



Happy Holidays
From The Reporter

BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Since 1994



Music School Concert and Awards Page 10



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- Glen I Su Geng New CD
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- ... and much more

The first Kingdom Day holiday was celebrated last Monday, December 15. The new holiday results from changes in the political structure of the Netherlands Antilles since the concept of the Dutch Antilles as an integrated country is disappearing. In referenda held during 2000-2005, the island populations expressed the wish to secede from the Netherlands Antilles, but to remain, each in their own way, a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Consequently it was decided to introduce a new public holiday, *Koninkrijksdag, Dia di Reino* or Kingdom Day instead of Antillean Day.

For the BES Islands it marked a "soft opening" to their new status as Dutch municipalities. The Bonaire Island Council voted 5 to 2 in favor of adopting the laws that would lead to integration with Holland.

The "Regional BES Island Service Center," to implement the transition, ceremonially opened Tuesday, December 16, in the APNA building on Bonaire.

► **Planned "elective operations" (surgical intervention recommended but it's not urgent) were postponed** at St. Elizabeth Hospital (Sehos) in Curaçao, Bonaire's regional center hospital, because the steam sterilizers were defective. The hospital was assisted by a nearby hospital until the sterilizers were repaired. Both units were tested and certified as optimum on November 28 but nevertheless failed. New units have been ordered.

Surgical procedures are now back to normal in Curaçao.

► **The Netherlands is at the top of a list** released Thursday that measures rich governments' efforts to help build prosperity in poor countries around the world. The Netherlands is followed by Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Japan and South Korea are at the bottom of the list. The US also scored low; it ranks 17th out of the 22 countries on the 2008

Commitment to Development Index (CDI), produced annually by the Centre for Global Development, an independent think-tank that works to reduce global poverty.

► **Next year, the Dutch economy is set to shrink for the first time since the early 1980s**, according to the latest prediction from the government's economic forecasting organization, the CPB, published on Monday.

The CPB puts the decline at 0.75% in 2009 and says companies which depend on exports will bear the brunt of the downturn. In 2010 the economy will pick up again, with growth reaching 1%, the organization said

► **The Dutch government has no intention of altering its 2009 spending plans in light of the impending recession, Finance Minister Wouter Bos**

(photo) said. "We must not panic. The budget is the right answer to this situation," Bos was reported as saying in the *Financieele Dagblad*. "Lesson number one is that you don't adapt your spending plans on a daily basis."

► **The tax office in the Netherlands is to begin experiments with taking unpaid taxes directly from people's bank accounts next year**, Thursday's *AD* newspaper reported. Non-payers will receive a final demand and an enforcement order. If they still don't pay up, the tax office will be able to take 1,000 euros a month directly from their bank account for a period of three months.

At the moment, unpaid taxes are collected by seizure of property, which is a lengthy and expensive process.

► During the preparations for this week's Round Table Confer-



► **One exciting event of the first Kingdom Day was the Naturalization of 41 Bonairean residents as Dutch citizens.** The morning ceremony was guided by the chief of Bonaire's Civil Registry, George Mensché. Giving presentations to the new citizens were Governor Glenn Thodé, former Governor Herbert Domacassé and historian Boi Antoin. Governor Thodé explained the rights and responsibilities of the new citizens, among other things, and welcomed them to the New Bonaire. Boi Antoin gave an overview of the population and described the histories of Bonairean families. Former Governor Domacassé expressed his pleasure at being part of the nationalization ceremony and also congratulated the new "Dutchmen and Women."

ence (RTC) in a deliberation with the Second Chamber, Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende advised that **The Netherlands will take over €1.5 billion of the debt of the Netherlands Antilles**, but only if the islands comply with all the requirements such as corruption control, a sound financial management and better maintenance of law and order.

The RTC will focus on establishing the "countries" of Curaçao and St. Maarten and the dissolution of the Antilles Central Government. The BES Islands situation is peripheral to this session of the RTC.

► Justice Minister David Dick signed a contract with Dutch funding agency USONA yesterday in which NAf 25.7 million has been allocated for the upgrading of the police forces in Curaçao, St. Maarten and Bonaire.

Some NAf 3.1 million was allocated to Bonaire for the upgrading of its police services.

► **Legal controversy is swirling around the attempt of the Bonaire government to seize the incomplete (since 2002) Esmeralda Beach property in the south**

of Bonaire. Jalan Investments, belonging to Dutch entrepreneur Niek Sandmann, is claiming damages of more than \$5.5 million because of the revocation of its long lease. The property was acquired at a public sale from the original developers who began, but never completed, construction in 1988. The bailiff levied an attachment on the property on November 20 after the seizure judge granted approval November 18. Sandmann is known for his aviation investments- BonairExel, DAE and Winair- as well as other Bonaire property developments.

► **A prominent team of US based researchers predicted 14 tropical storms** in the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season on Wednesday and said seven would develop into hurricanes. The Colorado State University team formed by forecasting pioneer William Gray said 2009 would be another "above-average" hurricane season after an active 2008. While Bonaire does not usually experience the full force of the storms, it is affected by wind reversals and ground swells.

The hurricane research team said

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Sea Grass Protection

At 7am on November 5th members from Progressive Environmental Solutions, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire and STINAPA Bonaire began the placement of swim lines which outline the sea grass beds along the shoreline of Sorobon from Jibe City to the windsurfing competition area at the peninsula. The swim lines are intended to serve as a visual reminder of the protected status of all sea grasses on Bonaire and as a physical barrier to prevent people from entering into the sea grass beds.

The sea grass beds in Lac support the life of many sea creatures. Green turtles and queen conch, which are both endangered species, depend on the sea grass beds in Lac for their food. While green turtles eat the blades themselves, conch scrape "bits" of food from the leaves. Fish that many of us like to eat such as snappers and barracuda depend on the sea grass beds for nutritious food and protective shelter when they are juveniles. These beds provide shelter for breeding and are a primary nursery for several commercially important reef fish of Bonaire. The loss of these habitats can se-



verely impact the number and size of the fish going later to the reef. This would not only negatively impact the dive industry but will threaten the resilience and biodiversity of Lac which in turn will disrupt a food chain on which many people of Bonaire depend today.

This is the first step in a multi phased project which will not only include the outlining of the sea grass beds but also buoys marking the "white zone" boundary (where no commercial or recreational activities are allowed), moorings in the area of the coral "dam" as well as education and awareness about these fragile areas.

In order to ensure that a balance is maintained between the recreational activities that are enjoyed in the bay and the

impact these activities have on some of the most fragile systems in the bay, steps must be taken now to prevent further deterioration of some of the most fragile areas of Lac.

This project is being carried out by a joint effort of Bonaire National Marine Park, Progressive Environmental Solutions, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, Jibe City and The Bonaire Windsurf Place with funding from Progressive Environmental Solutions, The Bonaire Windsurf Place and Jibe City. All of these organizations have long term interests in the sustainability of Lac and its unique ecosystem. The collaboration of these organizations helps to ensure the sustainability of the buoy implementation project for Lac. ■ *Story & photos by Mabel Nava /STCB*

RE/MAX 5-Years Old

One of the grandest parties of the year was celebrated on the street – on Kaya Grandi – last Friday night hosted by RE/Max Paradise Homes. The celebration was to say happy birthday for five years of business on the island and to present the new RE/MAX Paradise Homes building.

Kaya Grandi was closed to all vehicle traffic so the throngs of well wishers could mingle on the street and admire the new building which was sparkling like a Christmas tree. Beverages flowed and guests were treated to the elegant and mouth watering snacks by Philip's Catering. Jazzy music and vocals were provided by Andreina, Carlos and Lando. ■ *L.D.*

RE/MAX Paradise Homes staff at the party
 From the left- standing: Gisela Allertz, Rob Laurant, EllaRosa Fischer, Zwanet Kooij, Elise Arbman, Monique Bergsma, Bob Bartikoski,



RE/MAX head, Bob Bartikoski, speaks.



Sitting: Yvette Hageman and Donna Wuyts; not pictured-Anna Klimmer.

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Born on Bonaire - March 15th 1990 *Mirnalyn 'Machi' Soliana*

"I always wanted to become a stewardess because they see all the different countries and they get to know the whole world. But it was too much to learn and I didn't like school when I was 13. By that time I'd become a tough girl; I liked to fight, I hung out in the streets and I skipped school – nobody around to make my head tired.

I was born in Antriol where I lived with my mother and brothers. I also have a sister; she was born when I was five, but she lived with her father. My mom was working at Sunset Beach Hotel in housekeeping, something she did for a long time and now she's doing it independently. She is a very good and sweet mom who gets along with everyone and she loves to work and she wants the best for her children.

When I was eight we moved to Nort di Salina, where my mom is from. We had been living with my step grandparents – people who had brought up my mother – and when my step grandma died, we went to live with my mother's boyfriend.

At the age of 13 I went to SGB

high school, to BVO-P, a basic professional education. A year later I went to BVO. I had met Ranjiet 'Pito' Thomas and we'd become friends. He was six years older than I and he told me that school was a good thing, that I needed to learn more and that it was important for my future and... I fell in love with him because of all the things he said. Pito had finished Havo-3 high school. He was a quiet person and he lived with his mother and was also from Nort di Salina. *She laughs:* "He's known me since I was two years old, walking around in Pampers, but of course that's something I don't remember!

Well, Pito fell in love with me too, but I was too young and we couldn't do anything except for kissing and talking – that was it! But because of him I was doing much better at school and I chose to become an administrator. In my third year at BVO I worked as a trainee with Akkermans Auto Supplies and it was fun. In my fourth year I went to work as a trainee for Telbo NV. I had to do everything by myself and when the director's secretary went on vacation for a week I



Greta Kooistra photo

Machi, Sarjiet and Pito

replaced her. What a great experience!

