

IT'S  
STILL  
FREE

Mother's Day  
Issue -2006

BONAIRE

May 12 to May 19, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 19

# The REPORTER

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Preserving Bonaire's  
Architectural Heritage  
The Vis House  
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# Flotsam and Jetsam

**Funding for poverty-easing NGOs (non-government foundations) is once again available from AMFO (AntilleanCo-Financing Organization - Antilliaanse Medefinancierings Organisatie).** G.E.A. van Craai-kamp, the Dutch Director of Kingdom Relations, issued a press release last week outlining its current policy. Full details in next week's *Reporter*.

► On June 2 the second round of (seawater) Nutrient Monitoring for Bonaire and Curaçao will start. **Volunteers are needed to help out in this study which checks for nutrients in the water** (These substances, a by-product of sewage, are harmful to coral because they encourage algal growth.) If you want to do something that will make Bonaire better for everyone, **volunteer**. The work is not difficult but requires lots of time. Ten sites are surveyed and the samples are processed in the next five to seven days. The Bonaire Marine Park needs a lot of help with the diving and processing of the sampling. The work is a joint project of the Park and the environmental departments of the local and central governments. Contact Park Manager Ramon deLeon at 717-8444 or email Ramon at marinepark@stinapa.org

► If the Netherlands Antilles is dismantled by July 1, 2007, as planned, **a solution for the national debt must**

**be found before that.** Interest in the most recent Central Government bond issue was down because the bonds mature in 10 years and there is some concern as to their status once the Antilles ceases to exist.

The Central Government's deficit for this year has grown to NAf235 million, while the Netherlands Antilles total debt is NAf3.3 billion. The Netherlands, to which a considerable part of the debt is owed, has offered to help seek a solution.



*The crèche kids say "Thank you."*

► Recently, the Crèche Bon Kuido received a **welcome donation from Ms. Kristin Green** of the US. Ms. Green purchased much-needed items and shipped them to Bonaire. The Chat 'n' Browse shop in the Sand Dollar Mall paid for the shipping, duty, and OB taxes. With the donations the crèche is now well supplied with new toys, linens and other necessary ob-

jects.

The entire staff of the Crèche Bon Kuido, as well as the children who attend the crèche while their parents are working, wish to thank both Ms. Kristin Green and Mr. Michael Gaynor of Chat 'n' Browse. Without their generosity, the crèche would still be hoping for a way to procure their supplies. For information on how you can help, please email agnes2101@hotmail.com.

► Education Minister Omayra Leeflang wants **Dutch, English, Spanish, and Papiamentu to be a mandatory part of the subjects chosen for academic high school track (HAVO and VWO)**. The school boards, school management, and the Ministry of Education and Culture will meet on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> for discussion.

► **Queen Beatrix will visit all the islands of the Antilles and Aruba this fall.** "I am very pleased to announce that Her Majesty, Queen Beatrix, will spend two weeks visiting all the islands of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. I see that as an exquisite chance to show once more how strong and permanent the relations within the Kingdom are," said the governor of the Netherlands Antilles, Frits Goedgedrag, in a speech last week. The precise dates and program are not known yet, but it will be between November 6 and 18. The last time Queen Beatrix visited the Antilles was in the middle of last year when she attended the closing ceremonies of the Kingdom Games in Curaçao. She didn't visit the

other islands at that time.

► In the latest of a series of effective **anti-drug actions**, nine suspects were arrested on drug charges during a raid by the Bonaire police in cooperation with Curaçao detectives. The raid on a total of six houses in Bonaire netted nine persons, four vehicles, drugs, at least one firearm and other evidence. Raids hit the Makambaplein in Kralendijk, Kaya Roma and Kaya Gristèlchi in Antriol. Another suspect was arrested in the Netherlands. Nationalities of those arrested included Venezuelan, Dutch, Curaçaoans and Bonaireans.

► **TCB-NYC recently completed the largest consumer survey ever conducted for Bonaire in the US market.** A total of 2,190 consumers were surveyed. The majority of the survey was conducted on-line, with over 2,000 persons completing the survey. Additionally, face-to-face surveys were conducted at Flamingo Airport in early January this year with 175 families (or groups) as they left the island. All groups completed a similar questionnaire covering topics such as: source of information about Bonaire, booking procedures, web site awareness, internet usage, activities participated in on island, average amount spent on island, frequency of travel, travel to competitive destinations, Bonaire's image, likelihood to return to Bonaire, and demographics. A survey was one of the suggestions made in the

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## BONAIRE The REPORTER

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**For all you moms— have a**

**Happy  
Mother's Day**

## DIVING with DEE Cleaner Station Interactions



*This little spotted moray under a ledge is being cleaned by several ghost (Pederson) cleaner shrimp, one of which is visible on its underside. Cleaner animals seem to really like to clean morays.*

One of the words we hear a lot lately is “interactive.” We can purchase all sorts of “interactive” DVDs, computer games, etc. -interactive in the sense that it’s a “give and take” situation. That’s modern life - people “interacting” with computer programs.

I prefer to do my interacting with living creatures.

One of the most challenging interactions a diver can have is to be cleaned at a cleaner station. In fact, in my last article I told you how thrilled I was to be cleaned by a banded cleaner shrimp for the first time ever. (I received some encouraging feedback from that article, and also some corrective feedback. (See “Clarification, page 4) Since then I’ve visited those same banded coral shrimp only once. I held my hand in the same position, held my body in the same position (just like the first time,

without making any contact whatsoever with coral), and can you guess what happened? Absolutely nothing.

The shrimp and I had participated in an activity I found highly rewarding, and they didn’t even remember me!

Time to move on, I guess. There are plenty of other cleaner stations and cleaner animals on Bonaire’s reefs.



*Two gobies clean my hand while a spotted moray keeps an eye on us.*

A cleaner is a fish or invertebrate (generally a shrimp) who earns all or part of its living by removing parasites, dead skin, and other unnecessary and edible things from other marine animals who are called (even by scientists) the “clients” of the cleaner. A cleaner station is an area where one or more cleaners do business and can be in a variety of places on the reef.

Most clients are fish. They pull into the cleaner station like a race car into a pit stop (but in a much more leisurely fashion), then take a position that requests ser-

vice. Creole wrasses hover at cleaner stations head down; parrotfish will hover head up. Yellowtail snappers get mottled and pinkish in color when they’re being cleaned. Groupers often make themselves very pale to be cleaned.

The fact that fishes use different methods to request cleaning makes it much more difficult for a creature such as a scuba diver, who’s not programmed in the cleaner’s instincts, to be cleaned. Things become even trickier when you learn the One Absolute Truth to being cleaned: **The cleaners must come to the client.**

That’s not only true for divers, it’s true for fish. I’ve seen blue tangs, bar jacks, and other individuals hover unsuccessfully at a cleaner station for a while, then swim back around into position, three or four times! This is the human equivalent of *Hel-lo-o-o – doesn’t anyone see me here?*

Human or fish, if you want to be cleaned you’ve got to be patient.

Begin by learning about cleaner stations as much as possible by watching them (one of the glories of being on Bonaire!). One way to find cleaner stations is by finding the cleaners. Scientists identify the *guild signs* of the cleaners: shrimp cleaners have white antennae; fish cleaners have stripes or bars.

For me it’s easier to keep my eyes open for cleaner *clients* than the cleaners themselves. Once you’ve learned a bit about fishes and how they normally look, your attention will be caught when they look different –and they do when they’re being cleaned. You may hover, as motionlessly and as far away as possible, and watch the cleaning.

Fish cleaners swim alongside each client, plucking off the occasional goody. Shrimp cleaners are likely to actually walk

onto the body of their client, but they’re tougher to see because they’re smaller. Cleaners will often boldly enter the mouth of a client – a tiger grouper, for example – and emerge from the gills! I’ve never personally seen one **not** emerge, and the theory is that if too many clients ate the cleaners, that’d be the end of the cleaning interaction.

Watch cleaner stations until a voice in your head says, “Hey, I could do that!”

There are two kinds of cleaner stations that are excellent for human clients to try. Both types can be found in shallow water (where we don’t have to worry about time or air) surrounded by sand or sand and rubble. Both types can also be surrounded by beautiful live coral. Ignore those, and find cleaner stations on large sand or sand and rubble patches. (If you can’t tell the difference between live and dead coral, please **learn to recognize living coral** before you even think about doing anything else on a dive!) No matter how good your buoyancy control is, you’re going to be concentrating hard on being cleaned – why put yourself in a position to even hurt coral?

