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STILL  
FREE**

**BONAIRE**

December 1- December 8, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 46

# The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



**Sanikolas Arrives  
with Swarte Pieten**

**Page 10**

Wilna Groenenboom photo

# Flotsam and Jetsam



**N**early all air travelers entering the US will be required to show passports beginning January 23, including returning Americans and people from Canada and other nations traveling through the Western Hemisphere.

The date was disclosed Tuesday by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff in an interview with the Associated Press. The Homeland Security Department plans to announce the change on Wednesday.

The department had been expected to institute the passport requirement for air travelers around the beginning of the year. Setting the date on January 23 pushes the start past the holiday season.

► **The Netherlands Antilles is in need of expertise from Dutch municipalities**, said Director of the Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG) Ralph Pans after a recent visit here. He devoted special attention to the three smaller islands, Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius, that will obtain the status of

municipality in the Kingdom next year.

In general, assistance on judicial and financial issues are important, especially **Environmental Development and Property Management for Bonaire**. It seems to be very difficult to find qualified civil servants. The function of head of the Finance Department in Bonaire, for instance, has been vacant for some time now. According to Pans, this situation makes Bonaire (leading up to a new financial relationship with the Netherlands) very vulnerable. VNG will try to find persons suitable to fill the job opening in Bonaire and will also try to help solve other problems the islands have.

► **The Islands' Summit to continue the planning for transition to the new structure and constitutional changes for the Antilles, rescheduled for December 11-12**, is now in doubt because Curaçao's Island Council did not ratify the November 2<sup>nd</sup> "final" political declaration. All other islands have signed. This delay is not expected to postpone Bonaire's move to closer ties with Holland in July 2007.

► **In last week's Parliamentary elections in The Netherlands the Dutch Christian Democrats held on to power** but faced a battle to form a coalition government as many voters turned to parties on the far left and far right. The complete vote count showed

Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende's Christian Democrats (CDA) winning 41 seats in the 150-seat parliament, down from 44 in the 2003 election but far ahead of the opposition Labor with 32.

The far-left Socialists (SP) soared to third place ahead of the liberal VVD, Balkenende's coalition partner, making his job of forming a strong government much more difficult.

Balkenende rode to victory on an economic upturn in the past year. But who joins the next coalition will determine how closely he can stick to his business-friendly policies and tough line on immigration, long a major concern of Dutch voters.

The other big winner was the new party of anti-immigration maverick, Geert Wilders, who says the Netherlands risks being flooded by Muslims and wants an immediate halt to new migrants.

► **Antilles Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage says that the biggest regret she has about the outcome of last Tuesday's Dutch elections is that Atzo Nicolaï most probably would not return** as Dutch Administrative Reform and Kingdom Relations Minister. "He really worked hard on achieving an agreement with the Netherlands Antilles regarding constitutional change," the Prime Minister said.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## BONAIRE THIS WEEK: The REPORTER

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**Rotary Club President Marisela Croes presents the check to Richardro Emerenciana for Youth Outreach** Rotary photo

► **The Rotary Club of Bonaire presented the Youth Outreach Organization a check for NAf5.000 to provide gifts for Christmas for the less fortunate children on the island.** It is the third year Rotary Club is supporting this organization in hope that the Christmas is a little brighter for all.

*Flotsam and Jetsam, continued on page 4*

## coral glimpses

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

**T**his top photo was taken in the late 1990s, showing how the little coral colony on the left was partially killed by the anemone's tentacles rubbing against it. The coral polyps on the left are still fine; those that were rubbed by the anemone were killed by the anemone's apparently superior stinging power.

This bottom photo was taken five to 10 years later. The anemone still flourishes. The untouched side of the coral also flourishes, growing almost an inch. The other side of the coral is ... um ... still dead. Once the polyps are killed they can't recover. The polyps that were not killed, however, keep on growing as you can see on the left. This coral grew almost an inch.

This vividly illustrates the significance of every coral polyp's death. *Captions and photos by Dee Scarr. Dee's Photos restored by Jack Drafaahl of the Oregon Coastal Digital Center.*



## Bubbles from the Biologist

**Did You Know...** *in some areas of the world, people mine living corals and use their rock skeletons as building materials?*

Most island peoples in need of construction materials use their beach and dune sand first, then they use the dead corals heaped up on the coastlines (the buildup from past storms), and then they harvest living corals. The stones are crushed into fine sand that is used to

make plaster or bricks.

Corals grow an average of two to five centimeters per year (massive vs. branching), and mining has had dire consequences for coral reefs. Many countries, including Indonesia and Sri Lanka, have outlawed coral mining, but there is not enough enforcement to stop the mining altogether. A recent study found that areas of Sri Lanka where the coastline hasn't been mined had much



*A living coral*

less tsunami destruction than areas that were mined.

If you look along the east coast of Bonaire you can see where the coral rubble has been harvested from the coastline (a natural barrier against the force of tsunamis), a practice that is now prohibited in most areas of Bonaire. *Caren Eckrich*

*Biologist Caren Eckrich founded and runs Sea & Discover, Bonaire's marine education center specializing in guided dives and snorkels for adults and adventure programs for kids. You may call her at 717-5322.*



(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 3)



► Divi Resorts management formally presented **their plan for an "all inclusive" 275- room resort on the former Bonaire (Sunset) Beach property** this past Tuesday, 28 November. Construction is anticipated to begin in the second or third quarter of next year with the resort opening in early 2009. The plan, which will be presented in more detail in the next issue of *The Reporter*, features water cascades, lush tropical gardens, private pools in a four-story high building along 300 meters of white sand beach. Included will be four themed restaurants, including a pizza bar, a dive center, spa, gym facilities a climbing tower and more. Pre-construction sales of the condos will begin in the 2nd quarter of 2007. For more information contact the Project manager, Mark Nooren at MarkN@megaresorts.com.

► Bonaire National Marine Park Manager Ramon de Leon reported that two weekends ago heavy oil came ashore in Washikemba and other sites on Bonaire's east coast. The next day he inspected the shoreline from Cai to Boka Onima. Washikemba was by far the most affected area. Samples were taken to BOPEC to analyze and the results were "not too bad." The "good" thing is that this oil sticks poorly to sand and rock and most of it is attached to debris. On Friday, November 24, a team of BNMP, STCB and SELIBON members removed debris from Boka Washikemba, thus getting rid of most of the oil.

► Thanks to a grant from the Dutch USONA, **J.A. Abraham Boulevard, the street leading south out of Kralendijk along the southern "hotel row," and three intersecting streets will be greatly improved and made safer.** In addition to sidewalks the road will be resurfaced, landscaped and drainage problems corrected. Additional parking spaces will be made available too. **But why are there no plans for bicycles paths?**

► **Digicel and Chippie are currently in a price war** with rates of 20 cents per minute for calling other phones on their respective networks. The tariff for mobile calls between two Digicel numbers or two Chippie numbers starts after the first minute, 24 hours a day, and holds until the end of 2006. Previously, the companies maintained low- and peak-hour rates that varied between 35 and 65 cents per minutes. MIO offers unlimited calling between MIO customers for NAf40/month.

► **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) asks your help to raise NAf100.000 to continue their work.**

In the last five years the STCB has made tremendous strides in its research, conservation and education activities aimed at protecting endangered sea turtles. These efforts were made possible by the support and generosity of individuals and corporations, as well as a grant from the Dutch government.

In October, 2006, the Dutch grant expired. While they completed a new proposal on time, which was approved and endorsed by the Bonaire Island Council, the funding has not appeared and STCB is currently unfunded for 2007. They are continuing efforts to secure another grant but without additional financial support, the work will have to be greatly curtailed.

They are seeking your help and hope you can make a contribution. So that you may better understand their accomplishments and direction check the Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire Project Prospectus 2007 - 2009 and their Progress Report for 2005.

