

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** October 16-30, 2009; Volume 16, Issue 21  
**The REPORTER**  
*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

Kunuku Shimaruku, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, N.A. Phone 790-6518, 786-6518 www.bonairenews.com email: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) Since 1994

Printed every fortnight

On-line every day, 24/7

**42nd Bonaire Regatta**  
**page 6**



Organizer Byron Tromp  
Opens the Regatta

Herman van Leeuwen photo

**Our Most Important Edition?**

**See Pages 2, 3 and 18**



**New!** Much of the news that appears in this column before it's printed as Raw News on *The Bonaire Reporter* website – [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com).

**P**rogress towards establishing the “direct ties” with Holland selected by the majority of voters in the 2004 Referendum is wandering off the straight track it was following for several years. The Bonaire government is proposing a new Referendum be held on Bonaire, The Referendum committee report was due last week but has not yet been made public.

The Bonaire Government recently stated that wants to deviate from its October, 2006 support of connecting with Holland as a “community” along with Saba and Statia. The Government’s current notion of the direct tie is a “free association” similar to a commonwealth but not necessarily in combination with Saba or Statia.

Following meetings with the Bonaire Executive Council last week the Dutch State Secretary in charge of the transition, Ank Bijleveld-Schouten, announced on Monday, October 12, that the Dutch Government has postponed payment of Bonaire’s debt of NAf 52 million to the APNA pension fund. The moratorium doesn’t include the Regional Service Centre (RSC) and the Committee for Financial Supervision (CFT).

Beginning the first week of October Deputy Marugia Janga, on the part of the Health Department, gave instructions to begin spraying insecticide to kill mosquitoes. This is related to the heavy rains which promotes breeding mosquitoes. The Health Department began spraying in the area of Sorobon, then afterwards at the airport and will continue in other

neighborhoods. The deputy hopes that in conjunction with the spraying the people will also take preventative measures around their homes to prevent the mosquitoes from multiplying by taking away all containers that contain fresh water. It’s the intention of the Health Department to work hard to prevent and combat mosquitoes that can bother our people. Deputy Janga believes that the best means of prevention can avoid the worst.

**Delta Airlines continues to act more like a charter company** than a scheduled airline. It announced it will discontinue its Sunday flight between Atlanta and Bonaire because bookings were only 12% full. Saturday flights were 49%. Passengers who have already booked a Sunday flight can exchange their ticket for a Saturday flight. Delta will still fly on the three Christmas holiday Sundays: December 27, January 3 and February 21.

**Bonaire International Regatta was a big success once again.** The 42<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Caribbean’s oldest regatta opened on Sunday, October 4, following the flag parade of nations. It has evolved into more than a sailing race. It’s a full-blown island cultural event with seven days of activities from sailing early in the day to parties lasting into the wee hours of the morning. For more details see page 7 and go to [www.bonaireregatta.org](http://www.bonaireregatta.org).



The disappearance in Curaçao of Mr. James Hogan (49), vice-consul of the US, took a foreboding turn when a DNA-investigation confirmed the blood found on Hogan’s shoes and neatly-folded a pair of jeans and shoes as well as on a large kitchen knife found nearby was that of the missing diplomat. The discovery on Baya Beach was several miles from the Hogan home.

The search continued in Spanish Water with the help of a remote control mini robot that searches the bottom of the sea. The area was also dredged. Hogan was last seen late Thursday evening, September 24, when he left his residence at Toni Kunchi around 10pm on foot and didn’t return. “We are still missing a whole lot of pieces of the puzzle,” said Curaçao Police spokesman Huggins.

The Dutch forensic institute, the *Nederlands Forensisch Instituut* (NFI), confirmed that, based on DNA analysis, that bloodstains found in the area of Caracabaai peninsula are definitely those of Mr. Hogan. The police found a mobile telephone in the sea nearby that was identified as that of Mr. Hogan’s. The Hogan family residence was also searched. Now it is guarded by US, rather than local, personnel. Being a vice consul, the UN Treaty of Vienna for consular relations applies to Hogan. Permission from a judge was required prior to searching Hogan’s residence. Diplomatic courtesy applies to officials such as Hogan.

Representatives of the Antillean government Directorate Foreign Affairs will keep the American consulate and State Department in the US informed on all developments. A legal advisor from the American Em-



bassy in Caracas is currently on Curaçao.

The police made an appeal for more information from the public about the case on local TV. In the broadcast, police asked the public for information about events that night and general information on Hogan’s social life as rumors circulating the island about his private life are contradictory. They range from his visits to gay bars to his having a preference for Latin American women. Police also asked viewers to identify the expensive knife.

During a reconstruction of events that night, places and times were mentioned regarding the vice consul’s possible movements. The police want to get in touch with the driver of a white two-door BMW, although no reason was given as to why.

The search operations at sea were discontinued Tuesday on October 6. However, the large scale investigation continues unabated with equipment and manpower from Curaçao, the central government, the Netherlands and the US. There has been little coverage given to the incident in the American press.

Posters have been distributed and local residents have been questioned.

The police request anyone having information to report it via 911 or 108 (anonymous tip-line).

While other commitments kept us from reporting first-hand on details of the visit of the **Wounded Warriors** (photo left after receiving Bonaire Ambas-

sador silver medals), disabled American soldiers, to the island, readers can refer to Susan

(Continued on page 11)

### Table of Contents

#### This Week's Stories

Consul Disappearance	2
Death By A Thousand Cuts (or How To Kill A Reef)	3
42nd Regatta Report	6
MCB Goes Wireless	7
Jong Bonaire Klein Swim	10
Klein Bonaire Cleanup	10
Digicel Women of Influence	11
Space to Store	12
Din Domacasse award	14
Tree Planting	14
World Animal Day	17
Swim Wins-Barracudas	17
Guest Editorial-Referendum	18
Where to Find <i>The Reporter</i>	19
Pier Repair (Town & Fishermen's Piers)	22

#### Weekly Features

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
On the Island Since (Lize Singosemito Amattabri)	4
Bonairean Voices (Citizens)	7
Sudoku Puzzle	7
Bon Quiz #15- (historic building)	7
Body Talk - Dengue	14
Bonaire On Wheels-49 Chevy Pumper Truck	15
Picture Yourself (At Sea)	16
Classifieds	16
Tide Table	16
Pet of the Week "Adje"	17
BonQuiz Answer	17
Reporter Masthead	19
What's Happening	20
Bubbles (Octopus)	22
Shopping & Service Guides	21
Sudoku Answer	21
Sky Park (Pegasus)	23
Star Power (Astrology)	23

#### How to contact us

**Letters to the Editor:**  
Reporter@bonairenews.com  
**Story tip or idea:**  
info@bonairenews.com

**The Publisher:**  
George@bonairenews.com  
Box 407, Bonaire,  
Neth. Antilles.  
Phone 790-8988  
Phone 790-6518 / 786-6518  
Available on-line at:  
[www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com)

**Printed Every Fortnight,  
On-line Every day, 24/7  
Next edition printing on  
October 28, 2009.**

## ALL DENTURE LAB

## DENTURE SPECIALIST

E.M. Rijswijk Denturist

*Repairs while you wait.*

**ARE YOUR DENTURES:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Loose?	<input type="checkbox"/> In Your Pocket?
<input type="checkbox"/> Cracked?	<input type="checkbox"/> Worn?
<input type="checkbox"/> Missing Teeth?	<input type="checkbox"/> Causing Gum Pain?

**Kaya J.G. Hernandez z/n**  
(Near Botika Korona)

**New hours:**  
9 am-12 pm,  
2 pm-4 pm  
Monday-Friday

**Call For An Appointment 717-2248 or 786-3714**

## DE FREEWIELER

Call 717-8545

### SCOOTER & BIKE SALES & REPAIR

*Peugeot, Kymco  
Loekie, Giant  
Gazelle Brands*

Parts and accessories for any brand scooter or bike  
Bike Clothes for Everyone

**Kaya Grandi #61**  
*Across from INPO*

Open: 8:30-12:30, 2:00-5:30  
*Owner Operated*

All Types of Keys Made

freewieler@flamingotv.net



# Death By a Thousand Cuts or How to Kill a Coral Reef

In this issue The Reporter begins a series of articles by the Manager of the Bonaire National Marine Park, Ramon de Leon. The story is not pretty. It's about the drastic decline in the health of Bonaire's reefs over the past decades. The title speaks for itself. A future article will discuss what can be done to help heal the thousand cuts.

Fossil records show coral reefs have been around for at least 225 million years. They thrive in the warm, clear and low-nutrient waters of tropical and sub-tropical regions.

They are extremely complex ecosystems with arguably the highest diversity of all ecosystems.

Coral reefs are known as "the rain forests of the sea," but if you compare these two fantastic ecosystems, you can easily call the rain forest "the coral reefs of the land." Compared square meter by square meter, coral reefs are not only more diverse but also more disparate. Rain forest diversity is due mostly to a very high amount of insects, but insects, despite an incredible number of adaptations, are mostly the same expression of life. They all have pretty much the same structure, number of body sections, number of legs, number of antennas and number of wings, or small variations of the original format. **In coral reef ecosystems you can find 30 of the 31 existing phylum in the animal kingdom.**

As in the rain forest, the competition for resources in coral reef environments is brutal. If you are a diver, next time you have the opportunity to plunge under the water take a moment to observe the incredible adaptations that coral reef organisms have to compete for food, space, substrate, light or any other resource.

Coral reefs provide important benefits and services: protection against tropical storms, food for millions of people, especially in



Healthy coral- will it return to Bonaire? © Newswise Photo from African east coast

developing countries, enormous amounts of potentially useful medical substances, and opportunities for education, scientific research and tourism.

Tourism is the world's fastest growing industry, a \$450 billion industry that generates 80% of its total income in coastal tourism. Here on Bonaire, the majority of our tourism is diving related; most of the tour-

ists staying in our resorts and other accommodations are divers or snorkelers, most of the customers eating in our restaurants are as well, and these tourists also support car rental companies, supermarkets, the airport, real estate and many other businesses.

## Some definitions of the Death By 1000 Cuts:

- Slow slicing**, a form of torture and execution originating from Imperial China
- the **Political tactic** of making gradual changes over time so that nobody notices or those that do notice do not raise much of a protest
- Creeping normalcy** - the way a major negative change, that happens slowly in many unnoticed increments, is not perceived as objectionable.

## Status of the World's Coral Reefs

Despite having a long history of survival, coral reefs are threatened worldwide. The recently published Status of Coral Reef of the World: 2008 (GCRMN - Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network) states that 15% of the coral reefs are seriously threatened with loss within the next 10 - 20 years; and 20% are under threat of loss in 20 - 40 years. Other scientists predict that coral reef ecosystems could be functionally extinct in our children's lifetime.

We can divide the most serious threats to coral reefs into global threats and local threats. Among global threats, two directly related to global warming are ocean acidification and coral bleaching. Although it is commonly said there is very little we can do locally to alleviate global warming, we can and must take action toward reducing our CO<sub>2</sub> footprint. Other serious global threats are hurricanes and tropical storms, made more devastating by world climate change.

Most common local threats to coral reefs worldwide are overfishing, water quality degradation and coastal construction.

(Continued on page 8)



**CARIBBEAN HOMES  
+YACHTS**  
BONAIRE.COM

High quality Villa with panoramic ocean views

3 beds. 2 baths

360m<sup>2</sup> (3,875 sq. ft.) of living space

High rafter ceilings

Situated on a 1.160m<sup>2</sup> (12,486 sq. ft.) size lot

Adjoining lot available

**US\$ 550,000**







**Kaya Dorado 3  
Santa Barbara**

Phone (599) 717 4686 [www.caribbeanhomesbonaire.com](http://www.caribbeanhomesbonaire.com) Kaya Isla Riba (Next to City Café)



# On the Island Since... May 1993 *Lize Singosemito-Amattabri*

“My late husband Ngadimoen ‘Moen’ came to Bonaire in 1992 to bring his sister whose husband was already living on Bonaire. He fell in love with the island; it was so peaceful and undisturbed and soon enough he made friends like the Van Dijk family who was running Hilltop at the time. When he came back to Surinam he asked me, ‘What would you think if I found something on Bonaire?’ I said, ‘Well, if you want to, you can try.’ We contacted his family on Bonaire and they arranged everything and January 1993 he moved to Bonaire. We both had good jobs in Surinam; Moen was a foreman and shareholder of a construction company, and I worked for the government at the Department of Social Affairs as a social worker from 1977 to 1993. I was also a deputy warden of a district.

When my husband came to live here, I came to visit him every month. I’d told him he could try and I would make up my mind later. I felt happy here though, at home. The people were so friendly, the atmosphere was just very nice. But still, I had not resigned officially. It was a big step to quit my job and leave my homeland, but every time I came here and I had to go back to Surinam, I felt like staying. So, in May 1993 I’d worked everything out and moved here. The children stayed in Surinam to finish the school year and later that year, in September, they joined us.

My husband started working for Tony Marchena as a foreman, then he worked for Serviman NV until his last day, his last hours, March 14, 1998. He came home after work,

we ate, then we sat together and he got his attack. A heart attack I was told. He was 44 years old and he’d never been sick. We buried my husband in Surinam. Our baby daughter, Manoeshka, was one year and four months old. Our son Marciano was still at SGB high school and our daughter Mariska was studying to become a teacher. I was working at Dr. Chirino’s dental practice handling the administration and the front desk. Everything sort of came to a standstill; it was hard. My daughter Mariska had to stop her training, but after a few months Mrs. Littman called to ask if Mariska would be interested in working at her shop. I asked Mariska if she wanted the job and she answered, ‘Yes, otherwise I’d be sitting at home and thinking of papa all the time,’ and so she went. This year she’ll have been with Littman for 10 years.

We were here just for five years when my husband passed away and... he had been the one who wanted to live here. So, I asked my children – after the funeral and everything that had to be arranged – ‘What are we going to do? Do you want to stay here or do you want to go back?’ And they answered, ‘Papa wanted to be here, and so we’ll stay and make the best of it.’ Our house was under construction – the foundation had been laid – and thanks to my daughter, my son, myself and the help of Fundashon Cas Boneriano, we could finish our home.

For the last two years Mariska, her husband Lwindomar, and their baby boy Levant have lived with us, but they’ve built their own house in Hato and they’ve moved in there now. My son is also building his house. He

(Continued on page 5)



Family picture: (left to right) Mariska, Marciano, Manoeshka and Lwindomar. Sitting is Lize with her grandson Levant.

**ROCARGO**  
Services N.V.

For All Your Shipping Needs

Kaya Industria 12, Kralendijk- Bonaire—N.A.  
717-8922 FAX 717-5791 Email:info@rocargo.com

ROCARGO SERVICES, N.V.



Full service door to door by air and by sea.

Customs clearance, transportation, warehousing.

International and local relocation. Packing material in stock.

Qualified and professional personnel.

Timely, accurate and reliable  
ISO 9001: 2000 Certified

**FedEx**  
Express

*The World On Time*

Offering DAILY  
Express Services from  
and to Bonaire

For shipment tracking  
www.fedex.com

**AmCAR**  
AMCAR FREIGHT, INC.

Amcar Freight, Inc.

The ONLY company  
offering direct weekly  
consolidation services  
from Miami, USA  
to Bonaire

www.amcarfreight.com

7860 N.W. 80th Street  
Medley, Florida 33166  
Tel. (305) 599-8866  
Fax (305) 599-2808

**IFC**

International Freight (Car) BV

The ONLY company offering  
direct weekly consolidation  
services from Europe/Holland  
to Bonaire

www.ifc-consolidators.nl

Jupiterweg 1A (Ecopark)  
4761 RW Moerdijk, Holland  
Tel 31-(0) 168-40-94 94  
Fax 31-(0) 168-40 94 70



On the Island Since (Continued from page 4) worked for SSS and now he's working at the airport for BAS. Manoeshka is 12; she's at Havo-VWO high school.

