

Official On-Board Newspaper

**BE** BonairExel

www.BonairExel.an

It's about time!

August 6 to 13, 2004 Volume 11, Issue 30

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**

# The **BONAIR** REPORTER

Kaya Gob. Debrot 200 • E-mail: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) • 717-8988

SINCE 1994



**Andrina Marcano  
with Venezuelans at  
Multicultural Festival**

**Page 11**



# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



Antillenhuis/Nico van der Ven photo

Zamir Ayubi reports from Holland that last Friday, 12 of Bonaire's best and brightest youngsters (photo above) landed in Holland to begin their advanced studies. They flew via KLM's flight 742. When they arrived the Scholarship Foundation- Stichting Studiecommissie Nederlandse Antillen- picked them up and booked them into the Schiphol Airport Hotel. They stayed overnight and the day after they went to their respective schools.

► Another group of 282 scholarship students from **Curaçao left on Saturday for Holland via KLM.** The Dutch Caribbean Airlines (DCA) flight which was supposed to take them to Holland was

cancelled. Dutch aviation authorities did not give permission for the DC-10 leased by DCA from JAT Airways in Montenegro to land at Schiphol Airport. This was announced by the chairman of the Curaçao Student Loan Institute, Commissioner Eduardo Cova.

► As of last weekend there were still hundreds of **stranded DCA passengers** in The Netherlands because DCA has not been able to charter acceptable aircraft to fly them back to Curaçao. The leased KLM MD-11 the students flew did not take back the stranded DCA passengers who were supposed to return aboard another cancelled DCA flight from Amsterdam to Curaçao.

► On March 23 the Venezuelan fishing boat, **Don Manolo, rammed an Antillean/Aruban Coast Guard cutter** which had ordered him to stop for inspection of his vessel for possible people smuggling. The 29-year-old Venezuelan captain R.A. H.G. was sentenced to eight months in jail in Aruba for ramming the cutter following a chase at sea. A Coast Guard officer injured his leg and was thrown overboard by the impact.

► **The privatization committee of Windward Islands International Airways (Winair)** that flies between the northern, windward Antilles islands of St. Martin, Saba and Statia and other local destinations met with the Exel Group and Minister of Transport Omayra Leeftang in Curaçao last Wednesday. Will we soon have a WinairExel?

► Curaçao FOL-leader **Anthony Godett** finally arrived in The Netherlands at the end of last week. He is there to meet with an attorney concerning the appeal he filed against his recent conviction. He also wants to raise funds from the Antillean community in The Netherlands to cover the costs of his case.

Godett says he is almost broke, but he still wants to appeal his conviction. Two weeks ago he was sentenced to 15 months in prison and five suspended, on charges of bribery, forgery and money laundering. As Antillean Prime Minister-elect he was unable to take up his position last year because of the corruption charges. His sister served as Prime Minister instead. On arrival at Schiphol Godett declared

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Envirowatch (Dumped Concrete)	4
Referendum Chronicle	6
Political party positions	6
Dietitian (Osteoporosis)	7
Amboina Dolphins	8
Divers' Dreamboat	9
Local Fishing Tournament	9
Dickens' Adventure	10
Gardner (Ixora)	10
4th Multicultural Festival	11
Round Hill Hotel and Villas	13
Tracking Turtles	14
Bonaire Daydreaming	18

## WEEKLY FEATURES:

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Police Update	4
Opinion (Crime & Immigration)	5
Letters (Swim Warning)	5
Vessel List & Tide Table	9
Classifieds	12
Pet of the Week (Renaldo)	12
What's Happening	15
Picture Yourself	
(Dartmouth, Hanover, NH)	15
Shopping & Dining Guides	16
On the Island Since	
(Renee Leach)	17
Bonaire Sky Park	19
The Stars Have It	19


that the fund raising was not the most important reason for his visit to The Netherlands. "But if people want to help me they're welcome to do so," he stated in the *NOS Journaal*. "I'm only a simple

(Continued on page 4)

CLICK IN BOXES TO ACCESS WEBSITES OR E-MAIL

The following advertisers support of *The Bonaire Reporter* help keep subscription costs low. Consider them first when on


**CLICK to VISIT** the sites



LET BONAIRE'S HARDEST WORKING REALTORS WORK FOR YOU  
www.[sunbelt.an](http://sunbelt.an)  
**SUNBELT REALTY**



Quality wines and champagnes from around the world  
Free Delivery  
Request a price list  
[Wine@antilleanwine.com](mailto:Wine@antilleanwine.com)



MADURO & CUIEL'S BANK (BONAIRE) N.V.  
Offering comprehensive services  
[multiple locations and ATMs](#)

**GOLDEN REEF INN**  
\$48.00 per night




Our Focus Is On YOU  
**EXPECT THE BEST**



**Yacht Club Apartments**  
*Centrally Located New Studios, 1, 2 and 5 Bedroom apts. Dive packages and more.*



RE/MAX PARADISE HOMES  
Royal Palm Galleries Suite-E Bonaire, N.A.  
www.bonairerehomes.com Email: [hrh@bonairerehomes.com](mailto:hrh@bonairerehomes.com)  
Office: 599-717 7364 Cell: 599-790-7364 Fax: 599-717 7366



Waterfront Economical Convenient Friendly Full Facilities  
**STUDIOS**

**Fly BonairExel**

Be sure to think of our advertisers first if you need a product or service they provide.

Their support keeps our subscription price low.

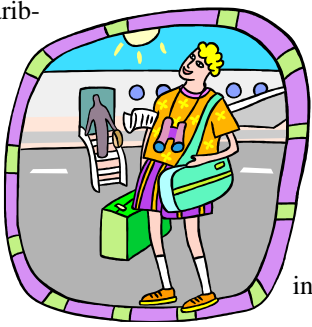
Thanks.



(Continued from page 2)

person and am poor. I already spent NAf150.000 on my case."

► The Caribbean will earn **US\$40.3 billion from tourism** this year, 10% more than it did 2003, according to a study conducted by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC). The study, which was conducted on behalf of the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) over a year ago, was released last week.



in

► **Jaime Saleh**, former President of the Court of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba and former Governor of the Netherlands Antilles, was awarded the highest title an Antillean can receive, "Minister of State." The honorary title

is given to people who have served their country and devoted their knowledge and expertise to the betterment of the people, Prime Minister Etienne Ys said in announcing the Cabinet's decision. The Saleh family continues to be prominent on Bonaire.

► The Bonaire Government continues to make strong statements about **illegal soil mining**. Warnings have been issued, but as far as we know no arrests have been made. The fill is used for the construction of roads and houses. The government pointed out once more that gravel can be excavated legally only at Plantation Aruba. No permits have been issued for other locations. Their warning stated, "(Take it from) any other place and you're simply stealing. The soil belongs to the people of Bonaire. If you steal there, you're stealing from everyone." Enforcement is planned.

► The Central Government is **dragging its feet in granting Curaçao's Antillean Brewery** (Amstel) an excise tax

(Continued on page 8)

# ENVIROWATCH



**Y**ou wouldn't want to run into this with your car. It's a huge lump of concrete at the side of the main road that passes SABADECO. It looks like dung from a dinosaur, but it's really waste cement from a ready-mix truck. Not only is it a road hazard but it is an example of abuse of the environment by some irresponsible construction companies. If you dumped it, clean it up! *G.D.*

# POLICE UPDATE



**I**f you see or hear something suspicious, call the **POLICE HOTLINE – DIAL 108. You may remain completely anonymous.** The Police can use your eyes and ears. If you were a victim of a crime wouldn't you appreciate someone giving a tip to the police?

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

- At the end of last week, **four robbery suspects were arrested** in connection with the **Belnam robberies** (R.E., 20, N.C., 27) and two others (G.A., 19, F.B., 22) for the **Exito and Amboina Mini-market** robberies.
- **Two St. James Medical School students** (E.A.O. 21, born in Sri Lanka, F.A., 20, born in US) were arrested for stealing the school library's projector and broadband router. The address, Kaya Jean B.F. Vitte, 5A, where the two were living, was tracked down by a computer expert after the suspects had connected to the Internet. During the search, police found two laptops which couldn't be accounted for. All items were confiscated and the suspects sent to jail pending further investigation.

