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BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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**BONAIRE HEINEKEN
JAZZ FESTIVAL - THE BEST**
See Back Page



Marco Di Gianvito photo

Also in this issue:

New Bonaire Government	pg. 2	New Fitness Center	pg. 10
Bonaire Dust Study	pg. 7	Big Art, Tiny Artist	pg. 10
Norca's Deli Café	pg. 9	Loras Hatching	pg. 11
Law Office Opens	pg. 9	Classical Concert`	-pg. 11
		Read To Me	-pg. 12
		... and much more	

(Above)

Bonaire's Robbie, Lando, Gabby, Andreina, and Carlos joined with international talent to put on fabulous shows during the Jazz Festival.



Early this month Councilman Anthony Nicolaas—above right—defected from the UPB (Green), the political party that had ruled and dominated Bonaire's government since 1999. He declared himself independent of the existing parties and then sided with Senator Jopie Abraham's (at left) ADB party in a vote of no confidence in the existing government. Behind the reason for the vote which led to the Executive Council crisis on Bonaire was the concern that the Bonairean people's wishes to make Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba an integral part of Holland were not being observed. A second reason was a report from the General Court of Auditors of the Netherlands Antilles that the granting of long lease ground was rife with cronyism and privilege.

The vote precipitated an upheaval that featured threats, sabotage, police protection, dueling radio show tirades and clandestine meetings. Abraham and Nicolaas will join in a new ADB-led Island Government (see box to right) that will be focusing on two main items: Constitutional and social affairs, Abraham said during a meeting on St. Eustatius. The governing accord, the *Akuerdo di Pasanggrahan*, between ADB and Nicolaas calls for negotiations with the Netherlands "to come to equal rights for all citizens in the broadest sense on the basis of mutual respect, the final result of which will be put before the people in a referendum."



**Bonaire's new Executive Council (Government Commissioners):
Frensel Janga, Nolly Oleana, Marugia Janga and Pancho Cecilia**

► **The controversy and election of a new government climaxed with the Island Council meeting this Monday morning when all of the UPB party sponsored Commissioners, also known as Deputadonan (Deputies), were replaced.** The new government is based on an agreement named "The Guesthouse Accord" (*Akuerdo di Pasanggrahan*) signed on Friday, July 12. The leader of the Aliansa Demokratiko Boneriano (ADB) Party, Jopie Abraham, and independent Island Council member, Anthony Nicolaas, made the agreement to form a new government for the Island Territory of Bonaire. Named to the Executive Council (known as the BC) by independent Anthony Nicolaas is newcomer to government, **Frensel Janga**, who has worked in DEZA (Economics and Labor) from February 2004 as the head of the Department of Supervision & Control. All three individuals named to the BC by the ADB are experienced in government: **Nolly Oleana**—Island Council member and top administrator in the SGB High School esteemed by the teaching staff and students. **Drs. Marugia Janga**—Island Council member and former member of the Health Department **Pancho Cecilia**—Respected former head of the NGO Platform and champion of Bonaire traditions.

► **Bonaire's breeding season is in full swing** on land and at sea. Many species of birds are nesting and the first chicks have already taken to the air. Bonaire's endangered Loras are brooding their eggs now (see story on page 11.)

And sea turtles are laying eggs on **Klein Bonaire, There currently nine known nests**, the first one was discovered on May 25.

► **Life in prison was again demanded in the appeal for Ryan Pietersz (27)** in the kidnapping, robbing, and killing of Marlies van der Kouwe, whose body was found near Amboina. Appeal sentencing is scheduled for June 25.

► **Karst Tates, the man who smashed his car into a monument in Apeldoorn on Queen's Day, not far from an open-top bus carrying the Dutch royal family, was genuinely targeting the royals.**

Policewoman Sharon Koenders was one of the first officers at the scene of the crash on 30 April. In an interview for the police magazine *Blauw*, she said: "I had climbed into the back seat of the car and held the driver's head. "He was in bad shape, but still conscious. You could hear him coughing up blood as he spoke. We asked him if he meant to hit the royal family and he confirmed this. My partner and I looked at each other to make sure we had both

heard him. It was a real attack alright." Eight people died in the incident, including Tates.

► A survey conducted by Radio Netherlands Worldwide indicates a **majority of Dutch people living abroad are ashamed of their compatriots on holiday.** More than 1,100 Dutch expatriates were questioned and the results of the survey put the Dutch in second place after the Russians in the top 10 of rude tourists. Complaints about holiday-makers from the Netherlands included "being too noisy," "not wearing enough clothes," "haggling over prices", "wearing sandals with socks"

(Continued on page 3)

Table of Contents

This Week's Stories

New Executive Council (BC)	2
Pandemic Declared H1N1	3
Tai Chi	6
Dust Study	7
Swim Competition	9
Norca's Deli Café	9
Law Office Opens	9
State of the Art Fitness Center	10
Big Art-Tiny Artist	10
STINAPA Survey	10
Parrot (Lora) Watch (Hatching)	11
All Bonaire Classical Concert	11
Letters (Jazz Concert, Captain Don Visit, Searching)	12
Read To Me	12
CIEE Lectures	12
Going Back to 1999	14

Weekly Features

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
On the Island Since (Soeur Swinda)	4
Bubbles-Did You Know (Larvae)	6
Bonairean Voices (Bon Business 2)	7
Sudoku Puzzle	8
Bon Quiz #9—French Cotton	9
Sudoku Solution	12
Reporter Masthead	12
Picture Yourself (Cuba)	13
Classifieds	13
Tide Table	13
Pet of the Week (Dorothy)	15
BonQuiz Answer	16
What's Happening	16
Dining, Shopping Guides	17
Bonaire On Wheels (Vespa)	18
Body Talk (Introduction)	18
Sky Park (Summer Solstice)	19
The Stars Have It (Astrology)	19
Fifth Jazz Concert	20

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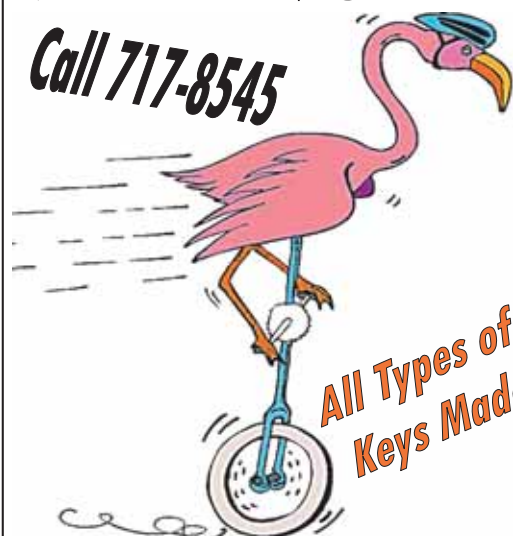
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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

and “lying about robberies in order to get money from holiday insurance.” More than a quarter of expatriates purposefully avoid Dutch holidaymakers.



Stichting Project.photo

► On Friday the 22nd and Saturday the 23rd of May a group of 25 Dutch Marines based on Curaçao came over to lend Bonaire’s Stichting Project a hand. The Marines took the initiative to come to Bonaire for the long weekend and spend two whole days doing many much needed chores at Stichting Project. The building got completely painted on the inside and also the

garden was cleaned. Also at “De Bonaireaan,” Stichting Project’s teaching restaurant, a lot of painting and cleaning up took place. This is a fresh start, and also in preparation of the new students coming in August this is a huge help.

Many thanks to these young marines and their great effort!

► **Dutch Royal Airlines-KLM has asked its pilots and cabin crew to help out in performing other jobs during the summer peak period so that spending on temporary staff can be cut.** Pilots were asked to deal with baggage and to man the gates and lounges at Schiphol Amsterdam Airport on a voluntary basis. A spokeswoman for KLM said the reactions had been positive. “People feel involved and they like the idea,” she said. Will this measure apply to Bonaire’s Flamingo Airport?

► **On Tuesday 9 June Emily Jongh-Elhage, the Minister-president of the Netherlands Antilles, met with some members of Congress in Washington, DC.** She had lunch with the President of the “Caribbean Caucus” representative of the state New Jersey, Mr. Donald Payne, and Representatives Nick Rahal of West Virginia, Gregory Meeks of New York, and Burton of Indiana, Donna Christensen of the Virgin Islands and Dianne Watson of California. The con-



Press office photo

Our Prime Minister with congressional member Dianne Watson

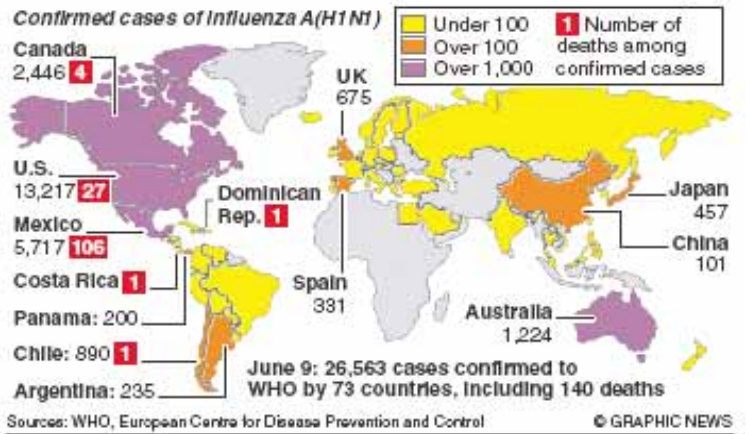
gressional members got explanation about the political process underway in the Netherlands Antilles.

► **Welcome to new Reporter columnist, Stephanie Bennett.** Her column, “Body Talk,” is about health and dispels a number of long standing myths about things we thought were good for us. As she says, “Diet is the Cause, Diet is the Cure.” Stephanie, born in Cape Town, South Africa, studied herbs, minerals and nutrition there and in the UK. In Bonaire she’s researching health issues that particularly affect people on Bonaire and on other Caribbean islands. She and her husband have Harmony House, the Herb and Mineral Center on the island.

(Continued on page 8)

World “very close” to H1N1 pandemic

A spike in the number of H1N1 influenza cases in Australia may push the World Health Organization to declare a Phase 6 pandemic – indicating the virus has become established outside its North American area of origin



► **Last Thursday the UN’s World Health Organization (WHO) made its first pandemic announcement since 1968, advising governments to prepare for a long-term battle against an unstoppable new flu virus.** Arrival of the H1N1 virus is only a matter of time for Bonaire which has daily contacts with the rest of the world. The Netherlands Antilles and Bonaire governments are keeping a close eye on the situation and the islands all have a small supply of a generalized vaccine on hand. The (*Werkgroep Infectieziekten Bonaire - WIZB*) is a special task group that will track any flu infections that appear on Bonaire. Symptoms of the flu usually develop within seven days of contact with the virus. They include sore throat, body aches, runny nose and diarrhea. **If you feel you’ve got the flu get to a doctor or if that’s not possible or after office hours call the free number 912.** Based on past experience, this world-wide epidemic will be with us for some months, if not years, to come,” said WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan to Reuters. People ages 30-50, pregnant women or people suffering from chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes or obesity are at highest risk, Chan told a news conference. **There are now nearly 30,000 confirmed infections worldwide in 74 countries, including 145 deaths.** Presently, the virus is relatively mild, but has potential to mutate to a more dangerous strain as did the H1N1 flu virus that claimed 40 million lives around the world in 1918.



