before his retirement, he worked as the manager for Latin America and the Caribbean for a large Dutch construction company.*

# DIVE FESTIVAL



By any standard the 2004 Dive Festival must be rated a huge success. It offered two solid weeks of great guided and individual diving, attracted world-class personalities as speakers, saw the presentation of prestigious awards, recognized the pioneers of the Marine Park and had about five times the number of active participants as in many of the previous festivals. The gamble to hold it for two weeks rather than the previous one week paid off when the second week's attendees had just as much enthusiasm and swelled the crowd at the fashion show to a record size. We can't imagine how much better it can get. □ G.D.



*Germaine Nydam presented one of her wonderful works of art to Philippe Cousteau in appreciation for his participation in the Festival.*



*Just a small part of the crowd watching from pool side at Buddy Dive during the second Fit-4-Life/Palm Trading fashion show.*



*Tireless workers for Dive Fest 2004: Desiree. Ruud, Carina and Delno*

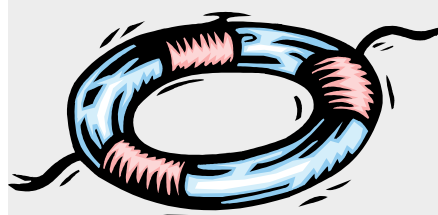


*Rodale Scuba Diving Magazine presented its first annual Marine Park Award to Jack Chalk, left, President of STINAPA, the parent agency of the Bonaire National Marine Park.*



*The first copy of a new, free, pocket-sized dive guide was organized and mostly sponsored by Deepak Daryiani of the Bonaire Gift Shop and Atlantis, and presented to Lt. Gov. Domacasse.*





## IT WAS A BAD WEEKEND FOR SAILBOATS.

First, a very small sailing yacht named *One and All* hit the coast about 500 yards north of the Willemstoren light at 2 am on Saturday. The skipper, who was unhurt, said it was due to a miscalculation. Wave action carried it up onto the shore where it was trailered away by Botu Blanku. It was the first yacht to come to grief on Bonaire this year. It seems hard to believe in this day of GPS, radar and autopilots that boats continue to run into Bonaire.

Then just after dark on the same day, two red flares were spotted northwest of Klein Bonaire by people on shore and in the yacht anchorage. The Curaçao-based Coast Guard was alerted by the Bonaire harbormaster's office and the Pluto One Search and Rescue plane was overhead within an hour. Meanwhile the **Parasail boat**, with assistance from people in the harbor, located the boat and towed it in. It was the 40 foot Venezuelan registered yacht, *Gambler*, which had suffered rigging damage and couldn't lower its foresail. However, the powerful Parasail boat was able to tow it back to the harbor and tie it to a mooring.

And if this wasn't bad enough, on Sunday a jet ski collided with a moored sailing yacht in the harbor after hitting a fishing boat and tearing off its motor. The jet ski was reportedly one of the auxiliaries of a large yacht. According to reports, the owner of the yacht placed a lien on the jet ski to ensure he would get his yacht repaired satisfactorily. □ *G.D.*

## HUSH-HUSH SEASIDE SPOTS

When we decided to come to live on Bonaire, I imagined spending most of my time lolling on the beaches that I imagined a Caribbean island should have. I must admit I was somewhat disappointed when I was referred to the popular tourist beaches: Bachelor's Beach, Pink Beach, and Sorobon Beach. Not that there is anything wrong with those beautiful spots. I guess I was subconsciously looking for those unexplored coastlines and secret beaches that I had read about in so many travel articles. So with my trusty support group, hubby, Steven, and German Shepherd, Commish, I have embarked on a quest to scout the coastline of Bonaire hoping to discover some wonderful secluded, unspoiled beach gems and to share them with you.

I will reveal to you the first two of my finds. Note that this is only a personal assessment. I am not a diver, just a novice snorkeler, but I am a dedicated beach bum who enjoys the feel of sand under my feet, a quick dip in the sea and the feel of sun on my skin.



**Atlantis**

First I discovered Atlantis. This is one of my favorite beaches on the island. It's at the southern tip of the island not far from the White Slave Huts. It is advertised as a dive site; however, the secret of this wonderful sandy beach has been kept from sun worshippers, thus far anyway. At Atlantis you'll find a beautiful 1.5 km.-long sandy beach, shallow waters for the necessary dip and a fascinating coastline for those essential beach-combing strolls. At places it is quite treacherous to enter the water due to the uneven sea floor, but you will quickly discover the many tiny sandy spots to ease your way into the sea. I must admit that I am a regular at this beach and have shared its virtues with only 10 people, many of them divers who are only on the beach long enough to get their diving gear on before exploring the dive site.

Atlantis is not an especially exciting snorkeling destination. However, on many occasions, I have enjoyed the prowess of the local kite-surfers while working on my tan and reading the much anticipated final chapter of my paperback. As is the

case with many beaches on Bonaire, shade is non-existent at Atlantis, but one can find ways around this situation. How about a wine and cheese picnic at sunset with your lover?

### Beach for Two...

I believe this is one of the many so far un-named secluded beaches you can find while exploring the coastline. I classify this tiny beach as a true jewel. You can find this 'Beach for Two' 1.9 km south of the Sorobon turnoff on the east coast. Take a 100-meter walk over rough limestone rocks (be sure you have appropriate footwear). Then, surprise! As you reach the coast you will discover a beautiful sandy beach, 19 steps long by 10 steps wide, just large enough for two beach



towels. Keep in mind that this beautiful beach is non-existent when the waters are rough.

I just adore this beach. It reminds me of my many years living on the coast of the rugged Atlantic Ocean – the rumbling of the moving water, the crashing of the waves, the mist in the air, the salt on your lips... Ahhh! I do not recommend this beach for swimming. I personally would not even try. The swells are just too powerful. A blue-nose fisherman once told

*Continued on page 11.*

me never to turn my back on the Atlantic Ocean since nobody ever knows what she has in mind. This is also true for this little beach. Expect the waves to take over the beach at least once during your time there. But in my view, wet towels are a small price to pay for the wonderful spectacle you will witness at this tiny "Beach for Two."

I've just started to find that Bonaire does have beaches that we devotees of sun, sand and surf crave. I actually prefer the privacy to the long stretches of sand and people-covered coastline other islands boast of having. Stay with me and I'll be sharing more of my finds. □ *Josée Bolduc Frosst*

### KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

*Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides*

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
6-25	4:08	1.4FT.	51
6-26	5:27	1.2FT.	47
6-27	6:11	1.1FT.	50
6-28	6:53	0.9FT.	58
6-29	7:47	0.8FT.	70
6-30	8:29	0.7FT.	82
7-01	9:19	0.6FT.	92
7-02	0:35	2.3FT.	99

### VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Alegria	Gambler, Venezuela	Sandpiper, USA
Althea	Gatsby, USA	Santa Maria, Sweden
Angie	Goril Too	Scintilla, Germany
Atlas	Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Shiraz
Bird of Paradise	Honalee, USA	Sirius
Blauwe Crab, Curaçao	Hotel California Too, USA	Sojourner
Camissa, Chan Is.	Ilsongo	Sovereign III
Camperdown	Jalapeno	Sylvia K
Cape Kathryn	Jupiter	Triumph Lady
Capprico	Karthersis	Ta B
Cha Seng, France	Lady Alice	Ti Amo, USA
Deneb	Luna C	Trio
Elandrea	Macaby, Netherlands	Ulu Ulu, USA
El Sabor	Mariele	Unicorn, Norway
Fifth Season	Natural Selection, USA	Varedhuni, Germany
Flying Cloud, USA	Pamela Jean	Westnesse
Gabrielle	Pau Hana	Wind Miller
Precocious Gale	Polecat	Ya-T, BVI
Galadrial, USA	Pomona	Zeno's Arrow, USA

# THE BONAIRE GARDNER

## THE "VERSATILE" IXORA

In my series on different plants I want to continue with another popular group of plants on Bonaire, the *Ixora*. The *Ixora* family comes in a lot of different types and colors and can be used in many different ways.