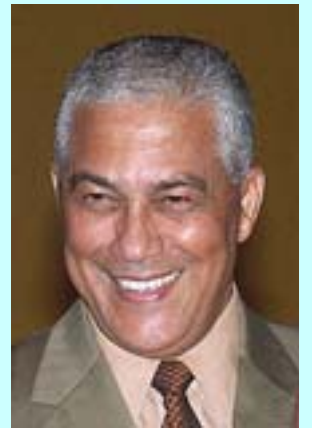
### Special Security Services Reports:

A robbery in Sabadeco was foiled when the security alarm went off and an SSS patrol arrived. The suspect was identified as a construction worker. Other SSS actions included apprehension of a thief stealing shrimp from the freezer of a client and catching a gasoline thief. Both were turned over to the police. As well, an SSS patrol foiled a break-in on Kaya Amsterdam.

### HIGH LEVEL ACTION AGAINST CRIME

Lt. Governor Hubert Domacassé, Commissioner of Tourism Burney el Hage, and Public Prosecutor Ernst Wesselius met last week with members of BONHATA, the Bonaire Hospitality Group, AKIB (businessmen's association) and FORMA (a foundation to offer dropouts education and job opportunities) to discuss how to deal with an apparent escalation in burglaries and break-ins. One focus was on the police department which is under the Central Government's Minister of Justice in Curaçao. Legally, Bonaire's Lt. Governor, the Minister's representative on the island, may be involved in police policy but does not control the distribution of resources. He can't automatically get approval from the Minister. He must convince him. "We're trying to move 'the inner system,'" the Lt. Governor explained.

For example, last February funds were approved by Holland to fight crime in Bonaire, but the Dutch insisted they be distributed through Curaçao.



**Governor Domacassé**

Last Friday the Minister of Justice got NAf5 million from Holland, of which Bonaire is entitled to NAf1.5 million. So far Bonaire hasn't seen the money. Dutch Minister Thom deGraff wrote a letter to the Lt. Governor, saying he wants Dutch police to help Bonaire's "Flamingo Team" (police who are working at the airport in drug interception) so they can return to regular police duties. Domacassé wrote a follow-up letter to the Minister of Justice, but Curaçao may not agree that's the way to do it. "In mid August there's another meeting to get Dutch police where and how we need them," Domacassé said. There are 10 experienced Antillean police now in Holland ready to come to Bonaire. Nothing will happen until the Minister of Justice gives his signature. This week, two groups, the VKB (local militia volunteers) and the SSV (non-criminal police), will begin to assist the police, the 20 VKB concentrating on the high crime areas, the SSV helping with traffic and other non-criminal affairs. These groups will be very visible. It's possible that Bonaire will get two coast watching radars from Holland at the end of 2005, which will assist in detecting drug drops. In the meantime, in August or September, the island will start using a mobile radar. Lt. Governor Domacassé asked that each group present at the meeting appoint a representative to meet this week, bring ideas together and show action now. As well, to improve communication, each group's representative will have a contact person in the police department with whom he can speak directly. The Governor put forth a new slogan: "Futuro ku Trankilidat" (A Future with Tranquility, not 'security,' "because that's unrealistic," he said). *L.D.*

OPINION



*This is Kralendijk Bay.  
Where are the yachts?*

A COMMON LINK?

Two situations came to light last week that appear to have a common link, unlikely as they may seem. They concern bold burglaries and the exodus of sailing yachts from Kralendijk Bay. **A blast of protest from visitors about an escalation of petty crime**, mostly via Bonaire Talk web chat, and from locals through the Papiamentu language newspapers, seemed to take elected officials and the police by surprise. Demands for more police presence, better quality police protection and jailing of convicted criminals produced some arrests and a high level meeting between local businessmen, the Commissioner of Tourism, Burney el Hage and the Island Governor, Hubert Domacassé. (see related story on page 4) While police protection is a responsibility of the Curaçao-based Central Government, the governor has indirect charge of them on Bonaire. The Governor wants funds to aid the police and improve the jail's capacity. He asked

Holland to do just that last February and they came through with a grant of NAf5 million to fight crime in the Antilles, NAf1,5 million for Bonaire's. The money is sitting in a Central Government account in Curaçao. But, despite Governor Domacassé's numerous requests, it hasn't been released.

This might lead you to believe that the yachts are leaving because of crime. Nothing could be further from the truth. At this time of year, hurricane season, when the harbor is usually full of yachts

avoiding the hurricanes in the upper Caribbean, **yachtsmen are leaving because Immigration is following the letter of the law of the Netherlands Antilles.** They are restricting the lengths of stay of both "yachties" and some of those who arrive by plane to three months, **with the proviso they cannot return for another three months.** Waterfront business – marinas, boatyards and suppliers - are being financially battered because their clients are being forced to sail away. And non-resident homeowners face the prospect of being unable to return to their own homes for frequent vacations. But it doesn't seem this same law is being enforced in Curaçao. There, it's been reported to us, yachts may stay for as long as they wish and homeowners are not similarly harassed. Some, including ourselves, believe this is another effort to punish Bonaire economically for challenging the "supremacy" of Curaçao. Bonaire has become the competitor of Curaçao (one example: BonairExel)

LETTERS

SWIM WARNING

Dear Editor:

Today I was in the Trans World Radio Station and met with Udo Lusse who has worked at Trans World for almost as long as Captain Don has been here. Udo had just finished reading an article in *The Bonaire Reporter* about the "Hush-Hush Seaside Spots" which had labeled Playa Chikitu as a place of enjoyment for "children" (who "will have a delightful time catching the waves and bodysurfing towards the beach." Udo told me several stories including one about himself, which was life threatening and one he wanted me to share with you concerning Playa Chikitu.

As you know there is a sign posted in memory of a brave lad who lost his life doing what is mentioned in the article and that was "bodysurfing" in the waves. Udo, who is one of the better swimmers of the island, was visiting this very beach sometime ago and standing in waist deep water. Before he could do anything about it, he was swept under by the wave action and pulled out to sea. He said it was as close as he has ever been to drowning and thought in the short time he was in the water, he would not be able to make it back to the beach. He has personally witnessed other people who have had the same problem at this treacherous beach and wanted me to ask you to print something in next week's *Reporter* about how dangerous this beach can be, especially when certain conditions are present. Udo says it would be a tragedy not to tell the "families of Bonaire" and also visitors, who may not have the time or foresight to read the warnings posted in the Park guard house, about the dangers that are so prevalent at this beach.

The Hush-Hush Seaside Spots is quite an enjoyable article and one I always read in *The Reporter*, but Playa Chikitu is one place that is not for families with small children and a beach that should only be enjoyed by looking at it and not risking one's life to enjoy the bodysurfing there. It is Udo's desire, and mine also, that you post a warning in the *Reporter* about the hazards that do prevail on this most treacherous beach.  
*Bob Lassiter*

and is preparing for a Referendum to determine whether Bonaireans want to split from a Central Government heavily weighted in favor of Curaçao. (Holland, desiring to deal with a single entity for all its colonial possessions in the Caribbean, in the 1954 Constitution, mandated a strong central government in Curaçao by deciding that Curaçao should always

have an absolute majority in the Antillean Parliament; 12 of the 22 seats). If our interpretation of the actions of the Central Government is incorrect, it's easy to resolve: change or ease enforcement of a law that isn't applicable, or apply the Immigration laws equitably and free up the funds to let Bonaire better fight crime and fix up our jail. *G.L.D.*



# Referendum Chronicle



The Referendum Committee's President, Arthur Sealy, last Sunday issued a comprehensive press release in Papiamentu outlining the background, provisions and issues surrounding the choices in the upcoming Referendum. Commissioner Reginald "Jonchi" Dortalina (UPB,) who is handling Referendum issues for the Government, has also started a program in cooperation with the Government's Information Department to press for Option B- Direct ties with Holland. (See below). And Opposition Leader, Jopie Abraham (PDB), provided *The Reporter* with backup for his party's position, Option C- Independent territory within the Dutch Kingdom (See below). Both of these leading Bonaire parties favor succession from the Netherlands Antilles.

## To reiterate, there are four options to choose from during the referendum:

- A. Bonaire remains a part of the Netherlands Antilles;
- B. Bonaire obtains direct ties with The Netherlands;
- C. Bonaire becomes an autonomous country within the Dutch Realm (perhaps Aruba-like);
- D. Bonaire becomes politically independent of the Realm (Independence).

Should option B be selected by the population, a second Referendum will be scheduled to determine what type of tie with the Netherlands is preferred by the people.

