

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE

April 28 to May 5, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 17

The REPORTER

Kava Gob. Debrot 200 • E-mail: reporter@bonairenews.com • 717-8988 SINCE 1994



*Frans Booi and Winfred Dania
open the show*

Flotsam and Jetsam

Political leaders of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius signed an accord last week to deal directly with The Netherlands in obtaining direct ties. The meeting in Statia underscored the gap between the more populated islands of Curaçao and St. Maarten, which voted for "status aparte" from Holland, and the smaller islands which desire closer integration, "laso direkto." Experienced political observers say the division has the potential to make the July 2007 target for dissolution of the Antilles more achievable.



The main point of the meeting was to request Holland to meet with officials from Bonaire, Saba and Statia in a mini summit before the next Round Table Conference. The three islands hope to reach fundamental agreements on their future relations with the Netherlands.

► That Antillean youngsters in Holland have more troubles with the police is undisputed. The proposed legislation authored by Dutch Integration Minister Rita Verdonk addresses this problem by first **attempting to keep young Antilleans out of Holland, then making it easy to send them back to the Caribbean.** Now, additional measures to expel Antillean youngsters in trouble with Dutch police are moving closer to be-

coming law. But former Judge of the Joint Court of Justice of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, Bob Wit, said it is really as "good riddance to bad rubbish." Wit advises the Antillean Central Government to take a firm and principled stand against the proposal. He feels that in any case Queen Beatrix will be put in an extremely awkward and embarrassing position when asked to sign a bill that is blatantly discriminatory towards the citizens of the Netherlands Antilles, for it is her duty to prevent discrimination within the Kingdom. Wit believes the measures would produce very little relief for the Netherlands but in the long run might prove to be disastrous for the Netherlands Antilles.

The latest revisions to the bill give discretionary power to the Minister to order the expulsion of certain Antillean and Aruban "at risk youths" between the ages of 14 and 24 from the Netherlands to their home islands and a power to refuse them entry into the Netherlands. Essentially, the latest amendments make return to the Antilles as a punishment for a crime. Expectations are that with this type of administrative expulsion, 4,500 people will get deported in the next five years and will cost 1.5 million euro just to handle the appeals process..

► The Bonaire Investment and Participation Company BBPM (*Bonaire Belegging en Participatie Maatschappij*) placed a lien on the shares of the **Central Government-owned Windward Islands Airways International (Winair)** last week. Winair provides air



DAE aircraft

service among the northern Netherlands Antilles islands. BBPM is the sole shareholder of Dutch Antilles Express which flies between Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and St. Maarten. BBPM's shares are owned by businessman Niek Sandmann.

Winair's Managing Director Edwin Hodge stated in a press release that the lien had been placed either to acquire 100% of the shares or to retrieve BBPM's investment of NAf1.4 million. In 2004 with Winair in bankruptcy, BBPM signed an agreement to take over Winair's operations. At that time BBPM invested NAf1.4 million to pay off Winair's non-secured creditors. BBPM, at that point, was involved in the operation of DAE's predecessor, Exel Aviation Group, operating as **BonairExel** and CuraçaoExel. The Central Government decided to unilaterally pull out of the agreement late in 2005. Winair flies about 40 flights a day. Its shares are estimated to be worth NAf5 million.

► According to the newspaper, *The Jamaican Observer*, The American Academy of Hospitality Sciences' **Five-Star Diamond Award**, which **Air Jamaica held for the last five years, has been withdrawn** because the airline no longer meets the Academy's exacting

standards. Air Jamaica CEO Michael Conway said, "There are awards, and then there are awards. The 5-Star Diamond is more hospitality oriented and pertains more to hotels. Now this award, which we do not place too much stock in, comes at a price of \$25,000." Under its previous management team, Air Jamaica won *Modern Brides' Honeymoon Airline* award as well as the World Travel Awards for the Best Airline to the Caribbean. Last year Air Jamaica lost \$136 million, \$46 million more than it had estimated. The Jamaican government is projecting the airline to earn US\$433 million in revenues this financial year compared to US\$385 million last year. Air Jamaica flies once a week to Bonaire, down from its four times a week peak. It offers convenient connections to many US cities.



► UNESCO language expert, Simon Clarke, **wants the Antilles to preserve its multilingualism.** He says that it is good to try to preserve the Papiamentu language by introducing it in early education. Clarke is in Curaçao at the invitation of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Education Administration. He emphasized that early education in Dutch is also vitally important for higher education. **The ABC islands are a unique community with a long history where average citizens speak four languages. This quality is exceptional,**

(Continued on page 5)

BONAIRE The REPORTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

Letters:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Tourist Tax Debate Continues: | |
| Query | 4 |
| Simplified Structure | 4 |
| Many Promises (Crime) | 4 |
| BYOF Kids—"No Limits" | 6 |
| Rincon Day Fun | 7 |
| Earth Day Cleanup at Lagun | 8 |
| Dive into Adventure-Sign up now | 9 |
| Do You SuDoko? | 10 |
| Dania Exhibit Opens | 10 |
| Announcements | |
| Kross Confirmation | 12 |
| Bouwman-Snelder Marriage | 12 |
| Antique Houses (<i>Kas di Bara</i>) | 13 |
| SuDoko Solution | 14 |
| Gardener (Water & more) | 18 |
| Fate of the Frigate Bird | 18 |

WEEKLY FEATURES:

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Flotsam & Jetsam | 2 |
| Tide Table | 9 |
| Coral Glimpses | 11 |
| Classifieds | 12 |
| Pet of the Week | |
| ("Brigit") | 14 |
| Reporter Masthead | 14 |
| What's Happening | 15 |
| Movieland Film Schedule | 15 |
| Cruise Ship Schedule | 15 |
| Shopping & Dining Guides | 16 |
| On the Island Since | |
| (Carlos Jimenez) | 17 |
| Sky Park (Big Dipper) | 19 |
| The Stars Have It | 19 |



Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Published **weekly**. For information about **subscriptions, stories or advertising** in **The Bonaire Reporter**, phone (599) 717-8988, 786-6518, 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: Wilna Groenenboom, Jack Horkheimer, Molly Kearney, Greta Kooistra, Sheloutska Martinus-Francees, Mabel Nava, Linda Ridley, Dee Scarr, Michael Thiessen, Sam Williams, Andy Uhr, Ap van Eldik, Elisabeth Vos

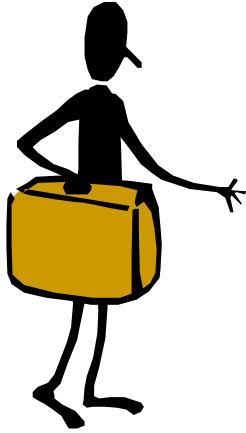
Features Editor: Greta Kooistra **Translations:** Peggy Bakker, Sue Ellen Felix

Production: Barbara Lockwood

Distribution: Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie (Playa);

Housekeeping: Jaidy Rojas Acevedo. **Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao**

©2006 The Bonaire Reporter



DEPARTURE TAX QUERY

To the Editor,
I have a question about the proposed change in the departure tax. My husband and I have owned a home in Hato for more than 25 years. We also own a truck. On past visits, we have merely paid the \$20 departure tax when we left the island. Do I understand correctly that we will now have to pay \$75 per person every time we leave Bonaire? Is there no relief for property owners who pay property taxes on Bonaire?

Sabina Slavin

Editor's note: As we understand it, yes, you will pay \$75, unless you are Bonaire residents. The "relief" is reserved for those who pay both property and income taxes.

Interestingly, Marco van de Kreeke, who manages Flamingo

Airport, was quoted in the on-line world airport news site, *luchtvaartnieuws.nl*, that he was concerned that the collection of the new \$75/person tax would be the responsibility of the airport to collect, as is today's \$20 departure tax. In a press release following the posting of his statements, he denied the allegation in the article that he said the higher tax would lead to airport delays. The local press also reported Mr. van der Kreeke's concern that when a family of four left Bonaire they might consider the \$300 they would have to pay as grand larceny.

SIMPLIFIED STRUCTURE?

Dear Editor:

The TCB tells us about the new airport tax: "At time of payment visitors would have to prove their place of birth/national status, date of birth and destination after leaving Bonaire."

This will make the Bonaire airport, from next June 1, unique in the world. Not only will the amount of money to be paid as departure tax depend on where you go, it will also depend on where you come from. Meaning: where you were born. The TCB speaks of a "simplified tax structure." We shall see.

Let's give a few examples.

Domestic flights:

Bonaire- Curaçao etc. (in the examples 1 through 6 commercial accommodations and rented cars are used).

Case 1: Married couple with two children, born and bred in Curaçao, pay 4 x NAf10 at the most, or less for the children who are younger than 13 or the parents who are older than 64. All this has to be verified by checking passports and sedulas (National ID cards).

Case 2: Married couple with two children, not born in Curaçao. They pay 4 x NAf27, or less for the children who are younger than 13.

All this has to be verified by checking passports and sedulas.

Case 3: Married couple with two children. Father born in Curaçao, mother and one of the children are not. They pay 10 + 27 + 10 + 27 = NAf74 or less for the children who are younger than 13 (then is it NAf5 for the one and NAf 13,50 for the other one).

All this has to be verified by checking passports and sedulas. And be calculated!

So there are four different amounts of money to be paid: 5 - 10 - 13,50 or NAf27.