One type of cleaner station is around an anemone, either a ringed anemone or a giant Caribbean anemone. Find one with an appropriate dead zone around it, and examine the anemone for either ghost cleaner shrimp (which are usually found around the ringed anemones) or spotted cleaner shrimp (around giant Caribbean anemones). Sometimes you’ll find a station where the shrimp are “advertising” by waving their whiskers and swaying back and forth. That’s a good cleaner station to try! Extend your hand near the anemone, but be careful not to make contact with it –

*(Continued on page 11)*

## The Op-Ed Page

### Letter

#### BIKE TOUR MYSTERY SOLVED

Dear Editor:

We were two German passengers on the Cruise Ship *Aida Vita* (P&O Lines, Germany) which visited Bonaire recently. We told the activities personnel that we were interested in doing a bicycle tour of Bonaire and was told by them that **we should not use any company on Bonaire because they have no insurance and they would be far too expensive.** We were told we should use the ship's bicycles and services at a cost of €45 per person.

We later found out that we could have done a guided tour with a Bonaire company for \$55 (which is about the same price and not "far too expensive," as we were told) or just rent a bicycle for \$15 a day. Obviously we were not happy with how the ship more or less forced us to pay them and not someone on Bonaire.



Names withheld on request

*Last month we reported that groups of bicycle riders were disrupting traffic by riding the wrong way along the one way coast "tourist road." The organizer of this "tour" could not be located on Bonaire. The above letter gives the answer. Ed.*

### Guest Editorial

#### SERIOUS DISCRIMINATION. UNFAIR PRACTICES. LOSS OF INCOME.

Since 1992, divers had been paying a Bonaire Marine Park fee of \$10 to enjoy the waters around Bonaire. All other users of those same waters had been paying nothing, even though the Council of Underwater Resort Operators (CURO) of Bonaire appealed to the Government, asking that everyone using the Marine Park pay the same. This request had been denied each time. Finally after 13 years the Government decided to extend the fee of \$10 to include all users of the Bonaire Marine Park starting April 2005. It was decided at the same time that the diver's fee would be raised to \$25 (up by 250%).

Since cruise ship passengers are users of BNMP, they were to be included with the same fees and starting date. But they are here for a day only, so the fee for non-divers was lowered to \$2. Believing that this was not enough notice for the cruise ship industry, the government decided that they would not have to start paying this new fee until November 2005. This would give the cruise ships about 11 months to get organized. However, the letter was not sent to them until August of 2005. Why this was sent so late is not known. (Even at a May 2005 meeting in Florida with the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association this topic was not brought up at all.)

The dive operators reluctantly accepted this delay. However, the cruise ships then replied that they still did not have enough time, so they were given another year – the fee would start in November 2006 - 23 months after the decision to charge everyone else.

Now the cruise ships once again have delayed and stalled. The dive operators have been informed that the fee for cruise ships will not start until at least 2007 - 34 months later.

When the decision about the User's Fee was first made, dive operators were given about 3 months to comply. Cruise ships get 34 months? Or maybe will never pay? Is it fair that cruise ships can argue they need so much time? After all, other businesses on Bonaire have been given only 5 months to prepare our clients for the new departure tax, which is set to be installed June 1.

Something is very wrong here. The people who pay the most to come to Bonaire through airline tickets, hotel reservations, meals, sports activities, car rentals and room or departure tax are paying the most to enjoy the Park. Those who pay virtually nothing to get here and contribute very little to Bonaire in terms of hotel nights, car rental, meals, sports activities, or departure tax are also not paying anything to enjoy our waters!

An example of how this affects hotel guests (and their perception of Bonaire which determines whether or not they return): a guest will be standing in a store, just having paid their user's fee, and while they stand there listening, we tell a cruise ship passenger that they do not have to pay anything! This does not go over well at all with our regular customers.



The income from the User's Fee, which is valid and legitimate, should without question be paid by these cruise ship passengers. It is being taken away from STINAPA which needs the income to maintain the various parks which these people are using.

Divers coming to Bonaire pay \$25 for the User's Fee and will soon have to pay \$75 for departure tax. This amounts to \$100 per person. Non-divers who use the waters pay \$10 plus the \$75 departure tax. Non-diving cruise ship passengers who use the waters pay nothing. Is this fair?

All members of CURO think not and have sent a letter to the government saying if cruise ships still do not have to pay, then they will be forced to do likewise and stop collecting the \$10 fee for non-divers.

*CURO (Council of Underwater Dive Operators)*

### Clarification

**Clarification (refer article "Are You A Marine Animal or an Underwater Tourist" page 18 in the April 21-28 issue of *The Bonaire Reporter*)**

A friend at PADI once dubbed me their unofficial "gadfly" for relentlessly pointing out how certain of their published images could result in harm to marine animals by those who misunderstood the images.

Many years ago the late Jim Church used a photo of a puffed-up porcupinefish in an ad with a caption like, "Puff up your vacation with a photo course..." I wrote Jim, reminding him that a porcupinefish puffs when it's frightened for its life and did he want people to think they'd be frightened for their lives in his photo course? He replied graciously – of course that wasn't what he'd intended – and pulled the ad immediately.

Now the tables have turned, and it's been pointed out to me that the photos of my hand being cleaned by a banded coral shrimp could have consequences I'd not considered. I hope I can be as gracious as Jim, and I'm thankful to *The Bonaire Reporter* for giving me space to reply.

Here's what should have been in the article and the photo captions:

The main reason being accepted as a client by a cleaner animal is so special is that the decision is purely the cleaner's. If we're too assertive, the cleaners retreat from us. If we follow their retreat, they simply retreat farther away. They'll never clean us if we don't approach them appropriately.

The trick is to offer your hand in the way that best triggers the cleaner's instincts. The reason it's tricky is because the best approach varies with the species of cleaner (and other characteristics I'm still learning). One thing is for sure, though: **the cleaners must come to you.**

Here's the second clarification I should have made: Before approaching the crevice, I made sure I could offer my hand to the banded coral shrimp without making contact with any coral. This was easy, since in front of the shrimp's ledge was a big sand patch. I balanced on the sand with my fin tips and used my left hand as a client while my right hand took the photos. With one fingertip the client hand balanced on algae-covered rock.

A diver's knowledge and skills must be appropriate for the location of cleaner station he or she approaches. **The most important knowledge a coral reef diver must possess is the ability to distinguish living coral from everything else; the most critical skill for divers is the buoyancy control to stay off the reef.** (*The Bonaire Reporter* is publishing Coral Glimpses in every issue to help readers learn about coral, including the appearances of living corals.)

There are cleaner stations in places where, without risking injury to any marine animal, even a diver with only basic skills can be cleaned.

The stony corals make up more than 90% of the reef, despite coral being the most slowly-growing creature on the reef (a coral head three feet in diameter is more than 200 years old, for example). Corals are susceptible to many changes in the oceans including high temperatures and the spread of coral diseases. We must prevent the inclusion of "divers" in the list of stresses to our coral reefs. For now, let's remember that **there is no excuse for a diver to make any contact with living coral.** Even ignorance isn't an excuse, since we all have the buoyancy control skills to hover out of contact with everything until we learn more.

I hope you've taken a closer look at banded coral shrimp. Now keep an eye (but no other part of your anatomy or gear) on any cleaner stations and see if your observations – and conclusions – are the same as mine. If not, let me know.

*Dee Scarr*

*More on cleaning stations in this issue starting on page 3.*

# Boca Onima Restoration



*A loader removes sand from the beach at Onima in August 2005. STCB photo*

On May 3, after months of delay and inaction, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DROB) finally agreed to a restoration plan for Boca Onima. Present at the meeting were: Miguel Martis, Frank van Slobbe and Joselito Statia from DROB and Mabel Nava and Gielmon "Funchi" Egbrehts from Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). If you remember, last August all the sand was removed from Onima and two sea turtle nests were destroyed. With the sand gone and nothing but stones and rubble left behind, there was absolutely no way that sea turtles would ever nest again at Boca Onima. Now, because of the efforts of STCB, STINAPA and local press, radio and community members, the prospects are good that we will once again see nesting activity there.

