

**It's  
still  
Free!**

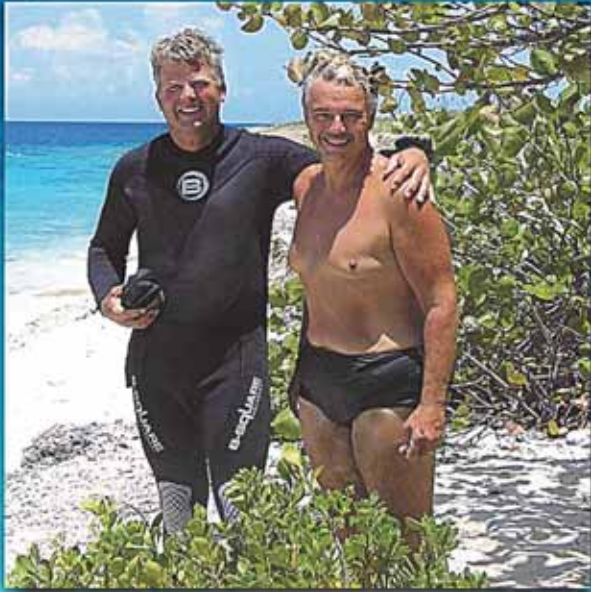
**BONAIRE**

June 1 - 8, 2007 Volume 14, Issue 22

# The REPORTER

PO Box 407, Kralendijk, Bonaire - Email: Reporter@bonairenews.com - (599) 786-6125/6518

SINCE 1994



***Dive Daily -  
Live Longer?***

Photos by Albert Bianculli





**B**onaire has lots of new and upgraded webcams. The new Bonaire Pier ReefCam is under the pier at Bonaire's Eden Beach Resort in only about 1.6 meters/5 feet of water, while the original ReefCam has been remounted and upgraded and now shows views across the hull of the *Baka di Laman*, a sunken boat located approximately 19 meters/60 feet deep and renamed the Bonaire Wreck ReefCam. Additionally, the three land-based Bonaire WebCams located at the Eden Beach Resort have also been upgraded. They join three other land-based WebCams on Bonaire: the **DonkeyCam**, the **WindsurfCam**, and the **DowntownCam**. Go to <http://www.BonaireWebCams.com> to view.

And on Bonaire, the parrots have a **Nestcam**. Sponsors of the <http://www.Parrotwatch.com> website can see Bonaire's endangered Amazon parrot, the Lora, in its nest. Go to the website to view and join. It's ridiculously inexpensive so go for an upgraded membership. And finally for some crisp out-

door Bonaire views go to the **Breathe IT** website at <http://bwww.reathebonaire.com>. They offer a system that can allow almost anyone with a little money and an Internet connection to operate their own webcam.

► Dutch Finance Minister Wouter Bos has **allocated 410 million Euros, almost a billion guilders, for the first part of the debt restructuring of the Antilles**. The item is included in the draft-interim budget report that must be submitted to the Lower House before June 1st.

► The Antillean Council of Ministers at the request of Telecommunications Minister Omayra Leeftang decided to put a **moratorium on issuance of new radio and television broadcasting licenses until a media law is enacted**. There are 50 radio stations in the Netherlands Antilles, 28 operating in Curaçao.

The Minister said she has been receiving complaints that the enormous number of radio and television stations in the Antilles has saturated the market making it very difficult for all of them to survive.

► **The Antillean Co-Financing Office, AMFO, will host a session on Friday, June 1 for non-governmental organizations, NGOs, operating in Bonaire**. During these sessions AMFO representatives will explain the differ-

ences between the old organizational structure and the new one and will discuss the new procedures and rules to apply for funding. The session will be at the Amboina Sentro di Barrio beginning at 4 pm. Currently AMFO says it is putting the finishing touches on its reorganization before it starts to provide poverty and other social assistance. A first step is to update the NGOs, they say.

► **There is a big chance cafés will become non-smoking areas in the Dutch Antilles**. Public Health Minister Ersilia Lannooy has signed a proclamation to prohibit smoking in all public places, including hotels, restaurants and bars.



► **Bonaire will continue to play an important part as a technical stop for the KLM flights to South America**, said KLM CEO Peter Hartman to [Luchtvaartnieuws.nl](http://Luchtvaartnieuws.nl). A study is underway to consider three new routes to the Americas, using Bonaire as a refueling stop. According to Hartman there was an agreement several years ago that KLM planes would land at Flamingo Airport three times a day for three years. "We've already been flying to Flamingo Airport for four years," Hartman said. Bonaire spent millions to

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lengthen the runway and the apron improved the facilities at the airport especially for the arrival of the KLM MD-

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# Open House at LVV



*LVV Head Rocky Emers shows how to feed your animals with local plants*

Last Saturday, LVV, the government's agricultural department, together with Kriabon, the farmers' cooperative, held an open house for anyone interested in farm life and growing things. Kunukeros (farmers) and wanna' be kunukeros came to be informed on planting crops, livestock and their care.

Farming has always been a challenge on Bonaire with its poor soil, high salt laden winds and scant rain. LVV throughout the years has been a teaching agency, coming up with new concepts to help the farmer, for example, how to build inexpensive types of shade houses, practical ways to enrich the soil, what natural plant foods to feed your livestock, what kinds of animals to raise, pesticides, etc. They've had ad-

vice from the US Department of Agriculture who have sent down samples of plant seeds that can take the rough growing conditions and they've tried them out.

They've experimented with different types of animals for meat and for milk.

They've learned that cows are not practical on the island as they easily become sick. However, goats and sheep thrive, and LVV now has a breed-



*Bonaire policeman Junior Delanooy addressed the visitors*

ing program for black bellied and dorpar sheep as well as boar goats, all known for their meat.

LVV and Kriabon's aim is to stimulate the people to cultivate a garden themselves, to try new ways of growing things. "Right now," says Kriabon head, Sidney Manuel, "farming is a very expensive hobby, but we want to encourage people to try new ways so it can be profitable." At the moment cultivating is done only just before the rainy season, but they're looking for ways, and machinery, that make it possible to cultivate all year round. Manuel has travelled to Holland where farming is "very modern" and to Venezuela where conditions can be much the same as here but where they are very successful with their crops and animals. Consultants from Ecuador will be coming soon to share their ideas. Livestock theft is a big problem on the island. We know of many kunukeros who've been forced to give up raising goats or sheep because of having so many stolen. A representative of the Police Department explained how a new division will actively deal with animal theft. The Governor has ordered the police to re-emphasize solving crimes against kunukeros. Guests at the open house were treated to a hot and delicious goat soup and cold drinks. Thanks to LVV head Rocky Emers, Anthony Emerenciana and Sidney Manuel for an educative and kunuku experience. □L.D.



*Anthony Emerenciana demonstrates putting IDs on goat's ears*



*Some of the four-legged residents of LVV*



*Three big guys - at stud. Boar goat with huge horns, Dorpar sheep*



(Flotsam & Jetsam Continued from page 2)

11. The airport's handling of the KLM flights were among the most efficient in the world according to KLM internal reports. "We are very happy with Bonaire," Hartman said. "The attitude on the island is good, better than on Curaçao. That the Bonaire population wants to become part of Holland says enough." KLM currently uses the Bonaire airport on the Guayaquil and Quito route to refuel. Bonaire also shares an MD-11 flight with Aruba.

► **Compared to 2005, 1.6% more people visited Bonaire in 2006, an increase from 62,550 to 63,552 visitors, according to TCB figures.** Increases in most markets were just able to offset the 6.2% drop of European travellers. A drop in Dutch visitors of 6.9% was the main contributing factor. In 2006 the US market enjoyed a 5.6% year-over-year growth as compared to 2005 and North America (US and Canada combined) achieved a growth of 6.7%. Major influence of this increase was additional airlift.

► With just a few days before the official start of the 2007 Atlantic Hurricane season **the tropical wave train over Africa has begun to run.** The second tropical wave, which formed Sunday, is moving west and will approach the Caribbean later this week. Much of the shower activity associated with the wave has diminished. It is over cool waters and unlikely to develop into a storm. At this time of year, storms tend to form in the Gulf of Mexico or the northern Caribbean due to the warmer waters. Another area worth watching is a low pressure system which

formed over the south-western Caribbean Sea. Bonaire is usually immune to direct hurricane hits.

► **Bonaire's waters are crabby.** Untold millions of tiny crabs were everywhere along the reef this week. This concentration of oceanic plankton is a familiar but irregular event, some locals say every seven years. Divers can expect to see a significant increase in plankton predators like whale sharks in the days to come before the crabs move on to deeper waters.