Although I liked the work at the dentist's office, I decided to set up my own business, Warung Baru BV. I love to cook. Ha! Ha! It's a tough job but I really love it. I've always been very eager to learn, and as a child I would watch my mom when she was cooking and then I could do it right away. Talent! Cooking is all about feeling; you can explain it to someone, but the art is in your heart and in your hands

still have a house, to get my spices. I always use fresh turnips, tubers and green leaves when I cook. I don't use powder mixes – never. When I am in Surinam," she smiles apologetically, "I'm really ashamed to say so, but I can't stand the hustle anymore. After one week I just want to go back to Bonaire. Surinam is a beautiful multi-cultural country with an abundance of nature and I do miss it and most of my family is there, but one week is too long and it's hot and humid and I miss the wind. But for me it's very profitable, as one US dollar is worth 2.78 SRD

## “What are we going to do? Do you want to stay here or do you want to go back?”

and," She giggles and smiles, "you have to love it, of course! That's why I started my own kitchen take away – Surinamese and Indonesian food. I cook at the house and people come to take out. We're not a restaurant. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday we hang out the flag of Warung Baru at Kaya Chippewa # 20 in Nort di Salina from 11:30am until around 3pm.

I'm always there at the Regatta, and this year it was our third lustrum: 15 years, from 1994 until now, continuously! And I'm also the cruise ship market at Parke Wilhelmina. I really owe everything to my clientele, because they gave me a push. When they see me in the street, they ask me, 'Lize, when will you cook for me again!' They are so enthusiastic and happy and it gives me the spirit to do this work.

About two years after my husband passed away, my brother, Albert 'Bob' Amattabri, came to live here. He was the only boy in our family. We are six girls and our youngest brother passed away when he was 13. My brother meant everything to me. All those years he lived here, he helped me in every possible way, he and my children. My brother was my right hand and we miss him terribly, because on March 14, this year, 2009, my brother who was working for SSS, died of a stroke when he was at work at the casino. He was only 45. We buried him on Bonaire. It has been a terrible blow for me – so young and on the same day as my husband. It's something I can't comprehend.'

*Lize, 'Tante Lies,' is a person who has her feet firmly on the ground. She's a strong and optimistic woman, but she also suffered two tremendous losses and it's still lingering. Nevertheless, she's pulled herself together, and thanks to her children, her family and friends and her own strength she moved on...*

"When I feel I've been behind the stove too long I go to my garden. That's another hobby of mine. I've planted fruit trees and vegetables and lots and lots of spinach. All my friends come to pick, because it's way too much. It's a matter of patience and you have to give water, attention and maintain your garden and this island is fertile – we can plant. So, when the rainy season starts, I'll be planting again and again it will grow for months. You just have to make time. With all those plants around the house I feel at home. She laughs. "I love to dance too. As soon as I hear music I start dancing and I love to listen to music, to sing along.

Twice a year I go to Surinam, where I

(Surinam Florin), so, you feel like a millionaire! Anyway, when I go to Surinam it's no vacation. Vacation is where I can say, 'I don't have to do anything!' This year I went to St. Martin, Surinam and Trinidad. I thought before I have to work hard again– after the Regatta the cruise ship season starts – let's go on a trip. I love to travel. Let me think how many countries I've visited. When I was still living in Surinam I went to French Guyana and every year I'd go to Belem, Brazil, to shop. It's really cheap there, but there's also a lot of poor people. With my husband I went to Miami and I went to Holland, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Quito and Aruba; real fun. I love to travel, truly. But Bonaire is the best. Yes, I'll stay here. It has become busier and it has changed, but when I don't have to go to Playa, I stay at home. It's quiet here and I've got so many friends and my in laws who are living here, my nephews and nieces, my children and my grandchild – they are my greatest support. I have a big family here. I am not alone."

■ Story & Photos by Greta Kooistra



Lize in her kitchen

# CityShop

## Het Hoofdkwartier van Airco's

### Westpoint



Installatie Gratis		
9000 BTU	FLS.	995
12000 BTU	FLS.	1.145
18000 BTU	FLS.	1.895
24000 BTU	FLS.	2.595

**3 jaar garantie op de compressor en 1 jaar garantie op overige delen**




Kaya International # 36 Bonaire, Kralendijk/ Tel.: 717-4630 / Fax: 717-4650  
E-mail: info@cityshopnv.com



# Regatta Events Regatta Results

Mother Nature offered up a range of weather conditions for the 42<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Bonaire Regatta. Moderate winds on the Monday start of the sailing gave all a good warm-up for the week to come. On Tuesday the start of the Round the Island Race with 15 knots of wind did not predict that speed records for two major classes would fall: In the multihull Class *Moko Jumbie* finished in an incredible 4 hours and 16 minutes. In the Lac Bay Race for monohulls *Cristina* broke the record with 4 hours and 56 minutes. In the monohull class *Taima* rounded the island in 6 hours and 8 minutes.

There were 189 entries in this Regatta, 27 fewer than last year. Most were micro boat participants (111). And of course there were also races for Sunfish, Splash(es), windsurfers and the traditional fishing boats. Viktor Wijnand, a veteran of 11 past Regattas, did a smooth job of taking over from Elvis Martinus. In his first role as Race Director.

After the racing in the day, every night the waterfront rocked with live and recorded music, food and drinks. There was an auto accident and a bit of rowdiness that was taken care of by fast police work. The post-Regatta "Golden Boat Event" along the promenade was very popular. Next year Bonaire may join with Aruba and Curaçao for joint promotion for the three ABC island regattas. If that's successful additional facilities for visiting boats will be needed. ■ *Press releases/G.D.*



*For the Parade of Nations, the Regatta's kick-off event, Bonairean Giovanni Soliano who lives in Oklahoma, marched with his part native-American wife and two children. The two girls on the right are family members.*



*Dueling at the first windward mark at the start of the long distance races on Tuesday. No one suspected that squalls and brisk winds, from mostly favorable directions, would help set Regatta speed records.*



*The "Golden Boat Event," a massive raft-up of power boats, brought out the crowds to the waterfront Promenade.*

## Total Bonaire Victory

The setting was chilly, brisk Westerland Beach in Sylt, Germany. Windsurf pros have long flocked to the windy cold shores of Sylt to compete for the final PWA event of each season. Full suits and small sails are usually the order of the day, something Taty Frans, Kiri Thode and Tonky Frans are pretty unfamiliar with based on their sailing venue, Lac Bay. Still, Sylt was not a new spot for this pro team who has been on the circuit since 2001. Early on, Sylt lacked the wind needed for a successful event, but on day 3 it went off. Duncan Combs, head judge, called for single and double ladder eliminations. Team Bonaire made it to the semis, throwing

Shakas and Back Loops. Kiri bested his Starboard team mate Nicolas Akgazciyan from France. Next he was up against Tonky in Single Ladder Eliminations. Both athletes excelled, but Kiri advanced forward. In the finals it was Taty against Kiri. The winner after scoring higher points in a very close heat was Taty Frans. 1,2,3, Bonaire dominates Sylt. If you spend any time at Lac Bay you know that this trio of top - flights train over 300 days a year, honing their freestyle skills. The name Bonaire is synonymous with perfection in the freestyle world of windsurfing. Bonaire is proud of not one, not two but three of their own who stood proudly on the podium in Sylt.

Scores

### Overall winners - Yachts Racing 1 & Racing 2

- 1 Chamba II Jan Ackermans CUR
- 2 Demarrage Henri Hernandez CUR
- 3 Taima Thomas Pollhene VEN
- 4 Merlin Gereth Weber CUR
- 5 Sun Belt Realty - Dash Remco van Dortmond CUR
- 6 Team Ibis Karel van Heren CUR
- 6 Slow Fox Conrad Spaans CUR
- 7 Casse Tete Jos Schoonen BON
- 8 City Cafe - Papyro Enrique Casco BON
- 9 Tweety Henning Bergold VEN

### Winners Racing 1

- 1 Taima Thomas Pollehne VEN
- 2 Dash Remco van Dortmond CUR
- 3 Team Ibis Karel van Heren CUR
- 4 Casse Tete Jos Schoonen BON
- 5 Slow Fox Conrad Spaans CUR
- 6 Papyro Enrique Casco BON
- 7 Tweety Henning Bergold VEN

### Winners Racing 2

- 1 Chamba II Jan Ackermans CUR
- 2 Demarrage Henri Hernandez CUR
- 3 Merlin Gereth Weber CUR

### Winners Cruising 1

- 1 Christina Daniel Serfaty VEN
- 2 Venus Callipyge Hans van der Straaten CUR
- 3 Marvin Timothy Newton CUR
- 4 Sol y Mar Sexto Sille CUR
- 5 Melody Wilfried Merckies CUR
- 6 Eva Luna Eric Mijts ARU
- 7 Francis O Chris Hellburg CUR
- 8 Tranquilo Anthony Hagedoorn ARU

### Winners Multihulls

- 1 Moko Jumbie Randy Kenoffel BON
- 2 Paranda Klaas Parrel CUR
- 3 Fine Line Steve Walsh USA

### Winners Optimist

- 1 Optimist A Santiago Alvarez BON
- 2 Optimist A Constatijn Botterop BON

- 1 Optimist B Nils van Eldik BON
- 2 Optimist B Dillon Rannou BON

- 1 Optimist C Reynold Wilsoe BON
- 2 Optimist C Knut Peterson BON
- 3 Optimist C Arnold Wilsoe BON
- 4 Optimist C A.J. Soliano USA

### Winners Splash

- 1 Splash Shahir Theodora BON
- 2 Splash Wendel Mar Statie BON
- 3 Splash Kevin Dijkhoff BON

### Winners Laser

- 1 Laser Ernst van Vliet BON
- 2 Laser Randy Polonio BON

Men's Freestyle  
1<sup>st</sup> Elton 'Taty' Frans (Starboard, MauiSails)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Kiri Thode (Starboard, Gaastra)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Everon 'Tonky' Frans (F2, Gaastra)  
4<sup>th</sup> Jose 'Gollito' Estredo (Fanatic, North)  
5<sup>th</sup> Nicolas Akgazciyan (Starboard, Gun Sails) ■  
*Ann Phelan*

*Ann Phelan is a windsurf specialist tour operator;  
www.bonairecaribbean.com*

### Winners Sunfish

- 1 Sunfish A Sipke Stapert BON
- 2 Sunfish A Alfred Martis (Yellowman) BON
- 3 Sunfish A George Soliano BON
- 4 Sunfish A Ton Nuijten BON
- 5 Sunfish A Juan Alvarez BON
- 6 Sunfish A Gerard Fox NED
- 7 Sunfish A Franklin Soleano BON
- 8 Sunfish A Jim Lawson USA
- 9 Sunfish A Elisabeth Vos BON
- 10 Sunfish A Margot Berkers BON

- 1 Sunfish B Damiaan van Burg CUR
- 2 Sunfish B Ruben van Eldik BON
- 3 Sunfish B Jason Carter BON
- 4 Sunfish B Bernard Abraham BON

### Winners Fishing boats

- 1 Aranza Giovanie Soliano BON
- 2 Unico Karel Papichi Soliano BON

### Winners Windsurfing course races

- 1 Kids Amado Vrieswijk BON
- 2 Kids Jurgen Saragoza BON

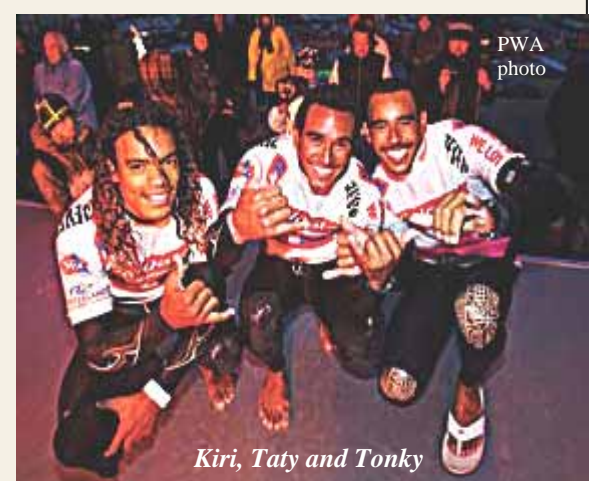
- 1 Junior Dylan Robles BON
- 2 Junior Yeath Koeks BON
- 3 Junior Ezri Heymans BON
- 4 Junior Youp Schmit BON
- 5 Junior David-Lee winklaar BON
- 6 Junior Florian Wegerer BON

- 1 Men Elton Tati Frans BON
- 2 Men Ethienne Soliano BON
- 3 Men Evertson Choko Frans BON
- 4 Men Christiaan Dammers BON
- 5 Men Bjorn Saragoza BON
- 6 Men Hendrick Belentien BON
- 7 Men Jeager St. Jago BON

- 1 Women Monique Meyer BON

### Winners Windsurfing Freestyle

- 1 Kids Jurgen Saragoza BON
- 2 Kids Shepherd Gustowki BON
- 3 Kids Mitchell de Palm BON
- 4 Kids Rover Dullaart BON
- 5 Kids Marvally Velandia BON
- 1 Junior Youp Schmith BON
- 2 Junior Amado Vrieswijk BON
- 3 Junior Florian Weber BON
- 4 Junior Dylan Robles BON
- 5 Junior Ezri Heymans BON
- 1 Men Kiri Thode BON
- 2 Men Evertson Choko Frans BON
- 3 Men Bjorn Saragoza BON
- 4 Men Hendrick Belentien BON
- 5 Men Elton Tati Frans BON



*Kiri, Taty and Tonky*

PWA photo



Bonairean Voices is sponsored by



**MCB**

MADURO & CURIEL'S BANK (BONAIRE) N.V.

Kaya L.D. Gerharts 1 • Phone: +(599) 715-5520  
Website: www.mcbbonaire.com • Email: info@mcbbonaire.com



www.mcbb-home.com

We keep making things convenient for you!

With 4 branches and 10 ATMs located throughout the island and our Internet Banking, MCB@Home, at your service anytime, any day, anywhere.

# MCB Bonaire Goes Wireless DO YOU SUDOKU?

Following a trial period MCB Bonaire has launched its wireless credit/debit card service that uses GPRS cellular phone technology to make secure transactions.

The first Bonaire business to receive a wireless terminal is Magero N.V., better known as Caribbean Laundry. The Laundry's owner, Marcelo Werleman (in photo-center) appreciates this new service of MCB, your friendly bank. It marks another first for MCB on Bonaire. The wireless device will serve yachts, restaurants and sidewalk businesses as well as conventional commerce more efficiently. The portable terminal, a GPRS Wireless VeriFone Vx670, is easy to use and will accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, Maestro and MCB's local card, Kompa Leon. Just about anywhere on Bonaire is accessible. For more information call 715-5568. ■ *Press release*



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

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



## BONAIREAN VOICES

Siomara Albertus photo



*Citizens of the future: Adriana, Shamila and Jovion.*

### A CITIZEN'S THOUGHTS AT REGATTA TIME

Driving around Bonaire during Regatta Week you see everybody enjoying themselves. There are a lot of happy faces and I ask myself will this be the same next year? I'd like to share my thoughts with you and please excuse me for any **inconvenient** statement.

As citizens of this lovely island Bonaire most of us have concerns about what is going to happen here. It's not easy to make decisions, but when we make them we have to do it wisely, because it's not just one person involved who is making these decisions, but a group of people. It's odd that a small group is making the big decisions about our future without knowing what we really want. They can't make personal decisions for Bonaire; it's what the citizens of Bonaire have to say. Whatever destination it is that we will go tomorrow is what we will have chosen as a group.

Governments are making big decisions today about our

future. But it is we ourselves who really know what we need. Most of the time an adult considers a past experience before he or she makes a certain move or decision. Let's suppose that we as citizens of Bonaire are the experienced adult. We as the hard workers of this Bonairean community feel the aches and pains. We know what kind of future we want for our families and the next generations to come, but politicians are making harsh decisions without understanding the real consequences.