Specifically, DROB will work according to a remediation plan developed by STCB and restore the beach with enough sand so that turtles can nest at the site. The work will be done under the supervision of STCB staff members with the goal to leave Onima in optimal condition for the upcoming nesting season. Per the agreement, DROB was to start working on the restoration on Monday, May 8 and complete the work by the following Friday.. As of press time it had not begun.  
*Andy Uhr and Mabel Nava*

In an attempt to bring additional local attention to the lack of progress on the work at Boca Onima, STCB organized a **clean-up of Boca Onima** on May 4.

With the agreement in place, the clean-up went on as scheduled in an atmosphere of optimism and joy rather than protest. A group of teenagers representing SGB (the local high school), Jong Bonaire, and the Junior Ranger and "Working by Experience" programs of *Sentro di Bario Noord di Salina* spent the afternoon cleaning the area in preparation for the restoration. As always, SELIBON pitched in to make the clean-up a success.  
*Andy Uhr and Mabel Nava*



*Onima cleanup volunteers STCB photo*

## Carel Steensma

Bonaire lost a great friend when Carel Steensma passed away last week at the age of 92 in Holland. In the 1970s, when he was a KLM Director based in Curaçao, Carel took a great personal interest in Bonaire. Working closely with Captain Don they came up with a plan to preserve Bonaire's reefs while allowing visitors to snorkel and dive. Their efforts ultimately resulted in grants from the Prince Bernhard Fund and the World Wildlife Fund that established the Bonaire Marine Park in 1979.

Carel was honored as a WWII hero for his clandestine activities against Germany. Captured while on a mission he was condemned to the Dachau concentration camp. Always a colorful character, he was a personal friend of Queen Juliana and Prince Bernhard. He last visited Bonaire in June 2004 for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Marine Park, placed a memorial on the grave of his friend, L.D. Gerharts, and was honored by having the north coast "Carels Vision" dive site named after him. STINAPA, the parent organization of the Bonaire National Marine Park, and *The Reporter* lead his many Bonaire friends in saying farewell and offering condolences to his family.  
*Elsmarie Beukenboom/Jan Kloss*



*Captain Don Stewart and Carel Steensma*



*Perhaps the sand for the beach replenishment will come from the mammoth portable crusher which was set up in mid-March just south of Boca Onima. The machine, whose operation has irritated the residents of Rincon, sends up clouds of dust that drift across the main road to Rincon.*

(Flotsam and Jetsam., Continued from page 2)  
 “Balance for Bonaire” articles published in *The Reporter* in the middle of last year.

Result summary: 85% of the past visitors are divers, with another 3% indicating they were accompanying divers. Among the inquirers, 44% are divers with another 9% indicating that they typically travel with a diver. TCB-Bonaire has set the third week in May for the presentation of the reports.



► The accompanying photo illustrates a web advertisement by one of Bonaire’s realtors. The ad reads, “**Green Village Golf and Dive Resort, Bonaire’s latest project.** This luxury resort will be realized around a 9 hole golf course and will also have a full service dive station... Prices are not fixed yet but will be approx. US \$85,000 for a 900m<sup>2</sup> lot; US\$195,000 for a 500m<sup>2</sup> lot with Golf cottage; and US\$275,000 for a 900 m<sup>2</sup> lot with a Golf Villa... Owners of property at Green Village Golf and Dive Resort will have a lifetime membership of the golf course...”

We’ve been told it will be across from the Habitat/Buddy Dive resorts.

► On Monday a strongly worded letter from the influential **IATA (International Air Transport Association)** to the island’s Governor struck a serious blow **against the proposed \$75 departure tax.** Motivated by objections from Continental Airlines (which flies a profitable non-stop from Houston once a week) it blasts the proposed new “tourist tax” as discriminatory and sure to have a negative effect on tourist visits.



► During the last call of the Holland America Line ship, *Prinsendam*, one of the young officers, **third mate, Casper Neuman, who is Bonairean born**, was greeted by Governor Domacassé. The 22-year old comes from a Bonaire family of sailors who for generations have been working on commercial ships.

► If you know someone with outstanding sustained service to the community, you can **submit his or her name for consideration as a candidate to become a Knight or Member of the Order of Oranje-Nassau**, the

famed royal decorations. This year four Bonaire residents were honored (featured in last week’s *Reporter*). May 30 is the last day to submit nominations for persons to be honored by the Queen. Give the name and supporting information to one of the members of the *Komishon di Kondekorashon Real*: Farina Thode-de Palm, Jeanne Emers, Roxanne Timp, Henry Toré or Loduvico Nicolaas. For more information about Royal Decorations visit the website [www.lintjes.nl](http://www.lintjes.nl).

► Every last Saturday of the month, the Foundation We Dare To Care organizes a **Flea Market in the Park Publiko Bonairiano.** It’s a monthly event with fund raising activities for the Foundation as well as for the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Anyone who wishes can reserve a spot to sell porch sale items: new products, art, jewelry, candy etc. The event starts at 3pm and goes until about 8 pm. With BBQ, a stocked bar and music it’s a perfect setting for a nice family outing. The next Flea market will be held Saturday, May 27. Contact Vicky Bissessar (786-1592) for general info or Elisabeth (717-6907 / 565-5225) for booth info.



► Accolades to SELIBON, our waste management company; **the day following the last activities for Rincon Day, the village of Rincon was**

► Ronella Croes, Director of Bonaire’s tourism corporation (TCB), announced that the effort to **create a united Public Relations and Marketing approach for Bonaire was successful.** Last week the Island Government, TCB, BONHATA (Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association) and BHG (the Bonaire Hospitality Group) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to that effect. In the document the parties committed to work together as soon as possible. A special vote of thanks is in order, she added, to Senator Ramoncito Booi, Minister Burney el Hage, Commissioner Onnie Emerenciana, Martien Van der Valk and Boudewijn Scholts for their efforts.



*Croes, Scholts, el Hage, v.d.Valk, Emerenciana*

**totally clean.** One could never have guessed that a big (and trash making) fiesta had taken place the day before! Rudsel Leito and his staff are to be commended for such a fine job.



*Happy Diners at last week’s Culinary Team Dinner*

► **Bonaire’s Culinary Team is busy practicing at SGB’s Chez Nous**

to win the Gold Medal in Miami next month at the “Taste of the Caribbean” culinary Olympics – and you’re invited. Last week’s sell out crowd enjoyed a three-course meal and wines for only \$25/pp. Please join us every Sunday at 7pm Chez Nous. Reservations: call Sara 786-9299 or Floris at 786-1508.

► Want to know a lot more about **how the Hilma Hooker came to rest on the bottom in Bonaire?** Then get a copy of Bòi Antoin’s (the editor of the Papiamentu language



*(Continued on page 7)*



► **Bonaire received an unprecedented eight pages of coverage in *The Washington Times*** (daily circulation 103,017 - a publication of Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church) in

an innovative promotion for the island. In addition to advertisements, the paper covered Bonaire's economy, airport, towns, history and a myriad of activities. It's hoped it will attract both visi-

tors and investors.

The photo is a composite showing many Bonaire personalities. **How many can you identify?**

*Royal Recognition (Continued from page 6)*  
 newspaper, *èxtra*) latest book, "*The Case of the Hilma Hooker (Kaso do Hilma Hooker)*." The 100+ page book, filled with illustrations, details what happened in 1984 when the ship, loaded with 12,000 kilos of marihuana, arrived in Bonaire.

The cost of the book (in Papiamentu, printed on Bonaire) is NAf28, plus tax and is available at the *èxtra* newspaper office. If you don't know where the office is (it's not far from the Divi Flamingo) call 717-4295 for directions.

► To celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary **Warehouse Bonaire is giving away lots of prizes this month.** Each day for 25 days they're giving away 20 bags filled with NAf50 worth of products to lucky winners. Those winning



**Warehouse winners Basilio Cicilia (r) and Laura DeSalvo with Warehouse Manager Roland Verbeek**

names go into another drawing once a week, for four weeks, where the winner gets one minute of free shopping.

All you have to do to enter is to shop at Warehouse, get your entry blank from the cashier and put it in the box. Verbeek says the market will also be giving away free bags of groceries to needy families, the names to be designated by the government.

## Mother's Day

► Just before Mothers day, on **Friday, May 12, take Mom out to a Big Party and Show at Don Paranda, 8:30 pm to 2 am.** Featured are Melania van der Ven, Boy Thode, Romeo Heye, Denis Cicilia, Wilbert Pentronella and DJ HB Disco. It's all to benefit the FKPD (handicapped foundation). NAf35. Call 717-6210 for tickets.