## Background:

Fifty years ago a Constitution was written to deal with the remaining colonial possessions of The Kingdom of the Netherlands. The right to self-determination of each territory was acknowledged and reaffirmed by the Netherlands in 1983. Two major events stand out in the process of constitutional changes within the Kingdom: the departure of Surinam in 1975 and the secession by Aruba from the Netherlands Antilles in 1986. Attempts at decentralization and restructuring within the Netherlands Antilles during the past decades were unsuccessful. The referenda on all Antillean islands in 1993 and 1994 were impetus for renewed attempts to restructure the Netherlands Antilles. The islands voted to give Central Government another chance. But the Government, centrally administered, failed to function well for the welfare of all the islands and resulted in deterioration of the political relationship between the islands and an economic crisis for everyone. The current Bonaire Referendum can be considered a con-

tinuation of the '93 Referendum - an attempt to get equitable representation for Bonaire's people within the Dutch kingdom.

The next wave of opposition to the present centralization came on June 23, 2000, when the people of St. Martin voted 69.9% in favor of becoming a separate country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. However, that change in the island's status was stonewalled by both Holland and Curaçao. Since then, the political climate in Holland has shifted since the fiasco of the Godett government and has galvanized the other Antillean islands to consider a change themselves. Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius (Statia) all have Referenda scheduled to poll their residents on what form a new government should take. Other Caribbean islands are also restless about intermediaries between them and the mother country. On December 7, 2003, Guadeloupe and Martinique rejected a move to reorganize their governments and break from France. Voters on St. Barts and French St. Martin elected to create their own legislatures and move away from Guadeloupe, which administers the four islands as an overseas territory of France. *Chronicler*

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 published whenever possible.

Active co-operation and exchange of information is sought with the local/regional media (press, radio, TV), and the official Referendum Commission. Any item in the Referendum Chronicle may be freely quoted and/or downloaded via Internet. Opinions expressed are solely those of the writers.

## POLITICAL PARTY POSITIONS

Bonaire's major political parties, as is their right and responsibility, have come out with positions that favor decentralization, but, at the same time, maintaining a link with Holland. Where they differ seems to be on the degree of autonomy preferred. However, realistically, the final arrangement may be more of a matter of negotiation with The Hague than the will of the people. A summary of the PDB and UPB positions follow:

### The Democratic Party (PDB) Position

(provided by Senator Jopie Abraham)

The PDB favors **option C** (autonomous island within the Kingdom). This autonomous status will be accompanied by strong (solid and durable) arrangements of cooperation with the other islands, Aruba and Holland (a direct link indeed).

The autonomous status does **Not necessarily have to be the same as Status Apart (Aruba like). Not even** the same as the, yet to be defined, **St. Martin status.**

The PDB basically is of opinion that Bonaire should handle all affairs it could and would like to handle. Together with the other islands (Aruba included) Bonaire should handle those affairs it considers of common interest and Holland



*Jopie Abraham*

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Referendum. Continued from page 6)  
 should handle the fundamental and crucial affairs. (PDB is for the so-called "bottom up" approach - Maximum affairs for Bonaire's own responsibility; minimum affairs together with the other islands (including Aruba), and the crucial and fundamental affairs Holland should take care of.)

"Autonomy" is an internationally defined, accepted and well-understood constitutional concept. It includes "direct links" but also describes the way Bonaire should be governed.

### **The Patriotiko Party (UPB) Position**

UPB's preference is the option to replace the current political situation with a system of direct relationship with the Netherlands. This means a relative independence and a special basis for collaboration with the sister islands.



**Jonchie Dortalina**

**In the UPB's vision, the relationship with the Netherlands is central** and Bonaire will try additionally to do as much as possible independently, with a minimum cooperation with the other Antillean islands. They believe the way to do this is to become an "Ultra Peripheral Territory" – a non-European extension of the European Union with Holland as a "sponsor." Becoming a UPT provides privileges and responsibilities similar to those of a European country. *Chronicler*



**Angélique Salsbach**

## **ASK THE DIETITIAN PREVENT OSTEOPOROSIS - KEEP YOUR BONES HEALTHY AND STRONG**

### **What is osteoporosis ?**

Osteoporosis is when the inside of the bones become porous and thin. Over time, the bones become weak and are more likely to break. Your bones reach their greatest strength when you are about 35 years old (peak bone mass). After that your bones will start to lose their calcium and become thinner. In women, the rate of bone loss speeds up during menopause, a time when levels of the hormone oestrogen fall. Bone loss may also occur if both ovaries are removed by surgery. Your ovaries make the hormone oestrogen.

### **What are the signs of osteoporosis?**

You may not know you have osteoporosis until you have serious signs—which include a broken wrist or hip, low back pain or a hunched back. You may also get shorter over time.

### **What increases the risk of getting osteoporosis?**

- Menopause before age 48
- Not getting enough exercise
- Not getting enough calcium in your diet
- Osteoporosis in your family
- Hyperthyroidism
- Surgery to remove ovaries before normal menopause
- Smoking
- Alcohol abuse

- Use of steroids

Your risk of getting osteoporosis increases when you have a combination of these points.

### **How much calcium do I need?**

Healthy women and men need between 800-1000mg of calcium a day. It is recommended that you get the calcium you need from food. You can easily reach this amount by drinking three glasses of milk (or milk products) and eating two slices of cheese on a daily basis.

For example:

1 glass (250ml) of non-fat milk	<b>305mg Ca</b>
1 bowl (250ml) of low fat yoghurt plain with:	
4 tablespoons of whole grain cereals	<b>370mg Ca</b>
2 slices of reduced fat Dutch cheese	<b>360mg Ca</b>
1 tablespoon of almonds	<b>50mg Ca</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1085mg Ca</b>

### **Foods that are rich sources of calcium?**

Rich sources of calcium are: (soya) milk and (soya) milk products (cheese, "kwark," yoghurt, etc.), broccoli, nuts (almonds or hazelnuts), beans and calcium-fortified products such as orange juice and cereals labelled "rich in calcium."

It is important to mention that non-fat and



low-fat milk and milk products have as much calcium as whole milk and whole milk products.

You can get enough calcium without eating too many calories or too much fat by choosing lower-calorie sources of calcium-rich foods. Try low-fat or skim milk, non-fat yoghurt, low-fat cheeses and calcium-fortified orange juice.

It is recommended to get the calcium you need through a balanced diet and not through supplements. A balanced diet contains many other nutrients to keep your bones healthy. If you rely only on a supplement instead of eating foods that supply calcium, you may not get enough of other important nutrients. Some people may not eat enough calcium-fortified foods because of allergies or other medical reasons. Always consult your doctor or a registered dietician if you think that you are not getting enough calcium or if you need a supplement.

Smart nutrition choices and regular physical activity help your body build and maintain strong bones throughout life. So we can prevent osteoporosis. 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. Write her at dietitian@bonairenews.com**



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 4)

reduction for locally brewed beer. It was supposedly to be implemented by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

► **Bonaire Marine Park has a new manager.** He's 42-year-old Ramon DeLeon from Uruguay who's been working in the dive industry on the island for the last six years. DeLeon is an oceanographer and is a master in deep dives, nitrox and mixed gas. He's worked as an assistant manager and manager at Toucan Dive and most recently at Photo Tours as an instructor. As Stinapa Director Elsmarie Beukenboom said, "He knows the (dive) industry here on Bonaire."

► **The first hurricane of the season, "Alex," formed in the Atlantic off the southern US coast.** As we go to press another storm is brewing east of the Windward Islands. Forecasters say it has the potential to become another hurricane.

It's been much quieter this year, but the absence of tropical storms doesn't guarantee calm sailing the rest of the way. There's little relationship between the start or frequency of early season Carib-

bean or upper Atlantic tropical storms and the intensity of the Cape Verde hurricane season, said hurricane specialist James Franklin of the US National Hurricane Center. "In fact, a lot of the really active seasons are quiet early." Cape Verde Tropical Waves tend to be the source of many of the storms that have affected the Caribbean

The Cape Verde period begins heating up in late July and normally runs from August through September. An unusually hot spring worldwide had some concerned about warming tropical waters stirring an early Cape Verde season, but that hasn't materialized. While Bonaire is out of the hurricane belt it sometimes is affected by the swells and calms that accompany passing storms.