Making a contribution is easy, can be done right on-line using a credit card and for US taxpayers the contribution is tax deductible. Simply go to the Support Bonaire Inc. website. Be sure to select the Sea



► **The new AKIB (Bonaire Business Association) Board: Edsel Winklaar (Vice-president and Second Treasurer), Sherwin Pourier (Treasurer), Adele Evertsz Winklaar (Secretary), Sidney Manuel (President) and, Raymundo Saleh (Second Secretary).** AKIB photo



► **Under the guidance of Denise Coffie six students recently completed a course in Advanced Dutch at FORMA. Congratulations on receiving your certificates!** FORMA Photo

Turtle Conservation Project when completing the form.

If you would rather handle your donation in a different manner, please refer to our website, [www.bonaireturtles.org](http://www.bonaireturtles.org), for information about making a contribution. If you have any questions, please contact Imre Esser, President, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, phone (599) 717-2225 or (599) 780-0433, email [imre@bonaireturtles.org](mailto:imre@bonaireturtles.org).

► **A crime wave has hit Bonaire** and has aroused the citizenry and motivated the police to establish two task forces. The first will focus on solving the increasing hotel room robberies. The second will try to apprehend the assailants involved in several armed robberies. While several people have been arrested, the police have not announced that they have solved the crimes. The home and hotel thieves seem to be **focusing on expensive laptop computers.** Word on the street is that they are resold for NAf500 and smuggled to the Dominican Republic. Police say they are shorthanded but are following-up with the investigations.



► **The Outlet Mol will be back in time for Christmas Shopping.** Save your Christmas shopping purchases for the opening on Kaya Grandi in mid-December.



► The college-age foreign students who have been enrolled in CIEE's Tropical Marine Ecology and Conservation program in Bonaire will **present the results of the independent research projects** that they have been working on this fall at Buddy Dive this Friday, December 1, at 2:30 pm. This event is open to the public and will be followed by Buddy Dive's

(Continued on page 5)



► After intense training 12 instructors from the Buddy Dive Resort have become 'way cool' Scuba Ranger Instructors. Training Instructor Certifier René Huisman of SSI Benelux came to Bonaire especially to conduct the program. The Scuba Ranger Program is designed for children from eight to 12 years, to teach them, with as much fun as possible, the skills of swimming, snorkeling and scuba diving. When a kid becomes a Scuba Ranger, he or she will not only become a member of the World Wide Scuba Rangers Club but will also learn the techniques needed for safe snorkeling and scuba diving within their limits. Like adult divers they can achieve certificates for their effort and also do a whole range of specialties like boat diving or underwater photography. This program is not only for tourists who visit Bonaire but also local kids. Contact Buddy Dive Resort at 717-5080 or take a look online at <http://www.scubarangers.com>. (Rob van de Vechte, SSI Bonaire)

Friday Happy Hour and Buffet. CIEE is the leading US non-governmental international education organization. It creates and administers programs that allow high school and university students and educators to study and teach abroad. It is based in the former Lizard Inn on Kaya Grandi.

► One of the most popular bands among fans in Bonaire, **Trafassi**, will be here one night only, this Friday night at 8 pm, December 1, at City Café. The members are Surinamers living in Holland.



► The Bonaire Marine Park introduced **Progressive Environmental Solutions (PES)**, a new Foundation concerned with the preservation of Bonaire's natural resources, which recently open its doors on Bonaire. PES, STINAPA and other parties are working together to start with a very much needed long-term monitoring program for Lac Bay. There will be a PES benefit concert next weekend, December 3, aboard the *Free-winds* cruise ship docked at Town Pier.

# LETTERS



## UNFAIR LAW

Dear Editor:  
Cruise ships don't have to pay (the Marine Park activity fee). How many times have the people of Bonaire been told how hard and how long it takes to change laws? It seems, though, for a cruise ship, laws can be changed in a few hours. Bonaire is going to lose tens of thousands of dollars towards its nature preservation until someone makes these people pay a measly \$2! It has been two years since everyone else had to pay \$10 and \$25. Now it is claimed the cruise ships will start in November of 2007. Yeah! - I bet they will.

*Jack Kelly*

The program begins at 1930 and costs NAf25 in advance at City Café and NAf20 at the door.

► **Welcome to our new advertiser, the Papagayo Restaurant** located in the heart of downtown it offers great bistro style food and service. Visit the restaurant. It's advertisers like this who continue to keep *The Reporter* free!

*G./L.D.*



**Captain Don**

**Reef Windows: A series of stories about Bonaire's Dive Sites by Captain Don Stewart**

*This first story is about Rappel, a site divers have labeled as one of Bonaire's most popular. It is from Captain Don's upcoming book, Reef Windows.*

In 1974 Aquaventure, my dive operation, was just warming up to set the diving world afire. This day, the harness room was quiet since the last diver had geared up and gone for the morning dive. Then I heard voices and some clatter. It was Bruce Bowker and a friend named Stan from New Jersey whom I understood was the owner of the Wooden Nickel Climbers' Shack. Both Bruce and Stan were busily sorting long hanks of rope whose quality made me envious. Scattered about were all sorts of unusual gear that I did not recognize. Stan said it was mountain climbing hardware, and I was impressed.

"What ya going to do, boys? Climb a lighthouse?" I was being sassy but instinctively knew I was witnessing one of Bruce's brainstormers. Some were good, others bad, but most were exciting new ideas, usually ones we couldn't afford.

Stan stopped what he was doing and volunteered, "Bruce has asked me to teach him how to rappel. And he felt today, being a little slow, was a fine day to do it."

"Bruce, what are you going to rappel, huh? Brandaris (Bonaire's tallest mountain full of cactus and thorns)? A lighthouse? Or maybe a cliff?" There were several cliffs nearby but nothing that would be of interest to divers. Then my mind's eye raced along the island's coastline. "Yes, let's do it. Stanley, you are the boss of this expedition." I glanced at my watch. "Still plenty of time, let's go!"

We were to take the big ton and a half Dodge stake truck, our biggest dive vehicle. Geared for 12 divers plus picnic facilities when required it was a dive shop on wheels. In 30 minutes we loaded up and were moving out of the hotel's parking lot when we were hailed by a fellow standing by the exit gate, a tank and gear bag at his feet. His thumb was out and he was looking to hitch a ride. I knew him as Vinni. No last name but I recalled his dive number was 13. Vinni was a New Jersey wreck diver who had dived there with Al Catalfumo, whom I knew well, so I allowed Vinni to join our expedition.

He jumped up into the front seat alongside me as Bruce and Stanley had commandeered the back to work on gear. Several kilometers later I slowed the truck; we were nearing the probable area. The boys were kneeling on a bench, intently

watching the side of the road.

"Hold it!" hollered Bruce. "Back up, Don. More. More. OK. Hold it. Now forward 10 feet."

Bruce was meticulous to a fault, but this parking to the inch was ridiculous.

Stan was out of the truck and giving orders. "OK, Don. I want the back of the truck over there, exactly in line with the rocks. Push the truck back into the brush. Be careful! Only 15 and a half feet, not an inch more!"

Well, I was the one who had put this kid in control so I had better listen, Vinni was out and moving quickly in the direction Stan had ordered the truck to go.

"Sweet Jesus!" Vinni screamed. "This has to be the edge of the world!"

I kinda knew that he had discovered the precipice that seemed to drop off the face of the earth.

Stanley, barking orders like a drill sergeant, had Vinni and Bruce lay out the gear in an orderly manner on the edge of the cliff, describing each item again to Bruce as if they hadn't spent the entire morning rehearsing this drop.

I stood gazing down into one of the most magnificent reef systems I had yet to see. La Dania's and Karpata further to the west I knew well, but I never was able to get into this fantastic bowl of coral.

Bruce's idea was a winner. I could see it all now. Aquaventure was not only going to teach diving but also the art of rappelling, plus renting out all the gear. "Bruce, you are a genius!" I told him.

