

**IT'S  
STILL  
FREE**

January 7 to January 14, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 2

# **The BONAIRI REPORTER**

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## **A NEW KID FOR A NEW YEAR**

Marian  
Walthic  
Photo

Page 14

# FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

**T**he reputation of the Special Olympics Bonaire has spread far and wide.

They've been asked to assist the newly formed Special Olympics St. Martin to help them get organized and to give them assistance on how to raise funds. As well, a high school in Connecticut called to ask if they could tell them how they can run their own Walk-a-Thon. Bonaire's group was recommended to them to use as a model by visitors to the island who were so impressed by how very well the event was organized. (More information about this year's Walk-a-Thon on page 8.)

► **Air France-KLM slashed KLM ticket prices to all 66 European destinations from Amsterdam by about 40% on January 1** in an attempt to compete more effectively with low-cost carriers. "It's the biggest price cut in the history of KLM. The new tariffs will be valid for the entire year," KLM said. KLM, which was taken over by Air France earlier this year, said quality and service will remain unchanged, although the airline will introduce some new charges. "The competition in Europe is killing," said analyst Peter Koster at FBS Bankiers. In Europe, KLM's passenger load factor in the 2003/2004 financial year was 75% compared with an earlier average of 80.1%. International flight ticket prices remain unchanged.



► **United Telecommunications Services (UTS) recently signed a contract with French company Transatel, paving the way for UTS to start providing its "Chippie" service in Holland.** The new cellular service will be known as Multi-Number in Holland and the Netherlands Antilles.

► **The St. Eustatius Island Council voted last Wednesday to hold a Referendum** on the future constitutional status of the Island Territory on Friday, April 8, 2005. It is the final Antillean island to so decide.

► **Dutch Crown Prince Willem Alexander and his Argentine-born wife Maxima are expecting their second child,** the Dutch National Information Office said last Tuesday. The office issued a statement in the name of the couple's year-old daughter, Princess Catharina-Amalia, saying: "I'm really glad that I can say to you all that I will expect a baby brother or sister by mid-July 2005." Princess Amalia, who turned one on December 7, is second in line to the Dutch throne, behind her father, the Crown Prince. Her new sibling will be third in line. Dutch media had speculated Maxima was pregnant after she appeared in public on the day of the burial of Prince Bernhard, father of Queen Beatrix. Bernhard, husband of the late Queen Juliana, died on December 1 at the age of 93. His wife, who abdicated in 1980 for her daughter, had died in March, aged 94.

► **This year Bonaire will get new license plates -dark blue with white let-**

ters. You can renew vehicle registration for six months or a year. For non-diesel-powered passenger cars and trucks the annual cost is NAf359; diesel vehicles will cost NAf 1.519 (diesel fuel is non-taxed at the pump); motorcycles and scooters, NAf135.



► **Mabel Nava will be joining the STCB team** as Project Coordinator working along with veteran Project Assistant Funchi Egbreghts. The two will be continuing the turtle monitoring activities begun by Dr. Robert van Dam. Mabel has been working with Jong Bonaire for the last three and a half years.

► **We can report the Captain Don Stewart is recovering nicely from the surgery** that removed his lower right leg. It's not an easy task to learn to walk all over again. Don is rebuilding his leg muscles which have become weak from disuse. He's able to stand with the aid of his prosthetic leg and will soon be out of a wheelchair and using a walker. This year he will celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. See page 8 for a special message from Captain Don himself.

All of the problems began back in 1980 when Captain Don smashed his ankle while leading a group attempting to salvage the sailing raft, *Sterke Yerke III*,

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from the windward side of Bonaire. It was a Dutch project to draw attention to European environmental issues. The raft was later re-floated and ended its days in Curaçao.

Back then the Curaçao doctors wired up the ankle and put the Captain in a full leg

(Continued on page 3)



*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Continued from page 2) cast. It slowed down his dive activities for a while. In February, 1999, a part of the wire was removed at Bonaire's San Francisco Hospital by Dr. van der Veen and his team, who told Captain Don that their services and those of the hospital were being done at no charge "out of respect for what you have done for Bonaire." However, the original problem was too far gone and infection persisted even after numerous hyperbaric enriched oxygen treatments. Captain Don was in discomfort and at times, intense pain, for the last several years as the wound failed to heal. (In answer to the many who have asked, the Captain is NOT a diabetic and that was not the cause of the problem.)



► The pop group, The Police, sang about it; Kevin Costner starred in a film of the same title, but **what do we really know about messages in a bottle?** We do know one story though.

A project of the *Sterke Yerke III* was to study the waste routes of the Rhine River. During its voyage from Europe in 1979 it dropped 3,000 bottles, with location messages inside, overboard. The first one was recovered on February 6, 1982, on Grand Turk Island (Turks and Caicos Islands, southeast of the Bahamas). The bottle that landed on the eastern shore of Grand Turk had been dropped just south of Gran Canaria at Latitude 25°N and Longitude 17°W. In addition to this bottle, another was found in Anguilla, two in the Virgin Islands, one in Puerto Rico and one in Mexico. We must ask. What happened to the other 2,994 bottles?

► Part time Bonaire resident, David F. Colvard, M.D. ([www.DivePsych.com](http://www.DivePsych.com)), who is also a dive master, has **proposed a research study on PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) in divers in/on/near the water on 26 December 2004 when the Indonesian Tsunami hit.** The study will begin in about 30 days after this tragic and traumatic event and last for about 12 months. PTSD may become a barrier to some of these divers returning to the water. If you know of any divers or snorkelers who were in/on/near the water when the tsunami hit, please ask them to contact David Colvard [dcolvard@mindspring.com](mailto:dcolvard@mindspring.com) about participating in this study. Participation will be entirely voluntary. Dr. Colvard has done extensive studies in the past on diver stress.

► **The last reconnaissance flight con-**



*Orions*

**ducted by the Royal Navy P3C-Orion patrol plane was last Thursday.** The aircraft have returned to Holland after a decade of service in the Dutch Caribbean. Many a lost fisherman and sailor owe their lives to being spotted by the plane. On April 1st, two Royal Air Force Fokker-60 transport planes, adapted for search and rescue, will take over. For the

next three months an agreement has been made with the British Air Force which will fill in with Nimrod maritime patrol planes.

► **The Antillean Amstel Brewery in Curaçao did not close its doors on January 1** as threatened by its Director, Gilmar Winklaar, because the government provided an asked-for tax reduction. However, the future of the brewery remains uncertain because other supporting measures that were promised have yet to be given. Director Winklaar said, "We expect to be able to inform our wholesale dealers of the new reduced prices by next week. We hope these reduced prices will be passed along to the consumer."

► Last week we wrote about the new



**"three-currency" commemorative coins.** However, all gold and silver commemorative euro coins issued in Holland so far have been sold out, and the requests for the coins available since December 15 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Kingdom Charter point in the same direction. But don't despair. In connection with the 50th anniversary of the Monument Foundation Curaçao a special 25-guilder coin was issued: 0.925% silver, weighing 25 grams and with a diameter of 38 millimeters. The coin has Queen Beatrix on the front and a characteristic monument façade on the back, while the inscription on the edge reads: "God be with us."

► **As we were going to press we received the following message from Bart Snelder and his son Allan:**

"We would like to thank all our friends on Bonaire for their massive support we received as Laurence passed away. What we always knew is true: Bonaire and its people provide a home and shelter for which there is no equal. We are extremely grateful to all of you.

Moved beyond words,  
Bart and Allan"

A short tribute to Laurence Snelder Normand can be found on page 5. □  
G./L.D.



**F**unny, our female Hawksbill turtle, has settled in the same general location as two other Bonaire turtles. She is right over the Serranilla Bank. Funny is spending very little time on the surface, which is a good indicator that she is at home. The Bank is located approximately 360 km north-east of Honduras. Several very small cays emerge above the water to form the bank's islands. Overall, the bank is 40 km wide and 32 km long and is part of Colombia.

It's increasingly apparent how important the western Caribbean around Honduras and Nicaragua are to Bonaire's breeding population. Not only does it appear that it is home to Funny, but Extra, our female Loggerhead, and STINAPA, our female Green turtle, reside in the same general area. Funny's position is approximately 220 km from Extra's last recorded location in October 2004, and STINAPA is approximately 320 km away from her. □ *Andy Uhr*

# THE BONAIRE REPORTER ANNUAL PREDICTIONS

For the last 10 years we've been trying to determine how the coming year will work out. This year we continue with our views in four important areas. And so you can see how accurate we were, you can refer to our **HITS & MISSES**.