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Born on Bonaire – August 19, 1939

‘Soeur Swinda’ Seraus

“My father was Ramon Seraus, my mom Wilhelmina Seraus-Janga. First my father was a sailor, like almost all Bonairean men in those days, but after the tanker he worked on was nearly bombed in 1945, my mom told him to come home. They bought a truck and picked up deliveries at the pier which they brought to the shops. Then they bought a machine to make concrete bricks. After awhile the business started doing well.

I went to school and after I’d finished the seventh - and last-grade I came home with very good grades. When I showed them to my grandma she said, ‘So... you can read and write and you know your math and you speak Dutch, English, Spanish and Papiamentu. Now it’s time for you to learn how to do the laundry, to clean and iron and cook.’ My mom took my grandma’s advice and...I stayed at home like a decent girl, and that’s why I’m still a good cook! Ha! Ha!

In those days the grandmother was in charge because the men were at sea, and when a girl got married she and her children stayed at her mother’s. My

grandma was a baker and her oven ran on wood. She would take me to the kunuku to look for wood, then she’d make a bundle and put it on my head to carry. It was heavy and I would complain, ‘Grandma, it’s way too heavy, my neck hurts.’ and she would tell me, ‘That’s how you will become a strong woman.’

was put to work in the laundry room and I did well. The nuns liked me; I did laundry and I learned how to sew and I helped at the orphanage, ‘Maria Mazarelo.’ It was beautiful, I loved it. I felt so lucky being able to do all these different things. At home they’d taught me how to pray and to sing, and while I

“And... that makes me so happy, because I see progress and development. Our work hasn’t come to a standstill – we’re very much alive and kicking and we make things happen!”

I stayed with my mom until I was 24. Then I felt that life had become really boring. My mom was also a baker and I was delivering bread. I worked in my parents’ business, I was taking care of my two grandmothers and I was looking after all the children of my siblings. Everyone was making good money, but I wasn’t getting any salary, in spite of the fact that I worked really hard. So, I decided, that’s it.

A friend of mine found me a job at the hospital in Playa. In those days the nuns ran the hospital and the old people’s home. I

was working with the nuns I got the feeling to become a nun. So I told the sisters how I felt and they said, ‘No problem.’

Then I had to make a choice. I had quite a few admirers who wanted to marry me, but I also had a strong feeling for religious life and to make myself useful to others. We had a great devotion for Maria, the holy power, so I went to the chapel and kneeled down in front of her statue and I told her that I was about to make a very important decision in my life. After praying and sharing my thoughts with her I knew I



‘Soeur Swinda’ Seraus

wanted to become a nun.

Then I left for Curaçao to get to know religious life at the Alverna convent. I stayed there for one year and June 6th, 1967, I went to Holland to become a novitiate. During that period of time I was also allowed to follow a professional training in taking care of the elderly. I got my diploma within two years. It was a miracle! Someone from Bonaire who’d only gone to school until the seventh grade!

In Holland I started working with the elderly as a professional

and I stayed there for almost four years. I learned so many things in those years, not only about my job but especially about what it means to be a nun. Then one day I told myself, ‘I’m ready to go back to Bonaire, to pursue my profession and to work hard.’

Back on my island I started working at the home for the elderly, Kas di Sosiego. I was ‘Soeur Swinda’ and I was allowed to work in my plain clothes. During those first years I went back and forth to Curaçao

(Continued on page 5)



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Born on Bonaire
(Continued from page 4)

and Holland where I studied geriatrics. Later on I took higher management courses until I had the right papers to become the director of a home for the elderly. Then the congregation sent me to a psychologist who confirmed that I had the right skills to become such, so, on Bonaire, I became the director of *Kas di Sosiego*.

It was the best time of my life. I felt so happy and lucky that I could dedicate myself to my own people. We offered a professional education to the boys and girls who were already working for us, and the girls who had graduated from domestic science school and MAVO were also offered professional education. Because the hospital and the home for the elderly were (and still are) part of the same Mariadal Foundation, many of them became certified nurses. I was the director of the home for the elderly and Sister Crispina was the director of the hospital. Our jobs were separate, but when it came to education we were one. That's also how we started providing home care."

Sister Swinda is unstoppable; she has a tremendous drive and a lust for life and a great love for people – all people. She's tough and sweet and to the point, with a great sense of humor, very down to earth and a dreamer

who makes her dreams come true.

"Well, 12 years ago I stopped with everything I was doing and set up a daycare for the elderly, Ka'i Mimina (the house of Mimina). 'Mimina' comes from my mom's name, 'Wilhelmina,' because my parents had put this house in my name. But, as a nun, I can't have possessions so I asked my congregation if I could have it and after they'd agreed, it was my wish to give the house to the Mariadal Foundation and to use it for the elderly. It's going to be 10 years in October.

Nowadays Kas di Sosiego is a nursing home and here at Ka'i Mimina we provide daycare for the elderly, but healthy elderly people can't live here. So, up until now there was no home for the elderly on Bonaire, but... that's going to change. Starting July this year, we will have room for 12 people to live in Ka'i Mimina – people who have nowhere else to go. And... that makes me so happy, because I see progress and development. Our work hasn't come to a standstill – we're very much alive and kicking and we make things happen!" *She laughs.*

"Some time ago I had to go to Holland because I had some heart problems and as I am diabetic they took it seriously. The congregation offered me a beautiful apartment in this ultra modern building in the south of Hol-



Magnificent Ladies: Soeur Crispina, who was the director of the hospital, Soeur Swinda and Soeur Virginia Bernabela, who is (still) taking care of the poor people on the island.

land to retire, but I told them, 'Thanks so much, I'm happy you offered it to me, but I'm not ready yet. I'm busy with a new project.'

Look around and see how green it is here. Not only because I love plants but also because I'm trying to understand things. A country or an island which cannot grow its own food has no culture; that's how I see it.

A long time ago we started to make people conscious of the fact that they could grow their own vegetables and fruits. I went from door to door through all the neighborhoods to talk to the people and it was a great success.

Don't listen to people who say 'your water is too salty and there's too much sun.' Do it and work hard. Now we have a kunuku and we turned it into a foundation and I had a man from Haiti come over to run the place. We built a wooden house on it and we're taking the elderly people there and we invite youngsters from high school to come and help us and talk to the elderly and bond with them. We're eating what we're growing and we're selling it well. The kunuku is my latest project and I won't stop until it is what I want it to be.

What I've learned in life is that love for others starts at home when you're a child. To love others you don't learn at school or in church. And if you love others then you have God in your heart. My heart is full of joy when I think about my life, how it started when I was little, and everything that happened up until now." ■

Story & photos by
Greta
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Try Tai Chi

A number of Bonaire's residents are practicing Tai Chi already, none more so than Ron Sewell who lives in Belnem and who had to seek out a new way of exercising after receiving a severe physical and neurological disability over 15 years ago.



Ron Sewell photo

Having seen Ron practicing daily over the last five years while he has been a full time resident, others have asked him if they too might learn this ancient art.

As he is a qualified instructor, he has followed the Tai Chi tradition of passing on his knowledge free of charge to selected students.

Certificates have been handed out to students who have learnt the first three parts of the Yang style exercise form that Ron teaches. This has taken some of them from Beginner to Advanced level, while others are continuing to study higher levels of this mental and physical exercise method.

Ron's training has received accolades from many students who have benefited from improved posture, better health and increased knowledge about their own capabilities.

One of Bonaire's leading physical therapists even recommends patients take up Tai Chi rather than other high impact exercises, where the individuals have had a physical limitation. Tai Chi is probably the leading mind/body exercise activity linking ultra low impact physical activity with excellent mental exercise.

Recent studies show that Tai Chi can pro-

vide much the same cardiovascular benefit as moderate impact aerobics, whilst it is generally accepted that the mental exercise helps to stave off natural dementia.

The fact that the exercises of Tai Chi do not speed up heart rates changes the way medicine looks at cardio vascular physical therapies. A study from the Journal of American Geriatrics reported by Reuters found that Tai Chi lowered high blood pressure in older adults even more than regular aerobics.

Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore, Maryland, reported that these findings "suggest that exercise intensity may be less important than other factors" when it comes to lowering high blood pressure.

Tai Chi is a series of postures that flow into one another through connecting transition moves. These slow, graceful and precise body movements are said to improve body awareness and enhance strength and coordination.

This exercise form becomes a way of life and can be practiced by the individual in the small spaces in and around their homes without any special training clothing or equipment.

Anybody wanting to study, practice or enquire about Tai Chi can contact Ron on his email address of ron.sewell@diamondwaters.com ■ Story & photo by Ron.Sewell

Bubbles from the Biologist



Larval fish picture from www.coralreeffish.com/ae.html

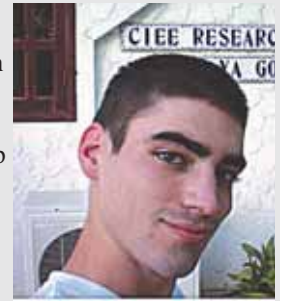
Did You Know...Many fish and aquatic species are very selective in terms of finding a suitable habitat?

Intuitively, this makes sense considering that when fish breed, their larvae float off into the open ocean currents for days or even weeks or months before they find a suitable habitat. They do this to avoid predation and also to feed on smaller plankton that are also floating in the ocean currents. They continue to do this until they are ready to move to another habitat, which is usually a sea grass bed, before eventually moving to a reef. The way in which they determine whether a habitat is suitable or not is very complex and depends on a number of factors.

Some organisms such as oysters are so selective that they sense amino acids in the water, and if the composition is not up to their standards, they will not settle.

Another thing that these larvae look for is an adult population. If there are no adults around, that usually is a good indication that it might not be the safest environment.

This makes it more difficult to re-establish fish populations where over-fishing has occurred. ■ Carter Reid Reid is a senior biochemistry student at Colorado University in Boulder.



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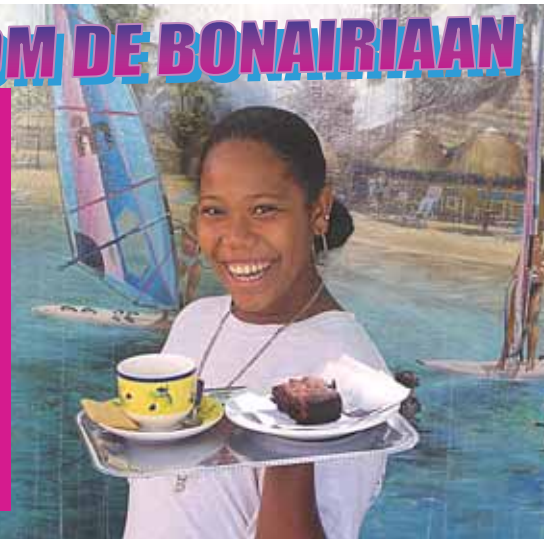
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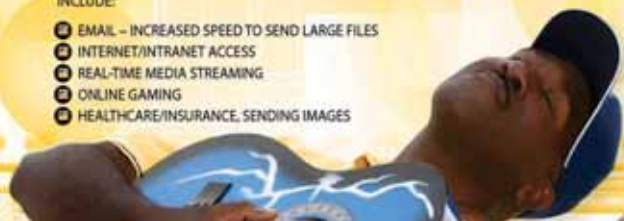


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BONAIREAN VOICES



THE BONAIREAN BUSINESS, PART II

As we drive around the island we can still see some of the Bonairean businesses that started many years ago. Something like this grocery shop on Kaya Avelino Cecilia #11 in Nikiboko, called *Ons Hoekje*, meaning "Our Corner" or *Nuestro Rinconcito* in Spanish.

The late Mrs. Cleotilda Rosaria started the business in the 50s from a small window in her own house, selling basic needs to her neighbors. Her daughter, Mrs. Filomena "Mena" Abdul-Janga (61), tells us how was it back then.