**This Sunday, May 14, is Mother's Day.** Don't forget Mom! Give her a special treat and take her out to dine. At the **Calabas Restaurant at Divi Flamingo** there will be a sumptuous Brunch Buffet starting at 11 am to 2 pm (see ad on page 11). **The Great Escape** is offering two special Mother's Day meal events on Sunday: A Champagne Brunch from 10 am to noon and a Three-Course Dinner from 6 to 9 pm (see their ad on page 10.)

G./L.D.

## coral glimpses

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



Some polyps of this flower coral colony have died and been encrusted with fire coral. The white marks on the fire coral indicate that a fish has munched there. After taking the photo I was able to remove the fishing line without damaging the coral. The perfect little coral head in the background (circled) is starlet coral.

# Countdown to the Dive Into Adventure Festival

## 28 Days To Go



We continue counting down to the premier Bonaire event open to divers, snorkelers, nature lovers and adventurers around the world. Building on the successes of the past seven Bonaire Dive Festivals, June's Dive Into Adventure week-long extravaganza of activity will take Bonaire visitors to a new level of eco-experience – diving, kayaking, windsurfing, kiteboarding, land sailing and mountain biking. Scuba divers are offered a host of dive-related adventure activities like digital photography workshops, technical diving, underwater videography and free diving.

For non-divers there is a large menu of topside activity both on the water and on land - cave exploration, kayaking, bird watching, sailing (both land and ocean) and more.

Every evening Dive Into Adventure Bonaire participants come together for parties, beach BBQs and presentations by featured speakers. As in years past, the week-long event will kick off with a "Taste of Bonaire, featuring cuisine from great Bonairean restaurants at bargain prices, music and presentations by local dignitaries. Keep checking *The Reporter* right up until the start date for new activities. For additional information check the event's official website at [www.DiveIntoAdventureBonaire.com](http://www.DiveIntoAdventureBonaire.com).

### Day 2

The Day of Photography, June 20th, will begin with a daytime workshop and guided dive led by **Philippe Cousteau**. Evening presentations will be given by **Dr. Charlie Mazel** (The Psychedelic Art of U/W Florescence) and videographer and filmmaker **Hendrik Wuyts** (The Power of Visible Impression). On this evening a special guided night florescence dive led by Dr. Mazel will be offered in addition to a party with music and drinks. *TCB Photos*

### Tuesday, 20 June: DAY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

9:00	12:00	General island Diving
9:00	12:00	Specialized Dive Activity
9:00	12:00	Topside Adventure
12:00	16:00	General Island Diving
12:00	16:00	Specialized Dive Activities
12:00	16:00	Topside Adventure
14:00	15:00	Dive Exploration with <b>Philippe Cousteau</b> at Capt. Don's Habitat (maximum 10)
16:00	17:00	<b>Charles Mazel</b> , Ph. D, Marine Biology- The Psychedelic Art of U/W Fluorescence at Capt. Don's Habitat
17:30	18:00	<b>Hendrik Wuyts</b> , Videographer- The Power of Visible Impression at Port Bonaire
18:30	19:15	TBA at Port Bonaire
19:30	21:00	<b>Charles Mazel</b> , Ph. D Guided Night Fluorescence Dive at Capt. Don's Habitat (maximum 6)
19:15	20:15	Evening Party— <b>Caribbean Minstrels</b> Drinks at Port Bonaire
20:15	22:15	Taste of the World Buffet at Port Bonaire \$25
20:00	22:00	Dine Around Options: Island-Wide Dinner Plaza, Habitat, Sand Dollar from \$20



*Hendrik Wuyts, Videographer*



*Dr. Charlie Mazel, Biologist*



## Seventh Dutch Caribbean Invitational Swim Meet – What A Difference A Year Makes!

The Bonaire Barracudas Swim Team participated in the Dutch Caribbean Invitational Swim Meet for the second year in a row. This international meet, organized by the Swimming Federation of the Netherlands Antilles (NAZB), took place 28 April – 1 May in Curaçao at Sentro Deportivo Korsow (SDK). Twelve teams from Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, St. Maarten and Surinam competed.



*The Barracudas in Curaçao*

The Barracudas exceeded all goals and expectations their coaches had for this meet. A comparison of results from the 2005 and the 2006 Dutch Caribbean Meets shows how much progress Bonaire swimmers have made after only one year of competitive experience.

<b>DUTCH CARIBBEAN Swim Meet</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
Number of Bonaire Swimmers	16	17
Total Events Swum by Bonaire	97	128
Total Events Swum by Bonaire Boys	53	54
Total Events Swum by Bonaire Girls	44	74
Scratches (Did not swim scheduled event)	4	3
Did not finish event started	2	0
Disqualifications	11	4
Finals	0	3
Alternate Finalists	0	3
A" Time (fastest category) achieved	4	9
Individual Points	0	4
Relay Points	6	12
Total Team Points	6	16
Final Team Placement	14th out of 14	10th out of 12

Preliminary races were held in the morning hours with the top eight swimmers in each category qualifying for finals in the evening. Samson V. Evertsz qualified for finals in Boys 9 – 10 years 50 meter freestyle (5<sup>th</sup> in preliminary/7<sup>th</sup> in final), 50 meter backstroke (8<sup>th</sup> in preliminary/8<sup>th</sup> in final) and 200 meter individual medley (8<sup>th</sup> in preliminary/8<sup>th</sup> in final). Samson finished in a tie for 9<sup>th</sup> place in individual points for Boys 9 – 10 years. Alternate finalists were Rooske Wagemakers (Girls 11 – 12 years 100 meter butterfly), Enrique Vasquez Meza (Boys 11 – 12 years 50 meter backstroke)

and Andrea Simal (Girls 15 years and over 200 meter individual medley). The Boys 9 – 10 years relay team (Samson V. Evertsz, Alejandro de Lima, Asdrubal Marciano and Olivier Wagemakers) finished 6<sup>th</sup> in both 200 meter medley relay and 4 x 50 freestyle relay.

"A" times were swum by Churmer Bomba (Boys 11 – 12 years 50 meter breaststroke), Ryda-Luz Emer (Girls 9 – 10 years 50 meter freestyle), Samson V. Evertsz (Boys 9 – 10 years 50 meter butterfly, 50 meter backstroke, 50 meter breaststroke, 50 meter freestyle, 100 meter freestyle and 200 meter individual medley), and Asdrubal Marciano (Boys 9 – 10 years 50 meter backstroke).

Results and photos from the 7<sup>th</sup> Dutch Caribbean Invitational can be viewed on the internet at [www.sovasiento.com](http://www.sovasiento.com), home of the Curaçao Bulado Swim Team.

The Barracudas would like to thank **Fundashon Wega di Number, Maduro & Curriel's Bank (Bonaire), Bon Fysiotherapie, City Shop, Rocargo, Barbara and Gerry Clow and club parents** for the financial assistance and general support that made participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> Dutch Caribbean Invitational possible. Special thanks to **Meralney Vacation Village** for the donation of additional pool time for Sunday morning workouts starting 7 May.

The Barracudas' next scheduled competition is in mid-May at the Curaçao "A" Championships. In 2005 one swimmer qualified for this meet. Six Bonaire swimmers are eligible to compete in the "A" Championship this year. In June a team of 15 or more novice Bonaire swimmers will go to Curaçao for the Curaçao Swimming Federation "C" Championship/Upcoming Talent Meet. *Story by Valarie Stimpson; Photo by Ana de Lima*

## Top Health Bonaire's Open House

Top Health Bonaire, the island's newest fitness and health center, had an open house last Saturday for the public to view their facilities and enjoy some demonstrations in aerobics, zumba, salsa and step aerobics. They offer special programs like weight loss, personal training, detox programs and self defense, circuit training, group classes and more. The facility has a full complement of weight training machines, and it's the headquarters for the Ma-Jochi shop, the place for aroma therapy, wind chimes, stones, Feng Shui items. Top Health is at Kaya Nikiboko Noord 44, in the new hacienda like building. For more information call 717-5662 or email [tophealthbonaire@yahoo.com](mailto:tophealthbonaire@yahoo.com)

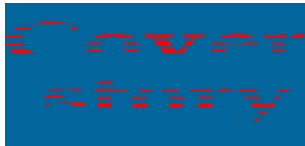


*Steven (Salspuedes Salsa School, Curaçao) and Undine Pourier demonstrate hot Salsa at Top Health Bonaire's Open House. Photo: Angelique Salsbach*

# Antique Living Houses of Bonaire

Kas di Kaha « box house »

Preserving Bonaire's Architectural Heritage



On the cover is the Vis house at Mentor with the wheel of the machine used to crush stones in the foreground. The Vis house, which appeared in *The Reporter* in the February 3, 10 and 17 issues, is part of the "Antique Living Houses of Bonaire" series, written by Wilna Groenenboom.