As part of the Dutch colony some people have developed a kind of attitude against the white race. We indeed have bad memories about our ancestors, how they were mistreated and worked to death as slaves. But, people, we have to move forward. Mr. Barack Obama, the new President of the United States of America, has been in Africa. He's walked in countries and areas where many African men and women were separated from their families and enslaved to work in other countries and on islands. He felt grief and how incompetent these Africans were in their own country. But he always used these inspiring words, "We have to move forward, people. Let's draw a line here and start today with a new hope." This is the message he sends to the world wherever he goes. So this is what we should do too. We can't keep looking back, otherwise we will lose track of what we are fighting for, like a racer to accomplish his goal of reaching the finish line, won't look back.

We've made so many mistakes already in governing this island. Now is time to give the people of Bonaire a better way of life in the most comfortable way. We have to remember about our children's education. We have a big task in front of us: building new schools, a new hospital, making improvements in our health policy and housing for the community in need.

It's difficult to find a common ground when it comes to political matters, but we have to remember it's Bonaire we are fighting for and not for our own personal interest. Otherwise, if anyone in charge of governing this island can't represent what we citizens need, please let it be known and give this job to some one who really can.

Time is running out, people. It's next year, January 2010, when we have the elections and in October 2010 the Antilles will be completely separated forever. We have a big task ahead. And whatever situation it is, just remember our future and generations yet to come. Just remember them, those pretty faces in the picture. ■

*Siomara E. Albertus*

Send your comments to *The Bonaire Reporter*, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, or email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com).



## BonQuiz #15

A SPECIAL PLACE....

A famous saying, "Put your money where your mouth is," is certainly quite fitting in this Bon Quiz!

Down-town, centrally located, north of the Protestant church in "Playa" stands an old structure that most of us don't even notice until we stop and take the time.

No matter from what era it stems, whether it was built during the 1500s, 1600s or the 1960s, each building has its special qualities. Whether it be a tiny crick in the wall, or because of the story behind it each one has a story to tell.

This building has a unique cistern (water catcher) to the north of it, as do many buildings built after 1868. The local government had no means of dispensing water to those who decided to live on Bonaire following the emancipation of the slaves.

Before this date unless you were a slave, military man, or government official, settling here was not permitted. It was one big plantation! And as rumor has it, a freed female slave called "Aldersina" gave her freedom money to help build this building.

Q) Do you know what this building was used for?  
Answer on **page 15**

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: [christiedovale@hotmail.com](mailto:christiedovale@hotmail.com).





### Status of Bonaire's Coral Reefs: Death by a Thousand Cuts

Many international organizations recognize that overall, Bonaire's reefs are among the healthiest in the Caribbean. This is probably due to a combination of factors. Many years of advanced environmental legislation, no big crop extensions, no heavy industry, no rivers, a relatively low population, low tourism visitation and 30 years of active management make a difference. But unfortunately Bonaire's reefs lately have been exposed to several stress factors. Various research and monitoring programs show conditions are no longer promising for them.

Despite being incredibly resilient and resistant, our reefs are getting in trouble trying to recover from natural impacts. They have been dealing successfully with hurricanes and tropical storms for millions of years, but now, every time they are hit by this kind of natural event, recovery is more and more compromised.

CARMABI Scientific Director and coral reef ecologist Mark Vermeij calls it "death by a thousand cuts." Let me explain what he means.

#### First cut: Loss of Functional Ecosystems

Coral reef scientists recognize the importance of different ecosystems carrying out different functions. One of the most evident changes is the loss of branching corals. This group of corals (*Acropora spp*), most commonly known as staghorn or elkhorn corals, was frequent on Bonaire's shallow reefs until 15 or 20 years ago. They were an important ecosystem providing an incredibly complex tridimensional structure of shelter for juvenile fish and invertebrates. They were what we call a "nursery area." They provided safe haven for small organisms to grow until they were ready to venture into more treacherous waters. In the early 90s, a Caribbean-wide illness decimated 90% of the branching corals. Although Bonaire's reefs were affected by this pandemic, many colonies of branching coral survived, still providing shelter for small organisms. In 1999 Tropical Storm Lenny damaged many of these surviving colonies, reducing them to traces of what once were the dominant groups in the Caribbean. Although they still exist, they are functionally extinct. They are no longer able to provide enough shelter to small fish.

#### Second cut: The Herbivore Story

Macro-algae are common inhabitants in coral reefs with an immense diversity and represent an important source of food and possibly pharmaceuticals. They are the main competitor of corals for

## Ten Cuts To the Reef:

**First cut: Loss of Functional Ecosystems**

**Second cut: The Herbivore Story**

**Third cut. The Overfishing Story.**

**Fourth cut. The Damsel-fish Story.**

**Fifth cut. The Nutrients Enrichment Story**

**Sixth cut: Coastal Construction.**

**Seventh cut: Coral Recruitment**

**Eighth cut. Tropical Storms and Hurricanes.**

**Ninth cut. Coral bleaching.**

**Tenth cut: Poverty and ignorance**



Mark Chiappone photo

*Diadema antillarum*

substrate and solar light. "Herbivores"--fish and other organisms that eat plants--control macro-algae on reefs. In the Caribbean the "functional group" herbivores are represented mostly by parrotfish (Fam. *Scaridae*), surgeonfish (Fam. *Acanthuridae*) and the long-spined sea urchin (*Diadema antillarum*). Long-spined sea urchins were the most abundant and important herbivores in the Caribbean basin. When populations were healthy, they were the key controller factor of algae abundance preventing algae overgrowth on the reef. In 1983, *Diadema antillarum* underwent a mass mortality due to an unknown disease, with more than 97% of the urchins dying. In areas with low densities of parrotfish and surgeon fish, algae bloomed almost immediately, making the entire ecosystem shift from coral dominated systems to algae dominated systems. The reduced biodiversity of the coral reefs affected tourism in several small countries which depended on the natural beauty of their reefs to help attract visitors, and because tourism was a major part of the income for these countries, the decreased flow of guests stressed their economy. Bonaire's long-spined sea urchins didn't escape this mortality. Although they showed a little recovery up to 2005, their densities dropped again in 2007 to levels below functional capacity. Same story, functionally extinct. Long-spined sea urchins are there but unable to perform what once was a key ecological function. But why did Bonaire's reefs not shift then to algae dominated? That was because Bonairean fisherman almost never target parrotfish. A healthy population of abundant and large parrotfish kept the algae in check until

not too long ago. Recently, with new waves of immigrants and a scarcity of preferred fish, parrotfish became part of the daily catch. This is what is called in fisheries, "fishing down the food chain." When the preferred one is no longer available, we move to the next level down. Remember that long-spined sea urchins were no longer there? Well, Bonaire's parrotfish population densities plummeted in 2009 to one third of 1999 values- definitely not a good thing for coral reefs. If you think matters are getting too complicated, wait for the next threat.

#### Third cut. The Overfishing Story.



Imagine for a minute that you can remove all the fish from the reef and separate them in different "functional groups" and then weigh them. In one group you will put all the fish that eat plants, for instance all parrotfish, most damselfish and surgeonfish. Let's call this group "Plant eaters." In a different group you will put all fish that eat plant eaters. Here you will have most of the groupers, snappers and grunts. Let's call this group "Primary Carnivores." In a third group you will put all the carnivores that eat primary carnivores. In this one you will put sharks, barracudas and some big body groupers. We call this group "Secondary Carnivores." In a healthy coral reef, which group do you think will have more weight or biomass? If you answer "Secondary Carnivores" you are right. Yes, I'm not hallucinating; in a healthy reef what you should see more commonly are sharks, barracudas and big body groupers. If you are a diver or a fisherman on Bonaire you know that this is far

from the actual situation. Where did the big fish go? Did they move to Curaçao? Did divers scare them away? No, two things happened; they lost the appropriate habitats for juveniles and adults to hide out through habitat degradation, and we ate them. We don't have an extinction problem here; all species that were here 50 years ago are still here, but in very low numbers and very small sizes.

This introduces another problem: fisheries recovery. For a very long time we thought a good fishery practice was to catch the biggest one and leave the smaller ones to grow and reproduce later. It sounded logical, but it's not true for coral reef fish. Secondary carnivores are slow growing and achieve reproductive maturity very late in their life cycle. Take, for instance, the example of some species of snappers. A 61-cm. snapper can release the same number of eggs as 200, 41-cm. snappers of the same species. Also big fish release more viable eggs, ensuring higher success rates. Therefore the ecological impact of removing a big mama is bigger than removing a few of the smaller ones. As we fish down the food chain, after we eat all secondary predators and other big mamas we move down to primary carnivores: small groupers, snappers and grunts. And here is where another unbalance creates the next cut.

#### Fourth cut. The Damsel-fish Story.



Remember when we separated the reef fish in different groups and we created the "Plant eaters" group? Well, there are good and bad plant eaters. Parrotfish and surgeonfish are good plant eaters helping the coral, but this little nuisance called Dusky damselfish (Fam. Pomacentridae) is a bad, very bad, plant eater. Instead of roaming around eating algae and cleaning the reef, these little fellows grow their own gardens to eat. They choose a live coral to start the new crop and literally suck the polyps away, killing it. To make things even worse, they are terribly territorial and defend their gardens against almost any intruder. They scare away parrotfish and surgeonfish of all sizes, so their crop keeps growing and growing, further killing more coral. Because we keep fishing down in the food chain, fishing small groupers, snappers and grunts, we eliminate the main predator of Dusky damselfish. Again, if you are a diver or a snorkeler on Bonaire, pay attention next time and you will see how many Dusky damselfish are everywhere. So, no long-spined sea urchins to eat them, lower densities

of parrotfish, and Dusky damselfish growing them, what else can algae ask for: oh yes, food, a lot of nutrients for food.

#### Fifth cut. The Nutrients Enrichment Story



Sewage Tanker

Remember that coral reefs thrive in warm, clear and low-nutrient waters? How come this incredible and prospering ecosystem can succeed in such low-nutrient concentrations? The answer is an unbelievable adaptation to rapidly convert nutrients in some form of growing tissue or energy. All nutrients are moved fast from one organism to the next, reducing their availability. In normal conditions this low nutrient availability together with high grazing rates will keep macro-algae in check, allowing corals to grow in better conditions. Here's the bad news, which you've probably heard before: we have been throwing our sewage into the sea for more than 50 years now. Not with a pipe to the sea like in Florida, not with deep well injections like in Hawaii, but just slowly and imperceptibly, through broken septic tanks or tanks not pumped out, cesspits, leaching holes and more recently, in our gardens to convert slow growing dry vegetation into flourishing gardens 100 m away from our fringing reefs. In these high nutrient low grazing conditions, algae start to grow in any available space. Because algae of course grows much faster, the space available for starting new coral colonies is smaller, compromising coral recruitment processes. Algae can also overgrow adult coral colonies, compete for sunlight or just smother them. If this whole scenario of nutrients plus algae were not enough, here's another one. Sewage water not only is rich in nutrients, it is also rich in bacteria. Many human related bacteria have been linked with different coral reef diseases. Also algae metabolism produces sugar, and sugars enhance bacterial activity. If you don't understand how sugars and bacteria affect organisms that are composed basically from calcium, your dentist's office is a good place to ask. Next time you go for a dive you probably won't see any nutrients, but have a look at the algae and how they colonize substrate that should be occupied by baby corals. Have a look as well at how algae overgrow corals, cutting light that is essential for coral growth and smothering them



(Continued on page 9)



Death of 1000 Cuts (Continued from page 8)

### Sixth cut: Coastal Construction.

There are different types of reefs: atoll, barrier, etc. Our reefs are called fringing reefs, which mean they are close to shore. This is a good thing for Bonaire from the marketing point of view and for the convenience of most Marine Park users. But because of this proximity, activities on land produce negative impacts. Unpaved roads, rain runoff, bad land management practices and more recently, uncontrolled coastal construction are examples of problems damaging our coral reefs. Construction is an activity that generates a pretty fair amount of garbage. It doesn't have to be necessarily like that, but you can find a construction site just by following the plastic ice bags hanging in the bushes on the way in and the empty beer bottles on the way out. A big part of this material ends up on the reef, smothering coral and killing organisms. But the most severe problem of construction is dust. When you remove all present vegetation in a place to be built, you are removing the main protection of the soil. Some of this soil will be moved away by wind or washed by heavy rains. Some very fine sediment can stay in the water column for several hours, interfering with essential light penetration or depositing over coral live tissues, killing them. Trucks loaded with sediment falling into the sea at Karpata do their part to kill the reef as well.

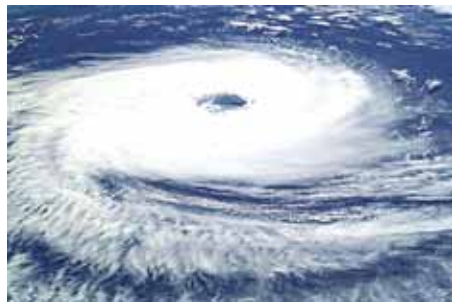
### The Seventh cut. Coral Recruitment

Here's another one. Coral reefs reproduce in two different ways. A polyp clones itself and the colony grows in size. This is called asexual reproduction. Or they form new colonies through sexual reproduction once a year. Each year during the fall multiple Caribbean coral species reproduce simultaneously during a few consecutive nights in September and October. This event is referred to as "Coral Spawning" and is listed as one of the most spectacular biological phenomena on Earth. A few hours after sunset, corals expel millions of eggs and sperm bundles that float to the surface, where they break apart and fertilization occurs. These fertilized eggs develop into larvae that depending on the species will return to the reef in 1-3 weeks to settle and grow into the next generation of corals. This way, adult corals that died due to storms, diseases or human interference are replaced. Of course the rate of success depends on how many of these new colonies survive. And here is where the trouble starts. Coral larvae need very specific sets of conditions to settle and start a new colony. The science behind the mechanism for settling is still not completely clear, but coral larvae can read good signs from other reef inhabitants, saying, "Hey you guys up there, there's a good spot here to start a new colony," and there they go. These guys "marking" the good spot are another type of algae, the good algae. We call them Crustose Coralline Algae or CCA. Unfortunately CCA grow slower than the bad algae, and, because of the nutrient enrichment mentioned above, they are losing the battle. Their abundance diminishes from values of almost 25% in 1999 to less than 5% in 2007. And of course all this just means one thing, less baby coral.

OK, by now you already know how difficult is to be a happy polyp in a coral reef. You could safely assume that all our corals are gone. Wrong, they are still there and holding. Hard coral coverage, mostly represented by adult coral colonies, is pretty much going unchanged year after year of

monitoring. The numbers are stable at values of 40% to 50% of coral coverage. This fact illustrates the incredible resistance of corals to withstand almost everything. But there are still other cuts.

### The Eighth cut. Tropical Storms and Hurricanes.



Even though we are outside the hurricane belt, some hurricanes don't know that. They just follow the warm water path. Waters around Bonaire have pretty much the same temperature range as the rest of the Caribbean. Yet we reach the maximum temperature much later in the summer and we start to cool down much earlier compared with the rest of the region. Let's say that if you are a hurricane, you always find a place to go better than Bonaire. But we are altering nature at rates never registered before, and what insurance companies like to call acts of God are becoming less and less acts of God and more and more acts of human beings. Water is getting warmer worldwide and we cannot escape from that. Warm waters around here only mean two things, two very bad things: First, more severe tropical storms and hurricanes, which cause more physical destruction and loss of coral coverage. And the second very bad thing about warmer water is.....the next cut.

### The Ninth cut. Coral Bleaching.

You most probably already have heard about this one. What is coral bleaching? Coral bleaching is the loss of color of corals due to an environmental stress. This can cause corals to expel microscopic algae (*zooxanthellae*) from their tissues. These symbiotic algae provide up to 90% of the coral's energy needs. Loss of these algae results in the bleached appearance of corals as they provide most of the coral's color. Bleached corals often starve and then die if the stress persists. Some of the most significant stress factors are increased water temperature, excessive light radiation, pollution or sedimentation. Now you know, if the water is too hot or too clear for too long, it might be nice for you to go diving but it is definitely not good for the coral. Just like hurricanes, coral bleaching can destroy enormous extensions of coral reefs. In some areas of the Caribbean, up to 50% coral cover loss occurred during the biggest and most devastating coral bleaching event in the Caribbean in 2005.

