

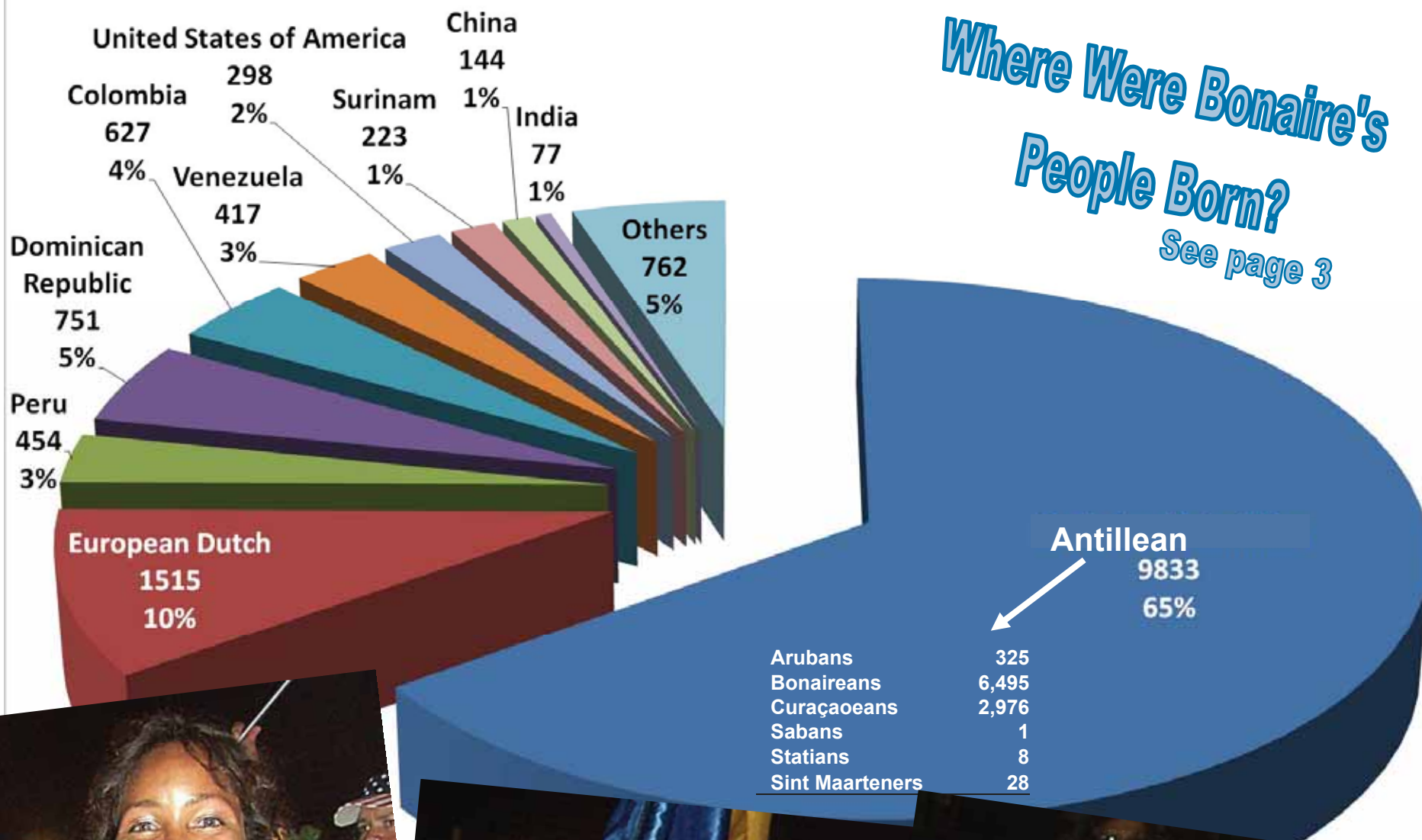
**It's Still FREE**

**BONAIRE** Jan. 30-Feb. 13, 2009; Volume 16, Issue 3  
**The REPORTER**  
*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

Printed every fortnight, On-line every day, 24/7

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Since 1994



**Faces of Bonaire**

**D**utch legislation regarding same-sex marriages, including same-sex marriages, will not become applicable on the BES islands, stated Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten last Friday. However, it may not be forever. In what may prove precedent-setting for future situations, Bijleveld-Schouten stated in a letter to the Second Chamber that her government is not in favor of deviating from the Dutch law when it pertains to marriages. Same-sex marriages are legal in the Netherlands but not in the Netherlands Antilles.

Until the three BES islands have become part of the Netherlands as "public entities," most Antillean legislation will remain in effect. Only legislation that is necessary to facilitate the constitutional reform will be introduced, such as the Dutch Civil Code, explained the State Secretary. It's intended that current (Antillean) legislation will be replaced, Bijleveld-Schouten confirmed, and that the Dutch Constitution would become applicable for the BES islands in the future.

► Last week the President of the Antillean Parliament, Pedro Atacho, said, "It is up to everyone in the Netherlands Antilles and the Caribbean in general to give content to newly-elected US President Barack Obama's message of 'hope and change.' The message should inspire everyone, especially politicians, to work harder to take care of their people."

He called Obama's vision for a better United States and world "a bright path" to overcoming all obstacles. Obama is expected in the Caribbean in April for the Summit of the Americas set for Trinidad.

► **Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez** said at a political rally on a historic Venezuelan

battlefield last Saturday that **Barack Obama had the "stench" of his predecessor as US president** and was at risk of being killed if he tries to change the American "empire."

Chavez said frayed ties with Washington were unlikely to improve despite the departure of Bush, who the Venezuelan leader has often called "the devil." "If Obama as president of the United States does not obey the orders of the empire, they will kill him, like they killed Kennedy, like they killed Martin Luther King, or Lincoln, who freed the blacks and paid with his life."

In contrast **Cuban President Castro**, appearing for the first time since undergoing gastrointestinal surgery in July 2006, said of **Obama**, "No one could doubt the sincerity of his words as he stated that he would turn his country into a model of freedom and respect for human rights in the world and for the independence of other peoples. I have had the rare privilege of observing events over a long period of time. I get information and meditate carefully over these events. I don't expect to enjoy this privilege in four years, when Obama's first term in office concludes."

Interestingly, last year **Barack Obama's Kenyan cousin, Raila Obinga**, named his son **Fidel Castro Obinga**.

► **There's word in the press that Curaçao is trying to become a hub for Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic space-liners.**

Joost Wouters, one of the initiators of the Caribbean Spaceport project, hopes to put a Dutch trade delegation in contact with interested parties on Curaçao. It's envisioned that Curaçao's Hato airport would be the site of a space experience park that could also be used for launching micro-satellites.

## February 8, Annual Special Olympics Walk-A-Thon

► Start to train today because the Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon is just two weeks away. Commemorating the trek Bonaire's salt slaves made each week the event has become a tradition for many locals and visitors.

Leave from the slave huts in the south, and travel 30 kilometers along the coast, through Kralendijk and end in Rincon. Participants can walk, roller-blade, run, ride a bike, or whatever. There will be water and fruit stops along the route. The event will begin at 5 am at the White Slave huts. The entry fee/donation is NAf 25 (\$14.04), and includes a T-shirt, cap and refreshments. T-shirts and caps will be handed out on Friday, February 6, from 5-7 pm and Saturday from 10am-4pm at the Hotel Rochaline (City Café). You can buy your ticket at Chat n' Browse and at the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB). For additional information, contact Claire Sealy at 786-5454 or Chio Semeleer at (09) 540-6840.

Since most all spacecraft launch to the east, Curaçao launches would pass over Bonaire.

► **Sign of the times: Bonaire**



now has an armored car. SSS, the island's premier security service, (see their ad below) has put a top-of-the-line armored vehicle into service. SSS continues to be effective in property protection and just last week apprehended a thief while he was stealing from a local business.

► **Salba Nos Lora, (Save Bonaire's Parrot Foundation) together with STINAPA, is organizing the annual Lora count on January 31st (next Saturday),**

in the early, early morning. If you are interested in participating in the count, please contact peter.montanus@bonairegov.com to sign up and get additional details.



► **Bonaire's former Public Prosecutor, Ernst Wesselius**, has remained on the island which he loves and has a new job as an attorney with David Kock legal firm. His office is at Les Galeries Mall. Phone 717-8587 or Ernst@davidkock.com.

► **Gerrit van der Valk who developed the Netherlands' largest hotel and restaurant chain, died of a brain hemorrhage at his home in Marbella, Spain. He was 80 years old.**

In addition to the 56 properties

(Continued on page 8)



*Pia-Pia walkers from North Salinja during a past Walk-A-Thon*

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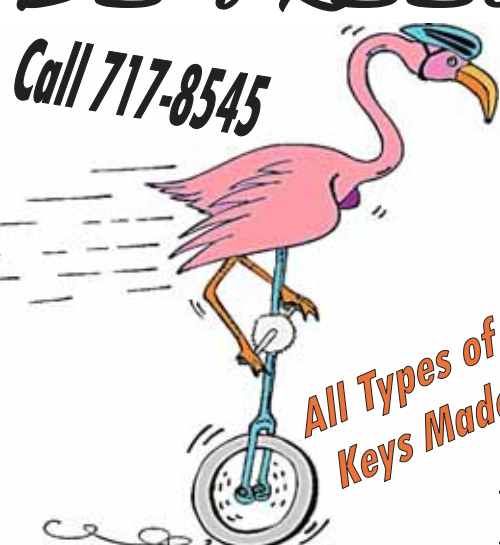
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# BONAIRE'S MELTING POT CONTINUES TO BUBBLE

**B**onaire is now home to **69 different nationalities, up from 59 in 2007. And that's out of a total population of 15,101** (as of December 31, 2008, according to *Bevolking*, the census of-fice). In 2008 Bonaire added an average of 2.4 people per day. The population in 2007 was 14,243 and in 2006 it was 14,006. Growth is accelerating.