The bi-monthly series showcases the unsung heroes of the island- the unique architecture with its very attractive details. These are not ruins but buildings that are still in use. L.D.



by Wilna Groenenboom

This *Kas di Kaha* (box house) above stands on the Nikiboko South Road and was built in 1936 by the family Jan and Anna Luisa Ellis-Boekhoudt (photo left). They had two children: Eddy on the left and Hilda on the right. Daughter Hilda Pauletta Ellis is now living in the house with her son Dolfi. In the photo on the right we see Hilda again, but now as a woman with her husband Juan Luis Pauletta, who passed away a few years ago, and three of her four children before receiving their First Holy Communion.



The shape of the house is not very spectacular; it is a *Kas di Kaha* with only one storey. On Kaya Grandi we can see bigger ones with two storeys. But the decorative details on the roof's rain gutters are amazing. You don't see any like this even on Kaya Grandi. They start with a flat decoration on the wall, then continue further into the gutter in a more three dimensional form (photo on the left for example). You can see them at their best in their full glory in the morning until around 9 am



because then there is no shadow on the lower wall. Wilna Groenenboom

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



(Cleaner Stations. Continued from page 3)  
if the anemone shrinks back the shrimp will close shop until the anemone relaxes, which takes a while.



***This anemone is surrounded by sand and rubble; I can rest my fingers on the sand while the spotted cleaner shrimp deals with my fingernail. To the right is a little creature with the unappealing common name of Squat Anemone shrimp. The late Jim Brandon, a Bonaire photo pro., called them Popcorn shrimp because of the way they jump around.***

Experiment with one hand as a “client” held about an inch away from the anemone. Begin by holding your hand thumb-up, which best imitates the common shape and position of a fish. Sometimes, though, the shrimp clean me more readily when I hold just my fingers up to them, with my hand curved and the fingers loosely extended – they seem to respond to the look of my fingernails.

The other type of cleaner station most likely to accept divers as clients is usually a healthy, living coral head, protruding two or three feet off the bottom in shallow

water, surrounded by sand or sand and rubble. The cleaners are gobies or juvenile French angelfish. Sometimes the clients of these stations hover above the coral head, sometimes alongside it. Bar jacks frequently come inshore for cleaning at such stations, and recently I saw a huge snapper being cleaned at one in about nine feet of water!

Young French angels almost never clean people, but the gobies can be wonderful! I’m rarely successful in being cleaned above the coral head but succeed much of the time when my hand is along the side of the coral. Sometimes eight or more gobies will flow right up onto your arm.

That is what I call an **interaction**. The diver poses, maybe in a few different ways. The creature *chooses* to approach the diver. Ultimately, the cleaner gets a snack and the diver gets to be treated *like* a marine animal *by* a marine animal.

It’s a lot more fun than “interacting” with a computer. *Story & photos by Dee Scarr*



***Along the underside of the coral head cleaner gobies examine my hand.***

*Ed. Note: See also Clarification on Cleaning, page 4, this issue.*

*Dee Scarr conducts “Touch the Sea” dives. They will enhance your diving forever. Call 717-8529. See her slide show “Touch the Sea” at Capt. Don’s Habitat, Mondays, 8:30 pm.*





# Bondy On The Ball

Well, with just four weeks to go before the biggest football (soccer) tournament in the world kicks off *The Bonaire Reporter* begins to follow the action.

Germany is the stage for the biggest stars in football to show off and for the hardly known to make a name for himself.

In the run up to June 9<sup>th</sup>, I will be analyzing the groups, checking out the teams and profiling the top players. Let's start by looking at the first two groups.



German team Manager, Jurgen Klinsmann

## GROUP A

In Group A, we have the host nation and group favorite, **GERMANY**. However, with a world ranking of 19<sup>th</sup>, they have a lot to prove.

**Manager Jurgen Klinsmann** was a World Cup winner with West Germany as a player in 1990; however, his managerial experience is limited. He will be hoping to lead through his reputation. **Michael Ballack**, team Captain and inspiration, a good performance by him would confirm a move to Chelsea next season. **Jens Lehmann**, Goalkeeper, now playing in the English Premiership, he has taken the gloves from Oliver Kahn through his performance with Arsenal. Lehmann can be quick tempered

and unpredictable. Watch out for silly mistakes.

**COSTA RICA** next. A struggling national team saw the reappointment of **Manager Alexandre Guimaraes** who led them to qualification. The nation's top scorer is **Paulo Wanchope** who has scored 43 goals in just 67 games. Ranked 26<sup>th</sup> in the world, they may struggle to progress.

**ECUADOR** is the third team in this group. With victories over Argentina and Brazil in the qualifiers, their ranking of 39 belies their ability. Their **Manager Luis Fernando Suarez** has brought new players into the team who are keen to impress. Their key player has to be **Edison Mendez**, a top mid-field player with a kick like a Bonairean donkey.

**POLAND** completes the group. Strong qualifiers saw them as one of the best second placed sides. **Manager Pawal Janas** is a quiet man who lets his tactics on the field do the talking. Defender **Tomasz Klos**, a veteran from the 2002 World Cup, should lead by example.

## GROUP B

Group B, my favorite of course.

**ENGLAND** first, top of their group despite a dodgy start. **Manager Sven-Goran Eriksson** has kept things together despite personal problems; this will be his last campaign with England. Top player has to be **Steven Gerrard**; he is the glue that will hold the team together. A recent injury to **Wayne Rooney** is a massive blow.

**PARAGUAY** provides the Latin flare in this group. **Managed by Anibal "Mano" Ruiz**, their qualification was comfortable. They will be hoping that **Roque Santa Cruz** has recovered from his many injuries. Ranked 33.

**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO** next, always entertaining. **Dutch Manager,**



English Team members

**Leo Beenhakker** has done well bringing together an inexperienced team. Ex Man Utd striker, **Dwight Yorke**, is top dog in the team.

**SWEDEN** is a hot contender to steal the group from England. Rated 16 they have a good pedigree. **Lars Lagerback** has managed the team well over the last 6 years. Sweden has a lot of good players, none better than striker **Zlatan Ibrahimovic**; he's a big strong lad with skill to go with it.

So, that's A & B sorted. Another two groups to look at next week. Until then, keep the game beautiful! *Tony Bond*

*Tony Bond was born and raised in England, happy to leave the cold of Europe behind but still follows his passion for Manchester United (Man Utd) FC.*



## Pet of the Week

He's sleek, he's shiny, and most of all, he's smart. That's "Enrico," our handsome pet of the week. Enrico is such a nice dog, but he's so alert that he'd make a great watch dog. He's about a year old, is very social and well adjusted. As are all the other pets up for adoption Enrico is in perfect health and ready to go to a fine mistress or master. Even though Enrico has been at the Bonaire Animal Shelter for nearly a year (he came in with his mother last year when he was just a puppy) it's because he's such a fine dog that he's been allowed to stay on until the right person comes along to fall in love with him. You may meet Enrico at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.

Wonder how you can help control the number of unwanted puppies being born on the island? Give a donation to the Sterilization Fund that has been set up by the Shelter. It's to help subsidize animal sterilizations for those owners who cannot afford it. You may donate directly to the "Sterilization Fund," **Maduro Curiels Bank Bonaire Account #10616410**. You may also donate via Support Bonaire website: **SupportBonaire.org** for on-line credit card donations. The money goes only for sterilizations.

If you know someone who has dogs but who cannot afford to have them sterilized, tell them to call the Shelter at 717-4989. They are there to help.

Thanks to all the volunteers and contributors who made the Shelter stand at Rincon Day such a success. All the money that was made that day goes towards keeping the Bonaire Animal Shelter open. *L.D.*



## 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. 8000m<sup>2</sup> 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](http://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.