"My mother didn't have an outside job. She was a clothes stylist and sold her groceries at home to maintain her family. She didn't have any other income. Her husband died in the Second World War in 1945 when he was on an oil ship near the coast of Aruba and his ship had been torpedoed by a German ship. So she had to raise my eldest brother, Albert "Ali" Rosaria, all by herself. And in 1947 she gave birth to me.

Business continued through that small window until 1963 when we built an annex to the house and called it *Ons Hoekje*. My brother Ali chose the name.

In 1979 my mother died and my brother Ali and his wife Glenda Rosaria took over the business. In 1993 my brother got really sick and I took over the business. Unfortunately my brother didn't recover. His health got worse and some years later he died.

As in every business you might encounter many ups and downs because of the world crises in the years 2000, but in the year 2009 we still exist. We like the tradition of the neighborhoods who keep their grocery shops alive. We like the ambience of the hang outs, and in this way we keep in contact with the people of the neighborhood.

I was born and raised in this house. This brings sweet memories of the past and reminds me about my childhood. I'm motivated to continue with this shop by my friends whom I meet every day. One thing I really want is to keep is the tradition of my parents. I was raised in a business family. My father, Yuchi Schermer, was a businessman. He owned a grocery shop in Antriol and my mother had her own shop here at her house. As you can see we had hard times to continue with this business. First my mother died, then my brother, then confronting all the world crises through the years."

It's not completely clear what will happen with this kind of grocery shop in the future. But one thing is that we should fight for better times and that our traditions and culture shouldn't be swept away with the current rash of development. We have many supermarkets today, but we have to continue. As Filomena's husband, Ivan Abdul, said, "Perseverance, patience and knowing how to work with your clients is very important in a business. But the most important virtue is perseverance."

It's interesting how Mena and Ivan tell their story. Ivan has a full time job at Akerman Auto Supplies and Mena is a housewife but works in the shop from 9 am to 2 pm and from 5 to 8 pm. They have Wednesdays and Sundays off. And after 8 pm her husband Ivan continues with the business. It's amazing how they can keep up a tradition for more than 50 years. ■

Story & photo by Siomara E. Albertus

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



Dust Study Update - "Bon Air"

The KibraHacha Foundation, in cooperation with DROB and LVV, have researched problems with dust on Bonaire. For three months two students from Wageningen University have measured weekly amounts of dust around people's houses and they have conducted interviews to find out where the dust is from, what trouble it causes and how that can be solved.

People have been complaining about dust a lot. **About 2/3 of the population has reported problems with dust.** These are problems that range from annoyances such as cleaning the house and malfunctioning electrical appliances to major health concerns such as respiratory diseases and eye infections. The research has not only uncovered that large amounts of dust are suspended in the air every day but also that this is mostly because of human activity, especially by traffic on unpaved roads and by the stone crushing industry. Worryingly, with traffic increasing on Bonaire and demand for building supplies growing, one can only expect more trouble with dust in the future if these problems are not dealt with.

At the moment the dust samples are being



Cleaning the dust collectors. Truck provided courtesy of Budget Rent a Car

analyzed in a laboratory. The students are writing the final report of their findings. This report will be ready after August, but preliminary recommendations include paving more roads within residential areas and moving industry to better suitable locations.

One thing is sure, Bonaire should be the island known for its bon air! ■ Jan Jaap van Almenkerk / Wageningen University students



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► **Rotary Club Bonaire held its yearly turnover of board members on May 30th.** New 2009-2010 Board consists of :

President **Huub Groot**, Treasurer **Corine van der Hout**, Secretary **Edwin Vrieswijk**, Vice President and Incoming president for years 2010-2011 **Pieter Groenendal**. (see above photo)
The motto for the new year is "Back to the Barios." President Huub gave his inspiring inaugural speech to 40 + attending members and guests: "It is clear what Rotary stands for - Service above Self and to be involved in our communities. Together as one team with our resources, tools and wisdom we can serve the community where we live and work by looking around for simple solutions whereby we make somebody's life happier and better."
After his speech all present welcomed president Huub and his new board with warm applause and pledged their full support; Rotary Club Bonaire will be present this year in in the community and in all barios. (Rotary press release)

► Congratulations to our very much appreciated advertisers: **Green Label, Bonaire Nautico Marina and De Freewieler**. All of these fine businesses are celebrating their 10th anniversary this year. Green Label started in February, 1999. Bonaire Nautico and De Freewieler in April 1999. Congratulations and keep up the good work! Bonaire loves you, as does *The Reporter!*

► **Do you enjoy reading *The Reporter*? You can help *The Reporter* keep doing its job by encouraging the store and restaurants that you frequent to advertise in its pages.**

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► **WEB, Bonaire's power company, is installing more than 100 bird-collision-preventer reflectors 30 meters apart on the cables running alongside Kaya R. Stadius van Eps, the road from Sorobon to Belnem.** The reflectors will help avoid occasional deaths when flamingoes and other birds hit the high-tension wires. STINAPA applauded the measure but would prefer cables be buried and additional measures taken to prevent deaths from wind generators and mast guy wires.

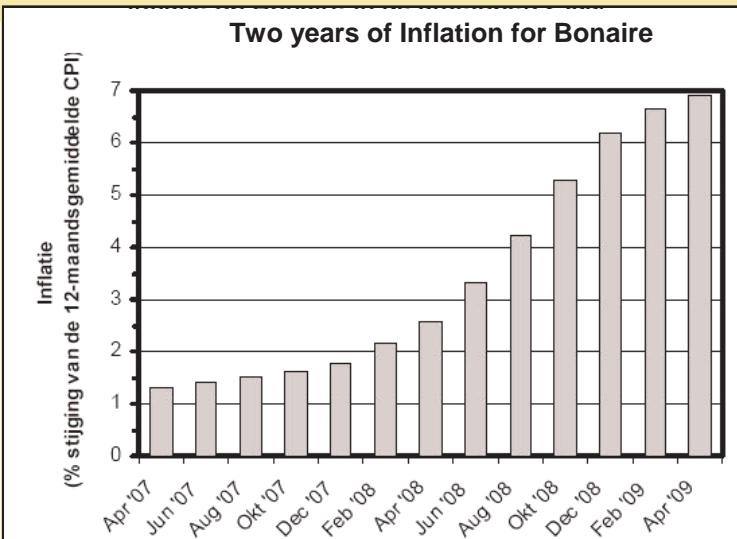


Papa Cornes School students with Director Donny Wout and teacher Barbara Huveneers: Adriaan Arends, Dahymerick Casper, Quiona Winklaar, Aymé Ayubi, Christaëlle-Ann Winklaar, Abisai Pietersz, Izha Silberie and Ilianthe Frans

► **The Director of the Papa Cornes School, Donny Wout, is proud to announce that the school has received the following gifts from Holland: 10 computers, books, teaching CD-ROMs, and materials to help children learn Dutch.**

The people who are responsible for this very generous gift are **Raymond Huykema, his wife Denise and their son, Jelle (11)**. Raymond is a fiscal specialist in the tax office who came to Bonaire on a regular basis to give technical assistance. During the periods they were here Jelle attended school at Papa Cornes and his mother, Denise, was a voluntary teacher. Each time they arrived in Bonaire they came with an extra suitcase with gifts for our children. In this case they acted as an intermediary for the schools in Holland who donated these important materials.

A number of persons were instrumental in getting these valuable teaching aids to Bonaire. Thank you to the Dutch companies, **I.F.C. and Gasel**, especially **Jan van Groenewoud**, and **Rocargo, Bonaire** Papa Cornes teacher **Barbara Huveneers** is one of the pillars of the school organization and was the contact for the school via telephone and email. ■ *L.D.*



► **Over the past two years Bonaire has experienced an inflation in prices of 6.9%.** According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, (CBS) inflation has reached its highest level since September 1982, then inflation was 7.1% CBS predicts that prices will increase less quickly in the coming months.

DOCUMENT BONAIRE



► **Past Bonaire Reporter Art Editor and photojournalist Wilna Groenboom will be on Bonaire next month to promote her new photo book, *Document***

Bonaire. The 144-page book features an introduction by Governor Glenn Thodé and will be formally introduced on July 6 at Antillean House in The Hague.

► **And finally, a Happy Father's Day to all you dads among our readers.** ■ *G./L.D.*

► Last week the **students of FORMA** in the Horeca (food and beverage) section invited sponsors, teachers, employees and people of interest to FORMA such as Commissioner Maritza Silberie and staff to enjoy a dinner cooked and served by the students



themselves at Chez Nous. The students had spent three weeks in the Emilio Romagna area of Italy in March as part of a student exchange and have had training in the culinary section of the SGB (high school) under the direction of instructors Liz Rijna, Vernon Martijn, Ezzy Semeleer and Soraida Mensché.

The meal was professionally prepared and served. Students in this program are from 16 to 24 years old and most of them have two or more children themselves so the opportunity to travel and learn cuisine, Italian style, was a particularly rare treat. Students shown with Ezzy Semeleer and Liz Rijna: Migaila Winklaar, Mirchonella Winklaar, Nathaly Adamus, Sharily Nicolaas, Stellinda Engelhart, Joey van de Ree, Rosa Marchena and Gloria Lont. ■ *L.D.*

Mei 2009

DANKI!

Voor jullie Geduld, steun, inzet, en een kijkje achter de schermen binnen jullie bedrijf.

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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 12.** Supplied by *Molly Bartikoski-Kearney*

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

Norca's Deli Café Opens

At long last Norca's followers will be happy to know that her Deli Café is open at La Terraza. That's the spot upstairs from the Botika Bonaire on the Kaya Grandi. Norca is well known for her culinary arts, as a caterer and from when she ran the restaurant at The Windsurfing Place at Lac Bay. Norca's cozy but breezy spot lets you get away from all the noise and ruckus of Kaya Grandi where you may choose from her specialties like arepas, empanadas, salads, postilitos, coffees, teas, fresh fruit juices, beer, wine and alcoholic drinks. She offers Aleta's Goat Cheese Salad or a Thai Shrimp Salad. "Everything, Norca says," is fresh and healthy!" Every day there's a special lunch at NAf12.50, and you may call ahead to order for takeout.



Breakfasts are a specialty too. Try the Venezuelan breakfast: "Bananas, French toast croissant with walnuts and honey syrup."

Norca's is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 6 pm, Saturdays from 9 am to 6 pm. On Saturday afternoons there's a happy hour. Telephone 717-4376 or 786-9253. Email Kushinart@gmail.com. If you get on her phone text message list she will send you her daily specials. ■ L.D.

BonQuiz #9

Test your knowledge of Bonaire



Calotropis procera or Katunbòm or French Cotton

This plant thrives in open spaces where the original vegetation has been chopped down, for example on construction sites that have been bulldozed, or 'cleaned,' as the locals call a piece of land ripe for construction. The milky substance which appears when a leaf or branch is snapped off is not poisonous.

Have you ever seen the Monarch butterfly caterpillar? This insect is one of few creatures that eat the leaf of the 'French cotton.' The seeds are enlarged puffy pods, that when popped, are covered with silky fluff that are dispersed by the wind.

And now the question: **What were the French cotton leaves used to cure?**

Find the answer on page 16.

BonQuiz appears regularly in *The Reporter*. It's prepared by Christie Dovale of Christie Dovale Island Tours. Contact her to arrange a tour, Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456 or email: christie-dovale@hotmail.com. Comments and suggestions are welcome.