When I was 15 I moved in with Pito and his mother and a year later I graduated from BVO. But I wanted more diplomas and more experience to get a better job and so I started with SBO (secondary professional education) in the afternoons, and now I am in my second year and I like

it!

When I was almost 17 I became pregnant with my sweet little boy. It was a conscious choice. I thought it would be great to have a baby with the man you love. Nevertheless, I was a little bit scared. I was daring, but I didn't know how to handle a child and whether I could do it the right way. Pito was so happy and so

were my mom and Pito's mom and his sisters. Of course there were people who thought I wouldn't go to school anymore – there are always people who think badly about you – but I went on studying, for my family and myself.

Then my girlfriend Fleurtje told me about a course at Sebiki

(Continued on page 5)

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Born on Bonaire
(Continued from page 4)

called 'Mama Hoben' (Young Mother), where I could learn everything about being pregnant, the delivery and having a baby, so I went there and they taught me all I needed to know.

Sarjiet was born September 4th 2007. Pito and I were alone at home and I started having pains at 5:15 in the morning. I didn't tell Pito anything but I went to wash clothes to take with me to the hospital. Pito thought it was strange that I was doing laundry at that hour and he asked me if I was in pain, but I said 'No!' After a while I said, 'I think I'm in pain.' We called his mom and his sisters and nobody else because my mom had to go to work and I knew she would become too nervous. At 9 am we went to Dr. Lont's office. She told me to go home and come back when I felt I couldn't take it any more. At 11:45 we were at home with all Pito's sisters and Charlisse Thomas and I called my mom to tell her that I was going to have the baby. She didn't believe it because my voice was normal and I wasn't nervous or scared or crying. I was just very happy that my baby was going to be born.

At 12:15 we went back to Dr. Lont and she said: 'Oh! Good thing you came. You have to go to the hospital right now!' At the hospital I didn't even check in - I

went straight to the delivery room - that was fun! People said, 'Look at her, she can't wait!' The baby was born at 1:15 pm—a sweet little boy that Pito named Sarjiet. It was easy. You see, if you get nervous it becomes difficult. You have to stay quiet and do what they told you to do at Sebiki."

Machi Soliana is an extraordinary person. She had to make her own life and she chose to do it the right way. She could have gone anywhere, but here she is - stable, standing on her own two feet with a lot of guts, studying and working on her future - a very good mom - a loyal girlfriend - a beautiful 18 year old woman.

"... a child is something that you should want together, otherwise you end up alone with your baby —and a child needs two parents."

"At SBO I'm now working as a trainee with SVB. It's going well, but I'm not making a lot of money and Pito is not working - he doesn't want to. Before, my mom and sometimes Pito's mom would look after Sarjiet, but I found it better for him to go to crèche so he could learn more and interact with other children. He's now with Juffrouw Ana every day at crèche Colita i Munecon.

This is my last school year but I

should do three more years - I'm still thinking - the problem is money. I'm the only one who's working and I need the money to pay the crèche and to buy things for Sarjiet. It's difficult sometimes; it isn't as easy as everyone thinks it is. But when Sarjiet gets older, things will be better. I want to find a good job as an administrator and I want to be independent and I want the best for my child.

Sometimes I go out with a girlfriend or with my class to Kentucky (KFC). On the weekends I go swimming with Sarjiet at Sunset Beach, or we go to town or to the Parke Publiko. When I was young I was into athletics for many years and I was good. I

was even selected to participate in tournaments on Curaçao, but it all changed when I became a teenager. Now I'm playing on a soccer team of Nort di Salina, the Estrellas Girls. I love sports - mainly to keep my body young!

I'm happy because I love my baby and if I want do to something and he can't be there, I won't do it.

Bonaire is the only place I know. I've been to Curaçao a couple of times and that's it. I



Sibiki photo

Pre-natal classes conducted by Sebiki

would love to go to Holland and see what the opportunities are there. To see if we could get our own house (which is impossible here), to see about further education and jobs, to get to know other cultures - a different life, to see if it could be better. I don't want a hard life for us. I don't want it to stay the way it is now. And, I still would like to travel because Pito, Sarjiet and I never went anywhere as a family. That would be so great!

On Bonaire it is normal to have a baby when you're young, but sometimes women do it for the wrong reason, hoping the guy will stay with them. That's not good at all because a child is something that you should want together, otherwise you end up

alone with your baby, and a child needs two parents. I hope all the young mamas will do the best they can for their child. Don't stay at home or let yourself be supported by your mother because it's better to do everything yourself for your child so you feel your responsibility. And if the baby's father is there too, then you have to get together as a family, to protect your child, to give it all the chances it needs and to bring it up the right way."

Greta Kooistra



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Flotsam & Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
its forecast for the 2009 season was based on factors that included warm Atlantic sea surface temperatures that create favorable conditions for cyclones.

The long-term average during the six-month season, which begins on June 1, is 10 or 11 tropical storms and six hurricanes.

► **Historical research shows that US President-elect Barack Obama is a descendant of the Pilgrim Fathers** who left the Dutch town of Leiden in 1620 to found the Plymouth colony in Massachusetts. Culture Alderman Jan-Jaap de Haan in the University City of Leiden revealed Obama's ancestors were among those who arrived there from Britain in 1609 seeking religious freedom.

The nonconformist Puritans lived and worked for 11 years in Amsterdam and Leiden before sailing to America, some of them on the Mayflower.

Obama is the seventh American president directly descended from Leiden's Pilgrim Fathers.

► **Again this year, as they have for the past five years, church volunteers are asking for the donation of food products from supermarket shoppers.** The food will be distributed to less fortunate people on Saturday, December 20. Buy something extra to donate and give to the volunteer as you leave the market. They include Bonaire Warehouse, Cultimara, Progreso, More for Less, Winchun and Tropical Flamingo.

For a direct donation contact pastor Ramiro Richards at 717-2194 or 529-2547.

► **Outlet Mol**, which offers Bonaire's largest selection of bikinis and surf wear, is starting a new ad campaign in *The Re-*

► Important elements for a healthy diet, especially to avoid weight gain, are fruit and vegetables. On Bonaire we have access to products from not only the US and Holland, but also from Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela. Like most food products their price has been rising. **The Bonaire Consumer Shopping Foundation checked 12 markets and produced the report below.** They advise that quality varies and consumers should select carefully.

Market name/	Quantity	MORE F.L.	CASH & CAR.	TUSNARA	HUA FENG	CARIBE SUP.	CULTIMARA	ZHUNG KONG	WAREHO.	PROGRESO	WING CHEU.	LA PORTUG.	CACHE
Fruit and Vegetables													
Kiwi USA	each	0,98	x	x	x	x	0,85	x	0,85	x	x	x	x
Apples-red USA	each	1,26	1,08	0,85	1,25	x	9,65*	1,00	1,00	1,25	1,49	1,50	1,20
Apples- yellow USA	each	x	1,07	0,85	x	1,20	6,50*	1,00	1,00	1,20	1,49	1,50	1,20
Pears USA	each	1,12	0,90	0,85	x	1,10	5,55*	x	1,15	x	x	1,25	x
Oranges USA	each	0,98	0,95	0,62	0,85	0,97	4,85*	0,75	x	0,95	0,99	1,25	0,80
Watermelon Ven.	each	8,40	8,50	1,35*	x	10,00	2,75*	x	7,50	x	x	2,00	7,95
Grapes-green USA	p/kg	12,56	13,05	x	x	x	10,95	x	9,98	15,90	13,00	9,00	x
Grapes-red USA	p/kg	12,56	11,60	x	12,00	10,00	11,50	x	9,98	13,85	13,00	9,00	x
Carrots USA	pa sack	2,75	4,95	x	3,95	x	5,50*	x	1,75	2,85	2,95	2,50	3,50
Plantains	each	1,00	0,95	0,95	0,85	0,85	0,85	1,00	0,99	0,90	1,00	1,00	0,85
Bananas	p/kg	x	2,95	2,35	2,50	x	2,95	2,50	2,35	x	x	2,00	2,50
Cucumbers	p/kg	3,15	4,90	3,70	3,75	5,00	3,25	4,50	1,49	5,00	4,50	5,00	3,50
Pumpkin Ven.	p/kg	2,00	2,35	1,60	2,35	2,50	4,00	x	6,49#	3,00	2,60	2,00	2,00
Melon Ven.	each	x	5,50	x	x	5,00	x	x	x	x	x	3,00*	4,50
White Cabbage Ven.	each	4,60	4,40	5,25	2,50	3,00	4,50	3,00	3,88	6,60	3,50	4,00	2,40
Green Peppers Ven.	p/kg	7,00	8,95	8,15	6,50	6,50	9,60	6,75	x	7,30	7,00	7,00	5,90
Tomatoes Ven.	p/kg	4,90	6,20	6,50	5,50	6,00	5,95	7,00	6,50	9,40	6,50	6,00	5,70
Tomatoes USA	p/kg	12,20**	10,95	x	x	x	5,95	x	9,85	x	x	x	x
Celery local	p/bunch	x	x	x	1,95	x	x	x	x	x	x	1,50	x
Celery USA	each	11,35***	4,00	7,91	3,95	3,95	x	x	3,87	x	2,50	4,00	x
Sweet potatoes Ven.	p/kg	6,71	4,40	x	6,00	4,00	5,35	x	9,74	6,25	6,00	5,00	3,50
Broccoli USA	p/bunch	11,50***	7,55	x	8,50	x	5,30	x	9,74	x	x	x	x
Cauliflower USA	each	13,95***	8,05*	x	x	x	x	x	4,49	x	x	x	x