The variety I like the best is the *Ixora odorata Nora Grant*. This is the higher growing (up to 1.5 m) variety and it comes in rose or creamy white. The white is really new and grows exactly the same as the Nora Grant. It was found on Hawaii and then rapidly cultivated in several nurseries throughout the US. What I really like about this one is that it does so well in our environment. It has shiny dark green leaves that don't fade to yellow so easily. It really likes septic tank water; it can be planted in the full sun and wind; and it will make a very nice barrier or an all-year-round flowering border.

Another one is the *Ixora coccinea* group. It comes in all colors, from white to dark red. The dark red is known as the *Fayaloby*, which means, if I was well informed in Surinam, "Burning Love." The common name in the US is "Flame of the Forest." When you see its flowers you'll understand why. They are just beautiful! The most frequently used type of this *coccinea* is the cultivar "Maui." It's orange with flowers like snowballs and perfect for small hedges up to 1.25m. It's also available in white or yellow, but they don't seem to do so well here. They turn yellow very easily because of the high PH number



*Ixora odorata Nora Grant Rose*

of our water, be it septic or from Web. The "Maui" orange has this problem but to a lesser degree than the lighter colors.

The last and smallest ones are the **Dwarf Ixoras**. They grow up to 1 m and also come in every color. They make perfect small hedges, for example along a walkway or as a border. The strongest color again is the orange and they seem to have fewer problems with yellowing. In some gardens they are used in a European style, the way they're used as box hedges in Renaissance gardens. The best maintained sample of this is probably around the Belafonte apartments.

Yellowing is probably the biggest problem for all of the Ixoras except for the Nora Grant. That is why we use it more than the others, but with some maintenance and attention the other varieties will do very nicely in your gardens too.

The Ixora is probably the richest flowering group of plants that you can use. In my next article I will write more about its use and maintenance. □ *Ap van Eldik*

*Ap van Eldik* owns Green Label Landscaping, a company that designs, constructs and maintains residential and commercial gardens. He has two nurseries and a garden shop in Kralendijk which carries terra cotta pots from Mexico and South America. Phone 717-3410

## PET of the WEEK

Of the new kitten additions to the Bonaire Animal Shelter "Charlie" is one of the cutest with his sporty little Charlie Chaplin mustache. He's full of fun and just loves rollicking with his litter mates. His quizzical expression and his funny little whiskers just make us laugh. At eight weeks now and in excellent health Charlie is just old enough to be adopted. His mother was tested for feline leukemia, and because her test was negative, Charlie and her other kittens are free from the disease as well. Charlie has had some of his shots and will be neutered when he's old enough. All this is included in the cat adoption fee of NAf75. You may meet Charlie at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Fridays until 1. Telephone 717-4989.



"Charlie"

American cartoonist and writer Eric Gurney once said, "The really great thing about cats is their endless variety. One can pick a cat to fit almost any kind of décor, color scheme, income, personality or mood. But under that fur, whatever color it may be, there still lies, essentially unchanged, one of the world's free souls." And that includes Charlie! □ *L.D.*

**FREE STERILIZATION PROGRAM**  
**OCTOBER 18 to 30.** Call 717-4989  
**Animal Shelter's Community-wide Program**

# YOGA FOR YOU

## A Great Way to Slow Aging

*Feelings of accomplishment and satisfaction do not come from striving to be perfect. They do come from the process of using our inner power, beauty and love in a creative, expansive, positive and loving way. It doesn't get any better than that.*

--Susan Jeffers



*Pose is Utthita Trikonasana - the Triangle - a beautiful pose that sends life through your whole body and maintains strong action through the legs.*

The long accepted view of what happens during the aging process is stiffening of the joints, rigidity and the overall shutdown of the body. Without proper exercise that's pretty much what will happen.

Yoga exercises can help reverse the aging process by moving each joint in the body

through its full motion by stretching, strengthening and balancing each part. One of the misconceptions about yoga is that you need to be flexible or be in great physical shape to participate. This is not true; we all need a starting point to get ourselves in better shape. What matters is how you feel while you practice and find-

ing the time to create a regular practice to become more flexible.

Current research in the US increasingly supports the benefits of yoga's weight-bearing postures for fighting musculoskeletal diseases such as osteoporosis, osteoarthritis and carpal tunnel syndrome. Because our muscles shorten with age and most popular forms of weight-training exercises may create further stiffness, yoga is a natural alternative. Yoga can be enjoyed by everyone, even those who may be physically limited because of age, body shape, disability or chronic illness. A wonderful example is Reta Lasky from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She prepared to celebrate her 103rd birthday by starting her day as she has for 30 years: with an hour of yoga practice. Proof that it's never too late to start.

Yoga offers many health benefits:

- Helps create self awareness;
- Improves physical balance, muscular strength and coordination;
- Stretches the body to relieve stiff joints and lengthen muscles;
- Improves posture, which allows internal organs to function better;
- Enhances the immune system;
- Decreases the risk of injury;
- Promotes relaxation and stress reduction.

Yoga is not a miracle cure, but it can offer the mature adult something almost as important- independence.

Give change a chance. □ *Desirée*

*Don and Desirée of "Yoga For You" offer classes in yoga from beginners to advanced.*



## FATHERS DAY AT LA TROPICANA

“Would you like something to eat before you have lunch,”

La Tropicana owner Urba Pourier asked as we sat down at the table. We were at the La Tropicana restaurant in Rincon ready to celebrate a special Father's Day luncheon with a happy and congenial crowd. Urba gestured over to the flower festooned table laden with the gastronomic work of Bonaire Culinary Team member Chef Anthony Anthony. There was a spread of fresh tropical fruits and vegetables with spicy and sweet sauces, luncheon meats, cheeses and salads. The “lunch” which followed was made up an aromatic fish soup, filet of fish in a creamy herb sauce, chicken in a red wine and mushroom sauce, a light and crusty potato “cake” followed by a dessert of fresh mango and Rincon *quisillo*. All the fathers, even the future ones, were given boutonnières. There was dancing to the only juke box in Bonaire and “testimonials” extolling the virtues of fathers. Prizes and fun, photos and good camaraderie. As we always say, Rinconeros really know how to throw a party! □ L.D.