For the domestic flights only, four different kinds of travelers.

International flights:

Case 4: Dutch (or American) couple with two children pay 4 x \$ 75 = \$300 or less for the children who are under 13, (they pay \$37.50). All this has to be verified by checking passports.

Case 5: Antillean born couple with two children born elsewhere pay 2 x \$ 20 plus 2 x \$75 = \$190 or less for the children who are under 13. All this has to be verified by checking passports.

Case 6: (Very interesting!) Couple not born in the Antilles with two children pay, if they travel by way of Curaçao to their destination abroad 4 x \$15 for the domestic flight, or less for the children who are under 13. All this has to be verified by checking

passports. In Curaçao they pay an additional airport tax of 4 x \$23. If they had flown from Bonaire directly to a foreign country they would have paid 4 x \$75 = \$300. Going by way of Curaçao saved the four of them \$148.

Cases 7 and 8: The specialist from Curaçao, but not born there, now pays NAf27 when he returns home after a hard day's work in Bonaire. The Curaçao specialist who comes to Bonaire regularly accompanied by his Dutch born wife, who acts as his assistant, pays NAf10 when going home, his wife NAf27. Should they get the idea to go abroad straight from Bonaire, he would pay \$20, she \$75. In these cases too, things would have to be verified by checking passports and sedulas.

For the international flights three kinds of receipts have to be kept in stock: for \$20, \$37.50 and \$75. In total there are seven kinds of travelers. What simplified tax structure?

Things have to be verified endlessly by checking passports and sedulas. This may take lots of time. Long queues before the airport tax booth.irate travelers. Planes departing too late.

The injustice of the system is that the ones who do not use commercial accommodations and don't rent cars or are on the island for very short periods of time have to pay these high prices too. Isn't there something like the principle of equality? I wonder whether it's legal. What is the justification for giving preferential treatment to born Antilleans and Arubans?

Then there is one little problem left. Inhabitants of Bonaire are favored too. But how do you prove at the airport that you reside in Bonaire? A sedula or a passport tells where and when you were born, gives your name and nationality but that's it. It does not say where you live. Even if the sedula says *Bonaire* and the passport was issued by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bonaire, it does not prove that you live there. Many inhabitants of Bonaire have foreign passports. A driver's license may do the trick, but not everybody has one. The only truly legal proof that one lives in Bonaire is an extract from the basic administration of the Citizens' Department of the Island Territory of Bonaire, stating that one is registered there as an inhabitant of Bonaire. It will be a little difficult to demand producing such a document when leaving the island by air. What's the alternative?

This airport regulation is a classic example of ultimate inequality and may bring, in the long run, irreparable damage to Bonaire. One should just forget about it.

Ger Vellinga

MANY PROMISES, LITTLE CHANGE

Dear Editor:

Break-ins on Bonaire are frequent. Criminal activity is on the rise on this beautiful Caribbean island.

Yesterday, 4/15/06, two homes in Lagun Hill were robbed in the afternoon. Windows and doors were shattered. Police offered these suggestions: get a dog; install a security system; or install bars on the doors and windows.

One of the homes did have a dog. Response time from security is over 30 minutes, and last month they cut the bars during a burglary here. Solutions offered by the police are not helpful. They offer suggestions other than doing their job better.

In 2004 my son's camera was stolen and our car window smashed. This year, our propane tank was stolen and someone tried to hotwire our car.

Bonaire calls itself the "Diver's Paradise." However, it is rapidly becoming the "Diver's Hell." The police and government have promised tougher stances on crime. They have promised to apprehend and prosecute criminals. Little done. On an island of 12,000 people it seems incomprehensible the police cannot find out who the culprits are.

(Continued on page 5)



(Letters. Continued from page 4)

The failure of the police and government to reduce the crime will only lead to the ruin of Bonaire. A dive tag was \$10; it's now \$25. Departure tax is about to rise to \$75 because the government is unable to collect the existing taxes owed by hotels, car rental agencies, etc. While we understand the need for taxes, tourists will not be willing to pay these increased fees to visit a crime-ridden island. Bonaire's vitality depends on tourism.

The police excuse their failure to protect the island's law-abiding population by claiming that the police force is too small. They claim to not have a computer system that saves and catalogs fingerprints, DNA samples, photographs and other evidence. Yet when investigating last week's burglaries, we were informed that only two of the seven police officers were on duty because the others were unavailable. We were offered one excuse after another.

Another problem: The familial relationships between members of the police force and the alleged criminals apparently affect the investigation and arrest of suspects. They should not. They should also not prevent the investigation and detention of minors. Rumors suggest that many of the burglars are as young as 9. Allowing children to get away with crime will only escalate the severity crime as children grow older. Petty crime at 9 years old will lead to armed robbery or worse at 19 years old. Curbing crime must begin with teaching Bonaire's youth that stealing is wrong, will not be tolerated, and there will be consequences. Bonaire's continued status as a premier dive location hangs in the balance. Now is the time to do something.

If the current police force is unable or unwilling to live up to its responsibility and oath, a new police force is required – a police force with no family ties to the local population.

Now is the time to act.

Gil and Gladys Lombard

Editor's note: Last week a visiting yachtsman told us the story of the theft from his boat of valuable camera equipment; equipment that he depended on for his livelihood. The youthful thieves were pursued as they fled the scene and dumped the equipment into the sea, destroying it. (Remember the Nikon lens found by the underwater cleanup team we reported two weeks ago?) The thieves were identified, but the problem remains of how to discourage youngsters guilty of a non-violent crime when the island has no detention facilities.

One observer came up with a possible idea: **make the parents of the children responsible for restitution and an apology.** The parents in this case wouldn't be too happy about coming up with the \$2,000 cost of the camera gear.

(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

unique and an advantage in the globalizing world, something that is insufficiently recognized locally, says Clarke.



► Eleven Caribbean islands can be reached with KLM and Air France from Europe. Curaçao is its cheapest destination in the Caribbean, 399 euro. A ticket from **Amsterdam to Bonaire costs 499 euro**, to Atlanta 219 euro, and to Cairo 299 euro.

► **“The navy should start giving the cruise ships in Curaçao, Bonaire, and Aruba extra protection against possible Venezuelan aggression,”** says Dutch Parliamentarian Zsolt Szabó in last week's Dutch weekly *Elsevier*. The safety of the Antilles and Aruba is, according to him, “a cheese with holes.” The cruise ships are full of American grandparents,” and there is no protection at all for them. Other reports in the press indicate that he is not the only parliamentarian that is concerned.

Dutch Defense Minister Henk Kamp says that Venezuela and the Netherlands coexist on friendly basis. However, President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela considers the Antilles a stepping stone for a possible American invasion

against his country. He condemned Kamp on television and accused him of spreading lies and that Kamp is a pawn of Washington. Szabó is of the opinion that Kamp should fortify the military capacity in the Antilles and in Aruba.

“We are building a radar system on the Leeward Islands to monitor the matter, but when you notice that something is going on, you should also be prepared to take actions. One frigate is not enough. It must be much more robust.” According to the latest edition of *Elsevier*, Venezuela has 18 Mirages that are capable of firing AM-30 Exocet ship-killer missiles. Venezuela also has 24 Russian MI-17 helicopters, two submarines, six frigates with launcher for Otomat MK2-missiles, and six Vospor patrol boats, some of which also have missile capability.

“When it comes to taking actions,” Parliamentarian Zsolt Szabó said, “the Netherlands will never be able to meet her longstanding obligation towards the Antilles and Aruba with just one frigate, 200 marines and 60 military police stationed on the islands. Ben Bot, the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, says the Netherlands must remain neutral in the conflict between Venezuela and the US.

► Ratcheting up a war of words with Washington, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said last Wednesday that **Venezuela would blow up its oil fields if a US attack** he has repeat-



Chavez

(Continued on page 6)

► This past week a large group of tennis players from the ARUPRO Tennis school of Aruba visited Bonaire for the first time for a tennis get-together with Tennis school Sport Bonaire at the Harbour Village Tennis Center. The group consisted of 20



youngsters and 11 adult players and a group of 25 parents. The enthusiastic young tennis players participated in a three-day event that started Wednesday and lasted until Friday. The teams played singles, doubles and mixed doubles and had great fun. At the closing ceremony ARUPRO thanked Elisabeth Vos of Tennisschool Sport Bonaire and her assistant Cedric La Hay for their organization. Bonaire promised ARUPRO to work on a return visit in the near future. *Elisabeth Vos*

(Flotsam and Jetsam., Continued from page 5) edly warned about becomes reality.

While many Chavez supporters in poor neighborhoods consider a US invasion a real threat, critics and most international observers call it a far-fetched fantasy designed to fire up Chavez's political base.

"We would not have any alternative ... We will blow up our own oil fields ... They are not going to take that oil," Chavez said in comments broadcast on state television. Chavez said that the recent deployment of US warships in the Caribbean Sea threatened his country and its ally, Cuba. **Venezuela also decided to modernize its refinery in Cuba rather than the pollution-producing Isla refinery in Curaçao**

► The attorney for Holloway suspect, **Geoffrey van Cromvoirt**, Elaine Lotter Homan, says her client "is not a friend of **Joran van der Sloot, the Kalpoe brothers** or any of the earlier arrested persons in the disappearance of Natalee Holloway and has also no other relationship with any of them." In addition she said van Cromvoirt hadn't worked for his father's company, VCB Video Camera Security Systems & Consultancy at the Holiday Inn where Natalee stayed.