► **Congratulations to Special Security Services and its owner and founder, Benito Dirksz.** This month the company will have been in business for 21 years. After a young Benito Dirksz got out of the army he started working for a security company in Curaçao. They transferred him to Bonaire to represent the company here. After awhile they wanted him to

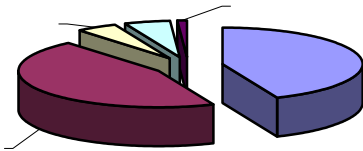


#### AMBOINA DOLPHINS

Coach Ricardo Alberto (r.) and his football (soccer) team of 26 kids, the Amboina Dolphins, left for Curaçao last Friday to compete with Curaçao teams on Saturday and Sunday. It was their first overseas trip. "Super Babies" (8-10 years) won all their games. "Babies," (6 to 8) didn't win but did very well. L.D.

► **Bonaire recorded an estimated 5,036 tourist arrivals in May 2004.** Compared to May 2003, this was an increase of 13.7%. There were bright spots in almost every segment. The accompanying graph shows the percentage of visitors from various regions. An interesting sidelight is that about 1% of the visitors are homeowners and another 1% from yachts.

Geographic Market Share for YTD 2004



Tourists from the US increased 26.9% compared with May 2003 from 1,593 arrivals in 2003 to 2,022 in May 2004. The North America market increased 25.4% compared with 2003.

American consumer confidence is on the rise and spending rose 1% in May. This is the largest growth since October 2001 when spending rebounded dramatically following the serious drop immediately after 9/11.

While the US traffic numbers have not reached the pre-9/11 numbers (12,935 tourists Jan-May, 2001- vs. 11,517 tourists Jan-May 2004), the trend data are sufficient to suggest the US market is on its way back to a position of strength in Bonaire.

-Visitors from Europe increased by 7.4% compared to 2003 from 2,217 arrivals in 2003 to 2,381 in May 2004. The Netherlands increased 19.7% compared with 2003.

The May figures are similar to April.



► Who says that Bonaire doesn't have everything? Last week The Garden Café featured three shows a night of an **extraordinary belly dancer**. Garden Café occasional adds to its menu of Middle Eastern treats with entertainment to match. Check it out.

return to Curaçao, but it was too late; he'd fallen in love with the island and wanted to stay. The company wasn't too happy with his decision, but eventually Benito was free to start his own business, Special Security Services (SSS), on Bonaire in August 1983. SSS is the leading security company on the island. As well, they contribute generously with time and funds to charitable organizations.

► There will be a **Special Olympics Bonaire Fund Raiser - A Latin Jazz Concert** on Sunday, August 29. It's aboard the visiting cruise ship, *Freewinds*, 7:15 to 9 pm. Ticket donation is NAf17,50, available from board members (Crocantino Restaurant, Delno at TCB, etc.). L./G. D.



## DIVERS' DREAMBOAT

Bonaire had an extraordinary visitor gracing her waters. The mega yacht, *Triumphant Lady* arrived in Bonaire recently for what would be a three-month dive holiday for its owners. *Triumphant Lady* has been to many exotic parts of the world and is very welcome in her temporary home at the Harbour Village Marina.

She was designed by Jon Bannenberg and was the first fiberglass yacht of her size. *Triumphant Lady* was built by Sterling Yachts in Japan and is actually a twin. A Japanese man once owned

both, one for his family and one for his lady companions. Now the boat serves as a part time home to the current owners and their visiting guests and families. She spends time each year in the Caymans where she is registered. The yacht has passed through the Panama Canal to explore the Pacific and Central America. She sailed to exotic locales before enjoying a sojourn in Bonaire

The present owners like their floating home away from their residence in the US. They carefully chose this yacht after being boat owners for the past 30 years. The yacht is quite spacious in the living areas. The vertical oval windows bring in light and create an open atmosphere. The thick cream-colored shag carpeting is soft and inviting on bare feet. The owners are art lovers and have decorated *Triumphant Lady* with some original pieces. Some of the most interesting are the framed photos taken by the owner. She has captured magnificent images of some of the amazing destinations visited by this yacht. *Triumphant Lady* is decorated in a luxurious yet comfortable style. The master suite is a large stateroom with exquisite fabrics and furnishings. A Cuban painting adorns the wall in this expansive area. The master bath has a large circular Jacuzzi as well as a spacious shower. There is marble throughout the yacht.

A large spiral staircase connects the many levels. There is also an elevator. Below deck the guest cabins are magnificent. Each



*The 148' Triumphant Lady shows her brilliance against the background of Kralendijk Bay.*

has its own entertainment and sitting areas. Guests can select from an assortment of hundreds of DVDs and CDs for their listening and viewing enjoyment. Refreshment and mints are available, again with comfort in mind.

Her primary voyages are to many of the greatest dive destinations in the world. According to the current owners this will not be her last trip to Bonaire because Bonaire is one of their favorite destinations for diving. Having traveled to the finest dive sites, they say Bonaire has the healthiest reefs around. They have thoroughly enjoyed their dives including many at Klein Bonaire. They saw a six-foot Loggerhead at Forest Dive Site and have seen the evasive Spotted Drum Fish on numerous occasions. What is also pleasing to them is the scenic promenade of *Playa Leche*. Their living and deck areas had sweeping views of this picturesque shoreline.

*Triumphant Lady* has a crew of nine, all divers of some level of experience. Most are professional divers and underwater photographers. The owners and crew socialize together and enjoyed the fantastic activities available in Bonaire. The three-month visit to Bonaire was more than a vacation for their owners. Bonaire was their home base, which allowed them full access to the myriad of sea and land adventures available on this island. Bonaire welcomed *Triumphant Lady* to her waters and hopes her inaugural visit was one of many to come. *Ann Phelan*

## LOCAL FISHING TOURNAMENT KICKOFF



*Local Fishing Tournament organizers: Dui Diaz, Papi Antoin, Richard Beady, Pancho Cicilia. Not pictured Mario Demei*

Some say it's the top "cultural" family event of the year. The Bonaire Local Fishing Tournament is back this year – on Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Signup has already begun at Dui Diaz's house (next to Richard's Restaurant).

This 14th Annual Local Fishing Tournament is dedicated to Luti Craane (shown at right at the helm of the fishing sailing boat *Papagayo*), one of Bonaire's legendary fishermen, boat builders and sailors.

The Tournament's fundamental requirement is that the fishing be done by a local, NB registered boat. However, fishermen can be of any nationality. Regulations favor conservation of the fishing resource and forbid taking reef fish, sharks, bonefish, and tarpon.

The event is organized by a commission made up of Richard Beady, Dui Diaz, Mario Demei, Papi Antoin and Pancho Cicilia. Prizes consist of fishing and safety equipment.

We'll be bringing you more details in coming weeks, but if you want to have some fun, sign up now. Last year over 200 people participated. *G.D.*



*Luti at the helm*

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

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

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
8-06	2:59	1.1FT.	64
8-07	4:15	1.0FT.	51
8-08	5:06	0.9FT.	41
8-09	5:55	0.9FT.	35
8-10	6:31	0.8FT.	35
8-11	7:10	0.8FT.	41
8-12	7:49	0.8FT.	48
8-13	8:21	0.8FT.	57

### VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Angie	Marina-Em	Ta B
Alegria, USA	Methuselah, USA	Ti Amo, USA
Alaluya	Natural Selection, USA	Ulu Ulu, USA
Aratae	Nonsuch, USVI	Unicorn, Norway
Bright Sea	Pamela Jean	Varedhuni, Germany
Camissa, Chan Is.	Panda	Windborne
Chacuco	Pau Hana	Windmiller, Canada
Delphinus	Polecat	Wonbat of Sydney
Don Hector	Pomona	Ya-T, BVI
El Sabor	Precocious Gale, USA	Zahi, Malta
Flying Cloud, USA	Rumba	
Gatsby, USA	Sandpiper, USA	
Goril Too	Santa Maria, Sweden	
Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Scintilla, Germany	
Hydra	Side by Side	
Luna C, USA	Sirius	
Macaby, Netherlands	Sojourner	
Makai	Sovereign III	
Marathon	Sylvia K	

# DICKENS' BIG ADVENTURE: BONAIRE'S ONLY COCKATIEL

*Want to own a nice bird and not worry about  
destroying an entire species?  
Consider a Cockatiel.*

From June 7th to August 3rd, Bonaire was home to an unusual pet—a white-faced pearled cockatiel named “Dickens.” Dickens is owned by (or owns, depending on point of view) Mel McCombie and Harris Friedberg, who are frequent visitors to the island. When planning their summer trip, McCombie realized how much she and Harris would miss Dickens and arranged to bring him to the island for their stay. Cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) are native to the Australian outback, where they form large flocks and eat pretty much anything; unlike their larger cousins, cockatoos. Cockatiels average 100 grams (around 4 ounces) and 20 centimeters (8 inches), not including their long tails.