"Well, finally the truth is out," he mumbled and cocked an eye at me with a smirk, then put his full attention back to Stanley who had just secured the end of a rope to the back of the truck. Stan rechecked his knot, tugged on the rope a few times and returned to the edge of the cliff, flinging the coil of rope far out to sea. Then he glanced over the side to make sure the rope was long enough and returned to Bruce.

"I will go first! I want you to pay good attention to the launch and how I transfer my feet from the edge of the cliff to its face." Stanley studied Bruce for a moment, smiled, then checked the sling under Bruce's butt along with the carabineer rings, and finally said, "Looks fine. The moment we are in the water, you become the boss. OK?"



**Bruce Bowker at Rappel rappelling**



Bruce watched Stanley as a card shark eyes a cheat. Stanley was fully geared, mask on the forehead, flippers on his feet, his tank married to his spine as he stood tight onto the edge of the cliff, his back to the open sea. The rope threaded, he leaned back, putting tension on the rope. He screamed, "Geronimo," and did a little jump backward, slacking the line as he went. The next time his feet connected, he was 10 feet below the crest. Bounced, bounced, and he was down with 20 feet of translucent water under him. His mask came down. He put his snorkel in his mouth, disconnected from the line and swam away on the surface.

"Bravo!" I shouted down at Stanley, then looked at Bruce who was mimicking what he had seen Stanley do. I watched closely but didn't say a word until Bruce was stationed on the edge. Both Vinni and I then wished him luck and stepped back out of his way.

Bruce glanced down at the cliff, showing no sign of nervousness. He slackened the rope and started falling backwards. That was good, but now was the time for the little jump. Well, there was a feeble attempt but not quite enough, and Bruce found himself hanging sideways six feet down the wall of the cliff. There was no panic, though I did feel my heart miss a beat. He squirmed like a fish on a hook but nonetheless was a hero as he safely finished his rappelling and hit the surface. Bruce waved to us and joined his diving buddy for the greatest dive of his life.

It was a long swim from La Dania's to Karpata and now they had to add to that other quarter mile. But what the hell, when slipping through an underwater paradise, what difference did an extra few hundred meters make?

Thus was the window named Rappel

opened. However, after watching Bruce's sideways start down the cliff, I decided to leave mountain climbing and rappelling to the experts. I figured that someday we would dive the site from boats and indeed we do. □ Capt'n Don

**The Reef Windows book** will be published in Bonaire by Flamingo Communications. The stories in the book are the original, longer, unabridged stories with photos, not the shorter versions published in *The Bonaire Reporter*. There are 45 reef windows stories in the book, out of the 54 reef sites named by Captain Don. The book, 6" by 8 3/4" will have 364 pages, 124 pictures.

# Astronaut Inspires Bonaire Youngsters



*Astronaut Bolden meets the students* Bob Lassiter Photo

The visit of former astronaut Charles Bolden was arranged by Bonaire residents Ben and Laura Buchbinder to give Bonaire youngsters a first-hand chance to meet a man who, among other accomplishments, walked in space. And “Charlie” Bolden with his relaxed ways, easily related with the Bonairean people; he and his family even look like Bonaireans.

During his visits to the local schools astronaut Bolden was impressed with the Bonaire youngsters. “It was exciting to talk with them; they asked some really good questions. They are absolutely superb kids,” he said. His advice: “Work hard, study hard and don’t be afraid of failure in the pursuit of your dream.”

**The Bonaire community is invited to meet astronaut Bolden for themselves on this Thursday evening, 30 November, from 19:00 to 20:30 at Jeugdhuys Jong Bonaire.** The former astronaut will be winding up his week of speaking to school children and enjoying some diving and touring.

Astronaut Bolden will offer a brief video presentation and talk at the public presentation and then will be glad to answer any questions. Parents are urged to bring their children if they are interested. Before the visit many of the schools devoted efforts to space education and there were poster and essay contests on the topic of space exploration. Some of the posters will be on display at the public presentation at Jong Bonaire on Thursday.



*Astronaut Charlie Bolden, his wife Jackie and Governor Domacassé meet at the airport.* Bob Lassiter Photo



*Koeyman Bautista-Consalez and Jocua Terzol tied for first place in the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade poster/exhibit category*

Astronaut Bolden presented the prizes to the top winners at a welcoming press conference Monday evening at Divi Flamingo Resort.

## First Place Contest Winners:

### ESSAY --

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Level **Cindy Lopez**—Kolegio Reina Beatrix

Senior Level (tie) **Dauri Jansen**---SGB vh2b

**Jeff Marshall**---UniCollege 2 VWO

### POSTER/EXHIBIT --

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Level (tie) **Koeyman Bautista-Consalez**---

3D model of the Solar System & **Jocua Terzol**—Kolegio Reina Beatrix Model of the Mars Rover

Senior Level **Joselin De Palm and Christie Janga**—

SGB Textured Depiction of Space



*Dauri Jansen and Jeff Marshall, Senior Level Essay First Place Co-Winner s get their award from Astronaut Bolden*



*Cindy Lopez was the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Level First Place Essay Winner*

**Award Winners Continued on page 9.**

### Sponsors for the astronaut’s visit are:

ReMax Paradise Homes, Support Bonaire Foundation, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort, Hertz Car Rental, Jong Bonaire,  
 Jake and Linda Richter, The Pelikaan School, Brad and Mary Smart, Ben and Laura Buchbinder.

## Picture Yourself with The Reporter DOHA, Qatar



Ilse Jonkman writes: "We are visiting our son in Doha. He is a pilot with Qatar Airways. It's a long way from home, but we are very happy to be with him. Today we went sightseeing and took this picture with our son Jan, his girlfriend Yulis, my husband, Reverend ("Domi") Jan Jonkman and me, his mother, Ilse Jonkman."

## New York City, N.Y., US



While on a trip to New York City the Cactus Blue Restaurant junior crew managed to "arrest" a NY police officer long enough to show off their copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*. Florian is in the red sweater, Christian in front of the NYPD officer and Sebastian to the right in the gray sweater.

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

**Big ads,  
Small cost**

**Did you  
notice  
this ad?**


So did the thousands of the other readers of *The Bonaire Reporter*.

The largest number of tourists in Bonaire's history are expected this holiday season beginning in December.

**Let them know about your business with an ad in this newspaper.**

A 1/8 page ad, similar to the two below, costs only NAf69.00. Think how much additional business it will bring to you!

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

HUGS, KISSES AND TONS OF LOVE



Dante Ernesto  
Abraham

Love, joy and wonderful dreams, all the things, a new baby brings!

We joyfully announce the birth of our new baby boy

November 15, 2006 at 8:26 a.m.  
3550 gram, 52 centimeter

Rianne en Jopie  
Kaya Amerika-13, Bonaire

HUGS, KISSES AND TONS OF LOVE



Astronaut Inspires. Continued from page 7.



Parents and family of the contest winners were on hand at the Divi Flamingo to see their children receive their awards.

#### OUTSTANDING SUBMISSIONS

The following are submissions by school, that although they didn't win, the judges believed deserved special recognition.

#### Second Place Winners:

Basisschool de Pelikaan----**Noah Oleana** Poster--Space Suit of the Future  
**Jorge Gorrin Molina**  
**Finn van Bekkum**  
 Kolegio Papa Cornes----- **Maynard Cecilia** Poster--Future Space City  
 Kolegio Reina Beatrix----- **Maribella Martis** Essay  
  
 Kolegio San Luis Bertran--- **Lourgita Juaguin** Poster--Life and Love in Space  
**Selison Celestyn**  
**Urgell Andrea**  
**Duane Domacassé**  
 SGB-----**Maxim van Ooyen**Poster--Future Space Exploration  
**Daniela Simal Nava**  
 UniCollege ----- **Derek Aranguren** Essay

#### Honorable Mention:

**Jaimy Mostert, Yvette Junkers, Merel Houthizen**---Basisschool de Pelican  
**Javiene Sof & Luis Gorrin Molina**---Kolegio Papa Cornes  
**Flaviandro Janga, Racheida Trinidad, Leomar Janga**---Kolegio San Luis Bertran  
**Jason Oleana & Sarah Ann Maartense**---UniCollege  
**Helen Villazzoel & Maria Cakano Marte**---SGB *A.G.*

## Bonaire Swimmers Selected for 2006 National Championships



Barracudas at a past event

**B**onaire will send six swimmers to the 2006 Netherlands Antilles National Championships to be held in Curaçao, December 8 – 10. The annual championship, organized by the *Nederlands Antilliaanse Zwembond (NAZB)*, is open to qualifying members of the 10 affiliated swim clubs in Bonaire, Curaçao, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten.