Geoffrey van Cromvoirt

Joran van der Sloot's father, Paul van der Sloot, told the Associated Press that his son doesn't know van Cromvoirt. This is the first time that van Cromvoirt has been arrested. The Aruba Public Prosecutor confirmed that van Cromvoirt was arrested as part of the investigation into the disappearance of Natalee Holloway. He was released Wednesday morning because "there are no longer reasons for keeping him imprisoned," said the Public Prosecutor. It makes one wonder why he was hassled by police.

He lived in Bonaire until a few years

ago. A 20-year old, initials E.B., was arrested on Saturday then released.

► The latest offshore **search operation for Natalee Holloway's remains was temporarily discontinued** last Thursday, said the Associated Press. Aruban authorities had spent a week sounding the seabed with sonar equipment. They started this investigation after 19-year old Geoffrey van Cromvoirt was arrested.

► The Bonaire cellular telephone scene is in for a big shakeup. **Digicel, the largest GSM telecom provider in the Caribbean, is coming to Bonaire soon.** According to industry experts, Digicel is a leader on 20 other Caribbean islands because of aggressive marketing and high technical standards. Its office will be in the original Cellular One space, near Re/Max Realty, at Kaya Grandi 26. They are looking to hire administrative and technical personnel.



► It's been six months since SELIBON and the Stichting (Foundation) Recycling Bonaire (SRB) began their program to **collect glass for recycling**. Last week SELIBON manager Rudsell Leito reported great success with the program that collects empty glass containers at hotels and stores them until they can be crushed and used for aggregate in road building. Soon more of the special yellow recycling containers will be available. Bonaire plans eventually to institute a trash separation scheme for glass, cans and paper from other garbage. Glass can

► In a brief press conference Charles Suriel, the police department's public information officer (left), and two fellow officers **return the laptop that was stolen from the Windsock apartments** to its owner. Police photo



BYOF Kids - "No Limits"



BYOF kids at the Mangrove Information and Kayak Center

During Easter week the Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation (BYOF) organized a campout titled "No Limits." It was sponsored for the third consecutive year by the RBTT Bank. The event challenges Bonaire's youngsters and helps form good character so that they may reach their potential.

Highlights included a visit to Rooi Lamunchi to experience the history and nature; landsailing; kayaking; sports and general fellowship.

The organizers would like to express their thanks to Willy and Jo-Anne Piar who set up the games as well as Heidi and Aichel Mercelina, Senaida Hart, Diana Gevers, Alejandro Martinus, Edward and Miriela Bernabela and last, but not least, Irene Martinus for her delicious food. BYOF appreciates the cooperation and support of Ellen Cochrane-Herrera of Rooi Lamunchi, Landsailing Bonaire and the Mangrove Info & Kayak Center. *Story & photo by Sheloutska Martinus-Frances*

be dumped at the landfill free of charge.

► **Three members of St. Eustatius' National Park, STENAPA, will spend 10 days getting ranger training in Bonaire.** The visiting rangers are Walter Blair, Gershon Lopes and Titi Spanner. The visit is part of a ranger exchange training scheme set up between the national and marine parks within the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA).

The Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP), a part of STINAPA Bonaire, was set up in 1975 and has long-established systems of operations and maintenance that serve as a model for marine parks worldwide. The Statia rangers will spend their time working with the BNMP manager and rangers in Bonaire, learning about their systems of mooring installation and maintenance, research and monitoring, patrolling and law enforcement. Later this year the manager and rangers of BNMP will visit the Statia Park as the second step in the ranger exchange program.

► Want to be part of the **Competition Dinners served by the Bonaire Culinary Team** as they hone their gastronomic skills in preparation for the "Taste of the Caribbean" Culinary Olympics June 26? Every Sunday at Chez Nous at 7 pm (except for April 30 - Rincon Day)

the team will serve a practice three-course meal designed to garner them the Gold Medal in competition with the finest chef teams in the Caribbean. The price is \$25 per person and includes wines. These dinner events are a way to help raise funds to send Bonaire's team to the competition. Seating is limited so reserve now. Call Sara at 786-9299, Floris at 786-1508 or Laura at 786-6518.



Continued on page 11.

Rincon Day Fun

Francisco "Bubuchi" Janga, son of the late "Mr. Rincon," Broetje Janga, is following in his father's footsteps and heading up the organizing committee for the **18th annual Rincon Day (Dia di Rincon) this Sunday, April 30.** Those people who are on the committee are those who, as Bubuchi explains, "people who know the traditions, what Rincon Day is supposed to be. It's for everyone, not just for the people with money. Those people who have a lot of knowledge of our culture don't have a lot of money." Organizers include Niko St. Jago, Carmen Goeloe, Lourdes Winklaar and Glenda Frans.

The excitement actually begins the night before, on Saturday, with a children's parade starting at 4 pm from the elementary school in Rincon. The Balashi Bartenders Contest will be in full swing that night with 14 super-creative bartenders making up cocktails that actually include Balashi Beer! It starts at 9 pm and goes until midnight in the big parking lot behind the fire station in Rincon. The winner will be invited to be the bartender competitor with Bonaire's Culinary Team going to the "Taste of the Caribbean" in June.

Stands selling food and drinks will have been set up in the streets of Rincon and it's Ban Topa (let's all meet) time where there's dancing in the streets.

Sunday the camaraderie continues. There will be music everywhere, with three main stages set up for entertainment and several smaller ones nearby. Groups from Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba will be on hand to entertain. Stars like the Grupo Kristal will be coming

from Curaçao and Grupo Betico will be here from Aruba.

There will be parades, games, bands, fun. Bring your camera for great photo opportunities!

Stands will be selling all that good Rincon traditional *comida* (food) like *kabrito stoba* (goat stew), *boka dushi* (sweet things), *bachi bachi* (a stew made from many parts of the goat – said to be delicious). The stands themselves are works of art, the creators using the native materials growing on the island.

If you really want to be "in," get yourself a Rincon Day tee shirt for NAf10 or 12, for adults and children. They're sold at the Rincon Centro di Bario, the Rose Inn and at Anna Nicolaas' store in the village. See you there! *L.D.*

Don't Miss the Rincon Day Book Sale by Hubentut pa Cristu

During the Rincon Day festivities this Sunday stop by the stand next to the Protestant church where there will be lots of secondhand books for sale – including many children's books and books in English too. Everyone who loves to read is welcome. For the last two years the stand has been run by the *Hubentut pa Cristu* (young people for Christ). All the profits from the sales of the books and other goodies will be used to get everything they need to continue the club.

Elly Oudshoorn reports that more than 40 years ago there was a successful youth group at the Protestant Church in



Rincon Day 2005

Rincon. As the members left the island the club declined. But three years ago, members of the church who were once members of the *Hubentut* themselves wanted to revive the club where the youth of Rincon could come for activities. With the support of many people they started to rebuild the old building connected to the *kerki* (church) of Rincon. It was finished and the youngsters now have a place to come. But they need material to keep the youngsters busy with handicrafts like painting, sewing, woodworking, playing ping pong, etc. so they need to raise money and this book sale is aimed towards that end. They're also looking for second hand computers.

For more information call Elly Oudshoorn, Subi di Rincon # 34, 717-3227 or cellphone 786-0870

Bikers Parades – Motor and Pedal

In conjunction with the celebration of Dia di Rincon on Sunday the Bonaire Bikers Motorcycle Club will organize a fund-raising Motorcycle Parade to benefit the ATV Stanislaus handicapped

center. A donation of NAf10 is asked of all riders who will receive a T-shirt courtesy of the sponsors, Captain Don's Habitat and the Polo Auto Body Repair Center.



Sign up on Sunday, April 30 at 9 am at Capt. Don's Habitat. Riders will assemble at 10am at Polo's. All motorized two-wheeled vehicles are invited to participate. For more information contact Mocky Arends at 786-5614 or Norman Evertsz at 560-7282.

There will also be a **Pedal Yourself Bike Parade** at 4 pm. Sign up at the Rincon Sentro di bario in the morning. Cost NAf1 for kids, NAf2 for adults. All welcome. *L.D.*



Before



SELIBON Photo

During



After



Young Volunteers



Yachties, STCB members and friends

Earth Day Cleanup at Lagun

Bonaire's Earth Day organizers are thrilled with the turnout last weekend. Lagun looks better than most have ever seen it. We have two reports:

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) reports:

As in past years, STCB and STINAPA organized a beach cleanup during the Earth Day celebration. This year SELIBON, the island's department of sanitation, also helped to organize the clean-up at Lagun. The clean-up was conducted over a two-day period. Day 1 was Friday, April 21, with STCB and SELIBON working with a front-end loader to remove numerous large and heavy logs that had accumulated and were covering the entire beach.

Much to the surprise of everyone, a group of youngsters were already working when STCB and SELIBON staff arrived on the scene. These Bonairean youths, between the ages of 10 and 19 years old, had been camping close by at Porto Spaña the day before and had heard about the clean-up while listening to the radio. They went to Lagun and seeing the large trash containers that SELIBON had already brought to the site, they decided

to start the clean-up by themselves. The entire group cleaned during that Thursday afternoon and came back Friday and again Saturday to work. Working over the course of three days and even bringing their own tools to do the job, these youngsters are a great example for the entire community to emulate.