Coral reefs are incredibly resilient ecosystems. They can stand massive damage and recover to previous functional states; they have dealt with hurricanes and tropical storms for millions of years. But they never have had to deal with human induced stress as they do now. None of these human-induced stressors alone is likely to kill a coral, but they simply cannot handle them all together. I like the way Dr. Bob Steneck from the University of Maine puts it. He compares the actual situation of coral reefs with a doctor checking a patient. If the doctor's patient is a normal person and the doctor detects just a little high blood pressure, he will probably be worried for about 30 seconds. If, on the next visit, the doctor notices that the red cell count is a little low,

he most probably will be more concerned but not do too much. Next time the doctor detects high cholesterol, a compromised immunological system, heart palpitations, gastric problems, liver and kidneys malfunctioning, and, to make things worse, the patient is living in a degraded environment. He knows the chances of this patient surviving the next illness are slim. The patient won't be able to handle all stress factors.

If you were that doctor, what would you do to save your patient? You would reduce all the stressors before the next sickness catches your patient. The same approach is valid in coral reef management. The only chance that coral reefs have to adapt to global warming and survive factors that we can barely manage is for us to manage what we can manage and remove as fast as possible all stress factors.

To give coral reefs the best possible chance to survive, nothing is more important than fighting the last, the biggest and most important problem.

### The Tenth cut: Poverty and Ignorance

Most coral reefs are in "developing countries," a euphemism for poor countries. People living in these poor countries depend on coral reefs to eat and to get construction materials and medicines. But reefs are dying worldwide, and what starts killing them, way before global warming, is poverty, the poverty that generates unhappiness, lack of opportunities, and despair. Poverty pushes



people to act now, urgently, at any cost to make sure they can provide for their families. Poverty doesn't allow people to preserve resources for tomorrow. The most difficult to fight, mental poverty or ignorance, prompts people to put their own interests ahead of collective interests. Mental poverty keeps people in denial about environmental problems or using circular reasoning such as "if the reef didn't die before it won't die now."

Our reefs, like the others in the region, are highly compromised due mostly to local stressors. The shift from a high diversity, high value coral-dominated reef to a low diversity, low value algae-dominated reef can happen at any time, very quickly.

After many years of investigation and monitoring, we know what is occurring on the reef, and we know what will happen if we don't act now to relieve the reef from all human-induced stress.

If we don't, it won't matter any more whether Holland, Poland, Paraguay or Uruguay takes over: Our quality of life will be much lower. ■ Ramon de Leon

To follow: What can be done to help heal the reef.



Bonaire Marine Park Manager de Leon and CARMABI researcher Mark Vermeij emerge from a survey dive

**Regular Water Taxi TO KLEIN BONAIRE**  
From Bonaire Nautico Marina

**HOTEL PICKUP SERVICE**  
TRIPS Every Day

**THE ONLY WALKON / WALKOFF**  
Catamaran *Kantika di Amor*  
Up to 27 people and supported by a brand new larger sister  
Catamaran *Kantika Too*  
Up to 50 people

Daily trips via resorts 10 am, 12, 2 pm Except Sundays at 10 am only  
Also available for group trips

**YACHTSMEN!**  
Tie up dockside for min. \$10/day+tax  
(max 1.90 meter draft),  
Water and 115/220 v.  
Dinghy tie up at north-inside dock at US\$10 weekly up from Monday till Monday.

BONAIRE NAUTICO MARINA  
At It Rains Fishes Restaurant  
Call Henk at 560-7254 / Bob 786-5399  
www.bonairenauticomarina /VHF 68  
info@bonairenauticomarina.com

**The Best Photo Service on Bonaire**

**Paradise Photo**

FULL DIGITAL SERVICES  
FUJI MINI-LAB  
KODAK & FUJI FILM  
SLIDES  
E-6 PROCESSING  
PASSPORT PHOTOS  
BATTERIES  
CAMERAS  
FRAMES  
PHOTO ALBUMS  
GREETING CARDS  
DIGITAL AND MORE...

Les Galeries Shopping Center  
(Bordering the parking lot)  
Tel. 717-5890  
Open M-F 8:30-12, 2-6 pm,  
Sat. 9-12



# PICK YOURS! A to Z

Real affordable homes... building a bright future for the people.

## Bonaire Sunshine Homes

Kaya Lib. Simon Bolivar 26 • Tel (599) 717-4992 • Fax (599) 717-4972  
Cell (599) 786-1592 / 701-4050 • Email info@bonairesunshinehomes.com



Prices starting at  
NAf. 90.000, built  
within 2 months.

## Jong Bonaire Swim To Klein



On October 4, for the 9<sup>th</sup> year, Jong Bonaire's Annual fundraiser, the Swim to Klein Bonaire proved popular from kids from 5 to 70 years old.

This year 330 people swam to Klein Bonaire and most of them swam back as well. The weather was perfect for the event, the water was warm with a slight chop which slowed the swimmers on the way back to the Eden Beach Resort start/finish line. Current and past Jong Bonaire members and staff (above wearing sunglasses) conducted the event smoothly and safely. ■ G.D.

## Beach Clean Up; Klein Bonaire: 25 di òktober

See page 19 to volunteer or for more information

Best Buddies & Pearls Xings Bonaire

PEARLS, GIFTS AND FASHION  
www.bestpearlsbonaire.com  
Main Street Kaya Grandi 32, Bonaire Tel: 798 7481

MAKING YOUR SPACE  
A BETTER PLACE  
USA LICENSED CONTRACTOR /  
30 YEARS WORLDWIDE  
CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE

### EQUINOX BONAIRE

HOURLY RATES – 7 DAYS  
INSTALLATIONS – REPAIRS – REMODELS

<>HOTELS <> RESTAURANTS <>

<>RESIDENTIAL<>

TELE 717-3527 - FAX 717-3528 -  
CELL 701-3527

EMAIL: EQUINOXBONAIRE@AOL.COM  
BONAIRE VENTURES B.V.

On time <> Done Right

# OutletMol

Bikini's & Surfwear

## BIG SALE!!

STARTS THURSDAY OCTOBER 15



OutletMol needs to make space for new collections! Come over, the bins are back!

Dig deep to find the hottest swimwear at prices you CAN'T beat:

**Bikini's \$20\***

Mix and match tops (\$10) and bottoms (\$10)  
from the WORLD'S largest lingerie catalog!

**Designer Bikini's \$30\***

\* only swimwear on sale - no surfwear on sale

OutletMol @ Les Galeries Shopping Mall- Down Town  
Opening hours: Mon - Fri, 10-1 & 3-6 Sat 10 - 1

## The Natural Way Health Store



High Quality, Healthy, Natural Products

Organic Products  
Sugarless Treats  
Unsalted Items

Dried Fruits  
Herbal Teas  
100% Natural Juices

... and much more

La Terassa, Kaya Grandi 23N (floor above Botica) ☎ 717-3353, 510-2318  
Open Monday- Saturday 10 am—6 pm nonstop



New arrivals

UNITED COLORS  
OF BENETTON.

Kaya Grandi 29, Kralendijk-Bonaire N.A. tel: 717 5107  
Store hours Tuesday through Saturdays  
from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.





The cruise ship Ocean Dream barges in the way of the start of the Round Bonaire Race in the Regatta forcing the leading yacht to alter course and blocking its wind. Perhaps a metaphor of the effect of the ships on Bonairean

► Another cruise ship season started On October 13<sup>th</sup> with the arrival of the Ocean Dream. A total of 42 ship calls with a total of 229,000 passengers are expected during the 2009-2010 cruise ship season.

This year AB tag taxis will be permitted to pick up cruise ship passengers when the ship calling carries more than 1,300 passengers. When ships carrying more than 3,000 passengers call, auxiliary transport may also use the pier.

As usual, traffic on the waterfront when a ship is in port will be congested, but steps will be taken to keep it flowing. This season cruise ships will have to pay a head tax of \$2 per passenger, which is expected to raise between \$14 to \$19 million in addition to what passengers spend on the island.

Davis' excellent summary at [www.bonaireinsider.com/](http://www.bonaireinsider.com/).

► The US is now the most admired country globally thanks largely to the star power of President Barack Obama and his administration, according to a new poll. It climbed from seventh place last year, ahead of France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Japan which completed the top five nations in the Nation Brand Index (NBI).



► Is the recession over? Yes, said several US financial firms. With initial jobless insurance claims on the wane, the recovery index is flashing three green signals, indicating that the economy has touched bottom and is on its way back up. A trend toward fewer folks filing for unemployment benefits joins increased sales of existing homes and the return to more normal credit spreads as indications that the fever has broken and the patient is recuperating.

It's the pace and strength of the recovery that matter now. Perhaps this is now the time to invest in Bonaire?

► Trade unions in the Netherlands are tentatively in favor of a compromise proposal on increasing the pension age to 67, according to reports. Some members of the retirement advisory committee have proposed that people who want to retire at 65 could still be allowed to do so, but would get less money. The rAntillean etirement age is 60.

► The Netherlands has been named as having the best health care system in Europe in the 2009 Euro Health Consumer Index (EHCI) published by the Health Consumer Powerhouse of Sweden. This is the second year in a row the Netherlands came first in the health care study. It's followed by Denmark, Iceland and Austria.

► Three employees of Special Security Services (SSS)- Marisol Dirksz, Bertica Gonzalez-Asher and Nathalie Theodora- recently returned from the US having completed training as Central

Station Operator Instructors. Now SSS can count on even more expert operators, who conform to high American standards, to handle their 24/7 security service. If you want more information about SSS services contact Managing Director Benito R. Dirksz at 560-5578 or 701-5578. Email-[sss@flamingotv.net](mailto:sss@flamingotv.net)



► Bargain time is in Bonaire shops. Benetton just finished their big sale but there are still bargains and exciting new stock coming in. See their ad on page 10, facing.

And for the first time ever, Outlet Mol is having a huge bikini swimwear clearance sale. Prices are up to 70% off the original retail on merchandise from "The world's largest lingerie catalog." The sale starts Thursday, October 15. See Mol's ad on page 15.

► It's a pleasure to discover a housing developer that keeps its word. When first offering lots for sale Bona Bista Island Estate promised that roads and utility infrastructure would soon follow. And it really happened. See for yourself by driving a short way out of Kralendijk. You'll see the roads and walkways winding up into the hills. Lots begin at about NAf 100/m<sup>2</sup>. See their ad on page 13.

► Welcome to new Bonaire Reporter advertisers Digicel, with their 3 minutes for the price of 1 during early morning hours on page 24 and The Storehouse on page 12. Welcome back to the RSA, page 22. See their ads on pages 18 and 6. When you visit be sure to say, "The Reporter sent me."

► A get well quick to tourist guide pioneer, Rudy Dovale. After a 6-7 hour operation in Colombia to repair a heart valve and a couple of coronary bypasses he's on the mend. The 88-year-old Reporter fan says he was operated on by the best surgeon in South America. Three of his daughters, a grand daughter, two grandsons, and his former spouse, Elena, live on Bonaire. ■

G./L. D.

## Digicel Bonaire's First "Woman of Influence" Gathering



"Influential women" want to know! Lolymar v.d. Berge, Conchita Arends, Patricia Gorrin, Corine Gerharts, Mimi van Egmond and Anja Romeijnders

On September 29<sup>th</sup> Digicel Bonaire hosted the first "Woman of Influence" gathering at the Flamingo Runway Retreat. Wanda Broeksema, Digicel's Head of Marketing for the Dutch Caribbean, said that this event was a great opportunity for women to get together and talk about the many roles that they fulfill in their daily life, from the moment they wake up until the moment they go back to bed in the evening. She explained further that this event is to celebrate the continuing balance that women have to create in their daily lives.


A woman of influence does not refer only to those woman who occupy executive positions in the government, banks or other

professional institutions, because all women exercise influence on a daily basis.

On this occasion Mrs. Dinah Veeris, a well known herbalist from Curaçao, was the guest speaker. She explained how herbs could support the health and balance in a woman's life and those around her.




Making use of this event, Digicel also presented the new Blackberry Gemini to the guests with a very special offer for the first 15 applicants, including also an exclusive Otazu accessory.


This 'Women of Influence' event in Bonaire made a great impact on the guests present, and will surely be repeated. ■ Press release



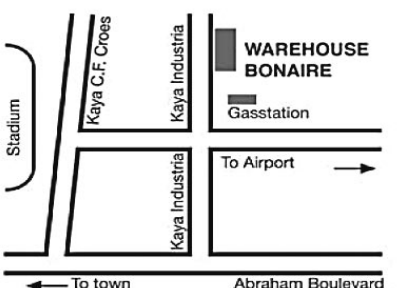
**Bonaire's Largest and Best Stocked supermarket**

**Always: Fresh Fruit, Vegetables, Dairy, Bread and Meat**



**Open:**  
Mon-fri: 8am-6pm  
sat. 8am-1pm  
NONSTOP



WAREHOUSE BONAIRE  
Gasstation  
To Airport  
To town  
Abraham Boulevard

Kaya industria 24, Kralendijk, Bonaire  
tel: (+599) 717- 8700 [www.warehousebonaire.com](http://www.warehousebonaire.com)



# Space To Store

**M**angasina: The Storehouse, Bonaire's first "personal" self storage facility, opens its first building on October 19. Located in Hato behind the big yellow "rum factory" across from Hamlet Oasis, the Mangasina (Papiamentu for storehouse) The Storehouse has been in development since 2005, when owners Jim and Jane Madden, found there was a need for personal storage space on a smaller, more affordable scale than was available on Bonaire.



Phase One of Mangasina: The Storehouse is surrounded by a controlled access fence and has steel shutter doors

"Everyone we know who has a garage stores things for so many other people, and after we conducted the survey we realized this project was a service that would benefit the island," said Jim Madden. It took us four years to get this

done." "We are grateful to all the people who helped us make it happen," added Jane. The Maddens have lived on Bonaire full time since 2004 and are actively

involved in various island activities. Jim is a member of the Bonaire Bikers Motorcycle Club and Jane is a regular volunteer at the Bonaire Animal Shelter.

units. The facility has monitored access through controlled entrance and exit gates for privacy and authorized use. Only occupants of the units are permitted on the premises.

The facility offers five different sizes of units from 5 x 5 feet to 10 x 20 feet: from closet size to garage size. There is a space to accommodate everyone's needs: for annual tourists wanting to store diving, kiting and windsurfing gear, for off-island homeowners storing personal items and vehicles while renting out their homes, for businesses needing inventory and file storage, for those needing storage space while their homes are being built...or for people who just have too much "stuff"!

Just 57 units of varying sizes are available in the first building. Two more buildings will be added in February of 2010, and the completed project will ultimately consist of five buildings.

Plan ahead and reserve space at Mangasina: The Storehouse. Units are available on a monthly, yearly or long term basis at affordable rates. Visit their website at [www.bonaireselfstorage.com](http://www.bonaireselfstorage.com) or call 700-1753 for more information. ■

Story & photos by Jane Madden

Jim Madden at a storage unit

Mangasina: The Storehouse is unique on Bonaire as a self storage facility because no commercial activity is permitted in the

## SPACES NOW AVAILABLE



Bonaire's First "Personal" Self Storage Facility  
Storage space from closet size to garage size.  
Monthly, yearly and long term contracts.