*City Café's Huub deGroot shows the 10-year Anniversary Activity Program to Elsmarie and her mom, two members of the Beukenboom family who are the owners of the City Café-Hotel Rocheline building owners. (City Café photo)*

► **Get ready for City Café's Big 10-Day Celebration** to commemorate their 10 year anniversary. It starts Friday, June 1, with free cake, live entertainment and continues with the Jong Bonaire Triathlon, free lunch for elders, more live enter-

tainment, a jump up and a jump off, a big outdoor market, receptions and more and more. Check out the schedule on page 9.

► **Jong Bonaire, in cooperation with City Café (as part of their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 10 Days of Events), will hold its 5<sup>th</sup> annual "Jong Bonaire Mini Fun Triathlon" fundraiser** this weekend. The Mini Fun Triathlon consists of three different sport activities and is open to all ages for swimming, running and biking. The entry fee is NAf25 per person or NAf55 per team. Each participant gets a meal, juice, fruit and a T-shirt. Tickets are available at

Jong Bonaire, City Café, Bon-Fysio and De Freewieler. All Bonaire is invited to take part in this activity.



► A good friend of Bonaire, Nancy Wiatt, took back two full bags of old batteries that the Carib Inn collects so Bonaire's landfill does not get more poison. **Anyone who has a little room in their luggage can take back a handful of batteries to the US or anyplace that has recycling.** Please help Bonaire! (Carib Inn release)



*Claire Sealy with JCI World President Scott Greenlee JCI Photo*

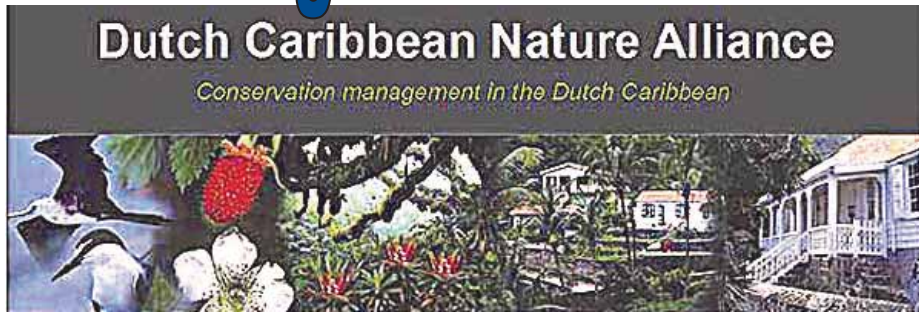
► **This year 15 JCI members from Bonaire, Curacao, Aruba and St. Maarten attended the JCI Conference of the Americas held in Asuncion, Paraguay.** And they left with some significant awards. Prizes included winnings of the World Debating Competition, winning of 1<sup>st</sup> Timer Competition and a 2nd prize in the World Speech Competition.

President Claire Sealy of the JCI Bonaire would like to express a BIG thank you to the following organizations for the cooperation received that made her trip to Paraguay possible: Captain Don's Habitat, MCB Bank, Littman's Jewelers, Rocargo N.V., Center Body Car Polo, Bonaire Access and her colleagues at Captain Don's Habitat.

► World Ocean Day is celebrated across the globe on June 8<sup>th</sup>, and **Dive Friends Bonaire is announcing an event on Bonaire to assist divers with the awareness and importance of the world's oceans.** Any divers who are on

(Continued on page 7)

# Promising Future For DCNA



The future of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance seems very promising, according to Lee van Driel, financial management expert and vice president of DCNA, after the three-day board meeting held last week. The meeting was mainly to provide information about the project to some very important overseas partners who have been visiting Bonaire. One of them was Frans Kerkoff, representative of Queen Beatrix. The meeting was to demonstrate what the future plans are for the foundation and to show the visitors where the money will be spent and how it will be collected.

DCNA, set up in February 2005, is a foundation representing the park management organizations on each of the six islands of the Dutch Caribbean. According to its head, Kalli DeMeyer, "Its mission is to protect the biodiversity of the islands whilst promoting the sustainable management of the islands' natural resources by working with the island management organizations."

"The plan," Van Driel said, "is to create a 10-year fund plan that will create 25 million Euros by 2016. The interest from this money will go to all nature parks and will probably provide enough money for the basic needs for the biodiversity and conservation of nature in the Dutch Caribbean."

In an unexpected move last December Queen Beatrix, decided to become a patron of DCNA. Because the Queen has become a patron, it helped the foundation a lot. Van Driel explained, "The support of Queen Beatrix is exceptional; she doesn't do this very often. Because of her support we are immediately added to the world chart. She has a fondness for the Antilles and is very involved in the protection of the environment. Her support means that our foundation is in order and of course that makes fundraising a lot easier."

Van Driel thinks it's very important that DCNA exists. "The Dutch Caribbean is a hotspot for biodiversity, especially in the marine parks. On these islands there can be a lot of research done, for instance on turtles and birds. And our foundation will help to map the entire animal population on the islands. By having an alliance between all the islands, it will be a lot easier to work together. All the islands are represented."

The board meeting held last week consisted of field trips to Washington Slagbaai and Klein Bonaire to show the visitors why the money is crucial for preserving the environment in Bonaire. The rest of the meeting was about financial plans, their strategies and budgeting.

"Kalli De Meyer, executive director of DCNA," said Van Driel, has put a tremendous amount of energy into setting up the organization in a professional way. The main question asked was how are we going to finance the trust fund? We try to do this by convincing governments to help us and we even applied for funding from the National Postcode Lottery in Holland. We are still waiting for their approval. Their conditions are though, that a foundation has to exist at least three years. So we'll have to wait another year for their approval."

"Another good thing about our organization is that we can't be involved in the management of national parks and marine parks. In other words, we don't have any control over them. But the management of the parks does have control over the foundation, simply because all the park managers have a seat on the governing board."

Van Driel thinks the outcome of the meeting was extremely positive. "The Queen's representative said he will help us with lobbying to get the money we need for the trust fund and also the other overseas partners will probably keep supporting us with our work."

The next Board Meeting will be held in November on Aruba, to discuss the foundation's progress. □ *David Radomisli*

# Coral Glimpses

*This photo was taken from just above the water line on the seaside of the concrete pier off where Dr. Welvaart's office used to be. In the center, almost completely out of the water, is a brain coral head about 6" across! I've never seen a living stony coral formation so exposed to air for so long.*



*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.*





# Ask Olivia



Dear Olivia,  
It has been so interesting to see you on Parrotwatch and we really love it. My wife and I were wondering how many eggs you lay each year and whether you

lay them all on the same day? The other thing we'd like to ask is do you breed more than once a year?

*Lars Gundersen, Kralendijk.*

Dear Lars,

Thank you so much for your nice words and your interesting questions. This year, I personally have laid four eggs and I think that will be quite enough! Lady Loras prefer to lay between three and four eggs. Five are possible, but it can be a bit of a strain.

Our breeding season usually begins in April but it depends on the weather. This year has been rather dry so we are all running behind schedule by a couple of weeks and some have only just started. We manage to lay one egg every two days as its rather hard work for a small parrot and we have to eat lots during this time to keep our strength up.

It's a lot of work trying to raise four youngsters, as you may know if you have children yourself, Lars, so we only manage once a year. I hope I have answered your questions. Keep watching and stay in touch.

Yours,  
Olivia Parrot

*If you have a question for Olivia please direct it to [olivia@parrotwatch.org](mailto:olivia@parrotwatch.org)*

# Parrot Watch



**I**t's been another busy week for the parrot team. We've found some more nests, which is always good news for an endangered species. These are in the hills in the far north of island, so we are really covering all the *mondi* from Kralendijk (Playa) to Malmok now! Despite the fact eggs continue to appear in new nests, two of the parrotwatch pairs still haven't got

started and may not breed this year. That will make it interesting, as we'll have to try and follow another couple of nests on parrotwatch.

Olivia, our reliable superstar, is doing well, and Oswald has been the ever-attentive husband. We think she has finished laying eggs as she is currently sitting on four. So now there will be a window of calm at overhang. The eggs are incubated for 28 days before the chicks (hopefully) hatch out. At first the chicks are tiny and totally dependent on their mother for warmth and food. This is something to look forward to as they grow so quickly during this period.

In case you haven't already realized, Olivia is an incredible parrot! This week she asked if she could become the star of parrotwatch and of course we had to say yes. So as well as attending to her home and family she has been occupying herself will all manner of things.

She already has put together a [myspace.com](http://myspace.com) and a [facebook.com](http://facebook.com) profile (**search for Olivia Parrot**). A preview movie from her overhang nest last year is now on [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) too. If she continues like this she may one day be in a celebrity magazine! While Olivia is clearly aiming high she hasn't forgotten her roots and as of this week she will be starting a questions and answers article right here in *The Bonaire Reporter!*

Don't forget: you can see all Olivia's movies and at the same time support Olivia and the other Loras by checking out [www.parrotwatch.org](http://www.parrotwatch.org)

If you have an eco-conscious business, the parrot team can provide great advertising in return for sponsorship of the parrotwatch website, their T-shirts, *Reporter* articles and even a radio show!