Day 2, Saturday, April 22, was a big success. Building on the prior day's efforts, over 40 people worked to clear almost all the debris that was covering the sand. Five trash containers were filled. In addition to the youngsters noted earlier, there were a number of local people pitching in to do their part. Linda and Chili Ridley, the lead volunteers for the Bonaire National Marine Park, organized a large group of "cruisers" off the sailboats to join in the effort.

Between the two days of work, seven large trash containers were filled with debris and seven big truck loads of trash were removed with the front-end loader on Friday. Hopefully, and with the continued support from SELIBON, we can work to maintain this beautiful place and

keep it clean. Why wait until next Earth Day to clean Lagun? Wind and waves deposit tons of trash throughout the year, but if we clean it more often, the people of Bonaire will have another wonderful place to spend their free time.

Also on Saturday, the entire staff of STINAPA and other volunteers cleaned up Playa Chikitu in Washington-Slagbaai National Park.

STCB, STINAPA and SELIBON would like to thank all the people involved in this clean-up. You all did a great job!
Story & photos by Andy Uhr & Mabel Nava

dolls, fishing nets, rope, fiberglass, oil filters, plastic bags, hair brushes and combs and coolers.

The weather was very windy and the breakers were rolling, in but the enthusiasm levels were incredible.

The following yachts were represented: *T-ab, Freestyle, Natural Selection, Entrada, Camissa, Slow Dancing, Blue Marine, Stardust, Islomania and Pufferfish.* Linda Ridley



Yacht Visitors Report:

On Saturday people started arriving at 8 am and worked until 11:30 am. Over 50 people participated, including 22 from visiting yachts, five STINAPA volunteers, seven people from Customs, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire and the seven "drop-in" kids, who filled five dumpsters full of trash using rakes and filling empty rice sacks with "sushi." Items picked up included shoes - dozens of flip-flops and tennis shoes and sandals - cups, plastic bottles, plastic buckets, glass bottles and jars, cartons, pens, disposal lighters, toys and

Dive Into Adventure June 17-24 Sign up now!

In June divers, snorkelers, nature lovers and adventurers from around the world can Dive into Adventure on Bonaire to experience Bonaire's natural treasures and find out what they can do to help protect the environment while taking part in diving and dive-related adventure and land- and water-based eco-adventures. They will be led by local and international experts like Philippe Cousteau, grandson of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, and world renowned nature photographer, Dos Winkel.

The week will be filled with exciting activities, presentations and opportunities to rub elbows with local and international "stars." The program is filled with adventure. With each day offering event participants the flexibility to create the Bonaire experience they want, people can selectively take part in dive and adventure activities, spend their entire days diving or following the program as offered. No matter what people choose to do, they can rest assured they will have a fun, educational and memorable week in Bonaire.

Each day of Dive Into Adventure Bonaire offers not only opportunities to dive and take part in dive-, land- and water-based adventure activities like windsurfing, technical diving, underwater photography, kayaking and land sailing, but also presentations by Bonaire experts like marine conservationist Dee Scarr; Ramon Leon, Manager of the Bonaire National Marine Park; and Fernando Simal, Manager of Washington-Slagbaai National Park. There will be evening parties and guided dives. "A Taste of Bonaire," the event's kick-off party, will feature food from the best restaurants on the islands, local music and crafts. A photo contest with great prizes and the Fun Team Event - It's a Knockout - with games and prizes, and a BBQ at Bonaire's Na-



Phillipe Cousteau

tional Stadium round out the week's activities.

To be part of Dive Into Adventure Bonaire 2006 people may purchase an attractively priced package from one of the event's official tour operators. Packages include accommodations at one of the event's five host hotels, breakfast daily, six boat dives, shore diving, round-trip airport transfers, hotel taxes and service charge. In addition to the hotel package there's also a one-time \$75 per person registration fee. The fee includes entrance to daytime and evening presentations by local and international "stars," evening parties, including music and drinks, select daytime dives with local and international "stars" (pre-registration required), photography workshops, "A Taste of Bonaire," and an event welcome packet.

For specific rates, good only for June 17-24, 2006, go to the website at www.bonairereporter.com and select the appropriate link for your country. You'll find US Bargains (from \$549) and European Bargains from € 955, including KLM airfare). For more details on the event program and all local and international experts participating in the event visit www.DiveIntoAdventureBonaire.com.

TCB Press release



Do You SuDoku?

The Bonaire Reporter will be printing SuDoku number puzzles- the latest trend now running alongside crossword puzzles in many newspapers. Please let us know if you enjoy them. Molly Kearney has joined us as puzzle editor.

SuDoku means "the digits must remain single" in Japanese. It was created and published in 1979, although the puzzles didn't really gain popularity until The Times in Britain began printing SuDoku in 2005, and the craze spread like wildfire across the world.

Answer on page 14

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

Solving the Puzzles

To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle, without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 X 3 region.

What makes these puzzles fun is that the rules are simple but require logical reasoning skills to solve. Some find it easier to pencil in the possible numeric candidates or write them along the outside of the puzzle. Others find this distracting.

In addition to being printed in most major city's newspapers, SuDoku puzzles can also be found on many web sites (e.g. www.sudokushack.com) and published books.

These puzzles are a good way to pass the time while traveling or while relaxing on the beach. But be forewarned- the puzzles can be addictive. Once you master a particularly difficult SuDoku it is hard not to get sucked into a brand new one, taunting you with a number solution that jumps out at you...

Different levels of difficulty exist. The Reporter will start out with Easy Level, and gradually move on to the Tricky and Tough. If you are having trouble starting out, visit the web site noted above. They have a tutorial that's a bit easier to understand.

Good luck! Molly Kearney

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

| DATE | TIME | HEIGHT | COEF |
|------|------|--------------|-----------|
| 4-28 | 1:04 | 2.0FT. 10:18 | 0.8FT. 99 |
| 4-29 | 1:51 | 2.0FT. 11:33 | 0.7FT. 98 |
| 4-30 | 2:42 | 2.0FT. 12:28 | 0.7FT. 92 |
| 5-01 | 3:37 | 2.0FT. 13:20 | 0.6FT. 83 |
| 5-02 | 4:26 | 1.9FT. 14:00 | 0.6FT. 72 |
| 5-03 | 5:23 | 1.9FT. 14:32 | 0.7FT. 60 |
| 5-04 | 6:09 | 1.8FT. 15:04 | 0.7FT. 48 |
| 5-05 | 7:00 | 1.7FT. 15:29 | 0.8FT. 38 |

Winfred Dania Exhibit Opens at Kas di Arte

over
story



The artist and the organizers: Maggie and Frans Booi, Kas di Arte President Jackie Bernabela, Winfred Dania



Artist to Artist: Nochi Coffie and Winfred Dania



Self Portrait and the real thing



Eddy Rijna and his wife, artist Yenny



Gabby Mercera provided the back-beat



Maggie Booi and Party & Zo's Chelsea and Sharon

Winfred Dania, considered by many here and in Holland as the Van Gogh of Bonaire, opened his newest art exhibit last Sunday at the Kas di Arte. Throngs of well wishers, including other artists, friends and Commissioner of Education Geraldine Dammers, were there at the opening which featured the exciting unveiling of Dania's three-dimensional piece. Dania's long-time mentor Frans Booi reminisced about their friendship and his

(Continued on page 12)

Open Friday & Saturday until 8pm

**WINFRED DANIA
ARTWORK EXHIBITION**

*7pm Thursday: Talk by Frans Booi
"Myths of Bonaire"*



**Discover for yourself why
Dutch art critics call him the
van Gough of Bonaire**

**kas di
arte**

Kaya J.N.E Craane 34

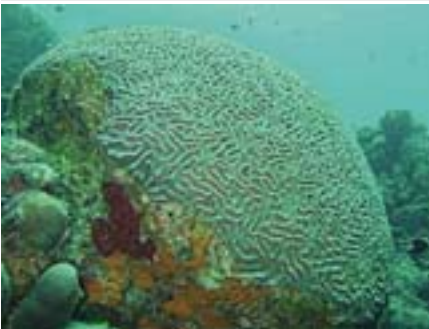
Daily - 10:00 to 5:00 thru May 21

Bonaire Reporter - April 28 to May 5, 2006

(Flotsam and Jetsam., Continued from page 6)

coral glimpses

(a bit of information about corals presented each week by naturalist Dee Scarr)



A coral head with no interruptions to its growth would remain a perfect hemisphere shape. Coral heads which are not perfect hemispheres have had their growth interrupted.



► Their appearance can't be reliably predicted. However, the **Kibrahacha tree often blooms a few days after a heavy rain** following a long dry spell. And last week saw one of the most spectacular blooming in a long time. The hills in the higher elevations were freckled with the brilliant yellow flowers that put all others to shame. Without its leaves the slow-growing hard wood (it's name means "break an axe") is sort of leggy and non-descript. However, Tony Kool captured these in full bloom in Bolivia. There are few things more spectacular on Bonaire.

► **Bonaire's second annual Jazz Festival is set for next month, May 25-28. Following the magical success of last year's fest, this will be even bigger.** We will be reporting more as the days lead up to the event. **But plan NOW to be there.** Tickets for all three main concerts are NAf45 or NAf20 per session. The musical session on May 25 is free.