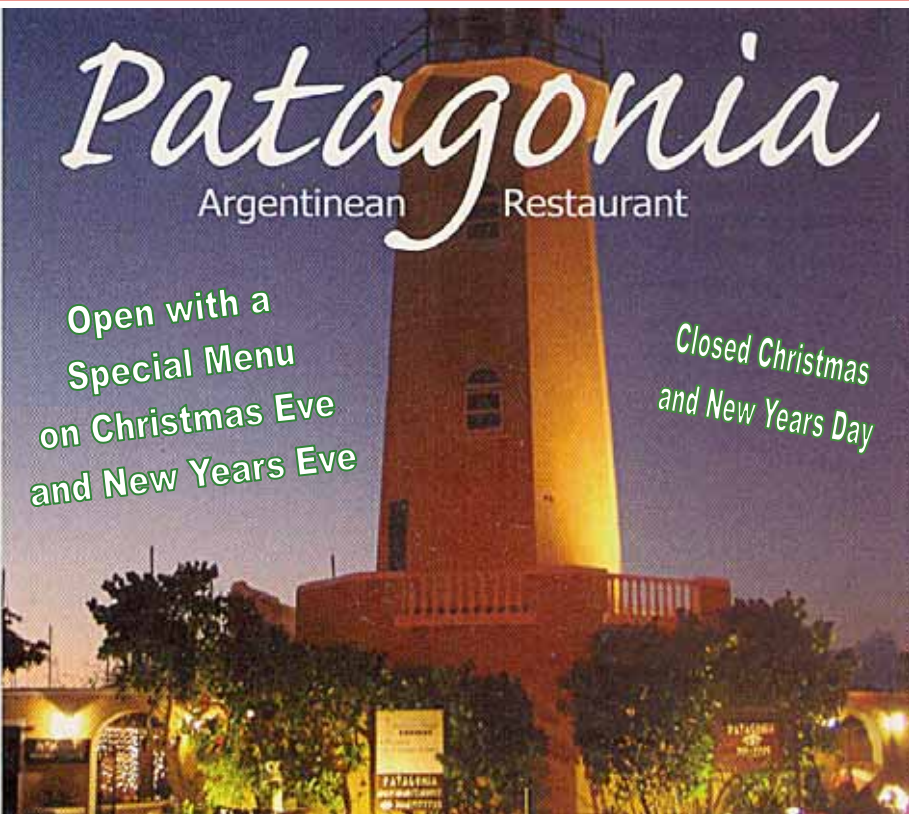
Explanation:* price per kg ** from Ecuador ***price per kg from Ecuador # each Ven. -from Venezuela

Source: The Bonaire Consumer Shopping Foundation (*Fundashon Tienda pa Konsumidó Boneriano*) Kaya Korona 5. Phone: 717- 3569, fax 71- 3529, Email: tkbon1@telbonet.an The office is open Monday through Friday 09:00-12:00 and 14:00-17:00.

porter, called "Model of the Week". **The first model of the week is Ruthvianca Josephia**, a Miss Bonaire contestant,

which Outlet Mol sponsored. (See ad below). Each week the sales team at Outlet Mol

will choose a model from their shoppers, and if the cute girl/handsome guy agrees, (Continued on page 7)



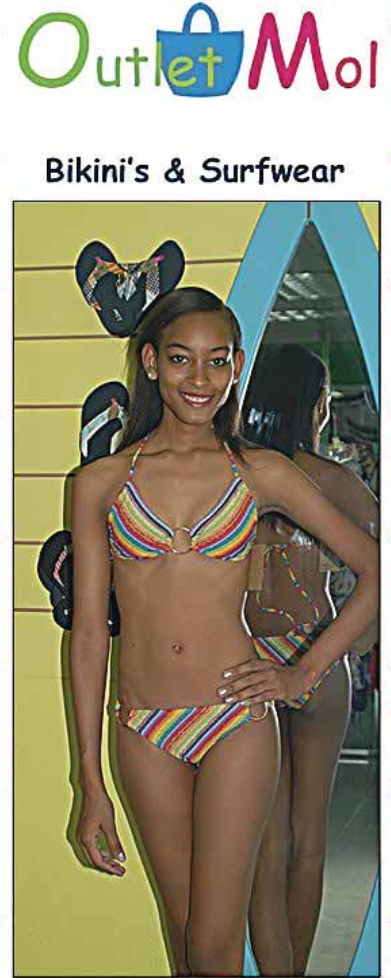
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Bikini's & Surfwear

Model of the week: Ruthvianca Josephia

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BONAIREAN VOICES

RELIGION IN SCHOOL PART II

The phrase, religion in school, may have freaked out many people reading "Religion in School, Part 1" in the last edition of *The Reporter*. But if we don't call it religion let's change the words and call it "Personal Development." This is something I learned from Mrs. Lilian Paula-Crestian and Pastor Ramiro Richards.

Paula-Crestian (49), the SGB (high school) advisor and counselor, said, "It all started in 2005 when Bonaire was shocked by the double murder of the teenage boys. The Lt. Governor of that time, Mr. Domacassé, called a meeting of representatives of all the religions on Bonaire to start a program especially for the youth of the SGB.

In July 2005 we signed an agreement approved by the school management team and the school board to start with a program for personal development involving 12 key topics. Unfortunately, it lasted only two years (2005-2007). We're waiting for the school board to approve the program in 2009. People need to work on their norms and values and the SGB students need to be taught these norms. There are some kids you often find on the street, living a street life, and if you don't teach them these values they may end up in prison.

We have a mixture of different cultures in school and each one might have their own way of thinking, so to work on the personal development of each student is important. If teachers show more respect and are good listeners they can get the youngster to open up. The tendency of fear and vengeance will go away. My main goal is for every student to finish school and get a diploma and that during their school years they may gain a diploma for their personal development, intellectual, social and emotional motivations. In this way we can count on one better citizen."

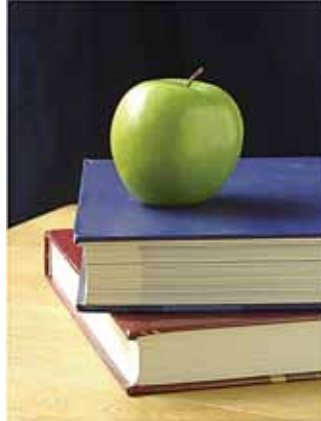
And this was the way Pastor Ramiro Richards got involved with the SGB. As he said, "Mrs. Lilian Paula-Crestian, a 2nd

grade Papiamentu educator at the SGB, coordinated the whole Personal Development project. We started with the first and second year students of the SGB,

once a week every other week for two years, 2005-2007. We worked on 12 areas of the student's life during each school year: 1.Family, 2.Identity, 3.Authority, 4.Social Relationships, 5.Health, 6.Loyalty, 7.Liberty, 8.Character development, 9.Obedience, 10.Responsibility, 11.Emotions, 12.Sexuality. We got different people from different congregations to work on the program. The students were very open during the lesson times. We had information nights for the parents. For two years we kept the educators informed about the program. We made our own materials to send out the message. There is a need for the student to learn. As a result in those two years things improved. Changes in the students were visible.

Both Bonairean and foreign educators need to come together and work for the benefit of these kids. Some kids look up to you as someone they can trust and confide their problems. Young people want to have a good relationship with grown ups. A solid and good relationship can bring changes in a child's behavior. I hope that these lessons can continue in 2009." ■
Siomara E. Albertus

Send your comments to
The Bonaire Reporter,
P.O. Box 407, Bonaire,
or email reporter
@bonairenews.com.



► If you love art that relates to Bonaire be sure to visit the "Indians Of Bonaire & Other New Paintings" exhibit by Henk Roosendaal at Kas di Arte. Details on page 16.

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 6) they will be seen as the model of the week in *The Reporter*.

Outlet Mol just received a HUGE shipment of new bikinis, so pass by and see if you are the lucky one chosen for model of the week.

► The discovery of two species of coral once thought to be extinct provide an important link between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, US scientists said after sampling 67 locations around Curaçao and found the *Isopora ginsburgi* and *Isopora Curaçaoensis*. Researchers said the occurrences of *Isopora* reported are the oldest records of *Isopora* worldwide and key to understanding the bio-geographic separation between reef coral life in the Caribbean and Indo-Pacific regions. - UPI

► Give yourself some time off from the kitchen this holiday season. Some of our favorite restaurants are offering special holiday menus that are guaranteed to please. **Lion's Den Beach Bar and Restaurant at Buddy Dive** has two and three-course festive menus during the holiday period. (See their ad on page 15). **Sunset Bar and Grill** will serve two and three course and traditional menus from Christmas Eve to New Years Day. (See their ad on page 15). **Patagonia Argentinean Restaurant** at the Lighthouse at Harbour Village Marina will have a special menu on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. They will be closed Christmas and New Years Days. (See their ad on page 6)

Want to celebrate the season but don't want to go out? Dine elegantly in your own

home with no fuss and bother for you. **Call Philip's Cooking and Organizing**. Philip arranges everything: the food courses, wines, even the table cloth, candles, dishes glasses and silver. You pick the menu and the guests and he'll do the rest. Call 701-1100.

► Cooking yourself? Shop where some of the top restaurants buy. **TIS-The Island Supplier-** on Kaya Industria has a freezer full of premium meats and seafood like Black Angus steaks, sushi-quality tuna, king crab and more. If you can afford the best, visit TIS. Check the list of the latest refrigerated container contents on the office door.

► Something new for the luxury loving. **Intermezzo Day Spa at Capt. Don's Habitat** is now offering facials using the most amazing products made from wine grapes. These grapes – Chardonnay, Reisling, Bordeaux and more, are grown in Canada just to be the ingredients for wonderfully aromatic facial scrubs, moisturizers and masks. The products are not for sale here but you can enjoy them as they are applied to your face. There are a lot of people who would love a gift certificate from Intermezzo for a massage or a facial. Intermezzo's phone is 717-8290, ext. 3022 or 717-8848.

► *The Reporter* is "Still Free," and wishes all our readers, sponsors and advertisers a wonderful holiday season. The many advertisers in this issue help to get the issue in your hands. So be sure and visit them and say, "The Reporter sent me." ■ G./L.D.