**Secure Storage For  
Vehicles, Household Items, Diving And  
Sporting Gear, Business Files or Inventory**

Mangasina di Boneiru, B.V.  
P.O. Box 50  
Kaya Gob. Debrot 124B  
Behind the yellow "Rum Factory"  
Across from Hamlet Oasis.  
Call 700-1753  
[WWW.BONAIRESELFSTORAGE.COM](http://WWW.BONAIRESELFSTORAGE.COM)  
E-mail: [info@bonaireselfstorage.com](mailto:info@bonaireselfstorage.com)

**Bonaire  
SecondHome  
Care**

Inspection, management and cleaning of your house on Bonaire

Inge van Eps  
caretaker  
00 599 700 11 39

[www.BonaireSecondHomeCare.nl](http://www.BonaireSecondHomeCare.nl)

**MIO**

Experience mobility, freedom, anywhere, anytime with our **unlimited 3G Wireless internet**

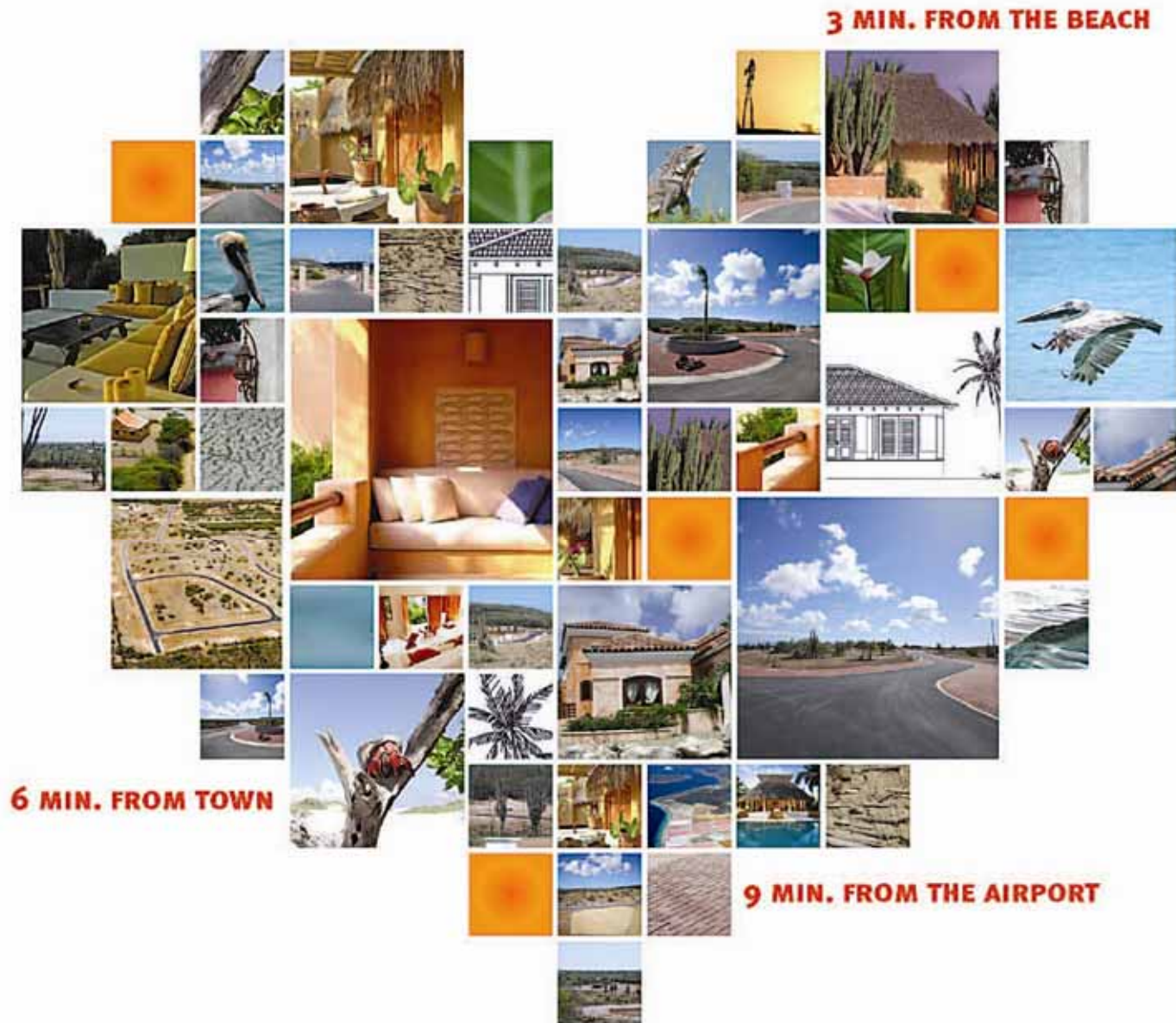
Available at:  
Kaya A. A. Emerenciana 4D  
Tel.: 717-8787

For more information  
[info@mio.an](mailto:info@mio.an)

**3G  
Wireless  
Service**



# HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS!



## PHASE A SOLD PHASE B NOW FOR SALE

BUILDING LOTS READY FOR CONSTRUCTION

STARTING AT: 95,- ANG/M<sup>2</sup>

PRIVATE PROPERTY

BETWEEN 630 & 1368M<sup>2</sup>

- Wide asphalted roads
- Paved sidewalks
- Street lighting
- Underground utilities for water, electricity, TV, telephone and Internet



WE CAN BUILD A TROPICAL HOME FOR YOU! VISIT OUR SHOW MODEL.

Bona Bista Island Resort BV Tel: +599 717 6386, +5999 514 5151 or +599 700 2950  
info@bonabistabonaire.nl www.bonabistabonaire.nl

ce on September 1  
place on September  
place on September  
er.  
ther.  
father.



# Dedicated To A Better World

Chief Ranger Din Domacassé Awarded €20.000

Edwin "Din" Domacassé, Chief Ranger of the Bonaire Marine Park and STINAPA, was on television and received the highest decoration awarded by the Post Office Lottery, a check for 20.000 Euro.

Recently Din became a TV star. While he was doing his work as Chief Ranger of the Bonaire Marine Park Din was captured on film. This was because Din was recommended by the World Nature Funds of Holland to receive the decoration of the "Golden Wimpel" from the Post Code Lottery. This decoration is the highest the Postcode Lottery gives to someone who dedicates himself to a better world.

Din was recognized for his more than 15 years of working for STINAPA and the Marine Park. Every day with his soul, love and dedication Din works for the protection of our nature under the sea. A television team came from Holland to film Din at his work. Sitting in his father's house with his dad, Róni Domacassé, Din's wife and children, Din received one of the biggest surprises of his life. Postcode Lottery paid for the passage of Din's daughter, Geraldine, to come to Bonaire along with the TV team. It's been seven years since Din has seen her. The moment was very emotional for Din and with very wet eyes he took her in his arms, saying he couldn't believe what was happening.

The next day Din had another surprise. On the beach at 1,000 Steps, after Din had given some



Din (center), daughter Geraldine Domacassé, and presenter Winston Gerschtanowitz.

children snorkeling lessons, he was told that he was to receive the Golden Wimpel award from the Postcode Lottery. His daughter, Geraldine, who'd also taken part in the snorkeling lessons, presented her father with the check for 20.000 Euros. The next day, on Klein Bonaire, Din received a gold broach in the form of a wimpel (pennant).

The TV footage recorded here in Bonaire will be shown on the Dutch TV RTL 4 on the program, "Kanjers van Goud," with presenter, Winston Gerschtanowitz. The program will be shown on December 13 at 10:30 pm, Holland time. STINAPA has asked for the film to be shown in Bonaire also. The Postcode Lottery and World Nature Funds asked for the right to present the TV show in the Antilles as well. STINAPA extends Din hearty congratulations and expresses great pride in him. ■ Karen van Dijk

# Tree Planting Time

Since the rainy season has arrived STINAPA and volunteers planted a total of 153 rare native trees in Washington Slagbaai National Park and on Klein Bonaire between October 2 to 5.

On Klein Bonaire young trees were planted: *mata piska*, *manzaliña bobo* (manchineel or poison apple), *watakeli* (cherry, body-wood), *lumbra blanku* and the endemic *Maytenus versluisii*. In former times Klein Bonaire was overgrown with evergreen hardwoods, but by 1950 most trees had died because of overgrazing by goats and felling for charcoal production. Heavy deforestation has also meant the loss of the endangered Lora, the blue and the white dove tail hawk who are no longer seen. After 80 years of deforestation the goats were removed and the island's trees and plants are rapidly recovering, with the exception of the species which have entirely or almost entirely disappeared. Thanks to the financial support of the Prince Bernhard Culture Funds and through the National Parks Foundation Project of Netherlands Antilles and Bonaire's STINAPA the reforestation has been enriched with species that belong there and provide food for wildlife and will restore the ecosystem.

Washington-Slagbaai National Park also suffered severe deforestation due to overgrazing by cattle and logging for charcoal production in the past. As a result, threatened and/or ecologically important species in the park are missing. Recently, eight different tree species, provided by the



The Bonaire Marine Park boat with young trees on the way to Klein Bonaire: Niels Langenfeld, Menno vd Velde, and STINAPA Director Elsmarie Beukenboom

Carmabi Foundation on Curaçao, were planted in fenced areas of the park. The earlier plantings in 2007 proved to be very successful, making secure the future of various trees in the park. The fenced areas appear to form an effective refuge for seedlings of important hardwoods. These were not planted but have arisen voluntarily. They include species such as the *kamalia*, the *watakeli* and *huliba* (black willow, olive wood), which provide important food for fruit-and seed-eating birds. This alone indicates that adequate protection against goats by a fence allows many species to be restored.

Currently the Bonaire STINAPA and the Washington Slagbaai Park wants to begin the removal of all goats from the park in order to promote natural recovery. As well, the rare trees planted during the project are designed to produce seeds which are then disseminated by birds, thus accelerating the recovery of the natural vegetation. ■

Press release

# Body Talk

OCTOBER To MARCH - DENGUE SEASON

In view of the fact that we had so much rain the last few weeks, I will not be talking about minerals and vitamins this week, but instead will focus on Dengue Fever that affects many people, locals and tourists alike on Bonaire every year.

Most people have heard of Dengue, most people have seen the mosquito (the small one with white markings on the legs) and some of you have had Dengue!

What are the symptoms of dengue fever?

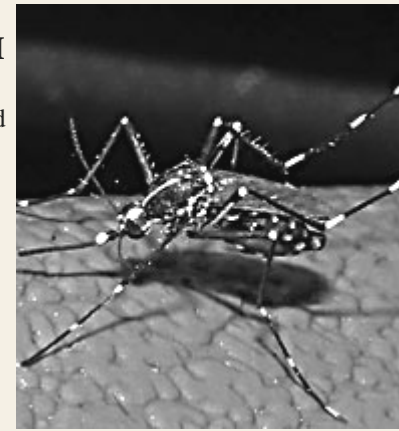
A mild to severe headache, pain behind the eyes, joint and muscle pain, fever with 'chills' in between, back ache, nausea with or without vomiting, extreme tiredness, and possibly a red 'rash' on the arms, legs and torso.

In some people the symptoms are quite sudden and in others it could take a few days, starting off with very mild symptoms. Dengue is very often misdiagnosed as having the 'flu' and antibiotics are given, which from experience worsen the effects and slows down the recovery period. The long term effect of not being sure that you have actually had Dengue is that when you are infected a second or third time, symptoms are much worse and you could develop Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever.

The standard rule to apply is if you are generally healthy but suddenly, or within a few days come down with some of these symptoms, you probably have Dengue. If not sure, have a blood test. Whatever you do, you do not need antibiotics!

We have been conducting a study of Dengue on Bonaire for three seasons now, and need to hear from you as soon as you suspect you have Dengue Fever. Bonaire's current statistics are inaccurate as only blood-test-confirmed Dengue cases make it through to the statistics. Here, very few people actually have the blood test done.

For information and advice phone our **Dengue Hotline** 788-3766. The treatment of Dengue



fever will always be a controversial subject, but I urge you to look at our mineral treatment for Dengue, and last season's results on [www.dengueinfo.net](http://www.dengueinfo.net). Some people recovered within three days, some took seven days and a few took 10 days. This is a full recovery with no residual symptoms. Recovery with the standard treatment (Tylenol/Paracetamol) could be as short as (if you are very lucky) 10 days or as long as six weeks!

This mosquito does not breed in the puddles of water on the island, but in clean water in man-made containers in your garden or patio. Discard ALL standing water around your house every few days. For water containers that cannot be emptied, a handful of COARSE sea salt will do the trick. Experiments have shown that this mosquito will not breed in water that is slightly salty, and the water will still be good for your plants. The coarse salt is available from Cargill at NAf 10 for a 25kg bag which should last you all season.

For information on the world map of dengue, breeding habits, spraying against mosquitoes and climatic influence in both humans and the mosquito visit our website dedicated to Bonaire - [www.dengueinfo.net](http://www.dengueinfo.net)

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.



Your health is your ONLY wealth.



- Nutrition for Energy
- Food Combining
- Nutrition and Diabetes
- Mineral Deficiencies
- Stress Relief

Mineral Therapy: Helping the body to heal itself

Opening Hours | Tel. 788 0030 For an appointment

Monday - Friday  
9am - 1pm  
By appointment only

Harmony House  
Stephanie Bennett  
Kaya Papa Cornes #2, Antriol  
[www.harmonyhousebonaire.com](http://www.harmonyhousebonaire.com)



  
**BONAIRE ON WHEELS**

## 1946 Chevrolet 6400 Fire Truck Foam Sprayer

*The 55<sup>th</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."*

Bonaire/Guatemala, Lagun – Somewhere along the long and quiet road leading to Lagun Bay, on the right hand side of the road, there's a huge and mainly unpaved terrain. There is an impressive fence set up around the immense lot, but the gate stands wide open and a friendly Bonairiaan born man takes shelter against the last rays of the afternoon October sun in his open air work shop. He is sitting amidst all kinds of tools, work benches and parts. Dozens of vehicles like sedans, trucks and a tractor are more or less formally parked around the workshop. There is not a single feeling of hurry in the air. There is a nice breeze and the smell of food being prepared on a wood stove. Little chickens are strolling all over the place, now and then practicing one of their first more or less controlled flights. A dog is barking and a bit further away is the sound produced by donkeys. Here is where the Bonairean out-back begins...

It is the red and brown colored fire truck that is parked in between the small house and the workshop that winked at me for years when I passed by in my Land Rover or on my motorcycle, heading for Lagun Bay, the Washikemba area or Spelonk Lighthouse. Inally I had the guts to enter the terrain and to explain the owner of the fire truck about my intention: getting to know more about the truck in order to create my 55<sup>th</sup> article...

The Bonaire-born owner of the truck appears to be a very humble and friendly man. And yes, he knows about *The Bonaire Reporter* and yes he reads the articles about weird vehicles on Bonaire. No, he does not want to have his picture in the newspaper, and no, his name is not important. The man and his son are busy, trying to repair the starter engine of a family car. Then the son leaves and the man and I sit down on two empty buckets. The subject is the fire truck next to us.

It appears to be a Chevrolet 6400 fire truck, produced in 1946 in the US. The vehicle seems to have been parked on its location for some years now because very slowly the six wheels have started to sink into the soil. This fire truck must have experienced several rainy seasons.

The man is very proud of his fire truck. The truck is fitted with a huge six-cylinder engine with a so-called t-head and a four-speed gearbox is mounted behind the bell housing. The ridged chassis is carried by four very heavy duty leaf springs and two impressive axles. In the front two 20-inch wheels carry the engine, in the rear four wheels take care of the weight of the foam tank, the firemen and all kinds of hoses and equipment. Of course the fire truck was painted red but time took of most of the paint and now on most parts there is a brownish gloss of rust all over the vehicle. On the hood of the truck the word "Brandweer" (fire-brigade/jb) is painted in white fonts. It takes very, very good eyes to discover the word "Curaçao" on the same hood. The vehicle shows a number as well. On the piece of metal, next to the driver's seat a "4" is painted. The owner explains that the fire truck first served on Curaçao. Bonaire really was in the need of a fire truck so after a lot of years Curaçao sent two or three very old fire trucks to Bonaire. Among those worn out models was this Chevrolet 6400. Curaçao bought an official sheet of paper with a stamp of the government for an Antillean guilder and wrote a request to the Dutch government. And after some time Curaçao received two brand new fire trucks. The old ones were shipped to Bonaire. The Bonairean fire department repaired the trucks and they served for years. Finally they really became too old and they were replaced somewhere in the mid 80s.

The owner of "Old Number Four" has served in the fire brigade for decades. He loved the Chevrolet and in the end he was able to buy it. "This car has a very special and immortal engine. The six big ends are fitted with so-called Babbitt bearings. These bearings are combined with very thin shims. If, after years and years the bearings start to wear out it is very easy to eliminate the play in the bearings by removing one or more very thin shims. That is all you have to do for an overhaul!