□ *Sam Williams*



(Flotsam & Jetsam Continued from page 4)  
 the island on June 8<sup>th</sup> are invited to join Dive Friends Bonaire for a free Buoyancy Clinic in the afternoon starting at 1:30 pm at their Dive Friends Yellow Submarine facility on the ocean promenade in Kralendijk. The clinic will begin with a talk by manager Gerrie about how divers can contribute to the ocean's health, followed by an in-water workshop on how all participants can improve their buoyancy in the water to help from touching reefs.

Following the workshop, a social happy hour with free rum punch will be available to all the clinic's participants to end the day's events. For more information or to register for the clinic, email [info@dive-friends-bonaire.com](mailto:info@dive-friends-bonaire.com). For additional information about diving on Bonaire, visit their web site at <http://www.dive-friends-bonaire.com>.

► **Last Saturday eight students from Peter Silberie's BonKarate class participated in the Antilles/Curacao karate competition, NAKB i CuKarBo.** They brought home three medals: Jeuri Gonzalez and Kia-San Silberie, a silver each, and Wintley Raven, a bronze. Congratulations!

► **Bonaire's talented culinary and bartender team have been practicing and refining their final menu,** preparing for the Taste of the Caribbean Culinary Olympics on June 17, 18 and 19 in Miami. They'll be competing against 13 other top teams from islands all over the Caribbean. Although the team has a menu it is a tentative one as they must prepare a three-course meal from a



**Bartender Jane Coffie with her competition cocktails**

"mystery basket" of ingredients in an allotted amount of time. The public has an opportunity to support the team and also give their input at the two final dinners: **Sunday, June 3 and Sunday, June 10.** Only 30 seats are available so book now. It starts at 7 pm at the SGB high school Chez Nous Restaurant. The donation is only NAf50 (\$29) and it includes competition cocktails, the three course meal, and plenty of wine. For tickets call Margreth Kloos at 717-2897 or email [mar-greth@bonaireyellowsubmarine.com](mailto:mar-greth@bonaireyellowsubmarine.com)

► **Think you are a big eater? Then take the Big Lion Challenge** this Saturday. The Lion's Den, on the waterfront at Buddy Dive, started a new promo called "The Big Lion Challenge." You get to eat a chargrilled **one pound burger** (with cheese if desired) served on a soft jumbo bun with lettuce, tomato, onion and pickles. Included are hefty portions of fries and slaw. Eat it all yourself and receive a Lions Den Base-

(Continued on page 13)

## BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The 14th of a *series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brower, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."*

**T**hirteen yellow and red Willys jeeps are on the island! At the beginning of 2007 some members of the well known Bonairean Misier/Karam family shipped 13 Colombian-made Willys jeeps from Aruba to Bonaire. The Jeeps were transported on deck by the Don Andres. They had all been sprayed red or yellow, which resulted in a view full of color in the harbor of Bonaire. During some months the Willys Jeeps were slightly modified and thoroughly maintained. Now they are ready to hit the road, doing a good job for the Top Drive Car Rental.



**A yellow "Willys" Jeep CJ-3B, built in 2000, with the looks of a 1953 model, parked at Flamingo Airport**

(Picture: J@n Brower)

At that time of their arrival we were in St. Kitts for a holiday. I was surprised by the green Land Rover pickup from the sugar cane factory. The car seemed to be everywhere. Then I found out the factory owned dozens of more or less similar Land Rovers, driving on the paved and unpaved roads. The same thing happened on Bonaire. I followed a yellow Willys. I had never seen that classic before. Behind the steering wheel was Leo Laurens who told me about the Jeep. They were preparing the cars for renting. And now there are red and yellow Willys all over the place!

According *The Jeep Bible* it all started with the immortal "flat fender" in 1941. The 88" wheelbase car was fitted with a rural chassis, an old L-head four banger engine, a three-speed transmission, four-wheel drive, a split windshield and an ax and a shovel. The World War II model was made until the end of 1945, at which time the production swung over to the CJ-2A. Differences? Not a bunch. (C stands for "civilian.") In 1953 The Willys CJ-3B was introduced; you can't miss with its 4.5 inch lifted hood.

The Colombian-made Willys are still inspired by the 1952 model, fitted with an all-American Hercules engine. The cast iron straight four measures 2.7 liters and is attached to a sturdy four -peed gearbox. Four high, four low, two-wheel drive, four-wheel drive. Impressive rims and rubbers. The cars were manufactured in 2000. The leaf-sprung chassis and the body are Colombian made. The rental company also has a special fleet of 13 Willys CJ -3B's, all painted red or yellow. The look of the front of the high hooded Jeep is impressive, especially seen from your rear view mirror! The vinyl topped cars are open so it is easy to get an impression of the interior of this very spacious car. I wanna ride! I hope my blue Land Rover can cope with my one-day stand with a red or yellow CJ-3B! □ J@n Brower

# "Adrift"

## Exhibition by Wilna Groenenboom



Wilna Groenenboom photos



**A**rtist-writer-photographer-teacher, Wilna Groenenboom, will have an exhibition – "Adrift" - of her tables, frames and sculptures on Saturday, June 9 starting at 5 pm. Wilna, well known for her series, "Antique Living Houses of Bonaire," featured in *The Bonaire Reporter*, is also a craftsperson who can turn "found" objects into works of art, not just rough and rustic things that look like they were picked up on the beach and slapped together. These pieces are elegant, sometimes whimsical but all beautifully crafted. Don't miss this exhibition. It's a one-time only event as Wilna returns to Holland next month.

The exposition is in Nikiboko at her traditional Bonaire home on Kaya Macario St. Jago 39. For more information call 717-6832 or 700-2378. □ L.D.



# WASHINGTON SLAGBAAI NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATES

Parke Washington



**STINAPA** 3 DI YÜNI  
Dia habri Parke Nashonal Washington Slagbaai

PROGRAMA  
WASHINGTON SLAGBAAI NATIONAL PARK

**PROGRAMA**  
Tur Aktividatnan ta kuminsá 8.00 bou di guia di Rangernan

- "Lagadishi Walking Trail" (tempu estimá 2 ora)
- "Kasikunda Climbing Trail (tempu estimá 1 ora)
- Subi Brandaris (tempu estimá 2 ora)
- Korementu di 'mountainbike' (35 km)
- Landa na Slagbaai. Transporte ta sali 9:30, 11:30 i 1:30

**BAR I KUSHINA BON SURTI**  
E bar lo ta organisá pa 'Stichting Kunst en Kultuur'.

**MUSIKA**  
Lo tin presentashon di Grupo Tutti Frutti, grupo di baile afro karibense Shekinahl, Grupo SEBARI i Proyecto 2000.  
Tambe lo tin Bon Kuné

**MUSEO TA HABRI DI 8'OR PA 5'OR**

**TUR KOS TA GRATIS**  
Entrada pa tur outo. (Kamindanan ta den un estado sublime.) Tambe tur aktividat. Probechá!!

**FECHA:** Djadumingu 3 di yüni  
**LUGA:** Parke Nashonal Washington Slagbaai  
**ORA:** 8'or di mainta pa 5 'or di atardi

**NOTA: No ta permiti mucha sin adulto.**

STINAPA Bonaire Tel: 717-8444/4163 • Fax: 717-7318  
E-mail: info@stinapa.org • www.stinapa.org

To commemorate Washington Park's conversion from a plantation to a national park we will have an Annual Day of Festivities.

A day filled with activities will be organized in the Park this Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. As early as eight o' clock in the morning we will start with guided activities. We will do the Kasikunda climbing trail to climb the 270-foot Kasikunda hill and continue on to the Lagadishi walking trail or the 784-foot Brandaris. One can also form a group and go mountain biking (bring your own bike). If these activities sound too exhausting there will be activities of lesser physical impact like strolling along the Lagadishi walking trail or a taking a guided tour through the Museum. All excursions will have a guide.

All of the roads of the Park have received a face lift so you don't need to worry about doing any damage to your car. It will be an open house and the entrance is free for all cars, visitors and all activities. There will be local food. The bar will be organized by the foundation, *Kunst en Kultuur* (art and culture), and all the proceeds will be used to contribute to their activities.