Of the total population (15,101), **9,833 are Antillean-born.** That leaves the number of **immigrants to be 5,268 or nearly 35% of the total population.**

Those immigrants were **born in 103 different countries** of the world (see pie chart on cover). (In the entire world there are 195 countries) And they account for the **69 different nationalities.** By way of an explanation, some were born in countries that no longer exist and/or they may have changed their nationality.

In the total population men outnumbered women in 2008: **7,873 men to 7,228 women.**

The **Top 10 nationalities** represented in our immigrant population are:

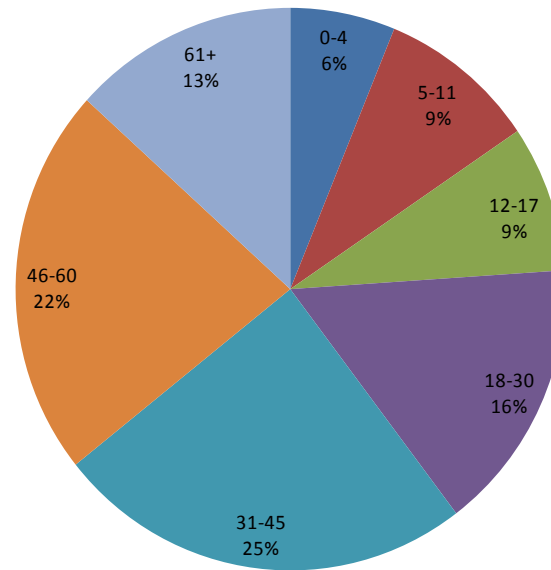
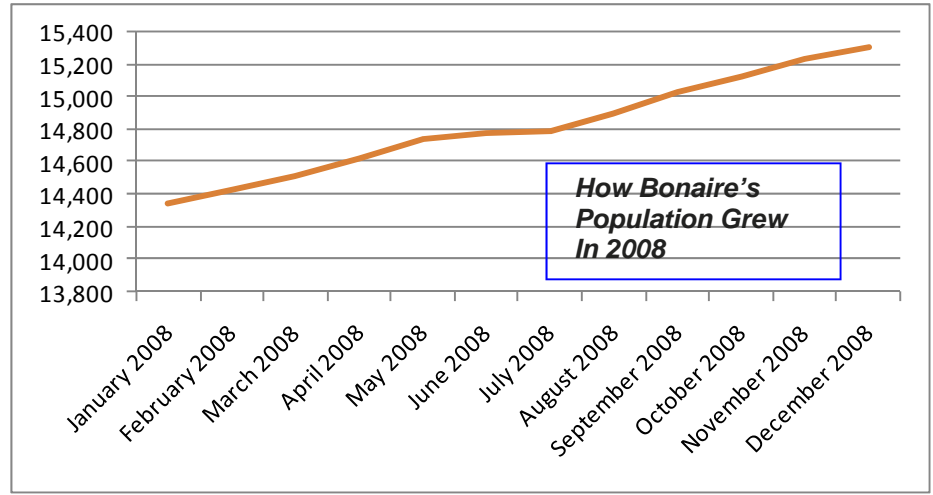
Dutch from Holland	1,515
Dominican Republic	751
Colombia	627
Peru	454
Venezuela	417
United States	333
Surinam	223
China	144
India	77
Haiti	56

Other double digit countries in order of numbers are: Aruba (50), Canada (40), Portugal (39), Germany (38), Ecuador (38), Jamaica (36), Lebanon (33), Great Britain (29), Italy (24), Nigeria (22), Belgium (21), Guyana (19), Trinidad & Tobago (18), Spain (17), Cuba (16), Pakistan (12), Switzerland (12).

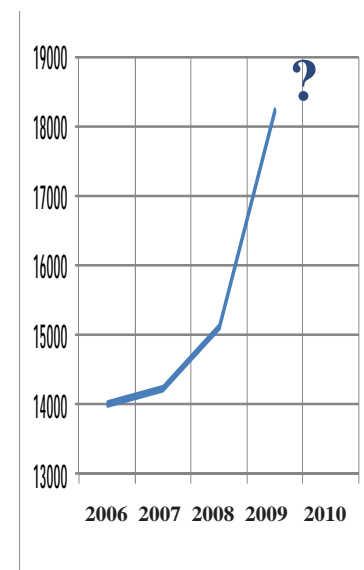
Other countries represented with single digit numbers are – from A to Z – Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Brazil, Brunei, Cameroon, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech, Dominica, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iran, Ireland, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Rumania, Russia, Salvador, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, Uruguay, Vietnam, Yugoslavia. And even one person who was stateless.

At the beginning of 2008 our population was 14,243. There were **148 births** and **1,652 immigrations** (adding 1,800). But there were **70 deaths** and **664 persons emigrated** (subtracting 734), leaving our year-end 2008 total of **15,101**.

Many thanks to the staff at *Bevolking* who provided this information to *The Reporter*. Stay tuned as *The Reporter* brings you more population statistics, such as which are the most densely populated neighborhoods and more. ■ L.D.



Bonaire 2008 population age distribution



Population growth

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# Born on Bonaire - April 17, 1976

# Tamara Molina-Thielman

“I am the eye of the doctor. I am the one who sees the patient first and at that moment I have to make the decision whether I’m going to send them home with an appointment or let them stay. In that short time frame I am responsible for the patient because if I send them home and something goes wrong, it’s my fault.

For a long time I wanted to be a teacher, but when I was at HAVO high school I was at the delivery of my sister-in-law’s baby, and that changed everything. I wanted to become a midwife. However, that particular education is not available in the islands and I didn’t want to go to Holland, so when I got a scholarship I chose to go to nursing school, IFE, in Curaçao. It was 1993.

I went to live in Seru Fortuna with a family and those people became like real family to me. The man owned a carpenter’s workshop and he taught me how to make furniture, something I enjoyed a lot. Four years later I graduated and went back to Bonaire where I started working as a nurse at the San Francisco Hospital, now Fundashon Mariadal. In 1999 I went back to Curaçao.

I was pregnant and I went to work again in the workshop of the people where I’d stayed during my training as a nurse. I was making furniture until I was eight and a half months pregnant and after my son Jason was born I went back to Bonaire and started at the hospital again.

I worked there for six years until 2005. In 2006 I began to work at Centro Medico Central with Dr. Van der Vaart. So, I’m here for three years now and he doesn’t want to get rid of me. We – Dr. Van der Vaart, Crusita, Cecile, Mery and I - are the best team there is.

I was born in Nort di Salina. My mom is Laura Thielman-Eisden and my dad Alejandro Thielman. They had 11 children: eight girls and three boys. I was number 10. My dad worked at Customs and he also played, and still plays, the kuarta, the guitar and the sinfonia, an instrument that resembles an accordion. I love music and I love to sing and when I was 10 I started taking kuarta lessons with Mr. Gregory

Goedgedrag. I studied for one year, then Mr. Gregory asked me if I wanted to teach with him. I was only 11, but I was teaching children from the age of six and adults over 30. From three in the afternoon until nine at night we would teach. It lasted until I was 15. Mr. Gregory was the one who founded the choir *Flor di Coromoto*. This year in March it will be 22 years old.

All those years, except for the time I spent in Curaçao, I’ve sung in the choir. Every Sunday morning at nine o’clock we sing in the Birgin di Coromoto Church in Antriol. Sometimes we sing in the churches in Playa or Rincon. We also perform on special occasions like when we sang gospels at the memorial night of Marlies van der Kouwe, by the tree close to WEB. It was at the request of Marlies’ mother. Our foundation



Fleurkje Veldkamp photo

is called *Fundashon Kuakit (kuarta/kitara)* and it includes the choir, *Flor di Coromoto*, the *Coromoto* gospel group, Krioyo Kids and the Krioyo Band. Now we’re busy with the Krioyo Band for Karnaval, training with the children for the Tumba Festival.” *Tamara Molina is a lovely, bright woman with a stunning smile, a fabulous person with a great sense of humor and a laid back attitude.*

Well, I met my husband, Riley

Molina, when he came to take kuarta lessons at Mr. Gregory’s. I was 12 and he was 16, and although we had a ‘time-out’ when I was in Curaçao, we’ve stayed together until now and we’re doing fine. We got married in 2002 and our daughter Joenny was born in 2004. We’re living in the house of Riley’s 84-year-old grandmother, ‘Mamai’ Angelica Cecilia, and we – Riley and I and the children - have just decided to

(Continued on page 5)

**“In the old system we would be instructed in Dutch from the very beginning. That’s how we learned to understand the language.”**

							
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**Born on Bonaire**  
(Continued from page 4)

go for a third child." She laughs. "My little daughter didn't want to hear about a baby in my belly. She told me, 'No! I want you to go now and look for a baby somewhere. Hurry up!'"

If I get pregnant, Doctor Van der Vaart is going to do the delivery. He loves deliveries – just like me. Whenever it's possible I run after the doctor when a baby is going to be born and there are many patients who want me to be there. To me it's always as beautiful as the very first time when I was just a girl and I saw my sister-in-law giving birth.

Life is sweet; sometimes there's stress and you just go on, but I like it simple and quiet. I don't go out. I like to sleep and I like to eat but—write this in capitals – I DON'T LIKE TO COOK! So, I always go for take-out, unless my mom has some leftovers.