*Dickens enjoys a potato stick*

North American breeders learned that cockatiels produced large clutches of chicks, and the babies made great pets if they were raised by hand and fed by humans. The native cockatiel is gray with a yellow head and orange cheek patches, with a gray and yellow mobile crest. But years of breeding have produced a variety of color mutations, ranging from albino to pied to the white-faced. Dickens is one of the latter, with a snowy face and crest, and white “pearls” scattered across his gray feathers (though his white face often bears pink lipstick traces from kisses!).

Bringing a pet to another country requires considerable paperwork—a pet ticket for the airplane, international health certificates dated no more than one week from departure, and in Dickens’s case, a US Department of Agriculture importation permit for “poultry” to allow him to return to the US (in addition to a health certificate from a local vet). Luckily, cockatiels are not endangered or covered by the CITES regulations, or there would be even more paperwork. Only the dedicated human companion need apply.

Dickens is more than just a beautiful bird. He talks—his vocabulary includes “hello,” “good morning,” “good boy!,” “Chicken Dickens” (his nickname), a variety of household sounds (microwave oven, house alarm, telephone), and he whistles “charge!” and wolf whistles. With luck, he learned “*bon dia*” before he left Bonaire. Every day, Mel and Harris snuggle with Dickens, and feed him favorite treats (spinach, potato sticks and popcorn). Once a week, he takes a shower. He adores the attention he got from housekeeper Michi Peter, who claims Dickens has learned Spanish from watching Venezuelan television!

It’s important to make a distinction between Dickens and other parrots. His species is abundant in the wild; it breeds well in captivity, and he was bred as a pet—unlike the wild Loras of Bonaire, who are endangered, whose numbers are declining, who breed poorly in captivity, and who come closer and closer to extinction with every bird taken from the wild. If you are considering a pet parrot on Bonaire, you can find cockatiels available on Curaçao—excellent companions, and there’s no harm to our precious loras. *Mel McCombie*

# THE BONAIRE GARDNER

## THE RICH FLOWERING IXORA

As I wrote in my last column, the rich flowering Ixora comes in many forms and colors. The best one to use is the *Ixora Nora Grant*, a rich dark rose flowering shrub that will grow up to 1.5 m. (5 feet). They are best planted in groups to fill big empty borders, spacing them about 80 centimeters apart. They are the best because they do not have the problem of yellowing. The yellowing is caused by our water, which has a very high PH, around 7.5. A lack of Iron and Nitrogen in the Ixora and other plants will cause the yellowing.

### Avoid Yellowing

The best way to avoid this is to use a lot of organic material when you plant Ixoras, and after a few months, start adding some vitamins like Urea, with 45% pure Nitrogen. Be very careful when using it; always dissolve it in water and don’t pour it over the leaves because they can get burned. Other alternatives are the multi-nutrition vitamins like Miracle Grow or Peeters. With those vitamins you can feed the roots and the leaves. We recently started doing some tests by filling a one-gallon sprayer and mixing in some Miracle Grow or Peeters and just spraying the leaves. The results on the Ixora are spectacular. The only thing you need to do is use it every other week to get the best results. The most problems you will get will be with the lighter colored flowers, white and yellow. Those types are really beautiful but a bit difficult to keep nice and green. This is not necessary for the Ixora Nora Grant varieties, however, the Dwarf Ixora especially



Internet photo

*Ixora Nora Grant*

likes this treatment.

### Pruning

For pruning the Ixora, there are no special requirements. Like most shrubs in the tropics, they bloom at the end of their growth. So with the pruning you have to be careful not to cut them too often because when you do, they will never bloom. It’s better to cut just the long runners back, wait until they bloom, and after they lose their blooms and start to look ugly, cut them back and give the new growth a chance to bloom again. This goes for all the Ixoras, except for the Dwarf Ixora. The Dwarfs are often used as small hedges up to one meter (3 feet). They will never have long runners, and you can prune them just a bit to keep them in the shape you like.

Also the *Ixora coccinea Maui*, a rich blooming orange variety, is suitable for hedges. There are some nice ones around the MCB Bank in Hato. Those you can trim into a nice shape without losing all the blooms.

So, with some attention, the Ixora is one of the nicest group of tropical plants to use in your gardens. I hope this was enough information for a good start! □ *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*



# 4TH MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL



Peru

Each year since 2001 Bonaire holds a Multicultural Festival to allow some of Bonaire's ethnic groups to display the dance and culinary traditions of their countries. The idea of the festival was conceived by Papi Cicilia, Adjunct Director of SKAL (Department of Culture and Education), to commemorate the 25th

anniversary of the Kibra Hacha Dancers and to celebrate Bonaire's multi cultural population. (44 different nationalities live on the island). This year's festival saw seven countries represented at the festivities in Bonaire's Stadium last Saturday evening. We only have room to show you three. G.D.



Aruba



Ludo Nicolaas. M.C.



Venezuela

# PET of the WEEK



"Renaldo"

Just one look at "Renaldo" is all it takes to fall in love with him. He's a sweet roly-poly puppy with the most soulful blue eyes that express his yearning to be someone's very special loving pet pal. He's black, brown and

white – a very attractive color combination – and his coat is short and soft. And no shedding! He has a cute sprinkling of freckles on his nose. Renaldo was brought into the Shelter with his mother and sister by people who said they had too many dogs. Renaldo's sister has been adopted and now he too is ready to go off on his own. He's been thoroughly examined by the vet, has had his shots and will be sterilized when he's old enough. Stop by the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday 10 am to 2 pm, Sat-

urdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. The big free Sterilization Program from October 18 to 30 is shaping up well. Two of the vets cancelled, but hopefully there are two other possible replacements. The vets will all be working totally on a volunteer basis, but they're getting free accommodations. Still needed are hotel rooms for three vets and their wives (three couples). If you can help in any way, please call Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema at 717-4989. L.D.

**FREE STERILIZATION PROGRAM  
OCTOBER 18 to 30.  
Animal Shelter's Community-wide Program  
Tell Your Neighbors!**

## 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



**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.



**BonaireNet is the leading consumer and business information source on Bonaire.** Telephone (599) 717-7160. For on-line 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

### VEHICLES FOR SALE

'88 Nissan pickup double cab. NAf2,000 717-0116.

### WANTED

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

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

**Wanted: Restaurant helper** – wait tables, help in kitchen. Day shift, part time. Must speak English well. Will train. Call 717-8003.

### 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

**Oceanfront, furnished, 2 bedroom apartment for rent** in Belnem. Call 717-8603.

### CONDO SWAP

Dive enthusiasts want to **exchange time in their Bradenton, Florida** ( near Tampa Airport, Sarasota, Amusement Parks, Busch Gardens, Disney, beaches, etc.) two-bedroom, two bath condo for equivalent in Bonaire, Aruba or Curaçao. Call (001) 941 752-0055 or e-mail nurseshawk74@aol.com

### BOATS & ENGINES for SALE

**Achilles inflatable 16 feet with trailer.** Both in very good condition. NAf6,000. Tel 717-8819 8am-5pm

**Yamaha 25 hp outboard engine.** In excellent condition NAf900 Tel 717-8819 8am-5pm

**Privateer Renegade.** 25 ft with 9' 3" beam. Cabin boat with 200 HP Yamaha. \$19,500. 717-8819 8am-5pm

**Traditional Bonairean Sailing Sloop.** Wood, traditional construction, about 21' long. Fiberglassed in and out for minimal maintenance. Two time winner of Bonaire Regatta, Class A. A dream to sail. Bargain at NAf9,999. One of the last of its kind. Call 717-8988 or 785-6125.





# Round Hill

## HOTEL AND VILLAS

Many American visitors to Bonaire are using the good air connections four times a week (Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday) non-stop through Montego Bay, Jamaica with Air Jamaica. The airline allows no-charge layovers in Montego Bay. As well, visitors to Bonaire from Europe can travel to Jamaica on an under two-hour, non-stop flight from Bonaire. One of the most elegant places to stay is Round Hill Hotel and Villas.