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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. **Answer on page 9.** Supplied by *Molly Bartikoski-Kearney*

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



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Island View

TIPPING POINT

When different circumstances arise, people will change their behavior accordingly. That sounds logical; like a tiger will start hunting when he sees a prey and feels hungry, or a boy will puff up his chest when he sees a pretty girl. Those behaviors were triggered by a key stimulus: for the tiger the sight of a prey in combination with hunger, and for the boy the sight of a pretty girl.

In Dutch you have a saying: *gelegenheid maakt de dief* (opportunity makes the thief). "Normal" people can demonstrate criminal behavior when put in certain settings. So to understand why people are doing certain things, we have to find what key stimulus led to their behavior. This is in order to better understand and avoid criminal behavior, of course.

But with a lot of different kinds of behavior it is not as straightforward as the above-mentioned boy who sees the girl. When you look at behaviors like violence, crime, teenage pregnancy and dropping out of school, for example, there is still a lot of debate going on of what causes those behaviors. On top of that, all these behaviors appear to be contagious. For a period of time everything seems normal, and then suddenly you have an epidemic of crime or teenage pregnancies on your hands. What the researchers are trying to answer is: what key stimuli will contribute to a tipping point in change of human behavior?

Researchers have done a study in a ghetto with teenage pregnancies and drop-

ping out of school as the main components. We can describe a ghetto as a place where people of the same cultural background live together at a low social economic standard. They found that teenage pregnancies and dropping out of school reaches epidemic proportions as soon as the share of the high-status workforce drops under 5%. Somehow the behavior of teenagers is linked to the work status of adults from their community.

Let us translate that to the situation on Bonaire. Here we have a yearly brain drain of students leaving to do their studies abroad. A lot of them will stay abroad because of financial and/or opportunity reasons. In other words, the Bonairean students with the most potential to become part of the high-status workforce leave and they do not come back. To make the situation even more complex, the need for high-status workers is not filled with people from the community, but with "outsiders." Or in other cases people with the wrong skills or level of education will fill up positions for which they normally never would have been considered.

How does this influence the youngsters who are still in school here on Bonaire? You find that it can result in a lack of interest in working for their diploma. Why should they? A lot of "nice" jobs are taken by somebody not from the community anyway, so why bother. And it sometimes seems that a diploma is not so very important for landing a good job. We can

also certainly speak of an epidemic in teenage pregnancies and school dropouts.

These children need to see the straightforward cause and effect. "If I work hard now, I can get the job I like later and/or I can make more money." They need examples from their own community, someone to look up to. The first thing you learn when becoming a teacher is, children will not do what you say, but they will do what you do. When they see more people from their community in satisfying jobs, they will try to follow that example.

The Bonairean government needs to get really busy. First of all it must be a priority to bring back the students who are studying abroad. Check out www.banboneirubek.com.

But there is also a need for additional opportunities for the students here on Bonaire. Special training programs to advance themselves need to be set up, or like in the case of the SBO, supported and expanded. There should be more financial benefits for anyone who wants to better him- or herself through study. Any Bonairean who wants to become an example for the future students must be helped in



every possible way. And anyone who is worried about how much this is going to cost us should consider how much potential we now lose because of teenage pregnancies, school dropouts and people not returning to Bonaire after their studies abroad.

If you can fight this epidemic that is raging in Bonaire by these simple means, you will have money to spare. Which you then can spend on, oh, I don't know, roads maybe? ■

Mary Ann Koops



Koops teaches Biology at the SGB High School. Her insightful commentary appears regularly in The Reporter.

Pet of The Week

"Yannis" the cat is one of the favorites of the staff at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. He just loves to be held and stroked and always shows his appreciation by purring. In fact he was like a big brother to a tiny little puppy who had to spend some time in the cat cage because she was too small to be put in with the other puppies. Yannis played with her and even let her bite his tail. What a considerate personality. Yannis is about a year old; he's handsome with his incredible green eyes and white accents to coordinate with the grays of his tabby fur. He's been checked out by the vet,

has had his shots and worming and sterilization and is ready to go to the perfect loving home. You may see Yannis at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Although fireworks may be fun for some people they're hell for the animals on the island. If you lose your pet or if you find one, please call the Shelter at 717-4989. They'll act as a "go between" and try to reunite the owner with the lost pet. ■ L.D.



The Pet Project-2008 Benefits the Animal Shelter and Your Pet

Our New Year's celebration will be festive when we ring in the year with fireworks, but our pets react with confusion due to the unusual noise. The New Year period sees the loss of pets who run away from these loud noises. Fortunately, help is available in an inexpensive, non-toxic form. It has helped many people effectively for a variety of stresses. It is named "Rescue Remedy."

Rescue Remedy is a natural medicine made from flowers. It was invented in England by a physician named Dr. Edward Bach, who intended to relieve psychological suffering of people. That was in 1935. Since those years, people have used Bach remedies and shared it with pets.

This year Rescue Remedy will be available for pet owners to help their animal

companions through the New Year 2009, thanks to The Pet Project.

Follow the simple instructions on the label. The cost is NAf 2, which benefits the Animal Shelter.

You may pick up Rescue Remedy at the Animal Shelter on Kaminda Lagoen, Bistro de Paris, Chat and Browse and many grocery stores. ■

Florence Ditlow

Florence Ditlow is a nurse and certified in the use of Bach Remedies through the Bach Center. If you have more questions about



Florence Ditlow and friends

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Chicken's Drop, Church Rises!



Matt Sellars photo

Magnificent rooster Horton of Kunuku Shimaruku

It might sound strange and most people don't believe it but the International Bible Church of Bonaire found itself without a building to hold services in this past year and the congregation felt they were being led to build a church. Since the congregation is small and represents the only English-only speaking church on the island, it was with prayer and faith that the mission of a new building was started. Surely it will be difficult for this small number of people to collect enough money to begin. Ideas flowed in and finally it was decided to sell chicken manure since the church has access to an unlimited supply and many of the merchants on the island have offered to give bags to transport the product to the market. One of the spokesmen for the church was asked "Why chicken manure?"

Research was done by one of the members on chicken manure and found it to be the best natural fertilizer on the face of the earth. It is higher in nitrogen, and has a balanced amount of potash and phosphorus, more than any other manure from any animal including elephants and giraffes. Manure is "green" from any animal but they also found that it was not healthy to use manure from animals that eat meat because there was a danger that viruses could be picked up by the plants using this material. Chicken manure received the vote of confidence and the "church business" was born.

The members of the church are now seeking potential users such as people who sell plants and maintain gardens for a business, and others who just like to balance nature with natural products to step forward with their orders. The chairman of the "product distribution" stated that the professionals, who are already in the business, will be given the first bag of manure free for a test run and if they like it then he will take their orders for additional bags. He said it is like the old fashioned "Cracker Jacks." The more you (in the case of the Cracker Jacks) eat the more your want. In the context of the manure, the more you use the more benefits you will discover and you will be a customer for life and coming from the Rooster Boosters' mouth that is the final poop! If after reading this, you feel you cannot live without the product under discussion, please feel free to call the chairman of the "product distribution center" and

order up for this Christmas' free delivery. The bags are potato bags and quite large and the price is NAf 12, and if 5 or more bags are purchased then the price will drop to NAf 10 per bag.

The chairman says he has taken many orders and most prospects are using the product for Christmas presents. His island number is 717-3949. The international number has not yet been set up. ■

Bob Lassiter



Opening in the beginning of 2009... "BonBida Spa and gym". Largest Fitness and spa club on Bonaire with professional instructors. High-tech equipment with personal television screens, large separate dress rooms with lockers and showers. Relaxation area, sauna's, massage, manicure, pedicure and chiropractics will also soon be available. Presales for memberships will start in January.



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183 245 976
975 861 324
264 793 815
592 638 147
748 512 693
631 479 258

Puzzle on page 7

Cover Story

Music School Concert and Awards



Music school photo

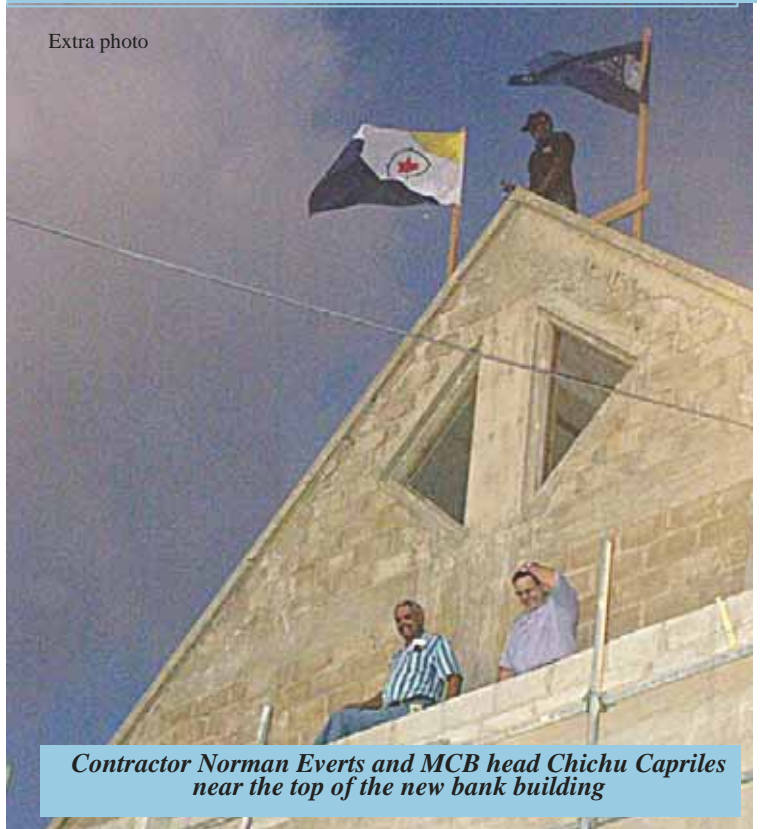
Students of the Music School (*Skol di Musika*) gave a concert at Jong Bonaire last Sunday afternoon. As a special surprise the President of the Rotary Club Bonaire, Frank deWit, on behalf of the Rotary Club, donated a piano with amplifiers to the school. Frank explained that this award is typical of the Rotary Club's support for different youth projects such as school meals for children.