The choir, my family and my work – that's my life! It's very important to me that the children are doing well at school and that's not what's happening. The new school system is bad. In the old system we would be instructed in Dutch from the very beginning. That's how we learned to understand the language. In the new system the instruction language is Papiamentu and they're getting some Dutch classes every week. It

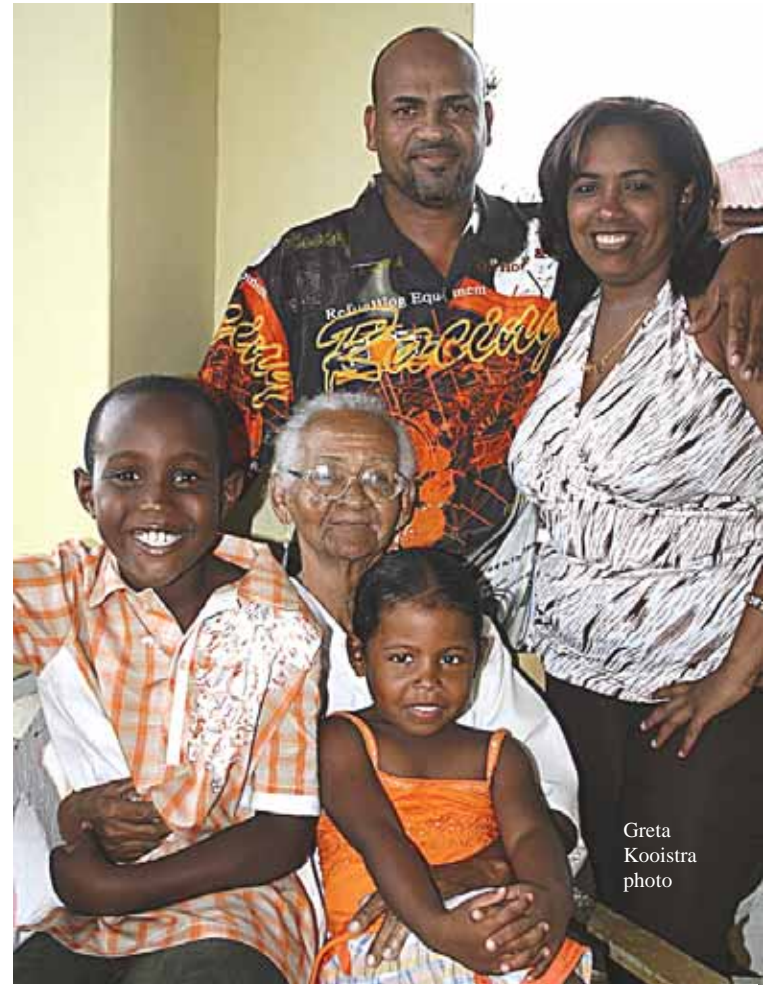
doesn't work, believe me. Jason (9) has no problems whatsoever with math, but he's having a lot of difficulties with the languages. He's in fourth grade and he's reading like a first grader. He does not understand the subject matter because he doesn't understand Dutch. I don't know what to do about it. He's not dumb at all, but every week he gets very bad notes and I have to put my signature on them and it saddens me. It makes me tired and desperate." She sighs, looks at her son who's sitting on the sofa, watching TV and gives me a weary smile.

"Okay, let's go back to my work, which means so much more to me than just work. I do my work with great pleasure and the patients have a lot of confidence in us. We also perform small operations and we treat people who've been in dive accidents or people who need treatment for wounds in the decompression chamber and we get a lot of tourists in. Sometimes I miss the action of the ambulance like when I was working at the hospital, but now and then we also turn out for an emergency.

I sincerely hope that in the future there will be more attention and funds for healthcare on Bonaire because the way it's going now – it's not good. Lately they're cutting back in so many things – like people having to pay for their own medicines in

spite of the fact they're insured with SVB, BZV or FZOG. We also have to cut back on materials. All doctors' practices have to. There's only one certain budget we're getting per year, appropriated by FCT (the chief of the money) in Curaçao and that has to last us for the whole year. When we order something it takes about two weeks for everybody to add his signature and then we get it here, but most of the time it's less than we've asked for. All this started in 2008. It was never like this before.

Another thing I would like to see improve is the way Fundashon Mariadal, the hospital, is functioning. I don't like to say too much about it but they could do better. At the practice it's getting busier by the day and I am in between the doctor – who's also getting tired – and the patients who want to be seen by him. I have a lot of patience and I don't like to get angry, but sometimes I say, 'I'm getting out of here.' I get my keys and start running!" She laughs. "It never happens! And I taught a lot of people to call Dr. Van der Vaart, 'Doctor' because people would come and tell me, 'I have an appointment with Dick,' and I would answer, 'With whom? I suppose you mean the doctor!' Hey, they haven't gone to school together. Have some respect!"



Greta Kooistra photo

Jason, "Mamai" Angelica Cicilia, Joenny, Riley and Tamara

To me the most important thing is that patients get all the attention they need. Once you're a patient you have the right to that – until you're better. My work is a great part of my life, a very important part, and when I talk about Bonaire and my life here, I

think of my patients. That's what Bonaire means to me – my patients!"

■ Greta Kooistra



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# BonQuiz

Test your knowledge of Bonaire

Do you have any idea why the crystallizers (ponds) in the salt flats have such a purplish, pink hue to them? Find the answer on page 9.



Salt crystallizer pond  
Christie Dovale photo

BonQuiz will appear regularly in future issues of *The Reporter*. It's prepared by Christie Dovale of Christie Dovale Island Tours, Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456 to contact her or email: christiedovale@hotmail.com

Comments and suggestion are welcome.

Christie's slogan: 'What you don't have you don't need' ■



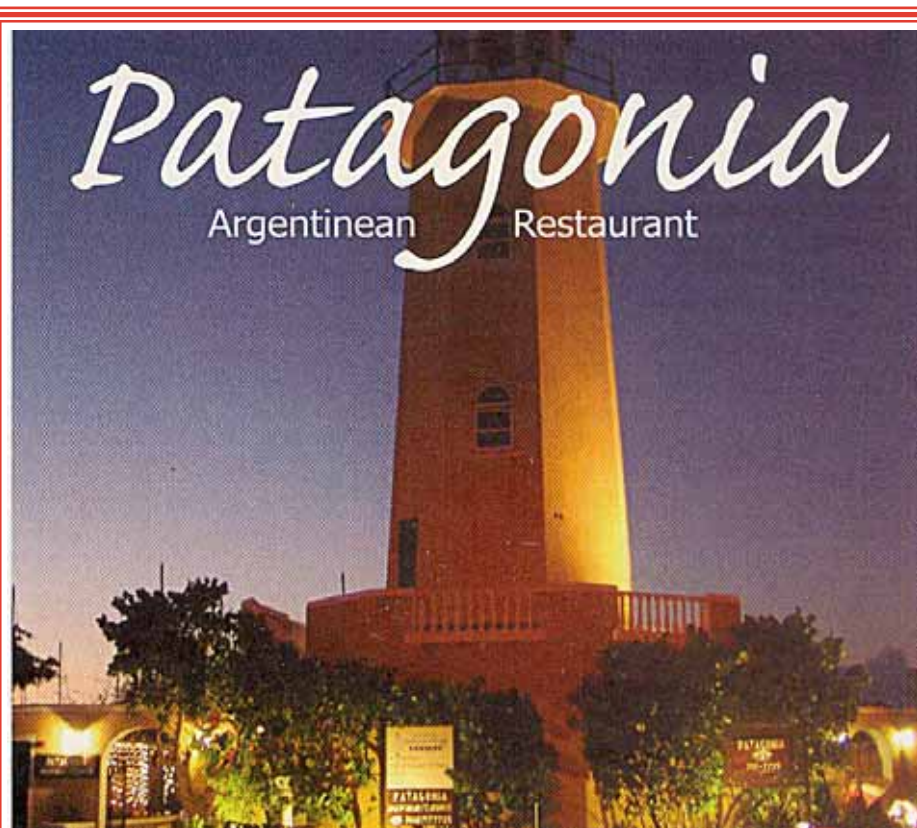
# Announcements



## Baby Antoin Flies Over

Pictured above is **Maynard Elyon Cypriano** returning to Bonaire in the DEA cockpit with his parents after being born in Curaçao on November 21. Maynard's mom is Guoretti Piloto and his dad is DEA airline pilot Franklin Antoin.

His paternal grandparents are our very dear colleagues, Bòi Antoin and Shirley Martis. Congratulations to all! Does anyone see a strong resemblance between baby Maynard and his Welo Bòi? ■ L.D.



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# Island View

Tell It Like It Is

**H**ave you ever heard of Econcern? You should because they have big plans for Bonaire. As the CEO of Econcern stated in the Dutch magazine, *Vrij Nederland* (nr 52/01, 27th of December 2008 – 7th of January 2009), “We are building a system on Bonaire to supply the entire island with sustainable energy through wind and biodiesel.” That sounds fantastic, doesn’t it? We are so lucky to have been chosen as an island to experiment on. And an experiment it is, because the combination of wind generators and a biodiesel plant does not exist anywhere else in the world. Of course you can congratulate yourself with such a feat.



Obviously there are some comments to be made about this project, otherwise I would not be bothering you by bringing up this topic. To start off there is the fact that they want to make a power plant run on biodiesel. The research into biodiesel is still in its infancy. But no problem, they will tell you, until we have biodiesel we will use the good old fashioned oil fuel. Well, why is your CEO pretending to build a “system to supply the entire island with sustainable energy?”

If you think that as soon as the biodiesel is available they will use that instead of oil fuel, you are sadly mistaken. At one of the public hearings organized to give information on the new power plant, it was made clear to the public that the power plant will switch to biodiesel as soon as the price of biodiesel can compete with the price of this cheap and dirty fuel oil. That could take a long time, perhaps even more than a lifetime.

Why tell the public that you are making green energy on the island when it is unclear that that is actually going to happen? It all depends on whether the researchers will find a way to make biodiesel cheaply enough. That is a big “if.” You hear sounds across the globe that biodiesel may well not be the way to go. Every surface you use for biodiesel you cannot use for growing food. With the growing numbers of people there may come a time that growing rice becomes more important than growing palm trees to fill up your tank.

The people of this project have thought about how to get the biodiesel of course. They want to make it in a big pond at the salt pans in the south. Would that be enough to supply 60% of the energy of the entire island, which the power plant is designed to produce on average? I still need to be convinced of that. And what about the contamination of the reef if you have a big pond of aggressive-growing algae in the open air next to the open sea? How can anyone be absolutely sure that no algae will fly the coop, or that new algae will come in to compete with the existing algae? Until that time I am not looking forward to that pond of goey-looking green smudge, however much I like green energy.