Looking for a very private romantic retreat that's off the beaten path of slick, all-inclusive resorts that appeal to the penny pincher? Round Hill Hotel and Villas, Montego Bay, Jamaica, is a one of a kind resort that was born more than 50 years ago on the grounds of what was once a pineapple and coconut plantation nestled in a hillside overlooking an azure bay. The 100-acre peninsula, with its lush tropical gardens, offers magnificent views of the sea from all rooms and villas. Round Hill is luxurious, private, glamorous and exceptionally scenic.



The "celebrity" bar

It was the first of its kind more than 50 years ago in the Caribbean – a resort that catered to the rich and the famous. Stars like Gable, Astaire, Hitchcock, Hope, Crosby, Woodward and Newman were guests. JFK and Jackie spent their honeymoon there. As the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hotel loomed in 2003, Round Hill Managing Director Josef Forstmayr, an Austrian who lost his heart to Jamaica and the hotel nearly a decade ago, thought it would be fitting to put together a book with photographs and text on the history of the resort. David Massey, a frequent visitor and fan, made some stun-

ning photographs, not enhanced or stylized, but simply showing those scenes, people and things that make Round Hill. Original founder John Pringle wrote the historical text and included some of the hotel's philosophies: "Greatness must define itself through people and personalities," he says. "But, he adds, it "can't run on the vapors of (past) reputation." The ambiance continues to attract stars of today. Round Hill was the site of the film, "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," and leading actor, Taye Diggs, enjoyed it so much that he returned to have his wedding to Idina Menzel there. Just last month Dulé Hill of the TV show, "West Wing" (whose parents are Jamaican) and actress Nicole Lyn celebrated their marriage there as well. But also, the not so rich and not so famous people come to stay, fall in love with the

old world charm, the Jamaican hospitality. They're made to feel princely, special and very much at home, like the caring attention by the staff without being intrusive, the complementary afternoon tea with pastries, the cheerful and efficient staff that can answer any question or direct you to where you'd like to go. Guests still return year after year. The resort boasts 27 private villas, most with their own swimming pool, and 36 superior and deluxe oceanfront rooms, all decorated in a tropical plantation style. The villas come with their own breakfast cook, housekeeper and gardener. The restaurants offer an international cuisine, accented with a flavorful taste of Jamaica's succulent fruits, vegetables and spices. (How do they find those perfectly ripe fruits that they serve?) The lower beachfront terrace with its piano bar and photo gallery showing some of the guests for the last 50 years has been stylishly updated by designer Ralph Lauren who has both a villa and a beach house at Round Hill. A recent addition, just a short walk

down a coastal path, is the Spa. It was reclaimed from an 18<sup>th</sup> century plantation house and offers not only body therapies but a yoga retreat and summer specials like a "Mind, Body and Soul Renewal." World Travel Awards listed Round Hill as one of the world's leading villas in 2000, 2002 and 2003. L.D.

For more information, click on to Round Hill's comprehensive, beautiful website: [www.roundhilljamaica.com](http://www.roundhilljamaica.com). They offer a number of wedding, family and business packages. Email: [info@roundhilljamaica.com](mailto:info@roundhilljamaica.com) P.O. Box 64, Montego Bay, Jamaica, WI Tel. (876) 956-7505.



A typical villa at Round Hill

## TURTLE TRACKING UPDATE

Loggerhead “Extra” is off the Honduras coast and traveled about 50 km yesterday. She is crisscrossing over the edge of a very large shallow water area that extends all the way to Nicaragua (and includes the Miskito

Cays), which is known to have a very good turtle habitat. “Extra” maybe zeroing in on her “home” feeding grounds now. We will see in the next few days where she settles. In the meantime, male hawksbill “Tom” remains near Klein Bonaire.

Robert van Dam, Bonaire’s head turtle researcher, is off to Mona Island, Puerto Rico for supplementary research. He’ll be back in Bonaire in October for the continuation of the tracking program and placement of additional satellite transmitters. In the meantime Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire volunteer Andy Uhr will continue reporting the progress of “Bonaire’s” turtles. *Andy Uhr*

*Andy gives a Turtle Slide Show every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at Carib Inn, 7 pm.*



©2004 *The Bonaire Reporter*

Published **weekly**. For information about **subscriptions, stories** or **advertising** in *The Bonaire Reporter*, phone (599) 717-8988, 791-7252, fax 717-8988, E-mail to:

**Reporter@bonairenews.com**

*The Bonaire Reporter*, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6; Bonaire, Neth. Antilles.

Available on-line at: **www.bonairereporter.com**

**Reporters:** Reporters: Zamir Ayubi, Jack Horkheimer, Greta Kooistra, Mel McCombie, Ann Phelan, Robbie Revel, Angélique Salsbach, Michael Thiessen, Andy Uhr, Ap van Eldik

**Features Editor:** Greta Kooistra; **Translations:** Peggy Bakker, Sue Ellen Felix

**Production:** Barbara Lockwood; **Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie (Playa); **Housekeeping:** Jaidy Rojas Acevedo.

**Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij**



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

**New! Usually 9:00 pm**  
**Shrek 2** (Eddie Murphy,  
 Cameron Diaz)

*Early Show (6:45 pm)*  
**Harry Potter III**

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

**Tickets - NAf10,50** (incl. Tax)  
**High Schoolers - NAf7,75**

**NEW FILMS BEGIN EVERY FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY 4 PM Pietje Bell 2: De**  
**jacht op de Tsarenkroon**  
**SUNDAY MATINEE 4 PM**  
**Harry Potter III**

### THIS WEEK

**Saturday, August 7 - Stress Management Training** – sponsored by the Junior Chamber International (formerly Jaycees). Practical ways to handle stress situations. Speaker: Julien deWindt, senior facilitator. Divi Flamingo Conference Room 9 am to 2 pm. NAf50, includes drinks & snacks. Call 520-5679 to reserve. In Papiamentu.

### COMING

**Sunday, August 29-Special Olympics Bonaire Fundraiser -Let's Go Latin/Jazz Concert** aboard the visiting cruise ship, *Freewinds*, 7:15 to 9 pm, NAf17.50 per person  
**Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>** the Bonaire Local Fishing Tournament is back this year. (See page 9 for signup details.)

### 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 infor.  
**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.  
**Saturdays during summer Rincon Marshé opens at 6 am - 2 pm**. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop: fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets and snacks, arts and handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks and music.  
**Every day by appointment -Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** Authentic Bonairean kunuku. \$12 (NAf12 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  
**Wednesdays** (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) **Turtle Conservation Slide Show** by Andy Uhr. Carib Inn seaside veranda, 7 pm  
**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

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**The Bonaire Swim Club**- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valrie@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. NAf5 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.

# PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER

**F**requent Bonaire visitor and property owner, David Colvard, got some people together to take a photo with *The Reporter* after the three hour-graduation of Daniel Colvard from Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH.



## Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA

Pictured are David (still thinking about the Dive Festival), son Daniel and Dr. Steven Swayne, a member of the music department. Congratulations Daniel!

**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. (All 2004 photos are eligible.)

**Kiwanis Club** meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other **Tuesday**, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, sec. Jeannette Rodriguez.  
**Lions Club** meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> **Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions 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

6435

### CHURCH SERVICES

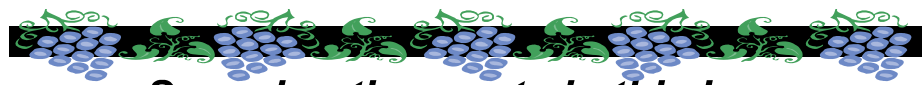
**International Bible Church of Bonaire** – Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle)  
**Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm** in English. Tel. 717-8332  
**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire**. Wilhelmnaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on **Sundays at 10 am. Thursday 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

Send events to *The Bonaire Reporter*  
 Email reporter@bonairenews.com  
 Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 791-7252

**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 popular musicians.  
**Rincon Marshé**- every Saturday - 6 am to 3 pm. Open market in Bonaire's historic town. Soldachi Tours show you the Rincon area starting at 10 am. Call Maria at 717-6435. To reserve.  
**Dos Pos Scenic Walk– Second Saturday of the Month**. NAf10-Call Maria 717-

# 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> 5 minutes north of "Hotel Row" 717-7901	Moderate Breakfast, Light lunches, Dinner, closed Sunday	What a place! Friendly bar next to the pool, home cooked meals, happy hours 5 to 7. Inexpensive Bar Hap Dinners. Reservations not required.
<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>Crocantino 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. Be 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 NA\$25 Beach Pass, a NA\$15 credit is given for meals Bonaire's best seaside location.
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> 717-3293 <b>Home Delivery or Take Out</b>	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 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>Nonchi's at Cultimara</b> 791-4280	Low Open 5 am-8 pm Monday-Saturday	Delicious local and international food to take out, or eat there. Everyday a different combo. Sandwiches and roast chicken too. Lunch from NA\$7-
<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 <b>CLOSED FOR VACATION</b>	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, computers. 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. Have your keys made here.