There will be live music from Grupo Tuti Fruti, Grupo SEBARI, the group of Afro-Caribbean dance Shekinahl and DJ proyekto 2000. All children need to be accompanied by an adult to participate in the activities. □

*Elsmarie Beukenboom, STINAPA*



*Get a fresh fruit drink at Washington Park*



# Pets of the Week

Sister and brother, "Rebecca" and "Rudy," came into the Bonaire Animal Shelter with their mom and two siblings, "Roxanne" and "Ronnie." They're still too young to leave their mom right now, but they'll be ready to go out on their own by mid June. But of course, someone can put a "reserve" on them and take them home later. These are four beautiful pups, and to judge by their mother they'll be sweet, mellow, quiet and self assured. They'll be medium sized dogs and all four have short, easy-to-care-for fur. They're roly poly cuties who are in the best of health. They've been checked out by the vet, tested, wormed and given their shots. And sterilization is included in the NA/105 adoption fee. You may see them at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Tel. 7127-4989.



"Rebecca" and "Rudy"

Thanks to the generous donations to the Shelter Sterilization Fund, there have been 52 sterilizations done since the beginning of the year. Consider just how many unwanted puppies, possibly dumped by the side of the road, which this has avoided. The aim is to help those pet owners who love their pets but who have economic restraints fund the operation. You can help by giving what you can to the MCB Account #10616410, "Sterilization Fund." All monies will be used strictly for sterilizations. You may also contribute via [WWW.SupportBonaire.org](http://WWW.SupportBonaire.org). Thanks to those Good Samaritans who've already contributed. You've made a difference! □ L.D.

# Fire Demo at SGB

On Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, the Kralendijk fire department paid a second visit to the SGB this year with an indoor slide show by Kenneth dePalm and an exciting fire demonstration outdoors. DePalm explained brought some equipment

they use for the students to see close up and explained that their job was more than putting out fires; they give information on fire prevention, check buildings for fire safety and assist the police and ambulance during car accidents.

Outside a four-man team, simulating a car accident, gave a demonstration of extracting a victim dummy from an old car using heavy crowbar type equipment to remove the car door. As well there were demonstrations of extinguishing different kinds of fires, and because it was "break time" it attracted a much bigger audience! □ William Pot



Wilna Groenenboom photos



Wilna Groenenboom photos

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter Asuncion, Paraguay



Bonaire JCI (Junior Chamber International) President, Claire Sealy, sent us this picture taken with many issues of *The Bonaire Reporter* during one of the traditional special events during the JCI convention's Night of Nations. That's when all national chapters of the areas describe their culture and promote their country. Junior Chamber International Dutch Caribbean (JCI Dutch Caribbean) is a non-profit organization affiliated with Junior Chambers International, the world's largest leadership training organization for young men and women, with chapters all around the world. The objective of the organization is to contribute to the advancement of global community by providing the opportunity for young people to develop their leadership skills, social responsibility, entrepreneurship and fellowship necessary to create positive change. □ Claire Sealy

**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, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: [picture@bonairereporter.com](mailto:picture@bonairereporter.com). (All 2007 photos are eligible.) □



# Dive Daily - Live Longer?

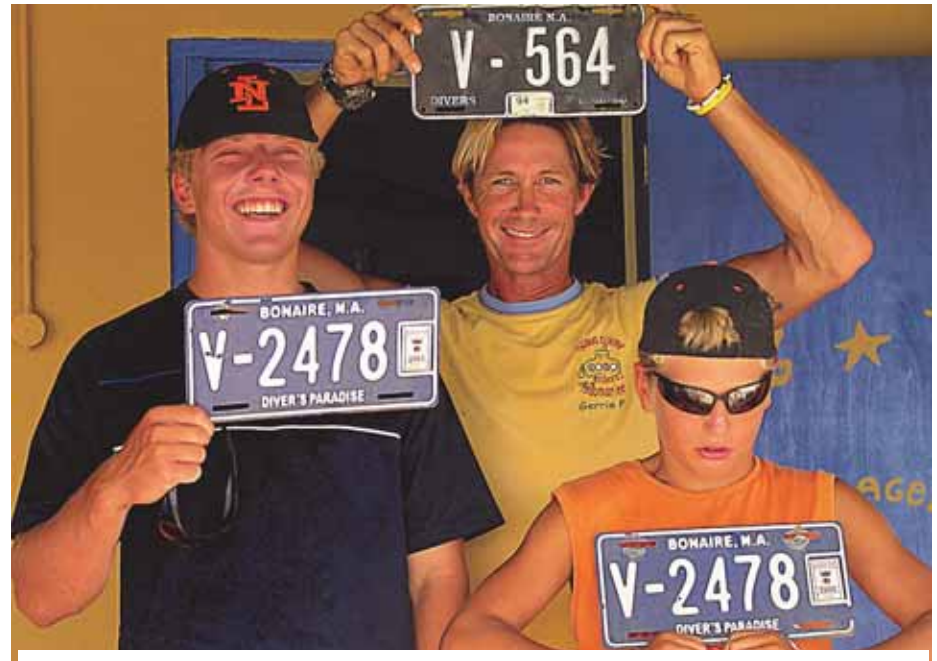
I am a recreational diver. It is not a profession or a pastime. It is my passion. Diving makes me feel good and gives me energy. My definition of a "diver" is a person who is relaxed and confident underwater who repeatedly enters the sea for the pleasurable feeling of weightlessness, freedom from stress and exercise without fatigue. The spectacular visual effects and new discoveries in the underwater environment are a rich bonus. What if I said, ... "Diving daily could add up to ten years to your life." Interested? Keep reading!

A long healthy life is no accident. It begins with good genes, but it also depends on good habits. If you adopt the right lifestyle, experts say, chances are you may live up to a decade longer. So what's the formula for success?

## Indefinite Lifespan?

The term, "Indefinite Lifespan," is a good expression to use regarding the issue of aging. Remember, any person's longevity is not defined in terms of time, **and your life** has no foreseeable boundary. The point of Indefinite Lifespan, like the point of birth control, is for you to gain control and the opportunity to lead your life in a more conscious and deliberate manner, by making informed, sensible choices.

This question posed about the term, "Indefinite Lifespan," is twofold. On the one hand it can be interpreted to mean, "Will a cure (or program of effective treatments) for aging ever be developed?" While on the other hand it could mean, "Will the effective treatment of aging become available soon enough for those alive today to



Bonaire Ambassadors dive as a family at Yellow Submarine



Dive Buddies— Sisters? Or mother and daughter

## Longevity Hot Spots

In recent years researchers, funded in part by the US National Institute on Aging, have focused on several regions where people live significantly longer. In Sardinia, Italy, demographers, studying the characteristics of human populations, found a hot spot of longevity in mountain villages where men reach the age of 100 at an amazing rate. On the islands of Okinawa, Japan, others examined a group that is among the longest-lived humans on earth. And, in Loma Linda, California, researchers studied a group of Seventh-day Adventists who rank among America's longevity all-stars. Residents of these three places produce a high rate of centenarians, suffer a fraction of the diseases that commonly kill people in other parts of the developed world, and enjoy healthier and higher quality years of life.

As a result of their studies, the scientists released three simple "best practices" to emulate: **Reduce Stress and Fatigue and Get Fit.**

The reality is, "it's all up to you." Do these learned conclusions from the expert researchers sound familiar? (Go back to my definition of a diver.)

take advantage of it?" The answer to the first question is conditional on medical advancement. The answer to the second question depends on two factors: the first being **how fast** medical science advances, and the second being **how well** each person takes care of themselves. Both of these factors may affect whether or not a given person is still alive when the cure (or set of treatments) becomes available. So this terminology, Indefinite Lifespan, simply refers to what we actually live and does not offer any predictions about the length of our lives.

## Life Extension

Life extension refers to an **increase** in the maximum or average lifespan in humans, by slowing down or reversing the processes of aging. It has been established that good diet, exercise and avoidance of hazards such as smoking and excessive eating of sugar-containing foods can achieve the extension of the average lifespan. Whether the maximum human lifespan should be extended is the subject of much ethical debate amongst politicians and scientists. But the life extension movement, which began in the early 1980s, continues to grow rapidly in popularity and

momentum and is supported by many scientific disciplines.

## Can diving daily lead to greater Life Extension?

My answer is an emphatic, **YES!** Let's look at what repetitive, good diving practice produces by way of benefits that contribute to Life Extension. For the non-divers reading this hypothesis, think of the things that your body gains by way of rejuvenation when you get a good night's sleep. First, a relaxing, "stress free" six to eight hours of peaceful quiet. Second, no additional "fatigue" with your body in horizontal repose, giving your internal organs relief from the forces of gravity. Third, the enhanced burning, processing and storage of your daily caloric intake, with no additional food ingestion, which should make you "fit." Since these three beneficial results happen with a good night's sleep, matching the researchers study on longevity mentioned above, I think it is safe to say that **sleeping** contributes positively to Life Extension.