Swimmers 10 years and under achieving the top 16 individual times in an event during the year qualify for the National Championships. Swimmers 11 years and older must meet specific qualifying times to participate. The competition will be held at Sentro Deportivo Korsow.  
*story and photo by Valarie Stimpson*

Swimmer	Category	Event	Rank/Qualify		
Emer, Ryda-Luz	Girls 10 & under	50 meter freestyle	11		
		50 meter breaststroke	13		
		200 meter individual medley	10		
Evertsz, Samson	Boys 10 & under	50 meter freestyle	4		
		100 meter freestyle	10		
		50 meter backstroke	2		
		100 meter backstroke	4		
		50 meter breaststroke	6		
		100 meter breaststroke	7		
		50 meter butterfly	6		
Marcano, Asdrubal	Boys 10 & under	100 meter butterfly	3		
		200 meter individual medley	5		
		50 meter backstroke	5		
		Binelli, Giada	Girls 11 & over	50 meter backstroke	Time
		Bomba, Churmer	Boys 11 & over	50 meter breaststroke	Time
Winkel, Philip	Boys 11 & over	50 meter breaststroke	Time		
		50 meter backstroke	Time		

# Sanikolas Comes to Town



*Sanikolas with his book of all children*



*From the tug to the park*



*Swarte piet can always appear unexpectedly*

Last Saturday Sint Nicolaas (Sanikolas) and his assistants, the Black Pieten (*Swarte Pieten*), arrived in Bonaire aboard a tug boat. A record-breaking crowd of excited children and adults swarmed the pier to catch a glimpse of him and the Swarte Pieten. Every child on the island must have been there, accompanied

by his or her equally spirited parents or elders. Sint Nicolaas and Swarte Pieten's procession from the pier to Wilhelmina Park was accompanied by the soul-stirring beat of the drum corps. The Swarte Pieten cavorted through the crowd, dancing and swinging their sacks and ropes and teasing the children.

This was the 12<sup>th</sup> year that the *Fundashon Ata Sanikolas I Zwartepiet* and SEBIKI organized such an event and it was an all out success. Thanks to all of them for their tire-

less work.

Although Sint Nicolaas is associated with gift giving and the Christian holiday his history lies in Dutch folklore and tradition, originating more than 600 years ago when the Bishop of Madrid, Spain, gave gifts to everyone on his birthday, December 6. This bishop, it is said, originally came from Turkey with his helpers who were black (swarte). At that time Holland was ruled by Spain, so when Sint Nicolaas comes he arrives from Spain by boat. Then he contin-

ues his travels on a white horse. He always arrives in November because he has so much work to do, finding out which children have been good enough to receive presents. Those who have been bad will be spanked with the Swarte Pieten's ropes or brooms and those very bad will be thrown into the sacks and taken back to Spain! He keeps a big book with the names of all children and whether they have been good or bad.

On December 4, the eve of Sint Nicolaas' (Continued on page 11)



*Santa Arrives by BOPEC tug*



*The ever-entertaining Swarte pieten*

(Sanikolas. Continued from page 10) birthday, children put out their shoes with maybe some carrots or hay for the white horse, hoping they will receive a small gift in return.

On the big day itself, December 5, the family sits together, singing, having sweets and hot chocolate, hoping that the weather (in Holland) will not be too bad so that he will arrive.

At 8 pm Sint Nicholaas and his helpers land on the roof of the house and the Swarte Pieten throw the gifts down the chimney. Or Sint Nicholaas might bang on the door, asking, "Are there any bad children here?" Everyone calls back, "No!"

For the Dutch this is the time for gift giving, and Christmas is a more holy time, not commercial like that in America, although we've learned that the merchants in Holland are now promoting gift giving for both holidays.

This Sint Nicholaas tradition is totally Dutch, but the people in the former Dutch colonies all over the world have embraced it – so much so that it seems to be completely accepted that this cleric, bearing gifts and dressed for very cold weather in heavy robes and cloak and miter, does not seem unusual in such tropical climes as that of Bonaire, the other islands of the Dutch Antilles or Indonesia. L.D.

## Childrens Rights Day



*Wilna Groenenboom photo*

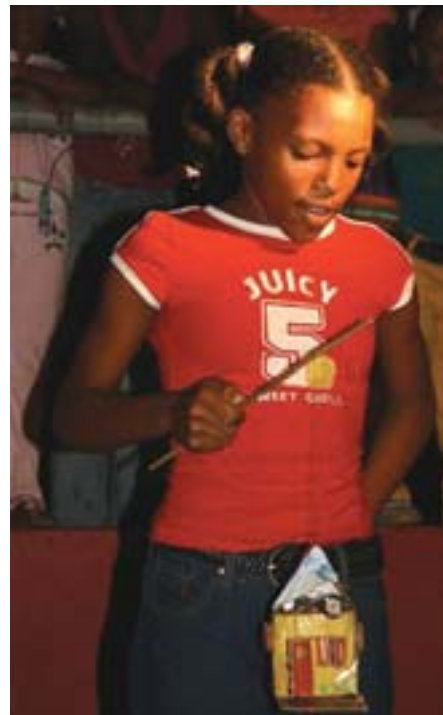
*SIBIKI's Riet Sealy leads the children's lantern parade*

Children were in the spotlight this month. They celebrated Book Week followed by a fantastic Parade of Lights on Monday which began at Jong Bonaire where an exhibition of art about

Children's Rights was on display. The artwork was done by elementary school children and put together by SEBIKI.

On the night of the parade nearly 130 children marched with lanterns and were led by the musical group, Scouting D-line Bonaire, under the guidance of Crisanta Martha, through Kaya Grandi, Kaya Aruba and Kaya J.N.E. Craane to Wilhelmina Park on the waterfront. SEBIKI awarded prizes to the children who made the most creative and original lanterns.

SEBIKI, together with government and youth organizations, sponsored the events. Wilna Groenenboom//H.L./L.D.



*Lovely lantern*

*Wilna Groenenboom photo*

# DO YOU SUDOKU?

**S**udoku means "the digits must remain single" in Japanese. To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. For a tutorial visit the web site [www.sudoku.shack.com](http://www.sudoku.shack.com).

Supplied by **Molly Kearney** (who has to solve all the puzzles first)

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

Complete solution on page 19.

## Bonaire Reporter Classifieds— Are still free Got something to buy or sell?

Non-Commercial Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words):  
Free ads run for 2 weeks.

Commercial Ads only NAf0.80 per word, per week.  
Call or fax 717-8988 or email [ads@bonairereporter.com](mailto:ads@bonairereporter.com)

### JANART GALLERY

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

### MOVING INTO A HOUSE NEW TO YOU? 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.

### 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 & Janet). 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)

### LUNCH TO GO

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

### JELLASTONE PETPARK

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

### SUPPORT BONAIRE

The Island you love could use your help! Support Bonaire, Inc. provides support to Bonaire's non-profits. To learn more about making a US tax deductible donation visit [www.supportbonaire.org](http://www.supportbonaire.org) and help make a difference!