Prediction for 2005	Prediction for 2004 Published January 2004	Results of 2004
<p><b>Structural:</b> Bonaire's island government has had a sleepy year. This year its <b>road rebuilding program</b> should progress faster and social projects advance.</p> <p>More and more <b>payments</b>, normally funneled through the Central Government <b>will be made directly to Bonaire from Holland</b>.</p> <p><b>Agreements and protocols</b> for direct Dutch rule will be developed as the remaining islands conduct their Referenda.</p> <p><b>Progress towards a direct tie with Holland will be evolutionary</b> rather than revolutionary.</p>	<p><b>Structural:</b> The executive branch of the country is in chaos and paralysis as we enter the new year as a result of the conviction of its top leader and the placement of his inexperienced sister in the Prime Minister's spot. The economy is staggering under mounting debt. There will be political and moral fallout resulting from the convictions of numerous leaders for fraud. We feel <b>Holland will act behind the scenes to intervene</b> until things are stabilized.</p> <p>The Central Government failures put new focus on <b>the inability of the country's present structure to continue to operate</b>. The individual island's demands to work directly with the Netherlands will bring changes especially in financing.</p> <p><b>The year should see a referendum</b> on how the Bonaireans want their island to be structured: become a Dutch municipality, Status Aparté (like Aruba), remain a vassal of Curaçao or take a new direction</p>	<p><b>Hit:</b> The Godett Government indeed fell and dozens of <b>corrupt officials received jail time</b>. The new coalition government has been reasonably cooperative with The Netherlands and has received cooperation in return.</p> <p>But the Central Government may soon become a relic of the 20th century as <b>Bonaire voted to break from central control</b> and go either its separate way or establish direct ties with Holland. Bonaireans confirmed their choice in a July Referendum.</p>
<p><b>Economic:</b> Better and more frequent connections, and we hope, finally a <b>direct flight to the US</b>, will show how important the US market is to Bonaire.</p> <p><b>Housing prices</b>, especially along the shorefront, <b>will continue to rise</b>. The possibility of Bonaire soon having a direct Dutch link form of government combined with a strong euro will make Bonaire an attractive real estate investment for many Europeans.</p> <p>If direct US flights are begun there will be a significant <b>rise in American visitors</b>.</p> <p><b>Businesses will continue to turnover</b> as failing businesses are snapped up by euro-strong investors.</p>	<p><b>Economic:</b> It can't be denied that more air connections are fueling Bonaire's current boom; 2004 will see <b>Bonaire-Exel expanding its routes</b> with better connections to the US and South America. The boom will continue.</p> <p>We believe <b>DCA will cut back</b> its inter-island routes in favor of continuing to make money on overseas flights. Bonaire-Exel and new Aruba airlines will step in to fill the gap.</p> <p><b>More tourists will arrive</b>. If non-stop flights to key US cities do resume, US arrivals will jump the same proportion as did European's when KLM began flying to Bonaire daily.</p> <p>There will be a <b>fallout</b> of inefficient businesses, but others entering the market will more than handle new visitors.</p>	<p><b>Miss:</b> BonairExel did indeed improve its ABC island service but <b>did not expand to the US or South America</b>. The airline picture was clouded when the cheap flights to Holland disappeared in a flurry of bankruptcies and DCA finally went belly-up.</p> <p>The parent company, Exel, stepped in with CuraçaoExel and ArubaExel, as did some other airlines, but in general air service is well below what was available during the heyday of ALM.</p> <p>The TCB hasn't produced a count of tourist arrivals in many months. When they did, a <b>modest increase in arrivals</b> was being reported. Despite a strong euro there was a slight decline in European tourists.</p> <p>There have been many restaurant <b>failures</b>, but they have been balanced by new openings. Some inefficient businesses failed, but there were more new openings than closings.</p>
<p><b>Environmental:</b> We believe a <b>compromise will be reached on the sewage treatment plant</b> that will permit it to continue towards deployment by 2008.</p> <p>The <b>Marine Park will institute some significant programs</b> and regain top billing on the world environmental stage.</p> <p><b>Washington Park should receive international recognition</b> for its new projects and innovations.</p> <p>The <b>STCB</b>, now under on-island operation, <b>will continue to get headlines</b> for its tracking projects.</p>	<p><b>Environmental:</b> Bonaire's Marine Park may have lost the lead in innovative coral reef protection. But this year, with help from Kalli DeMeyers' Foundation for Coral preservation, a strong volunteer program and other changes it has the potential to <b>again take the lead</b> with no-fishing zones and a commitment to installing shorefront sewage treatment.</p> <p>The people of the Antilles will resist the idea of <b>allowing foreign fleets to fish</b> in the country's Exclusive Economic Zone but won't get much backup from their Central Government.</p>	<p><b>Miss:</b> The Bonaire National Marine Park recovered lost ground after the appointment of Ramon de Leon. But it did not come up with programs that indicate leadership. The no-fishing zone plan has been shelved, and the shorefront sewage treatment program is in disarray after the Environmental NGOs rejected the plan proposed.</p> <p>Although foreign fishing fleets aren't raping our maritime resources, no legislation to prevent it has been enacted. In fact, with closer ties with Europe becoming a reality, the Antilles Exclusive Economic Zone is in greater danger.</p>
<p><b>Social:</b> People will be disappointed with the reorganization of the police department's crime fighting ability. More than police will be required to solve the deep-seated problems that cause drug abuse related offenses.</p> <p>AMFO will bring even more funds to Bonaire's NGOs.</p>	<p><b>Social:</b> We don't think the <b>small number of additional police will make much of a difference in preventing petty crimes</b>. For that the social programs such as Jong Bonaire, youth sports and anti-drug education will work better. These have been in place for years but were starved for funds.</p> <p>When money again begins to come to the non-governmental social sector as a result of the NGO platform finally in place, <b>improvement will be noticed</b> in a few years.</p> <p>And we think that a wave of popular sentiment will <b>reverse the plan to rename Flamingo Airport</b> after the newborn heir to the Dutch throne.</p>	<p><b>Hit: Unfortunately.</b> Crime escalated, reaching a peak when an older couple were badly abused during a robbery. Following that event a public outcry for action and strong leadership from the Governor is resulting in reorganization of the police force and an influx in funds from Holland.</p> <p>Through the offices of AMFO, a development of the NGO platform, generous funding from Holland has supported many worthwhile social programs on Bonaire.</p> <p>The name of Bonaire's International Airport Flamingo Airport was retained.</p>



**Laurence Snelder Normand**  
**15 February 1968 – 31 December 2004**

I can still remember when I first noticed Laurence. A petite, slender, dark-haired girl who couldn't have weighed more than 50 kilos (110 lbs.) was tilting up the outboard motor on a huge dinghy so she could deliver her passengers to the beach at Klein Bonaire. She had arrived earlier on a sleek French yacht with her father, mother and kid sister, having sailed across the Atlantic. The family returned to France. She stayed, having fallen in love with Bart Snelder, a dive instructor. I think we were the first ones to introduce them to each other. They married and settled on Bonaire. Their son, Allan, is Antillean born. My wife, Laura, traveled with her and her husband, Bart, to Curaçao for the Caesarian birth. We were worried about her heart which had made ominous sounds from her birth. But it was not her heart that failed.



She was a rock to her friends, the centerpiece of the French speaking community, a person you could count on to help in any situation. Her broad smile made you feel comfortable; her large eyes sparkled with friendliness, her French accent fascinated. She always laughed hysterically at my attempts to speak French... and I laughed with her. Her creatively decorated home in Playa was always open to wandering spirits and her horde of friends.

A year and a half ago she was told she had lung cancer. The statistics for recovery were slim. But she was determined to try with all her might to prove them wrong. And indeed she tried, undergoing the most advanced treatments in a teaching hospital in France near the town where she was born. For a while the disease seemed to have been overcome. But last summer it reappeared and she had to return to France for more treatment. Unhappily, the grim numbers proved accurate and she lost her unfair fight on the last day of last year. Tandem services were held in Gigean, France, and at St. Bernardus Church in Kralendijk this past Tuesday, 4 January.

We all miss her terribly. □ G.D.

**LETTER**

**HELPING THE COMMUNITY**

Dear NGOs,

A year is a long time. A lot of things can happen in the course of 365 days. Stepping from 2004 into 2005, it's a natural time to reflect on all the changes that occurred at AMFO in the past year.

Our two new offices became operational. We welcomed new employees and board members into our midst. We appraised more than 150 social projects and more than 200 micro projects.

We started to play a more active role in poverty alleviation and organized our first conference with all partners.

We published our first newsletter and started a poverty awareness campaign.

In the midst of all, one thing remains the same: *our commitment to strong social and self development on all five islands.*

All of us at AMFO thank you for your contribution to social development this year. It is a joy and a privilege to serve you, as you seek to serve others as well. In the next 365 days more changes are sure to come our way and we hope to partner with you in meeting the social needs of our islands.

We wish you a happy, healthy 2005, filled with God's rich blessings!

*On behalf of the AMFO family, Chairman, Dennis M. Martinus*

AMFO evaluates and manages the distribution of funds to NGOs. Ed

**INVITATION**

The Governor of the Island Territory of Bonaire, the Honorable Herbert Domacassé, has the pleasure of inviting everyone to his traditional New Years reception, on Friday January 7, 2005, from 20:00 till 21:30 at the Centro di Bario (community center) in Niki-boko at Kaya Pos di Amor 44.