## How does it work?

Now, for the daily diver, who presumably sleeps a part of each day as well, what does this diving group of the general population gain in addition to the "sleep benefit?" First, they are submerged in a totally "stress free" environment. Second, underwater, the diver is weightless and travels in a horizontal position in the absence of gravitational forces. Third, continuous locomotion by swimming, with the effort of leg propulsion enhanced by their flippers against the resistance of the surrounding water, produces an exercise benefit without the usual debilitating effect on joints, bones and internal organs suffered in other forms of exercise like running, walking, cycling and team sports, thus contributing to overall "fitness." Again, these three simple benefits, match the accepted results of the scientific researchers

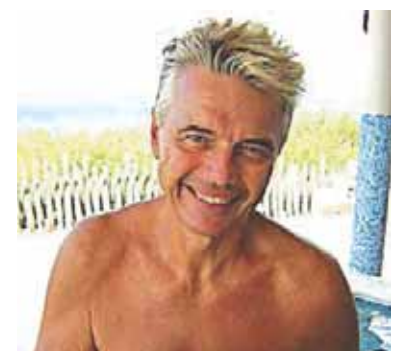
mentioned above in the US National Institute on Aging studies.

Over the past 40 years, from my own experience of more than 6,300 dives, each with an average bottom time of 1.25 hours, and my personal observation of thousands of individuals of many national origins, as dive-buddies, dive masters, instructors and the general diving public, I have reached my own startling conclusion about the beneficial results of diving daily, with regard to Life Extension.

**I believe that for every hour spent diving underwater, a Life Extension gain of 24 hours (one Earth day) is achieved!**

Getting fit, removing stress and fatigue have been shown to slow the aging process. The more positive choices you make in your own lifestyle that contribute to these principles, the more significant the benefit will be to your own Life Extension Bank. Set your mind on this issue now. Take action, if you care to, and start to build your Lifespan Credit Account today! Good luck in your "New Future." □

© Story & photos Albert Bianculli 2007



Author Albert Bianculli has been visiting Bonaire since 1970 and now lives on Bonaire full time. See his show every Monday night at the Casablanca Restaurant beginning at 6 pm. All images are original, un-retouched slides, shot on location and composed within the viewfinder.



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**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)

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

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**Rock climbing/Rapelling/ Abseilen** Every Saturday. Call Outdoor Bonaire 791-6272 / 785-6272

**JELLASTONE PETPARK**

Pet boarding / Dierenpension Day and night care. Phone 786-4651

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Cozy guest cottage available

Studio with kitchen, airoco, 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)



Bonaire Reporter June 1 - 8, 2007

**FOR RENT- 2 bedroom fully furnished apartment** available at the end of June, Kaya Mandolin 2. Call after 6pm 795-3456

**For rent: Nice apartment for rent in Hato.** Rent per month: NAf 1.500., All included. 796-3637, digital-is1956@flamingotv.net

**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!

**For Sale**

**For Sale Mares high dive boots,** hard sole, size 6, used once. \$50.00. email:

[bubblheads@mac.com](mailto:bubblheads@mac.com) or leave message for Corky Halberg at Carib Inn (717-8819). available until June 9th.

**MARES, H.U.B. fully integrated medium, BCD,** 3-yrs,old,100 dives, includes: 1<sup>st</sup> Stage, 2<sup>nd</sup> stage, octopus, inflation/deflation control, all hoses, Gauges, console and weight system, black & gray. New \$1,999, E-Bay \$1,124. Bonaire \$500. Phone, 791-2214

**For Sale: Sony Digital Camcorder, boxed and unused,** Model DCR HC96E in PAL format, takes Mini DV tapes has widescreen, 3 Mega pixel still camera, Carl Zeiss Lens, 2 Years guarantee, includes new case, tapes etc. Unwanted gift \$720, Call: 717-2675

**Fantastic Phantom bag-less cyclonic canister vacuum cleaner** practically new, NAf100-. Call 786-3117.

**NIKONOS III – Camera and Macro tube Set.** Still the best UW camera for macro shots. Original owner. NEVER been flooded. Ideal back-up camera. Complete NAf200. Call George 786-6215.



**Porch Sale, Sunday, 3 June from 9 am to 12 noon.**

Car: Toyota Starlet, fridge, airoco split unit, stove, TV, ceiling fan, beds, bookcases, blankets, clothes, household items, glasses, cups, plates, lots of books in English and Dutch and Spanish, dictionaries etc. **Kaya Paloma, 4 Sabana- Or call 717-6585**

**Porch Sale: Saturday June 9th – Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup>; 9 am–5 pm** at Kaya Proud 26 (Playa), follow the signs: household (appliances), furniture, beds, closets, chairs, motorboat, art,

books...you name it! Contact: 717 4884 / 786 2206 / 786 0436

**Cars & Scooters**

**Chevy Blazer, 1993,** techn. good condition, body double anti-rust protection, NAf 6.500. Tel. 796-5582

Te koop/for Sale: **Suzuki Samurai-NAf 1500** 2<sup>nd</sup> hand motor, rijdt goed, kleine gebreken. Tel: 780-9760

**1960 Morris Minor for sale.**

NAf30.000 (\$17,145). Great condition, original style motor, authentic 1960 supercharger. Call 717-7488, ask for Kevin.



**Property**

**Harbour Village Marina Front Condo** For Sale- Large one bedroom, 2 bath apartment located in a secluded all condo building away from the hotel traffic. Full kitchen and laundry, tons of storage space, large patio with walkout to marina dock. Private owner sale. [www.luxurybonaire.com](http://www.luxurybonaire.com).



**Historic 4-bedroom 3-bath modernized home** close to the sea and all conveniences. see: [thecraanehouse.com](http://thecraanehouse.com). contact: [reservations@thecraanehouse.com](mailto:reservations@thecraanehouse.com)



**Housesitting**

Missionary couple of Jehovah's Witnesses looking to rent or house-sit long term a 1-2 bedroom house or apartment. Please contact: Ron or Cris Adams at 700-7855, 691-1169 or email at [roncrisadams@hotmail.com](mailto:roncrisadams@hotmail.com).

**Bonaire experienced house sitters with references** available 3-8 July & 22-27 July. Contact [roben@dds.nl](mailto:roben@dds.nl)

Reporter staff member wishes to house sit long-term starting now. Call David 700-7536, email=[dradomisli@hotmail.com](mailto:dradomisli@hotmail.com).

**JOBS**



**Bonaire's coziest resort is looking for full time colleagues in the restaurant/bar & kitchen-** Preferably speaking Dutch/ English/ German. Experi-

ence is required! Do you want to be part of our team? Call 717-7901 or send an email to: [info@caribbeanclubbonaire.com](mailto:info@caribbeanclubbonaire.com).

**SEEKING**

**Looking for: Looking for a workshop manual** and/or other information for a Jeep Cherokee. J@n Brouwer, 796-3637, digital-is1956@flamingotv.net



**Looking for a small, fluffy puppy** or dog no larger than 18-20 inches and weigh no more than 8 pounds or so. I want to be able to take the dog with me where I go and will give it a loving home. Please call me at 786-7072 and ask for "TC". (Remember my dog that rode on my motorcycle with me-she went to Doggie Heaven and I would love to have a motorcycle buddy to ride with me again.)

**FOUND**

-in Sabadeco Shores, a kitten about 3 or 4 months old, brindle in color. Very social so I know it belongs to someone. Call the Shelter at 717-4989.



**Lost**

**Lost: our black mid sized dog.** J@n Brouwer, Hato, 796-3637, digital-is1956@hotmail.com



## Jong Bonaire Song Fest



Jonathan Clarenda, overall winner

It almost seemed like a pop concert last Friday at the Jong Bonaire Song Festival. There was ear-deafening screaming by friends and family and it even looked like some of the performers had brought their own groupies with them.

Admirable were the guts the contestants had that night. All alone, they stood in front of a big crowd to perform, and nervousness wasn't detectable at all. The relaxed atmosphere in the music hall was probably the cause of this. "My Heart Must Go On," from Celine Dion passed by, Whitney Houston as well, and some Caribbean songs were performed by the young locals.

The jury consisted of some well known Bonaireans such as politician Lucky Popp and percussionist, Boy Janga. They were judging on three different points; namely who had the best action, who had the best voice and who had the best timing that night.