Green energy is not only about wind and biodiesel, but you have to look at the whole package, the location of the power plant included. Granted, Bonaire is a small island, so you are limited in your choices of where to put a power plant. But why choose a location in a nature reserve close to Gotomeer and the marine reserve? Also, it is not logical to have plans to make biodiesel in the south and the power plant in the north. Not only will you lose energy when you have to transport your biodiesel, but can you imagine all those trucks driving on the Tourist Route to get to the plant? It seems like the choice of the location was not made with biodiesel in mind, but with the tanks full of oil fuel just a stone’s throw away.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful to really become an island that runs completely on sustainable energy? There are some promising projects with biodiesel. Algae are grown in “tube mattresses” filled with water and nutrients, which are hung in a vertical position. That way you have solved a few problems. There can be no contamination with the environment because it is a closed system. You need less water because a lot will not evaporate in a closed system in comparison to growing algae in an open pond. What is most important, you yield more biofuel per acre because you can grow it vertically. You can check it out yourself on Youtube. “Vertical Algae biofuel Growing.”

It would have been nice if the CEO of Econcern spoke more realistically in that article in *Vrij Nederland*. He could have said, “We are building a system on Bonaire to supply the island with about 40% very green energy through wind power and about 60% very dirty energy through burning fuel oil, with the intention of going green for the full 100%. But until biodiesel can compete with the cheapest oil available, Bonaire will not be 100% sustainable.” But that doesn’t sound flashy enough I guess... ■

Mary Ann Koops

Mary Ann Koops is Antillean and a biology teacher in the SGB high school.



Local boats in the marina

## FISHING

**P**eople have been fishing on the seas around Bonaire for years. Our forefathers lived by the sea. In the past, often during the week, we could go early in the morning to Playa Lechi, to mention just one of the spots, where we waited for the fishermen to come in with their boats. You could buy fresh fish right there, go home and prepare it before you even went to work. Then at lunchtime you’d come home and have it for lunch. Are we still able to do that? If it’s still possible please tell me where I can buy fresh fish early in the morning.

Because I’m concerned with what is going on I had interviews with several fishermen to see what their thoughts were.

One who’s been in the fishing business for 17 years, Luis Wijman “Juni” (40), said, “Up until about 10 years ago there was a lot of fish and people were standing in line to buy it, but today there’s not so much fish. Where the fish are has changed a lot and some of the fish comes from the north west. They’re not so easy to catch, especially if you don’t have the most sophisticated equipment. There are big boats coming from Venezuela with fishing permits they got from the Central Government (in Curaçao) to fish in our

waters, and they sell the fish to other islands. They were doing long-line fishing for three years, so by the time we got there there was hardly anything left. We as fishermen have to talk about these problems but nobody is listening.

During the seasons when it’s very hard to catch fish some supermarkets and restaurants import their fish from Ecuador where they buy it for a very cheap price. Then when we have fish that we want to sell to them they won’t buy it because they’re continuing to import it from Ecuador. But you still have to sell your fish so you can survive and support your family. Fortunately we sell to local people. So as you can see there are many factors causing the fishing business to go down. I still have my business and have to pay taxes for it. But because it’s not as productive as it used to be, for the past two years I’ve had to go to work in the construction business every day so I can pay my bills.

It would be best for us to have a fishermen’s foundation. We could get bigger boats better equipped to fish in deeper waters. The Island Government office has to regulate the LVV (*Landbouw, Veeteelt en Visserij*, agriculture, flocks, fishing) to see where fishing in Bonaire is heading.”

(Continued on page 9)

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

*Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)*

in The Netherlands in family hands, there are 20 abroad including the Plaza Resort in Bonaire. In 1982, Van der Valk's wife, Toos, was kidnapped by an Italian gang and released after payment of a ransom of some 13 million guilders. Our condolences to his family.



► **Paradise Photo**, conveniently located at the Les Galeries Mall, not only takes care of your digital processing and CDs but it's a handy place to find an **expanded collection of greeting cards, picture frames, photo albums and even Lonely Planet books in English.** Stop by and see for yourself.

► **Outlet Mol bikini shop is growing,**

adding the shop next door to the current shop. The new addition will be called "The Surf Shop, by Outlet Mol" and includes many famous surf brand names. Keep your eye on *The Reporter* for the announcement of when the first shipments will arrive. Check out their ad on page 6, featuring a male model for the first time.

► As we go to press the TCB issued its report on tourism statistics for the first six months of 2008. **Stay-over tourist arrivals were up 8.38% over the previous year, for a half-year total of 40,068 visitors which projects to a record of arrivals of over 80,000 for the full year 2009.** Recent TCB surveys of travel professions indicate that Bonaire should not suffer substantially from the economic downturn. An informal *Bonaire Reporter* survey showed a shift towards "budget" accommodations. More in our next edition. ■ *G./L.D.*

► **Bonaire Basics, Center for Awareness, had its grand opening last Saturday.**

Within the charming complex of buildings, rooms and patios you'll find Eveline's shop for Body, Mind and Spirit, places for workshops and massages. They specialize in coaching, mediation, physiotherapy. There are workshops for theatre, portrait drawing, painting and glass blowing. Stop in for a visit. They're in the yellow buildings on the west side of Kaya Korona, #47, behind Firgos.

Open daily 10 am to 3 pm. Information at: [bonaire-basics@telbonet.an](mailto:bonaire-basics@telbonet.an). Telephone 717-3041, 786-3341, 786-1271. ■ *L.D.*



*At their grand opening of Bonaire Basics the three principals pose for a photo: Annemiek, Simone, Eveline*

## Pets of The Week

One of the nicest things about the Bonaire Animal Shelter is that it's such a fun place to volunteer. Where else can you get so much appreciation for just showing up! When you see those wagging tails and smiling dog faces you'll know what I mean. In the photo are three of the young volunteers enjoying being overrun by puppies. Amber has been a loyal volunteer since 2005 and one of the pups' favorites. She invited her good friend, Daniela, to join her and now both girls are there every Saturday morning. Jens is just starting out as a volunteer and is doing a good job getting the puppies to play and have fun.



*Young Shelter volunteers in the puppy cage: Jens, Daniela and Amber*

Right now the Shelter needs volunteers for during the week, Monday through Friday, preferably from 8 to 10 am to work with the dogs – cleaning, feeding and just socializing with them. Other times are okay too. (The cats at the moment seem to have their own team of special volunteers who've got them covered just fine.) If you have some time give them a call at 717-4989.

There are **lots of puppies** to choose from at the Shelter right now and more are coming in every day. We all love them but when there are too many what can we do? The Shelter has been running a Sterilization Campaign for a number of years, trying to make a dent in the number of unwanted puppies and kittens being born. For those who can't afford it, the sterilization is free or whatever the owner is able to pay. Please, if you feel strongly about helping, contribute to the "Sterilization

**Fund," MCB Account 10616410.** The money goes only for sterilizations. Any amount is very much appreciated and can make a **big** difference. This last year the Fund provided for **225 sterilizations!**

Other good news: Last year there were a total of **186 adoptions of dogs and cats.** That's an increase over 2007 when there were 165. That's an even bigger increase from the early days of 2002 when there were only 90 adoptions for the whole year.

More good news and a happy ending. You may recall the Labrador pups who were featured in Pet of the Week in the December 5-19, 2008, edition of *The Reporter*. A family in Holland saw the column and the photo, fell in love with the Lab pup and told their mother who was going to visit Bonaire to go to the Shelter and get that exact dog! She did and now that Lab puppy is living happily in Holland. By the way, there is just one of those Lab pups left for adoption.

The Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

[WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com](http://WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com)

■ *L.D.*

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## Papiamentu-English Dictionary

by Betty Ratzlaff

With a pronunciation guide for English speakers



On sale at Addo's Bookshop, Flamingo Bookstore, Chat 'n Browse, Airport Shops, Plaza Hotel Shop and most bookshops in Curacao & Aruba or buy on-line at: [www.PapiamentuDictionary.com](http://www.PapiamentuDictionary.com)

A large portion of the income goes to Jong Bonaire, a non-profit after-school center for teenagers.



Jong Bonaire



# More Than Fish



Tournament HQ at Club Nautico Bonaire. Ex-Microsoft exec's mega yacht, Octopus in the background

The XXI (21st) Bonaire Fishing Tournament had lots of excitement. The 23 competitors had mostly good luck. Twelve marlin and a sailfish were caught and released. In addition, three wahoo, two tuna, one weighing a respectable 34.9 kg, and a dorado were brought back for the kitchen. The winner was *Mojito* from Curaçao with two Blue marlins. Second was *Talika* with its tuna prize and third, *Styn Ruben* with a Blue caught by a 14-year-old boy. In a sad development one of the fishing

boats, the *K-Prichio* from Aruba, captained by M. Heyden, caught fire and sank on Saturday afternoon soon after it had caught and released a Blue marlin. The boat was a considerable distance offshore opposite the salt flats in the south of Bonaire. The source of the fire was unknown. Fortunately all five persons aboard escaped injury and were rescued almost immediately after they went overboard in life-jackets by another Aruba flagged boat, *Makaira*. ■

G.D.

## Classic Piano Concert by Helena Basilova

On Monday, January 12, the talented Helena Basilova played romantic piano music in a concert at the Plaza Resort.

Helena substituted for pianist Richard Flemming who had to cancel due to an injured back. Helena, only 26, is a flowering talent of increasing international level. She performed the well known Rondo in D-sharp from W.A. Mozart, several pieces from the ballet *Cinderella* by Serge Prokofiev and impromptu numbers 1 and 2 from Schubert. The melancholy and joyful parts made these pieces a special experience.

Following the break and a retuning of the brand new stage piano Helena gave a truly magnificent performance of the *Davidbundlertanze* from Robert Schumann. Following huge applause, as an encore she played the *Etude in C Sharp* by Frederic Chopin.