Dress: Smart Casual.

***The Bonaire Reporter welcomes letters from readers.***

*Letters must include the writer's name and telephone number or e-mail address. Letters without that information will not be published.*

*If a writer wishes to remain anonymous or just use initials we will honor the request. Letters should not be more than 400 words in length and may be edited at the Editor's discretion. Send letters or diskettes to The Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire; via fax 717-8988 or E-mail: letters@bonairenews.com*



## Tsunami Topics

As the death toll in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami climbs toward 200,000 the plight of the survivors becomes desperate. Governments all over the world are sending aid. If as an individual you wish to help you can do it through **Direct Relief International** (<http://www.directrelief.org>) in Santa Barbara, CA, with an impressive history (over \$100 Million in 2003) of immediate disaster response at less than 1% administrative expense!

◆ **A tsunami early alert system**, which could have saved thousands of lives around the Indian Ocean, should be in place in South and Southeast Asia within a year, a U.N. official said last Wednesday. "The problem is not so much the technical system, but the (communication) network. There is a great deal of work to be done in raising awareness of coastal communities," he told a news conference. The huge waves, which killed at least 70,000 people, with Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand the worst hit, took between one and six hours to reach their shores.

The Indian Ocean, with no major tsunamis in over 100 years, is not the only area vulnerable to tsunamis and without a warning system. The Caribbean and the Mediterranean, both on fault lines, are also at risk. "Immediately after the tragedy we received concerns from the Caribbean, and even the Mediterranean and Europe and Northern Africa have the same threat," said Salvano Briceno, the director of the U.N.'s International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. A U.N. conference on disaster reduction next month in the Japanese city of Kobe, where some 6,400 were killed in a quake in 1995, was an opportunity to start preparations. Bonaire will host a Tsunami conference in January 2006.

◆ Last week the Barbados-based **Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency** (CDERA) said that it was working towards **establishing an early tsunami warning system for the Caribbean** in light of the tragic events that led to the deaths of more than 50,000 people from Thailand to Somalia on Boxing Day.

CDERA said it is holding discussions

with a number of partners, including the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre, the University of Puerto Rico Seismic Network, the University of the US Virgin Islands and the Seismic Research Unit at the University of the West Indies, regarding the establishment of a tsunami early warning system for the Caribbean. The focus of the Intra-Americas Sea Tsunami Warning System (IASTWS) was initially on Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, but the system is now being widened to include the rest of the Caribbean, it said in a statement.

"There is already a basic framework that can be used for an early warning system in the Caribbean which comprise equipment such as tidal gauges established by the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC) and an early warning system set up for the Kick 'em Jenny underwater volcano," the statement said.

◆ Sri Lankan wildlife officials are stunned -- the worst tsunami in memory has killed around 22,000 people along the Indian Ocean island's coast, but **they can't find any dead animals**. Giant waves washed floodwaters up to two miles inland at Yala National Park in the ravaged southeast, Sri Lanka's biggest wildlife reserve and home to hundreds of wild elephants and several leopards.

"The strange thing is we haven't recorded any dead animals," H.D. Ratnayake, deputy director of the National Wildlife Department, told Reuters on Wednesday. "No elephants are dead, not even a dead hare or rabbit," he added. "I think animals can sense disaster. They

have a sixth sense. They know when things are happening." In the same area, at least 40 tourists were drowned.

◆ There are two known potential sources that can generate tsunamis in the Caribbean. These are:

1. Tectonic **earthquakes** occurring underwater such as the Lisbon Earthquake of 1755. For these to generate a tsunami, the quake has to be at a magnitude of at least 7.0 on the Richter Scale and caused by a dip slip on the plane of movement at 1,000 meters or more. In the past 500 years only four of this type of earthquake have generated tsunamis in the Caribbean region. The maximum height of these waves has been 2m and this is therefore considered a low probability.

2. **Volcanoes** such as the underwater volcano, Kick 'em Jenny, located eight kilometers north of Grenada, pose no threat now or in the immediate future; or a flank collapse from an onshore volcano such as Cumbre Vieja on La Palma, Canary Islands. **The greatest known seismic threats to the Caribbean are from terrestrial volcanoes and earthquakes.**

Fact sheets on seismic activities and preparedness measures can be obtained at: Seismic Research Unit – <http://www.uwiseismic.com> and the CDERA Documentation Centre – <http://www.cderra.org/doccentre/hazards.shtml>. □

G.D.

*Next week: Recent Caribbean Tsunamis* □

# 'TALKING with FISHES'



At a time when man looks into the cosmos for new life forms, harvests the oceans faster than they can regenerate and consumes the fish faster than they can reproduce, how much do we truly know about marine life? Are fish just there for our consumption? 'Talking with Fishes,' a film that was shown at Captain Don's Habitat on Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, documents a quest to discover whether fishes can actually have feelings and intelligence. It's a dramatically compelling story about making contact with marine life. Provocative images reveal one man's extraordinary understanding and unique mystical ability to bond with fishes. Scuba diving the world's oceans and studying the marine creatures for many years, filmmakers Guy and Anita Chaumette combine high quality and breathtaking images with the real time exhilaration of going underwater. They invite the viewer to join them on this premiere spectacular journey of discovery beneath the sea.

The film uses high quality macro imaging of the tiniest animals to spectacu-

lar bonding with the moray eels, the scorpion fish, the sharks – still widely considered as dangerous and threatening... and introduces the Nassau Grouper, on the verge of extinction, yet still the most popular dish consumed throughout the Caribbean. Watch as man slowly forges a fascinating bond with this magnificent creature, in danger of disappearing from our planet. Curious, friendly, absolutely unforgettable.

Is there more to these relationships than meets the eye? Can we humans give these creatures something? Can they tell us what they want? By learning the special signals and the 'language of the fishes' and becoming part of their environment, some amazing facts are unraveled. We follow an intimate journey of discovery as it is revealed that not only do some marine animals seem to feel and enjoy, but they possess the intelligence to actually learn, to recognize, to remember and to expect.

'Talking With Fishes' is a stunning new form of documentary that will appeal to and reach all audiences, from the viewer who has never before seen the

## YOGA FOR YOU

### KIDS LOVE YOGA

*The only way to discover what yoga is about is to do it. The best thing about it is that you are in charge! You know better than anyone else how far you can reach, how well you can balance, how still you can be. Yoga is about exploring.*

By Baron Baptist

This week we will start again with some fun yoga practice for kids. We had a great time last year exploring different yoga poses. Doing postures like the tree, the butterfly, and walking like a bear brought a lot of laughter in our room. It amazes me to see how creative kids are, twisting their bodies into shapes, turning upside down, doing poses with funny animal names, and just being silly, having fun.

Another aspect of yoga with kids is that it helps them develop better body awareness, self-control, flexibility, breathing techniques and coordination in a quiet, non-competitive atmosphere. It's great to see how quickly they catch on. They seem to pick up on the different moves very quickly and remember most of the previous poses. Their concentration improves, and they get into the habit of being active.

Yoga is something we can all do for the rest of our lives; it's a beautiful lifetime practice. Being able to learn some basic yoga at a young age will give kids some instant gratification and make their lives richer as they grow into adults.

So we are looking forward to another year of fun yoga with the kids, □ Don & Desirée

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

*Call 717-2727 or 786-6416*



underwater world, to the marine scientist and biologist. Filmed on location in the more remote islands of the Caribbean, it recaptures marine life in its most natural environment... and diving as it should be – enigmatic, mystical creatures and pure, spellbinding adventure in a majestically colorful environment. This is a powerful and dazzling revelation of marine animals as they really are. □ Guy Chaumette ©2003 Liquid Motion Film

*An internationally acclaimed 52 minute underwater documentary film, awarded the 'GOLD REMI AWARD' at Houston International Film Festival (for marine life behavior), 'BEST UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY' at the International Wildlife Film Festival, IFFF Montana 2004, BEST DIRECTOR at the International Underwater Film Festival, Slovakia and 3RD PRIZE, 'A Group films, Professional, TV broadcast' at the International Festival of Belgrade. □*



# Only 15 days before the SPECIAL OLYMPICS WALK-A-THON



*Windsurfers Tonky and Tati walked*

It's the THIRD ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS BONAIRE-EXEL WALK-A-THON – Sunday, January 23. It's been Bonaire's most popular fund raising event and it all goes to a great cause – sending our Special Olympic athletes to compete in international games.

Not only are you contributing to a good cause, but the past years' Walk-a-Thons have been great fun not only for individuals but for groups too who even get others to sponsor them.

**Instructions for participants:**

You may walk, you may run or bike or even roller blade. Everyone meets at 5 am at the Slave Huts at the south end of the island, and the 30-kilometer walk begins.

Or you may leave your car at the Sta-

dium in Playa and take the FKPD bus which will leave at **4:30 am SHARP** to take you to the Slave Huts. Then you'll be able to get a ride back to the Stadium from the Pasa Dia in Rincon.