The Jong Bonaire Song Festival is an annual event. Every year Jong Bonaire motivates the youth to give a performance and to show their talents. Winner this year was Jonathan Clarenda who also got the prize for being the most popular singer. Clarenda is probably getting used to winning by now, as it is the second time he's won the first prize. He also won the festival in 2005. With his song, *Serka Bo*, he clearly convinced the jury of his talent this year again. The "Most Stimulating" prize was won by Ruthvianca Josephia who sang the song, *Amor Prohibido*. □

David Radomisi

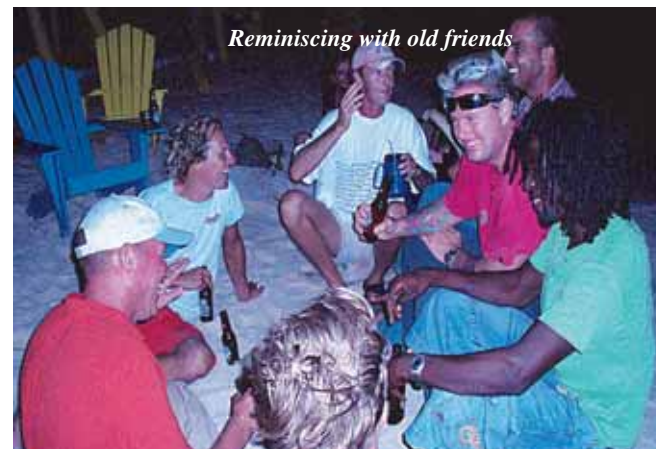
# New Tack for Jibe City

## New Beginnings and Nostalgia Time



Ernst VanVliet gave Windsurfer Superstar Tonky Frans a start to his career. And now Tonky works there.

Last week the new owners of Jibe City gave a party for the founder, Ernst VanVliet, who started it all in January 1989. Lots of "old timers" were there to pay homage to the first windsurf operator in Bonaire. Great food and drink by Hangout Bar owners Robert and Monique. Ernst is still on the island but going on to new ventures. The pictures tell the story. □ L.D.



Reminiscing with old friends



A humorous artwork by Germaine Nydam was presented to Ernst as a memento



(Flotsam & Jetsam Continued from page 7)

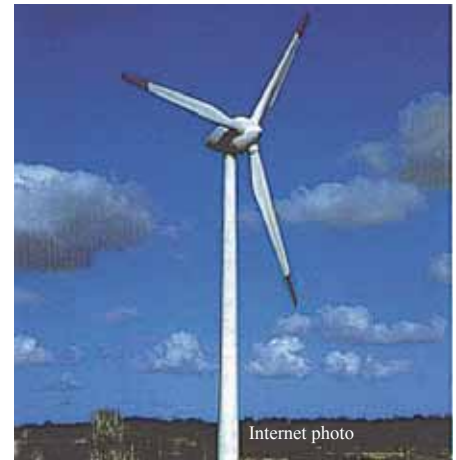


Notice the guilder coin in the upper left compared to the burger.

ball cap as your prize and be entered in the Burger Hall of Fame. Or just split it because it's truly delicious.

► They're not serving just pizza! Try Pasa Bon Pizza's newest feature, "Hot Crab Dip" served with sliced French bread. What is that secret ingredient that makes it so tasty? Pasa Bon Pizza is on Kaya Gob. Debrot, just south of the traffic circle and the marina.

### Bonaire Using Wind Power



Internet photo

► As we prepare this issue for production comes word that the new wind turbine at Sorobon is operational and its electrical output is feeding into WEB's power grid. This is a first for Bonaire. The wind turbine will be used for training as well as production.

The unit is producing about half power in its initial test phase, about 75 kw. It will be followed by 11 even larger units at Morotin on the east coast near Rincon. □ G.D./L.D./D.R.

**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
6-01	0:46	2.1FT.	11:24	0.7FT.					79
6-02	1:20	2.0FT.	12:00	0.7FT.					83
6-03	1:58	2.0FT.	12:30	0.7FT.					84
6-04	2:41	2.0FT.	13:01	0.7FT.					83
6-05	3:30	1.9FT.	13:27	0.8FT.					79
6-06	4:21	1.7FT.	13:41	0.8FT.					72
6-07	5:26	1.6FT.	13:44	0.9FT.					64
6-08	2:24	1.3FT.	6:28	1.5FT.	13:38	1.0FT.	20:47	1.5FT.	57

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

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## MOVIELAND

### WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show (Usually 9 pm)  
Call to make sure

**Are We Done Yet**  
(Ice Cube)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)  
To be announced

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  
June: T.M.N.T.

### THIS WEEK

June 1-10 – City Café goes all out to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with 10 days and nights of activities and celebrations – See page 9

Sunday, June 3—5<sup>th</sup> Annual Jong Bonaire Mini Triathlon. See pages 4 & 9

Sunday, June 3 – 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Washington-Slagbaai Park Celebration – at the entrance to the Park, all day. Entertainment, games, music, guided tours, mountain biking. More on page 8.

Sundays, June 3 & 10 – Bonaire Culinary Team dinner 3-course meal with cocktails and wine. At the SGB's Chez Nous, 7 pm. All proceeds help to send the team to the Taste of the Caribbean Culinary Olympics in Miami. Tickets NAf50 (\$29), Margreth Kloos, Tel. 717-2897 or email [mar-greth@bonaireyellows submarine.com](mailto:mar-greth@bonaireyellows submarine.com). Page 4 &.

Friday, June 8 – World Ocean Day—Free Buoyancy Clinic, 1:30 pm, Dive Friends' Yellow Submarine. Pages 4 & 7

### COMING

Saturday, June 9—Art Exhibition "Adrift" - tables & sculptures by Wilna Groenenboom, 5 pm, Kaya Macario St. Jago #9. Info call 717-6832, 7002378. See page 7

Sunday, July 1 – 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Dia di Arte in Wilhelmina Park – All day and evening starting at 10 am. Artists, musicians, craftsmen and top notch local foods and drinks. Participants: sign by starting May 31. Call Edwin Martijn 786-8400, Mishuyla Sint Jago 786-2292

### REGULAR EVENTS

Friday Weekly Market 9am- 2pm at Wilhelmina Plein, with Local Art, Local Food, Summer Fashion, Jewelry, Glasswork, Bonaire Pictures, Local Music, Driftwood Art,

Paintwork and all kinds of Bonaire Souvenirs.

### Daily

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 6-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- HH—50% off- **Buddy Dive Resort**, 5:30-6:30
  - **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** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.
- **Parke Publico** children's playground open every day into the evening hours.

### Saturdays

- **Steak Night On the Beach** (a la carte) - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—10 pm
- **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

- **Fish or Meat Dinner Special for only \$10.** **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6 –9:30 pm
- **Reporter writer Albert Bianculli presents his Multi-Image Production "Bonaire Holiday"** at 6:30pm, 7:30 pm or 8:30pm., Casablanca Argentinean Grill
- **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**
- **Caribbean Gas Training free** "Beyond Gravity – An Evening with DIR," 6 pm, **Bonaire Dive & Adventure** 786-5073.

### Wednesdays

- **Live music by Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 5-6:30.
- **Caribbean Night A la Carte - Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—10 pm

### 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
- **Buddy's Bingo Show - Buddy Dive Resort**, 8- 9:30 pm

### Fridays

- **Mixed Level Yoga** 8:30am, **Buddy Dive** 786-6416
- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 - 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 Sunrise Poolbar and Sportsclub, for children 0 – 18.
- **Manager's Bash**—free Flamingo Smash & snacks, **Divi Flamingo**, 5-7 pm
- **Free Rum Punch Party** (5:30 pm - 6:30 pm) & All-u-can-eat BBQ, 7-10 pm, **Buddy Dive Resort**

### FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

**Saturday- "Discover Our Diversity"** slide show-pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 7 pm, 717-5080

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

**Tuesdays & Wednesdays—Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday at **Buddy Dive Resort** (717-3802) at 7m. Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at the **Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn** (717-8817) at 7pm.

**Monday- "Land & Ocean Bonaire,"** by Fish-Eye photo staff, 8 pm on the big screen in front of their facility at **Bonaire Dive & Adventure**.