Swim Competition

Participants and results of the Bonaire Baracuda's 2nd Annual Open water Swim Competition at Regatta House on Sunday, June 14, were not available at press time. The photo at right is the start of the 2.5 and 5 kilometer race. Look for it in the next edition of *The Reporter*.



Law Office Opens

Herman van Leeuwen photo

The legal firm of VanEps Kunneman VanDoorne celebrated the official opening of its Bonaire office on Wednesday, June 3rd in the Bonaire Business Centre on Kaya Gobernador N. Debrot. The office in the Bonaire Business Centre is temporary until their own office building further down the road (the original AMFO office) is finished next year. With the opening of this new office on Bonaire the firm, which is associated with VanDoorne on Curaçao and Aruba, can now be ranked among the biggest law firms in the Caribbean.




Rendering of new office is on the screen

Managing partner Frank Kunneman began his speech in Papiamentu by welcoming the guests who had not only come from Bonaire, but also from Curaçao and Amsterdam. The firm is looking forward to rendering advanced local, intra-insular and international legal services now and in the future Dutch BES 'municipalities.' In these exciting times of change they see the need to respect Bonaire's culture and they want to play a part in expected economic and social progress. ■ *Johannetta Gordijn*




Herman van Leeuwen photo






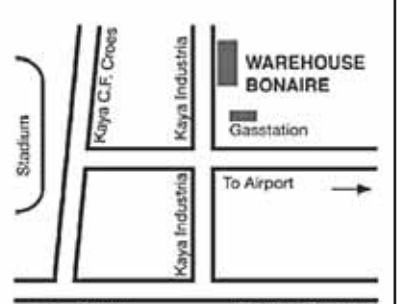
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STINAPA Survey

NOS TA BIBA DI NATURESA



Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Boneiru

The effectiveness of the STINAPA communication campaign, *Nos Ta Biba Di Naturalesa*, will be evaluated by a survey conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). At the beginning of 2007, STINAPA Bonaire (the island's National Parks Administrator) started a communication campaign called *Nos Ta Biba Di Naturalesa*. This is a long term campaign focused on Bonaireans 18 years and older. Its objective of this campaign is to make people aware that the conservation of the island's environment, its nature, is important in their daily lives. Before the campaign started a survey evaluating that awareness was conducted. Now, 2½ years later, STINAPA has requested a follow-up survey to assess the current situation to measure the impact of the campaign.

The main point of the survey is: to which extent does nature, directly or indirectly, influence your daily life? A total of 250 people on Bonaire will be interviewed.

Bonaire's main income is from tourism. One reason, perhaps the most significant, that tourists visit Bonaire is because its environment is closer to nature than where they live. One of STINAPA's jobs is to preserve and protect the island's environment. Having islanders aware of nature's importance to their livelihood will aid STINAPA, protect the island's income and make Bonaire a better place to live.

The CBS ask all to cooperate in this survey. If CBS interviewers request to interview you about your opinions and situation concerning nature and environment please give them your support. For more information you can call CBS at 717 - 8676. ■ *Press release/G.D.*



Klein Bonaire by Winfred Daania

State of the Art Fitness Center



BON BIDA SPA & GYM BONAIRE OPENS

It's a beauty! Drop in and see for yourself. Bon Bida Spa & Gym, the largest, most elegant state-of-the-art gym on Bonaire, had an open house last weekend. Bon Bida is in the attractive blue building with red tile roof and tower on Kaya Gob. Debrot, across from Sand Dollar Resort.

You may participate in group classes or work out on machines or both. One of the professional instructors works with you, on an individual basis, giving you a program which is recorded on an electronic key. You plug this key into the machines and you're told exactly what to do and for how long. It's like having a personal trainer at your side. Your program is updated as you progress. In the round tower room you may take group courses: Body Toning, Mental Balance, Special-Back, Pilates, Body-Power and Tai-Bo.

The spa is spacious and airy, a very pleasant place indeed to work out.

There are dressing rooms and oversized showers and a soon-to-be-open sauna. And it's all for NAf 150/month, plus a one-time NAf 100 enrollment and evaluation.

The Antillean owners are drs. Michiel Verhoef (BSc Fysicaltherapy, MSc. Orothpedic manual therapy) and Tina Woodley, former European champion body building and professional fitness instructor (and sister of Joe Woodley of the former Joe's Gym). For more information call 717-7224 or 786-3246. ■ *L.D.*



Michiel Verhoef slots his electronic key



Tina Woodley explains the machines

Big Art-Tiny Artist



Marian Walthie photo

One of Bonaire's most beloved artists, sculptor Josephine Ebing, recently concluded a successful exhibition on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. She sold several of her pieces including the masterpiece shown in this photo. She plans to return in November, 2009, with new and inspiring artwork.

■ *Marian Walthie*

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LORAS HATCHING

A lot has happened since the last Parrotwatch (Lorawatch). For many nests, the month-long egg incubation period is over and our little pink chicks are starting to hatch. The eggs will hatch roughly two or three days apart, and for the first two weeks there is a clear difference in the size of each chick as they grow so quickly. The first one to hatch has a clear head start because it has all of its mother's attention for a short time before its siblings hatch. To demonstrate how quickly these little guys grow, a chick that weighed 17grams on Friday, weighed 42 grams on Tuesday. That's more than double the weight in just four days. We will be monitoring the growth rate of the chicks throughout the time they are in the nest until they fledge.



Actual in nest camera photo— tiny chick circled

At the moment, the chicks are bald, blind and deaf, and completely helpless. Their mother will keep them warm for approximately two weeks after they hatch until they can regulate their own body temperature. Then the male and the female will take it in turns to visit the nest occasionally throughout the day to feed them. This is a good job because at this point they will be so big that there'll hardly be any room for Mrs Lora in there anyway. This will also make monitoring the chicks a lot easier for the team because it means we won't have to wait for the female parrot to leave before we can see into the nest.

There is some more news on our record five-egg clutch this week. Two of them have already hatched and after having examined the remaining three eggs this week we can confirm that all of the eggs are fertile and developing, so we can expect them all to hatch within the week.

Once again, it's not all good news from the field. We have lost even more nests to predators. One particular nest has been predated a second time after the Loras having re-laid their eggs after the first lot were eaten. At another nest, there was evidence that one of the parents had put up a serious fight to protect their eggs. The nest itself was full of Lora feathers, and all three eggs had been eaten. We caught a glimpse of the pair returning to the nest and one of them looked a little scruffy to say the least. Unfortunately this pair have now decided to abandon their breeding attempt this year after their traumatic experience. That's three fewer baby Loras that might have made it into the wild population.

Be sure to check out www.pparrotwatch.org. The Parrotwatch website now has new material for the 2009 field season, and the research team will be posting regular blogs and photos. There will also be videos from inside wild Lora nests coming soon! ■ Rhian Evans



Nest-Check bicycle provided by DeFreewieler Scooter and bike sales and repair



Classical Music of Bonaire

Loud applause and standing ovations were common at the Musika Klassiko di Boneiru Concert last Saturday at the Plaza's Cacique hall. An unexpectedly large audience of about 130 people enjoyed an eclectic program of European and Antillean classical music performed exquisitely by local musicians and singers. Performers included (in order of appearance): Hans Odin Fassen, Grep Linkels, Linda Anthony, Eric van Silfout, Nancy Vrieswijk, Helma Janssen, Radiwant Gonesh (17), and the Gebby Saleh Quartet. The next concert will be in September. ■ L./G.D.



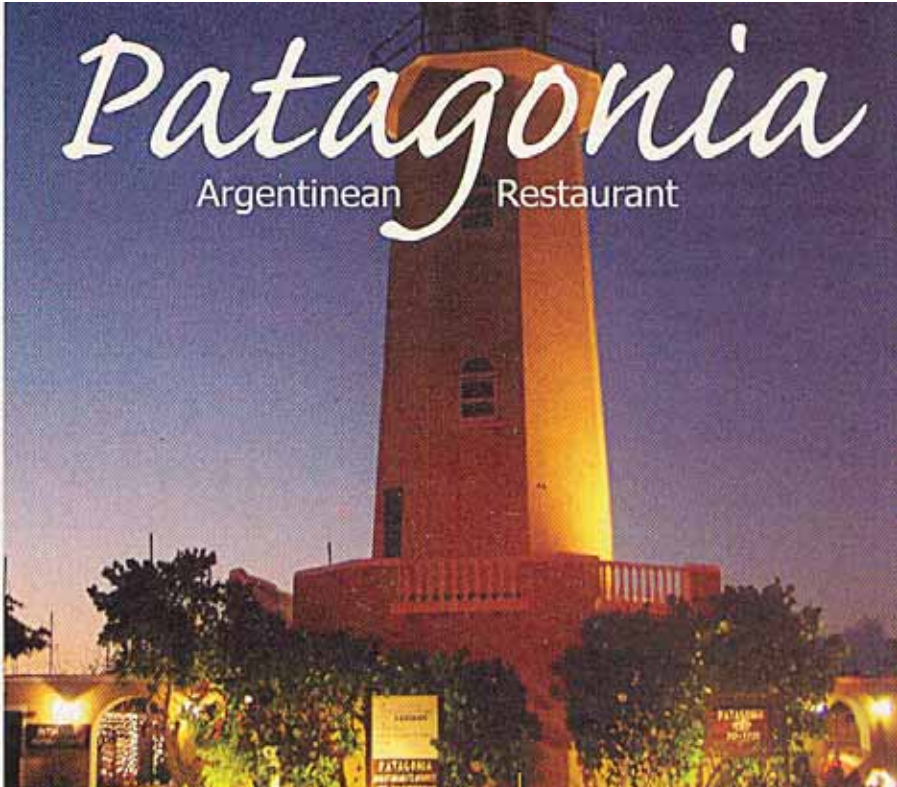
Linda Anthony's superb vocals were accompanied by Eric van Silfout's violin.



Helma Janssen and daughter Nancy Vrieswijk played quartermain piano.



The natural ability and talent of 17-year-old Radiwant Gonesh dazzled the audience. His father Johan Gonesh was part of the Gebby Saleh quartet that accompanied the young pianist.



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Letters to the Editor

SEARCHING

Dear Editor:
Yesterday I happened to read an on line version of *The Bonaire Reporter* March 21-April 4: volume 15, issue 6, 2008. I was shocked to see the article on page 11 "Burned Out and Homeless" about Tina Wilmans. We have since long lost touch but I was wondering if you could tell me where she lives now or if she has an email address. In the article it said that all her photograph albums were gone. I have some copies of pictures when she lived here in Amsterdam. I have lost touch with Tina Wilmans years ago, but I was wondering if you could help me find her so I can send these pictures to her, hoping that she has found a place of her own by now. Can you please forward any responses you get from this letter to me?



MC for the Jazz Festival, Merietza Haakmat-Groot

cano's amazing and inspiring voice performing Antillean, Afro Cuban, American, Brazilian and Latin Jazz music. Their music has been a main attraction on the island of Bonaire. As the MC for the Jazz Festival, Merietza Groot-Haakmat, said that night, "They took us in a trip around the world, from the Caribbean, to the USA, to Brazil, to the Latin countries and back to the Antilles."

Then Denise Jannah, born in Surinam who lived in Holland with her family, who earned a degree as a vocal educator, brought us back and forth, to the past and present with her sweet chocolate voice recalling the memories of poets and poetry in song. We listened to poetry sung in different languages, Dutch, English, Papiamentu, African and Surinamese. She included selections from our famous Antillean Poet, Ellis Juliana. Thanks Bonaire Jazz Foundation. Thanks for this gift of bringing us these marvelous stars to the stage. And may your Foundation be blessed for many years to come.