Bikes can get a lift back to town from the Pasa Dia with

Suzy Baker's Herrera Amstel Beer trucks (which will be empty of beer to make room for the bikes).

There will be pick up trucks out along the route in case you get tired or have any problems. As well, the Red Cross people will be there, monitoring the well being of everyone.

You'll follow the route of the slaves with the final destination, the Pasa Dia in Rincon. Every five kilometers there will be a "refreshment station" where you'll be offered water, fruits, snacks and lots of encouragement. And at the Pasa Dia you'll receive a certificate and a delicious BBQ and drinks.

**Other recommendations from the pros who've done it:** Don't wear new shoes; make sure they're broken in al-

ready. For long distance running or walking you should wear shoes a half to one size larger than you normally wear. Put baby powder on your feet. Then put Vaseline on your toes where you might

have chafing. Bring along flip flops to change into if you can no longer wear your shoes.

Tickets are NAf25 and include a Walk-A-Thon T-shirt, this year with the date! (from BonairExel, Malta, Amstel, Fria, TC Herrera), a canvas back pack (from FCB), water bottle (MCB bank), a

baseball hat (Ennia) and the BBQ in Rincon. Get your tickets at TCB (717-8322), Croccantino Restaurant (717-5025) or from any Special Olympics Bonaire board member. Or email [info@specialolympicsbonaire.org](mailto:info@specialolympicsbonaire.org).

Due to popular demand a special, very practical item for sale this year is a waistband that holds a water bottle, so you can let your arms and hands swing free. It's NAf15 – all proceeds going to Special Olympics Bonaire of course. It makes a great souvenir too.

Once you get your ticket you may pick up your gift bag at City Café/Hotel Rocheline in the lobby on January 20, from 1600 to 1900; January 21 from



*Rudsel Leito and Boi Antoin walked*

1600 to 1900; January 22, from 1000 to 1600.

Thanks to the many very generous sponsors who dug deep into their pockets to help make this annual event an outstanding success. We'll be printing a sponsor list in *The Reporter* after the Walk-a-Thon. □ L.D.

**GET YOUR TICKET NOW**  
Only NAf25  
Get a FREE T-shirt, canvas bag, water bottle and a BBQ.

**GET YOUR TICKETS FROM:**

**Board of Directors 2004/2005**

**National Director** – Delno Tromp  
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**Treasurer/Secty** – Claire Sealy  
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**Head of Coaches** – Elizabeth Wigny  
**Public Relations** – Roosje Goeloe  
**Board members:** Mike Gaynor, Chio Semeleer, Sharon & Scott Barlass, Aura Kock, Lucille Soliana

**"My profound gratitude --**

**Gratitude, as the word 'thank you' seems so trivial -- to all the hearts and souls, both living and dead, who over the last 42 years have made my life in Bonaire most eventful."** *-Captain Don*



# COMCABON - SPONSOR OF 20 YEARS OF RACING FUN

It's New Years Eve, 5:30 pm at the Stadium, and the runners are starting to assemble for the COMCABON annual End of the Year Race, the San Silvester Run, a distance of 5 Kilometers for adults, 2K for kids. Why, we wondered, would so many people come out to run a race on this particular day when festivities on the island have already started? One of the runners answered for a lot of them, "Otherwise," he said, "we'd all start drinking and partying too early in the day to celebrate the end of the year!"

Twenty years ago some active runners who were friends decided to start a group to sponsor fun races. Members of that "pioneer" group were Richard Pietersz, Hubert (Ibi) DePalm, Max Chirino, Boi Franceses and Selma Thode. Richard, Ibi and Boi are still involved. Why has the group lasted this long and been so successful? "Because these races are just for fun," explains COMCABON President, Richard Pietersz.

"Our first race was a 24 km race during Regatta. That was for all ages, but then we realized it was way too long for the kids! So we adjusted it and separated the runners into separate adult and children categories."

Originally we concentrated on kids races, but then as the kids grew up we had to add more categories. "Then we'd run the San Silvester (end of the year race) for 10K, but for the last 10 years it's 5K. We shortened the distance so more people could participate."

For 10 years they ran a triathlon, but it got to be too big of a job for the volunteers who didn't have that much time any more, so five or so years ago they stopped running it.

"We've always had great sponsors like MCB since the beginning, ABN, Amstel from Curacao and Bonaire, J. C.



Richard Pietersz drops the flag for the start of the Kids' race



Winners pose before the race: Sharlason Sumter (2nd in "Boys") Eusvienne Soliana (1st in "Girls") and Sharlon Sumter (1st in "Boys")

Herrera," Pietersz adds.

Interestingly, not too many kids are running in the races anymore, according to Pietersz. "It's because the athletics coaches don't want them running longer races - only shorter ones for their training."

COMCABON runs about 15 to 16 races a year, often sponsored by organizations like the Lion's Club, Karpata Foundation, Mega FM, Casa Bonita, to mention a few. This last year they had a round Bonaire two-day walk, 44 or 41K per day. Their aim is to invite people of all ages, all levels of fitness to come out and have a good time.

The races on New Years Eve were spirited and fun, for sure, with everyone ending up at *Ons Hoekje* (our little cor-

ner) in Nikiboko Suid, having drinks and hot soup and hashing over the race.

The first place winner in "Men's," Iwan Duursma, disappeared right after finishing the race, only to reappear a little time later. He'd re-run the race, back to the Stadium to pick up his car, he explained. Does that mean the race was too short for him?

We hope that this fine organization, COMCABON, keeps up the positive work it's doing for the community. If you're interested in finding out more, call Richard Pietersz at 717-8629. *The Bonaire Reporter* will continue to publish the race schedule in the "What's Happening" section of the paper. □L.D.



Frank Bohm, a runner and owner of DeFreewieler, hands over a donation to COMCABON's President Richard Pietersz. Elio "Boi" Franceses and Chio Semeleer in the background.

## KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
1-07	10:18	2.2FT.	68
1-08	11:02	2.2FT.	80
1-09	11:47	2.3FT.	91
1-10	12:30	2.2FT.	99
1-11	13:23	2.2FT.	103
1-12	14:09	2.0FT.	100
1-13	15:05	1.9FT.	98
1-14	0:20	0.9FT.	89

## VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Angie	Isukara	Sundance
Alegria, USA	Kukara	Surprise
Ahto	La Famalia	Sutamom
Angelique	Letrancer	Ta-B
Antares	Luna C. USA	Tartufo
Bettina, Venezuela	Maebelle	Ti Amo, USA
BiahaBingo	Mahi Mahi	Tsih
Bright Sea	Maggi	Tartufo
Camissa, Chan Is.	Moon Rice	Tween, Netherlands
Cape Kathryn	Nana Marie	Ulu Ulu, USA
Desire	Natural Selection, USA	Unicorn, Norway
Dulcinea	Nechtan	Varedhuni, Germany
Flying Cloud, USA	Oniro	Ventura II, Costa Rica
Forewinds	Plane Sailing	Verena
Galandriel	Precocious Gale, USA	Voodoo
Gammler	Pura Vida	Windmiller, Canada
Gatsby, USA	Sandpiper, USA	Windswept
Grey Lady	Sea Wolf	Wyver
Guaicamar I, Venezuela.	Serendipity	Ya-T, BVI
Haxebase	Serenete	Zahi, Malta
Jandreso	Siddhartna	
Josina	Sirius	
Inspiration	Sylvia K	



# 7 Days **COUNTDOWN...** To Go **STUDENT CHEF COMPETITION**

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Friday, January 14—COMPETITION** -at the SGB Hotel School, Chez Nous. Nine teams from ABC islands and St. Martin. The public invited to two demonstrations at Chez Nous:  
**Bartending** at 4 to 6 pm  
**Culinary** – time to be announced

**Saturday, January 15 – GALA AWARDS DINNER** – Buffet with “food stations,” each representing a different theme: Italian, Caribbean, Dessert, etc. Attire is “Caribbean Elegance with lots of Color!” All proceeds go to funding the event. At Chez Lucille’s at Harbour Village. **There is a limited number of tickets so reserve now. They’re NA\$55.**

Dress code: “Caribbean elegance with lots of color!” (no ties for men)  
 All proceeds go to funding the event. **There are a limited number of tickets so reserve now.** Call Liz Rijna at the school at 717-8120; Sara Matera at 786-9299; or Laura DeSalvo at 717-8988 or 791-7252.



*Culinary Teachers Kees Leeman (far left) and Vernon “Nonchi” Martijn (far right) and coordinator Ann Leong flank SBO Team Captain Terence Martis as he stirs the sauce. They’ll see to it that he gets it right!*

**N**ine teams of culinary students from the ABC islands and St. Martin will be gathering on Bonaire on Friday, January 14, to participate in an International Culinary Student Competition at the SGB hotel school, Chez Nous. The idea behind the competition, which began on Bonaire as an intramural event in 2002, is to develop profes-

sionalism, pride and creativity in the students. There will be two teams from Bonaire, three from Curaçao, three from Aruba and one from St. Martin.