*Chef Anthony Anthony*

## PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER



### Grosglockner Mountain, Austria

It's some of Bonaire's top windsurfers reading *The Bonaire Reporter*. As you can see they are not in Lac Bay for a change. Liesje Saragoza sent us this photo she took on the way to windsurfing expositions in Italy with Elvis Martinus, Everon (Tonky) Frans and her sons Björn and Jürgen Saragoza. They were on the Grosglockner Mountain in Austria at an altitude of 2,571 m. (8,484 ft.) □

**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, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: [picture@bonairereporter.com](mailto:picture@bonairereporter.com). (All 2004 photos are eligible.) □

### GOT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO BUY OR SELL?

REACH MORE READERS THAN ANY OTHER WEEKLY NEWSPAPER BY ADVERTISING IN *THE BONAIRE REPORTER*

**FREE FREE FREE FREE**

Non-Commercial CLASSIFIED ADS (UP TO 4 LINES/ 20 WORDS)

Commercial ads are only NAf0.70 per word, per week. Free ads run for 2 weeks. Call or fax *The Bonaire Reporter* at 717-8988 e-mail [ads@bonairereporter.com](mailto:ads@bonairereporter.com)



**JanArt Gallery**, Kaya Gloria 7, Bonaire Local Art, Art Supplies, Framing, and Art Classes. Open Tu-We-Th & Sat 10 am-5 pm Friday 1- 7 pm; or phone 717-5246 for appt.



**SEMPERFLORENS NURSERY** for healthy, strong, affordable plants all grown on Bonaire. Also landscaping. Follow signs starting in front of Lagoen Hill. Tel. 790-3348



**BonaireNet** is the leading consumer and business information source on Bonaire. Telephone (599) 717-7160. For online yellow pages directory information go to <http://www.yellowpagesbonaire.com>



**PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE BONAIRE.** Consultation, Supervision, Hypnotherapy, Psychotherapy **Drs. Johan de Korte, Psychologist, Phone: 717-6919**



**CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER** Trees and Plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m<sup>2</sup> of plants and nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don and Janet). **Phone: 786-0956 or 787-0956**



**LUNCH TO GO-** Starting from NAf5 per meal. Call **CHINA NOBO 717-8981**



### FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS

Interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy healing  
China trained, Experienced.  
Inexpensive. Call Donna at 785-9013

### FOR SALE

Toyota Hi Lux pickup single cab. 717-5525.

### WORK WANTED

**Work Wanted.** Responsible gentleman available for welding, landscaping, painting and other jobs. References available. Call 717-3820 or 785-7978

### WANTED HOUSE TO SIT

**Enit Scholtens would like to house-sit** from the 12th of July till the 9th of August for all or part of the time please contact [benit@wanadoo.nl](mailto:benit@wanadoo.nl)

### PROPERTY FOR RENT.

**For Rent:** Comfortable 2 bedroom beach villa-weekly or monthly-choice location-Privacy & security- July 15 to Jan 15- Brochure available-Phone (Bon) (599) 717 3293-or (US) (570)-586 0098-e/mail [larjaytee@aol.com](mailto:larjaytee@aol.com)

### WANTED

Wanted: **HOUSE TO RENT-** We are looking for a **house with 3 bedrooms**, 2 bathrooms and if possible, a not-too-small porch. Kind of garden would be marvelous. Please phone 717-4200.

Couple **looking to rent a kunuku long term.** Call 785-9013

**Looking for storage!** Call 790-1604

**Wanted: ceiling kitchen lamp** . tel. 717-0124

# IN BONAIRE, NATURE = ECONOMICS

Where in the world can you experience a feeling of complete freedom, of inner peace, of wonder and amazement as if you were the first person on earth? Where in the world can you roam around, without a group, without a guide and without the anxiety that nature might harm you or that someone will threaten you? The beauty of Bonaire is overwhelming, but what one needs is an eye for detail.

Life on Bonaire can be hard for the animals and plants. Long lasting periods of drought can be deadly and, as everywhere else in the world, people can be a menace. But it's also mankind that can make a difference. We can protect or destroy. We always have a choice. The people of Bonaire made their choice a long time ago.

With love and respect they protected and preserved. That's something to be proud of. That's the reason why people from all over the world are coming to Bonaire. The natural environment is the pillar of the island's economy. Whether you're sweeping the streets, whether you're in construction, waiting tables, or working at an office, the majority of the money that comes in comes from the tourism industry.

And our tourist is most often an ecotourist. He comes for nature. Not for shopping malls, not for fancy buildings, not for mundane beaches. Our tourist comes to dive, to windsurf, to hike, to kayak, to bike, to snorkel or to watch birds. He comes for peace and tranquility and to experience things in a way that makes Bonaire unique in the world. The protection of our environment is not only important from an emotional and respectful point of view; for us it definitely is an economic necessity as well. We've got the Marine Park, Washington-Slagbaai Park, the donkeys, the turtles and the flamingos. And we've got the Lora. From all the species, this one is unique. The *Amazona barbadensis rothschildi*, as its Latin name says, lives only on Bonaire and the distant Venezuelan islands of Margarita and La Blanquilla. However, on those islands very little is known about the number of Loras living there, and it's also not proven that we're really talking about the exact same bird. Only if we would compare genetic material from our Lora with that of the Venezuelan birds could we find out how closely they are related. In the meantime, nobody has ever done that, so we can't tell for sure.

The fact is that our Lora is unique in the world. And because of that it deserves our protection. In 1931 the Lora was included in a law to protect species that "become gradually extinct and whose continued existence is appreciated." Nowadays the Bonairean Lora has been put on List I of the International Cites Convention in the company of other seriously endangered species as man-apes, turtles and dolphins. Our own Antillean law prohibits killing, poaching, disturbing of nests, selling and keeping the Lora in captivity.

Two years ago a one-time amnesty was



Every captive Lora in Bonaire was fitted with a metal "band" above the foot, engraved with a serial number

given to the people who were keeping a Lora in captivity. Since then about 95% of the Loras that were kept in captivity were banded and registered. It means that every Lora now without a band that's caged and in captivity is illegal and therefore prohibited by law. So, everyone who has an unbanded Lora is liable to a penalty. A fine has to be paid of NAf1.000 for each bird and the bird will be confiscated. The same punishment applies to every person who kills, poaches, disturbs a nest or tries to sell a Lora. When someone is caught repeatedly the fine might even be higher. During the coming months police, SSV, *Po-lis Ambiental* (Environmental Police) and STINAPA's park rangers will be extra alert and they will strictly enforce the law. If you see that someone is disturbing or poaching a nest or that someone is trying to sell a Lora, please call 717-3741 or 717-8000.