The students performed a variety of music, both traditional and modern and included some favorite Christmas songs. They were applauded enthusiastically by family and friends.

Performers were: Christopher Ifsenia, Meralny Bomba, Gary Yang, Neberry Muringen, Devanie Pourier, Keyoma, Nethanja, Tony Yang, Shaieb Kartodikromo, Grep Linkels, Cesar van Esveld, Djanyanti Misier, Siddharta, Sue-Ann Moo, Angelica Julio, Georvan Mensche, Luisson Copra, Javienne and Julienne Sof, Leila Mensche, Tom Jendrik Janga, Turbion Janga and Orlando.

The next recital will take place in the Spring, hopefully at the Music School, which will have been refurbished so that the rain will no longer be allowed to enter and damage the instruments! ■ *Press Release/L.D.*

MCB's New Head Office



Extra photo

Contractor Norman Everts and MCB head Chichu Capriles near the top of the new bank building

Maduro and Curiel's Bank Bonaire celebrated the "Highest Point" (*spantembier*) of their new building with a party last Friday. The new structure, across from the present branch office in Hato at Kaya Gob. Debrot, will serve as the head office, which presently is in Playa. The building will also house the departments of commercial credit, bank card, audit, security, legal and collections. It's due to be completed by May 31 and will be open for business sometime in June. The Hato branch, across the street, will remain the same, serving as a branch office with a back office and controlling department, except that the insurance department will relocate to the Playa branch, .

The Playa branch will have a back office, human resources (HRD), IT banking operations and Insurance. ■ *L.D.*

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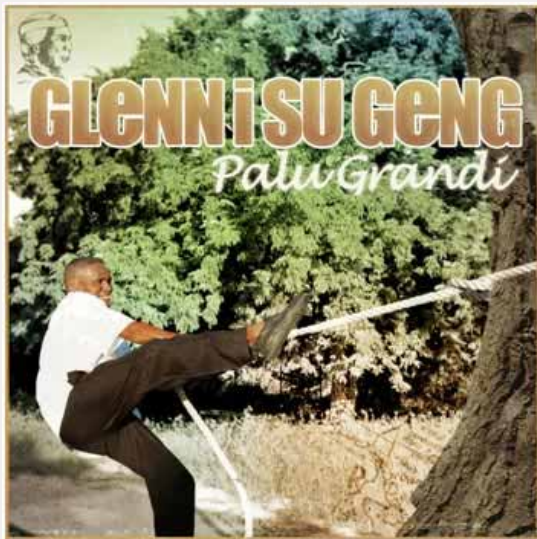
Glenn i Su Geng's New CD, "Palu Grandi"

Glenn i Su Geng's new CD, "Palu Grandi," is now for sale. The popular group's leader, Glenn "Tutu" Lugo composed most of the 10 songs that are uniquely in the Glenn i Su Geng's style. Since the success of the group's other CDs, "Kunuku Bieu" and "Piská," the group has achieved tremendous success in the folkloric culture in the marketplace. "Palu Grandi" displays a remarkable variation of types of music and rhythms, especially showing the diversity of beloved Criollo and Antillean music.

The group plays traditional instruments such as the kwarta, bari, raspa, chapi, mandolin, marak, wiri and baho.

New songs are *Palu Grandi*; *Kòrda Pasa Paga*; *Milos*, a polka/dance composed and arranged by one of the masters of the mandolin in Bonaire, Roberto "Papachi" Salsbach; *Promé di Yanüari*, a traditional drum piece for the end of the year; *No Kambia Kaminda Bieu Pa Kaminda Nobo*; *Turismo*, a ballad; *M'a Seba*, a composition by John "Djòni" Leoneta arranged by Richinel "Rishi" Anthony; *Traha Dam Warda Awa*; *La Carisia*, a waltz from Micho Prudencia; and *Pa Bisa Ku Bo Tin*.

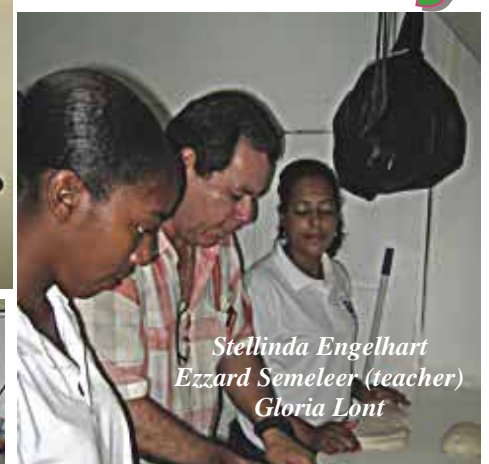
The CD will be baptized on Saturday, December 20, at E Tèras beginning at 9 pm. To celebrate the end of the year the group will be playing Saturday, December 27 from 6 pm to 2 am at the Sentro di



Bario Nort Saliña. For more information or to buy a cd contact any of the members of the band or email: papito@fcbinfo.org or ludoncolaas@gmail.com.

Members of Glenn i Su Geng are: Glenn "Tutu" Lugo, Juan "Wanchè" Lugo, Rigmar "Papito" Lugo, Mario Rudolf "Dòlfi" Franceses, Jeffrey Schoop, Isidro "Ècho" Statie, Loduvico "Ludo" Nicolaas, Robert "Papachi" Salsbach, Elison Mercera, Hubert "Para Ketu Mucha" Martis, Felix "Papito" Thomas. Guest musician Genaro Anthony on conga. CD production and mixing was at Studio Chikí and Robert Sances also assisted in the production with the design of the cover. ■ *Press Release/L.D.*

Young Chefs To Italy



Not pictured: Sharily Nicolaas, Mirchionella Winklaar, Wiliene Merencia and Migaila Winklaar

A group of 10 very motivated SBO students at FORMA, Level 1, has been given the opportunity to study culinary arts in Italy, thanks to the Culinary Bonaire Foundation. The foundation, which is made up of Sara Matera, Moreno Binelli and Ruud Vermeulen, has sponsored culinary students from the SGB in the past to attend this trainee period at a horeca (food and beverage) school in Italy.

For the FORMA students this is a wonderful experience where they will learn the magnitude of the horeca sector in Europe and where they will receive culinary instructions from international professionals. This will be the first time for all of the students to travel to Europe.

The three-week training period at a

horeca school in the region of Modena, Emilia Romagna, will be in March 2009. During that time they will learn Italian culinary skills as well as the hospitality and discipline required in the field. During the trainee period Miguel "Poppy" Saragosa, a former SGB culinary student, will be present to help with the instructions and to translate in Papiamentu.

The students have already started fundraising activities, selling Surinam food on December 6 at Jong Bonaire and serving a Christmas dinner on December 10th and 17th at Chez Nous at the SGB (high school).

For more information or how you can help, call Mrs. Eliane Clarinda at 717-6949 ext. 11. ■ *Press Release/L.D.*

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Beanie Babies for Bonaire

For the second year in a row, part-time Bonaire resident Bonnie Pascoe has brought over 100 "Beanie Baby" bean-bag dolls to Bonaire to be distributed to less privileged youngsters on the island. The small dolls are part of a collection that Pascoe had created for her grandchildren, who have since outgrown them.

"It seemed like such a waste to have the dolls sitting around and not being enjoyed," said Pascoe, whose collection totaled over 400 before she started bringing them to Bonaire to give away.

Last year and this year Pascoe turned the small bean-bag dolls over to Jong Bonaire where teens in the youth center's KREBO program gift-wrap the dolls and then host a party for small children who have been selected by the social services department. This time the Beanie Baby party will be in early January.

The Jong Bonaire KREBO program is made up of teens who each year learn about caring for small children and then in the summer work in the many vacation programs on the island. According to Jong Bonaire manager Jona Chirino, "The KREBO program lets the teens consider the idea of someday working in a krèsh (nursery school) or becoming a teacher. And it helps them learn how to deal with small children so that they will all be better



Bonnie Pascoe and her "babies" at Jong Bonaire

parents. The donated dolls give the teens a chance to volunteer to help families who have fewer resources," Chirino said. "It's good for them to be able to volunteer and give something to others. It is very generous of Bonnie Pascoe to share these dolls with our children."

Pascoe says she has enough Beanie Babies for one more year of gifts to the Bonaire children. "Then my collection is gone." But she feels good about giving the dolls to children who can enjoy them and says: "It feels very good to be able to do something for the children of Bonaire." ■

Story & photo by Jane Townsend

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Bonaire Eco Swim Results

Clear skies and a calm sea greeted 66 sleepy swimmers as they awoke on December 6th to prepare for the 8th Annual Bonaire Eco Swim. Ambling towards Captain Don's for their race number markings, participants happily swilled java and water and exchanged warm, slightly nervous greetings. People from all over the world—Venezuela, Canada, as well as Alaska, California, New York, and many places in-between—gathered together in an air of anticipation and bonhomie for the 10k, 5k, 3k and 1k races. The stellar water—famous for its amazing clarity, and beauty—waited in its 82°F splendor. The colors ranged from a brilliant turquoise to rich cobalt, known locally as “the deep blue.”