**Tuesday "Diving Facts And Fiction - An Evening with DIR"** slide/video show by Caribbean Gas Training, 8 pm, **Bonaire Dive & Adventure**

### 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.

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

**Bridge Club - Wednesdays, Bridge Club:** Wednesday 7.30 p.m. at Flamingo Airport (Technobar), airco, all levels, NAf2,50. **Call Joop 717-5903, or be there in time (7.15 p.m.)**

**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 Claire 717-8290  
**Volunteers to train children in sports.** Contact Quick-Pro Track and Field - Rik 717-8051

### CHURCH SERVICES

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire.** Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English on Sundays 10 am. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, Services in Papiamentu on Sundays at 8.30 am. Children's club Saturday 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 - 11:30am. 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 (Asamblea 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



Celebrating our  
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Rotary Club of Bonaire

"Support our Breakfast  
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Rotary Bonaire Foundation  
PO Box 240, Kralendijk, Bonaire N.A.  
Acct. 114.238.08 with MCB Bonaire



# DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
<b>Balashi Beach Bar</b> <b>Bar and Beach Service</b> At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront	Open every day 8am - 8pm. Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm.	Extensive snack/salad/burger. Menu available daily from noon.
<b>Bella Vista Restaurant</b> Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast daily 6:30—10 am - . Lunch daily 11:30 Dinner on theme nights 6—10 pm	<b>Buddy's Magnificent Theme Nights:</b> Sat. - Steak Night A la Carte; Mon. - Fish or Meat Dinner Special (\$10.-); Wed. - Caribbean Night A la Carte; Fri. - Free Rum Punch Party (5:30- 6:30 pm) and All-u-can-eat BBQ for \$ 19.50 (7-1- pm)
<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 to 10 pm	<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>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	<b>Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday</b> from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28 or \$15.75.
<b>Casablanca Argentinean Restaurant</b> One block south of the Post Office 717-4433	Moderate Lunch Tues-Sat—11:30-2:30 Dinner 7 nights— starting at 6 pm	<b>Indulge your whim—beef seafood, chicken, vegetarian</b> Mondays—All you can eat and special slide shows starting at 6 pm
<b>Hilltop Restaurant</b> At the Caribbean Club Bonaire—on the scenic Rincon Road 717-7901	Moderate Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner	<b>Bar-Restaurant poolside—in Bonaire's hill country</b> Frequent Dinner Specials Happy hours 5 to 6 daily, to 7 on Tuesday BBQ night.
<b>The Last Bite Bakery</b> Kaya Grandi 70 717-3293	Low-Moderate Open Tuesday through Saturday 7:30am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-2pm	<b>NAf10 take out lunch every day -</b> main dish with 2 side dishes. Special on Tuesday and Thursday: Lasagna.
<b>Papaya Moon Cantina</b> Downtown— Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate Open everyday except Tuesday For Dinner	<b>Margaritas a Specialty</b> 2 for 1 Happy Hour 6-7:30 Incredible Mexican Cuisine
<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 780-1111
<b>Patagonia Argentinean Restaurant</b> At the lighthouse, Harbour Village Marina 717-7725	Moderate Lunch Tuesday-Friday Dinner Tuesday-Sunday	Authentic Argentinean Cuisine Owned and operated by the Pablo Palacios Family from Argentina The beef is here and more.
<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 <b>Wednesday Beach BBQ.</b>

# 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.

## 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 Cafe 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.

## NATURE EXPLORATION

**Outdoor Bonaire** for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rappelling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 785-6272 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com

## PHOTO FINISHING

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

## PHOTO SERVICES

**Capture Photo** at the Divi Flamingo. Photo classes, camera rental, digital processing, all state of the art!

## 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.

## 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.

**Valeries Airport Shops** — Convenient shopping for unique items, magazines, gifts and more.

## 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.**

## SUPERMARKETS

**Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria**—Biggest air conditioned market with the, largest selection and lowest prices on the island.

## 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:

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\*to find it... just look up

## A Tale of Two Planets and Two Stars

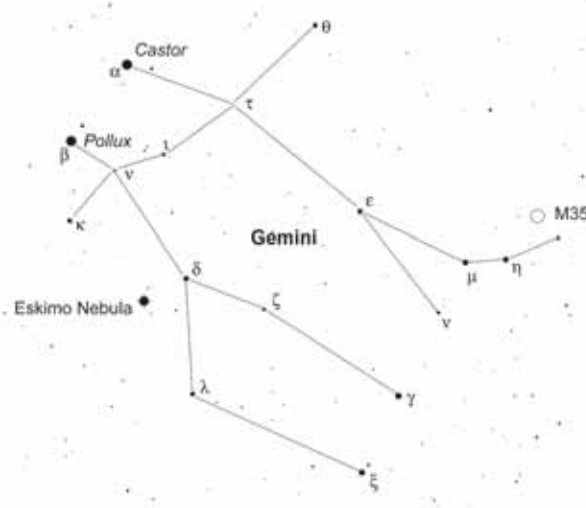
On June 2nd the first planet from the Sun, **Mercury**, will be at what astronomers call **greatest elongation from the Sun**. And seven days later, on the 9<sup>th</sup>, the second planet from the Sun, **Venus**, will also be at greatest elongation from the Sun. On top of which the two brightest stars of **Gemini** will be perched right alongside lovely Venus. What does this all mean? Let me explain.

This weekend, Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at dusk while there's still some light out, face west where the brightest thing you'll see will be the brightest planet of them all, dazzling 8,000-mile-wide Venus. And down below it to its right a much dimmer although still bright pinkish light, 3,000-mile-wide planet Mercury. Now if you look at both these planets through a small telescope you will notice that they both look like different phases of tiny **Moons**. Indeed Mercury will look like a tiny slender crescent Moon whereas Venus will look like a first quarter Moon. And while they both share the distinction of being the only two planets closer to the Sun than **Earth**, they also just coincidentally this June are at similar places in their respective orbits as seen from Earth.

In fact if we could see them from outer space their positions in relation to the Sun and Earth would be remarkably similar because they will both be at greatest elongation from the Sun: Mercury on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Venus on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Now greatest elongation sounds complicated but it simply means that both planets will be at their farthest visual distance from the Sun on those dates as seen from Earth, which usually makes them appear much higher above the horizon and thus visible for viewing longer after sunset. Even so Mercury never gets very high above the horizon even when it's at greatest elongation, so make sure you start looking for it while there is still some light out and have a clear, flat, unobstructed horizon.

And as a bonus, right now these two planets share the early evening sky with two wonderful stars, the two brightest stars of Gemini the twins, **Pollux and Castor**. And ta da! A recent discovery about Pollux blows Venus and Mercury away planet wise because it is now known that Pollux, which is almost 10 times as wide as our million-mile-wide Sun, has at least one planet moving around it. But that planet is unlike any other planet in our solar system. Indeed, while our king of the planets, **Jupiter**, is 88,000 miles wide, Pollux's planet is three times as massive as Jupiter. Wow! Plus Pollux enjoys the distinction of being the brightest star we can see that we now know has a planet in orbit about it.

So get out this weekend and look for Venus, Pollux and Castor lined up in a row and tiny pinkish Mercury huddled near the horizon. *Jack Horkheimer*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

Sunday, May 27 to Saturday, June 2 2007

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Your mate will appreciate your honesty. You have so much to offer; open up and let your thoughts be known. If you've taken on a lot of work, be sure to leave some time for yourself and family. Social events will be plentiful. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You will not impress others by being foolishly generous. Opportunities to get ahead are evident. Look for professional guidance if it will help unite the family. Changes in your domestic scene are evident. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You will have splendid suggestions for fund raising events. Your boss may not be in the best of moods this week. Don't let the erratic behavior of someone you live with interfere with your professional performance. You need to distance yourself from the situation for a little while first. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Avoid friction with your mate. Try to avoid serious discussions with loved ones. Travel for business or pleasure will be enlightening. Involvement in groups will be favorable and lead to valuable information. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You are likely to be left alone if you aren't willing to bend just a little. Real estate investments will be profitable. You need to spend some time getting to know this person all over again. Expect some flak. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Opportunities for new partnerships will develop through the organizations you encounter. Get busy putting your place in order. You may be upset if someone has borrowed something that belongs to you. There may be opportunities to attend social functions that are linked to work. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Travel could bring you the adventure and excitement you require. Don't let relatives stand in the way of your personal plans. The existing problems must be dealt with one way or another. Be firm when dealing with matters pertaining to your environment. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You should avoid getting involved in the personal problems of colleagues. Promote your ideas now. A need to be in love may fool you. Social get-together will bring you in contact with intelligent new friends. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You may find yourself in an uncomfortable situation if you have overloaded your plate unintentionally. Be prepared to have relatives or close friends introduce you to new and exciting individuals. Realize that you don't have to do everything yourself. Ferret out information that will hold them responsible. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Self-deception about relationships is a problem. Keep your feet on the ground, if you can. You will be in the mood for competition, and your ability to lead a group will bring you popularity. Your creative ideas must be put to good use. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You are best not to confront situations that deal with in-laws or relatives. Your emotional partner will push the right buttons this week. Check your personal papers and make sure everything is in order. You can accomplish a lot if you deal with other people's money or possessions this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't sign up for too many extra activities or you'll have trouble fulfilling your obligations. Take time to deal with authority figures or government agencies. Be considerate and avoid being overly opinionated, or arguments will ensue. Chances are you could get stuck with a colleague's job unexpectedly. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



## New Website For Stinapa

“It took a very long time to design it and I have been surfing and have been copying the best things from many other websites, with the result that it’s looking pretty good now,” says the STINAPA Director, Elsmarie Beukenboom. The new STINAPA website, launched last Thursday, is meant for people who are looking for information about the Bonaire National Marine Park, Washington-Slagbaai National Park and the flora and fauna on the island.