Siomara Albertus

JAZZ JAMMING GRAND OPENING NIGHT

Dear Editor:
The clear sky and the light of the moon, Fort Oranje on the 4th of was colored by the distinctive tones and performance techniques of music and poetry. The Gebby Saleh Kwartet, the Bonairean-born pianist's group, brought the audience traditional Antillean music. The second set we enjoyed that night was Cabaco Trio, with Canto, Bajo and Conga. We took pleasure listening to Andreina Mar-

Standish

Contact reporter@bonairenews.com if you can assist the writer of this letter.

ENCOUNTER WITH THE "GODFATHER OF DIVING" ON BONAIRE



Captain Don (left), Arelis Mercera (center), and Liesbeth Bleeker (right). Arelis is one of the great Habitat front desk staff. The photo was taken in the office of Captain Don's Habitat after the weekly Monday "Meet The Captain Night" at the Kunuku Terrace.

All Bonaire visitors are welcome to a close encounter with the man every Monday from about 6 to 8 pm. Don is generally seen later walking through Rum Runners chatting with the guests.

Dear Editor:

Since 2007 we've spent most of our vacation on Bonaire two or three times per year. Living in The Netherlands with rather cold and often wet weather conditions we enjoy the warm, quiet and peaceful life on Bonaire.

Most of all we admire the amazing underwater world of this small island, a real divers' paradise.

Since visiting Bonaire we had dinner several times at Rum Runners restaurant, now our favorite oceanfront dining place with a view at the sunset, the fishing pelicans, the tarpons, the night divers and so much more.

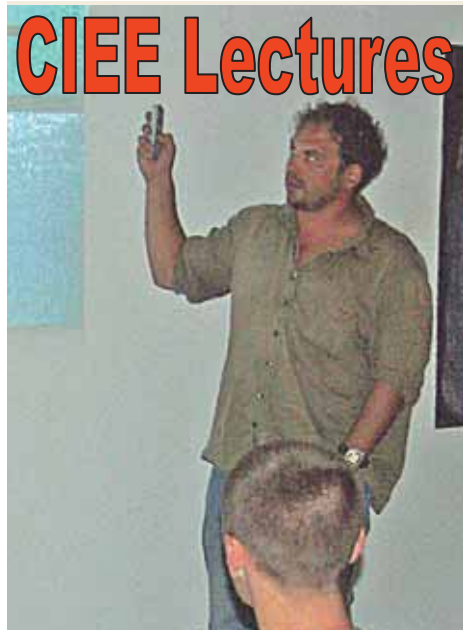
The last evening of our vacation (25th of May 2009) we enjoyed a well prepared and delicious buffet at the Rum Runners.

After an enjoyable night with live music too we had a most pleasant and surprisingly encounter with the "godfather of diving," Captain Don (84) himself. It was an honor to meet with this remarkable personality, who was instrumental in the formation of the Bonaire Marine Park, whereby the entire island coastline became a protected reef.

As proof of this extraordinary encounter we enclose a few pictures.

We can't wait for our next visit to Bonaire, where we will stay again at the beautiful and well maintained, Indonesian styled Waterlands Village Resort.

Willem van Heerde and Liesbeth Bleeker



The hour-long lectures presented by the CIEE education center are a valuable asset to both locals and visitors. They usually focus on aspects of Bonaire's marine environment.

Check *The Reporter's* Happenings column for the latest schedule. Last week Dr. Mark Vermeij (above) Of CARMABI explained why the elements of the critical interactions that make up a coral reef community must be protected. ■ G.D.



Lesaku mi promé mi drumi

Photo: JePeBon & Openbare Bibliotheek

Read To Me

Bonaire's Governor, Glenn Thodé (left, with daughters Evita and Gabriella), will kick off the campaign *Lesaku Mi, Promé Mi Drumi* (Read with Me Before I Go To Sleep) on Thursday afternoon, 18 June, the first of a series of reading afternoons at the Public Library adjacent to Jong Bonaire. During the session Governor Thodé will relate what he reads to his daughters. Children of all ages love to be read to and the recently remodeled library, in association with JePoBon, will promote this with a series of Thursday afternoon sessions from 3 to 5 pm. Once a month a prominent person will read to the children from his/her favorite children's book. ■ G.D.

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Take *The Reporter* Home—1-year subscription: By mail to US \$65; By mail to Europe \$130. By Internet \$25 donation. For information about subscriptions, stories or advertising in *The Bonaire Reporter*, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles; phone (599) 790-6518, 786-6125, E-mail: info@bonairereporter.com

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Sudoku Answer

Puzzle on page 8

784	546	875
953	137	614
216	892	923
962	297	613
871	568	729
345	134	458
351	138	429
246	492	385
789	567	671

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Looking for a **3-bedroom apartment for rent**, at least for 1 year. Please contact zhartog@xs4all.nl

For Rent -Kaya Pohawtan 8- Available after June, 2009; 4 bedrooms, fenced in garden, unfurnished. NAf 1700 monthly. +Deposit + last month rent required. Utilities not included. Call 785-7500 or figbon@gmail.com

Looking for someone to watch your house this summer? Pls contact Melanie tel 563-1420. Your plants and animals will be in good hands"

Would you like to exchange houses with someone on Curaçao during your vacation? Contact Melanie 563-1420

I'm looking for land (lot) in Bonaire (Max. 1.000 square meters and/or not expensive). I want to build house for my little family. Alexei Salazar. Tel.: 701-7007

Timeshare studio at Buddy Dive Resort Bonaire (unit 2171), Week 4 – perpetuity contract. Price US\$ 3,000 (original price was US\$ 5,000) For more information call: (+599) 786 1401 or e-mail: timeshareonbonaire@gmail.com

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**Picture Yourself With
The Reporter In...
Cuba**

Josie Estill, a yearly visitor to Bonaire, sent us this photo of herself during a visit to Cuba several years ago with a study group.

She added, "I loved the week in Cuba, but my heart is in Bonaire, particularly at Bonaire Town Homes, where Ester and Benny make us VERY welcome.

PS: I received my Bonaire Ambassador bronze medal in January, 2009, during my 12th visit to dushi Bonaire."



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.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
6-19	7:52	0.9FT.	22:09	2.1FT.					61
6-20	8:27	0.8FT.	22:46	2.2FT.					74
6-21	9:11	0.7FT.	23:31	2.2FT.					86
6-22	0:14	2.2FT.	9:55	0.7FT.					95
6-23	1:02	2.2FT.	10:32	0.7FT.					101
6-24	1:52	2.1FT.	11:14	0.7FT.					103
6-25	2:46	2.0FT.	11:49	0.7FT.					100
6-26	3:44	1.8FT.	12:17	0.8FT.					93
6-27	4:41	1.6FT.	12:41	0.9FT.	20:40	1.4FT.	22:14	1.4FT.	83
6-28	1:47	1.3FT.	5:51	1.5FT.	12:59	1.0FT.	20:03	1.5FT.	71
6-29	3:37	1.2FT.	7:07	1.3FT.	13:00	1.0FT.	20:18	1.7FT.	59
6-30	4:52	1.0FT.	8:29	1.2FT.	12:30	1.1FT.	20:44	1.8FT.	50
7-01	6:07	0.9FT.	21:18	1.9FT.					47
7-02	7:02	0.8FT.	21:52	2.0FT.					50
7-03	8:00	0.8FT.	22:24	2.1FT.					56



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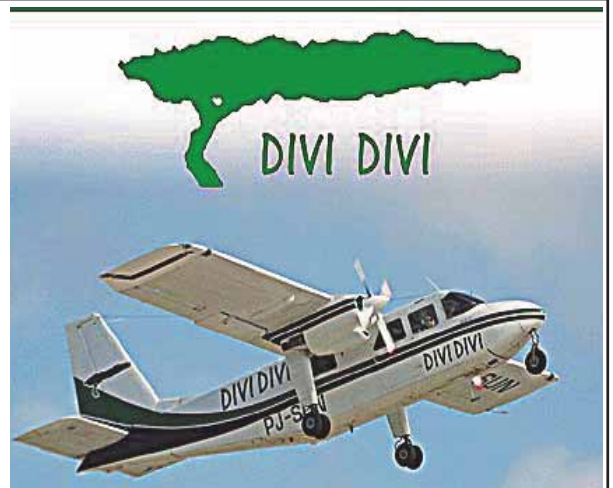
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The Bonaire Reporter Back In Time To 1999 Commemorating 15 Years

JOIN US TO GO BACK IN BONAIRE'S HISTORY TO 1999 – 10 YEARS AGO.

When *The Bonaire Reporter* was called *Port Call*.

The top story of the year – in December 1999 – was the return of Klein Bonaire to the people of Bonaire. (See Dec. 28) Other stories were about sales tax, Cargill, Papiamentu, Washington Park, the Culinary Team, the Special Olympics team, the Donkey Sanctuary, turtles, wages on Bonaire, Mangrove Magic, art exhibitions, crime, fitness, politics explained, beach and island cleanups, Regatta, Dive Festival, Bonaire traditions – to mention just a few.

Jan. 8

-Bonaire political parties and private sector don't want market protection. Want to be free to import goods from abroad or from the other islands of the Antilles without extra duties. Jopie Abraham, leader of the majority Democratic Party, says he will submit the matter to the govt. in The Hague. The majority Democratic Party is now favoring succession of Bonaire from the Netherlands Antilles.

-Caribbean Court apartment hotel opens

-The four-year-old ABB, or sales tax of 6% for most items and services ended at the first of the year. (Replaced by the 5% OB)

Jan. 15

-Cargill Salt Works torched and severely damaged by disgruntled former employee.

-Contracts signed for the construction of a NAf 1.620 million fiber optic cable to link Bonaire and Curaçao – to provide additional phone lines and improved service.

Jan. 22

-Lora Count up – 350 birds seen

-Several politicians on Bonaire, Curaçao and St. Maarten want separatism. A series of referendums proposed as early as this year.

Jan. 28

-New sales tax (Neth. Antilles Purchase Tax) of 2% presented to the Antillean Advisory Council.

-Club Nautico sold by APNA pension fund to an American-French partnership which intends to promote the resort as a first class sailing oriented operation – with sailing school and a charter boat base.

-Proposed 2% Sales Tax to replace the 6% ABB sales tax postponed until March. 1.

-Green Label downtown garden center opens.



Jan. 28 -Blue Moon Restaurant opens with Rianne and her crew.

-Overall crime down 21% on Bonaire compared to last year

-New waterfront hotel, Eden Beach, opens

Feb. 26

-Sea Swells Strike Again – Northwesterly swell, the second in as many weeks wreaked havoc on several Bonaire waterfront businesses – along hotel row and Belnem

-183-foot-long mini-ship, Canadian-American Cruise Lines *Grande Mariner* makes first call to Bonaire. Lt. Gov. Hart, aboard, says, "We like small cruise ships. If you grow too fast you can ruin everything under the sea, and we don't want that to happen."

-Sea Turtle Club wants to stop the butchering of turtles if we want to preserve them for Bonaire's future generation. Another case of *Fibropapillomatosis* infected turtle found on east side.

-Seahatch, N.V. revives the Marcultura Shimp farm operation. Plan is to raise shrimp in conjunction with the company's operations in Aruba and Venezuela.

Mar. 12

-Washington Park celebrates 30 years

-Citizens send crime petition to Minister of Justice asking that Police Chief Gerald Daantje be allowed to initiate community policing immediately.

-Beginning Mar. 8 all services and most products (except for food staples and books) will be taxed at 2%. Like a Value Added Tax because it applies the 2% tax at both wholesale and retail levels.