### Vacation Rental

#### Cozy guest cottage available

Studio with kitchen, airco, cable TV, two single beds (or king) pull-out sofa, porch, yard and private entrance. Five minute walk to seaside promenade; 10 minute walk to town. \$50/night. Contact: [bonairecottage@aol.com](mailto:bonairecottage@aol.com)

### For Sale

Refrigerator/freezer, 5.30 cu. feet. Gold Star Best One Designer's Feeling GR1515. Runs perfectly. NAf250. Tel. 786-6518, 786-6125



2 Boogie Boards. NAf75 each or best offer. Call Bruce 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm

FOR SALE- IDEAL FOR CHRISTMAS: Lady's Mountain Bike, 18 speed, "Y" frame, front & rear suspension. Bought on Bonaire for NAf 300. Like New! NAf 200 firm.

Man's Mountain Bike, "Harlem Devil," 18 speed. "Y" Frame, front & rear suspension. Bought in the UK. Like New! NAf 300 firm. Buy both for NAf450! Call: 786-8648

62" Television with DVD Player For sale - Samsung 62" DLP television with matched Samsung progressive scan DVD player. Bought two years ago - both in excellent condition. NAf 3990,- - Call Jake at 717-4112 or e-mail [jake@nettech.an](mailto:jake@nettech.an)

# STRAIGHT TALK



It's all about dating, love, sex, friendship, and marriage - so let's talk. Email your relationship questions to my attention: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com).

## Question from: "In love, but lonely in paradise"

Dear Betty:

I recently moved to the island for many of the same reasons most people want to live in paradise. As luck would have it, I met someone, and we fell in love right away. There's not only chemistry, we share many of the same interests. It's a perfect match. The problem is he doesn't live on the island, so his visits are limited to a few months during the year. When he's away, we communicate almost every day on the computer. He has plans to retire here someday, but I want him here now. I miss him a lot when he's gone, and I get really lonely sometimes. I don't know how much longer I can take this. Any suggestions?

**ANSWER:** I'm loaded with suggestions, but the one that immediately popped up is for you to not fall in love so quickly. It may save you some heartache after the "lust" fades, and believe me, lust was made to fade, a lot like your blue jeans after six months of machine washing. Lust isn't reality-tough, so it can't endure. What you're facing now is REALITY. You live on the island; he doesn't. I've long since learned, absence makes the heart grow farther.

If what you feel for each other is real, it will grow into love over time, specifically time spent together. True love remains after the lust fades, so instead of having hot passionate sex like you maybe had when you were lusty after each other in the beginning, you grow into "making love" which is lasting, even though sex may not occur as frequently. Excuse me while I re-read what I just wrote, perhaps falling in love should be your last resort.

If you are truly in love with him, and he feels the same about you, but his job opportunities prevent him from moving to the island, one option to consider is for you to leave the island and live with him on a trial basis. Otherwise, prepare yourself for the "out of sight, out of mind" syndrome because it's probably coming. It's only a matter of time.

Betty Wills

### Joke of the day:



### Love, Lust & Marriage

Love: When you take a bubble bath together  
Lust: When you take a bath in Jello together  
Marriage: When you give the kids a bath

Love: A romantic candle-lit dinner for two  
Lust: "Do I have to buy you dinner first?"  
Marriage: 4 Happy Meals . . . to go

Love: Giving your love some candy  
Lust: Thinking you are the candy  
Marriage: Scraping candy off of the carpet

Love: A night out at the symphony  
Lust: A night out at the Ramada Inn  
Marriage: A night out at Sesame Street on Ice.

Love: Aroma -- French perfume  
Lust: Aroma -- Brut aftershave  
Marriage: Aroma -- "The baby needs changing. . ."

Love: Lending your jacket to your love when he/she is cold  
Lust: "I can think of a way to stay warm . . ."  
Marriage: Your teenager just took your jacket.

Love: Long drives through the countryside  
Lust: Long parking sessions at Lover's Lookout  
Marriage: Long drives with the kids screaming in the backseat. Betty Wills

High quality Universal® printer/copy PAPER- Large format 11" x 17" (279mm x 432mm). Two cases of 2500 sheets. White (84 brightness) 20 lb. grain long NAf60 per case., two for NAf100. Call 786-6125 or 717-8988.

Dive tanks - 80 cu ft. aluminum. NAf125 Call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm

For Sale - Woman's shorty ScubaPro wet suit with long sleeves. Worn twice. Black with magenta trim. Size 13-14. NAf70 (\$40). Call 717-8988, 786-6518.



### Cars For Sale

BMW 520i - 4-door sedan, 1991, white, excellent condition. Fast, beautiful. A CLASSIC! Call 785-9041



For sale: FIAT BARCHETTA Cabrio, 1997, yellow, with hard-top and windstop. Tel. 786-5591.



Car For Sale: '93 Toyota Starlet, Motor E-2, Wheel size 15, Color Red, NAf4.000. Tel. 717-4636

### Wanted

18" high Dog Kennel. Call 717-6676

Professional American couple looking for temporary rental of a 2-3 bedroom home beginning 1<sup>st</sup> week of January. Furnished or unfurnished ok. Will need approximately 4-6 months. 717-5759 or 780-0959

ESL teacher for evening class, lower intermediate English. Xavier Medical School 717-3966

Captain and Crew needed for sailboat delivery from Miami - Bonaire. All expenses paid. Call Thomas 786-5352

A screen door for a bedroom. Call 786-3117

### Free, Free, Free

Printer cartridge BC-29F 4 color; - Fax cartridge: model PC-201 (2 pieces); - Fax cartridge for Plain Paper Fax: model Pc-101- Last Chance -Call 717-5225 or 701-5225



Porch sale: Saturday, Dec. 2 - 8.30am to 4pm, Kaya Mandolin 2- BEST PORCH SALE IN TOWN



## SURINAM'S BIRTHDAY PARTY · BRASA DEY

**\*Brasa Dey – \*\*Mietie Makandra Celebrates**

*\*Brasa Dey* in the Taki Taki (Sranang Tongo) language means "Give a hug"  
*\*\*Mietie Makandra* means "to meet each other"

The Surinam community in Bonaire put on a rousing party last Saturday, November 25, to celebrate their country's 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of independence. If you missed it, it's a pity because it's one of the most friendly, warm and delicious events on the island. With the aromas of Surinamese food wafting about the Centro di Bario in Nikiboko everyone could mingle and enjoy the ambiance provided by a people who themselves are an amalgam of multiple cultures.

From the early 1900s people came from around the world to Surinam, as always, looking for a better life. They came from Holland, China, Japan, Lebanon. Also joining the native Indians and Creoles were Hindustani, Jewish people and African Creoles. They all assimilated there. "Only the surname can tell about their past," says President of *Mietie Makandra*, Rosita Paiman.

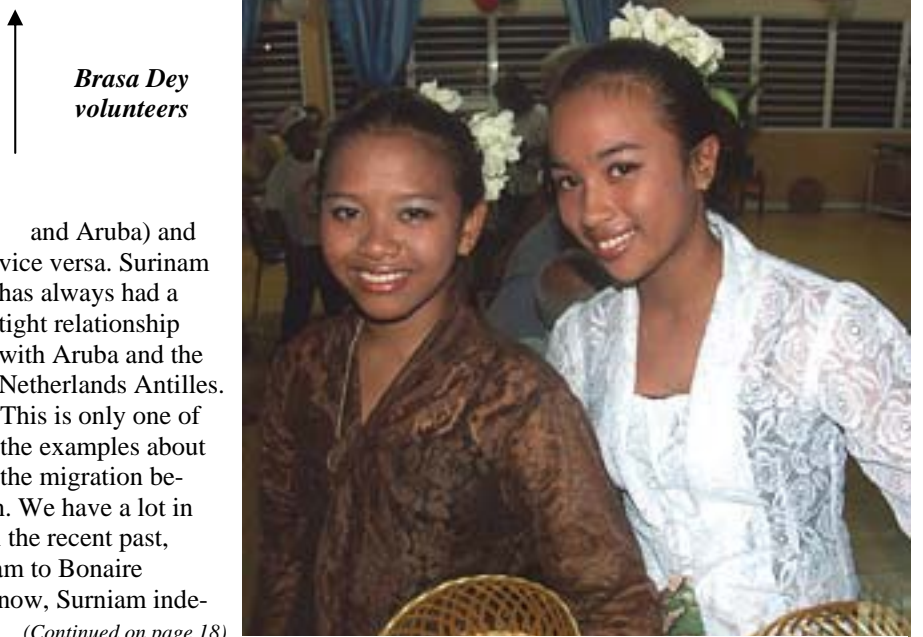
From that time until 1975 Surinam was under the rule of Holland, along with Indonesia and the Netherlands Antilles. Shortly after the Second World War Indonesia became independent, followed by Surinam in 1975.