I also like the open air cabin. No doors, no roof. I am not sure whether this is a factory cabin or whether it was custom made. Maybe they converted the conventional

cabin in Curaçao. This fire truck is fitted with side steps and rear steps to carry a total of eight firemen. The Chevrolet fire truck is a so called foam sprayer. A high speed pump/compressor was mounted in front of the six cylinder engine. The pump was directly driven by the crankshaft of the truck. We had to pump up water from a water well or a water tap. It is very important for the fire department to know where all the wells and taps are on our island. It is also very important to maintain those water supplies. The water which is sucked up by the pump has to be mixed with *sanger di toro* (bull blood!jb). The *sanger di toro* was supplied from the tank in the rear of the vehicle. Combined with a lot of water the sanger is mixed and compressed. This produces a foam spray to cover the fire. It is a very special and effective way to conquer a fire!"



Photo: J@n Brouwer

*The red Chevrolet 6400 (1946) fire truck in a rural setting of old trees, bushes and barns. Little baby chickens are strolling around everywhere, trying to pick up some food. A black Bonairean dog has taken position on the outer left rear 8.25X20 inch wheel of the classic fire truck, a foam sprayer.*

Three Chevrolet 6400 foam spray fire trucks still exist on Bonaire. One is located somewhere along the road to Lagun, one is hidden in Mentor and the other one lives in a sleepy place in Rincon. One of the two hidden fire trucks is even equipped with a huge gas guzzling eight-cylinder. The ex-firemen from Lagun is a happy man. He is just very fortunate to be the owner of this solid 6400 Chevrolet, built in 1946. And hopefully one day his engine will be started again and the pump/compressor will start howling, producing a lot of pinkish foam! ■

J@n Brouwer





**Now selling: Green label**

- \* Petunias
- \* Magdalenas

SPECIAL!

**Green Label Garden Center**  
 Kaya Industria 28 Behind T.I.S.  
 Tel: 7178310, greenlabel@telbonet.an



**Sunbelt Realty N.V.**  
 Kaya L.D. Gerharts 8  
 717 65 60  
 info@sunbelt.an | www.sunbelt.an

You Ring-  
We Bring

Fine Wines from Around the World



**AWC**

**Antillean Wine Company**  
 (599) 09-560-7539  
 Fax (599) 717-2950  
 wine@antilleanwine.com

• Stop the silent destruction of your home •

**Tel:**  
**7172670**  
**7869262**



**PROFESSIONAL**  
**PEST CONTROL N.V.**  
 Aruba • Bonaire • Curaçao

**Termite Treatment •**  
**Fleas & Tick's •**  
**Plant Treatment •**  
**Ant Treatment •**



You Can Run...But You Can't Hide.



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

Non-Business Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words): FREE  
Commercial Ads only NAf1 per word, for each two-week issue.  
Call 790-6518 or 790-6125 or email info@bonairereporter.com



**CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER**

Trees and plants, Bonaire grown.  
8000m<sup>2</sup> nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation.  
Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don & Janet). 786-0956



KAYAKING • CAVING • CLIMBING • RAPPPELLING  
ABSEILEN • MOUNTAIN BIKING • NATIONAL PARK TOURS • ISLAND TOURS • BIRDWATCHING  
Tel (599) 791-6272 / 785-6272  
hans@outdoorbonaire.com  
www.outdoorbonaire.com

**JANART GALLERY**

Kaya Gloria 7, Bonaire Local Art, Art Supplies, Framing, and Art Classes.



Open Tu.-We.-Th. & Sat 10 am- 5 pm Friday 1- 7 pm; or phone 717-5246 for appt.

**BMW CLASSIC 1976 RS-90 (900 cc) MOTORCYCLE FOR SALE**  
Only 39,000 Km., all original, single owner – Includes original toolkit, owner's manual, rigid pvc saddle bag, spare parts. In pristine condition - Only \$ 6,000 – Call 786- 9000

**ZODIAC 530 (5.3 mt.) PRO INFLATABLE FOR SALE**

Light, but strongly built. Pontoons are fastened to rigid keel as rope and groove-not glued-on, as most. New pontoons – 85 HP YAMAHA engine – Custom built Console, nav lights, fuel gage, T-Top, Swim platform, Cover and Trailer-Optimum condition – NAf 30,000  
Call 786- 9000 or 701- 2483

Looking for a two or three bedroom, furnished, house, condo, or apartment for three months, Feb. 1- April 30, 2010. We can pay first month now, to secure the lease. Prefer something close to the coast, but will consider all offers. Call Louis or Eileen at 788-0382 or email: [lpeterich@hotmail.com](mailto:lpeterich@hotmail.com).

**Wanted: Mature, responsible, single woman to take of my house and dog in Belnem** in exchange for reduced rent (NAf 450 a month) for separate, spacious guesthouse with bedroom, kitchen, private bathroom, and outside "gazebo" living room--all situated in a beautiful, walled-in garden. Cable TV and internet included; utilities NAf 175 a month. Available Dec. 15 for long-term. Contact Pauline at [pkaves@diversityworksinc.net](mailto:pkaves@diversityworksinc.net).

**HOUSE WANTED** – Looking to Buy a House with 2 to 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large kitchen and terrace. Call Esther 524-4864.

**Property Services Bonaire B.V.**  
Taking care of your properties (while you are off island). Email for information and prices:  
[propertyservicesbonaire@hotmail.com](mailto:propertyservicesbonaire@hotmail.com)

**Bonaire Images**  
Elegant greeting cards and beautiful boxed note cards are now available at Chat -N-Browse next to Lover's Ice Cream and Sand Dollar Grocery. Photography by Shelly Craig [www.bonaireimages.com](http://www.bonaireimages.com)

**GREAT CLEANING SERVICE**  
For Quality House and Office Cleaning ..... CALL JRA  
Serving Bonaire for more than 15 years  
Honest, Reliable, Efficient, Thorough,  
Low rates, References. One time or many  
Phone 785-9041 ... and relax.

**LUNCH TO GO**  
Starting from NAf6 per meal.  
Call CHINA NOBO 717-8981.  
Web site:  
[www.chinanobobonaire.com](http://www.chinanobobonaire.com)

**Your business ad here can cost as little as NAf 25**  
For more information contact Laura at [laura@bonairenews.com](mailto:laura@bonairenews.com)  
Or 790-6518 / 786-6518

**A Unique Haircut experience at The Windsurf Place, Sorobon, with Desiree.**  
Open weekdays from 12 noon, Weekends by appointment.  
Phone: 786-6416  
[info@aplaceforvoubonaire.com](mailto:info@aplaceforvoubonaire.com)

**Private guitar lessons available!** To improve your technique, improvisation, repertoire, music theory and sight reading, call Benji at 786-5073.

**IS YOUR HOUSE NEW TO YOU?**  
Make it more livable from the start.  
**FENG SHUI CONSULTATIONS**  
Also interior or exterior design advice, clearings, blessings, energy, healing, China-trained. Experienced. Inexpensive.  
Call Donna at 795-9332.

**GRATIS/FREE!**  
**HAVE YOUR DOG STERILIZED**  
Call for information  
**717 49 89**  
DIERENASIEL ANIMAL SHELTER BONAIRE  
[WWW.ANIMALSHELTERBONAIRE.COM](http://WWW.ANIMALSHELTERBONAIRE.COM)

**Picture Yourself With The Reporter... At Sea**

Here's Adi Figaroa, multi-talented Bonairean artist, on his last vacation aboard the ship *Valor* of Carnival Cruise Lines. He wrote, "On the day we took the pictures, it was a day at sea, so we titled the pictures "Just a relaxing day at sea."



**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](mailto: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
10-16	4:27	1.1FT.	11:17	1.7FT.	18:22	1.0FT.	23:45	1.4FT.	82
10-17	0:57	1.2FT.	3:53	1.2FT.	11:51	1.8FT.	19:50	1.0FT.	90
10-18	12:27	1.9FT.	21:20	0.9FT.					94
10-19	13:15	1.9FT.	22:43	0.9FT.					94
10-20	13:59	1.9FT.	23:47	0.8FT.					91
10-21	0:47	0.8FT.	14:49	1.9FT.					84
10-22	1:35	0.7FT.	15:43	1.9FT.					75
10-23	2:12	0.7FT.	16:33	1.8FT.					64
10-24	2:41	0.8FT.	17:29	1.8FT.					53
10-25	3:07	0.8FT.	18:14	1.7FT.					43
10-26	3:26	0.9FT.	19:05	1.6FT.					34
10-27	3:35	0.9FT.	10:54	1.4FT.	14:42	1.4FT.	19:48	1.6FT.	30
10-28	3:34	1.0FT.	10:27	1.5FT.	15:58	1.3FT.	20:28	1.5FT.	33
10-29	3:22	1.0FT.	10:27	1.6FT.	17:09	1.2FT.	21:22	1.4FT.	40
10-30	3:04	1.1FT.	10:39	1.7FT.	18:10	1.2FT.	22:08	1.3FT.	50

**SSS SPECIAL SECURITY SERVICES**  
Member: American Society for Industrial Security  
**WANT TO FEEL SAFER? SIGN UP WITH US**

- Transport of Money and Valuables
- Vehicle patrols
- Burglar Alarms
- Private Investigations
- Fire Alarm Systems

**In Business Over 26 years**

Kaya Nikiboko Nord 37A, PO Box 225 Tel: (599) 717- 8125  
Fax (599) 717- 6125 E-mail [sss@bonairelive.com](mailto:sss@bonairelive.com)

**16 Flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao**

**Divi Divi Air**  
Reservations 24 hours a day  
Call (5999 839-1515) Or (5999 563-1913)



# World Animal Day At Park Publico

World Animal Day is based on the life of Saint Francis of Assisi, who was born in 1182 in Italy, as the son of a rich merchant. As he became older, he encountered many problems in his life. He became seriously ill and was also in jail for 12 months. These events changed his life.

He decided to take care of and dedicate his life to animals and nature. St. Francis became a special friend to the environment. In 1228, two years after his death, he was declared a saint. At the Animal Protection Congress in 1929 in Vienna, October 4, the date he died, World Animal Day was dedicated, in recognition of St. Francis' devotion to animals.

That's why the 4th of October is commemorated as a special day a day to celebrate animal life in all its forms. It is a reminder that we should all be kind to animals.

If you have animals please make sure to provide them with their basic needs, such as water, food, shade and shelter, and attention. Do not keep your animals chained all the time. Exercise them on a regular basis.

Here are some important ideas for you to ponder:

- Have your animals been sterilized to prevent overpopulation and suffering of stray animals?



Is this the cutest, best behaved cat on Bonaire or what?



The Bonaire Lions Club used the occasion to present Paul Wichers, Animal Shelter Board President, a donation.

- If you do not have animals yourself, be kind to the stray animals in your area by giving them some food. If you are planning on having an animal, please consider adoption from the Bonaire Animal Shelter instead of breeding or buying.

• If you are driving and you see that an animal is trying to or is crossing the road, please stop and give it a chance to cross. If you see an injured or sick animal or you know about animal abuse in your area, please contact the F.A.W.B. (Foundation Animal Welfare Bonaire-



Not everyone wants a dog or cat. A land turtle (Morrocoy) is great too.

# Pet of the Week

Alert and eager to please – that's "Adje." This sleek black dog with white and tan accents was found up at Hilltop and brought to the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Since he's been there he's charmed the staff with his sweet disposition. But that's only to people he knows and trusts. But for intruders he's something else - a good watch dog with an assertive bark and demeanor. Adje is about 10 months old and is considered to be one of the special adoptees at the Shelter. He's been examined by the vet, had his worming, testing and shots and will be sterilized. All that



"Adje"

for the dog adoption fee of only NAf 105. You may meet Adje at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Telephone 717-4989. Website [WWW.AnimalShelterBonaire.Com](http://WWW.AnimalShelterBonaire.Com).

The Shelter's Sterilization program, Bonny Superdog, is going full speed. The object has been to sterilize those pets whose owners love their pets but cannot afford to pay for their sterilization. A record number of dogs and cats have been sterilized already- more than 300 -but they desperately need donations to keep the program going. If you can help – any amount is welcome – you may do it in

several ways. Cash donations are always appreciated. Look for the dog house donation boxes in many shops and businesses in Bonaire or at the Shelter. Support Bonaire provides a way for Americans to donate to their favorite causes and claim charitable deductions on their American income tax. The Support Bonaire website now accepts credit card donations for the Shelter.

Or you may donate via the bank: Animal Shelter Bonaire, RBTT Bank Antilles, Bonaire Branch, Account number 23.10.139

BIC: RBTTANCU  
SWIFT: ABNANL2A ■ Laura DeSalvo

Stichting Dierenbescherming) at 786-5161 (Elly Albers).

Remember, Mahatma Gandhi said, "The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated." ■ G.D. /Animals R Friends Foundation



There were dogs of all shapes and sizes, some suspicious of the other.

## BonQuiz Answer

Question (from page 7):  
What was the building used for?  
The building was used as a school.



## Swim Wins

The Bulado Meet was a great success for the Bonaire Barracuda Swim Club. 70% of the times swum were new personal bests for our team members! The Barracudas finished 4th out of 8 teams just behind the "Big Three," Sithoc, Typhoon and first place Bulado. Our 11 swimmers made us proud.

### Results

**Alejandro** - 4 gold medals, 3 silver, 1 bronze; 2nd place overall Boys 11 - 12  
**Asdrubal** - showed all those Biondi drills paid off; 50 Butterfly dropped 0.44 seconds ; 100 Butterfly 3.52 faster than personal best

**Hanne** - celebrated her birthday on 2 October; swam 25 Free 2.05 seconds faster than in our club competition last week and

proved swimming is FUN  
**Jahayra** - swam 100 in 7.76 seconds faster than in our club competition last week  
**Jean-Marie** - 4 ribbons (5th/4th/4th/4th); one of four 8 and under girls to swim 25 Free under Bulado Meet record time  
**Jennifer** - Is she our next distance champion? Jennifer swam her first 100 Free in 1:39.25 which is very close to Ryda's first 100 time as a 10 year old  
**Luis** - 3 bronze medals and 3 ribbons  
**Ricky** - most improved times on 50 and 100 meter events (- 3.26 50 Butterfly and - 15.32 100 IM)  
**Ryda-Luz** - 3 silver medals and 1 bronze; 3rd overall Girls 13 - 14  
**Samson** - 1 silver medal and 4 bronze; 3rd overall Boys 13 - 14  
**Vera** - 3 silver medals and 5 bronze; 2nd overall Girls 13 - 14 ■  
Marion, Yaser & Vera Ghazzouli

For full result go to: <http://sites.google.com/site/buladoswimclubmain/Home/bulado-meet>



Bulado photo

### Sudoku Solution

539 827 164  
271 436 895  
648 195 237  
467 513 982  
182 974 356  
395 268 741  
754 382 619  
923 651 478  
816 749 523

Puzzle on page 7



# Guest Editorial

## REFERENDUM CAN DELAY IMPROVEMENT



Five years after the referendum of 2004 during which an overwhelming majority of the people of Bonaire had voted for Option B (Direct relations with the Netherlands), the Island Council passed recently a motion stating that a new referendum on the process of constitutional change will be held within four months. The people of Sint Eustasius and Saba (the partners in the BES islands) have been very disappointed by this decision, being afraid that the referendum can jeopardize the planned establishing of the new status on 10-10-10.

### The Reaction in Holland

The news about a new referendum caused an enormous consternation in the Dutch *Tweede Kamer* (Second Chamber, comparable with the US House of Representatives) which has already approved a number of laws in connection with the new constitutional structure for the islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustasius and Saba. The surprised representatives asked the Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld whether she was informed about the intention to organize a new referendum and what was her reaction. She answered that Bonaire was free to organize a referendum, however, the stage of negotiating had expired and the whole process of transforming the islands in a *bijzondere gemeente* (special municipality, as agreed in *Slotverklaring* (Final Accord) of October 2006 between the Netherlands and the islands, was currently in full swing.