### JELLASTONE PETPARK

Pet boarding / Dierenpension Day and night care. phone: 786-4651 [www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/](http://www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/)

### LUNCH TO GO

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

### For Sale

For sale: sky kennel for large dog, KLM-approved, size F, NAf300, 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.

**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.



## Mother's Day Messages

Like a beautiful flower your presence lightens up my day.

Like a nice passing breeze you make me always feel at ease.

You are the most important woman in my life. Your care, love, support and strength are true and will always be appreciated. And I am sure you will be a great grandmother too.

Lots of love,  
Your daughter, Fleurtje

Even though so far away,  
You are in my thoughts every day.  
Happy mother's day Nana,  
From your loving daughter,  
Christie

Dear Beth. Happy Mother's Day from your far-away child. I send all my love and appreciation, and I'll be home soon. Marg.



### Free

**Black & White Dark room Equipment**, enlarger, safe lights, timers, light safe vent fan and more FREE for anyone who will use it! Call 717-5061.

# Get Ready For Jazz

**B**onaire's upcoming Jazz festival features locally famous big names in Latin jazz. It's expected to surpass last year's super successful event. It's from May 25-28, with preliminary sessions as early as May 23 at Croccantino Restaurant. The four locations, at seaside or on the beach - Plaza Resort, City Café, Bongos Beach and KonTiki Beach Apartments - are expected to host from 300 to 800 persons per day. Concerts and events will be held three times daily: sunset jazz time, main concerts and late night jazz plus jam sessions at public places and restaurants / bars.



*Anastacia Larmonie*

**A top headliner is Antillean pianist and vocalist, Anastacia Larmonie and her band.** Anastacia is St. Martin's most enduring music educator, composer, pianist and vocal arranger of Caribbean, Jazz, R&B and European folk, classic and popular music and song. Following

her music studies at the Netherlands' Brabants Conservatory (1970s) and the US's well respected Berklee College of Music (1980s, 1990s), Larmonie made a career of teaching and making music in St. Martin for 25 years and is well known for being a perfectionist in her jazz performances and training of children to master the piano and voice. "I see my profession as a mission to create value in society," said Larmonie.

She has founded or has been a principal founding member of the children's choir, Lollipop, Anastacia Larmonie Vocal Art & Music Foundation, Anbojettes choir, Anbojoli jazz quartet, A.L. Jazz Quartet and Interlude, a singing group. From the scores of children trained by Larmonie have emerged current stars such as dancer/choreographer Clara Reyes, poet/painter Drisana Deb-

orah Jack, gospel singer Angie Panto- phlet, bassist Alex Jack, Claudie Piper, the lead female vocalist for the Youth Waves, song diva La Vaune Henry, and singer/choir director Joshua Bell. *News- day* newspaper once dubbed Anastacia Larmonie, "St. Martin's "First Lady of Music." In a 1998-99 survey she was selected as one of the nation's top 20 artists at the turn of the century, earning her a profile in the book *St. Martin Massive! Snapshot of Popular Artists* (House of Nehesi Publishers, 2000) [www.houseofnehesipublish.com](http://www.houseofnehesipublish.com).

The lady of song is much sought after for performances at jazz clubs, book parties, private recitals, government festivals and ceremonies, and music festivals. She has performed in St. Martin, Anguilla, Aruba, Curaçao, the US and the Netherlands; and has accompanied Blue Note jazz artist Denise Jannah and Grammy winner Nestor Torres in their performances.

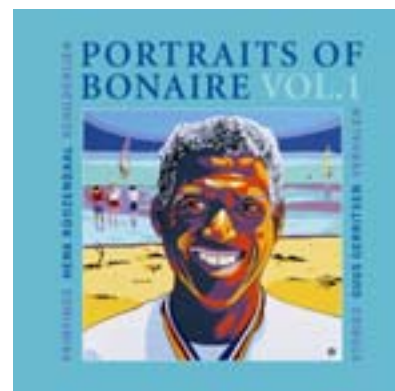
The chief judge and member judge for the Calypso monarch competitions of Aruba and St. Martin carnivals and for many song festivals, Anastacia Larmonie's awards include "Ambassador of Excellence in Music (1997-1998)," Government of the Island territory of St. Maarten, 1997; "Award of Excellence for Outstanding Contribution to the Community of St. Martin in the field of Arts/Music," St. Martin Educational & Cultural Organization, 1992; "St. Maarten Musical Recognition Award for Outstanding Vocalist & Musical Director," St. Maarten Chamber of Commerce and St. Maarten Council on the Arts, 1988; "Dr. B.M. Leito Youth Cup" (for community service). Curaçao, 1985; and

*(Continued on page 15)*



## HOW TO SET A TATTOO BY A CACTUS NEEDLE

### AND OTHER STORIES



**FOR SALE ALL OVER THE ISLAND.**

## Picture Yourself In The Reporter

### Saba, N.A.

**B**onaire residents Patrick Diepgrond and Benaia Fernandez sent us these photos of their last trip to two of the Antilles "Windward Islands," Saba and St. Eustatius.



### St. Eustatius, N.A.



**WIN GREAT PRIZES!** Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN PRIZES.** Mail photos to Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: [picture@bonairereporter.com](mailto:picture@bonairereporter.com). (All 2006 photos are eligible.)

### Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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**Features Editor:** Greta Kooistra **Translations:** Peggy Bakker,

**Production:** Barbara Lockwood

**Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elizabeth Silberie (Playa); **Housekeeping:** Jaidy Rojas Acevedo. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## MOVIELAND

### WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show  
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

**Inside Man**  
(Denzel Washington)  
Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

**Basic Instinct**

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  
May: The Wild

### THIS WEEK

## Mother's Day

**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.

**Sunday, May 14- Mother's Day**—Treat Mom: Mother's Day Brunch at **Divi Flamingo** (see page 11). **Great Escape** has mother's day specials: Champagne Brunch or 3-course Dinner (See page 10)

**Sunday May 14 -Bonaire Culinary Team Dinner.** Support the team and have a gourmet competition dinner. 7 pm, Chez Nous, \$25 for 3-course meal with wine. Call Sara 786-9299 or Floris 786-1508 for reservations.



**Pelican students at work**  
Wilna Groenenboom photos

**Thursday, May 18- Pelican school Exposition and Auction** of student art at the Trans World Radio activities building on Kaya Amsterdam just off Kaya Gob. De-brot. Exposition starts 3 pm; auction 4 pm; ends 4:30 pm. All proceeds go towards buying art materials for the school.

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

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

pm—see page 18

### COMING

**Saturday, May 20- 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

**Tuesday, May 23—Jazz at Croccantino Restaurant**—a prelude to upcoming Jazz Festival with fine dining, Tuscan style. Call 717-5025

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

**May 25 – 28 -Jazz Festival** – see page 13.

**Saturday, May 27** - End of the month Flea Market at Parke Publico– 3 to 8 pm – General info call Vicky 786-1592 . Booth info call Elisabeth 717-6907/565-5225

### REGULAR EVENTS

Daily (more or less)

- **HH 2 for 1** ( on all beverages ) 5-7 pm, **Divi 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](http://www.infobonaire.com/rincon) **Extra big Marshe 1st Saturday of the month.**
- **Mountain Bike Ride**— Everyone welcome. It's free. Bring a bike and your own water. Fitness trainer Miguel Angel Brito leads the pack. Tel. 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—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](mailto:info@goldenreeffinn.com)

### Tuesdays

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

### 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

(Jazz Festival. Continued from page 13)

the "Pers Priejs." (with Latin Touch quintet), The Netherlands, 1971

**And from Bonaire the ever-popular Moogie ...** We first met Moogie (aka Ralph Stewart) on his way to Bonaire from Florida in 1990 for a two-week engagement. He got trapped in the Bonaire Triangle and has been performing and living on Bonaire ever since. Through the years he has become a part of this beautiful island, its people and its music. Moogie writes most of his own music which has been described as "jazzy Caribbean soul" and performs often at the local resorts as a one-man act. When asked about performing at the festival, Moogie replied, "I'm honored to be invited to perform at this year's event and have asked a few of my friends to join and have fun with me." The festival will be a special treat for the community of Bonaire and all the participating musicians..... Don't miss any of it. *G.D./Guus Gerritsen*



**Moogie and friends**

**Windsurf Place** at Sorobon 7:30- 9:30 pm

- **Movie Night at Buddy Dive**

### Thursdays

Live music by the **"Flamingo Rockers"** 5-7 pm-**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