The competition is set up exactly as are international culinary competitions for professionals. The students must present three original dishes: an appetizer, a main course and a dessert, pre-



*VSBO Team Members Wendly Heredia, Andres Cicilia and Team Captain Samantha Statie*

paring five plates each for judging. International culinary judges will pick the winning team.

In Bonaire things are heating up in the kitchen of the hotel school. The SBO team (higher level) will be represented by Team Captain **Terence Martis** with team members **Carlos Santiago, Rolando Janzen** and **Vladimir Gijsbertha**. They’ve planned a menu of a fish appetizer, pork tenderloin done in an original way and a sorbet.

The younger team, VSBO, is made up of Team Captain **Samantha Statie**, team members **Bram Schmit, Wendy Heredia**, and **Andres Cicilia**. They plan a menu of a fish appetizer, a main dish of lamb and something chocolate for dessert. What the teams are planning to do with their dishes is top secret! □ *L.D.*



# PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE REPORTER 2004 WINNERS

The competition for the 2004 winning "Picture Yourself" photo ended in a tie. They're shown below. **Winners, please contact *The Reporter* for your prizes!**



## Paramaribo, Surinam

*The Reporter* at the wedding of Bonaire residents Janto and Mariella Djamin.



## Fallujah, Iraq

PFC Jake S.M. Barlass, son of Bonaire residents Scott and Sharon Barlass, in a bunker with a copy of *The Reporter*.

Photos of our readers with a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* were sent in from the Caribbean, America and Europe, China (2), The Middle East, Cuba, The Republican National Convention, Polynesia, India and many more locales. The most frequent locale pictured was Orlando, Florida. □ *G.D.*

**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 2005 photos are eligible.) □



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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**

**NEW BRASSERIE BONAIRE NEW**  
Restaurant – Terrace – Take away Open everyday for **LUNCH** and **DINNER** Sunday closed.  
**SPECIALTIES:** French baguettes – Fresh salads, Local fish–Steaks–Saté–Special Fish Menu \$20.  
**ROYAL PALM GALLERIES, DOWNTOWN KRALENDIJK, Kaya Grandi 26 F/G, TEL/FAX : 717-4321**  
**NEW NEW**

visit *Gallery "MyArt"* **Marjolein Fonseca-Verhoef** call : 785-3988

**Elegant greeting cards and beautiful boxed note cards** are now available at Chat-N-Browse next to Sand Dollar. Photography by Shelly Craig. [www.bonaireimages.com](http://www.bonaireimages.com)



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

**FOR SALE**

**Oster (TM) Espresso / Cappuccino Maker** - in perfect condition - only used for 6 months - makes two cups simultaneously - filter also holds Senseo bags Asking Price = NAf90.- Contact : Tel 717-2209

**GARMIN GPSMAP182** w/Remote Antenna with BlueChart Data Card – GM2030; Brand new (never been used) NAf1.000. Contact Eddy at Toucan Diving or Mobilphone 786-0727.

**Kodak Ektagraphic Slide Projector.** Excellent Condition with very little use. Originally FL 800.00, now FL 175.00. Comes with optional carrying case, originally FL 180.00, now FL 70.00 if desired.

**Ceiling Lighting Fixture**, good for bedroom or kitchen; Leaded Glass Pattern, Originally NAf350, now NAf175  
Hard wood rocking chair NAf150  
Bird cage 19.5" wide x 16" deep x 33" high NAf150  
Two End Table Lamps, mint green cactus shape, both for NAf200  
For more information on any of these items, please call 717-2848.

**IkeLite housing & Nikon 800SLR.** US\$3000. Excl. condition. Complete system. 2 ports, 2 strobes, 3 lenses, accessories. Inquiries: ddiivveerr@cs.com

**2 steel Scuba Tanks** with boot, good condition but need the '5 year pressure test'. NAf50,- each. Phone 717-5038

**RENTAL PROPERTY/TIMESHARE**

**For Rent: Perfect Location! 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom apartment** located just 1 block from the ocean and 5 blocks from the center of Kralendijk. The apartment features an updated kitchen, large living room and two good sized air conditioned bedrooms. Hot ticket... Apartment will go fast! **Call 717-7362**

**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

**Timeshare week** (7 nights, Saturday to Saturday) in Dutch Sint Maarten, studio apartment for two with full kitchenette, at the Ocean Club on Cucepoy Beach. Available year round, but subject to availability. US\$350 for the week (taxes additional). **please call 717-2848**

**HELP WANTED**

Part time **Server**, Part time **Chef Helper**. Wil's Tropical Grill 717-6616.

**TOP TENNIS TEENS**



**Last weekend Dutch Wimbledon tennis doubles champion Paul Haarhuis** was vacationing on Bonaire. He took the opportunity to observe two of our outstanding young players, **Monica Winkel (15)** and **Tammy Alberts (14)**, He was impressed! □ G.D.

**BOATS/ENGINES FOR SALE**

**Privateer Renegade boat**- used for diving. With **200 HP Yamaha**. All very well maintained and ready to go. NAf29,990 Call 717-8819 8 am-5 pm

**Classic Sailor**  
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**.



**WANTED**

**Wanted to buy, borrow or rent: a wheelchair** in good condition with big wheels and foot support. Also a walker. Call 786-0956.

**Work pick-up truck wanted.** Prefer Hilux type with 4 doors. Older is fine, must be in excellent mechanical condition. Looking to no more than NAf2.000. Call 790-0959 ask for Renee or email [eginocchio@comcast.net](mailto:eginocchio@comcast.net)

**WANT TO BUY: Bobcat or Loader/ Backhoe** in good condition: Call **George at 717-8988/786-6125**.

**FOUND**

**This beautiful and very friendly young calico or tortoise colored cat** was found at the **Caribbean Club Bonaire**, just north of Sabadeco early this week. She's been showing up at the Club around happy hour time, but now she's at the Bonaire Animal Shelter, awaiting her owners. If she isn't claimed within two weeks she'll go up for adoption. She's a darling. The Shelter's number is 717-4989.

The two found dogs in *The Reporter* last week have been reunited with their



**BONAIRE'S BEST SOUVENIR**



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# ELENA ART SHOW

On January 8th, the Cinnamon Art Gallery will present the work of Helen Sargent, who signs her work "Elena." The show will continue until February 9. Elena's driftwood collages and Japanese fish prints (called *gyotaku*) have been in local galleries and gift shops for the last 15 years and she has had a number of shows on the island at hotels, restaurants and at the (now defunct) Bonaire Art Gallery.



Her love of beachcombing was enhanced when she first came to live on Bonaire and resulted in her unique driftwood collages. The bounties from the north shore in those days kept her creative urge going. In time her creations

evolved from the smaller to the larger pieces created of wood and a particular wood putty that can be carved and sanded when hard.

Helen came to the Antilles in 1950 as a young bride, a graduate of Pratt Art Institute in Brooklyn N.Y. Thanks to her early art training, she and her husband built R.J. Dovale Advertising, Inc., where she "wore many hats" and spent many hours doing layouts for newspapers and brochures. It was during that time that she honed her skills in composition – all of which are evident in her wood collages. Boxes upon boxes of driftwood bits and pieces and a good set of tools help her to create these driftwood collages - a perfect outlet for her creative urge. "If I don't act on it, I can get quite out of sorts," she has been known to say.

Her daughters, Christie, Laurie, and Donna, are well known on the island, and she has a son, Casey, in Holland, all of whom have inherited her artistic talent.

Elena is a former member of the Society of Illustrators in N.Y. She received 2nd prize in the sculpture category for one of her African collages in the Center for the Arts in Vero Beach, Florida in 2000. Several of her pieces reside in the Bonaire Museum, in local banks as well as in many private collections. Elena and her work were presented to Queen Beatrice on her last visit to Bonaire. □ Wendy Horn

## WEARYELLOW :: LIVESTRONG

Lance Armstrong, Tour De France champ, knows that yellow is more than just the color of the leader's jersey in the bicycle classic. It's a symbol of hope, courage and perseverance—whether you're on the bike or in the oncology ward. Today, nearly 10 million people are living with cancer, and chances are you know one of them. The Lance Armstrong Foundation helps people with cancer focus on living.



They believe knowledge is power and attitude is everything. As a tribute to Lance's inspirational fight against cancer, yellow wristbands engraved with his mantra, Live Strong, are being sold in an effort to raise \$5,000,000 for the Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF).