Beukenboom’s goal was to make the website as user friendly as possible so the general public can look around the website easily. “While I was making the website,” Beukenboom said, “I had the visitor in mind, especially divers, and people who want to come and live on the island. But it’s also a handy tool for the locals, such as students. They can use the information to write an essay for school for instance.” The website consists of five links: The foundation, Bonaire National Marine Park, Washington Slagbaai National Park, Education and News, Fun and Activities. According to Beukenboom, there’s still a lot of work to complete before the website will be finished. Beukenboom: “Our next goal is to make the website international.” To have a look at the new website, visit [www.stinapa.org](http://www.stinapa.org). □ Story & photo by David Radomisli



*The team who helped create the new site*



## Bubbles from the Biologist

**D**id You Know...Bonaire is home to one of the most beautiful bioluminescent displays in the ocean?

Five nights after the full moon, around 45 minutes after sunset, tiny animals called **ostracods** decide it’s time to mate. The males begin blinking like fireflies and rise up towards the surface where they meet up with females and release bioluminescent gametes. Thousands of these microscopic animals synchronize this mating display and it’s as if the entire reef is lit up like a Christmas tree. If you’re diving or snorkeling during the five or 10 minutes of this remarkable phenomenon, it’s an experience you’ll never forget. Even if you’re on a dark dock looking over shallow corals, it’s an awesome experience. If you’re observing from above, from a dock, you may even see ‘satellite’ males race towards a mating male to add their gametes to the mix in hopes of fertilizing a few of the female’s eggs. Sneaky little buggers! You have to time it just right and be in an area that is not lit up. There must also be shallow corals in the vicinity. You won’t see it if you’re shining a dive light or a flash light. Once the mating has started, however, you may shine your light for a few seconds and then turn it off, and the animals light up all at once in a breathtaking display. □

*Caren Eckrich—photo from Microscope on-line*



Caren Eckrich teaches Coral Reef Ecology and Scientific Diving to American University students at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire. She’s also the Director of Sea & Discover, a marine education center offering interactive learning programs to kids and adults. You can reach her at 717-5322 □.





# Born on Bonaire

## Amélie Thérèse Saleh

“I was born when my father was the governor on Bonaire. He was the first Bonaire-born governor as well as the youngest, at 32, until now. My father is Raymundo Saleh and my mother is Orpha Saleh-Craane. I have one sister, Orphaline, and one brother, Michel; they’re older than I. I’m the only child who grew up from baby to toddler in the governor’s house.

When I had my first birthday my dad promised me that he would be at my party, but he got stuck on Curaçao – there was a problem with the flight. Because he’d made me a promise he went to talk to one of the pilots and the pilot decided to take my dad with a two-seater plane to Bonaire. On their way a very dark cloud showed up and the tiny plane began to rattle and the pilot told my dad, ‘We can’t fly through it; we have to go below it! It took them 50 minutes to get to Bonaire. My dad got home at six o’clock, just before the party. He was right on time!

I was very little when we lived in the governor’s house, but I do remember the nanny we had, Lygia Seraus, whom we were very attached to. When I was 18 months old my parents made a trip around the world for four and a half months, and when they came back,” *she laughs*, “I called Lygia ‘mama’ and my mother ‘mevrouw’ (Mrs.)! Besides Lygia my parents had a lineup of 11 local girls whom they could ask to baby sit whenever they had to go out or when there was a reception at the house. On Sundays, when we went to the Hotel Bonaire beach, my parents would take two girls to swim with us so they could sit quietly and talk to people. And as my grandmother, Raquel Craane-de Jongh, couldn’t trust us to anyone she would be there too, to see if the babysitters were paying attention.

After my father resigned as governor we moved to Kaya Nikiboko Nort, where my parents still live.

We had a fantastic childhood; my parents were always there for us; they were very loving and helpful and they cared very much for us in every possible way. I am oh so proud of my parents and I always will be.

In 1982 we moved to Aruba where I finished elementary school at Reina Beatrix School. Then I went to MAVO at Mon Plaisir College. My dad stayed for his work on Bonaire. My sister and brother were doing VWO at Kolegio Arubano, and for that reason my mom had taken us to Aruba; at the time there was no VWO high school on Bonaire. Aruba was still part of the Dutch Antilles and it was very different from now.

The community was much smaller and most of the people knew each other and as a result we felt at home.

When my sister finished VWO and went to study at Penn State University in the US, my mom, my brother and I went to Holland. It was absolutely great! I loved the cold weather. We lived in an uptown neighborhood in Rotterdam and I went on with MAVO and my brother did VWO at the ‘*Openbare Scholengemeenschap Olden Barneveld*.’ When he graduated from the Technological University in Delft and became an engineer I was studying to become a doctor’s assistant, but in the long run I didn’t like it and started to concentrate on the beauty and cosmetic industry. I studied at MDGO, the beauty school, at ROC Zadkine College in Rotterdam. I chose that direction because I think it’s very important to look good and to be healthy and I love to take care of other people in that sense. I studied for three years and I’m very happy I chose this profession

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**“On their way (from Curacao) a very dark cloud showed up and the tiny plane began to rattle and the pilot told my dad, ‘We can’t fly through it; we have to go below it! It took them 50 minutes to get to Bonaire.’”**

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for there are always new innovations, new techniques and you’re learning continuously. I also got certified to start my own business and when I finished my studies and became an aesthetician, I returned to Bonaire after living in Holland for 11 years. I’d never been homesick, but during my last vacation on Bonaire I’d felt a longing to be back. However, still today I’m in touch with my old school friends from Holland.”

*Amélie Saleh (36) is a very thorough and structured person and she’s also very cute, very sweet and you get the feeling there’s much more to her than she shows.*

“I was almost 26 when I came back in 1996 and it was a huge change. Holland is big compared to Bonaire and although life there is very tough, society is better organized and everything goes much smoother. There are so many possibilities in Holland while Bonaire is very limited in that sense. Another reason why I came back is that I wanted to con-

tribute to the Bonairean community. Socially, I felt at home right away, but professionally it was a disappointment to find out that the market here was very small. I started working at the Spa at Harbor Village and I got a lot of experience working with colleagues and clients on an international level. I had a European education and my colleagues had studied in South America and the US. It was very interesting, but I have to say that the European education was of a much higher level.

In February 2000 I moved to Curaçao where I was offered a very good job at a highly qualified and well-established skin care institute called ‘Leading Lady.’ I have to admit it was one of the best times in my professional life. Our clientele consisted of high society and very well-known people from Curaçao. I always loved the name ‘Leading Lady’ because it’s the perfect terminology to suit my profession; I love my work, you meet people from all over the world and you can travel all over to fairs and... you can earn a fortune - maybe not on Bonaire – yet – but in general!

I loved and still love Curaçao very much; it’s a more upscale lifestyle than we have here. There are many more people and many more social events. And even though I am now living on Bonaire with my parents I bought a house in Curaçao, a beautiful house with a swimming pool in a secured area, which I am renting out.

After almost four years in Curaçao I decided to come back to Bonaire for some time, especially to be with my mom. Also I don’t like to work in one place for many years because after so long I feel there aren’t any more challenges and I love challenges! I took a six-month vacation, but during that time I gave presentations at people’s homes for Jafra Cosmetics International; I am the Jafra consultant for Bonaire. In January 2005 I started working at The Touch Spa at Divi Flamingo. I worked with Alda Dirksz; we worked very hard and we got a long very well and it was another good experience. Now I am working as a therapist at Intermezzo Day Spa at Captain Don’s Habitat, to me the



most beautiful spa on Bonaire. But I also travel frequently to Aruba for further training.

When I am not working I’m reading; I love interior decorating; I go to the beach to relax my mind and I love to go out. I love the happy hours! I am a social person and certainly ambitious and I have lots of confidence because my father has always supported me. I said I loved Curaçao, but Bonaire will always be my island. It may be small, but it’s peaceful and loving and very relaxed. It’s the most beautiful place in the Caribbean and now that the Green Party has won the elections I see Bonaire’s future as very prosperous. To work and contribute to the development of Bonaire I am now participating in the social and mid-year committee of JCI Bonaire as a guest and that’s a challenge for me as well.

I will stay here for sure for a couple of years, but I know I can be a professional in any part of the world and I would love to work sometime in a spa in LA or South Beach. Yes, I’ve lived in many different places and I still would like to live in many more, to get to know the people and the way they live. Life is a challenge and even when you stumble you have to go on. I know what I want and I strive to realize my goals and to become better every day – as a person and as a professional.” *Laughing*: “I am still young, beautiful and single... No, really, the most important thing for me is that everybody is happy with what they’re doing and with what they are, that people respect one another and that they can communicate well and that they will be happy...” □

*Story & photo by Greta Kooistra*