### 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. 717-8290 for info.
- **Monday- Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea slide Show** at Captain Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm Call 717-8290 for info.
- **Wednesday (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) Turtle Conservation (STCB) Slide Show by Bruce Brabec**. **Carib Inn** seaside veranda, 7 pm. Tel. 717-8819.
- **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.  
**Al-Anon meetings** - every **Monday** evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272  
**Cancer Survivor Support Group** Majestic Journeys Bonaire N.V. Lourdes Shopping Center 2nd Level Kaya LD Gerharts # 10. Call 717-2482/566-6093 for details

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> **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.** Wilhelmnaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on **Sundays at 10 am. Thursday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 8 pm.** Rev. Jonkman. 717-2006

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

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

**Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios)**, Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). 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](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)  
Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 786-6518

# DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	<b>Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Saturday: Beach Grill; Monday: Caribbean Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
<b>Bistro de Paris</b> Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Real French Cooking</b> in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
<b>Cactus Blue</b> Blvd. J. A. Abraham 16 (half-way between town and Divi Flamingo) 717-4564	Moderate Dinner Closed Sunday	<b>Trend Setting Menu</b> Bonaire's newest hot-spot to eat and drink. Margaritas a specialty Owner-operated for top service
<b>Calabas Restaurant &amp; Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Get a view of the beach and turquoise sea while enjoying a breakfast buffet or à la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Inspiring vistas and the <b>highest standard of cuisine.</b>
<b>Croccantino Italian Restaurant</b> Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	<b>Bonaire's Most Romantic Restaurant where dining is a delight!</b> 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.
<b>The Great Escape</b> EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Breakfast every day; Lunch, Dinner Tues-Sun.	<b>Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof.</b> Cuban cuisine. New kitchen. New cook Happy hours 5 to 7 every day.
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> <b>Home Delivery or Take Out - Now in Playa—next to Xerox</b> 717-3293	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30 pm, Closed Sunday	Enjoy a delicious dessert or savory baked meal in the comfort of your home or resort. This unique bakery offers <b>gourmet class items</b> -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
<b>The Lost Penguin</b> Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003.	Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner until 6 pm Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays	Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side <b>Caribbean-style bistro</b> owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
<b>Pasa Bon Pizza</b> On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The <b>Real Thing!</b> Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111

# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



## ART

**Richter Art**— By Jake and Linda Richter: Original oil paintings, giclees on canvas, limited edition and open prints. 717-4112

## 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 a 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.

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

Did you know that listing in the Guides is FREE for weekly advertisers?



# On the Island Since...

2001

## Marjolein van Dam

**I**n 1987 I left Holland to live on St. Martin for a year, but it turned into nearly 14 years. I had a good life in Holland, but I had a little son, Jerome, and his father wanted to start a wine company on St. Martin. His father and I weren't living together anymore, but I thought it would be better for Jerome if both of his parents were in one place. At the time there were 280 restaurants and several big hotels on St. Martin, so it was a great opportunity. We did it, but three years later we were ready for a change and opened up a restaurant, 'Grand Café L'Europe' in Maho. The restaurant did extremely well, but after three years I left to help establish a Montessori school. For three long years the foundation worked very hard to make it a public school, accessible to everyone. Then, when the government finally gave their permission, it had to be a private school. I was disappointed and I distanced myself from the project.

I didn't know what I wanted to do, but my biggest hobby is plants and I know a lot about them, so I started a nursery. For a year I worked very hard, preparing everything, even a botanical garden - and then came the first hurricane, Luis, in 1995. Nobody knew what a Category 5 hurricane was going to be like. We sat in the house for four days - no water - no electricity. And all the rats, mice, cockroaches and mosquitoes came inside looking for shelter!

Miraculously the house was okay, but when we opened the shutters after four days and went outside it was beyond imagination. The whole neighborhood, the whole island was completely destroyed. Many boats had sunk with the people still on board. All the colors had gone; everything was brown, totally faded. We walked around in utter disbelief for 14 days; then everyone began to realize what the consequences were. It was devastating... socially and economically; everyone was ruined. We had to wait for help. I felt guilty because I was one of the very few people who didn't have a lot of damage.

From 1995 till 1999 we had 11 hurricanes - three major ones. If you don't live there you can't imagine what it's like. St. Martin depends on tourism and the tourists no longer came. Three years and seven hurricanes later I realized there were no chances the nursery could survive. Plants had become a luxury. People had lost their hope and trust." *Marjolein van Dam (49) is a lovely lady; she's so cool and has a full-grown soul. She's just one of these people who make the world a better place.*

"When he was 12 my son Jerome wanted to go to high school in Holland. I didn't agree. I thought he was too young, but after talking to my sister-in-law I thought we could give it a try. So he went to live with my brother. As we were very close I really thought Jerome couldn't live without me and that he would be back in three months,

but he thought Holland was great! The first year was terrible for me; he was gone and so were his friends and I had to cook for myself. I fell into a deep hole. But Jerome came every vacation and somehow I learned to live with it.

After I had to give up the nursery I started working at the marina, doing the bar, the restaurant, the little shop and laundry. For three years I also worked on charter yachts. It was a lot of fun and I got to know all the other islands.

At the marina I met Sean. He'd come with his boat, *Our Confidence*, a Danish cutter with a great history. Together we worked very hard on the boat and in August '99 it was almost ready for our plans - we had lots of plans!

**"... when we opened the shutters after four days and went outside it was beyond imagination. The whole neighborhood, the whole island was completely destroyed."**

November 1999 Hurricane Lenny came. The lagoon was filled with boats, yachts and big ships who'd come to take shelter. One of those ships was unmanned and anchored right in front of us and Sean said, 'I'm leaving.' It was 36 hours before the hurricane was to arrive. Sean sailed off towards Montserrat and got into this huge tidal wave. The ship filled with water and the engine died. They drifted for five days in Hurricane Lenny - but that's a story in itself.

When you don't hear a single bird and you don't see any lizards you know for sure it's going to happen. I was in a house, and the roof flew off. The house was flooding so I decided to put the sofa, a love seat, on the sink and I, my dogs and the neighbor's dogs, sat there for four days. The dogs who normally couldn't stand each other sat there as if they were glued together.

I'd been very busy helping Sean provision the boat, but I myself had absolutely nothing - no food, no water, no cigarettes - just a transistor radio. Lenny was a big boy - very violent and very scary. Deep inside I knew Sean was in big trouble; indeed he'd sent out a 'Mayday.' The day after the hurricane I left the house. There was still a curfew, but I was hungry and thirsty and I wanted to talk to someone. On the way a friend picked me up. He'd heard about Sean's 'Mayday' but didn't dare tell me. At 7:30 am he dropped me at a bar that



Marjolein van Dam

was packed with people I knew. When I came in you could hear a pin drop. I ordered a double whiskey and a pack of cigarettes. I didn't get my order; someone grabbed me and said, 'Come!' Without asking, I followed him. We got into a dinghy and went to the bridge and there was *Our Confidence*, completely trashed, but Sean stood on deck.

The whole island was in ruins and the sea was full of rubbish and dead animals. You can't imagine. But I still had my job at the marina. Then a friend of ours, Jaap (of the aloe plantation) who'd bought a house on Bonaire, asked Sean if he could sail his belongings to Bonaire. We had no money, and the boat was in a bad shape, but we decided to do it. We worked on the boat for three months until she was seaworthy again. Sean left for Bonaire and took the two youngest dogs; I wasn't sure if I wanted to stay on St. Martin.

I went to visit Sean on Bonaire and we both thought it was fabulous. We'd never seen such a clean, sweet little island with such friendly people. It was a village though and I thought, what are we going to do here? I went back to St. Martin where I finished my work contract; then I left for Holland with my old dog to see if I could work there. It was chaotic; I'd lost all my papers except for my passport. I couldn't prove I came from St. Martin. Sean arrived and we went to England to see if we wanted to live there.

It turned out that he loved Holland and I thought England was great, but as the boat was still in Bonaire I applied for a job through the Internet and got a job at Plaza. I worked there for a year and a half as a supervisor in the garden and the nursery. I got so fed up that when there was an opportunity at the Caribbean Club Sean and I started doing the management there. For a year it was great fun. My son Jerome had

finished the hotel school and before he went to the higher hotel school he came for seven months to Bonaire as an intern. It was so good to have him.