The recently formed classical music board of Bonaire is trying to increase the frequency of these concerts in cooperation with some resorts on Curaçao and the Conso-cium Martina. It would be a fulfilled dream of many who love piano music to have a good grand piano on Bonaire. Who knows; it may happen ("Yes we can"). If you have comments or advice, please mail to [hansfaassen@gmail.com](mailto:hansfaassen@gmail.com). ■

Story & photo by Hans Faassen



### Bonairean Voices (Continued from page 7)

Another very experienced fisherman is Constantino Pedro Diaz "Doei" (74). "Born to be a fisherman," he said. "I was fishing as a hobby, then I got into the fishing business. In the past there were few boats and a lot of fish. The fish price was very low and all the fish was sold. Today we have fewer fish and the price is high. In our waters we have six to seven foreign fishing boats that catch fish every day using long lines and they get all kinds of fish. With a small boat using a traditional fishing line you can lose a whole day if the fish don't bite. The fish are there, but you need a bigger boat with special equipment to catch them. Industrial fishing can help the island for sure. And of course with bigger boats and good equipment you can catch different kinds of fish in one fishing day.

A local fishing tournament was organized as a social day to bring the fishermen together and through this event start corporation among fishermen, but it didn't succeed. I hope one day we can have one. "

As you can see a number of fishermen are concerned. There more comments from the fishermen to come.

■ Siomara E. Albertus

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



## BonQuiz

Answer Question on Pg.6



The color comes from 'carotenoids,' pigments related to carotene. You know, the same thing you find in carrots. These carotenoids can only be synthesized by green plants, fungi and by bacteria. These unicellular organisms give the water its color. ■

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Puzzle on page 7



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# Seru Grandi Hike



Christie Dovale  
Photo

*They all made it to the top*

An enthusiastic group of early risers of all ages got together last weekend and made it to the top of 100-meter-high Seru Grandi. "We summited!" they said proudly, using the same term avid mountain climbers use.

The hike was led by historian and journalist Bòi Antoin in conjunction with Top Health Fitness Center. The group met at Lagun Hill at 6:30 am where they were briefed by Bòi with English translation by STINAPA's Elsmarie Beukenboom. The route led through the *mondi*, which was

dotted by *kunukus*, ponds, fields of *maishi* (corn), goats and sheep. Bòi pointed out the indigenous trees, the surrounding hills (one of which has been partially demolished for fill) and some illegal trash dumping. In the rock strewn area just below the mountain it was like an alpine meadow with short growing flowering grasses. Curious goats watched us from the mountain top.

At the summit of Seru Grandi we rested and marveled at the view of nearly the whole island, east to west, north to south, and Klein Bonaire. After cautiously picking our way down the mountain and strolling along the back country roads we were greeted by the Top Health people who offered us hot homemade chicken and vegetable soups, watermelon and ice cold water. All of us agreed it was definitely worth it and an incredible Bonaire experience.

Top Health Fitness Center will be sponsoring more educational and historical walks with Bòi Antoin in the future. Check out *The Reporter* for announcements of future trips. ■ L.D.



*Always up-up-up...*  
Christie Dovale  
Photo



ludwig tdlohreg photo

*Traditional Kunuku*

# Every Child's Dream



Aubrey Sealy  
photo

## Animal Friends Petting Zoo welcomes Babe, the pony

"Babe," a beautiful white eight-year-old pony from Curaçao, is now living at the Animal Friends Petting Zoo at a kunuku in Washikemba. His arrival is thanks to Co deKonig and the Friends of Bonaire and the Bonaire Rotary Club. Stanley Weerlicht Ignacio found the pony and arranged for Babe's delivery via the *Dona Luisa*.

Petting zoos for children in Holland were the inspiration to have one here in Bonaire. A Dutch couple and Funchi Egbrechts got together and began the project on Funchi's kunuku in Washikemba. Right now there are chickens, ducks,

geese, goats, sheep, pigs, hogs, a horse, other interesting farm animals and sometimes a pack of Chihuahuas to entertain and delight youngsters and adults. And now there's a pony to ride.

They're not officially open but you may visit if you like. Call ahead 796-7303 or 780-1255. The Petting Zoo is close to becoming a foundation (*stichting*), and they could use donations. All these animals get hungry entertaining the public. Be sure to say hi to Egbert, the human who is a friend to all the animals out there. ■ L.D.



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Kaya Gobernador Debot, Bonaire District Plaza Unit 4

# Governor's New Year's Party Sends A Message

Governor Glenn Thodé and his wife, Mechtild Thodé-de Wit, hosted the traditional Governor's reception in the courtyard of the Bestuurscollege (BC) on Saturday, January 24, under starry skies and gentle breezes. It was the largest turnout for a New Year's reception in memory with around 200 people attending. Former Governor Herbert Domacassé and his wife, Lena, were also on hand, as were a variety of officials.

The musical background was provided by the Latin Jazz trio of Andrina, Carlos and Lando.

After wishing everyone a happy 2009, Governor Thodé took the occasion to talk about what 2009 means for the future "direct ties" between Holland and the BES islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. His speech was in Papiamentu, followed by Dutch with a summary in English.

He said that the goal of replacing the BES islands' connection of the Antilles Central Government in Curaçao with di-



*Bonaire's First Lady, Mechtild Thodé-de Wit, and Bonaire's Governor Glenn Thodé welcomed their guests.*

rect ties with The Hague is intended to improve the quality of life of the people living on the islands, especially with respect to education, social benefits, fiscal dealings and public safety.

To expedite the transition, Regional Service Centers have been established on all the BES islands. The Governor said that this means that the Dutch will actually be physically present on Bonaire as well as the other islands, and that offers an exceptional opportunity for the neces-



*A special feature of the event was the participation of the Queen's top officials of the BES islands: Bonaire Governor Thodé; Henk Kamp, Queen's Commissioner for the BES islands; St. Eustatius Governor Hyden Gittens; and Saba Governor Jonathan Johnson*


sary activities to proceed properly because it can increase the understanding between the two cultures. This empathy can lead to better resolution of the issues that will arise. The Dutch can sample first hand the situations on the islands, and the local people can talk face-to-face with the Dutch men and women charged with bringing the islands into mainstream Holland.

Governor Thodé emphasized that the BES islands are seeking "integration with Holland, **not assimilation.**" Local traditions and culture are to be preserved and balanced against the pressures and

benefits of a European-style society. He hoped that all would use 2009 to work towards that goal. ■ G.D.




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**BONAIRE ON WHEELS**

## An Ambulance Named "Bosnia"

*The 40<sup>th</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring*

*Bonaire/Tras di Montana.*

The house of the Wever family is situated somewhere on the right hand side of an unpaved road named Kaminda Tras di Montana (Road behind the Mountain), off the road between Mentor and Rincon. Most of the privately owned house has been built by Mr. and Mrs. Wever themselves over the last 25 years. They, their two kids, a son and a daughter who now live abroad, really love their spacious house on their huge terrain. No neighbors for the next couple of miles, no connection with the WEB (water and electricity distributing company of Bonaire), just the silent noise of a wind powered generator able to produce a thousand watts, and every now and then the deep and solid sound of a diesel generator when Johnny Wever is using his welding gear or one of his other electric power tools. "No connection for me with the WEB," Johnny exclaims. "I prefer to be independent, depending on the energy produced by our own windmill. I love the sound of clean energy!"

Johnny and his wife are enjoying life and are very happy persons. His wife was born on Bonaire while Johnny is from Aruba. "I was born on June 3, 1952. That makes me 56 now," he explains. "As a 16-year-old boy I started as a volunteer working for the Red Cross of Aruba as a life guard, helping other people. Nowadays I am still

**"...it's a vehicle that keeps on driving while the floor mats are floating ..."**

connected to the Red Cross, as president of the Bonairean Red Cross. Our office is at Flamingo Airport. I've been an active member of the Red Cross for 41 years now! The slogan of the Red Cross is, "Help us to help other people!" And I fully endorse this idea. The Bonairean Red Cross is very active on our island. There is a never-ending need for volunteers and financial support, but we help wherever we can, during all kinds of sport events, karnaval activities, you name it and we do our best to be there to help and to assist!"

Johnny Wever is retired now. He arrived on the island of Bonaire on August 1, 1977, and for years he was connected to the SGB (secondary school of Bonaire for kids from 12 and up) as a mechanical engineer teaching the students to work with several types of metal.

"Since December 1990," Johnny says, "I've been a certified First Aid Instructor. Until now I'm the only certified instructor on the island. In 1995 a hurricane named Lenny tortured our island and I got in contact with Letzer Krausse, representative of the Dutch Red Cross. With Letzer's efforts the Red Cross of Bonaire had donated to them an ex-military ambulance made by the Land-Rover Company from Solihull, England. The car was originally painted a military green, but it was re-sprayed white with red painted crosses on the aluminum body. I gave this vehicle the name "Bosnia" because it served the troops during the war in Bosnia. The diesel engine-

powered, four-wheel drive ambulance served the Red Cross of our island for a lot of years, but at last the second-hand ambulance got tired. The gearbox developed more and more problems, and finally it became almost impossible to shift gears. Another problem was the lack of parts for the car on Bonaire. So in the end she was parked in a hangar, waiting for better times.

Finally, the Bonairean Red Cross decided to sell the vehicle and I became the new owner of this non-runner. Because of my interests and profession I like this car. She consists of an aluminum body mounted on a very rigid chassis. The chassis, the body and the engine are very easy to work on. It is said that some 75% of all the Land-Rovers ever produced are still in running condition."

The white re-sprayed Land-Rover series III model 109 ambulance was presumably produced in the 70s. The push rod cast iron overhead valve diesel engine is slow but very reliable. The electrics are primitive. No electronics. No power steering, no power windows, no air conditioning. A real no nonsense vehicle, fitted with a very rigid, non-flexible chassis mounted on four leaf springs. The comfort of the car is of a low level. The cabin for the driver and his

helper is, to say the least, a little cramped. Hardly any space for all the black, yellow and red knobbed shifters to engage high speed, low speed, two-wheel drive, neutral and four-wheel drive. A non-standard ambulance. Sturdy, not that comfortable. **But** on the other hand, it's a vehicle that keeps on driving while the floor mats are floating because of high water.