It doesn't take a lot of brain power to find out that the rules are in fact very simple: Just let the Lora be, don't touch it, don't mess around with it, leave it! It can't be easier! And if you're dying to have a Lora in a cage, wait awhile because in time it will be allowed to sell the second generation of the registered birds legally. Another option would be to buy a registered Lora from its present owner. What you should realize is that **the number of Loras that are living in captivity is much greater than those that are free.**

Nature is not a bottomless source; it's not a factory that produces on request. Once something is gone, it's gone forever. Bonaire's nature is exceptionally beautiful, but one species more or less will have a big impact on the island. Even if you don't care about nature you should realize the money you're making here comes from it. You pay your rent, your utility bills, your food, your car and your clothes with it. **Our Economy is Nature. Protection and preservation doesn't always have to come from the heart, it can also be a well considered and wise decision: Protect our Lora, it belongs on Bonaire!** □ *Greta Kooistra*

## ASK THE DIETITIAN SOME HEALTHY RECIPES



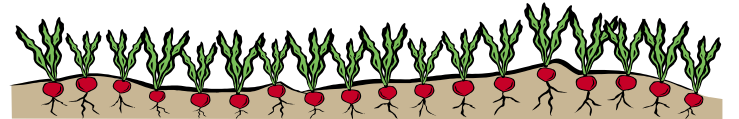
Angélique Salsbach

Are you wondering what to make for a delicious, easy and healthy meal? Try this Couscous Salad and the Cannelloni pasta dish. The couscous is easily digested and could be served with the cannelloni.

### COUSCOUS SALAD (serves 6 to 8)

250 ml water 185 gr. couscous  
1 carrot, finely diced 1 red pepper, finely diced  
1 tomato, finely diced 1 small cucumber, finely diced  
3 to 4 lettuce leaves, finely chopped  
60 ml mustard dressing or vinaigrette sauce  
handful of fresh basil

Boil the water. Put the couscous in a bowl and pour the water over. Set aside to stand for 10 minutes, then drain. Combine couscous with all the salad ingredients and toss together. Pour the salad dressing over the top and toss again. Garnish with fresh basil.



### STUFFED CABELLONI (serves 6)

#### Stuffing

1 kg. spinach, washed and chopped 3 Tab. oil  
250 gr. Ricotta cheese 1 green pepper, chopped  
1 Tab. fresh basil salt and pepper to taste  
18 cannelloni tubes \*

#### Sauce

4 to 5 large tomatoes 3 Tab. oil  
2 Tab. fresh basil, chopped salt and pepper to taste  
2 to 3 Tab. mild cheddar cheese, grated

Cook the spinach for 5 minutes in 1 Tab. of oil. Strain and put in a bowl. Mix with ricotta cheese. Heat 2 Tab. oil in a pan. Add pepper and fry for 2 to 3 minutes or until tender. Mix with the spinach and ricotta cheese. Add basil, salt and pepper to the mixture. Fill the cannelloni tubes with the stuffing and place on a greased baking dish.

Chop, then mash the tomatoes. Heat tomatoes, basil, salt and pepper and

the 3 Tab. oil in a saucepan. Add the cook until thickened. Pour over the can-

nelloni. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 200C/400F/Gas mark 6 for 35 to 45 minutes.

regular cannelloni, cook lightly. The cooking will finish in the oven. □ *A.S.*

*Angélique Salsbach, a dietitian with Bonaire's Department of Health and Hygiene, has a radio program every other Tuesday 9 to 9:30 on Bon FM. Her patients successfully win the battle of the bulge and become healthier! Write her at dietitian@bonairenews.com* □

# A NEW MINI SALON -WITH LOTS TO OFFER

There's a new mini-salon in town, *Circulo de Bellesa* (beauty club), run by Lina. The place is clean and cheery, and Lina, well trained in her native Colombia, is an expert in massage, facials, pedicures, manicures and permanent make up. Lina is an enthusiastic and dedicated professional who knows her business and can advise you on all your beauty care. Clients we talked with had heard about her already through friends or family and were eager to visit the salon. Lina specializes in lymph and



*Lina performs pedicure art on her client, Liesje Saragoza, famous windsurf mom.*

anti-stress massages, using aromatic oils. Massages (30 minutes) are NAf35. Those with delicate skin will appreciate her half hour facials (NAf50) where she uses only hypo allergenic products. Her pedicures, very reasonably priced at NAf28, include a truly relaxing leg massage and even nail designs at no extra cost. Manicures start at NAf25 and also include a design if you wish. Of course she does gel nail work as well.

*Circulo de Bellesa* is located at #4 Papa Cornes (just around the corner from the Bargain Mini Market on Kaya Korona). It's the second house on the right. Lina's phone is 786-9094 or you may make an appointment through her daughter Angie at 785-0056. *Circulo de Bellesa* is open Monday through Saturday. □ *L.D.*

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

New! Usually 9:00 pm

**Van Helsing**  
(Hugh Jackman)

Early Show (usually 7:00 pm)

**Kill Bill Vol. 2**

**Kaya Prinses Marie**  
Behind Exito Bakery  
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NA\$10,50 (incl. Tax)  
High Schoolers - NA\$7,75

NEW FILMS BEGIN EVERY FRIDAY

**SATURDAY 4 PM Pietje Bell 2: De jacht op de Tsarenkroon**  
**SUNDAY MATINEE 4 PM**  
**Man on Fire**

### THIS WEEK

**Wednesday -Meditation at Donkey Beach** from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Open to all. Call S.H.Y. 790-9450

Happy Birthday **Captain Don** 25/6/24 (that's 1924!)

### COMING

**Saturday, July 3-** Aruban jazz great **Delbert Bernabela** introduces his new CD at **Croccantino Restaurant**.

**Saturday, July 3 -NO** Yoga Meditation at Sorobon this month

**Saturday, July 3 Surinam Freedom Day** Foundation *Miete Makandra* presents a Surinamese Fiesta. Surinamese music and delicious Surinamese food. Everybody is welcome, admission is free. Kunuku JOS at Kaya Nieuw Amsterdam. Info: Call Hugo Leter at 717-4101/ 785-0187

**July 4 - Sunday Dia di Arte**, "Art Day," 10 am-10 pm Wilhelmina Park For more information contact Emma Sint Jago at 717-7420

**Saturday, July 10- Soldachi Dos Pos nature tour**, beautiful vistas. Learn about the plants, trees, birds, culture and history in an informal and friendly way. 6:30 am. Call Maria at 717-6435 or 790-5657 to reserve. A small donation is requested: NA\$10 for adults; NA\$5 for children.

**Saturday, July 17- Soldachi Alta Mira nature tour**, third Sat. of month. 6:30 am. Call Maria at 717-6435 or 790-5657 to reserve. NA\$10 for adults; NA\$5 for children.

### EVERY WEEK

**Sunday** -Live music 6 to 9 pm while enjoying a great dinner in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar**. Open daily 5 to 10 pm. Live **Fla-Bingo** with great prizes, starts 7 pm, Divi Flamingo  
**Monday -Soldachi Tour of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire**, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435  
**Monday -Rum Punch Party on the beach at Lion's Dive**. Dutch National Products introduces Time Sharing and

how to save on your next vacation. 6:15 to 7 pm  
**Tuesday-BonaireTalker Dinner/Gathering** at Gibi's Terrace-6:30pm -call Jake at 717-6773 or e-mail jake@bonairetalk.com for more info.  
**Tuesday -Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 to 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225 /717-7500, ext. 14.  
**Wednesday -Meditation at Donkey Beach** from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Open to all. Call S.H.Y. 790-9450  
**Wednesday -Sand Dollar Manager's Cocktail Party**, Mangos Bar and Restaurant

**Friday -Manager's Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort** 5:30-6:30 pm.  
**Friday- Open House with Happy Hour** at the **JanArt Gallery** at Kaya Gloria #7, from 5-7 pm.