► **Mother's day is only a week away, Sunday, May 8.** You can send

a short message telling Mom your feelings for her with a **free advertisement in the Classified section of The Bonaire Reporter.** Email by Monday, May 1, mom@bonairereporter.com or telephone or fax at 717-8988. Cell is 786-6518.

Business and restaurant owners - take advantage of The Reporter's special Mother's Day edition to advertise special sales or dinners. L./G. D.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kenneth Kross Confirmed

In a solemn service on Sunday 23 April in the Protestant Church in Wilhelmina Park, Kenneth Marlon Kross was confirmed as the preacher of the Protestant community of Bonaire. He takes over from the beloved Jan Jonkman, who may now begin a well-deserved retirement.

Domi Kross was head of Personnel at the SGB High School. He was born in Paramaribo, Surinam, on September 26, 1963, into a Christian family. His late father was a long-time member of the Lutheran Church in Surinam. At 19 Kenneth graduated as a teacher in Spanish and English and advanced in the teaching profession, eventually becoming Human Resources Manager for a large company.

As he matured so did his interest in the ecclesiastical life. He actually experienced his vocation on Bonaire and became more and more involved in the activities of the Protestant Church. His exceptional life was written up by Greta Kooistra in an "On the Island Since..." article in the February 3, 2006 *Bonaire Reporter*.

Please join us in congratulating Domi Kross in his new position. G.D.



Kenneth Kross being confirmed as new head of the Bonaire Protestant community extra photo

Bouwman and Snelder Married



Tamara (Tammy) Snelder (né Bouwman) and Bart Snelder with Bart's son, Allan

Last Friday afternoon, April 21, Bart Snelder married Tammy Bouwman at a beautiful beachfront ceremony at Jibe City. Bart's son, Allan, was the ring bearer. The sky was filled with planes as friends and relatives from Europe joined the couple. Congratulations and much happiness to all.

(Winfred Dania Continued from page 10)



Dania with artist Manuela Winklaar

support which began in 1970: the artist portrays the mythological legends on canvas as Booi relates them in words.

Dania's latest works are colossal; he's a man who's sure of himself and his message. The public showed their approval: a number of his pieces were sold within minutes of the show opening.

The Winfred Dania Art Exhibition will continue at the Kas di Arte until May 21. The hours are from 10 am to 5 pm every day. This Friday and Saturday they will be open until 8 pm.

On Thursday May 4th, come hear a talk by Frans Booi on "The Myths of Bonaire."

L.D.

Readers are invited to send their photos of their anniversaries, engagements or weddings to *The Reporter*. The photo and text will be printed free of charge.

Bonaire Reporter Classifieds— They are still free Got something to buy or sell?

REACH MORE READERS than any other WEEKLY NEWSPAPER by advertising in THE BONAIRE REPORTER

Non-Commercial Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words):

FREE FREE FREE FREE

Commercial Ads only NAf0.70 per word, per week.

Free adds run for 2 weeks.

Call or fax 717-8988 or email 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

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>

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

Trees and plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m² nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don and Janet). Phone: 786-0956

Bonaire Images

Elegant greeting cards and beautiful boxed note cards are now available at Chat-N-Browse next to Lover's Ice Cream and Sand Dollar Grocery. Photography by Shelly Craig www.bonaireimages.com

MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE?

Make it more livable from the start.

FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS

Also interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy, healing, China-trained. Experienced. Inexpensive. Call Donna at 785-9332.

LUNCH TO GO

Starting from NAf5 per meal. Call CHINA NOBO 717-8981

SALT TREASURES BONAIRE

100% natural body salts "Scrub Me" 100% natural Bath Salts available at Chat-n-Browse, KonTiki and Jewel of Bonaire or call 786-6416 for more information.

JELLASTONE PETPARK

Pet boarding / Dierenpension Day and night care. phone: 786-4651 www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/

Personals

Sunday, May 7 - Mothers Day - Send a message to your mom - free in the Reporter Classifieds. Email by May 1, mom@bonairereporter.com Tel./Fax 717-8988 or 786-6518.

For Sale

Dodge Ram pickup extra cab V-8 \$10,500.= Frigidaire 3.6 cub freezer \$210.= Brunswick antique windup turntable 125 years old very good condition \$6400.= Royal Dalton fine bone china "Imperial Blue" 10 dinner and 10 rimsoup plates \$1,200.= Cel: 565-5448

For Sale: 1995 Mitsubishi 4-door pickup truck, diesel, 4-wheel drive, asking NAf 6.000. e-mail... ellen@flamingotv.

net or call 717-5567 late evenings.

For sale: Sky kennel for large dog, KLM-approved, size F, NAf 300, tel. 786-5582.

Refills! Do you have an empty 1.25 oz container of SeaGold, SeaDrops or a 2-oz. container of PSI 500 defog? Bring it in and the Carib Inn will fill for half the price of a new bottle!! You must have an original bottle though.

For Sale Daewoo Matiz 2002 +/- 30.000 km Airco, Radio, very good condition. First Owner, Call 717-5632

LADA NIVA (jeep) for sale 1991-4X4 drive 1.6 lt.; 95.000km NAf2.400 717-2844 or 786-2844

Boats for Sale

Why expensively import a sail boat when you can own a fast Regatta winner built right here?



Classic 21' Bonaire Sail Fishing boat recently refurbished is for sale for NAf14,000 (\$8,000) Call George 786-6125/717-8988.

Wanted

Help Wanted

Last Bite Bakery looking for kitchen help, part time, 4 days a week, some English preferred. Call for details 717-3293.

Wanted: 1 sea container. Doesn't have to be seaworthy. Needed for storage. Call Ed 786-5544.

The Bonaire Reporter is looking for a Partner or Managing Editor

Join us to "Publish in Paradise." Working Partner or Managing Editor with journalism, writing/editing skills, business sense and energy desired.

Most important: Must Love Bonaire! Call *The Reporter* at 717-8988, 786-6518. Email qualifications to: search@bonairereporter.com

Missing



Our cat is missing since 5 April. She has brown-red stripes and a bit white. She is a europeese and very friendly. She is 4 years old and her name is Teigetje. If somebody sees her please call 786-1716

Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

Kas di Bara

Preserving Bonaire's Architectural Heritage

by Wilna Groenenboom

A house is mostly to live in. It has certain practical needs to make living comfortable in our 21st century. For that reason it needs certain alterations because we are now a little bit taller than 50 years ago. Also nowadays we prefer more contact with the outside by having "open" windows day and night. And we prefer not to have to do a lot of work or maintenance on our house. With this in mind a *Kas di Bara* can be very uncomfortable!

A beautiful but empty example of such a house is on the Kaya Tanki di Matrimonia on the road to the Maria Höppner home (bottom center & right). It has the traditional closed shutters or hatches.

A *Kas di Bara* was originally made of loam (clay and mud), grass and water. In order to repair it you must know the old building traditions. So when the house needs repair most people choose the easy way; consequently more and more *Kas di Baras* are being repaired with cement. The typical slanting wall on the outside is often disappearing at the same time as the loam.

A lot of people do realize these problems, but they want to have a practical house with 21st century comfort. For that reason there are only a few traditional *Kas di Baras* left, and most of them are empty. And often, because of the reasons mentioned above, the owner knocks it down and builds a new house on the old foundation.

The house of the Gilbert and Richard Cicilia family on the road to Lagun is a living example of a real *Kas di Bara* (top photos & bottom left). Even after their father and mother, Ismael and Rosarita Cicilia, passed away, the brothers still live together in the house. The family had 13 children of which 11 are still alive today.

You must look carefully because the old basic form of the house is in the middle, surrounded by all kinds of other, newer building additions. At one time 15 people in the family were living in it so we can imagine why they had to make more space.

The roof of the *Kas di Bara* is still traditional (photo right top), but the wooden shutters have been replaced by modern glass windows. And although the walls have been repaired with cement, the typical slanting walls are still intact.

Maybe we've discovered a gap in the market here. Why not train SGB students in the old traditional ways of building and repairing the historical homes such as a *Kas di Bara* house. Sadly, as the old generation passes, the old knowledge is also passing away.

Story & photo collage by Wilna Groenenboom.



Wilna Groenenboom is an artist and photographer who teaches art at the SGB high school



Pet of the Week

“**B**right” is a dog of great mystery. She was found and considered a “lost dog” because she did have a collar on and she obviously had been around people. Her plight was announced on the radio, in the newspapers and on a poster, but no one ever came to claim her. What could have become of her owners? And why wouldn’t they come to claim such a great dog? But enough time has passed and now Brigit is up for adoption. She’s a very special pup; she’s just so mellow and easy to handle, but she has enough spunk to be a serious watch dog. Brigit is only about a year and a half old. She has short, easy-to-care-for black, brown and white fur and even has a few freckles on her nose. And of course, like all the other cats and dogs up for adoption at the Bonaire Animal Shelter, she’s in perfect health, has been checked out by the vet, has had her worming and shots and has been sterilized. You may meet Brigit at the Shelter on the Lagun Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989. *L.D.*



“*Brigit*”

Do You SuDoku?

(puzzle and directions on page 9)

And the solution is:

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Saturday, April 29 –Queen’s Day Regatta- organized by the Bonaire Sailing School Association (BSSA).