Mar. 19

-Installation of a sewage system for Bonaire bogged down in the approval cycle. A reliable source says, "The way the paper is moving it will be at least three years before the first shovel hits the dirt."

April 9

-Minister Edith Strauss (PDB) says that the Central Government approved the organizational

changes for police sought by Police Chief Gerald Daantje and the people of Bonaire.

-Pam Teitel and Peter Werdath marry

-Controversy over whether Antilles should recognize same-sex marriages

-Jong Bonaire opens

-Air Jamaica to begin air in June – Montego Bay-Bonaire.

April 23

-REEF says Bonaire is number 1 in fish diversity

-US anti-drug base coming to Curaçao

-DeFreewieler bike and scooter shop opens

-US Coast Guard ships now make Bonaire their R and R stops

-NAOB (Netherlands Antilles Omzetblasting) 2% tax goes into effect and applies to many items formerly tax exempt. Expected to increase government revenues

May 7

-Election results: Island Council seats: UPB (Green) – 4; PDB (Red)- 4; Paboso (Yellow) – 1. A coalition (Prekichi Government) formed between UPB and Paboso and will run the island for the next 4 years, barring defections.

May 14

-Fiber optic communication cable Amerigo Vespucci brought ashore at Chachacha Beach. Will multiply Bonaire's phone and data communication capability more than a 100 times.

-TCB says tourist figures for month of February showed a decrease of 6.6%

May 18

-25% of Bonaire's population are citizens of another country; foreigners provide about 39% of the island's work force. 45 countries are represented

-Ol' Blue dive site at Tolo gets dozens of truckloads of sand to create new beach

May 25

Finance Minister Frank Mingo says "for every 25 citizens we have one government worker."

-Bonnie Kerr, founder of Bonaire Art Gallery, leaves the island for Hawaii

-Top management of Divi Flamingo Hotel assured the Bonaire government that refurbishing will begin on August 15 and be completed by December 15.

Government approval for expansion given to : Capt. Don's Habitat, Caribbean Court, Eden Beach, Harbour Village and

Plaza. Harbour Village plans a 100-room hotel on the south side of the water entrance to the marina as well as a golf course and waterway on the east side of Gov. Debrot. (Which never happened)

June 1

-Governments of Saba and St. Eustatius are betting that the Netherlands Antilles will dissolve and are calling for a meeting with the Dutch Government within the next six months, asking for guarantees for budgetary assistance, electricity supply, airline connections, water and social services.

-Lennert "Lelle" Davidson's El Navagante, quality boat repair company, opens and delivers its first mast built from scratch.

June 8

-Tugboat Capt. John Craane → honored as "Man of the Year of the Sea."

June 22

-Tourism drops 12.9% in March

-New govt. Executive Council UPB's Ramoncito Booi and Genia Cecilia; Paboso's Nochi Willem.

June 29

-Air Jamaica begins scheduled flights to Bonaire

-Construction of new waterfront promenade under way

July 5

-Klein Bonaire – A Giant Step: Island Council unanimously voted in favor of a Nature Policy Plan for Bonaire and Klein Bonaire. Legislation directs an Ordinance be drafted to do what's necessary to manage Klein as a natural area, protect its beaches and inland areas, search for financial support to purchase the island and recommends to the Central Government that it be declared a national park. Commissioner Robby Beukenboom reports that just last week the owners of Klein were pressuring the government for permission to develop

-Jack Chalk elected President of STINAPA

-Deputy Peter Silberie says there's a great possibility that an international medical school will be established in Bonaire

-New, improved website: www.InfoBonaire.com launched by Jake and Linda Richter (NetTech Internet service company) as the Official Bonaire Website.

-Bonaire's Special Olympic Team taking medals in North

Carolina (track, swimming, bowling)

July 13

-Capt. Don's Habitat featuring re-breathers.

-Christie Dovale of Amigo di Tera reports that Bonaire is the first island in the Netherlands Antilles to approve a Nature Policy Plan.

-Construction begins on 40-room hotel in Hato (work came to a halt when the developer died, and it's still sitting there)

Aug. 3

-Bonaire's Bartender and Culinary Team return from "Taste of the Caribbean" culinary competition with Gold, Silver and Outstanding Team Spirit awards.

Aug. 10

-Casa Nena, furniture and mattress builder, goes out of business.

-Pier Rights at Club Nautico were sold to the Ram family (They are still doing a great job)

Aug. 31

-Island Council unanimously approved mooring charges to start Nov. 1: NAf 10 and NAf 15 per day.

-6-month old sales tax will jump from 2% to 5% effective Sept. 1 (but it's held up because of official objections by Bonaire and St. Maarten)

Sept. 20

-Southwest swell damages local fishing fleet

-Visiting yachtsmen aid local fishermen with money and spare equipment.

-A massive demonstration held by the Island Government and the Businessmen's Association held to protest planned increase in the OZMB sales tax from 2% to 5% (Didn't work)

Sept. 28

-Visiting yachtsmen give more than NAf 2.900 to aid fishermen who lost their boats

-Increase in sales tax from 2% to 5% approved by Antillean Parliament

-Mooring fees begin Nov. 1 (NAf 10 per night; NAf 15 for boats over 18 meters (60 feet))

-As of July 1, 2000, ALM will be privatized.

Oct. 4

-ALM eliminates weekly non-stop service to Miami (now, 10 years later, Insel Air will again begin flights on July 4)

Oct. 12

-New phone numbers. Add 717 to your 4-digit telephone number

-"Event Calendar" debuts in *Port Call*. Later is "Happenings"

Oct. 19

-Managing Director of Harbour Village Frank Gonzalez

(Continued on page 15)



Then Prime Minister Pourier (right) and officials at the turnover of Klein Bonaire

says his resort is in final state of negotiation with Aruba's Interbank, owners of **Sunset Beach Hotel** and the Bonaire government. to acquire the property. Idea is to partner with a quality international resort hotel like Hyatt and Marriott. (Never happened)

Oct. 26

-Klein Bonaire news: Bonaire government officials in Holland receive verbal commitments from the Dutch World Wildlife Fund and Dutch Department of Agriculture to help to buy Klein Bonaire from the Aruban Klein Bonaire Development Company. WWF says that the Hf 500,000 pledged to the Foundation to Preserve Klein Bonaire on the condition that no development be done on Klein. Asking price for Klein is \$10 million. Bonaire government named a blue ribbon panel to take steps needed: Lt. Gov. Richard Hart, Attorney Carlene Person, MCB Bank Director Evert Piar.

-Some island residents plan to erect a cross on Seru Largu to commemorate 2,000 years of Christianity.

-Landhuis Karpata to be converted into a drug rehab center (Another thing that never happened)

Nov. 9

-Number of visiting yachts drop with mooring charges (90 boats this year; 122 last year)

Nov. 16

-KLM says no more direct flights to Bonaire beginning with Spring 2000 schedule

-Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) says Bonaire population may increase to 35,944 by 2017

Nov. 23

-Trans World Radio mural of the undersea world dedicated to people of Bonaire

Dec. 7

Hurricane Lenny sends battering waves onto sections of Bonaire's coastline -northern hotel row from Harbour Village to the Black Durgeon and Belnem residential coastal area. Also hit heavily was Slagbaai (photo) in the park and its recently restored buildings



row from Harbour Village to the Black Durgeon and Belnem residential coastal area. Also hit heavily was Slagbaai (photo) in the park and its recently restored buildings

Dec. 14

Bonaire Reporter- June 19-July 5, 2009

-Sea Hatch shrimp farm opens at the defunct Markultura "conch farm."

Dec. 21

Biggest story of the Year – Klein Bonaire is BACK! Sources in the Bonaire Government announced that the deal is "99.9%" secure. The island is about to be purchased from its present owners, the Klein Bonaire Development Company, to be made into a wilderness park. It was reported that the government already has financial commitment for 2/3 of the purchase price.

Dec. 28

"Klein Bonaire Belongs to the People," after being in private hands for 131 years. On December 21, 1999, the purchase contract was signed between the government of Bonaire and Maurice Neme of the Klein Bonaire Development Company. The bulk of the money (NAf 7.56 million; US\$4.26 million) came from the Department of the Interior and Kingdom Affairs of the Netherlands (KABNA) and the Dutch World Wildlife Fund. The Foundation for the Preservation of Klein Bonaire (FPKB) first alerted the people of Bonaire to the threat of development in June 1996 and has fought to keep the issue in the public eye. There was little movement until this year (1999) when the new coalition government made the acquiring of Klein a campaign issue.

-Two big hotel projects are about to begin. The defunct **Sunset Beach Hotel** will be purchased by a "AAA 4-Diamond" hotel chain. Marriott and Hyatt are candidates. Revitalization of the **Esmeralda Project**; new owners will demolish the existing construction and erect a plush resort rumored to be at the very top of the luxury class, or "10 stars," as our source said. (it never happened). ■

Compiled by Laura DeSalvo.

Pet of the Week

This little white pup, "Dorothy," can be an example to us all. She had a very traumatic experience when some young children threw her into an area where some big dogs attacked her, taking a nice chunk out of her hind quarters. The misguided children thought it was fun. Luckily a good Samaritan in the neighborhood saw the incident and saved her. The good news is that despite this scary experience Dorothy is a sweet, affectionate, and very trusting pup who just aims to please. She's a people lover. Dorothy is only about two and a half months and



Dorothy

about four or five kilos. She's a tiny little lady who will stay that way. She's had her checkup by the vet, tests, worming and shots and will be sterilized when she's old enough. You may see her at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

get a Bonny Superdog sticker. All available at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road. And spread the word that all cats and dogs will be sterilized free by the Shelter. They even will pick up the animal and bring it back to the owner after the operation. ■

L.D.

Want to contribute to the Sterilization Program? You may donate at the MCB Account #10616410 "Sterilization Fund." Those monies go totally to the sterilization program, not to anything else. Show your care: Be a walking ad for the program with a "Bonny Superdog t-shirt" for sale at the Shelter for NAf 15. And for free you can



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENING SOON

Until end of June—Underwater Painting Exhibition by Dominique Serafini. Spectacular dive sites of Bonaire. At Bistro de Paris. 717-7070

June 1 to September 30 – Bonaire Dive into Summer

Thursday, June 18—Read to Me (Lesaku Mi Promé mi Drumi) Campaign. At the Public Library next to Jong Bonaire. 3 to 5 pm (see page 12)

Saturday June 20- HEALTH FAIR 2009, sponsored by Xavier University School of Medicine in cooperation with Maduro and Curiel's Bank. Time: 10am-5pm, Xavier University School of Medicine in front of Boomerang Hardware. (See ad on page 6 for details)

Sunday, June 21 – Summer Solstice—longest day of the year -- starts at 2:46 am. Also it's **Father's Day**

Wednesday, Thursday, June 24, 25 – St. John's (San Juan) Day – festival with fire jumping, dancing, music with guitar, kurarta, wiri. A time for musicians pay visits to all their friends named Juan. Host is expected to come out and offer everyone rum. Most of the activities are in Rincon. Just follow the music.

Sunday, Monday, June 28, 29 – St. Peter's (San Pedro) Day – same as San Juan Day but the musicians go to houses of friends named Pedro.

Saturday, July 4 – Big Monthly Rincon Market. Outdoor market with some of the friendliest people in Bonaire selling candles, gifts, fruits and vegetables, plants, local food and drinks. Plan to stay for lunch – ribs, chicken, goat stew, and more. Music and usually a program on the terrace. 6 am to 2 pm.