**Every day by appointment -Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** Authentic Bonairean kunuku. \$12 (NA\$12 for Bonaire residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.  
**Daily-** The Divi Flamingo Casino is open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm- 4 am and Sunday 7 pm- 3 am.

**FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS**  
**Sunday- Discover Our Diversity** Slide Show, Buddy Dive at the pool bar, 7 pm 717-5080  
**Friday- Week in Review** Video Presentation by the Toucan Dive Shop at the Plaza's Tippy Seagull, 5 pm. 717-2500.

**Friday- The Captain Don Show-** Conversation, fun, yarns, a few slides. Guaranteed 85% true. Aquarius Conference Room. Captain Don's Habitat 8:30 pm Tel. 717-8290

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### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**The Bonaire Swim Club-** Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valarie@telbonet.an

**Cinnamon Art Gallery** - Volunteers to help staff gallery during the day. Contact Wendy Horn, at 717-3902 or 785-9700.

**Bonaire National Marine Park** - 717-8444.

**Bonaire Animal Shelter** -717-4989.

**Donkey Sanctuary** - 560-7607.

**Jong Bonaire (Youth Center)** - 717-4303.

**Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care)** Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.

**Special Olympics** - Contact Delno Tromp, 717-7659

### CLUBS and MEETINGS

**AA meetings** - every **Wednesday**; Phone 717-6105; 560-7267 or 717-3902.

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

**Bridge Club - Wednesdays**, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank and next to Kooyman's. All levels invited. NA\$5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

**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, secretary Jeannette Rodriguez.

# TURTLE NESTING



Nautila and Schillie location June 2004

The turtle nesting season is again fully underway and we are seeing a lot of turtle nesting activity around the island. At Klein Bonaire, which we monitor most intensely, we have already found 20 nests, mostly laid by loggerheads (*kawama*) and hawksbills (*karet*). A leatherback made nests at Playa Chikitu and Lagoen in April, which is very unusual for Bonaire. This is a very good start for the 2004 turtle nesting season!

Many of you have asked us what happened to the two adult hawksbills that we tracked from Klein Bonaire last year. Here is a brief update: we are still occasionally receiving signals from both 'Nautila' and 'Schillie,' indicating that they are alive and apparently doing well in their feeding habitats where we tracked them to at *Banco Navidad* (Dominican Republic) and Mona Island (Puerto Rico). Both these areas are relatively safe for turtles: they reside in places that are relatively hard for humans to reach and live in waters between 20 and 50 meters deep. The radio signals unfortunately no longer provide us with precise locations for the turtles, which is probably the result of the short times that the turtles are staying at the surface to breathe, low batteries in the transmitters, damaged antennas, or a combination of all these factors. Since female hawksbills only breed every two to four years, we expect to see 'Nautila' or 'Schillie' again on Klein Bonaire in 2005 at the earliest. But as there is an active sea turtle research program at Mona Island, there is a chance that 'Schillie' may be seen there in the water. If any news develops, we will let you know.

For the 2004 turtle nesting season we are planning to do more turtle tracking, with loggerhead turtles in July and hawksbills in October. We are currently looking for more sponsors to help purchase transmitters to track these turtles "home" after they visit Bonaire. With transmitters each costing about US\$1,750 (NA\$3.200), plus about an equal amount for satellite time per turtle, this is a costly project that can only be completed with your help! If you are interested in a turtle tracking sponsorship, even if for only a partial amount, please contact us, the STCB at tel (599) 717-2225 or 790-0433, e-mail: stcb@bonaireturtles.org. In return, we offer the possibility of naming the sponsored turtle, participation in fieldwork with the turtles and frequent updates of turtle tracking results. □ Robert P. van Dam

**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 are welcome.

**Rotary** lunch meetings **Wednesday**, 12 noon-2 pm - Rendez-Vous Restaurant, Kaya L.D. Gerharts #3. All Rotarians are welcome. Tel. 717-8454

**BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS**  
**Mangazina di Rei, Rincon.** Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse" while learning about Bonaire's history and culture and visit typical homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 or 790-2018

**Go to the source.** Visit the **Bonaire Museum** on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868  
**Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center.** Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

**Sunday at Cai-** Live music and dancing starts about 12 noon at Lac Cai. Dance to the music of Bonaire's most popular musicians.

**Saturday at Rincon** - Marshe Liber (smaller markets) 8 am until 2 pm  
**Large market offering Rincon area tours on the first Saturday of each month**, 10 am to 2 pm  
**Dos Pos Scenic Walk- Second Saturday of the Month.** NA\$10-Call Maria

717-6435

### CHURCH SERVICES

**International Bible Church of Bonaire** - Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle) **Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm** in English. Tel. 717-8332

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire.** Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on **Sundays at 10 am. Thursday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 8 pm.** Rev. Jonkman. 717-2006

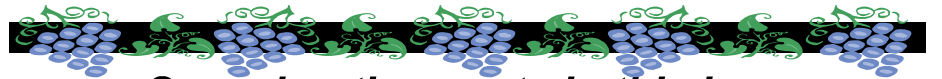
**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30 am. Services in Papiamentu, Spanish and English.

**Catholic San Bernardus** in Kralendijk - Services on **Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm** in Papiamentu 717-8304 .  
**Saturday at 6 pm** at *Our Lady of Coromoto* in Antriol, **in English.** Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

**Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios)**, Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). Services in English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194  
**New Apostolic Church**, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

\* \* \* \* \*

# DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 535	Moderate. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Open every day	Magnificent Theme Nights: Sunday: Beach Grill; Wednesday: Mexican Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
<b>Caribbean Club Bonaire at Hilltop</b> 7 minutes north of "Hotel Row" 717-7901	Moderate Breakfast, Dinner, closed Sunday	What a place! Friendly bar next to the pool, home cooked meals, happy hours 5 to 7. Serious BBQ on Tuesdays NAf25.
<b>Calabas Restaurant &amp; Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Get a view of the beach and beautiful turquoise setting when enjoying a breakfast buffet or a la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Enjoy inspiring vistas and a high standard of international cuisine.
<b>Croccantino Italian Restaurant</b> Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Skilled chef direct from Tuscany prepares exquisite dishes. Authentic ingredients and romantic setting make dining a total delight. Get served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort.
<b>Garden Café</b> Kaya Grandi 59 717-3410	Moderate Monday-Friday, Lunch & Dinner Saturday, Dinner. Closed Sunday	Finely prepared Middle Eastern cuisine plus Venezuelan specialties. Excellent vegetarian selections. Pizza and Latin Parilla
<b>La Balandra</b> On the Water at the Harbour Village Resort 717-7500, ext 62; 785-0902	Moderate Breakfast-Lunch Special Dinners on Friday, Sunday	Cuisine by Chef Alberto Roldan of the Bonaire Culinary Team. If you are using the NAf25 Beach Pass, a NAf15 credit is given for meals Bonaire's best seaside location.
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> 717-3293 Home Delivery or Take Out	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30pm, Closed Sunday	Enjoy a delicious dessert or savory baked meal in the comfort of your home or resort. This unique bakery offers <b>gourmet class items</b> -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
<b>The Lions Den Beach Bar And Restaurant</b> On the sea at Lions Dive 717-3400 717-6616	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Open 7 Days	Spectacular setting overlooking dive sites and Klein Bonaire. Imaginative menu, open kitchen. Owned and operated by Kirk Gosden.
<b>The Lost Penguin</b> Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003	Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays	Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side Caribbean-style bistro owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 790-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The <b>Real Thing!</b> Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111
<b>The Seahorse Cyber Café</b> Kaya Grandi #6. Phone 717-4888	Low-Moderate Open 7 am - 7 pm Closed Sunday	Tasty breakfasts, pastries, fresh tropical juices, homemade bread, special sandwiches, delicious desserts and more make this a favorite.



# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



## AIRLINES

**BonaireExel.** Bonaire's own ON TIME airline flying between Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba. Look for *The Bonaire Reporter* on board.

## APPLIANCES/FURNITURE/COMPUTERS

**City Shop** is Bonaire's mega-store for TV, Stereos, Air conditioning, large and small kitchen appliances. Name brands, guarantees and service center.

## BANKS

**Maduro and Curiel's Bank** provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

## BEAUTY PARLOR

**Hair Affair.** Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.

## BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

**De Freewieler** rents scooters and quads; professionally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes.

## BOOKS

**Watercolours Bonaire** and **Eye on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao** are the most original ways to remember Bonaire and the islands at their best. At Photo Tours and many other island shops.

**Bonaire Diving Made Easy**, Third Edition, is an essential in your dive bag. The latest information on Bonaire's shore dive sites.

## BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

**APA Construction** are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement.

## CYBER CAFES

See Restaurant Guide for **The Seahorse Cyber Café.**

## DENTURES

**All Denture Lab.** For denture repair or new ones. All work done on the island, fast results. Owner-operator dentist. Repairs while you wait.

## DIVING

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

**Dive Inn** Seven studio apartments and dive shop/school directly on the waterfront in the heart of town. Friendly, highly experienced with an exceptional staff.

## FITNESS

**Bonfysio** offers comprehensive fitness programs to suit your needs whether they be weight loss, sports or just keeping in shape. Convenient schedule.

**Fit 4 Life at the Plaza Resort Mall.** Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

## GIFTS - SOUVENIRS - LIQUORS

**The Bonaire Gift Shop** has a big selection of what you need to enjoy Bonaire and remember it when you get home. Digital cameras and watches a specialty.

## HOTELS

**Hotel Bonaire Inn** (formerly Friars' Inn), downtown Kralendijk, has rooms and breakfast at Bonaire's lowest prices. Great for tourists or when visiting family and friends.

## METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP

**b c b- Botterop Construction Bonaire N.V.,** offers outstanding fabrication of all metal products, including stainless. Complete machine shop too.

## PHOTO FINISHING

**Paradise Photo** in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints and slides plus a variety of items and services for your picture-taking pleasure.

## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

**Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's oldest real estate agent.** They specialize in professional customer services and top notch properties.

**Re/Max Paradise Homes:** International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community.

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

## REPAIRS

**Bon Handyman** is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc.

## RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

**Buddy Dive Resort** offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.

## SECURITY

**Special Security Services** will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable. Call 717-8125.

## SHIPPING

**Rocargo Freight** Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent.** Call 717-8922/8033.

## SUPERMARKETS

**Tropical Flamingo** is convenient, clean, modern, efficient and has the lowest prices on Bonaire. Located behind NAPA.

Visit **Warehouse Bonaire** to shop in a large, spotless supermarket. You'll find American and European brand products. THE market for provisioning.

## TOYS AND GAMES

**Laur'an** is a store dedicated to providing quality toys and games to Bonaire. Find them on Kaya Gerharts in the Lourdes Shopping Mall

## WATER TAXI

**Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry.** Call Bonaire Nautico at 560-7254. Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup too.

## WINES

**Antillean Wine Company.** You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery.

## YOGA

**Yoga For You.** Join certified instructors Desiree and Don at Jong Bonaire for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too.

## ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN:

Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter.*  
The most advertising for your guild.  
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252



## Evelien Rijswijk and Joke Broese

“When friends moved to Bonaire and were so enthusiastic we came to see what they had found at the other end of the world. The first time was in '94 and we fell in love with the island. We went on our bikes through the *mondi* and all the old neighborhoods of Antriol, Nikiboko and Tera Cora, taking lots of pictures of the typical Bonairean houses. Then we came every year.

In Holland I was a dental prosthesisist and Joke was a nurse with the mentally disabled. Life was good in many ways; we had our own house; we made a good living and we had our friends and family. Bonaire was just a nice vacation destination.

But as the years passed we got to know quite a few people here and it started feeling more like home. Once we spent the night camping at Luga Aleha. I remember sitting there, watching the sun go down in flames, being one with nature, sensing an ancient and mystical feeling. It just hit us both and we said, ‘yes, we want something here.’ We bought a five hectare lot in Bolivia, in-

tending to build something in the future. But Joke had her daughters in Holland and we had our friends, our life.

In 2001 friends told us they were selling their house and that did it. We knew the house.

We’d seen how our friends renovated it with blood, sweat and tears - a hundred-year-

old little house in Antriol with a *toko* (shop) where in the old days people could buy water and candy. We’d loved that place so we said, ‘We’ll buy it.’ Our friends were delighted as it would stay ‘in the family.’

Back in Holland, I wanted to return to Bonaire as soon as possible, but I left the decision up to Joke as she had to leave her daughters and grandchild and we needed jobs. Joke started applying to every medical firm and I went to work to get the permits to start a dental prosthesis practice. We arrived on Bonaire with two dogs and three cats and without jobs. Luckily, Joke started at the hospital almost immediately. The first couple of months I painted and cleaned up the house and looked for a location to start my practice.”

“For me it was different,” Joke says, “I was working very hard, 40 hours a week. The container hadn’t arrived; we were camping in the house; lots of friends came to stay; and being in my early 50s I had to deal with hot flashes in the tropics.”

“I think we ought to be proud of ourselves,” Evelien smiles, “the fact that we took the step at our age, not having a

great financial backup, plunging into a completely different life without all the ‘security’ we were used to. We learned a lot, especially in the beginning when we were fixing things in the house. You need some wood and you think I’ll go to Kooyman to get it. It doesn’t work that way! You have to be creative, to find other solutions: go and look where people are working and see if you can use what they’re throwing away! You get used to it and learn that the superabundance of everything in the shops in the western world is, in fact, not normal. Here you get great pleasure when you find something you need.

For the first time since we moved here we went for a holiday to Curaçao and Puerto Rico. It was fun to go to Wal-Mart and we did a lot of shopping, especially for clothes and books, all the things you miss here. Well... I won’t say ‘miss.’ It’s just fun to see all those things. On the other hand, all the traffic, all the hassle, it makes you want to run back to Bonaire. Then you realize what a

wonderful place we have here... space and tranquility.

Life is just lovely here and we enjoy it every day in spite of the fact that it’s not easy to make a living. But it’s worth it. I can’t go back to Holland. If I did it would only be for the money and that

wouldn’t feel right. Shoes! I’m not wearing shoes anymore. Only at the practice I have a decent pair. It’s just that you have to find a balance and that takes time. When we told people about our decision their reaction was often: ‘Jeez, you have a lot of courage. I’d like to myself, but..’ Now, when they come to visit us, they get infected, they get the fever!”