**In Bonaire, the Live Strong wrist bands are being sold for NAf10 (to cover shipping and other costs to get them to the island) to benefit the Bonaire Cancer Society.**

**Show your support by wearing a yellow Live Strong wristband and share one with your friends and family.**

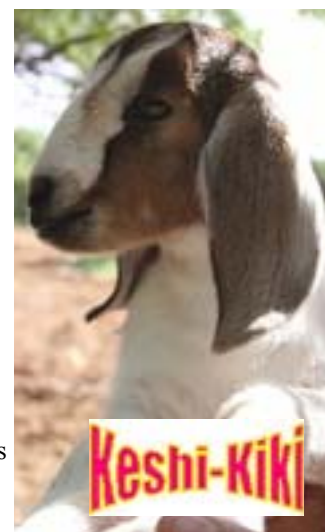
Buy them at Sand Dollar Grocery, from Stacey Winklaar at the Benetton Shop (tel.717-5107 ) or contact Delno Tromp at delno33@yahoo.com,



**J**ake and Linda Richter's annual New Years Day party has got to be the most laid back party of the year after all the frantic festivities. You can start the New Year with a relaxed, low-key potluck BBQ, cool drinks and conversation, totally stress free! □L.D.

**COVER**

## New Kids for a New Year



Meet one of the new baby goats just born on the “Keshi Kiki” goat farm, where Bonaire’s own goat cheese is made. She and her twin sister were born on December 26 (Boxing Day) and are considered “*Lamchi di Dios*,” Lambs of God.

The new baby goat’s mother is “Sik” (which means “beard” in Dutch), and she’s a *Boergoat*. Her father, who doesn’t have a name, is an *Anglo-Nubion*. He was chosen as the father because of his reputation as having female offspring that provide good milk production.

There are eight new baby goats at the farm now, none of them with names yet, so the children from the Pelikaan School have been asked to name them. The children will begin a new project about animals and this will be part of it. The youngsters will visit the farm next week and will bring food for the goats: palm leaves and branches from the calabash and Divi Divi trees.

As part of the project they’ll also visit the Donkey Sanctuary, Veterinarian Clinic, the Animal Shelter, the LVV and Mr. Piloto’s kunuku on Kaminda Lagoen, where there are cows, chickens and rabbits. Dr. Bernhard, a veterinarian, will visit the school to explain about his job and how to care for animals. □*M.W.*

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Call to make sure: Usually 9:00 pm  
**Shall We Dance**  
 (Richard Gere)

Early Show (usually 7pm)  
**Polar Express**

**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 Shark Tale

### THIS WEEK

**Friday, January 7- Island Governor's Annual Reception** from 20.00 till 21.30 at the Sentro di Bario (community center) in Nikiboko at Kaya Pos di Amor 44. All invited. See page 5 for more information.

**Saturday, January 8—Opening of the Art Exhibition of Helen Sargent ("Elena"),** 7 to 9 pm, at the Cinnamon Art Gallery, Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1, just off Kaya Grandi, behind the Banco di Caribe. Exhibition continues until February 9. See page 13.

**Saturday, January 8 – Crossfyr Soca Band / Fundraiser for Regatta** in Playa - Admission NAf25 at the Playa Tennis Courts. Sponsored by Capt. Don's Habitat, Budget Car Rental and BonairExel. Call Elvis Martinus (790-2288) for details

**Now through January 27-** First ever exhibition of artwork underwater **"40 Feet Underwater": Moving Light into an Unlimited Territory,** Dutch artist Fred Ros. At the dive site Front Porch, located at Bongos Beach at Eden Beach Resort. Entrance Fee \$5 (Bonaireans free)

**Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days:** Jan. 11-*Aida Vida*

### COMING

**Friday, January 14 – Bonaire International Culinary Student Competition 2005** (students from ABC islands and St. Martin)– Chef demonstrations -Chez Nous, SGB– See page 10

**Saturday, January 15 – Bonaire International Culinary Student Competition 2005 Gala Awards Dinner and Cocktail Reception –** NAf55, Chez Lucille at Harbour Village. See page 10

**Sunday, January 23—3rd Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon** - You can walk, run, bike, roller blade –Entry fee is NAf25, includes gifts, BBQ at end & more. Get tickets from Croccantino (717-5025) TCB (717-8322) or from board members. See page 8

**Saturday, January 29 – Windsurf Expression Session** - Event Site 11 am. On site, special industry people from Hi Fly and Starboard.

**February 5 & 6 - Bonaire Windsurfing Freestyle Frenzy & Beach Bash** - two days of the hottest fun freestyle. Ann Phelan (786-3134) or Elvis Martinus (790-2288)

**May 15-22 -King of the Caribbean!!!** This is a World Cup Grand Prix, so many pros and guests are expected. For info, see www.pwaworldtour.com or www.bonaireworldfreestyle.com

### EVERY WEEK

**Saturday 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. www.infobonaire.com/rincon

**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 on Time Sharing and how to save on your next vacation. 6:15 to 7 pm

**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.

**Daily-** The **Divi Flamingo Casino** is open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm– 4 am; Sunday 7 pm– 3 am.

**Every day by appointment -Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** Bonairean kunuku. \$12 (NAf12 for Bonaire residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.

# PET of the WEEK

**S**parkling white "Snowy," with her golden eyes and pink nose, needs a job. Four months ago she wandered into the yard of a place where some medical students were staying, and she took it upon herself to "take care of them" by being their pet. But, sadly, the students had to leave the island. They wanted the best for their loyal little cat friend so they brought her to the Shelter to be put up for adoption. Do you think you can give her a "job?" Snowy is about two years old; she's very social and friendly; and she just loves being held. As are all the other adoptees at the Shelter she was checked out by the vet and is in excellent health. She's been sterilized too. If you'd like to see her for



yourself you may visit the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Fridays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. □L.D.

## 2004 was a very good year!

Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema reports:

**Adoptions for 2004: 151 pets, all of which are or will be sterilized** (In 2003 there were 110 adoptions; in 2002, 90 adoptions)

During the community-wide, two-week Free Sterilization Program in October, **222 dogs were sterilized.**

During the last year, **over 60 dogs were sterilized,** thanks to the contributions to the Sterilization Fund. If you would like to contribute to the Fund your donations would be very welcome. M&C Bonaire account #106164-10, "Sterilization Fund." The money from this account is used only for pet sterilizations. □ L.D.

### FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

**Saturday- Discover Our Diversity** Slide Show, pool bar Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

**Sunday - Bonaire Holiday** -Multi-media dual-projector production by Albert Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's Habitat,

**Monday Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea** slide experience at the Aquarius Conference Center, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30–9:30pm.

**Wednesday (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 Plaza's Topsy Seagull, 5 pm. 717-2500.

### BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

**Mangasina di Rei, Rincon.** Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit typical homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018

**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.** **Alta Mira**

**Nature Walking Tour at 6:30 am. Town Walking tour at 9:30, Bus Tour at 10.** Call Maria at 717-6435 to reserve.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Bonaire Arts and Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonieriano)** 717-5246/7117

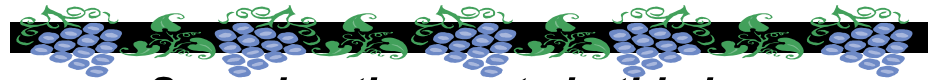
**The Bonaire Swim Club-** Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valrie@telbonet.an

**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

# 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. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	<b>Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Saturday: Beach Grill; Wednesday: Mexican Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
<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 turquoise setting when enjoying a breakfast buffet or a la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Inspiring vistas and the highest standard of cuisine.
<b>Croccantino Italian Restaurant</b> Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Tuscan chef prepares exquisite dishes. Authentic ingredients and romantic setting make dining a delight. Be served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take out too.
<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>The Last Bite Bakery</b> Home Delivery or Take Out 717-3293	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30 pm, 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>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



# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



## ACCOUNTING SERVICES

**Bonaire Pro** can keep your financial records in order, minimize your tax liability and provide helpful advice. For individuals or businesses.

## 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

**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.

## CLEANING SERVICE

**Conetal Cleaning Service** cleans homes, apartments, offices. Offers babysitting, gardening, laundry.

## 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.

**Ocean Adventures** Discover the world of low bubble, quiet diving. Learn, use, and try our Dräger Re-breathing equipment. At Dive Inn. Interested? call 717-2278

## 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 AND LIQUOR

**The Bonaire Gift Shop** has an wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts all at low prices.

## HOTELS

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

## 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.

## RETAIL

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

**Littman's Jewelers**, where good taste is foremost. Expansive selection of jewelry, collectibles and top name watches. Bonaire's official Rolex retailer.

## 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.

## SPA—DAY SPAS

**Intermezzo Day Spa** at Captain Don's Habitat is the newest of this ABC island chain of elegant spas. Now offering seaside massages and facials.

**Pedisa Day Spa**—for all your body and wellness needs. 40 years of experience Classic and specialty massages, Reiki, Reflexology and more..

## 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.

## WATER TAXI

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

## 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



## Marieke Botterop and Khal Gomaa

“For 15 years we’ve been coming to Bonaire, but we never really considered moving here. It was always to visit my parents, who have lived here for 14 years, and to have a wonderful vacation. I met Khal 17 years ago in his native Cairo, Egypt. I’d studied Arabic and after I’d completed my studies I went to live in Egypt for two years to practice and get more experience. He had studied economics and was ‘looking for the right girl.’ It turned out that in a city of 15 million people I was living one block away from him! We moved in together, then got married and went for our honeymoon to Sinai.”