Saturday, July 4 – Flea market at Parke Publico, 3 to 7 pm. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf 10 per selling table (NAf 5 goes to up keep of the park) NGOs can have a free table. More information and reservations for a spot call Vicky Bissessar 786-1592

Sunday, July 5 - 17th Dia di Arte (Bonaire Art Day), all day at Wilhelmina Park. Local art and cultural works, live music, dancing, entertainment, selections of Bonaire's cross cultural cuisine. It's a Bonairean tradition. Don't miss it!

July 8 – 11 – 5th Annual Starboard pro-Kids Freestyle World Championships

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 cooler 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. 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.**

- **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **second Saturday of the month, 7-9 pm.** Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 (NAf17,50) per person. Tel. 560-7539.

- **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 Koeke 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

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, 7pm—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 7pm.

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

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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 December 25th. and January 1st. Call **788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681**

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every Wednesday at 7pm. Phone: 786-4651 or 786-7971

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, 7:15 pm— All levels, NAf2,50, at ZeeZicht Restaurant upstairs.

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. 717-2066

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

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BonQuiz Answer



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Question on Page 9

SHOPPING and DINING GUIDE

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The White Man With the Hat and His Red Work Horse

The 49th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."



Piaggio Vespa Sport, son 3-year old Luca and Lelle

Bonaire/Republiek/Tera Kora- It took me more than three hours to find Lennart Davidson, better known as Lelle, the man with the hat and his every day work horse, a red Vespa Sprint 150 cc scooter made by Piaggio, Italy. The phone did not function that well; he was not at home in Republiek; and he was not working at his shipyard in Tera Kora. For sure he was busy, working somewhere on our beloved little island of Bonaire that every now and then appears to be quite big! Finally I found the man around two in the afternoon at home, enjoying a late lunch with his lovely wife and kids. The lunch existed of substantial pancakes. Lelle was in the need of some power food. Work at the shipyard had to be done.

Lelle Davidsson is the owner of a shipyard named "El Navegante," situated at Kaya Industria Pariba, along an unpaved road next to the yellow painted building of Hot Wheels. Curiously enough the shipyard is not on the coast of our island but something like one kilometer land inwards. For Lelle this is not really a big problem because most boats have to be repaired on land. Lelle has been on Bonaire since 1993 and he's been the owner of the shipyard since 1997. Most of the time of his extended work week you can find him at his shipyard, maintaining, repairing and even building complete boats.

Apart from all kinds of heavy trucks and trailers on wheels Lelle is the owner of a real Italian-made Piaggio Vespa Sport 150 cc single-cylinder two-stroke four-speed scooter. This scooter is painted Ferrari red (although the official racing color of Italy is yellow). Lelle says, "I bought this Vespa some three years ago. It is a real every day work horse. In fact it is just a working tool. Since I bought it, I've just driven it. No repairs, hardly any maintenance. It runs on mixed fuel. One liter of two-stroke oil to 50 liters of gasoline, like most common outboard engines. I use my scooter every day, driving from Republiek to Tera Kora, to school to pick up the kids, to Playa. And it runs on just NAf 10 of fuel a week. I never had to replace any parts. It just runs."

Then he shows me the system: four-speed hand shift in neutral, ignition, a firm movement of the kick start: hit and run. Then Lelle shifts the engine into first gear and leaves his wife and kids (temporarily). There is always work waiting for him. The wasp is buzzing in the direction of the El Navegante shipyard again.

The Piaggio Industries were established in 1882 in Genoa, Italy, by Enrico Piaggio and his son Rinaldo. During the First World War Piaggio manufactured engines for aircraft. After WWII the factory was also into personal transport. Later on the first prototype of the latter

scooter was produced. It was called "Paperino," which is Italian and stands for "Donald Duck." During WWII the Piaggio factories produced fighter planes. Because of collaboration with the Germans they were not allowed to produce war planes any more. The Piaggios developed a small two-wheeled vehicle based on the Nebraska-made Bushman. The aerodynamic shape of the monocoque scooters remind one of the airplane's history. On the Vespa scooters front wheels and landing gear suspension of airplanes was used. The traction from the first Vespa scooters was made of a converted starter engine from airplanes. Those inventive Italians.

The successful mass production of the first Vespa scooter made by Piaggio started after WWII in 1946. ("Vespa" is Italian and stands for "wasp.") The scooters were called "wasps" because of the sound their two-stroke engines make and the shape of the vehicles: the thicker rear part connected to the front part by a narrow waist, and the steering rod resembled antennae. In Europe the scooter became very popular. It was cheap and easy to maintain. The Vespas turned out to be very reliable and economical. Engine sizes were: 125 – 150 – 175 cc. All engines were simple two-stroke designs. ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



A New Reporter Column

Body Talk

Welcome to the first in a series of articles on our health and how our general well-being is affected by the way we eat (or don't eat).

We will bust some longstanding myths about dairy, about Soya, why you have a problem eating some fruits, why you regularly suffer from cystitis or heartburn, or during the rainy season you are prone to chest infections.

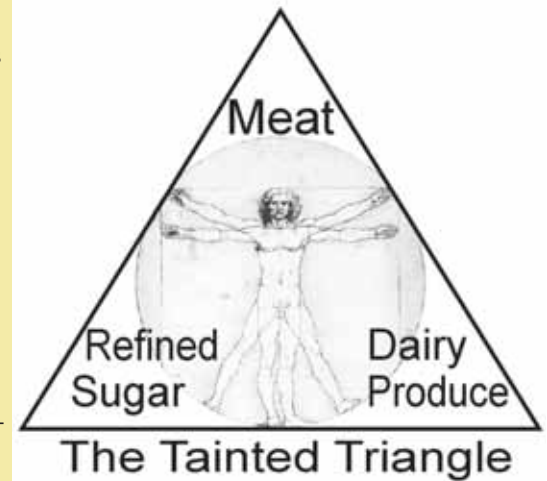
I know that some of you will not agree with me! After all, we have been told for generations that milk is good for us, for babies and adults alike, because we need the calcium. My only aim is for you to think about what you eat and the effect it has on your body, and stop being ruled by your taste buds. We will cover topics like dairy products, Sugar, Vitamins versus Minerals, Protein, Acid and Alkaline forming foods etc.

We all have at times certain health issues, but how often do we really know the cause of problem? Problems like cholesterol, sinus, general aches and pains, indigestion, diarrhoea or constipation or even depression? Are you overworked and always tired?

Have you ever had tests done only to be told, "We cannot find anything wrong!" or have taken medication that either relieved the symptoms for a period (only to re-occur at a later stage) or did not help at all? Does this sound familiar? We too often rely on medication of some kind to restore our health, and it more often than not fails. Why?

Why is it relatively easy, and often exciting, for us to change our house, car, clothes, but the mere suggestion to change the way we eat bring out all the defences. Most of us are on a very limited diet for years. (See if you consume more than 25 different items).

You probably have been on the same basic diet most of your life, unless you have been forced, due to



an illness to have less red meat, cut back on the alcohol, dairy products, no butter or fats, and oh, by the way, – you have probably been told yogurt is good for you!

You have probably been "good" and made some changes, but unfortunately these changes have not had quite the desired results.

Vibrant health and energy begins with balance. Your body is alkaline by design and must remain alkaline in order to function correctly and therefore to experience health. Your body is always seeking to maintain a proper alkaline/acid balance and when you become too acidic, you also become vulnerable to a whole host of health problems.

The main factor in upsetting this balance is your diet. (Although not the only factor, I agree). Applying heat (as in cooking, baking, frying) to your food results in the metabolic process your body undergoes to digest the food producing acid. Always remember – *Diet is the Cause, Diet is the Cure.* ■

Stephanie Bennett

Next issue – The Dairy Myth

Author Stephanie Bennett was born in Cape Town, South Africa, where she studied herbs, minerals and nutrition. Before moving to Bonaire she continued her studies in UK, and now researches health issues that particularly affect people on Bonaire and other Caribbean Islands.



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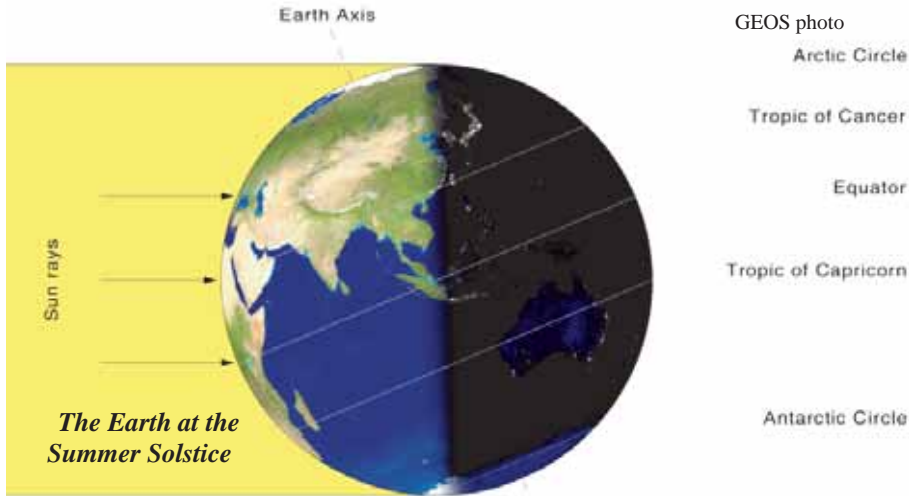
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Mars and Venus are at Their Closest on the Summer Solstice, the First Day of Summer!



The Earth at the Summer Solstice

Get ready to say goodbye to spring and hello to summer because this Sunday June 21st summer officially begins in the northern hemisphere at 2:46 am. Bonaire Sky Park Time. At any rate, whatever time zone you're in the beginning of summer is actually an astronomical event and marks the precise moment our Sun reaches its highest point north of the celestial equator. And just coincidentally, this year on the summer solstice Earth's two neighboring planets will be at their very closest for the entire year and will be a wonderful sight for all of you who get up just before the Sun does.

On this Friday morning June 19th about an hour before sunrise facing east northeast where you will see an exquisite 26-day-old, waning, that is shrinking, crescent Moon complete with Earthshine which will look like a dark full Moon nestled within the crescent. And directly below them our two planet neighbors, super brilliant 8,000-mile-wide, Earth-sized Venus, and half its size, 4,000-mile-wide and much dimmer, Mars. They will be only 2 degrees 4 minutes apart and since a full Moon is a degree wide this means that slightly more than 2 full Moons could fit between them. On the next day, Saturday June 20th, the Moon will have moved well past this sensational duo and will be even skinnier. And Mars and Venus will be even closer, only 1 degree 59 minutes apart, which means that slightly less than two full Moons could fit between them. But on Sunday the 21st, the first morning of summer, Mars and Venus will be at their very closest—only 1 degree 57 minutes apart. A summer solstice coincidence.

And if it's raining out on Sunday you can go out on the second day of summer, Monday the 22nd, and they'll still be extremely close, only 2 degrees 1 minute apart. Wow again! Once more on Friday the 19th the Moon, Mars and Venus will all be close to each other. On Saturday Mars and Venus will move a bit closer and on Sunday, the first day of summer, they will be at their closest for the year! Don't miss this please. And if you have binoculars or a small telescope this sight will be even more wonderful. What a way to start summer.