Outdoor Magazine photo

Not without a touch of awe swimmers jumped in for the water start, just as the clouds kindly rolled in just in time to shade the fair-skinned swimmers. Boat support, generously provided by the Bonaire National Marine Park and Captain Don's, were already in place, as were the dedicated kayak support team. As swimmers started off towards their respective buoys, the race was occasionally interrupted by excited shouts of “turtle!” drawing swimmers off-course for a closer look. Sea turtles, giant blue parrotfish, great barracuda, and moray eels were some of the many exotic (at least to the non-locals) species that were encountered during the event. Bonaire, famous for its exceptional sea life and coral reefs, also thankfully has very little in the way of nasty critters, making for an idyllic swim. Jimmy Wellborn, winner of the 10k swim, was rewarded with a frosty Polar as soon as his hand left the finish buoy. As swimmers left the dock, they gathered at Rum Runners for icy refreshments and to await the award ceremony. A special thanks goes out to all that made this event possible and we hope that we may knock on your door again next year: Dutch Antillean Express, Capt. Don's Habitat, Rumrunners, Sand Dollar Condominium Resort, Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire), Budget, Bonaire Dive and Adventures, Bonaire National Marine Park, Paco Veeris and the Jong Bonaire crew, Great Adventures Bonaire ■ *Diana Sint Jago-BONHATA*



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KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
12-19	1:33	1.0FT.	8:42	1.6FT.	15:18	1.2FT.	18:49	1.4FT.	57
12-20	1:20	1.0FT.	9:00	1.8FT.	16:38	1.1FT.	20:05	1.2FT.	48
12-21	0:34	1.0FT.	9:27	1.9FT.	17:58	1.0FT.	21:46	1.1FT.	44
12-22	9:54	2.0FT.	18:55	0.9FT.					47
12-23	10:21	2.0FT.	19:58	0.8FT.					53
12-24	10:52	2.1FT.	20:42	0.8FT.					60
12-25	11:26	2.1FT.	21:29	0.7FT.					66
12-26	11:55	2.1FT.	22:11	0.7FT.					71
12-27	12:24	2.0FT.	22:43	0.7FT.					75
12-28	12:58	2.0FT.	23:12	0.7FT.					77
12-29	13:28	1.9FT.	23:41	0.8FT.					78
12-30	0:02	0.8FT.	13:54	1.8FT.					77
12-31	0:25	0.9FT.	14:22	1.7FT.					74
1-01	0:30	1.0FT.	14:47	1.6FT.					70
1-02	0:11	1.0FT.	9:27	1.5FT.					64

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Letters to the Editor

BOAT FIRE AND SINKING

Dear Friends in the Bonaire Community: While out diving on Thursday, December 4th, our sailboat *Constance* caught on fire and in a little over an hour burned down to the waterline and sank here in Bonaire. We had owned her since 1990 and had lived aboard and cruised the western Caribbean to Bonaire since 2003 along with our little old boat dog Maddie. Of course we are totally devastated and still in shock at our loss but are trying to look ahead to the future. There seems to be no apparent reason for the fire except perhaps an electrical failure that we are unaware of. We cannot think of anything that we would have done differently except not to have cancelled our insurance last year (but this is not uncommon on older yachts like ours).

We left in our dinghy at about 9 am to dive at "Nearest Point" on Klein Bonaire. When we ascended from the reef to the surface we saw the black smoke coming from the town. We rushed back and to our shock found that *Constance* was covered in flames. Our immediate concern was for Maddie who was left aboard. Thank God, a fellow cruiser, **Alan** on *Moon Song*, had been kayaking close by and courageously pulled her off of the flaming bow of the boat. We would not have been able to handle her loss.

As we hovered in our dinghy unable to do anything to stop the fire, he was joined and helped by **Alex** from Harbor Village Marine and **Dean and Juan Pablo** in the Marine Park boat from STINAPA. With their help and that of other cruisers, boats were moved out of the way and ours towed to deeper water to sink. These men were awesome with their attitude to do anything they could to help. The folks at Yellow Submarine dive shop were also extremely helpful, especially **Jurijn** who swam out to *Constance* and banged on the hull to make sure no one was still aboard and then to retrieve Maddie. The fire boat and the land based fire truck also came to assist but despite their efforts were able to do little to stop the raging fire.

Later that day, anticipating our immediate needs, **Detective Senior** from the Police Department wrote up a report and **Team Leader Conquet** from Immigration provided us a memorandum so that we could fly to Curaçao to replace our passports. From all of the officials we have received the most sincere sympathy and blessings, which has helped us to move on from our loss.

Lastly we want to mention the cruiser community. All of us who wander about the world in our small boats know that whenever we sail into a new harbor or anchorage, whether there is one or a hundred boats, we will find friends, either new or old, and that if we need any help at all someone will provide it! This is truly the best part of cruising. While *Constance* was still burning friends started helping us. Everything we own was aboard being consumed by fire so friends began providing for our needs with clothing, money, cell phones and many things we had not even begun to think of.

We have been staying at Port Bonaire with **Bob and Barb Gilmour**, ex-cruisers and

the Seven Seas Cruising Association [SSCA] hosts who arrived here on their boat *Enkidu* and fell in love with Bonaire. They have provided the resources to enable us to remain here for a spell, while we figure out what to do next, including a house sitting opportunity with their friends that is enabling us to have our daughters come and visit us for Christmas week (something planned and paid for a long time ago).

We will always feel lucky that this terrible event happened on the special Island of Bonaire. We love you all. Masha Danki!

John and Barbara O'Connell and boat dog Maddie (with 9 lives)

Herman van Leeuwen photo



TWO CRUISE SHIP PERSPECTIVES

Dear Editor, I was happy to read in *The Reporter* (December 5-19, 2008) that the Government has finally created a tax for cruise ship passengers. Except for the very few who profit directly from their presence, all the majority of island residents get is inconvenience and aggravation. Taxing the passengers will surely bring benefits to all. Or will it? The same article lists six things that the proceeds of the tax will be used for. Five of the six items are for the benefit of the cruise ship industry and are intended to attract more cruise ships to Bonaire! The sixth item is the generic "maintenance of the Marine Park." The Marine Park fee which goes toward maintenance of the Park is charged, as it should be, to everyone who uses the Park. Except cruise ship passengers. As for the tax itself, 75 cents is completely absurd and probably less than the cost of administering and collecting it. Even the \$2 planned for next year is too low. The cruise ship *Caribbean Princess* stops in Bonaire as part of its 14-day, 12-stop tour of the Caribbean. The cost for a couple on this cruise: \$5,000-\$10,000 plus airfare to and from Jamaica. And, of course, taxes, about \$120 or \$5 each per stop. Cruise ships arrive and depart and leave nothing good behind them. For the privilege of visiting Bonaire how about charging them a reasonable tax that will be used to benefit all the island and not just the cruise ship industry?

Webster (Web) Burrfish

Dear Editor: The letter to the editor regarding the *Freewinds'* sewage got me doing a little research.

If Bonaire had a proper sewage treatment plant then the *Freewinds* leaving their sewage on Bonaire, which "A Disgusted Resident" so objected to, would be the environmentally friendly thing to do. Otherwise, guess where it goes? Right in the ocean! All of the cruise ships that visit Bonaire dump

their sewage into the ocean. Some treat it beforehand, most don't. How is this possible? Simple, there are no regulations that say you can't once you are in international waters, generally 12 miles from shore.

According to international law once ships are more than 25 miles from shore it is illegal to dump overboard the following: plastic. That's it, only plastic. Oil discharge is frowned upon unless you dilute it sufficiently and record it in the "Oil Record Book." How about garbage? No problem, over the side but don't forget to log it in the "Garbage Record Book". The US has a bill pending entitled the "Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2008." If this bill passes into law cruise ships will have to go at least 12 miles off shore before dumping sewage. If they want to dump "sewage sludge, incinerator ash, and hazardous waste" they need to go a little farther, 200 miles. Imagine what they can do now.

You would think that with lax regulations and thousands of people on board watching cruise ships would have a good record. If you think that you would be wrong. Royal Caribbean in 2001 had to ante up \$33.5 million to settle several years of dumping toxic waste. They got the message and have spent \$100 million on water treatment systems for their ships. In 2002 Carnival Lines got caught falsifying records to cover up pollution. That little error cost them \$18 million. Norwegian Cruise Lines made the same mistake and paid \$1.5 million. Let's hope that out of the 100 plus cruise ships visiting Bonaire this season someone doesn't push the wrong button when they are upwind. Holy Sh..!

Webster (Web) Burrfish

WHAT A SHAME

Herman van Leeuwen photo



Dear Editor, Until recently Bonaire was blessed with a particularly distinguished work of Dutch Caribbean architecture along the waterfront and front line to the thousands of tourists that disembark here each year.

The Blue Moon restaurant on C.E.B. Hellmund is the topic. This was featured in at least one architectural review in *The Reporter* that I recall reading in the not too distant past. Unfortunately for the island, myself, or anyone else willing and wanting to restore the building to its original glory, it was purchased by a greedy developer before I even knew it was for sale. Having known sooner, I may have offered more for the property, just to protect it from the wrecking ball, and if I couldn't, I know others that would have given some body parts to save it as well.

The buyer wasted little time in bulldozing the property, and there now lies an unsightly debris field, passed by the throngs of tourists wanting to be impressed with the island, as well as the rest of us that drive past this eyesore

So quick to destroy- too slow to develop, and now, after a length of time, they have erected a FOR SALE sign.

I can only hope someone will lose heaps

of money and a certain body part when it is sold.

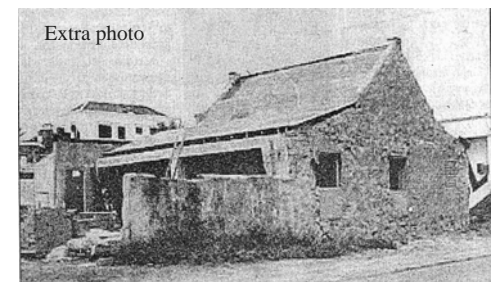
Perhaps no one else cares, but the island has lost a part of history. Who is to blame? The greedy developer? Yes, but more importantly, buildings such as this should have been protected as historic, permitting only original restoration, rather than desecration. Blame the government for not acting to prevent this. What a shame.