But then Sean got sick and had to go to England. After four months he came back; then a year later he had to leave again for medical treatment in England. I started working for the Antillean Wine Company with Marjolein and Noel and I'm still working for them, with great pleasure. Now Sean is back and we'll see what's going to happen.

If I have an opportunity to work somewhere else in another place, I'll pack my things and go. But if I stay here it's also fine with me. I've never made any plans for the future. I did what came my way, but I always did it with great pleasure and interest.

It's not so important where you live, but the Caribbean is a lovely place; it's more positive. On Bonaire you won't get rich; here you work to survive, but it's not a big deal because you are rich in freedom, space and colors. The local people here are super friendly and they mean it. They have a good sense of humor and they love their island. I always think: the world is mine and I'm going to do it all differently now. You can make it all positive or all negative. It's up to you. Everything you go through is because of yourself. And with every change you become more and more conscious. But, all in all, I think I am privileged to be here instead of being in Europe. That's how I see it."

Story & photo by  
Greta Kooistra



# Mythology of Bonaire an Artist and a Storyteller

So many mysteries of life – so many questions. Perhaps, according to Frans Booi, many of these questions can be answered through understanding mythology, those stories that have been handed down through time - not by scientific or religious means - but by people relating them to people. Last Thursday evening at Kas di Arte Booi spoke to an enraptured audience about such myths of Bonaire and how they're depicted in the paintings of Winfred Dania. Dania's paintings and his sculpture are full of symbolic meaning – the cross, the turtle, "Boynay," considered the first Bonairean, the faces, the eyes, "Baranka Mama" and more.

Dania, born deaf, began painting these mystical works before he'd been exposed to any stories or met mythologist Frans Booi. All the visions had come from his imagination and dreams. The meeting and subsequent long-time friendship between Booi and Dania gave birth to a beautiful gift for all of us: we can hear the tales from Booi and see them in the paintings of Dania.

The Winfred Dania artwork exhibition will continue until May 21 at the Kas di Arte, the blue building on the waterfront, Kaya J.N.E. Craane 34. It's open every day, 10 am to 5 pm. L.D.



Artist Winfred Dania and Storyteller Frans Booi

## Dania welcomes FKPD

Last Friday some members of Special Olympics Bonaire and FKPD (handicapped center) visited the exhibition of Winfred Dania.

They were very impressed with his work and they got a lot of inspiration for their own art.

It was a beautiful sight to see the energy between these persons with disabilities together with Winfred, who gave them explanations of most of his work.

Our gratitude goes to Winfred Dania, Maggie and Frans Booi and the crew at FKPD.

Story & photo by Roosje v.d. Hoek-Goeloe



FKPD Visitors to Dania Exhibit

## WINFRED DANIA ARTWORK EXHIBITION



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

**kas di  
arte**

Kaya J.N.E Craane 34

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

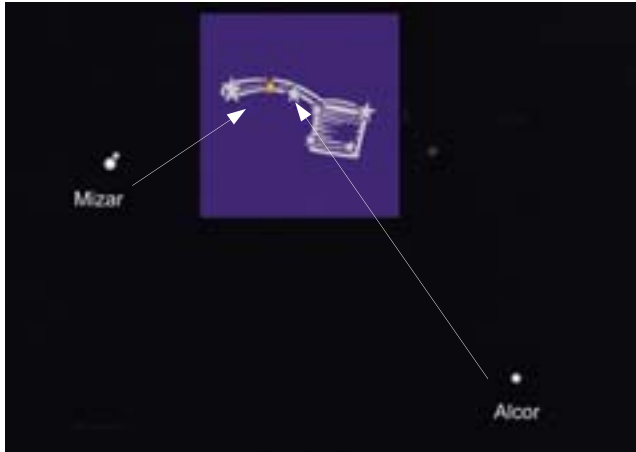


# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it, just look up

## The Horse on the Handle of the Big Dipper

Have you ever heard the story about the horse on the handle of the **Big Dipper**? Well, it's a good one. Face due north any spring evening before midnight. And, depending on the exact hour and whether it's March, April, May or early June, the Big Dipper will be high up off the horizon, either to the east of the **North Star** or west of the North Star or directly above it.



The two stars together in the Dipper

Four stars trace out its cup and three stars make up its handle.

But we're going to pay attention to what looks like to most people the one star at the bend of the handle, a star named **Mizar**. Now although you have undoubtedly seen this star many times, have you ever looked at it really close? Because if you do look at it really close you will see that it is not just one star but two. Indeed, right next to Mizar you can see a slightly dimmer star, a star named **Alcor**, which in Arabic means "the lost or friendless one." Now centuries ago it was said that these two stars, bright Mizar and dimmer Alcor, were used as a kind of ancient eye exam for a famous sultan's army. If a recruit could see both stars he was in, but if he couldn't he was out.

I kind of question the validity of that story, however, because most people can see both stars. Although admittedly nowadays I have to use my glasses, so maybe the test was for older recruits. At any rate, long ago these two stars became popularly known as "the horse and the rider," bright Mizar being the horse and dimmer Alcor being the friendless rider. And you can see them for yourself any night you can see the Big Dipper.

And there our ancient eye test ends. But it doesn't end for modern eyes of a different kind, the eyes of telescopes and spectroscopes, because if we aim a spectroscope at Alcor, the rider, you would see that this so-called friendless one is not so friendless after all. In fact Alcor has a companion rider, another star invisible to the naked eye, thus making Alcor two riders on Mizar the horse. But that's not exactly true either because if we look really close at Mizar we discover that Mizar is also not just one star, not even two stars or three stars or four stars but is in fact a rare quintuple star.

In other words when we look at this ancient Arab representation of a solitary horse with a solitary rider we are in reality looking at two horsemen driving a team of five horses across the night sky on the bend of the handle of the big dipper. Seven stars all told! Two double stars and one triple, six of which are twice as big as our own million-mile-wide **Sun** and at least 50% brighter. Incredible isn't it what modern astronomy reveals about objects that generations of mankind have seen for thousands of years.

So get outside some spring night, and gallop across the heavens with the horse and his rider, Mizar and Alcor, two visible stars which are in reality seven! *Jack Horkheimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: May 7 to 13, to 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You will be a real chatterbox this week. There could be opposition or temper tantrums on the home front. You are best to concentrate on your professional endeavors. Secret enemies may be holding a grudge that you're not even aware of. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Unexpected events may be upsetting. You may find that children are not as accepting as you have been. Any intimate relationships with colleagues will lead to gossip that could easily affect your position. Unexpected visitors are likely. Be prepared to do your chores early. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Older members of your family may try to take advantage of you. Take a close look at any contracts you've signed in order to be sure exactly where you stand. You need to look into some private matters before you can proceed with your plans. Renovations to your domestic scene will pay high rewards. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool. Your hard work will pay off; advancement looks positive. Opportunities to travel will develop through peers. Don't spend too much on products that promise amazing cosmetic results. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Help if you can, but more than likely it will be sufficient just to listen. Someone you live with will be quite unreasonable this week. You can make adjustments in your domestic scene this week. You may be in love this week, but who knows what tomorrow may bring. Your lucky day this week is Sunday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You could experience unusual circumstances and meet eccentric individuals. After all, they may have valuable information to pass on. Plans to make physical improvements may lead to psychological changes, too. Dig deep to find out how costly a new venture will be before you sign on the dotted line. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your mind will be wandering to exotic destinations. Praise will be yours if you have been pursuing your goals. Find out if they have other commitments. Travel should be on your mind. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Be cautious of making any residential changes this week. You'll have great insight. You must try to lay your cards on the table. Talk to your mate and tell them how you feel. It might be best to work on your own; if possible, do your job out of your home this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Jealous colleagues may try to undermine you. You can ask for favors and get sound advice from close friends or relatives. People who try to persuade you to do things their way will annoy you. Don't believe everything you hear. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Take time to deal with authority figures or government agencies. Deal with the needs of children. You will gain new friends if you get involved in environmental issues. Your concern with older family members and those less fortunate than yourself will only add to your attractiveness. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't start a dispute unless you're prepared to accept irreversible results. Pleasure trips should be on your agenda. Opportunities to show your worth will enhance your reputation and bring possible advancement. Take some time out. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your mate may want to pick a fight, but if you're persistent with your affections their anger should dissipate. Take time to reevaluate your motives regarding friendships. Sudden changes concerning coworkers may surprise you. Matters pertaining to your home environment will be favorable if you are direct. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.