Then, as almost always, Johnny smiles his big smile. "And I am going to take care of this car. I am going to make her run again. For me, as a mechanic, this is a real challenge! One day we will see this ex-military vehicle back on the paved and unpaved roads of my beloved island of Bonaire!"

Please help the Red Cross of Bonaire to help other people. The non-profit organization always needs active volunteers and financial help. Please call 780-7289 for more information. The Red Cross also has two almost empty bank accounts: RBTT Bank: 2343614 and MCB Bonaire: 1013590-07. ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*






*Johnny Wever, smiling as almost always, and his grinning Land-Rover ambulance*

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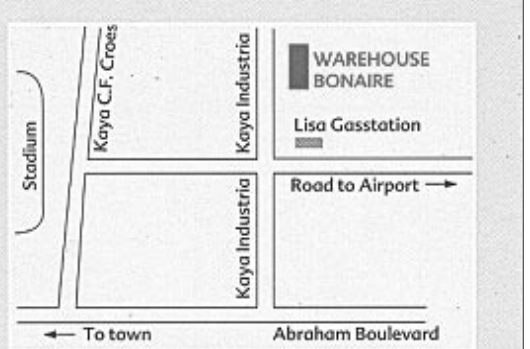
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## Picture Yourself With The Reporter In...

## Dam Square Amsterdam

Here's one of Bonaire's best tour guides and Friend of the Earth, Christie Dovale, on a visit to Holland a couple of years ago. This week we launch a new feature by Christie designed to test your knowledge of our island. Go to page 6 for the first "BonQuiz." ■

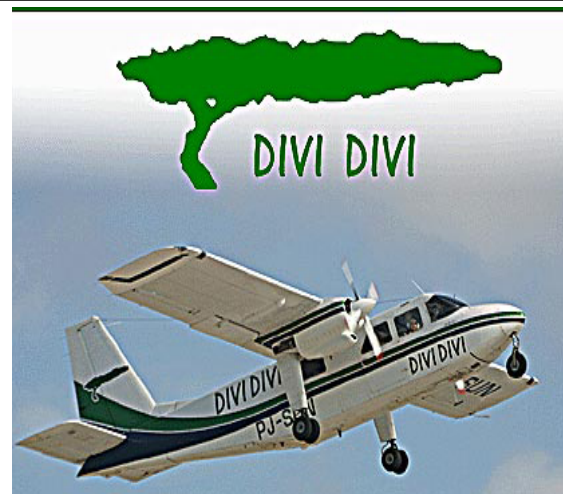
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DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
1-29	14:00	1.5FT.	22:47	1.1FT.					81
1-30	6:12	1.4FT.	11:24	1.4FT.	14:04	1.4FT.	22:09	1.1FT.	78
1-31	6:13	1.5FT.	21:33	1.1FT.					73
2-01	6:40	1.7FT.	16:37	1.1FT.	17:47	1.1FT.	21:05	1.1FT.	65
2-02	7:22	1.8FT.	16:53	1.0FT.					58
2-03	8:01	2.0FT.	17:33	0.9FT.					53
2-04	8:44	2.1FT.	18:08	0.8FT.					54
2-05	9:33	2.1FT.	18:41	0.8FT.					61
2-06	10:16	2.2FT.	19:23	0.8FT.					71
2-07	11:06	2.1FT.	19:59	0.8FT.					82
2-08	11:53	2.1FT.	20:30	0.8FT.					92
2-09	2:04	1.1FT.	3:54	1.1FT.	12:39	2.0FT.	21:05	0.9FT.	98
2-10	2:37	1.2FT.	5:30	1.1FT.	13:33	1.8FT.	21:37	1.0FT.	100
2-11	3:27	1.3FT.	7:20	1.2FT.	14:20	1.6FT.	21:58	1.1FT.	98
2-12	4:15	1.4FT.	10:02	1.3FT.	15:25	1.5FT.	22:06	1.1FT.	93
2-13	5:09	1.6FT.	12:38	1.2FT.	16:34	1.3FT.	21:49	1.2FT.	83

### Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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**Reporters:** Siomara Albertus, Christy Dovale, Caren Eckrich, Jack Horkheimer, Janice Huckaby-Baillie, Molly Kearny-Bartikoski, Hans Faassen, Greta Kooistra, Mary Ann Koops, Jiri Lausman, Christina Wickman, Hendrik Wuyts

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# Letters to the Editor

## INTERNATIONAL SHAME AT FLAMINGO AIRPORT

Dear Editor:

All new infrastructure projects on Bonaire must serve the people and not complicate their life by unnecessary handling like the new parking facilities of the Bonaire International Airport.

I can imagine that the airport direction wanted to stop the uncontrolled free parking of cars, sometimes for long periods, in front of the airport building. The establishing of the two separate parking areas, for short and long parking is O.K. However, if the authors of this project would bother to look at similar facilities at other, much larger airports, like Aruba, Miami, JFK in New York or Schiphol in Holland, they would see that in all these cases private cars, bringing and picking up the passengers, have a direct access to the airport building.

It is more than ridiculous that all big airports in the world which I know, with traffic many times greater than at our small airport, maintain this access open not only for the taxis but also for all private vehicles. The current parking space on BIA, where no payment has to be done for the first 15 minutes, can remain as it is but for the cars just stopping at the building for loading and unloading passengers the access must be opened as soon as possible! Please, remove the barrier allowing only taxis to pass along the arrival and departure areas of the airport building. The current situation, besides being ridiculous, is an international shame!

Jiri Lausman

## NO DONKEY PROBLEM

Dear Editor:

I would like to dispute a comment made by Mary Ann Koops in last issue's article about animal overpopulation on Bonaire.

She states that in seven years, should no sterilization program for cats and dogs be successful, the number of dogs and cats would be ..... "and that would take care of the donkey overpopulation nicely". What donkey overpopulation? There are only 80-100 donkeys left in

the wild on Bonaire. Since 1993, the "problem" of donkeys on the island has been well taken care of by Marina Melis and her husband, Ed, who now hold and feed 407 animals on their land. There is a strict neutering program in place and all males inside the park are castrated, so no new animals are born there. The sanctuary has a step-by-step initiative to bring in all the females from outside of the park, but the lack of cash funding from any governmental or environmental body means that the process is necessarily slow. In addition, the recent loss of 13 hectares of land to the airport expansion program has caused further huge problems for the sanctuary.

Mr. and Mrs. Melis have the perfect solution to the "donkey overpopulation" already in place and in progress. Please do not undermine their efforts with ill-considered comments which cannot be substantiated.

Sue Anderson (volunteer at the Donkey Sanctuary).

## MORE ILLEGAL DUMPING



Dear Editor:

Here is a new "landfill" at Kaya Industria Pariba, next to our boatyard, El Navegante. Maybe it would be interesting also to get an update of our business, which is growing in a nice direction right now.

Lelle, El Navegante NV

## Editor's Comment:

Our readers have reported a huge increase in the amount of trash (*sushi*) deposited along the roads and in secluded places on the island. It may be related to the recent charge for dumping at Bonaire's sanitary landfill. If you see illegal dumping, take a photo and send it to *The Reporter*. ■

# Guest Editorial

The opinions in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the editorial opinion of this newspaper.

## New Man on Bonaire

Henk Kamp, who has been appointed the Queen's Commissioner for the BES islands and who arrived on Bonaire early this month, will play an important part in the transition of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba to their new status. In the Netherlands, the Queen's Commissioners, appointed for a period of six years, are representatives of the Queen in the country's 12 provinces. They act at the same time as the chairmen of the "Provinciale staten" (Provincial Council) and "Gedeputeerde staten" (Deputy Council).

However, Kamp will have another role besides acting as the Queen's representative. He will mainly supervise the transition of the BES islands to their new status in cooperation with local government officials.

It can be said without exaggeration that during the last years Henk Kamp has been one of the most charismatic politicians in the Netherlands, highly respected by his opponents as well as his supporters. He served successfully as the Minister of VROM (Housing and Land Planning), later as the Minister of Defense during the involvement of the Dutch army in Afghanistan, and finally as a member of the "Tweede Kamer" (House of Representatives) for the conservative (in Holland the liberal) party, VVD. He has been a very popular person, appearing frequently on various television shows, defending his opposition against the gradual Islamization of the Netherlands, tolerated by the current government.

If he had not been appointed to his new position, he would undoubtedly have become the leader of his party in the next general election. In the past Kamp vacationed with his family on Bonaire without a slightest idea that he would return in his present position.

It is interesting that during recent weeks we have not read or heard of any comments by local politicians on the future role of Henk Kamp. However, in the last year, just after his appointment as the Queen's representative, we could read in the daily press various opinions by the top members of both main political parties on Bonaire. Bonaire's ruling party, the UPB, expressed the opinion that to have Henk Kamp on Bonaire is in principle good for maintaining contacts between the Netherlands and Bonaire.



Henk Kamp

However, it simultaneously downplayed the importance of the commissioner, declaring that he is just an intermediary and that Bonaire can request the Netherlands to finance certain projects without his involvement. According to the opposition party, the ADB, the commissioner has disproportional power and that is not good for Bonaire. It means that the election law can be practically abolished because both the Island Council and the Governing Board will no longer have power.

It is evident from these pronouncements that neither of the main political parties on Bonaire really understands the important task given to Henk Kamp by the Dutch government. We hope that during the coming months he, as a hard working official, will prove that the both parties have been wrong. I have no doubt that Henk Kamp will eventually gain respect of all politicians on Bonaire, in government as well as in the opposition, like it happened during his political battles in the Netherlands. ■

Jiri Lausman

Jiri Lausman is a retired civil engineer, born in Prague, living as a Dutchman the last almost 40 years, 18 of them in Aruba. Before his retirement, he worked as the manager in Latin America and the Caribbean for a large Dutch construction company. He has a home on Bonaire.