Classes: Optimist Jr., Sunfish, Jr and Sr., Windsurf Jr., Catamarans, Fishing Boats and Microboats.

Captain’s meeting: 9 am, First start, 9:30 am; Three races. Awards presented at 3:30 pm. Call **Karel de Regt at 717-2966** for information.



more...

Sunday, May 7 - Mothers Day – Send a message to your mom – free in the Reporter Classifieds. Email by May 1, mom@bonairereporter.com Tel./Fax 717-8988 or 786-6518.

Sunday, May 7—Bonaire Culinary Team Dinner, 7 pm, Chez Nous, \$25 for 3-course meal with wine. Call Sara 786-9299, Floris 786-1508, Laura 786-6518

Friday, May 12 - Big party and show for 'mom' at Don Paranda, from 8:30 pm to 2 am, entrance Fl.35- Featuring Melania van der Veen, Boy Thode, Romeo Heye, Denis Cicilia, Wilbert Petronella and DJ HB Disco. To benefit the FKPD (Handicapped Foundation) Call 717-6210 for tickets.

Saturday, May 20th - 30 Km Mountain Bike Tour- organized by Cycle Bonaire & BWC. Meet at Cycle Bonaire at 4 pm. Call: Cycle Bonaire 717-2229 or Bonaire Wellness Connexions 785-0767

Thursday, May 25 - Ascension Day – holiday, banks and many shops closed

REGULAR EVENTS Daily (more or less)

- **HH 2 for 1** (on all beverages) 5-7 pm, Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar
- **HH—Buddy Dive,** 5:30-6:30
- **HH Cactus Blue** (except Sunday) 5 to 7 pm,
- **2 for 1 appetizer with every entrée,** Cactus Blue
- **Divi Flamingo Casino** open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Mon. to Sat. 8 pm– 4 am; Sun. 7 pm– 3 am.
- **Daily - by appointment -Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** Bonairean kunuku. \$12 (NAf12 for residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.

Saturdays

- **Grill Night on the Beach, Buddy Dive**
- **Rincon Marshé—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
- **Mountain Bike Ride—** Everyone welcome. It’s free. Bring a bike and your own water. Fitness trainer Miguel Angel Brito leads the pack. Telephone him at 785-0767 for information.
- **Wine Tasting at AWC’s warehouse,** 6 to 8 pm, Kaya Industria #23. Great wines - NAf2,50 a glass.
- **All You Can Eat BBQ at Divi Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9 pm, NAf26,50. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444 .

Sundays

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, Divi Flamingo

Mondays

- **Caribbean Night, - live local music—**

Current Cruise Ship Schedule

| Date | Ship | PAX | Arrive | Depart | Pier |
|------------|--------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 01 MAY MON | PRINSENDAM | 793 | 08:00 | 18:00 | SOUTH |
| 02 MAY TUE | SEA PRINCESS | 1950 | 12:00 | 19:00 | SOUTH |

Buddy Dive.

- **Soldachi Tour of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire,** 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435
- **Kriyoyo Night BBQ Buffet** featuring Chef Gibi and Los Princes Mariachi, Golden Reef Inn . Band 7 pm, BBQ at 7:30 pm. Reservations \$20, walk ins \$25. Drinks available for purchase. Call 717-5759 or email info@goldenreeffinn.com

Tuesdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers,** 5-7 pm Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar
- **Wine & Cheese/ \$1 glass of wine,** 5-7pm, Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar
- **Buy a Bucket of Beer & get free chicken wings,** 5 to 7 pm, Cactus Blue
- **Yoga Classes—**Tel. 786-6416

Wednesdays

- **Open Mike Night with Moogie,** 7 to 9 pm, Cactus Blue
 - **Live music by Flamingo Rockers** Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar 5-6:30 pm
 - **Live music by Flamingo Rockers** The Windsurf Place at Sorobon 7:30- 9:30 pm
 - **Movie Night at Buddy Dive**
 - **Yoga Classes—**Tel. 786-6416
- Live music by the “Flamingo Rockers”** 5-7pm-Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar

Fridays

- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 to 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225
- **Live music by the “Flamingo Rockers”** Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar – 5-7 pm
- **Swim lessons** for children by Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at Sorobon from 1330 to 1630
- **Manager’s Bash—**free Flamingo Smash & snacks, Divi Flamingo, 5-7 pm
- **Manager’s Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort,** 5:30-6:30 pm, followed by **All You Can Eat BBQ**
- **5-7 pm Social Event at JanArt Gallery, Kaya Gloria 7.** Meet artist Janice Huckaby and Larry of Larry’s Wildside Diving. New original paintings of Bonaire and diver stories of the East Coast every week
- **Yoga Classes—**Tel. 786-6416

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Saturday- Discover Our Diversity Slides 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 Show at Captain Don’s Habitat, 8:30 pm Call 717-8290 for info.

Wednesday (2nd and 4th) Turtle Conservation (STCB) Slide Show by Bruce Brabec. Carib Inn seaside veranda, 7 pm

Wednesday –Buddy Dive Cocktail Video Show by Martin Cecilia, pool bar Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

BONAIRE’S TRADITIONS

Kas Kriyo Rincon—Step into Bonaire’s past in this venerable old home that has been restored and furnished so it appears the family has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell you the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9–12, 2-4. Weekends by appointment. Call 717-2445.

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

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.

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

Weekly BonaireTalker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi’s - Tuesday - 6:30 pm - call 567-0655 for directions.

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank. 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.

JCI - First Wednesday of the Month- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

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

Lions Club meets every **2nd and 4th Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - Now meeting at 'Pirate House', above Restaurant Zeezicht. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bonaire Arts & Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonaireano) 717-5246 or 7117

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

Cinnamon Art Gallery - Volunteers to help staff gallery. 717-7103.

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— Call Roosje 786-7984

Volunteers to train children in sports. Contact Quick-Pro Track and Field - Rik 717-8051

.CHURCH SERVICES

New Apostolic Church, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

International Bible Church of Bonaire – Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle) **Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 pm** in English. Tel. 717-8332

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire. Wilhelmplein. 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). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194

Send event info to: **The Bonaire Reporter**
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 786-6518

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show

Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

V For Vendetta (Natalie Portman)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

Failure To Launch

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
THURS THRU SUN
2 MOVIES 7 & 9PM
MON THRU WED. 1 MOVIE 8PM

SATURDAY 4 PM
April: Curious George

THIS WEEK

Saturday, April 29 –Flea Market at Park Publico

RINCON DAY EVENTS

See page 7

- **Saturday, April 29—Queen’s Day Regatta** sponsored by BSSA (see above)
- **Saturday, April 29 – Balashi Beer Bartenders’ Competition –** Rincon, 9 pm-midnight, parking lot behind firehouse.
- **Sunday, April 30–Rincon Day Celebration in the streets of Rincon—**all day until midnight
- **Sunday, April 30–Queen’s Day 17 km Run** –start Stadium, end Rose Inn
- **Sunday, April 30–Windsurfing Race** (Tolo) Sororbon

Monday, May 1 - Labor Day—Banks & many stores closed

Thursday May 4th, Talk by Frans Booi on “The Myths of Bonaire,” Kas di Arte, 7 pm.

Until May 21—Winfred Dania Art Exhibit, Kas di Arte, open daily 10 am—5 pm, see page 10

Until May 14– Fer and Rob de Wit Photo Exhibition at Plaza Resort. 5-8 pm, Sunday, Tuesday and Friday. 717-5398.

Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship visiting days, starting around 10 am to early afternoon. Great gift ideas—many “made on Bonaire.” See Cruise Ship Schedule at top right.

COMING

Saturday, May 6 – Big Monthly Marshé in Rincon – from 6 am to 2 pm. Meet the friendliest people in Bonaire. There’s local foods, drinks, gifts, herbs, plants, music,

DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

| RESTAURANT | PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN | FEATURES |
|---|---|---|
| Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538 | Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day | Magnificent Theme Nights: Saturday: Beach Grill; Monday: Caribbean Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q |
| Bistro de Paris Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070 | Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday | Real French Cooking in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away |
| Cactus Blue Blvd. J. A. Abraham 16 (half-way between town and Divi Flamingo) 717-4564 | Moderate Dinner Closed Sunday | Trend Setting Menu Bonaire's newest hot-spot to eat and drink. Margaritas a specialty Owner-operated for top service |
| Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar 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 sea while enjoying a breakfast buffet or à la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Inspiring vistas and the highest standard of cuisine. |
| Croccantino Italian Restaurant Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025 | Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday | Bonaire's Most Romantic Restaurant where dining is a delight! Tuscan Chef David prepares exquisite dishes with authentic ingredients. Be served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take out too. |
| The Great Escape EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488 | Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Breakfast every day; Lunch, Dinner Tues-Sun. | Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof. Cuban cuisine. New kitchen. New cook Happy hours 5 to 7 every day. |
| The Last Bite Bakery Home Delivery or Take Out - Now in Playa—next to Xerox 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 gourmet class items -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only. |
| The Lost Penguin Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003. | Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner until 6 pm 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. |
| Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111 | Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday | Bonaire's best. The Real Thing! 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



ART

Richter Art— By Jake and Linda: Digital paintings, Giclees on canvas, limited edition and open prints.

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.

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 Friends Bonaire (Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine) -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Club, Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their cleanup dives and BBQ.

WannaDive - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.