*Evelien Rijswijk and Joke Broese are as relaxed as can be, sitting on their porch in Antriol, enjoying their lovely old garden with Shimaruku trees and an exceptionally beautiful Stokkie, a very old tree with its branches widely spread, creating a natural parasol. Three dogs and three cats are part of the family and outside the fence there are another three dogs they’re taking care of.*

“We love animals,” Joke says, “and so it’s been hard to get used to so many stray dogs who are neglected and in bad shape. I have to learn to cope with that. I’m going to assist in the Animal Shelter’s sterilization program in October. They’re going to sterilize as many dogs as possible for free for people who cannot afford it. I wish they would give it more publicity because I see it as a very important thing.

People here have far more patience and

“People here have far more patience and acceptance than we have. Religion plays a big role, and although we’re not religious, I think we can learn from it.”



Evelien Rijswijk and Joke Broese

acceptance than we have. Religion plays a big role, and although we’re not religious, I think we can learn from it. We’re brought up with security from the cradle to the grave, at least that’s what they want you to believe. Of course it’s not true; people live and die everywhere in the world, but what I found out is that here you have more of a life!”

“I think it will be fun to grow old here,” Evelien says. “Really! Unless something happens to you, but that’s nonsense too. In Holland they might be able to take care of you better in a technical way, but here you can do more, you can stay outside. There you’re locked up.”

“I’ve been thinking,” says Joke, “about offering home care to people who need a nurse so they can remain at home in Bonaire. Of course there are also elderly people from Europe or the States who might need care and want to stay here and keep their independence. I think it’s different for Antilleans. They can rely on their friends and family. After they didn’t need me anymore at the hospital I worked for the Maria Hoppner Foundation. Now I’m talking with the FKPB about a job, but the idea of offering professional home care is there and I’d like to see what I can do with it.”

“When I started with the dental prosthesis practice,” Evelien says, “I found out that things were very different. In Holland you work in an area of, let’s say 35,000 people, and everything is covered

by the government or by private insurance. It doesn’t work like that here. I had to get used to it, but slowly and gradually the business started picking up, especially by word of mouth. Many people are still going to Curaçao for their prosthesis but I’m trying to keep them here on Bonaire. I deliver good quality and I have 25 years of professional experience. I love my job and it’s great to hand someone a mirror and hear them say, ‘I look beautiful!’ I’m a perfectionist. People can call me any time. I’ve always wanted to work with my hands and to do something with people. This is just the perfect combination.

I feel that living on Bonaire has enriched our lives. We live very quietly; we have our friends; I play tennis; we go snorkeling and for long walks with the dogs. At night we mostly stay at home sitting here on the porch under the stars, just being lazy. I haven’t got the faintest idea if we’ll always stay here. We want to, definitely, but who knows? I know it’s difficult for Joke because she misses her daughters and grandchildren, but still, both of us feel the same: It has been worth it, absolutely!” □

Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra

“On The Island Since...” is brought to you each week by



# MCB

## MADURO & CURIEL’S BANK (BONAIRE) N.V.

Everything you need  
from a bank  
under one roof

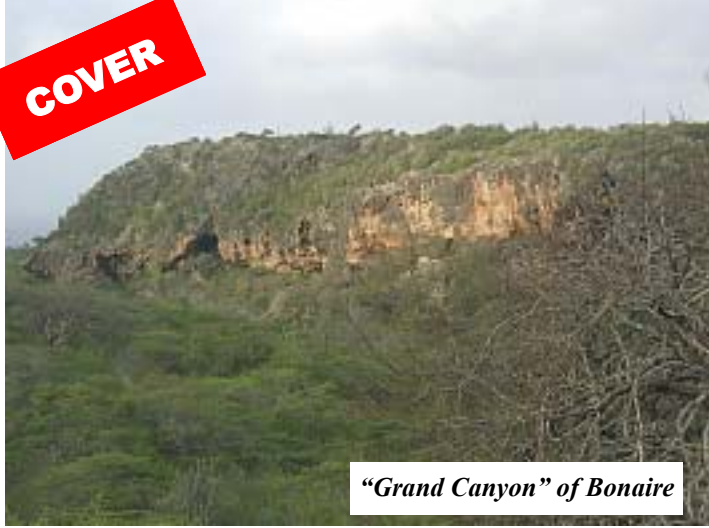
Main Office: Kaya L.D.Gerharts #1  
Branches: Bonaire International Airport,  
Hato Resort area and Rincon

ATM locations: Main Office, Hato Branch (Drive-thru),  
Rincon, Airport, Cultimara Supermarket, Plaza Resort  
Phone: 715-5520 Fax 717-8584

Web: [www.mcb-bank.com](http://www.mcb-bank.com)-mail: [info@mcbbonaire.com](mailto:info@mcbbonaire.com)

# SOLDACHI TOURS ADDS ANOTHER AMBLE

**COVER**



*“Grand Canyon” of Bonaire*

It seems that the organizers of the *Soldachi* Tours, led by Maria Koeks, never sleep. They’ve added even another tour to their list and it’s a must for those who want to enjoy an early morning hike through the wilderness and “Grand Canyon” of northern Bonaire, ending at the spectacular viewing area of Alta Mira. It’s the time of the morning when, as Maria says, “Nature is awakening.” Birds are calling and with every turn you encounter another view. People from Rincon are your guides and you learn about the plants and trees and history in a relaxed and friendly way. How better to see and feel the heart and soul of the island. Last weekend a group of local people and a visitor met at the Rincon Marshé site in the center of town and were bused to the starting point to begin the nature tour. After about an hour and a half we reached Alta Mira to absorb the more-than-180 degree view of the hills, the valley of Rincon and the sea on both sides. The mini bus was there to meet us; we had juice and watermelon. There was the option of taking the bus back to Rincon or walking down the hill back to the Marshé where soup, pancakes and sweets were on sale for the hungry. This tour, called the “Alta Mira Tour,” will be offered every third Saturday of the month at 6:30 am. Call Maria Koeks at 717-6435 or 790-5657 to reserve. There is a small donation of NAf10 for adults and NAf5 for children. It includes transportation, juice and a fruit snack. □ L.D.

## MORE ABOUT ALTA MIRA

*Ruthsel, Jopi and Tico at work on Alta Mira construction*



To honor Brootje Janga (a.k.a. “Mr. Rincon”), who recently passed away, a group of people decided to clean up the viewing area of Alta Mira. “It was one of Brootje’s projects in the first place,” said Maria Koeks, “and it’s a wonderful place for people to come to see the beautiful views.” One of the workers, Ruthsel, explained that he and his friends Jopi and Tico asked Commissioner James Kroon if the government would be willing to pay for their restoring and improving the area which had become overgrown, weedy and infested with termites. The Commissioner agreed and the trio started working two months ago, burning the termite-infested wood, pouring concrete, making paths and seating areas for comfortable viewing. They should be finished by this week. Then LVV (the agricultural department) will start planting trees and shrubs. The cost to the government is estimated to be around NAf12.000. There’s been a big improvement and the views are spectacular. The dirt road leading to the site is at the top of the steep Karpata road. □ L.D.