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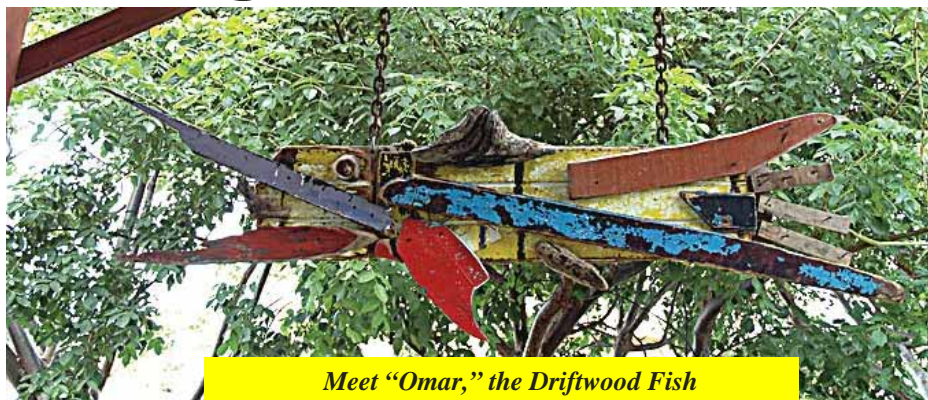
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# Art for Fun

## Creating Art From Destruction



Meet "Omar," the Driftwood Fish

Events of the world have inspired artists throughout time. "Omar," the tropical storm, surprised our island with a lot of destruction along the coast. SELIBON surprised me by cleaning up the mess so fast. I went out for a little free driftwood shopping and found most of it had already disappeared with the hard work of a lot of caring people. Fortunately I was able to salvage a few pieces to create something good out of this event in our lives.

I know a lot of driftwood collectors out there are looking for something to do with their pile – so let me lead you through this easy project.

You will need to find a base piece to start. Any piece of wood slightly smaller than the finished project works well. Old unusable pieces of plywood are my favorite. With this base piece on a table, start placing pieces of driftwood to resemble body parts onto the base board. I look for driftwood that resembles fish fins, fish bellies and mouth pieces. Lay out all the parts on to the backboard. Think of it as a jigsaw puzzle. Start shifting the pieces around until they resemble some

sort of fish. When you have a good design in place, pull out the handy electric drill. To keep the wood from splitting, use a small drill bit to drill a hole from the backside of the backboard all the way through and into the wood piece add-on. Then you can put the wood screw in place with a screwdriver attachment using your electric drill or with a standard screwdriver. Wood pieces that are not more than 1" thick can be attached from the topside instead of the backside. This all depends on the size of your screws. The points of the screws should penetrate both pieces. The smaller pieces of wood can be attached using thick heavy glue such as "Goop." I used a bone and an unidentified metal round object for Omar's eye. This is when the real fun begins. Be creative and add odd objects to your art. People will look and wonder or question its origin. That really makes it Art for Fun!

You can see Omar and many other newly created driftwood pieces at the JanArt Gallery, located at Kaya Gloria 7. Sight-seers welcome! ■ *Janice Huckaby-Baillie*  
[www.janartbonaire.com](http://www.janartbonaire.com)

# Bubbles from the Biologist

**Did You Know.....** iguanas have rows of sharp serrated teeth that they use to chew up foliage? They can also use their teeth in self-defense and aggression. When walking through the Washington-Slagbaai National Park, you can see wild iguanas in the trees and along the paths.

On a field trip for my conservation biology class, we encountered large wild iguanas. We were told that people would regularly feed the iguanas even though signs warned otherwise. Feeding wild animals is not advisable, as animals that are fed by humans often lose their natural fear of people. Nearly any wild animal, no matter how timid, is capable of inflicting injury to humans, pets, and livestock. Feeding wildlife also has negative consequences for the animal. Because of close contact at feeding areas disease can readily be transmitted between animals. Also, human food may not provide the appropriate nutrients for wild animals. Bits of bread and crackers are not a sufficient food source for an iguana, however, they will eat it if given to them. Since people in the Park have been feeding the iguanas they've become aggressive and had no qualms about coming right up to my feet, even though I didn't have any food. I bent down to look at one when all of a sudden it jumped up and bit my finger! Serrated teeth leave quite a painful and bloody bite, and I was hastened back to the car where I received first aid attention. Would this have happened if humans hadn't been feeding the iguanas? No one can say for certain, but one thing is for certain, you won't catch me sharing my bits of bread and crackers with any wildlife. ■ *Christina Wickman*



*Wickman, pictured in the above photo with an iguana, is a third year biology student at the University of Oregon. She is currently studying at CIEE Research station in Bonaire and enjoys camping and playing ultimate Frisbee.*

CIEE instructor Caren Eckrich adds:

"I've heard similar stories about fish attacking snorkelers. They get so worked up in the hopes for a tender morsel that they mistake fingers for food. For similar reasons that Christina pointed out, I also ask people not to feed wildlife, including fish."

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## HAPPENING SOON

\*\*\*\*\*  
**KARNAVAL SCHEDULE—See Page 20**

**Artist Henk Roozendaal's exhibition** at Kas di Arte will continue until the end of February, but will be open only by appointment. Art lovers may call him at 717-6938. Henk's websites: [www.henkroozendaal.com](http://www.henkroozendaal.com) and [www.henkroozendaal.extoCuraçao.com](http://www.henkroozendaal.extoCuraçao.com)

**Saturday, January 31—Lora Count.** Details on page 2.

**Saturday, January 31-** Bonaire Wellness Connexions first Mountain Bike Tour of 2009 open to Riders of All Levels of Experience: Courses are from 15-30 km. 4:05 pm. Register beginning at 3:45 at BWC's headquarters, Les Galleries Shopping Mall (downtown). NAf 15 per person (includes drink + fruits) Pre-Registration at BWC everyday Mon. thru Sat. from 9am-5 pm.

**Monday, February 2—**Lecture at the new CIEE Lab (Kaya Gobernador Debot 26- 7 pm Max Engel from Marburg University will discuss "The Coastline of Bonaire During the Recent Geological Past."

**Saturday, February 7— Big Monthly Rincon Marché.** A real Bonairean experience. Stands selling gifts, fruits and vegetables, candles, local foods, drinks. Come and enjoy the local ambiance. 6 am to 2 pm.

**Saturday, February 7—** Flea Market at Parke Publico, 3-7 pm Come to buy or sell. Sellers pay NAf 10 per table

**Sunday, February 8—Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon.** Sign up Fri., Feb. 7— City Café, 5-7pm, Sat., Feb. 8—City Café, 10am-4pm. Tickets at TCB, Chat n' Browse. Details on page 2.

Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Days, usually 10 am to 2 p m

Friday, Jan. 30 — *Enchantment of the Seas*

Monday, Feb 2—*Emerald Princess*

Tuesday, Feb. 3— *Ventura*

Wednesday, Feb. 4—*Sea Princess*

Friday, Feb. 6 —*Ocean Village, Enchantment of The Seas*

Monday, Feb. 9— *Aida Aura*

Wednesday, Feb. 11— *Summit Princess*

Friday, Feb. 13— *Enchantment of the Seas*

## REGULAR EVENTS

- By appointment — **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for resi-

dents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

- **Parke Publico** children's play-ground 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](http://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. NAf10 per selling table. (NAf 5 goes to up-keep the park). NGOs can have a free table. More information and reservations for a spot call **Vicky Bissessar - 786 1592.**

- **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

**Monday-Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea Slide Presentation,** Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm. 717-8529

**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.

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**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Cruxita 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:

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# SHOPPING and DINING GUIDE

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## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

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## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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**Bonaire Partners**—Rental and Property management specialists. If you have a place to rent call them

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

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## SUPERMARKETS

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# Hotel School for Bonaire



The MOU signing was celebrated at a reception in the BC courtyard. Pictured: Mr. Veenstra of Stenden, Governor Glenn Thodé, Linda Kamp, Mr. Roersma of Stenden, name not available, Commissioner Henk Kamp, Sara Matera and Marisela Croes.

Bonaire signed a Document of Understanding (MOU) with Stenden University in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands, to have a mid-high-level hotel school built and operated in Bonaire. The Bonaire Economic Platform and Bonaire Hospitality Development Company and Ki Developments are also part of the agreement. Details of the location of the project have yet to be decided.

Over 10,000 students are studying and more than 800 employees are currently working at Stenden University of Applied Sciences (Former CHN). The university has campus sites in the Netherlands: Leeuwarden, Emmen, Groningen, Meppel and Assen; campuses in Doha (Qatar), Bangkok (Thailand) and Port Alfred (South Africa). And now a new location is planned for Bonaire. The uni-



Stenden Hotel Wyswert in Leeuwarden

versity offers three associate degrees, 19 bachelor programs and four masters programs in the fields of (Service) Management, Education, Care, Economics and Technique. Stenden University was the result of the merger between CHN University-Netherlands and Drenthe University on January 1, 2008.

There are no similar schools in operation in Aruba or Curaçao, or anywhere else in the Caribbean. ■ G.D.

## Is Bonaire Really Environmentally Conscious?



land it is also illegal. How many people love to burn their own trash? They really have no clue what a devastating effect this has on global pollution. Can Bonaire really be 'GREEN' and allow all this to happen? ■

Story & photo by Hendrik Wuyts

I believe that the landfill is endangering the public's health, polluting our groundwater and killing the reef. If you still don't know what I'm talking about have a look at the latest YouTube.com film titled: 'BES Bonaire Waste Management.'

In many reports on how to better manage Bonaire's waste I've read about the effect of global pollution affecting our island. Many nutrients are washing up on our reefs coming from Venezuela or from the neighboring islands.

Bonaire says, "We have no control over what our neighbors are doing!"