FITNESS

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

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

FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

The Plantation Has lots of classy furniture and antiques at very competitive prices. Stop in to see great teak furniture and Indonesian crafts.

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. Incredible selection of pots.

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

The Great Escape Under new management. Quiet and tranquil setting with pool and luxuriant garden in Belnem. Cyber Café, DVD rentals, restaurant and bar. **New! Spa!**

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.

Nature Exploration

Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rapeling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 717-4555 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com

PHOTO FINISHING

Paradise Photo in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services. **Full digital services.**

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's oldest real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer service, top notch properties and home owners insurance.

Re/Max Paradise Homes: Lots of Choices—International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them for sale.

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. 717-2345

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.

SECURITY

Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

SHIPPING

Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent.**

SILKSCREEN, EMBROIDERY

CesMar—Local company offers top quality, fast service for monogramming, silk screening, embroidery.

SUPERMARKETS

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. Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup.

WINDSURFING

The Bonaire Windsurfing Place can fulfill all your windsurfing dreams and more. They offer expert instruction, superb equipment on a fine beach. Lunch and drinks too. BBQ and windsurf videos Wednesday nights.

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 Desirée and Don for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too.

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:
Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 786-6518

On the Island Since...

1989

Carlos Jimenez

I studied classical and popular percussion, Afro-Venezuelan percussion and Afro-Cuban percussion at the Conservatorio de la Orquesta Juvenil Nacional de Venezuela. I started playing when I was 12, but my father didn't approve. He said a musician's life is not good: it's dangerous; too many drugs. But once I was 18 I started my life in music. I played with the Orecuma Orchestra and freelanced with different musicians in Venezuela.

I was born in Caracas, and although I was passionately involved with music I also studied to become an electro technician and I studied languages - French and English and a brief course of Portuguese. In 1988 I was invited to participate as a musician in the carnival of Curaçao as a representative of Venezuela. I went and during my stay I fell in love with Roxanne Timp, who's the mother of my children; she's from Curaçao.

I needed to go back to Venezuela to arrange things, and she also needed to go to Venezuela," *he laughs*, "to check me out because she didn't immediately trust me! It was very, very hard to leave my family, and the way I see my life after I left them is as my 'second history.'

On March 30th 1988 I arrived on Curaçao. That same year in September we got married because I couldn't get a permit to stay. I started playing in The Blue Note, a nightclub, and I played at the first Curaçao Jazz Festival with the John James Willekes Band. Roxanne and I stayed one year in Curaçao, and when she got a good offer to work for a company in Bonaire we moved here.

The first thing I learned in Bonaire was Papiamentu, and I tried to understand the way people live here. After six months I was teaching tumbadora (conga) at the Sentro Cultural and at Gaby Mercera's Decodrum Studio. Gaby's the best drummer on the island. I needed to look for a job. It wasn't easy as I feel I only live for music, but I found work as a technician, and in 1992 I started working for the Antillean Rice Mill Company in a steady job. I stayed there until the rice mill closed about two years ago. Nowadays I am working for WEB in the operations department.

However, apart from my official job I was always thinking of music! I got in touch with different musicians on Bonaire and I played in several local bands like Drama, Magic Sound, Tipiko Bonaireano and Dikazz. I had my radio program, 'Kadushi Jazz,' at Ritmo FM and at Bon FM, 'Descarga Bon FM.' Now I'm working for Radio Digital 91.1 with the Ayubi family. I have two shows: 'Nos

Kos Latino,' every Wednesday from 8 till 10 pm - jazz, Brazilian and straight ahead jazz - and the other program, 'Rumba 91.1,' every Sunday from noon till 2 pm, with Afro-Cuban music, like the traditional salsa. In both programs I talk about the music, the roots, the composer, the musicians, the bands and the different rhythms. When you work in broadcasting, it's very important to inform the people.

The last four years I've been playing in a band called 'Latin Jazz Trio': Robby Swinkel, guitar; Andreina Marcano, vocals; and me, percussion. Every Friday evening we play at the Plaza Resort from 7 to 10 and twice a month at Divi Flamingo from 5 to 9 at the barbecue. We play at private parties as well.

I've been here for 17 years now and many things have happened. Roxanne and I had two daughters: Tina, who's 16 and Carla, who's 13. They are my flag, my future, my everything. But Roxanne and I divorced after 11 years of marriage. My ex-wife and my children still live here, thank God, and my relationship with Roxanne is very, very good; she is the best mother for my daughters. Thank God for everything."

"It's very important that Bonaire have a (music) school... because we have one big problem and that's drugs... You have to give the youngsters a chance to develop their personalities and that they can do in sports and music."

Carlos Jimenez (45) is a lovely man. He's lively, full of plans and intense, and he's got a great smile. "My history with Andreina is something else," Carlos says. "We've known each other from way back - 25 years ago. I met her at the Universidad Central de Venezuela in Caracas where she also studied languages. We played together in the Orecuma Orchestra where she was one of the vocalists. When I decided to go to the Antilles Andreina and I split up... Years later I was driving my car through Kaya Grandi and I heard someone call me... 'Negro!' The only person in the world to call me 'Negro' is Andreina. It was her! I was very happy! I was still married and Andreina was married to an American. That year she got

divorced and so did I, but we didn't go together. For me it was very difficult to divorce because when you marry you think it's forever, but life is not always like that. Two years after my divorce Andreina and I talked about our relationship and we became partners. She is a very special

woman, a loyal partner, a good friend, she sings beautifully and she's a very motivated person. We are different people with different points of views, but one point that always makes us happy is the music. So, I love my daughters, Andreina, my family and our dogs - they are all different, but I love them all!

Bonaire is an island very much blessed by God. It has some limitations, but it's very beautiful because of the people and the tranquility. When you watch the world on television you feel we are blessed to live here. When I am outside Bonaire I miss it like I miss my family. It's a place with many opportunities because my experience is that I'm doing many things here that I cannot do in my own country.

Last year I was in Amsterdam with Jacky Bernabela, playing percussion in Jepebon's show 'Rek Buriku Rek'e' - a great experience. With a radio program and being in the music scene I get to know many different people. I got to visit the Puerto Rico Heineken Jazz Festival. Then my friend Ulises Menocal, who is a radio producer in Cuba, told me about a master class there, so I went to Cuba for two weeks (Andreina came for one) for tumbadora (conga) lessons in a master class with Oscar Valdez with three and four congas. The level was very high. Cuba is the mother of the Afro-Cuban rhythm. The techniques of the tumbadora are very diverse; you can use them to play another rhythm from another country like the samba from Brazil or the Calypso from Trinidad. In Cuba I played with 'Septeto Tipico de son Cubano,' in the Flamenco Music Festival in 'Gruppo Aires,' and I had interviews with different important Cuban musicians like Oscar Valdez, Jiraldito Piloto, Pupi Pedrosa and others. It was a very good experience and the people are very, very fantastic people, unforgettable! It was always my dream to go to Cuba, and this



Andreina Marcano and Carlos Jimenez in Cuba

year my dream came true. I decided to go there because I want to learn more about my instrument and to pass my knowledge on to other people.

Bonaire has a lot of potential in percussion, but it's very important that the government takes the culture seriously because it's the root of the country. My plan is to hold a workshop here and demonstrate everything I learned in Cuba. My other plan is to open the door for people from Bonaire who want to study to play the conga in Cuba. I have the connections.

My bigger plan is a plan for everything: a music school on Bonaire! It's very important that Bonaire have a school like that because we have one big problem and that's drugs... You have to give the youngsters a chance to develop their personalities and that they can do in sports and music. My plan for myself is to form a jazz group and play all over the world. Andreina and I also have a plan to organize a concert, 'Andreina and Friends.' We'll invite musicians from Aruba and Curaçao but especially Bonairean musicians. The benefits will go to a good cause because we have to give something back to the community. Bonaire needs it. Also I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone in Bonaire for their friendship and for giving me the opportunity to live on this beautiful island. I passed different stages in my life, good and bad ones, but now everything is good. I am happy. I've learned so much: You only have one life and you need to live well with people. My heart is not hard; it's open to everything. And it's always important to have a dream because as long as you have a dream your soul is alive." *Greta Kooistra*



The Bonaire Gardner

Water, and more

Last week I was on Curaçao for a couple of days. I always get a little jealous when I drive around there and see so much more green than on Bonaire, although they have the same climate as Bonaire does, just maybe a little more rain.

So why is Curaçao so much greener?

The answer is simple: because they can have **deep wells** there and that gives home and garden owners the opportunity of having beautiful lawns and lush green gardens.

Another great benefit in Curaçao is that the **government spends also a lot of money to make the streets nicer and greener**. A lot of palm trees have been planted along the roads, and they've landscaped some roundabouts.

Whether you like those palm trees or not (I personally think they are very ugly), the message this idea sends is very good.

Also I've heard that **new offices along the main roads have to spend a certain percentage of their building costs to make a nice garden** or at least to plant a couple of attractive trees or palms. It's wonderful to see the effect of that initiative.

Of course, if you have a deep well and your water is free and you don't have a roaming goat or donkey population, it's much easier. But still, I think the idea is just great.

For many years I've heard stories about **planting palm trees along the road to the airport on Bonaire**, I wonder what will happen there. If indeed these plans still exist I'm willing to help out as much as I can. Again, the message that would be conveyed by such a beautiful, natural and eco-friendly island like Bonaire would be enormous.