According to the promoters of the new referendum, the people voting in 2004 for a direct link with the Netherlands did not know what was the real meaning of this direct relation. They knew only that a direct tie with the mother country would be established without the government of the Netherlands Antilles as an intermediate link between them. However, this was already not more the case two years later when the members of the Island Council, the same persons who are now asking a new referendum, had been informed that the direct link would be realized by establishing a special Netherlands municipality, a form of *openbaar lichaam* (public body) as outlined in Art. 134 of the Dutch Constitution.

### Curaçao's Yes-No Vote—A Model?

There is an analogy between the situation on Bonaire and on Curaçao. After the people of Curaçao had in 2004 voted for Option C, an autonomous land within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Dutch government came after lengthy negotiations with a concrete proposal based on the island's decision. In a subsequent new referendum of this year the inhabitants of Curaçao voted "Yes" and the process of transforming the island's status can continue. It is without doubt that a new similar referendum on Bonaire, if any, could have taken place in 2006, after the Dutch government had submitted its plans concerning the new status of the BES islands to the Island Council. However, there was

no referendum and all Council members signed the Final Accord without any objections. It is clear that the new referendum must not go again about choosing among various options, the people must only express, like on Curaçao, whether they agree (Yes) or disagree (No) with the current transition to the new status.

The promoters of the new referendum are emphasizing that the new status of Bonaire must guarantee more autonomy to the local government. However, it is already a little late, the people asking now more autonomy had a free choice to vote for Option C, like on Curaçao, in the 2004 referendum. As we have seen, there was only a small minority of people on Bonaire opting for an autonomous land.

### What Does Free Association Mean?

Recently, we have heard some members of the Island Council speak about a new option for Bonaire, *Vrije Associatie* (Free Association) of Bonaire with the Netherlands, referring to the September 2006 advice of *Hoge Raad der Nederlanden* (High Council of the Netherlands) in which this term was mentioned. However, it has been torn now from the concept from the section recommending to establish a direct link between our islands and the Netherlands in a form of a public body. It says (quote) "Internationally, the direct link can be qualified as a free association of the islands with the Netherlands" (unquote) and that is certainly something very different than it has been suggested. A free association certainly does not mean "We are free to do what we want while you pay and protect us." (A member of the Hoge Raad was quoted as saying that, in the context of what Bonaire's relationship implies, what the Council meant was that Bonaire freely chose to associate with Holland -ed.)

### The Dutch Political Climate

It seems that the politicians and activists on Bonaire are not very aware of the current situation in the Netherlands. An overwhelming majority of the Dutch people, with exception of citizens of Antillean origin and European Dutch living on the Antilles, is of the opinion that Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles must become independent as soon as possible. Particularly during the current financial crisis, only very few people agree with sending millions of Euros to the islands which have no strategic or economic value for the mother country. Although the Antilleans living in Holland are in the majority hard working, honest people, a very high crime rate among the Antillean youngsters, predominantly from Curaçao, reassures the Dutch people in their negative opinion about the Antilles. To cut all help to the islands and to force them to become independent is one of the main political ideas of the PVV (Party for Freedom) of Geerd Wilders which, according to recent polls, has become the biggest Dutch political party. There is a real possibility that PVV will play a decisive role in the next

Dutch government after the elections in 2011. It is evident that there will be then no referenda about the future status of the islands, they will just get one choice – their independence.

It's happened already In 1975, Surinam, the former Dutch colony, not far from our islands, was almost literally pushed into independence. And it occurred under a Social Democratic Prime Minister, not a Prime Minister of an extreme rightist party like PVV. The same independence plans existed at that time for the Netherlands Antilles as well. Only the terrible consequences for Surinam of becoming independent later changed the original intention of the Dutch government.

### Venezuela or E-Bay

As known, and it is not a joke, Wilders came up earlier this year with a proposal to give the Antilles as a gift to Chavez, the Venezuelan dictator. Unfortunately, some members of the Island Council do not realize that their action has played into Wilders' hands because he can affirm now that the motion about the referendum, submitted on Bonaire by the same persons which had signed the Final Accord, only confirms his opinion that the politicians in the Antilles cannot be trusted and that the Netherlands must get rid of the islands. Other Dutch politicians wanted to offer the Antilles on E-bay to the highest bidder.

### What Might Bonaireans Understand About the New Status?

A big problem on Bonaire is that an average inhabitant does not know what the new island status will bring for him. The harsh reality that he is not very much interested to hear more about the current transition process was confirmed by the fact that only a handful of local people had participated in the last public information evening with the State Secretary Ank Bijleveld and the Queen's Commissioner Henk Kamp. The most people who showed up were European Dutch living on the island!

During my talks with local people I have been surprised by the opinion of some of them about the new status of Bonaire. Lack of information about all planned improvements on the island and a strong demagogic "anti-colonial" propaganda of the activists against the new status have had a considerable effect. For example, a taxi driver told me during our recent conversation that the life on Bonaire would get only worse when the "makambas take over".

According to him, it is also the opinion of the majority of his colleagues(!) I tried in vain to convince him that the direct link with the Netherlands will bring much more opportunities for him and his colleagues than any other option. As far as the current transition process is concerned he did not know that the Island Council and Executive Council would continue their work and that about a half of the tasks being executed currently by the cen-

tral government on Curaçao would be transferred to Bonaire. Neither did he know that that the task of the *kwartiermakers* (quartermasters) was not to prepare quarters for a wave of new Dutch officials but to work on the transition of Bonaire to the new status (In my opinion, it was a mistake to choose this confusing military term). The taxi driver was also surprised to hear that these hard working men and women are officials of the Dutch ministries and that they will be eventually replaced by Bonaireans at the end of their temporary assignment. I had also to explain that the Lt. Governor will remain to be the highest local official and that the current role of the Queen's Commissioner will be terminated by the establishing of the new status. He will remain on Bonaire as a representative of the Netherlands for the BES islands. In this connection we can only welcome that a PR person had been appointed at the Regional Service Center to inform citizens of Bonaire, Sint Eustasius and Saba about the constitutional process.

### Impact of The Referendum

It can be expected that the promoters of the referendum will make a strong effort to convince the voters that the status of a special municipality (they call it "integration") will not be advantageous for the people of Bonaire because they will not get enough autonomy like in the case of an autonomous land for which Curaçao and Sint Maarten had voted. In this connection I would like to mention the warning of former Prime Minister Miguel Pourier during a conference about the constitutional reform of the Netherlands Antilles, held on October 4 in Curaçao. According to him, Sint Maarten (with many more inhabitants than Bonaire) will not be able to pay for all tasks which it has to execute as an autonomous land. Anyway, Sint Maarten and Curaçao must wait two years before they eventually get the status for which they had opted. In case that they will not perform sufficiently, the term can be extended for another two years.

### What a "Special Municipality" Brings

It is evident that the status of a special municipality, as approved by the Island Council in 2006, offers the best opportunity to reach the equality of citizens of the Kingdom, particularly in the field of social benefits. I cannot imagine for example that the future autonomous lands Curaçao and Sint Maarten would be able to raise the existing low old age pensions like it will be possible on our islands under the new status of the special municipality. It is clear, however, that it cannot happen immediately because in the first place the whole current Antillean system of AOV (General Old Age Insurance) with the retirement age of 60 must be transformed to match the Dutch old age insurance AOW based on the retirement age is 65 and payment of the AOW-premium, much higher than the AOV premium, till the age of 65.

Another question, important for a part of the people on Bonaire, is the fear of introduction of several Dutch laws considered not to be in accord with Catholic values (same-sex-marriage, women's right to terminate pregnancy and right of terminally ill patients to end their lives).

(Continued on page 19)



(Continued from page 18)

The fact is that due to the 9,000 km geographic separation and completely different local conditions many differences will remain between the Netherlands and the BES islands. A number of important Dutch laws and regulations will not apply and the Antillean guildler will not be replaced by the Euro but by the US dollar.

### One Man's Opinion

In my opinion, the planned referendum, which unfortunately, can be seen more as a confrontation between the two main political forces on our island than expression of the wishes of the people, is an unnecessary wasting of time and money which could be much better used for the improvement of the local conditions. It is without any doubt that what the people on Bonaire really need is an urgent improvement of living conditions. There is a catastrophic situation in several areas.

A lot of money must be spent in health care because the existing facilities are insufficient and the current health insurance is not able to cover all costs, for example of the necessary trips of the patients to Curaçao for visits to specialists and

treatment. The disastrous situation in the education and the deplorable conditions of our infrastructure, particularly roads, call for fast help. The high crime rate and the lack of the personal security must also be addressed. And there is a number of other important fields where help must come as soon as possible.

It is evident that it can only happen under the constitutional status chosen by the people in 2004 and confirmed in 2006. The unnecessary referendum will not solve any problem, it can bring only delay of execution of the urgent improvement. ■

Jiri Lausman



**Q.** Where can I find  
The Bonaire Reporter?  
**A.** Just about everywhere!

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Airport:</b><br/>Valerie's Airport Shop</p> <p><b>Airlines:</b><br/>Divi Divi Air<br/>EZ Air<br/>DAE<br/>Insel Air</p> <p><b>Banks:</b><br/>MCB (Playa &amp; Hato branches)<br/>ORCO Bank<br/>Giro Bank</p> <p><b>Restaurants:</b><br/>Bistro de Paris<br/>Capriccio<br/>Casablanca<br/>China Nobo<br/>City Café<br/>It Rains Fishes<br/>Lover's Ice Cream-Hato<br/>Pasa Bon Pizza<br/>Patagonia</p> <p><b>Dive Shops:</b><br/>Blue Divers<br/>Carib Inn<br/>Tropical Divers<br/>WannaDive</p> <p><b>Shops:</b><br/>Antillean Wine Company<br/>Benetton<br/>Best Buddies</p> | <p>Botika Bonaire<br/>Botika Korona<br/>Chat 'n' Browse<br/>City Shop<br/>DeFreewieler<br/>Exito Bakery<br/>Green Label<br/>INPO<br/>Kooyman<br/>Last Bite Bakery<br/>Paradise Photo<br/>Photo Tours<br/>Playa Trading</p> <p><b>Hotels:</b><br/>Buddy Dive<br/>Capt. Don's<br/>Habitat<br/>Carib Inn<br/>Den Laman<br/>Divi Flamingo<br/>Eden Beach<br/>Plaza Resort<br/>Sand Dollar<br/>Resort</p> <p><b>Supermarkets:</b><br/>Cash &amp; Carry (Consales)<br/>Cultimara<br/>Joke's Mini Market<br/>More for Less<br/>Progresso</p> | <p>Sunshine Market<br/>The Island Trader (TIS)<br/>Tropical Flamingo<br/>Warehouse Bonaire<br/>Zhung Kong Market, Hato</p> <p><b>Government:</b><br/>Bestuurscollege<br/>RSV-APNA Building<br/>Customs<br/>Parliament Office<br/>BVO</p> <p><b>Others:</b><br/>Bonfysio<br/>Botika Korona<br/>Caribbean Laundry<br/>Centro di Medico<br/>Dentist Office<br/>Von Egmond<br/>Digicel Office<br/>Extra Newspaper Office<br/>Fit 4 Life - Green Label<br/>Hair Affair<br/>Harbour Vil-</p> | <p>lage Marina<br/>Mio Cellular<br/>Photo Tours<br/>RSA Insurance<br/>Rocargo<br/>San Francisco Hospital<br/>TCB<br/>Telbo<br/>WEB office</p> <p><b>Bookstores:</b><br/>Books &amp; Toys<br/>Flamingo Bookstore</p> <p><b>Realty Offices:</b><br/>Bonaire Partners<br/>Bonaire Sunshine Homes<br/>Caribbean Homes<br/>Harbourtown Realty<br/>Re/Max Paradise Homes<br/>Sunbelt Realty</p> <p><b>RINCON:</b><br/>Chinese Store<br/>Joi Fruit Store<br/>Rincon Bakery<br/>Rose Inn<br/>Tusnara Market</p> |
|--|---|--|---|

10/16/09

## Attention! Bonaire Businesses

The Bonaire Reporter Bonus- In print and on-line ... more readers than any Bonaire advertising media

### The Reporter Can Make Your Business A Winner

Your ads placed in *The Reporter* will find customers for your shop or restaurant. **Try it and see.** 6,000 copies every month to **over 80 Bonaire locations and the world via the Internet**

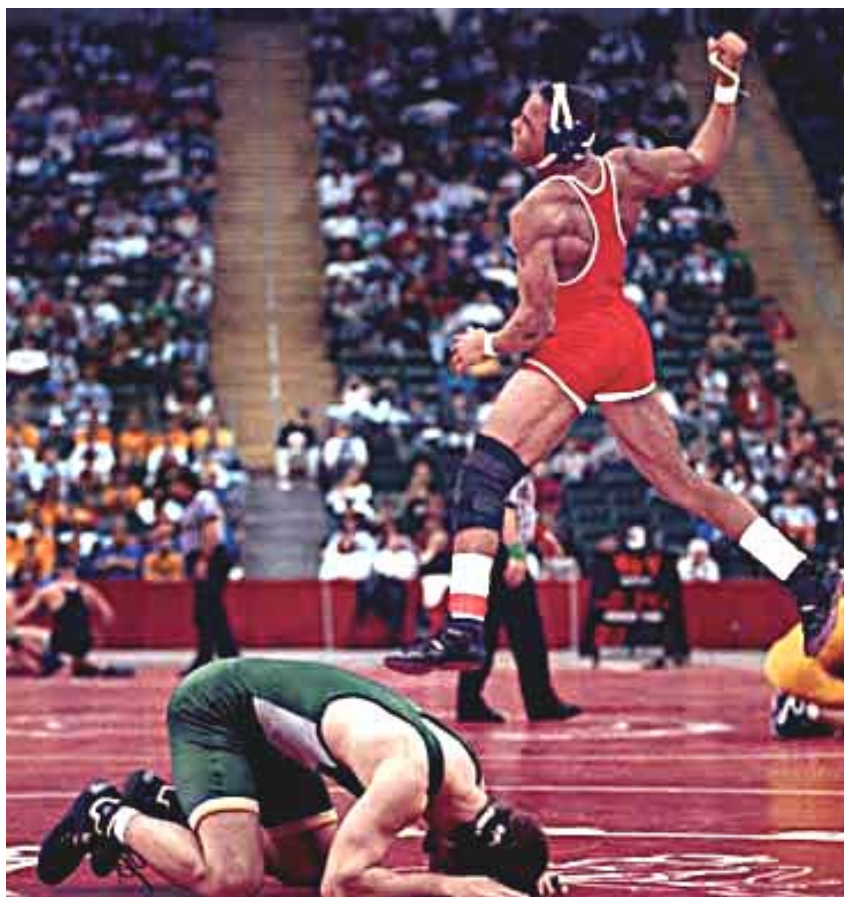
Contact Laura for details about our good advertising deals:

Laura at *The Reporter*  
790-6518/ 786-6518



**The Reporter— real news and stories... not just another fish wrapper.**

Free Internet access to all advertisements— Your customers know who you are before their arrival... and afterwards...



Overwhelm the competition with an ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## HAPPENING SOON

**“Wednesday, October 14 – “Help Us Keep the Park Open Committee.” All invited to a Community Meeting/Park presentation. At Parke Publiko Boneriano, 7:30 pm. More on page 10**

**Friday, October 16—“Mi Gusta Lesa” - Lean to Read. Parents and children of 4-7 years invited. Theme: “My Vacation.” Sponsored by Sebiki, Kaya Pedro P. Silie 4. Tel. 717-2436, 717-2435**

**Sunday, October 18—New Moon**

**Wednesday, October 21—Antilles Day, Public Holiday**

**Thursday, October 22— Public comment on the Bonaire Nature Policy Plan. Sporthall on Kaya Amsterdam at 7 pm.**

**Sunday, October 25—Klein Bonaire Beach Cleanup. Volunteers needed. Meet at 7 am, Harbour Village Marina. 717-2225, 717-8444.**

**Sunday, November 1- Bonaire Mountain Bike Race**

## Subscribe To The Reporter

**By Mail or Online**

Keep up-to-date on your favorite island

**Call George at 790-8988 or 786-6125**

**Email: info@bonairereporter.com**



### World's Best Natural Fertilizer (From the Chicken)

Bagged and ready for your garden  
Delivered to your home!