No doubt there are more wonderful historic landmarks and exceptional works of art about the island that should be conserved and preserved, especially along the waterfront.

Does anyone know of any, and how can we act? Remember, once they are gone, it is forever.

JP Richau

Editor's Note: **TO BE RESTORED**



In a related development the destruction of Bonaire's historic homes took an alarming turn for developers when Commissioner Anthony Nicolaas, acting in his position as head of DROB (construction permits, etc...), ordered that the "*kas di hala*" (pictured above) formerly on the site of Garden Café Restaurant on Kaya Grandi, that was torn down overnight on September 21, be reconstructed to good condition. The house had been restored about 10 years ago.



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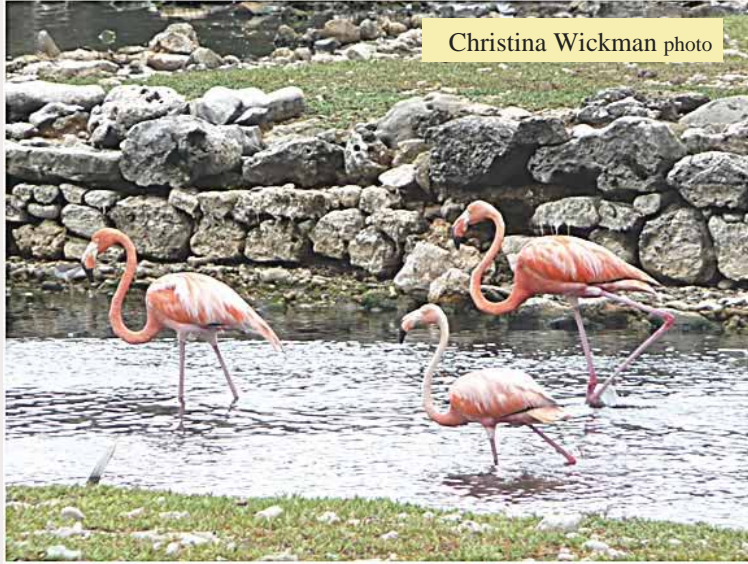
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Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...

that a flamingo is the only bird who uses its beak upside down? Because flamingos feed with their head upside down in the water, the bottom part of the jaw stays stationary while the whole head moves up and



Christina Wickman photo

down. Flamingos spend most of their days in the water. Unlike other birds who fly to seek out their prey, flamingos merely stand—on one leg! Yup, that's right, the silly looking stance you always see these great birds in is actually a method for capturing prey. Flamingos eat the little brine shrimp that live in sunny, shallow, salty waters like the salinjas of Bonaire. From the brine shrimp's point of view, one flamingo leg looks much like a stick or plant, providing excellent shelter to settle under—not like a potential predator that always has at least two legs, right? After a while of waiting, the bird stretches its long neck and swoops its whole head down into the water, scooping up all the gathered shrimp. A lovely feast just waiting down there for him.

Flamingos can live to be anywhere from 20 to 40 years old. When a flamingo is born it is gray and will stay that way for the early years of its life. Only after a while of eating up all those brine shrimp will he turn pink, and as he gets older he will only get pinker. So if you ever come across a really pink flamingo you will know that he is quite old and deserves all the more respect for his brilliant color. ■ Annemarie Rini

Rini is a Junior Environmental Chemistry Major at Beloit College in Wisconsin U.S.A. She is currently enrolled in the CIEE Marine Biology Program Fall semester. Besides science, she also enjoys art, hiking, boating, weaving, knitting, and dancing.



Picture Yourself With The Reporter Irish Countryside



Catherine Nunneley writes, "I'm not sure if you are still printing pictures of people reading *The Reporter* but I loved seeing that feature on our last visit to Bonaire. Attached is a snap of me reading *The Reporter* way out in the countryside of Ireland. I was there with my sister and cousins viewing the ancestral lands. The cold windy weather is sure a contrast to sunny and balmy Bonaire! My husband, Sandy Levy, and I have been visiting Bonaire for three years and love it. It was great fun to have my picture taken in Ireland with *The Reporter*. ■

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: info@bonairereporter.com.

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25th Dec - Traditional Christmas Dinner
26th Dec - Boxing Day. Seaside BBQ & Live Music
31st Dec - New Years Eve Specials Menu
1st Jan - New Years Day serving Lobster Night

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26th Dec: Boxing Day, Special Treats
31st Dec: New Years Eve a choice of 3-course set Menus
1st Jan '09: New Years Day Delicious Specials

Our regular Lion's Den Menu is served every day with the exception of New Years Eve

We thank all our Guests for another great year and would like to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous New Year from all of us here at the Lion's Den.

Located at the waterfront at the Buddy Dive Resort. Reservations: 788-2698
10% service charge and 5% tax will be added to your final bill.
Open Daily 5-10

WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENING SOON

Saturday, December 20 –
Baptism of the new Glenn i Su Geng CD, “Palu Grandi” – at E Teras, 9 pm. More information papito@fcbinfo.org or ludonicolaas@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 21—
Winter Solstice (shortest day)

Sunday, December 21-
Opening of Indians Of Bonaire & Other New Paintings By Henk Roozendaal, Kas di Arte Bonaire. Show continues to December 31. Open 4-7 pm daily. Free admission

Sunday, December 21 -
8am Mountain Bike Tour, Washington Park, 7:30 am at Park entrance. Pre-register at Bonaire Wellness Connexions by December 20. NAf 15 per person (includes drink + fruits). Information: BWC at 717-4241 or +599 785 0767

Saturday, December 27 -
Glenn i Su Geng group performs, 6 pm to 2 am, Sentro di Bario Nort Saliña.



Bonaire Governor **Glenn Thodé** receives a memento of its first call in Bonaire from the captain of the 2446 pax capacity cruise ship, *Enchantment of the Seas*

Arts & Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Days, usually 10 am to 2 pm:

Fri., Dec. 19- Enchantment of the Seas

Mon., Dec. 22 – Grand Princess
Tues., Dec. 23 – Seven Seas Voyager, Sea Princess

Wed., Dec. 24 – Summit, Queen Mary 2

Fri., Dec. 26 – Enchantment of the Seas, Emerald Princess

Sat., Dec. 27 – Rotterdam

Sun., Dec. 28 – Oceana

Mon., Dec. 29 – AidaAura

Wed., Dec. 31 – Enchantment of the Seas, Summit

Thurs., Jan. 1 – Caribbean Princess

Tues., Jan. 6 – Ventura

Wed., Jan. 7 – Sea Princess

Fri., Jan. 9 – Enchantment of the Seas, Ocean Village

Mon., Jan. 12 - AidaAura

REGULAR EVENTS

- 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

- **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. **Big Marché first Saturday of the Month**—www.infobonaire.com/rincon.

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

- **Soldachi Tours**—See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information—796-7870.

Mondays

- **Soldachi Tours of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria, 717-6435-best island tour value

Thursdays

- **Flamingo Rockers at “Admiral’s Hour” for yachtsmen and others**, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7 pm

Fridays

- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7-10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Sunday– Creature Feature— John and Suzie Wall of Buddy’s Digital photo center present a multimedia slide presentation about Buddy’s House Reef - pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 6:30-7 pm, 717-5080

Tuesday —Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, Buddy Dive Resort, 6:30 pm—717-3802.

Tuesday-- Bonaire Land and Ocean presentation by Fish-Eye Photo staff, 7pm on the big screen inside the Sunset Bar and Grill at Den Laman Condominiums.

Wednesday– Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*, every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at Bruce Bowker’s Carib Inn (717-8819) at 6:30pm.

BONAIRE’S TRADITIONS

Kas Krioyo 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 at 7pm; every Sunday at 5pm. Phone: 786-7699 .

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

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

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7.30 pm) All levels, NAf2,50. Call Joop 717-5903 for venue.

Darts Club plays every other Sunday at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

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

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

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - ‘Pirate House’, above ZeeZicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Crisita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10 am.

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children’s club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk

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

New Apostolic Church: Centro di Bario Nord Saliña, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0379 .

International Bible Church of Bonaire, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Korona.) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Pastor’s home, 7 pm. Fridays, 6 to 8 pm, Light & Life Club, children 5 to 12 yrs. Tel. 717-8332.

Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk

– Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8304.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol, Saturday at 6 pm 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

Ministerio di Kristu Hesus Services Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm.

Contact: 717-3322

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request) 10:20 Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors Welcome: 701-9522 for Information

Send event info to:

The Bonaire Reporter

Email reporter@bonairenews.com

Tel:790-6518, 786-6125

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WannaDive - They make diving fun. In town at City Café, at Eden Beach and Windsock Apartments .

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

Top Health Bonaire Fitness and Health Center Modern workout rooms and machines, professional trainers and low prices make it easy to lose weight and get fit.

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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.

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Dictionary Donations Meet Goal

With the help of MCB Bank Bonaire, Margaret & Frans Booi, Co de Koning and Russel Insurance Bonaire, Jong Bonaire this month reached its goal of placing 500 Papiamentu-English Dictionaries into schools on Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba. By reaching the 500 mark before the end of the year, Jong Bonaire will receive a matching grant of \$20,000 from an anonymous donor in the US.

Making the second MCB donation of another 40 books at SGB, Orphaline Saleh spoke to the HAVO 5 English Class of Dhr. de Vries, telling the teens that, as a former student at SGB, she finds that she must use English every day in her work since it is the International language of business. She told the teens that she finds the Papiamentu-English Dictionary very helpful on the job. Saleh further encouraged the students to plan for their futures and then work hard to make the plans a reality.

The School Dictionary Donation program was established to get the popular Papiamentu-English Dictionary, by Betty Ratzlaff Henriquez, into as many schools as possible. On Bonaire, the program placed at least one dictionary in every classroom in the primary schools and sufficient copies at SGB that every student in both



Papiamentu and English classes will have access to his own dictionary for use in class and at exam time.