## 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.

## HOTELS

**Golden Reef Inn** is the affordable alternative with fully equipped studio apartments in a quiet Bonaire neighborhood. Just a 3-minute to diving and the sea. **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

**Kodarama-** the only digital lab and studio handles all digital media and offers the largest variety of professional services -across from MCB Bank **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.

## SAILING

**Woodwind** has it all: Smooth trimaran sailing, to Klein Bonaire, affordable prices, snorkeling with equipment, guide, drinks, snacks. Call 560-7055

## 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 Desireé and Don at Jong Bonaire for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too.



## Renee Leach

“My husband and I started sailing from South Africa in 1985. He’d owned a pharmacy, but he’d always said that he wanted to start sailing before he was 40. On his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday we reached the island of St. Helena in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. From there we sailed to Argentina and then we did the whole of the South American coast. We stayed three years in St. Martin and one year in Aruba.

Stefan and I met at university, playing underwater hockey. I am a biologist. I worked on research farms, developing new plant hybrids. When Stefan asked me to marry him, he said, ‘You’re going to marry me and my boat.’ I was 21 and he was 28 when we married, and I had never sailed before I met him. But I had been fishing with my father, my twin brother and my other brother and I had never been seasick, unlike my brothers! Stefan also got seasick; the first two days out he was always seasick as hell!

When we took off I was 34. The boat was a 44 footer called *Renee*, after me.” *She laughs*: “She was the mistress and I was the wife and I didn’t have a choice. If I wanted to stay with Stefan I had to go with him. We wanted to sail the whole world and when we left he told his mother it was going to be for five years. She believed him, but my mom didn’t!

When we discovered Bonaire it was the end of our trip. It was paradise. We stayed. We were in Aruba and I flew over to see if we should buy a boat, the *Woodwind*. It was 8 o’clock in the morning when I arrived on Bonaire. I flew back at noon and I’d decided that this was the place for us. I hadn’t even set foot on the *Woodwind*! This island was clean, the people were friendly and the water was the best! Stefan knew that if I liked it, he would like it, so that wasn’t a problem. He still had a contract in Aruba, so I was here for about four months on my own. For five years we lived on the *Renee*. We’d bought the *Woodwind* for chartering. Then Stefan got cancer and they gave him a year. For practical reasons, like how to get a doctor to the boat in the middle of the night, we moved to the house that belonged to the Divi Flamingo Hotel and that’s next to the hotel. They offered it to us if we would renovate it. It was old. Nobody had lived in it for 20 years. It was an abso-

lute ruin and the garden was a jungle. We fixed it up, and before Stefan died it was livable. Stefan lasted 14 months. He died on the day of *Karneval*, and he was buried on the day of the total sun eclipse when the sun went away completely. Remember that day? It was very strange. He had wanted to be buried at sea, but we couldn’t do it. It’s illegal.”

*High above in the tree the parakeets continue their conversation quietly, chatting away the silence.* “I’ve got at least 50 *prikichis* in these trees, but the ones we hear now is a family and their little one. I’ve got lots of birds, I’ve got a big *kalbas* tree and they love that. I also have four cats. They’re not allowed to catch the birds and they know that! Cockroaches... Yes!”

*Renee Leach is lovely woman with a nice, open face. She has a certain way that makes her look much younger than she is; it’s the way she moves, the way she expresses herself, she’s just real nice company.*

“The boat was a 44 footer called *Renee*, after me.’ *She laughs*: ‘She was the mistress and I was the wife and I didn’t have a choice. If I wanted to stay with Stefan I had to go with him.’ ”

“After Stefan died, I got a captain and went on chartering with the *Woodwind*. My first captain was Anna, an American; then I had a German captain called Barney. They were excellent captains and we had a very good working relationship. We did about nine charters a week. It was us, the *Seawitch*, the *Oscarina* and the *Samur*; that

was it. We all did different things and we didn’t interfere with each other. The four of us even founded a sailing charter association. It didn’t last long, but the idea was nice. There was enough work for all of us. Actually, I was among the first people who started guided snorkeling, and I was also the first one on the island who started night snorkeling. Besides that I was the hostess and I did the catering. I worked 14 hours a day. It was a lot of work, but I liked it - definitely! Every year my guests would come back. It was like a big family and... it still is, because they’re still coming back to me. In May last year I had a major operation in South Africa. For 30 years I’d been suffering from scoliosis and Schauerman’s disease, which means that the three bottom vertebrae had disintegrated. It spoiled a great deal of my life because I was always in pain. Finally I found a surgeon and he did a wonderful job. What Chris Barnard was

for the heart, he is for back surgery, one of the best in the world!

Wait...” *She rushes off and returns with an X-ray.* “Look at this; I am screwed together! No more pain! And look at the scar, nothing! I sold the *Woodwind* because the doctor told me to, and I started ‘Renee’s Snorkel Trips.’ I can go anywhere, anytime and it’s something I’ve been doing more than 18 years. It’s always different. The youngest person I’ve guided was three years old and the oldest 93. Not only do the people make it different, but the sea is never the same either. There is always something nice to see. I don’t take more than four people at a time, so they get individual attention and I try not to go to the usual sites. I have a lot of spots ‘in between’ with easy entrance which is also important.

Two months ago I was asked to be the property manager of the Golden Reef Inn in Hato. The apartments are really beautiful and fully equipped, not big, but just what you need, and \$48 per day. We’ve been working really hard and our first official guest arrived last Monday.” *She smiles.* “My mother will be 80 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August and she still runs her own bed and breakfast so it’s sort of ‘in the family.’

For me the best thing about Bonaire is the sea, the water. Every morning from 7 to 8 I snorkel with Janice Huckaby, about two miles of swimming. Two weeks ago we swam with the dolphins, the big ones. There were about 50 of them! It was incredible! It’s only the fourth time in 14 years that it happened to me and it was absolutely gorgeous!

I grew up in the mountains, right in the middle of South Africa: no water, no sea, no nothing; an agricultural area. It was a small town of 24,000 people called Bethlehem. My father was the mayor and my mother a kindergarten teacher. Later I moved to the area around Cape Town. The sea around there is 16 degrees Celsius in high summer and there are lots of man-eating sharks! The country is big, but it also has a lot of political problems and a lot of crime. We have 29 languages in South Africa of which 11 are official, so you grow up multi-lingual, and every-



Renee Leach

body has to learn three languages. There’s also a lot of Portuguese influence because of the former Portuguese colonies, Mozambique and Angola that border us. I speak better Portuguese than Spanish, especially since we spent seven months in Brazil. So, I understand Papiamentu perfectly, and I can speak a little bit, but because I work with tourists all the time, I don’t practice my Papiamentu enough.”

*The phone rings, Renee jumps up and I take a look inside the house: Various shades of green, lots of books, comfortable couches, underwater pictures, many plants and two prominent paintings by Janice Huckaby: One is an underwater scene of Renee snorkeling with the fishes and another one of the Woodwind sailing into the sunset.* “The big one of me snorkeling with the Queen Angel fish was the last present my husband gave me,” says Renee, “and as you can see, green is my color!” *The cats are gathering around her and she smiles:* “Supper time.’ I have my life here,” she says happily, “and I will always stay here. I can’t take the cold anymore and I need the water. I grew up in the middle of a country with no sea around me and now I can’t live without it anymore.”

Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra

photo by author



California's Sierra School children celebrating Bonaire

## Bonaire Daydreaming

This year I found a way to hold Bonaire even closer in my mind and heart. I am the director of the science department at a large private school in Los Angeles – Sierra Canyon School. Each year we have a year-long, school-wide theme around which many activities revolve. This year our theme was the Olympics and each teacher chose a country to represent. I chose the Netherlands Antilles and the island of Bonaire. Once or twice a month I met with my group of students and shared my love of all things Bonairean. Students spent the year learning about the history, culture, government, sports and natural history of Bonaire. We designed T-shirts with the emblem of a hawksbill turtle. Students learned about the magnificent sea turtles of Bonaire and the efforts being made by Sea Turtle Conserva-

tion Bonaire to protect them. My husband and I are avid turtle lovers and I enjoyed sharing my experiences with the turtles and an educational video we shot last summer when we accompanied Funchi to Klein Bonaire to do a beach nest census. On that trip, we discovered one little turtle that was left behind in a nest that hatched the night before. We were able to film the baby turtle as it made its way into the water. (We named it Sierra). That image so excited my students that they made a donation to STCB. When the transmitters were attached to the turtles last fall, students could not wait to get to school each morning to log onto the site and see the location of Schillie and Nautila. Not only was this a meaningful lesson in conservation and geography for my students, they felt such a personal involvement that a real passion was ignited in them. Students wore their new T-shirts to the opening ceremonies and we marched in under the flag of the Netherlands Antilles.

During the year students made craft projects, did independent research on Bonaire, learned about the coral reefs, salt mountains, slave huts, island donkeys, diving and windsurfing. I showed them magazine pictures of the Bonaire Kids taking the freestyle world by storm, and of course I showed them pictures of the islands' Olympic athletes and world class sailors– Roger, Elvis and Patoen. We even enjoyed some island cuisine. The culmination to our year-long study was participation in our school fair. This fair was attended by parents, students and the community and involves about 5,000 people. Students decorated our booth with beautiful pictures that they painted with island scenes. They even handed out tourist information brochures. Then in a 20-minute performance they presented what they had learned. They recited an original poem that I wrote - "Bon Bini Bonaire" (see poem at right), sang songs and performed a Caribbean inspired dance. As we marched in the closing ceremonies my students thought that we had the most fun of any other "country" and I had to agree. I felt like I was on vacation all year. And I feel certain that some of my students will be vacationing in Bonaire as a result of their experiences. *Robbie Revel*

*Robbie Revel and her husband first visited the Netherlands Antilles in the summer of 1986. They have been returning ever since. They are avid windsurfers as well as divers.*

### Bon Bini Bonaire

The Netherlands Antilles is a group of Isles that bask in the Caribbean sun. Aruba and Curacao are a part, but Bonaire is our favorite one.

Our culture is a mix of Dutch with Caribbean to add the spice. People come from around the world; it's a diver's paradise.

You can swim and fish and kayak too, Windsurf if you dare. Though it is a desert isle, there's nature everywhere.

Scaly green Iguanas sleeping in the sun, Nibble on tall cactus and go swimming just for fun.

Bright pink flamingos fish all the day, And wade in the shallows of the blue Lac Bay.

Parakeets and yellow-shouldered parrots take flight Then perch on top of cactus, what a strange and wondrous sight.

Gentle donkeys with their foals roam free upon the land Where once they had to work and work out on the great salt pan.

The mountains of salt crystals still rise into the sky And so the mounds of conch shells piled high out on Lac Cai.

Klein Bonaire, our little isle, not inhabited by man Is a heaven for sea turtles that lay their eggs deep in the sand.

Sea turtles are endangered; we think that's just not fair. We want to SAVE THE TURTLES because we really care.

Circling round our island is our greatest treasure. The coral reef just teems with life and you can see forever.

Come visit us and have some fun, the weather's always fair. We're sure you'll want to come again, there's no place like Bonaire.

*Robbie Revel*



Robbie Revel and "Sierra"





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up

## Don't Miss Next Week's Annual Perseid Meteor Shower!

Don't miss this year's annual Perseid meteor shower because conditions will be ideal for when it reaches its peak from 2 am to dawn next Thursday morning August 12th. Read on.

Around 2 am, Sky Park Time, face northeast, where if you're far away from bright lights you'll easily see our old friends, the **Pleiades, the Seven Sisters**. And just to their left is the rather dim constellation **Perseus**, named after the Greek hero which is where the Perseid meteor shower gets its name because all the meteors appear to originate from Perseus. The reason conditions are ideal for this year's meteor shower is because there will be no bright moonlight to wipe out the fainter meteors. And to see them you don't need anything but your trusty old naked eye. All you have to do is take a lawn chair or a blanket outside around 2 am, lie back with your toes pointed toward Perseus and then watch. And if you're lucky you may see 40 to 60 meteors per hour, most very faint but a few very bright.

Don't look directly at Perseus, because the meteors will appear all around the sky. And as time goes by Perseus will slowly rise and you should see even more meteors toward dawn. Plus, as an extra treat this year, about an hour or so before sunrise, you will see an exquisite pairing of the brightest planet of them all, **Venus**, and a slender waning crescent **Moon** whose light won't be enough to really interfere with the meteors.

Now although meteors look like shooting stars, nothing could be further from the truth. In fact meteors are simply tiny specks of comet debris slamming into our Earth's atmosphere. You see, every time a comet visits our **Sun** it sheds tons of debris in its wake, like sand or flour being thrown off the back of a boat. And eventually this debris gets spread out all along the comet's path, its orbit. And whenever our Earth plows directly into any path of comet litter these tiny pieces of debris slam into our Earth's atmosphere. And as they plunge through the atmosphere, traveling many miles per second, they cause the atmospheric gasses surrounding them to heat up and glow, making streaks of light. We call these streaks of light "meteors," or incorrectly, "falling stars."

The Perseids are the debris of **Comet Swift-Tuttle**, whose debris-filled orbital path we plow through every August. And although the comet was discovered by two Americans named Swift and Tuttle during the Civil War in 1862, it wasn't until later that astronomers realized it was the source of the Perseid meteor shower which has been seen every August and recorded in history for over 2,000 years. So get out next Thursday morning, and each time you see a Perseid streak across the sky remind yourself that what you're actually seeing is a tiny piece of comet litter plunging to its fiery death. *Jack Horkimer*



Two meteor tracks at once



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:

August 6 to August 13, 2004

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Entertainment could cost you more than you expect. You can ask for favors or run your ideas by those who will be able to support your objectives. Evasion is likely if you aren't direct about your feelings. Try to calm down and listen to your partner's complaints. Compromise may be necessary. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Don't agree to make any of those cosmetic alterations you've been considering. Be sure to question any detail that you feel could leave you in a precarious position at a later date. They won't pay you back and you'll be upset. You will be in the mood for competition, and your ability to lead a group will bring you popularity. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Compromise will be necessary. Your social activity should be conducive to finding love. Business trips will be more productive than trying to fight the red tape facing you. You could lose a good friend because of it. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Tone down and put some of that hard earned cash into a safe, long-term investment. Your ideas can be put into action. It would be in your best interest to stay away from any intimate involvement with a client or co-worker. Take care of any medical problems if they've been troubling you. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Let them know what your intentions are. This will not be the day to lend money to friends or family. Make any necessary changes to your insurance policy. Sudden changes will occur through communications with friends or in-laws. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Deception will play an important factor in relationships. Think of changes to your home that will please and add to everyone's comfort. You may want to get involved in financial investments presented to you. Difficulties with your mate may lead to isolation. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You will have difficulties spreading yourself between your work and your home. Your lover may feel rejected. Trouble could be brewing at home. Your emotional partner will push all the right buttons this week. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Put your energy into learning new skills or picking up valuable information. Do not expect too much from others. The talk you have may be eye-opening with regard to your present situation. Talk to someone with experience about budgets or consolidating debts. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Put your energy into self-improvement programs that promise to make you into a better you. Although it does look promising, be careful not to overextend yourself or you will lose in the long run. Expect temper tantrums on the home front if you haven't been letting someone have their way. Your versatile mind and common sense will allow you to come up with various solutions. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Sooner or later your partner will have had enough. Plan a nice evening for two. You can make new connections through friends or relatives. You can make some money if you get involved in a conservative financial prospect that is presented to you. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Eliminate situations that are no longer to your advantage. Co-workers may not be completely honest with you; try not to rely on help from others. Your emotional partner may make you angry this week. Your stubbornness coupled with your mate's jealousy doesn't make for a favorable time. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Job changes are in order. Go for interviews or send out resumes. It will be all around you. You can receive recognition for the work you've done. Avoid any petty ego confrontations; they could lead to estrangement if you aren't careful. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**Moon Info** ☾ Last Quarter on August 7<sup>th</sup> ● New Moon on August

16<sup>th</sup> ☽ First Quarter on August 23<sup>rd</sup> ○ Full Moon on August 30