“We are an example of opposites attract. Marieke likes peace and quiet; she likes to read. I like loud music and making a lot of noise! One of the things that made me fall for her was her Dutch accent when she spoke English... very charming. It still is!” “What I liked best about Khal was...” *Marieke says, pensively, but before she gets a chance to open her mouth Khal answers for her:* “What she liked best about me was my eyes! My hair! My personality!” *He laughs:* “The complete package!”

*They’re really having a good time together- these two people - and it’s fun to sit with them. Still grinning, Marieke continues.* “After our honeymoon we moved to Holland. Cairo was too crowded for me; you’re always surrounded by people. We went to live in Friesland, in a very quiet place called Grouw.” “It was cold,” *Kahl says,* “but there was lots of alcohol and we had a very good time, however, it wasn’t a place where we wanted to settle down.”

We moved to Amsterdam. I started working in the restaurant of a big department store called De Bijenkorf and in two years I learned how to speak and write Dutch. After that I worked as a clerk for the ABN-AMRO bank. I thought Holland was absolutely great, lots of fun, and I still feel that way. People are very friendly and warm.”

“I began to work as an interpreter,” *Marieke fills in,* “but it was a lonely existence and the people I was translating for were having all sorts of problems, so I went back to school to study logistics. I got a job as the logistic manager with Monet, an American custom jewelry company. Later I became the senior European planner for another American company, Mattel. We always wanted children, but we also loved to travel, so we traveled the world extensively before our children were born. However, after Max and Emma were born I was traveling practically all the time for Mattel so we decided that Khal

would give up his job and take care of the children. If it wasn’t for him I could never have done my work.

In the beginning everybody was happy and content, but it came to a point that Khal wanted to do something else besides being a full-time daddy, and I was really longing to spend more time at home. There was no way I could work less, so I quit. We came up with a plan to start a business together, moved to London and opened a coffee bar/sandwich café. It was a direct hit. One thing led to another and before we knew it we had a chain.” “It was too good, too busy,” *Kahl says,* “I was on the road all the time and hardly ever at home. We got an offer from an American company to take over the business. At first we didn’t want to, as the business was relatively new, but then we thought, all right, why not! It was the end of 2003. After we’d made the deal we flew to Bonaire to spend Christmas

**“I think Bonaire is a much better place for children to grow up. The fact that you can’t buy the latest toy here is really a relief!”**

with Marieke’s parents.”

*They look at each other, and Marieke says:* “It was so nice, so quiet, we had such a good time, and out of the blue we got this idea: The Lizard Inn. It was just an idea, just a name, nothing else. We were still living in England.”

*Marieke Botterop and Khal Gomaa have a great relationship. He’s the busy bee with lots of boyish charm, the one who makes you laugh, and she’s a surprisingly free spirit with a dry sense of humor: two people who appreciate each other obviously, and because of that they make you feel at ease instantly.*

“Well, we went back,” *Marieke continues,* “and we’d asked some friends here to keep in touch with the real estate agencies. In February Khal left for Bonaire to have a look and when he saw this location he fell in love with it. He put everything on video, jumped on the plane back to England and immediately we cut the cord. We sold the house, took the children out of school, packed up everything and arrived here in July and opened the inn.

Another nice aspect of our move to Bonaire is that the children can go and

see their grandparents every day; they adore them! Max (9) and Emma (6) love it here; they can ride their bikes, something they could never do in London and they like it at school. We put Emma in De Pelikaan School because although she speaks Dutch she can’t read or write it, and from an English school to a local school where for her grade the instruction language is only in Papiamentu would be too much of a change. However, she knows how to sing “Happy Birthday” in Papiamentu already! The rest she’ll pick up soon enough, also because Papa Cornes School and he’s happy there.

I think Bonaire is a much better place for children to grow up. The fact that you can’t buy the latest toy here is really a relief! They see the commercials on TV and of course they ask me for it, and I answer, ‘Yeah! But you know, you can’t buy it here! What a pity eh! Let’s go swimming, let’s go for a bike ride!’ I really thought it was a pain in London the way children in general would show off their toys, and sitting behind a computer all day long is not what I think is right for them; I don’t believe in that at all! It’s not only the peace and tranquility that we came here for. It’s also the climate and a less complicated way of life, to see the sun set and enjoy it, simple things. I wasn’t ready for it 15 years ago because I wanted so many other things in life, but now I feel I’m right where I want to be.

I’ve started to learn Papiamentu. Khal doesn’t have that much patience, but he chats with everybody all the time, so he’ll pick it up naturally. Anyway, I think it’s a must! It’s like time flies and at the end of the day you really can’t say what you did. We’ve just moved here but it feels like we’ve been living here for years; it feels very much like



Marieke Botterop and Khal Gomaa

home.”

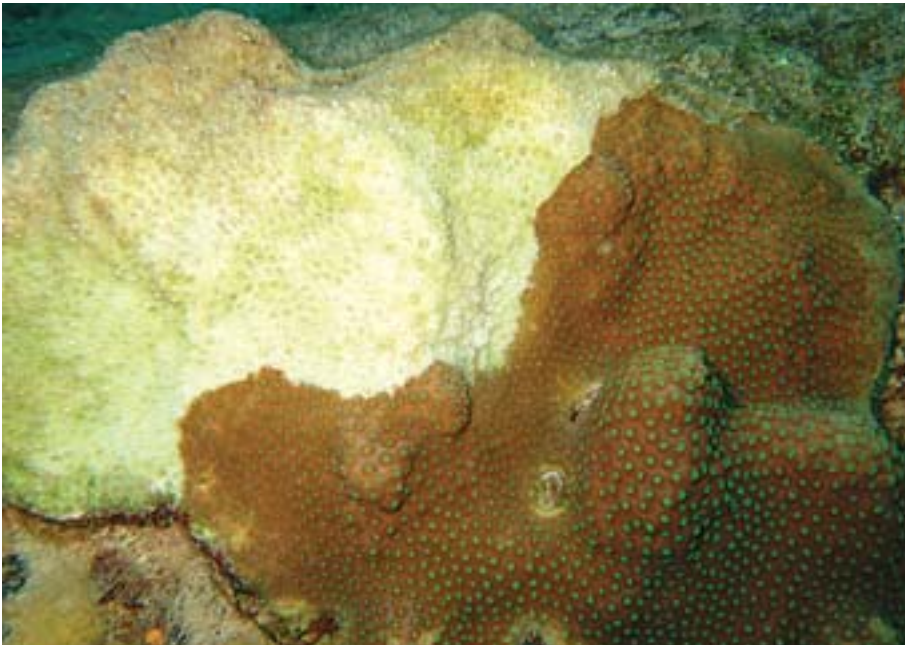
“We don’t want to make the same mistakes again,” *Khal says.* “Now it’s time to enjoy life, to enjoy spending time together as a family, to enjoy Bonaire. We don’t make plans for the future; every day we make the best of our life, but we do want to stay here. For me it’s like this: I am an Egyptian, but I’m not fanatic about where I’m from. For me all countries are the same. It’s people that made borders. Wherever I lay my head that’s my home. We didn’t just come here to start the inn, we’re seriously thinking of putting up something to serve the local community, something that has nothing to do with tourism... You may say I’m a dreamer but I’m not the only one. Some day the world will join us and we’ll live as one...” □

*Greta Kooistra*



Greta Kooistra





The brownish, crisp-looking star coral on the lower right of this photo is alive and well. Each small circle is a coral animal, called a polyp. In the upper left of the photo is a newly-dead area of the same coral colony. The farther it is from the living coral, the more encrusted the dead coral has become, indicating that the coral is dying gradually.



This close up of brain coral shows that the living animals are holding their own against the algae. On the upper right of the photo is living brain coral. On the lower left, the place where the coral has died is uniformly covered with algae.

## CORAL and the CORAL REEF

An irony of diving: when I ask divers who have mentioned they couldn't distinguish living coral from dead coral to show me where they'd place one finger for balance, they invariably pick living coral. I understood why when one explained to me, "The places I wanted to put my finger are clean and crisp looking. The places you showed me looked dirty, as if they were covered with ashes." But what happens to a diver who suddenly realizes he or she is about an inch away from the reef? Taking a deep breath does no good; there's no time to put air into the BC; kicking won't help.

In a perfect world this situation would never occur; divers would always maintain neutral buoyancy and pay attention to their positioning. But we all love undersea creatures, and when one catches our attention we sometimes are less than perfect. No matter what, though, we don't want to injure other undersea critters. The best solution to this problem is to place a finger on something, and it needs to be on something other than living coral.

An irony of the coral reef habitat: the coral itself is the most slow-growing and vulnerable inhabitant of the reef. Part of the reason coral is vulnerable is because it's hard for divers (and non-divers) to imagine that something as massive as a coral head could possibly be vulnerable. I mean, we can't kill a rock, right? Right – but that's because the rock is not living. The rock can't grow, it can only wear down.