But once again let me remind you that this closeness is all an illusion due to our perspective from here on Earth. In reality on the first day of summer our Moon will be only 225 thousand miles away whereas Venus will be 77 million miles away. Mars, however, will be a whopping 179 million miles away! And as a piece of cosmic trivia, on the third day of summer, Tuesday the 23rd, the former ninth planet Pluto will reach opposition which means it will be directly opposite the Sun as seen from Earth. And even though you won't be able to see it, it will be a whopping 2.9 billion miles from Earth. So get out on the first morning of summer and watch the goddess of love and the god of war meet. ■ Jack Horkheimer

Cafe Astrology

By Annie

June-2009

Aries The desire to plump your nest and acquire possessions this month is very strong, dear Aries. You're probably going to have to keep an eye out for impulse buys, but there's no harm in spending on some luxury items within your means. You're busy with errands, studying, learning, and communicating before life settles down and domestic matters come into strong focus in the last week of the month. June 20-22 are intense, lively days for you, particularly when it comes to love relationships.

Taurus It's an exceptionally self-expressive and exhilarating month for you, dear Taurus. You are filled with energy, initiative, and vitality, and you have the powers of attraction on your side to boot. Reflection and rest in the past months begins to pay off, and you feel more confident going after what you want. The 20-23 is strong for animal magnetism, but money matters might be the subject of conflict or stress with a partner. Personal hobbies and romance are especially fulfilling in June. A job offer or opportunity might come your way.

Gemini All eyes are on you in June, dear Gemini, and your ability to persuade, enchant, and delight others returns with gusto after a few weeks of possible misunderstandings in May. Nevertheless, energy and vitality might sometimes be lacking, as you require more rest and time for reflection. There's a lot going on behind the scenes, and you might find yourself re-evaluating important parts of your life. Preparing a budget and solid plans for handling your finances more effectively is in order on the 22-24.

Cancer Networking, spending time with friends, and group activities bring much stimulation in June. You might be enjoying an increase in business income, and you have many plans for future projects now. While you're certainly planting a few seeds for the future, your thoughts also turn to the past, as you review what has been working for you, and what needs to be left behind. Conflict with a significant other might set the stage for change.

Leo There's a spirit of competitiveness in your work this month, dear Leo, which can be quite invigorating and pleasant. You might be recognized for your personal magnetism, as well as the creative way you express your ideas. June is a strong period for making connections, particularly professional ones. The need for rest becomes apparent at the New Moon on the 22nd.

Virgo Even though you have been taking life rather seriously recently, dear Virgo, you're bound to surprise a few people in June with a more playful and spirited attitude. While professional matters remain a strong focus, you're very willing to put your business manner aside outside of the office. With the desire for adventure in your heart, you might make more exotic

travel plans that you normally would. Your need for the support and company of friends becomes apparent in the last week of June.

Libra Intensity of feeling and an adventurous spirit are themes of June, dear Libra. You are not accepting things at face value this month, particularly when it comes to close personal relationships. While there is much to discover this month, you might be reading too much into the situation. A desire for experiences that transcend the ordinary dominates. Changes on the home front motivate you to approach your career in a different way from the 22nd.

Scorpio A close relationship heats up this month, dear Scorpio. Whether it is your partner who is initiating exciting changes, or it's you who is looking for more spice, June brings a more impassioned approach to relating. It's a great period for enhancing or attracting love. Personal plans tend to be on the back burner for the time being, as the needs of significant others seem more pressing concerns. The 22-23 could bring some tension surrounding work.

Sagittarius Your personal plans are not a big priority these days, dear Sagittarius. You are far too busy tending to others' needs and demands. Fortunately, most of these activities are enjoyable. The 17-18 is strong for travel and learning, as well as personal recognition and positive feedback. Financial tensions around the 22-23 motivate you to come up with a new financial plan, and the last week of June is a good time for doing so.

Capricorn June is a brilliant month for personal magnetism, dear Capricorn. Your love life speeds up, and creativity soars. Reorganizing and tending to important paper work eases your mind so that you can enjoy hobbies and entertainment without guilt. It's a balanced month, overall. The 22nd brings the need for the support of a partner and the beginning of a cycle in which relationships are your top priority.

Aquarius A lot of your energy is poured into domestic matters in June, dear Aquarius, but you nevertheless find time for fun and games. In fact, you may be in the mood for entertaining in your home. You need outlets for your creative impulses, and you are seeking appreciation. Repairs, redecorating, and home improvement activities are favored. The last week of June brings health, work, and daily routines into focus. The urge to re-organize is strong.

Pisces Creative self-expression is strong in June, dear Pisces. Any writer's block or problems expressing yourself disappear. The urge to reach out and communicate with others is powerful now, and might even be profitable! At the very least, new friendships or the strengthening of ties with acquaintances are likely this month. Honest, hearty conversations with important people in your private life are satisfying and productive. ■

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AWESOME BONAIRE HEINEKEN JAZZ FESTIVAL

Monty Alexander Brings World Class Jazz to the 5th Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival



The Festival Stage at the Plaza

Herman van Leeuwen photo

Bonaire's 5th Annual Heineken Jazz Festival surpassed the successes of the past years. All must now recognize that the Bonaire Festival merits an important place in the world of jazz.

The variety of the program was obvious, not only in the musical area with something for every taste- straight jazz, salsa, Latin jazz, reggae, blues and the songs of **Denise Jannah** - but also for the format of the event,

bands which more than held their own and showed the rich musical talent on the island. It should also be mentioned that the large stage, the light and sound system and the huge screen contributed to the professional setup of the occasion.

"Fabulous from the beginning to end. We enjoyed every minute of it and we can't wait for the next festival," said **Dabney Lassiter**, Bonaire resident and jazz lover.



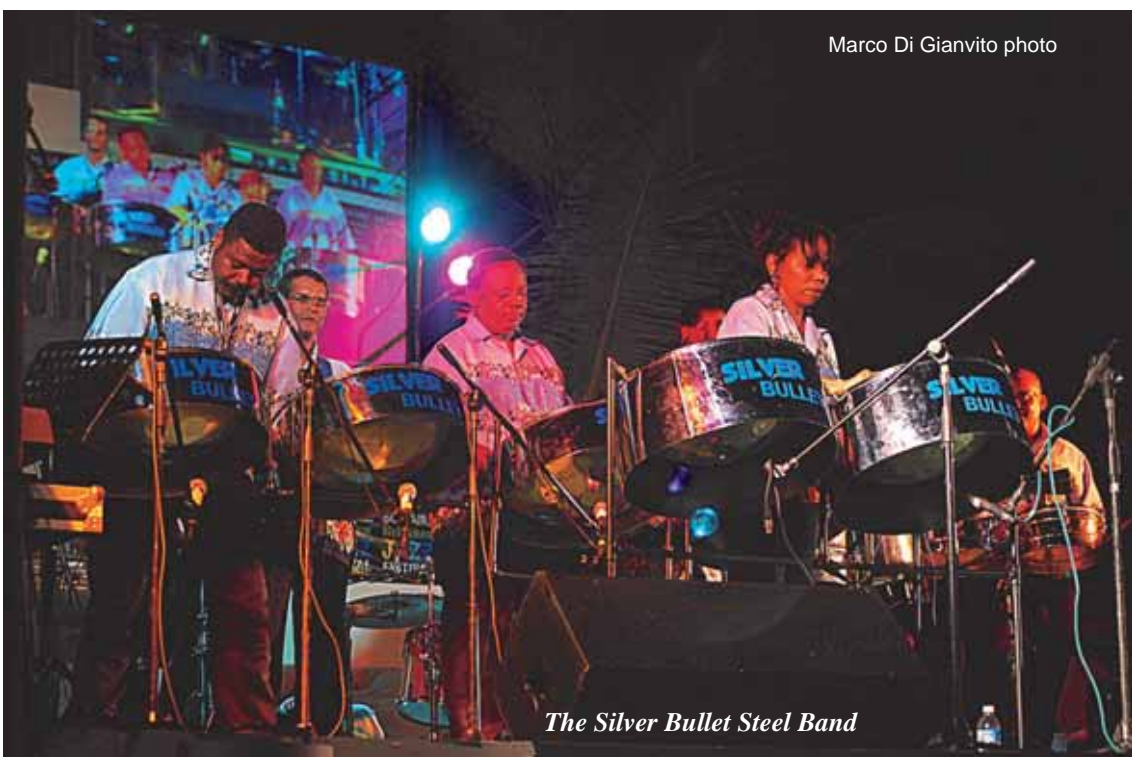
Marco Di Gianvito photo

Dikazz's Byron Tromp

with Jazz and Poetry in the romantic atmosphere of Fort Oranje, the two main events on the moonlit beach of the Plaza Resort, and ending with a rousing jam session-brunch at the Divi Flamingo. What caught the attention was that next to the internationally known bands there were four local

The festival was opened by the **Lt. Governor, Mr. Glenn Thodé** on the first evening where the well known **Denise Jannah** of Surinamese/Dutch descent captivated the audience with her rendition of beautiful songs and poems. The local **Cabaco Trio**

The festival was well attended. All seats at Fort Oranje were taken and there was standing room only. Friday and Saturday the beach at the Plaza Resort was overflowing with jazz enthusiasts and also the jazz brunch was sold out. An excellent result also for the organizer of the occasion: the Bonaire Jazz Foundation.



Marco Di Gianvito photo

The Silver Bullet Steel Band

gave a fabulous show which was generally considered one of the highlights of the festival. **Bravo, Andreina, Carlos and Lando!**

"The exquisite music I experienced at the Bonaire Jazz Festival lifted my spirit for three nights and one afternoon. Top notch local and international artists, superb event location and professional event organization. Recommended!" ...**Lt. Governor Thodé**, after attending all four events of the festival.

After the presentation of Bonaire's **Silver Bullet Steel Band** on Friday, **Denise Jannah** brought a completely new program with beautiful standards. This was followed by the nine-man **Alfredo Naranjo Band** who gave a wonderful salsa show of high quality.

Saturday was the top of the top. A good show by local jazz band **Dikazz** was followed by Dutch showman, saxophonist **Hans Dulfer**, whose exhilarating show provoked a "dance-in-the-sand" party.

And then came **Monty Alexander**. Breathtaking. A varied program brought like only Monty can with the blues, American songs and a repertoire of jazzed-up Bob Marley songs, culminating in "No Woman, No Cry," vocals and guitar by **Wendel Ferraro** from Jamaica. World class drums by **Herlin Riley** from New Orleans. **Konkie Halmeijer** from Curaçao, who used to be a regular in Monty's band showed up as a surprise for Monty and played several pieces with him. The audience became quiet, concentrated on the music, not wanting to miss a note. What a treat! At the end of the show the audience sang a birthday present to Monty:

Happy Birthday Monty!

"I thought the festival was of an international caliber in all areas, the sound, the presentation, the quality of the musicians and the overall organization were of an extraordinary level,"

Ivon Palasula, jazz lover brought up in the Dutch world of jazz.

After the two main concerts at the Plaza, the jazz fest was continued for those who just couldn't get enough at Sense, where musicians from the festival played until the wee hours of the morning. As mentioned the jazz brunch was totally sold out and was an opportu-

nity for the jazz artists to all play together in a rousing jam session. The finale was a duet by **Denise Jannah with Merietza Haakmat-Groot** (the very professional MC of the festival who also has a beautiful singing voice) with a brilliantly improvised piece about earlier love experiences with unfaithful men who cheat on their wives. This ended in a standing ovation!

With the success of the 5th festival, the Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival has arrived at a new phase: further growth, inter island and international, with world top artists in 2010. Like **Lt. Governor Thodé** mentioned in his opening speech when he cited Bob Marley: "One good thing about music, when it hits you feel no pain."

The artists of the festival listened well and indeed they hit the audience hard with their music. ■ **Rene Hakkenburg**



Marco Di Gianvito photo

Denise Jannah



Rene Hakkenburg photo

Monty Alexander