Paiman continues, "There is a big group of Surinamese living on the islands (of the Netherlands Antilles



**Rosita Paiman- President of Mietie Makandra**

and Aruba) and vice versa. Surinam has always had a tight relationship with Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles. This is only one of the examples about the migration between the islands in the Caribbean. We have a lot in common in culture and history. In the recent past, there was a migration from Surinam to Bonaire (including myself)... As we all know, Surinam inde-



**Brasa Dey volunteers**

(Continued on page 18)

**Lovely dancers**

# Pet of the Week

Here's winsome little "Maxine" who seems to be saying, "Isn't there someone out there looking for the sweetest pet who can adopt me and take me home?" Little Maxie is such a loveable little tabby. And that's pretty amazing since she was found abandoned with her sister "Mavis" (Pet of the Week Nov.3, pictured with the Shelter's Marlis) and her brother "Mario." These three little kittens were found out in the *mondi*, living as wild things, terrified of people. But now they've turned into friendly, alert sweet kittens who love to be held.



"Maxine"

The Good Samaritan who found them couldn't catch their mother, so she's probably still out there, living a hazardous and perilous life and getting pregnant time after time. But her kittens have been given a good chance for a fine life. How lucky for them that they were brought into the Shelter. The three kittens are healthy, have been tested for feline leukemia, given their shots and are totally social little creatures. You may see them at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 717-4989. L.D.

**KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)**  
*Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides*

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
12-01	1:35	1.0FT.	10:02	1.9FT.	18:16	1.0FT.	22:28	1.1FT.	66
12-02	0:43	1.0FT.	10:36	2.0FT.	19:32	0.9FT.	23:56	1.0FT.	76
12-03	11:20	2.1FT.	20:34	0.8FT.					86
12-04	11:59	2.2FT.	21:42	0.7FT.					93
12-05	12:42	2.2FT.	22:35	0.6FT.					97
12-06	13:30	2.1FT.	23:19	0.6FT.					97
12-07	14:12	2.1FT.	23:59	0.6FT.					92
12-08	0:37	0.6FT.	15:00	2.0FT.					85

**Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter**

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## MOVIELAND

### WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

#### Late Show

Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

### The Marine (John Cena)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

### All The King's Men (Sean Penn)

Kaya Prinses Marie

Behind Exito Bakery

Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)

Children under 12 - NAf12

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

November/December:

Open Season

#### THIS WEEK

**Friday, December 1** – Presentation of independent research projects by CIEE (Tropical Marine Ecology and Conservation program) students, Buddy Dive, 2:30 pm

**Friday, December 1** – Great popular band, Travassi, City Café. See Flotsam, page 5

**Friday, December 1** – Live from Curaçao – “Caribbean Latina” - music from Colombia, Rep. Dominicana, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Antilles – Salsa, Merengue, Vallenato, Bachata. At Don Paranda – 7 pm until ? NAf15 P/P

**Saturday, December 2**—Big Monthly Rincon Marshé—Stands selling gifts, food, drinks, plants, produce, local food, snacks and sweet things. 6 am to 2 pm. A true Bonairean experience. Don't miss it!

**Saturday, December 2**—Flea Market and Sale, Parke Publico 3—7 pm.

**Saturday, December 2** - Aquaspeed Windsurfers debut their official DVD, “2<sup>nd</sup> ProKids World Freestyle Championship 2006, held during August 3-6. Movieland, 7 pm. For more information contact Joanny Trinidad, at 717-8322



**Arts and Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days** starting around 10 am to early afternoon: Sunday, Dec. 3 – *Rijndam*; Saturday, Dec. 9 – *Crystal Serenity*; Wednesday, Dec. 13 – *Crown Princess*; Sunday Dec. 17 – *Rijndam*; Tuesday, 1 Dec. 19 – *Sea Princess*; Sunday, Dec. 24 – *Amsterdam*; Wednesday, December 27 – *Crown Princes*, *Silver Shadow*; Thursday, Dec. 29 – *Prinsendam*

**Sunday, December 3** – Benefit concert for Progressive Environmental Solutions (PES), a new foundation concerned with the preservation of Bonaire's natural re-

sources, aboard the *Freewinds*, 7:30 pm. NAf15 in advance at City Café; NAf20 at the door. See Flotsam, page 5

**Sunday, December 3**—Portraits of Bonaire Vol. 2 Debut, Kas di Arte, 5 pm. With portrait exhibition by Henk Roozendaal of portraits from the book. 5—7 pm.

#### COMING

**Sunday, December 10** – Comcabon Fun Run – 2, 4, 5km. 8 am. Info at 780-7225, 717-8629

**Sunday, December 10**—Great fashion show organized by Bonaire Lions Club aboard the *Freewinds*. Tickets NAf25 For info. tel. 785-3902. Show will start at 7.15 pm. Fashions from Benetton, Bamali and Aquamarina; models Top's International Agency Models. Dancing and songs by Jules Andrew and Boy Thode.

#### REGULAR EVENTS

Daily (more or less)

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 5-7 pm, Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar
- HH—Buddy Dive, 5:30-6:30
- HH Cactus Blue (except Sun.) 5-7
- 2 for 1 appetizer with 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.

- By appointment -Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours \$12 (NAf12 for residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.

- Parke Publico children's playground open everyday into the evening hours.

#### 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, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. [www.infobonaire.com/rincon](http://www.infobonaire.com/rincon). Extra big Marshé 1st Saturday of the month, 6 am-2 pm.
- All You Can Eat BBQ at Divi Flamingo with live music, 6 to 9 pm, NAf26,50. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.

- Wine Tasting at AWC's warehouse, 2nd Saturday of the month, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines. NAf20 per person for 6 to 8 wines.

- Flea Market every first Saturday of the month from 3 to 7 pm, Parke Publico. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf5 per selling table. For more information and reservations for a spot, call 787-0466.

#### Sundays

- Live music 6-9 pm while enjoying a great dinner in colorful tropical ambiance at the Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar, Divi Flamingo. Open daily 5-10 pm

#### Mondays

- Caribbean Night - live local music—Buddy Dive.
- Soldachi Tour of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

#### Tuesdays

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

- Caribbean Gas Training free “Beyond Gravity – An Evening with DIR,” 6 pm, Bonaire Dive & Adventure 786-5073.

#### Wednesdays

- Open Mike Night with Moogie, 7-9, Cactus Blue.
- Beach BBQ 7-10 & Live music by Flamingo Rockers -The Windsurf Place at Sorobon –Reserve ahead. Tel. 717-5091, 717-2288
- Live music by Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar 5-6:30.
- Movie Night at Buddy Dive

#### Thursdays

- Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar, 5-7

- “Admiral's Hour” for yachtsmen and others, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7

#### 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

- Swim lessons for children by Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at Sorobon from 13.00, for children 0 – 18.

- 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” slide show-pool bar Buddy Dive, 7 pm, 717-5080

**Sunday** - “Bonaire Holiday” -Multi-media dual-projector production by Albert Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's Habitat. 717-8290

**Monday**—Dee Scarr's “Touch the Sea” Slide Show, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm. Call 717-8290.

**Wednesday** (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) Turtle Conservation (STCB) Slide Show by Bruce Brabec. Carib Inn seaside veranda, 7 pm, 717-8819.