Every time a dictionary is purchased, part of the income goes to Stichting Jeugdwerk Jong Bonaire to help support the after school program for teens on Bonaire.

The dictionary can be found in most major bookstores on Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba.

Other company donors on Bonaire include RBTT Bank, the employees of Capt. Don's Habitat, ReMax Paradise Homes, Rocargo, Rotary, Sunbelt Realty, Digicel, *The Bonaire Reporter* and Caribbean Homes. On Curaçao KPMG and the American Women's Club of Curaçao made significant donations and Caribbean Mercantile Bank also provided dictionaries for use on Aruba. Individuals also

contributed to the success: Laraine Katsev, Desiree & Don Seaver, Thomas & Helen v/d Ven, Otto de Graaf, Ari & Ann Ilton, Mary Susan & Chuck Lyon, Mel McCombie, Ben & Laura Buchbinder, S. Moore and Bonnie & David Pascoe.

Any organization or individual who would like to contribute to help Jong can contact Jong Bonaire via e-mail: or via the website www.PapiamentuDictionary.com or by phone +599-717-4303 Ext. 12 during weekday afternoons.

Jong Bonaire is the largest after-school program for teenagers in the Antilles since 1999. ■

Story & photo by Jane Townsend



Day of the Child Parade



Distinguished lantern parade marchers

Sebiki photo

A yearly event in Bonaire is the Children's Lantern Parade – appearing as a giant centipede accompanied by hundreds of fireflies on the streets of Playa. The event celebrates the International Day of the Child which was on November 20 but due to all the heavy rain on the island the parade was rescheduled to November. 27.

Many of the children constructed their own lanterns at Jong Bonaire with the help of the Jong Bonaire staff and young people from HAK. Governor Glenn Thodé was at the Stadium where the parade began and they were accompanied by DJ Skorpio.

With young children, babies through toddlers to elementary youngsters from all over the island, the parade wound from the Stadium to Wilhelmina Park. The excitement of being out at night, walking together with so many other children and their mothers and fathers was truly a memorable experience for the youngsters. In the Park were games, music and entertainment. SEBIKI head Riet Sealy began the parade in 2002.

The Children's Lantern Parade is sponsored by Sebiki Stichting Bonairiaanse Jeugdzorg, Jong Bonaire, Voogdijraad, GVI, SASO, Porta Habrí, Fesbo, FAJ/HAK and the Fundashon Mariadal-Ouder en Kindzorg. ■ L.D.



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At the sea-side you are welcome at the beach-bar for a refreshing drink or small lunch. Nearby you'll find the diving centre where you can rent gear or take diving lessons and a jetty for small boats that pick up divers. Also planned are a restaurant, a small grocery and a launderette.

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The Christmas Star's Companion

Every few years during the Christmas season an extremely bright star-like object appears in early evening, which prompts many people to ask, "Is it the Christmas Star?" And once again it has returned for the holiday season and is the brightest object we can see in the nighttime sky, second only to the Moon. But this year it has returned with a companion, which is the third brightest object we can ever see in the nighttime sky. Let me explain.

On any night during Christmas week about 45 minutes after sunset face southwest where the brightest object you'll see will be the so-called Christmas Star. And down to its right a not-quite-as-bright star-like object, a companion to the so-called Christmas Star. But even though both of them look like incredibly brilliant stars nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact they are much closer than any star other than our Sun. In fact they are part of our Sun's family, two planets. The one closest to the horizon is the king of the planets itself, Jupiter.

And if you get a small telescope for Christmas you'll be absolutely fascinated at the detail you can see. You'll be able to make out horizontal lines, which are bands of huge gigantic storms which continually encircle this planet. And you'll also see tiny pinpoints of light lined up on either side of Jupiter, which are its four largest moons. Plus if you go out hour after hour, night after night, you'll notice that they constantly change their position in relation to Jupiter and each other. And that is because they are constantly moving in orbit around it. So that's the story behind this year's Christmas Star's companion.

The so-called Christmas Star is also a planet, the most reflective planet of them all because it is constantly enshrouded by a dense cloud cover, which makes this planet act like a giant mirror. It is our nearest neighbor in space other than the Moon, Venus. And for centuries whenever Venus has made its appearance during the Christmas season people have mistaken it for the star mentioned in the Christmas story. And if you look at it through a small telescope you will see that it goes through phases just like our Moon. In fact during Christmas week this year it will look like a just-past-first-quarter Moon.

Now Venus, which is almost the same size as our Earth, is much smaller than Jupiter, only 8,000 miles wide, whereas Jupiter is 88,000 miles wide, which means we could line up 11 Venuses across its middle. This tells us that it must be super close to be so much brighter than Jupiter. How close you ask? Well, all during Christmas week Venus will be only 78 million miles away from Earth, but Jupiter will be a whopping seven times farther away, 558 million miles beyond. Which may lead you to ask, "If Jupiter were as close to Earth as Venus, how bright would it be in our night sky?" Answer: 50 times brighter! So bright we'd see it every day in the daytime sky. So get out all during Christmas week just after sunset and enjoy the beauty of the two brightest planets in our solar system. And see if they don't make your holiday just a little bit brighter. ■

Jack Horkheimer



Did you see the planet s (Venus and Jupiter) moon "smiley face" on December 1? They've since separated but are still visible.

StarPower

By Jenny Lynch

December-2008 (end)

ARIES: March 20th - April 20th - Ruler Mars, exalted in your public sector works wonders for your reputation. Professional contacts and opportunities suddenly manifest after what has been a long waiting period. While you bask in the recognition you've been striving for, don't be surprised if a past rival suddenly transforms into a helpful advocate!

TAURUS: April 20th - May 21st - This month's new Moon jolts you out of your comfort zone and suddenly you realize you have a lot to learn! Five planets in your mind expanding sector inspires you to make a commitment towards future plans. Educational pursuits or travel, put a gust of wind under your wings and help you grow!

GEMINI: May 21st - June 21st - My friend the comic, jokes that every wedding invitation feels like a bill instead of a celebration. You might be feeling the same way this holiday season. Ruler Mercury and five planets in your house of credit puts you in a serious mood to consolidate your debt. Thankfully, this month's new Moon offers surprising solutions your current dilemma!

CANCER: June 21st - July 22nd - Your relationships take a turn for the better thanks to the new Moon in your house of partners. Others are willing to follow your lead now, so you're in a good position to demand more. However, in some ways you wish they would take the lead and whisk you off to an ethereal place. Allow them some time to grant your wish.

LEO: July 22nd - August 23rd - Powerful planets and in your house of wellness inspire you to remember the old adage that health is wealth! It's a good time for check ups or embarking on a new daily regime. This extra push of energy allows you to WOW others on the job or look your best this holiday season!

VIRGO: August 23rd - September 22nd - A stunning new Moon in your house of romance and creative pursuits awakens you to new possibilities. With 5 planets in capable Capricorn, you're most interested in the steady, earthy types now. Others appreciate your serious side and because of their encouragement you begin to feel more secure and enterprising. You may also delight from cultivating a talent or hobby.

LIBRA: September 23rd - October 23rd - Five planets march into your personal arena and suddenly you're craving stability and structure. While Mars and Pluto put you in a whip cracking mood to get things done, you'll find plenty of help along the way. But this month is not just about getting organized, it also promises fun! Venus skipping through your house of romance could introduce you to a new love!

SCORPIO: October 23rd - November 22nd - This month's new Moon helps you to become more focused, especially about practical matters. With 5 planets in Capricorn, it's an excellent time to get more organized or restructure your daily activities. Study something that intrigues you may benefit your future/career. Venus puts you in a cozy mood for the holidays, so plan to party with loved ones!

SAGITTARIUS: November 22nd - December 21st - Mars and Uranus put you in a risk taking mood, but Saturn at the top of your chart cautions you to watch your step! While five planets in serious Capricorn may cramp your generous style, they may also prevent you from making costly mistakes. Fun loving Venus provides merriment close to home and with your neighbors!

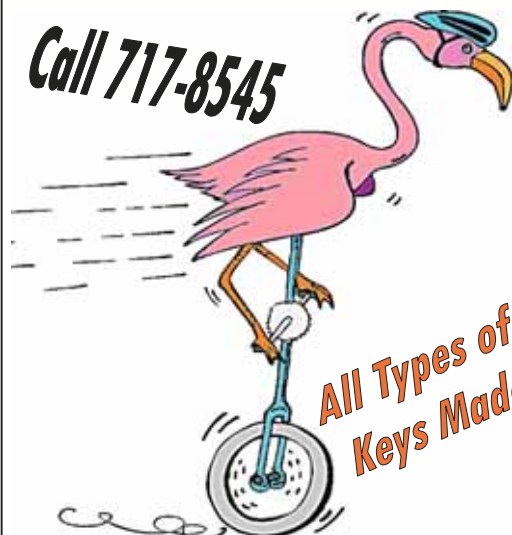
CAPRICORN: December 21st - January 20th - This holiday season may be a little crazy but promises much delight! With five planets dancing in your sign, you'll be lucky and appreciated by loved ones. Perhaps best of all, you'll be in the mood to celebrate in style! Nearby Venus puts you in touch with bargains, enjoy!

AQUARIUS: January 20th - February 19th - The new Moon in your house of secrets alerts you to news of a professional opportunity. This extra edge proves invaluable by putting you in the right place at the right time. Venus in your sign expands your social circle. Take advantage of every invitation because the new acquaintances you make now promise to delight you. If single, you may meet a perfect mate!

PISCES: February 19th - March 20th - Five Capricorn planets in your social sector puts you in the mood to mix business with pleasure. You'll enjoy the company of successful types now and one of them might influence your future goals or become a friend for life. Romantically, you're in the mood for a learning experience; meaning that you'll enjoy someone has a transformative effect on you! ■

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happy holidays



The Sunbelt Realty team wishes you a Merry Christmas and that in 2009 you will find your own piece of paradise.....



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