In Bonaire it's rather difficult to use water from a **deep well, simply because in most cases the water is too salty**. At this time of the year most deep wells should be okay because of all the rain we've had during the last rainy period. But after a couple of months of drought, salt water can mix with sweet water and it can slowly turn brackish. That's not everywhere but in most places. So, a solution might be to separate those plants that do not like salty water with those that can tolerate it.

Let me tell you first, there is no plant that actually likes the salt water, but some do better than others.



Canary Palm

Here are some trees and plants that can handle brackish water:

Of course there is the Coconut palm; that's the best. Also palms like the Canary Island Date Palm, the Sabal Palm and the Washingtonia are okay too.

(Semi)-native trees like the Karawara, Mahogany, Neem tree, Tamarind, Kenepa are very good too.

Shrubs like the Ixora Nora Grant, Oleander, Firecracker, Ruella and the Raspa will not give you too many problems either.

Plants and trees that don't like salt at all are:

Most of the Citrus trees (except the wild Lamunchi), Bougainvillea, Areca palms and the Pygmy-Date palm.

So some people make separate irrigation systems. Another option is to mix the brackish water with rain or septic tank water. This also gives good results, and with the escalating WEB water prices it's a very good idea too. Just make sure you don't give deep well water all the time because then too much salt can be collected in the soil and that's very difficult to get rid of.

In my next article I will write some more about this topic, together with the best soils to use and how to avoid soil that is too salty. *Ap van Eldik*

Ap van Eldik owns Green Label Landscaping which designs, constructs and maintains residential and commercial gardens. Two nurseries and a garden shop in Kralendijk carry terra cotta pots from Mexico and South America. Phone 717-3410. **NOW OPEN SATURDAYS, NON-STOP 9 TO 4.**

The Fate of the Frigate Bird

Last Sunday morning I was asked to help an injured frigate bird that was sitting at the end of the jetty at Yellow Submarine. This individual had apparently been in the area for a couple of days, and on the previous day a well meaning yachtsman had tried to help the bird get going by throwing it into the air. As the bird had a serious injury on its left wing, flight was out of the question. It was clear "she" was in poor shape as I was able to walk right up to where she was slumped and catch her for a closer look. Very quickly there were a number of people interested to know what was happening, but that situation isn't necessarily the best to inspect a stressed and injured bird so the bird was put into a dive bag and taken somewhere quieter.

The extent of the injury was worse than I'd first thought. There was an open wound several inches wide and badly infected on the leading edge of the wing, close to the bones that are equivalent to our forearm. One of the flight muscles in the wing was severed and there was

other soft tissue damage. The bird also had very little fat so it was clear she was in poor shape.

In the wild the frigate birds use amazing acrobatics to out-manuever other birds and steal their fish. To do this they must be in excellent condition, and an injured bird or even a bird recovering from an injury has no chance of surviving in the harsh natural environment. In my experience it is rare for any wild bird to recover from a wing injury and survive in the wild, so it was with a heavy heart that I decided it



would be best to end this bird's life. I was fully aware that there would be somebody on this positive island who would be willing to adopt the bird and attempt to nurse her back to health (a process that would involve much stress and pain for the bird) – but to dance in the sky not to sit in a cage and remain completely un-stimulated for the rest of its days. When you see a wild frigate bird flying behind a fisherman's boat it is all about the wings, and a frigate bird that could not fly would not be a happy bird. As many people saw the bird I

thought it was appropriate to let them know what happened to this individual. I'm just very sad the ending wasn't a nicer one, though I do think it was for the best. *Sam Williams*



To follow this news piece next week Sam will write an article about flight and bird's wings. Sam and his colleague, Rowan Martin, are here for six months, studying the Bonaire Lora for their doctoral research. Both of them hope that their research, which will extend over a three-year period, will be of benefit to the Lora's conservation.

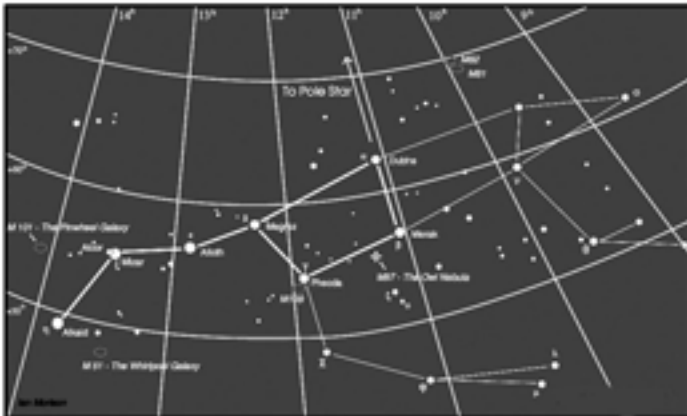


BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

An Update on One of the Most Beloved Star Patterns in the Heavens: The Big Dipper

Every year in May in early evening the star pattern known to North Americans as the **Big Dipper** reaches its highest point in the heavens. And although every year we tell you how to find it and give you some fascinating facts about it, this year we've got some nifty updates. So if you think you really know the Big Dipper you may be in for a surprise.



The Big Dipper, aka The Plough, aka The Great Bear

On any night during the first two weeks of May, about an hour after sunset Sky Park time, face due north where high above the horizon you'll see four stars, which if we connect with lines form a cup, and three stars to the east, which if connected by lines, form a handle. And a cup with a handle like this in early rural America was called a dipper which people used to dip water out of a bucket. According to some early American natives, however, the four stars which make the Dipper's cup represented the body of a bear, and the three handle stars were three Indian braves tracking the bear across the northern heavens.

And in England the Big Dipper is known as **The Plough** or **King Charles Wagon**. And indeed the Big Dipper can look like either a plow or a wagon, although an upside down one at this time of year. Europeans add stars and call it **The Great Bear**.

Now one of the most interesting features about the Big Dipper is that you can always use the two stars at the end of the cup to find the North Star, which is the end star of the handle of the **Little Dipper**. To find it yourself simply shoot an arrow through these two stars, and measuring five and a half times the distance between them, you'll land smack dab on the North Star, which is not as bright as many people suspect. Another interesting point about the Big Dipper is that if you look closely at **Mizar**, the middle star of the handle, you'll see that it is not one but two stars. The second star is named **Alcor**, and together they're called the **Horse and the Rider**. But even more interesting is that things are always changing in the field of astronomy because as we develop more sophisticated astronomical tools we can more accurately measure things in the cosmos. So some of the distances we gave you to the stars in the Big Dipper in the past have been refined.

Mizar is 78 light years away, which means that the light we see from Mizar left it 78 years ago. Alcor is 81 light years away as is the star next to it, **Alioth**. And the star next to it is **Megrez**. **Phecda**, above Megrez, is three light years farther away, 84 light years. **Merak** is just 79 light years away, which further means that all of these stars belong to a group approximately 80 light years away and that they're all moving together in the same direction through space. That leaves the end star in the handle, **Alkaid**, at a distance of 101 light years, and **Dubhe**, the star at the end of the cup, at a distance of 124 light years.

So there you have it: our old friend the Big Dipper with new refined distances to each star. Reacquaint yourself! *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: April 23 to 29, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Do not get involved with individuals who are already committed to others. Don't blow situations out of proportion. Get involved in creative projects that will enhance your earning power. Remember; talk to them, not at them. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You can accomplish a lot if you direct your thoughts toward starting your own small business on the side. You should put in some extra hours developing that creative idea you have. It might be time to do some of those chores at home. You may exaggerate your emotional situation. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Extend an invitation to clients you enjoy spending time with. If you've been under stress and worrying about older members of the family, it's time to come to terms with the situation. Don't let friends or relatives make you feel guilty if you're not able to attend one of their affairs. You may be able to impart knowledge that's innovative to those searching for a new angle. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) If you can get away for a vacation, do so. You may want to stay in the background this week. Changes in your home may be alarming at first. You should put in some extra hours developing that creative idea you have. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Opportunities for travel and communication are evident. Take your time. Tell it like it is. You may have problems with children. You're undergoing changes. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You are best to work at home if you can. Spend some time on yourself. Your creative input will be appreciated by your boss. Financial investments that deal with joint money can be extremely prosperous. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You could have trouble persuading others to accept your ideas and opinions. Don't argue with family. Visit friends or relatives you don't get to see very often. Control your anger. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Such overindulgence due to emotional upset will be your downfall. Your hypnotic eyes will capture the hearts of those who interest you. You will be entertained and intrigued by the logic foreigners possess. Think before you act. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't forget that your budget is limited right now. Family members may want you at home, when your heart is telling you to spend time with someone you recently met. You may have the energy to clear up that mound of paperwork facing you. Organize social events or family gatherings. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Insincere gestures of friendliness are likely to occur. Problems on the home front might be a little disconcerting. Your best efforts will come through investments concerning your home. Anger could lead to problems. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your temper could get the better of you if you confront personal situations. Real estate investments could be prosperous. You hard work and dedication will payoff, so stick to your guns and do your job well. Put your efforts into your work or money making ventures rather than your emotional life. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) There'll be difficulties if you spend too much. Romantic opportunities will flourish through travel or communication. Think about your budget before booking a trip. You must be sure not to be frivolous, because as the saying goes, easy come, easy go. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.