#### 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

#### CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

**Cancer Survivor Support Group** Majestic Journeys Bonaire N.V. Lourdes Shopping Center 2nd Level Kaya LD Gerharts # 10. Call 717-2482/566-6093.

**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 FORMA 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 Zeezicht Restaurant. 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; Valarie@telbonet.an

**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

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire.** Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on Sundays at 10 am.

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian. Services in Papiamentu on Sundays at 8.30 am.

Children's club every Saturday at 5 pm in Kralendijk.

Sunday School every Sunday at 4 pm in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, every Thursday at 8 pm. in Kralendijk.

**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 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332

**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:786-6518 or 786-6125

# 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 Monday - Friday 11 am-3 pm Dinner Monday -Saturday 6-10pm	<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>The Great Escape</b> EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfasts Only	<b>Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof.</b> Breakfast Buffet 7:30-10 am every day Happy hours 5 to 7 daily.
<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
<b>Papagayo</b> Kaya W. Gerharts #4 Across from MCB main branch	Moderate Closed Monday Open 8am-6 pm B'fast, Lunch, Dinner	Famous for breakfasts Lunch -Fresh salads and burgers Dinner—Bistro style Take out too
<b>The Bonaire Windsurfing Place</b> At Sorobon Beach Get away from it all.	Low-Moderate Open from 10am-6 pm daily,	A <b>genuine sandy beach restaurant</b> cooled by the trade winds Top quality food and friendly service. Reserve for the Wednesday Beach BBQ.

# SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



## AIRLINES

**Divi Divi Air.** Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Now flying to Aruba.

## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

**City Shop,** the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. Fast service and in-store financing too.

## 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.

## BUSINESS SERVICES

Get accounting software to manage your payroll at **Cactus Accounting Services—717-6033**

## CALENDAR

**Bonaire Creations new 2007 Calendar** available now at shops around town. It makes a superb holiday gift.

## 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 Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their monthly 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

**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, rapelling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 785-6272 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

**Caribbean Homes,** "the Refreshing Realtor," specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management.

**Harbourtown Real Estate** is Bonaire's most experienced 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 to sell fast.

**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.

**Best Buddies and Pearls**—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Under new management.

**The Touch Skin & Body**—Birkenstock shoes for men and women. New styles

## 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.**

## WATER TAXI

**Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry.** Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup. Easiest landing on Klein

## 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. Shop at Kaya Industria 23, Monday-Saturday 9 am-12 noon.

## 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 ... 1982

## Maricella "Marisela" Croes-Oduber

**"M**y mother is from Cumarebo, Venezuela, and my father was born on Curaçao, but his parents were from Aruba. I was born on Aruba and I went to school there until I was 16, then I went to boarding school in Caracas, Venezuela, where I finished high school. I wanted to stay in Caracas and continue my studies, but the university was on strike, so for the time being I went to Curaçao and took a course to become a medical clinical analyst. I worked in the hospital laboratory as a trainee and I got my diploma, but it turned out that I was allergic to certain chemicals used at the lab. So I decided to work for my father who had a medicine wholesale business on Aruba and Curaçao.

I went to work for him in Curaçao as a sales person. Beside the medicines my dad had other businesses and I traveled a lot to do the marketing for the new products and to give training sessions abroad.

When I met Robby Croes, my husband, on Curaçao I was 19 and he was 17. We were very young indeed! I saw him on Santa Barbara Beach for the first time. We had a lot of fun together and we still do! We dated for a long time, almost eight years. Robby was working for a shipping company and when he was sent to Bonaire in 1980, I followed two years later, in 1982, after we'd gotten married.

It's funny. I've been coming to Bonaire since I was very little, with my dad who had his own plane. He'd fly for his business to the other islands and to Bonaire and he'd take me with him. I'd stay at the Hotel Rochaline with Mrs. Reina. Also Mrs. Welvaart and the people of Botica Bonaire are all people I know from the old days. I used to come here so often and then, many years later, Bonaire became my home. At the time it reminded me a lot of Aruba because in my childhood years Aruba was also very small. We had about 25,000 people, no hotels and no traffic, and you could go everywhere by bicycle.

Well, Robby and I went to live in Hato. Robby was house sitting and when the owner wanted to sell Robby took the opportunity to buy it, and we're still there. I really love that house.

In 1983 our son Robert Jr. was born. That day I was supposed to fly to Aruba at 7 in the morning as I was still working for my father's company, but Robert Jr. was born at 5:30 in the morning on Bonaire!

As well as the job I had with my dad I was also working for Rocargo, a company Robby and I had founded when we got married. Robby continued working for the shipping company and I was doing something completely new on Bonaire with

Rocargo: cargo consolidation. Before that, everything had to go through Curaçao and only the bigger companies could have a container come once a month or once every two months. Now the smaller shops and businesses could also ship some cubic feet. But it wasn't so busy because a container would come to Bonaire only once a month so that's why I kept my job with my father. When I had to go to Aruba or Curaçao I always took the baby with me. My mother in Aruba was delighted to baby sit, and it was the same for Robby's mother in Curaçao! And my son still likes to travel!"

*Marisela Croes-Oduber is a self-made woman. She's vivid, extremely talented, very good with people, and the overall impression you get when you meet her is that she's a very happy person.*

**"At the time it reminded me a lot of Aruba because in my childhood years Aruba was also very small. We had about 25,000 people, no hotels and no traffic, and you could go everywhere by bicycle."**

*"Rocargo started growing," she continues. "We became the agent of FedEx on Bonaire and also more containers were coming to the island, not only from the US but also from Curaçao and Holland. Another thing we did was handle the stevedoring and we were (and still are) also movers. And the number of people coming to the island was increasing, and that meant more work as well. We had to clear the customs documents too, something that was done by hand in those days, which meant that you were busy with a container for two days.*

*At the time the Parker Project, a big project (what is now Plaza Hotel), had started and the island was booming. In 1985 our second son Jonathan was born and from that time on I didn't travel so much anymore. I also have a foster daughter, Carola, who came to live with us when she was seven. She's the daughter of a cousin of mine who died. She's 20*

*years old now and studying International Business in Holland.*

*In 1986 Robby joined me in the business and in 1988 I stopped working for my dad. Our sons were easy children. We worked from our house until 1986, then we moved to Playa and we'd always take them with us as we had to work long and strange hours. They also had each other and they were and still are very close. In 1995 we moved to this place, to Kaya Industria, and we got much more work because we had a warehouse. Also customs came under our roof and now we're online with them, so it's a big difference compared to the old days.*

*In 1999 we got ISO-certified, a system of self quality control which you have to act on constantly. So, you always have to find ways to improve yourself, your staff and the business. In my life I've taken a lot of courses and I grab every opportunity here on the island too. I like it - you have to upgrade yourself continuously.*

*This year I've been three years with the Rotary Club and since last June I'm the president - the first female! It's really fun and they're doing a lot of good things. That's why I like it; it's not just sitting and chatting. You can set up a project together, like the 'Breakfast in School' project. This is the third year the Rotary has been doing it. We do the coordination and raise the funds and Eddie's Gourmandise prepares everything every morning for every school. Now we have 150 children at the elementary schools and as of this month we're also taking care of the coordination and funds to provide breakfasts for 70 children at SGB. Sara Matera, our treasurer, applied for the finances from USONA (development aid and fight against poverty), so now we have a financial guarantee for this year. Before, and after this year, we've gotten and will get the money through fundraisings and donations. It's a constant project and almost every country in Europe and the US has a 'Breakfast in School' project.*

*I don't have much time left for other things. I really love to read, but it seems like I only have time to read when I'm on a plane. I also love art and when I'm somewhere I visit all the museums and*



Maricella "Marisela" Croes-Oduber

*the galleries. But we do have some very good artists here and on Curaçao as well. And when I travel and there's a play or a concert I think I'd like, I go and see it. But most of the time I am always here, at Rocargo!*

*At home, I get up early and answer all the overnight e-mails, then I come here at 9 am and stay till 7:30 pm, but sometimes it gets later - the children are no longer waiting for us.*