# 10- YEAR-OLD JULIETTE CICILIA WINS THE BONAIREXEL POSTER CONTEST



*The Winning Drawing*

It was a tough competition with 194 entries, but the outstanding drawing by 10-year-old Juliette Cicilia won hands down. Her drawing will be used in future BonairExel advertising. The aim of the contest was for all the children in the elementary schools to make a drawing showing what fun it is to vacation with BonairExel. For her winning poster Juliette won two round trip tickets on the airline and her school, Reijna Beatrix, will get NAf375 worth of BonairExel airline tickets to be used as prizes for fundraising events. (This is in addition to the NAf1.000 worth of tickets given to each elementary school to help the schools raise funds.) Second grader Juliette worked hard on her poster, but she said, confidently, “I knew when I put in the rock that I would win!” Atop the rock is Juliette herself and a friend is diving off. Her teacher, Fientje Lourens, added, “Juliette did it totally on her own.” Giving out the awards were Lt. Governor Hurbert Domacassé and Commissioner Burney el Hage. Other winners are: Amber in the 5A class at Papa Cornes who won second prize; Jordenne Arindel in the 3A class at Kristu Bon Warador who won third. □ L.D.



*Roosje Goeloe, BonairExel Marketing, congratulates winner Juliette Cicilia*



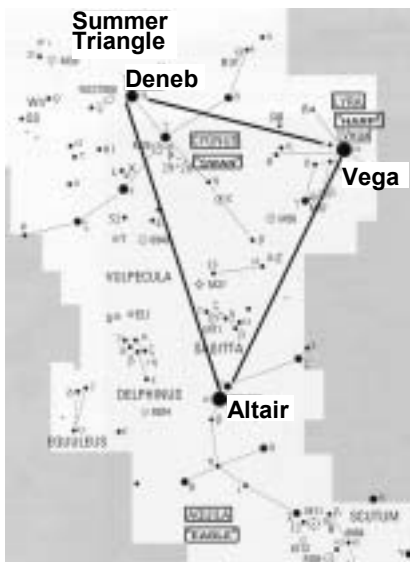
# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

**\*to find it, just look up**

## The "Three Tenors of Summer" A Stellar Trio to Brighten Your Nights!

As opera aficionados know, any appearance of the "Three Tenors" is always a must-see. And likewise, I think, when every summer a cosmic trio makes its annual appearance, that's also a must-see.

On any clear evening in late June and early July, around 10 o'clock, look due east high up off the horizon. You will see three bright stars which, if you draw imaginary lines between them, make up what we call the great **Summer Triangle**.



And if you're in a really dark spot on Bonaire you will notice that two of these stars are embedded in that faint ribbon of celestial light we call the **Milky Way**, while the brightest of the three is just off to its side. Now these three stars are named, in the order of their brightness: **Vega, Altair and Deneb**. And in ancient times they were each part of constellations that represented birds. And although Altair is still the brightest star in the constellation **Aquila the Eagle** and Deneb is the tail star of **Cygnus the Swan**, the bird of which Vega was the brightest star has since been changed to **Lyra the Harp**. Even so, I still think of these three stars as three summer birds flying together across summer skies. But these stellar birds are birds of a different feather!

For instance, if they were all the same distance away from Earth we could safely assume that their size would follow the same order as their brightness, which would mean that Vega would be the biggest, Altair the second biggest and Deneb the smallest in size. But since we now know that all stars lie at different distances from Earth and that they vary greatly in size, their apparent brightness is extremely deceiving. For instance, although Vega appears the brightest, dimmer Altair is actually closer. Indeed, while Altair is only 16 light years away, Vega is 26 light years away. And although Altair is about 1½ times the size of our Sun, Vega is 2½ times its size, which makes more distant Vega much brighter in Earth's skies than Altair.

But Deneb has them both beat hands down because although Deneb is the dimmest in Earth's skies, it is simply because of its incredible distance. Indeed it is not a mere 16 light years away like Altair or a mere 26 light years away like Vega, but 1,800 light years beyond.

And if Deneb were the size of either Vega or Altair we couldn't even see it with the naked eye. The only reason we see it is because it is a whopping 115 times the diameter of our **Sun**. Or if you'd like to think of it this way, whereas Altair is 10 times as bright as our Sun and Vega is 50 times as bright as our Sun, Deneb is a blinding 80,000 times as bright as our Sun, proving that in heaven as well as on Earth appearances are deceiving. In fact if Deneb were as close to Earth as Vega or Altair it would be the brightest star in the sky.

Be sure to look south, too, and you'll easily spot the Southern Cross, riding just about as high as you'll find anytime during the year. □ *Jack Horkimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

**For the week: June 25 to July 2, 2004**

*By Astrologer Michael Thiessen*

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Your emotional state could leave you vulnerable and confused. You might be overly emotional when dealing with your partner. You may be out of sorts if you have been extravagant or have let children or friends take advantage of you financially. You need an outlet that will help take your mind off any troubles at work. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Don't give in too quickly. Your emotional partner will push the right buttons this week. Travel will be favorable. You can gain knowledge from dealing with foreigners. Verbal abuse may lead to walkouts; don't make any rash statements you may regret later. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You can make a difference if you offer your help at functions that involve children. You will be inclined to make unwise investment choices. Don't deny yourself this week. You will be able to work in fine detail and present the best possible proposal. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You are best to do something energetic with friends instead. Try to understand both sides of the issue before taking sides. You should teach children some of your unique creative talents. You need a change of pace. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Try to curb your bad habits. You should check out prestigious clubs or groups that have a cause you believe in. You will be able to catch up on overdue paper work. Lend an ear to children; it can make a difference. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Don't be too eager to spend money that you really don't have. You must be extremely careful not to let relatives or friends interfere in your personal life. Drastic financial losses may be likely if you lend money. Work quietly behind the scenes for best results. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) It's time to make professional changes. Don't prejudge. You may get drawn into a personal situation that will not be to your liking. New romantic ties can be made; however, you must make sure that your motives are not selfish before you make your move. Communication will be the source of your knowledge and you must be sure to spend time with those who have more experience. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) New emotional connections can be made through business contacts. You may have a rather hectic day due to events that children are involved in. Make a point of working on yourself. You won't be able to keep a secret. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Sudden changes regarding colleagues may surprise you. Be honest if you wish to solve the problem. Your communication skills are at an all-time high. You will find yourself tied to the phone. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Try to deal with the problems of those less fortunate; however, don't allow them to make unreasonable demands. Get back down to earth and to basics. Your irritability will lead to family squabbles. Your confidence will stabilize your position. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Mingle with those who can help you get ahead. Don't let the erratic behavior of someone you live with interfere with your professional performance. Don't hold back; go with the flow and take a bit of a chance. Trying to deal with your mate will be unproductive and possibly hurtful. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Trouble could be brewing at home. Don't reveal any personal details. It's a favorable time for real estate, investments, and moneymaking opportunities to be successful. Opposition is present and you should be prepared to counteract it as best you can. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday. □

**Moon Info** ☾ First Quarter on June 25<sup>th</sup> ☽ Full Moon on July 2<sup>nd</sup>

☾ Last Quarter on July 9 ☀ New Moon on July 17