It's illegal to dump waste in the *mundi* (countryside); but did you know it's illegal to dump on your own land and on rental or leased land? If you have rental



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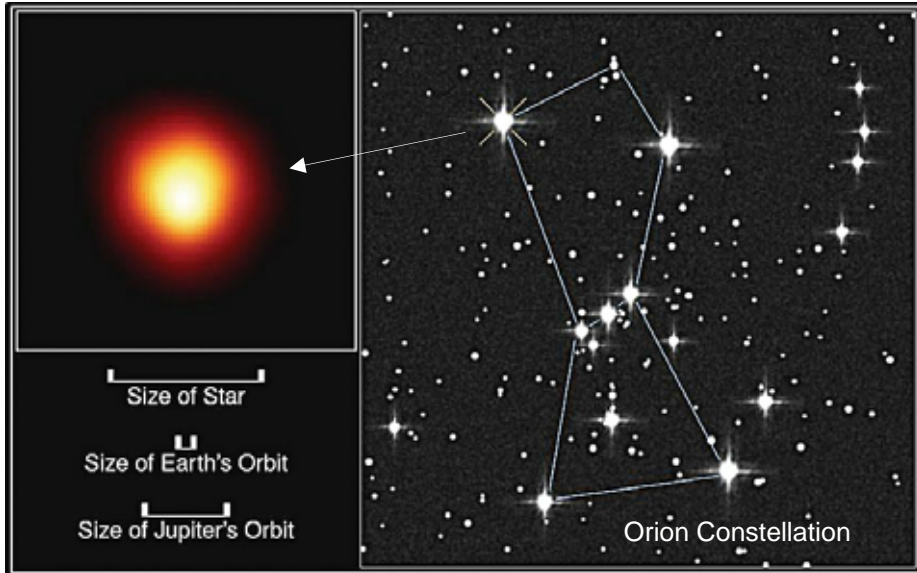
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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

The Goddess Of Love And The Valentine's Day Star



**G**reetings, Sky Park visitors. You know, every year close to Valentine's Day I like to tell you how to find a brilliant red star I call the **Valentine's Day star** so you can share something beautiful and cosmic with your sweetheart. But this year we have an extra added attraction for Valentine's Day night, because just after sunset the planet named for the Roman goddess of love and the most brilliant planet of them all is about as bright as it gets.

On any night next week including Valentine's Day night just after dark face west where you will see the most brilliant planet of them all, 8,000-mile-wide **Venus**, the same size as our planet **Earth** but much more brilliant because it's completely covered by a layer of clouds which makes it act like a giant mirror bouncing most of the sunlight it receives right off of it. So on Valentine's Day night simply go outside just after dark and give your sweetheart a kiss under the brilliant light beaming from the goddess of love.

Then between the hours of 8 and 9 pm simply face south and you'll see the star I call the Valentine's Day star because it is very bright and very red. And just coincidentally it reaches its highest point above the horizon every Valentine's week between the hours of 8 and 9 pm. This star in fact is the brightest red star we can see with the naked eye from planet Earth. It is called **Betelgeuse** and marks the shoulder star of **Orion the hunter**.

In fact if we compare Betelgeuse with our own star, our 865,000-mile-wide **Sun**, Betelgeuse is so humongous we could fit over 160 million Suns inside it. And that's when Betelgeuse is at its smallest size because Betelgeuse changes its size regularly like a gigantic slowly pulsating Valentine heart, one that beats however only once every six years. When Betelgeuse is fully contracted at its smallest size it is a whopping 500 times the width of our Sun, but when it expands to its biggest size it is a super 900 times as wide. In fact if we could place Betelgeuse where our Sun is, Betelgeuse at its smallest size would reach out past the orbits of **Mercury**, **Venus** and **Earth**, all the way to **Mars**. But when it's at its largest it would stretch almost all the way to **Jupiter**.

Just think about it. Our Sun is almost a million miles wide, but Betelgeuse is almost a billion. Wow! So why not surprise your personal Valentine this Valentine's night or Valentine's week and have a hug while the goddess of love smiles upon you in the west just after dark. Then between 8 and 9 pm face south and give your sweetheart the biggest cosmic Valentine anyone will ever get: a gigantic red star slowly beating like a heavenly heart for the one you love. Is this a romantic cosmos or what? ■

Jack Horkheimer

## Cafe Astrology

By Annie

February-2009

**Aries** You are pouring a lot of energy into generating business income, building your dreams, and planting the seeds for ideas this month, dear Aries. Others are taking up a lot of your time as well, whether they are friends, members of a group, or simply part of your own community efforts. Your social agenda is hopping! You are more impartial than usual, and you can use this easy energy to enhance friendships. From the 9th, romantic relationships require considerable attention.

**Taurus** Career and professional matters become a top priority in February, dear Taurus. While career is at the forefront of your mind, your instinct is to retreat from the hustle and bustle. Relationships are practical more than emotional. Events around the 9th call your attention to domestic matters. House repairs, family dramas crop up now.

**Gemini** The urge for more from life than what you get from everyday mundane activities is strong, dear Gemini. You want to broaden your horizons in any way that leads you into unexplored territory, whether this is intellectual or physical (or both). Anything less will leave you feeling unsatisfied and restless. Events around the 9th call your attention to communications, schooling, means of transportation, mobility, neighbors, or siblings. Whether or not you want to, you need to run errands and take care of paperwork, or you won't be able to satisfy your yen for adventure!

**Cancer** This month, you are pulling back a little, strategizing, observing, and researching your options, dear Cancer. While work and other public matters are not making headlines for you in February, your personal life is certainly heating up. You take little interest in anything (or anyone) superficial now, and you are a true student of human nature. Taxes and debts are likely a preoccupation. Events and circumstances around the 9th necessitate a change in your spending habits and budget.

**Leo** Dear Leo, much of your attention is drawn to improving your close relationships in February. It's best to give the stage to others now, and to put your personal projects on the back burner just for now. A Lunar Eclipse occurs in your sign on the 9th, giving you a cosmic push to change your image or redefine your personality. Find a balance between autonomy and dependence.

**Virgo** Any suspicions that you are a workaholic will probably be confirmed this month, dear Virgo! You are making a dent in your "to do" list. You might notice aches and pains a little more now, as you do all the little things that don't seem to be working "just right". You've been deeply involved in your work and routines. It's time to balance your life with some down time--otherwise, you simply won't feel whole.

**Libra** A truly fun month is in store for you,

dear Libra. In 2009, you are discovering (and re-discovering) all the things that bring joy to your life and February is a good example of this playful energy. Entertaining, recreation, romance, children, and hobbies—all of these things appeal more than ever. Your charm soars, and your romantic life picks up pace. Around the time of the Lunar Eclipse on the 9th, a friend may need your assistance. Responsibilities to others become very clear.

**Scorpio** The year 2009 brings much contentment on the home front for you, dear Scorpio, but that doesn't mean you won't be busy in this area of life! In fact, this month, activities in and around your home and involving family occupy much of your time. Events and circumstances occurring around the 9th give you a cosmic push to handle professional matters, and to review or change your career goals.

**Sagittarius** You can't seem to sit still this month, dear Sagittarius! With all that's going on around you, be careful not to let the little things cloud your perspective of the bigger picture. Great conversations, happy news, and plenty to learn—these are the themes of February. Information overload could be an issue, if you let it become one. With all of the attention you've been giving to mundane affairs, you could be wondering when you're going to have some fun. You want to take a leap of faith now, particularly around the 9th.

**Capricorn** This month, dear Capricorn, you are busy building your resources, buying new things that have long-term "shelf life", and thinking up ideas about how to make more money. Financial matters are in focus. Sensual pleasures appeal more than usual. Around the 9th, some drama with regards to a spouse's income, or your taxes and investments, may occur. It could be time to settle some of your debts, financial or otherwise.

**Aquarius** February is a banner month for your personal interests, energy, charm, and initiative, dear Aquarius. Despite some blockages around the 5th, when the past comes back to haunt you, the month brings pleasant energy and fun surprises. Few Aquarians will end the month without having changed some aspect of their personal appearance, manner, or style. A partner or relationship matter demands your attention around the 9th. The need to strike a balance between your own needs and those of another becomes clear.

**Pisces** Taking time out to research, reflect, and develop your inner resources figures strongly this month, dear Pisces. Much of your energy is channeled into private matters.

Around the 9th, there could be changes necessary in your job or health routines. You can use this surge of emotional energy to make positive changes to your routines. Do something to improve your work conditions if they are annoying you. ■



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# Karnaval Schedule January/February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 	26	27	28	29	30 Youth Jump-up Jump-in in Rincon—departure of the teen Tumba queen 18:00-21:00	31 Sign up for Tumba Festival 2009
1	2 	3	4	5 First evening of the Tumba Festival (Asombo), 8 pm to 1 am, Telbo "Garden"	6 Jump-in Kolegio Papa Cornes elementary school Jump-up Karnaval party 20:00-01:00	7 Karnaval Activities at SEBIKI for children, 10 am to 1 pm. Final Tumba Festival, 8 pm to 2 am, Telbo "Garden"
8 Children's Tumba Festival (Asombo), 2 to 8 pm, Telbo "Garden"	9 Kabo Jump-up, 8 pm to midnight	10	11 Election of Children's Queen, Prince and Pancho, 7 to 10 pm	12 "Loko Loko" (Crazy) Festival, Rincon Stadium, 7:30 pm to midnight	13 SEBIKI Balloon Parade, 5:30 to 7:30 pm Election of adult Queen, Prince and Pancho 7:30 pm to mid-	14 Children's Karnaval Parade in Rincon 3-6 pm Karnaval party Kross Fyah 21:00- 03:00
15 Children's Karnaval parade, Playa, 3 to 6 pm	16	17 Jump-up K.K.B.W 18:00-20:00	18	19 Bikers' Karnaval Parade, 7 pm to midnight	20 School Parade, 8 am to noon. Tourist Jump-in, 1:30 to 4 pm, parking lot by TCB FUKABO Jump-up, Rincon, 3 to 6 pm	21 Adult Karnaval Parade, Rincon, 3 to 6 pm
22 Adult Karnaval Parade, Playa 2 to 6 pm.	23 Children's Farewell Parade, Playa, 5 to 8 pm. Masquerade Party, 8 pm to Midnight	24 Adults' Farewell Parade, Playa, 7 pm to Midnight. Burning of Momo	25 Ash Wednesday	26 	27	28 Temporary Closure of Karnaval 2009, 7:30 pm to midnight Ariba Peru Activity 22:00-01:00

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