*Our sons went to school on Bonaire until they were 17 and 15, then they left for Holland, to a boarding school in The Hague. It was a big step, especially when the language is concerned because even when you think you speak Dutch here, it's something different once you're there. This month they've been six years in Holland. Robby Jr. has one more year to go. He's studying higher professional education business economics and IT, and Jonathan is doing management and transport. The plan is that they're coming back; they both want to very much. We never talked them into it, but it is a very interesting business and never boring and we're happy they see it the same way.*

*The first of November I turned 51, so I am 50+ now! My life is good; my work is very interesting, I've got very good people, a great husband and great kids and I love it here! We work very hard, but after that it's quality time. A couple of years ago Robby started with Rocargo on Curaçao and he told me it would be better for the business to go and live there (his brother is doing the management now), but then I said: 'I'll fly every morning to Curaçao but every night I'll fly back to Bonaire.' That's how much I love Bonaire!"*



Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

## Parrot Books Given to New National Park Library

Rosemary Low, a highly regarded author in the parrot world, has donated two of her parrot keeping books to the people of Bonaire. The books were given to Sam Williams who along with fellow parrot researcher, Rowan Martin, brought the books from England to Bonaire and donated them to STINAPA Bonaire. The books will soon be available to the public in the new National Park Library.

After visiting the island in 1980 Rosemary said she "fell in love with *barbadensis*" (the Lora's Latin name) and she has been a big fan of Bonaire's wild parrots ever since. Rosemary works closely with the World Parrot Trust which supports Sam and Rowan's work. Following Sam's involvement with the pet parrot campaign in 2003 she offered to donate



*Sam Williams and Rowan Martin present ranger Nestor Janga with two parrot books for the Washington Slagbaai National Park Library*

the (Surinam Day. Continued from page 13)

pendence involved a lot of changes and was not an easy process. Luckily now, Surinam is doing very well in different areas. With pride and with a lot of pleasure we celebrate the remembrance of the independence of Suriname...31 years ago.

The foundation of Surinamese in Bonaire, *Mietie Makandra*, wants to congratulate the Republic of Suriname and emphasize the warm relationship with this beautiful island. Suriname has become independent, but at the same time our relationship with the islands has become tighter than ever."

Thank you to this group who shares its culture, its gastronomy, its music, its dance and its warm hospitality with all of us. L.D.



*Author Rosemary Low*

books so Bonairean parrot owners could learn more about their parrots' requirements.

It is hoped the books, titled *The Loving Care of Pet Parrots* and *Parrot Breeding*, are likely to interest many caring Lora owners. STINAPA Bonaire has received financial support from **Prins Bernhard Cultuurfunds and MINA/VOMIL** to help establish the soon-to-be-opened library at the Washington Slagbaai National Park Visitor Center. *Sam Williams*



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

Mark The Second Week Of December As Super Planet Meeting of 2006!

**B**elieve me when I say that if you don't go out and planet gaze during the second week of this December, from the 7<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>, you will miss the best planet meeting of the entire year. Indeed three planets, **Mars, Mercury and Jupiter**, will have a one-week meeting that will blow you away. They will easily be seen with just the naked eye. But if



The "new" lineup of planets, without Pluto, including the position on the asteroid belt marked by Ceres, one of the largest asteroids.

you have a pair of binoculars you can watch a seven-day show you'll never forget.

On day number one of this week-long event, Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup>, close to dawn around 40 minutes before sunrise, face between east and southeast. And even though there'll be a little bit of twilight you'll see three objects quite close together just above the horizon, so make sure you've got a clear, unobstructed horizon. The closest to the horizon and the brightest will be the king of the planets, 88,000-mile-wide Jupiter. Just above it will be the rouge-gold planet, much dimmer 4,000-mile-wide Mars. And directly above and brighter than Mars is 3,000-mile-wide Mercury. And if you have a pair of binoculars please use them.

You see, for one week starting on the 7<sup>th</sup> these three planets will be super close but will constantly change their position from day to day. For the entire week they will all fit within the field of view of a pair of binoculars. Or as we say, they will all fit within a five degree circle, which is a circle only 10 full **Moons** wide. But on two of these days these three planets will be so close they'll knock your socks off. On Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> they're even closer. And on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, they will fit inside a circle only 1-1/2 degrees wide. So close together, a circle only three full Moon widths wide could contain them. But the closest morning of all will be Sunday morning, December 10<sup>th</sup>, when they'll fit within a circle little more than one degree or two full Moon widths wide.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> they're still extremely close and then they'll start to pull apart on Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, a little less close on Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, is the last really good day to see this triple pairing.

But if you're going to choose two days only I recommend Sunday morning, December 10<sup>th</sup>, when they'll be at their absolute closest, and Monday morning, the day of their second closest meeting. Use binoculars for an even better show! And remember that even though these planets will all appear very close from the 7<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>, it's really all an optical illusion. Indeed they are each at incredibly different distances from our **Earth**. The closest, Mercury will be approximately 120 million miles away. Mars will be 230 million miles away, and Mercury a whopping 600 million miles from Earth!

So mark the second week of December 2006 as the most planet fun week of the entire year and get yourself outside as many mornings as you can. Let the planet show begin. *Jack Horkheimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, November 26 to Saturday, December 2, 2006

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You are best to put in some overtime rather than get involved in family gatherings. Rely on the one you love for support and affection. You may have the day off but your thoughts will be on your work and your cash situation. Educational pursuits should help you develop your hobbies. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You will be a bit of a spendthrift this week. Don't let children or elders put demands on your time. You should be able to make major career gains if you plan your intentions carefully. Partnerships will be favorable and contracts can be signed. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Try to be tolerant of the moods of those around you. Be inquisitive about unfamiliar circumstances. Unpredictable events will disrupt your routine. You mustn't take on other people's responsibilities or you may find yourself irritable and exhausted. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Hobbies will be good for your emotional well being. Risky financial ventures will result in unrecoverable losses. Don't let yourself get run-down. Risky ventures may turn in your favor. Your lucky day this week is Tuesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You may find yourself in a heated dispute with a friend if you try to change your mind. Your energy will be high; however, if not channeled suitably, temper tantrums may erupt. Direct your energy wisely. Travel could be in order. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You may think gifts will win their heart, but it could add stress from lack of funds. Your ideas may be a little ahead of their time; don't push them, instead just continue working on development. You need to be inspired and have your spirits lifted. Try not to hesitate; act on your initial instincts. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You need adventure and excitement in your life. Your passionate mood will be well received by your mate. Only offer to do the things you have time for. Luxury items will cost you more than you can truly afford. Try not to lend or borrow money this week. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Romantic opportunities will flourish through travel or communication. Entertainment could cost you more than you expect. Your creative ideas will be put to good use if you dig in and do things around the house that will make your family happy. Travel opportunities must be taken advantage of. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You will reap the benefits if you put money into upgrading your residence. If you're feeling uncertain, spend some time alone and re-evaluate your motives as well as your needs. Keep your thoughts and opinions to yourself and you won't get dragged into an unsavory debate. You will find good buys and you will lift your spirits. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Be creative in your pursuits. Build on friendship rather than starting out in an intimate encounter. Join a choir or a drama club. You may be considering moving to larger quarters. You may have the day off but your thoughts will be on your work and your cash situation. Your lucky day this week is Sunday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't be too pushy or demanding, or you may find yourself all alone. You can accomplish a lot if you put some effort into household duties or redecorating plans. You can get phenomenal returns if you present your ideas to those who can back your interests. Your trendy style and unique way of doing things will entice new acquaintances. Your lucky day this week is Friday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Try to spend some time on your own. Find out all you can; secret enemies may lead you astray. Your obviously unique way of doing things has caught the eye of someone in a higher position. Speak of your future goals, intentions, and commitments. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

## DO YOU SUDOKU? ANSWER

And the solution is:

(puzzle and directions on page 12)

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