The coral is alive, but oh, so fragile. The living coral animal is only three cell layers thick, and the coral tissue rests on its own extremely sharp, calcium-based skeleton. When we place a finger on or even brush our fingers against living coral, we slice the coral against its own skeleton. Imagine taking a three-ply tissue, draping it over a razor blade, and sprinkling water on it. Then try to touch the tissue without slicing it on the blade. That's basically what happens when a diver merely brushes against coral. A direct hit, or bumping the coral with fins or tanks, is much tougher on the coral. Imagine what life would be like for people if our bones, instead of being comfortably rounded as they are, were razor sharp. We wouldn't spend much time patting each other on the back, that's for sure, and contact sports would be very different – if they existed at all.

What happens when a diver rests a fingertip on living coral? Every coral polyp beneath the finger is injured or killed. If conditions are very good and there's no additional trauma, the injured polyps can heal. If there's any stress on the coral – and with oceans becoming warmer and more polluted worldwide, there's plenty of stress on coral – those polyps may die.

The death of a fingertip-sized spot on a coral head doesn't seem very significant, but the effect doesn't end there. Algae or sponge can colonize a dead spot on a coral head. If the living coral is stressed, the algae wins battles with the polyps around it and the colonized spot spreads. A damsel-

fish may homestead on the algae, nipping the surrounding coral polyps to increase the size of its farm. Parrotfish munch the algae and sometimes the coral on the edges of the patch. If an encrusting sponge takes hold, it will eventually grow over – and smother – surrounding coral polyps. None of these consequences – being nipped, crunched, smothered, etc. — is good for the coral. Divers can help the coral by balancing on the sandy or dead spots of the reef.

Why should we make the effort? What's so terrible about dead coral? The only part of the reef that grows is the coral. The coral animal and the algae living within its tissues remove minerals from seawater and create the reef. Without live coral, we're left mostly with creatures who wear the reef down. Parrotfish crunch coral. (Much of the sand around a coral reef became sand by passing through parrotfish.) Urchins scrape away tiny bits of coral rock along with the algae they eat. Sponges bore into coral rock. If the reef wore down with no coral rebuilding, islands would lose their protection from storms. When the reef wears down enough, the island it surrounds begins to be worn down. No coral reef, eventually no island.

Yes, the wearing down of a coral reef would take generations. But reef-building is a slow process too. A brain coral three feet in diameter is about 200 years old. The coral reefs that have created islands did it over eons. It makes much better sense for us to nurture the products of their labors than destroy them. So of course we want to protect coral reefs. We can protect corals when we dive by practicing good buoyancy control, paying attention to our

positioning, and, if we must balance ourselves, by working the dead zone: balancing lightly on sand or a stable rock, not living coral. □ *Story and photos by Dee Scarr*

**Note:** In a habitat as lush as a coral reef, there aren't many zones which are truly empty of life. Algae and tiny animals, including, perhaps, larval corals settling, may be in spots that look uninhabited. But none of those life forms is as old or established as any coral we might contact, so the priority goes to the coral.

Dee Scarr conducts "Touch the Sea" dives. It will enhance your diving forever. Call 717-8529



Scarr

Albert Bianculli photo

# Let Bonaire follow you home

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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

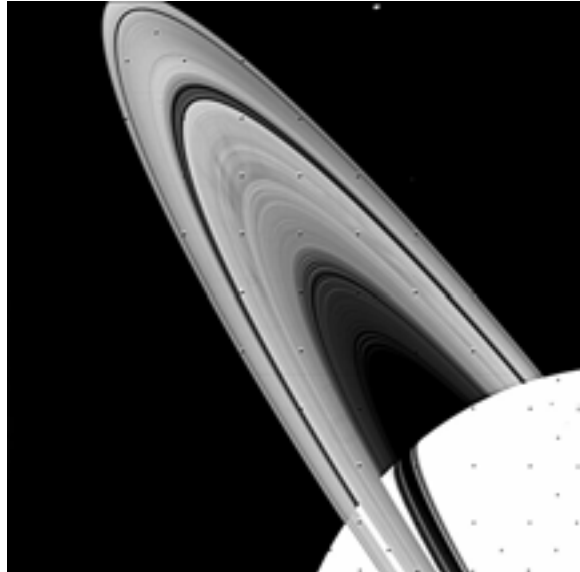
**\*to find it, just look up**

What a way to open the New Year. Because the most beautiful planet in the solar system, ringed **Saturn**, is at opposition this week, which means that it is at its closest biggest and brightest for the entire year and can be viewed all night long from sunset to sunrise.

Beginning one hour after sunset face east where you'll see the brightest grouping of winter's stars, **Orion the Hunter**, easily recognized by three stars which mark his belt, two stars which mark his shoulders, and two stars which mark his knees. Then if you look just to his left you'll also see the two brightest stars of the **Gemini twins**, **Castor** and **Pollux**. And just below them you'll see an object which usually isn't in this part of the heavens, Planet Number 6 out from the **Sun**, 75,000-mile-wide ringed Saturn. The **Cassini spacecraft** has been visiting it for the past few months and discovering the wonders of this planet and its moon **Titan** in more detail than ever seen in human history. And this week Saturn is officially at opposition, more precisely on Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm Sky Park Time.

Now although "opposition" is a term astronomers use, it isn't all that complicated. In fact, it means just what it says. That is that Saturn is directly opposite the Sun in the sky as seen from **Earth** which, if you think about it, means that whenever the Sun is not in the sky, Saturn should be. That means that as the Sun sets in the southwest this week and next, Saturn will be rising in the northeast and will be visible all night long. It will slowly ascend from the northeastern horizon during the first half of evening and at midnight will reach its highest point just slightly south of overhead. After that it will slowly descend toward the west and will set in the northwest as the Sun rises in the southeast.

Now the wonderful thing about opposition is that, not only is Saturn visible for naked eye and telescopic viewing all night long, but it is also at its closest for the entire year, which means that it is at its biggest and brightest. How close? Only 750 million miles away, compared to its maximum distance of nearly one billion miles away. This means that Saturn appears much bigger in an amateur telescope and is much easier to view. So if you got a telescope for the holidays get it out now and take a look. You'll be absolutely blown away. You should easily be able to see the dark gap between the rings, called **Cassini's Division**, and you should have no trouble whatsoever in seeing its moon, **Titan**, which is not only bigger than the planet **Mercury** but is also the only moon in the entire solar system known to have an atmosphere. So get out your telescope now or find a friend who has one because the lord of the rings is at its best! □ *Jack Horkhimer*



*Voyager 1 image of Saturn's rings taken on 4 November 1980, eight days before closest approach. The structure of the rings is clearly visible in this raw clear-filter image. The image was taken from 11.2 million km, and the frame is roughly 82,600 km across, with a resolution of about 100 km/pixel. North is at 1:30. (Voyager 1, 34699.06). The dots are used for measurement and are an artifact of the imaging.*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week:  
**January 7 to 14, 2004**  
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) A new image can be the result if you change your look. Your contributions will be valued and helpful. Use your quick wit to win points and friends. You need a change of pace. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Don't make promises. Invite friends over. Changes could be overwhelming. You will have a problem sorting out your true feelings when it comes to your relationship. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Although it does look promising, be careful not to overextend yourself or you will lose in the long run. Try to be reasonable. Your partner may push buttons that infuriate you. Uncertainties regarding relatives will make situations uncomfortable if you attend a family function. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You should get involved in competitive sports this week. An older member of your family may have left you with a pressing situation. Your ideas may be good, but they aren't necessarily right for everyone. Your outgoing nature might work against you this week. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You can make gains if you work in conjunction with others. Children may pose a problem if they don't like suggestions. You can make extra money. Rewards will be yours if you put in the overtime required. You have more than enough on your plate already. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Make changes that will heighten your appeal. You can expect insincere gestures of friendliness this week. Disruptions may set you back, but you're strong, and in the end the choices you make will be favorable. Don't avoid your true feelings. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can make positive changes in your home. Avoid too much discourse with colleagues this week. You're in the mood to get out and visit friends. You can benefit financially if you put money or maintenance into your living quarters. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You may meet that special person if you attend fundraising functions. Try to have patience and refrain from being judgmental. Be prepared to step into the limelight if you wish to promote your ambitions. Opportunities for new and exciting relationships will be yours if you get out and join groups. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your tendency to overreact could get you into trouble. You can enhance your reputation by making contributions to worthwhile causes. Too much too fast will be the attitude surrounding your home environment. Money may slip through your fingers. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) It's time to get yourself back on track. Older relatives may be a burden. Problems with colleagues are likely. Someone you like may be receptive and actively seeking your company. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Prove your worth; concentrate on getting the job done and steer clear of office politics and gossip. Refrain from using the highway as a racetrack. This is a great time to mingle with people you would like to impress. Don't make mountains out of molehills if you want to avoid conflict. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You are best to keep hard feelings to yourself. Try to ease any disappointment by making amends. You may find yourself in an emotional fix if you interfere in other people's problems. Get promises in writing or you will be disappointed. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.