**Over 10 bags: 10 guilders each**  
**1-9 bags: 12 guilders each**

Call Bob Lassiter (717-3949)  
International Bible Church of Bonaire

### 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 Bissesar - 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 Koeks for more information—796-7870.

#### Mondays

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

#### Fridays

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

### FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

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

**Tuesday-- 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

**Kas Krioyo Rincon**—Step into Bonaire's past in this venerable old home that has been restored and furnished so it appears the family has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell you the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9-12, 2-4. Weekends by appointment. Call 717-2445.

**Mangasina di Rei, Rincon.** Enjoy the view from “The King's Storehouse.” Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018  
**Bonaire Museum** on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868  
**Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center.** Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on 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, call Joop at 786-6003 to find out the evening's location.

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

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

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

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

**Rotary lunch meetings Wednesdays, 12 noon-2 pm** - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort upstairs in Peter Hughes meeting room above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-2066

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

### CHURCH SERVICES

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein.** In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10 am. **Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian,** in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children's club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk  
Sunday School, Sundays, 4 pm, in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, Thursdays, at 8 pm, Kralendijk.

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

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

**Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk** - Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8304.

*Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol,* Saturday at 6 pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

**Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios):** Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at **7:30 pm.** 717-2194

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

**Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church** located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

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

Send event info to:

**The Bonaire Reporter**  
Email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)  
Tel:790-6518, 786-6125  
or 790-8988

### Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

**Take The Reporter Home**—1-year subscription: By mail to US \$70; By mail to Europe \$150. 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](mailto:info@bonairereporter.com)

**The Bonaire Reporter**, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. Available on-line at: [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) *Published every two weeks*

**Reporters:** Siomara E. Albertus, Stephanie Bennett, Jan Brouwer, Ramon de Leon, Jane Madden Disko, Christie Dovale, Marion, Yaser & Vera Ghazzouli, Jack Horkheimer, Jiri Lausman, Jenny Lynch, Molly Bartikoski-Kearny, Greta Kooistra, Jane Madden, Ann Phelan, Mollie Sinnott, Karen W. van Dijk,

Unattributed photos are by the editor or publisher.

**Distribution:** Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elisabeth Silberie (Playa), Divi-Divi Airline

**Housekeeping:** JRA. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

©2009 The Bonaire Reporter

**Hello Restaurant owners:**

**You prepare your meals with the best ingredients, cook them carefully and serve efficiently.**

**Advertise your restaurant in the newspaper that follows the same formula.**

**The Bonaire Reporter Remember: Advertising doesn't cost- it pays**

**Call 790-6518 / 786-6518**

**“Not only in print.. But on the net”**

**Email: info@bonairereporter.com**



# SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

## AIRLINES

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

## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

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

## BANKS

**Maduro and Curiel's Bank** provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

## BEAUTY PARLOR

**Hair Affair.** Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing.

## BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

**De Freewieler** sells bikes and all kinds of bike accessories. They do professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. **Have your keys made here too.**

## CONTRACTOR

**Equinox Bonaire**—A USA licensed contractor for hotels, restaurants, residential. **On Time—Done Right.**

## DINING

**Pasa Bon Pizza** is Bonaire's best. Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too.

## On Kaya Gob. Debrot

½ mile north of town center. 780-1111  
Call ahead to eat-in or take out

**Lunchroom de Bonairiaan**—Breakfast & lunch prepared and served by Stichting Project students under professional guidance. Monday-Friday, 9-2. Kaya Gob. N.Debrot, opposite Divi Flamingo.

## DIVING

**Carib Inn** is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

**ScubaVision** - Document your Bonaire vacation above and below the water with a custom DVD by Bonaire's top videographer, Hendrik Wuyts

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

## FITNESS

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

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

**Green Label** has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Now in new expanded location off Kaya Industria.

## HEALTH

**Harmony House**—The herb and mineral center. Help your body heal itself.

## HOME CARE

**Bonaire Second Home Care** can handle all the needs of second home owners on Bonaire including inspection, management and cleaning.

## INTERNET AND CELLULAR SERVICE

**Digicel** has the most subscribers, widest choice of calling plans and interesting phones. Visit their office on downtown Kaya Grandi and see for yourself.

**Mio** offers by far the clearest, most reliable phone signal on the island PLUS WIRELESS HIGH-SPEED INTERNET almost everywhere on Bonaire.

## PEST CONTROL

**Professional Pest Control.** Call Peter to get rid of all those nasty pets like termites, fleas, ticks and ants that want to invade your home. Call now and save your investment in your home.

## PHOTO FINISHING

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

## REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

**Bonaire Sunshine Homes** is the realtor with a local touch. Ask them to show you the good value homes they list. Call them if you are thinking of selling your home.

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

**Sunbelt Realty** offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest

in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

## RETAIL

**Benetton,** world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

**Best Buddies and Pearls**—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Wonderful service, free gift wrap.

## SECURITY

**Special Security Services** will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

## SHIPPING

**Rocargo Freight** Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent. What would we do without their superb services?**

## SUPERMARKETS

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

## WATER TAXI

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

## WINES

**Antillean Wine Company.** You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Kaya Industria 23, Mon.-Sat. 9 am-noon.

To learn more about these businesses check their ad in this issue of *The Reporter*

Fortnightly Advertisers in *The Bonaire Reporter* are included in the guides. Free!

Call 790-6518, 786-6518

Or email Reporter@BonaireNews.com

Let visitors and residents know about your business or restaurant with an ad in *The Reporter*.

## Scuba Sales

Repair - Replacement  
New Gear - Accessories

Check CARIB INN First.  
Great Prices - Great Stock

Always Great Values  
Dive gear specials



## CARIB INN

Since 1980  
PADI 5 STAR GOLD PALM  
717-8819 - 8 am to 5 pm daily  
(next to Divi Flamingo Hotel)

## Pasa Bon Pizza & Bar

780-1111



Not Just Great Pizzas!

Call ahead  
to  
Pre Order

Open Wednesday to Sunday  
5 PM to 11 PM

## NETTECH

### AFFORDABLE

- ◆ Domain Registrations
- ◆ E-mail Hosting
- ◆ Anti-Spam & Anti-Virus
- ◆ Web Site Design
- ◆ Web Site Hosting
- ◆ Marketing Consulting
- ◆ Internet Consulting
- ◆ Photographic Services
- ◆ Graphic Design



NetTech N.V.  
info@NetTech.an  
www.NetTech.an  
Tel: 717-6773  
Fax: 717-7854



## Hair Affair

We do our best to  
make your hair and make-  
up wishes come true!!

You can also come in for facials and facial waxing.

We use and sell L'Oreal products

Is your plan to marry on the island?  
We can make you beautiful and stay beautiful for your happiest day.

Personal attention by Janneke  
Appointment by tel: 717-5990  
or just walk in.

Downtown, near the waterfront  
next to Little Havana  
Tues-Fri: 9-12, 2-6 Sat: 9-2 non stop





## Bubbles from the Biologist

Have you ever been snorkeling or diving and thought you saw a rock move?

Or noticed a coral head that just did not look right?

Chances are you saw an octopus in hiding. Octopuses, which are a type of cephalopod,

have three layers of skin, each containing different color changing mechanisms which help them mimic their surroundings. The top layer of skin contains **chromatophores**, little sacks of pigment surrounded by muscle. The contraction of these muscles cause the sac to expand and expose different colors, ranging from shades of brown, black, red, orange, or yellow. The second layer consists of **iridosomes and iridophore plates** of varying thickness, which help change their pigment by refracting light. This layer gives off iridescent color that can be green, red, blue, or silver. And the third layer of their skin houses **leucophores** with transparent granules; these reflect ambient color, in the sense that white light can be reflected to make the octopus appear white. Octopuses also have **papillae**—a series of muscles under their skin that act like goosebumps to change the texture of their skin; this helps them to better resemble uneven substrate. These changes are controlled by their highly developed central nervous



<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/common>

system to aid in courtship, defense, camouflage, and mimicry. And since cephalopods have the most advanced central nervous system of all invertebrates, it is no surprise that they have the fastest color change in the animal kingdom. They are also capable of motor control, learning, memory, and have very sensitive senses of taste, touch, and sight. So next time you see something hiding in a rock or a nearly invisible figure running across the sand, look a bit closer, because it may just be an octopus. ■ *Mollie Sinnott*

*Mollie Sinnott is currently a junior at Wake Forest University in North Carolina in Bonaire for the next couple months studying biology with CIEE and focusing on the effects of sediment and sewage runoff on the reefs.*



## Pier Repairs Begin



On Monday morning, October 5, work began on the Chiku Marcelina Wharf (also known as Town Pier or Old Wharf). The project will be to extend the wharf so that it will be able to accommodate the cruising ships. The extension will be roughly 25 meters going in the direction of Karel's Beach Bar. In addition additional dolphins to tie the ships' lines to will be installed.

The project will cost around NAf250.000. Bonairiaanse Wegenbouw Maatschappij (BWM) will be in charge of the project while the companies IHCC, Miami Divers and Don Andres will assist. The project should be finished by the middle of this December.

Earlier on Friday, October 2, DROB, under the charge of Deputy Nolly Oleana, began work to repair the fishermen's wharf at Playa Pabou. This was a temporary solution for Regatta week. Although known as the fisherman's wharf it's not only used by fishermen but also by the Regatta team last week.

Since the waves of Hurricane Omar hit the dock in the past there hasn't been a solution for repairing the dangerous metal debris left over on the dock. Promises were made in the past but nothing happened. But now, according to Deputy Oleana, it's not responsible to continue the situation of the wharf as it is a danger to people who are swimming in the area, principally, our children. Deputy Oleana assumed responsibility to find a temporary solution in record time to improve the situation. ■ *Press release/L.D.*

## RSA, Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance NV Celebrates the First Anniversary of her office in Bonaire

On September 26th RSA celebrated the first anniversary of their office in Bonaire in the company of the insurance agents who represent them and guests.

RSA is very happy with the decision they took last year to open an office in Bonaire. The company is satisfied that it can continue to support the economy and offer the public the best insurance products that only a world leader in insurance who has been doing so for almost 300 years, can give.

The growing economical development that is taking place in Bonaire has caused RSA's number of clients to grow during the past year. This demonstrates acceptance of the office by the general public. RSA is very happy about this and wants to thank the public for its support. RSA will go on to do its utmost to continue to give the people of Bonaire an optimal and speedy service both for acceptance and claim.

RSA contributes to the community of Bonaire. **That's why on the occasion of their first anniversary, they have donated a laptop to the "Workgroup Aids Prevention Bonaire (WAPB)"**, a commission that works to prevent Aids in Bonaire. The person who is in charge of this commission is Mrs Vivian de Lanoy, who does a tremendous job in this field. RSA hopes that the aids commission can make good use of this donation. (photo above)

RSA invites the people of Bonaire to come and visit their office freely or call 717-2080 for more information about the super insurance products they have to offer.



Normigia Ilario and Royenne Winklaar will be happy to assist you.

**Normigia Ilario**  
Branch Manager

**KEEPING YOU MOVING,**  
that's what RSA's brand  
stands for.

**RSA** | Bonaire District Plaza - Unit 4 | Kaya Gobernador Debrot  
| Bonaire | Netherlands Antilles

Telephone: +(599) 717-2080

Fax: +(599) 717-2112 Cellular: +(599-9) 561-0634







# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## Autumn's Flying Horse of the Heavens and an Ancient Portal to Paradise

Every October and November a wonderful constellation appears almost overhead before midnight. And although it is not as bright as summer and winter constellations its mythology is absolutely magical and poetic.

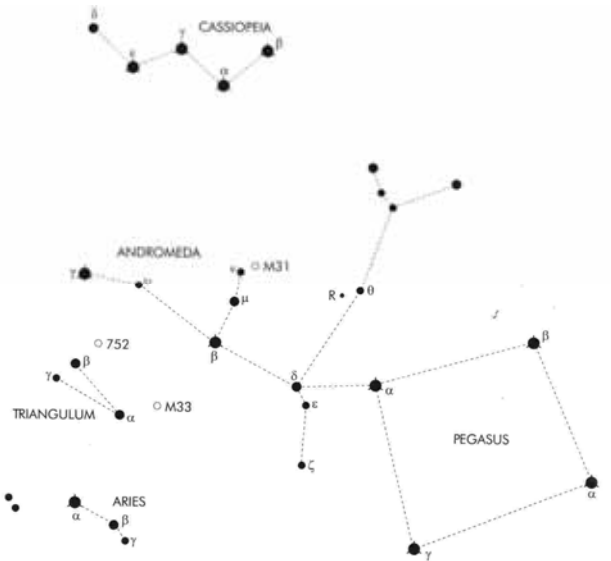
If you go outside between eight and midnight in October and November

and look close to overhead you will see four stars which if you draw lines between them make a slightly lopsided square which for over 2,000 years has been called the **Great Square of Pegasus**, the winged horse. But why, you might ask, is only half a horse pictured here? Well Pegasus was born from the blood of **Medusa** and the foam of the sea so perhaps Pegasus is just rising from the ocean, his other half still submerged, although it has also been suggested that since the image of Pegasus was often used for the figureheads of ancient ships, this could also account for only half of him showing in the heavens.

In fact in an ancient work called, "The Destruction of Troy," we read of "a ship named *Pegasus* which was likened to a flying horse." Pegasus is indeed a very ancient figure and is featured on some of the most beautiful ancient coins of Corinth and Carthage. Because Pegasus was associated with the heroic deeds of **Perseus** he has long been regarded as a celestial symbol to inspire heroes to perform wonderful deeds. But he is also regarded as a symbol to inspire poets. The reason being, as one myth states, that as Pegasus was prancing around one day, under his hooves a spring was created, a spring which was alleged to have magic power in its waters. For it was believed that if one drank of its magical water one would experience ecstasy and be gifted with the art of poetry.

But my favorite way of looking at this Great Square comes from the ancient Persians who imagined that this square was a portal to another dimension, the dimension of eternal bliss, the doorway to paradise. And sometimes when I'm outside looking up at this square I almost want to leap up and fly through it and see the wonders which lie deep within. You see, though we can see nothing within this square from urban areas, when you get away from city lights, on a clear moonless night, you may be able to count 10 to 15 dim stars with the naked eye within its borders. But with a modern telescope we can find dozens of galaxies, island universes of billions of stars like our **Milky Way galaxy**. So in a way this ancient square is a portal to another dimension, the dimension of the wonders of the universe, which we can now see with our modern telescopes. How wonderful.

So get thee outside some night before midnight this October and November and gaze up at this Great Square and remind yourself of all the millions before us who have done likewise. I think you'll find it almost magical. And it just may bring out the poet in you. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*



# StarPower

By Jenny Lynch

October-2009

**ARIES:** *March 20th - April 20th* Relationship could be challenging early this month! Once the full Moon (in your sign) faces off with the Sun in Libra in your house of partners, (October 4th) you'll find it difficult to compromise, as you'll be more focused on your own needs instead. Because Mercury is conjoined with Saturn in your house of work, you may be worried about your job or a completing a project on schedule. Though the tendency to act foolish or selfish is strong, you must attempt to marshal yourself.

**TAURUS:** *April 20th - May 21st* The combination of a full Moon in your 12th house, at odds with the Sun in your house of work could erode your confidence or cause trouble with co-workers. Another downer is that ruler Venus (in its fall sign, Virgo) teams up with Mercury and Saturn making you doubtful about who to trust. This is especially true about romantic partners since it occurs in your house of love.

**GEMINI:** *May 21st - June 21st* The full Moon in your house of friendship promises some stress. Suddenly you have so much to do and so little time to attend parties and exciting group activities! Yet, with Mercury conjunct Saturn (in Virgo) at the bottom of your chart, it's best that you spend time organizing your personal life instead of socializing. By mid month (at the time of the New Moon) ruler Mercury in Libra, along with the new Moon (in your house of pleasure) is sure to drag you out of the house.

**CANCER:** *June 21st - July 22nd* You could feel a bit cranky this month with Mars in your sign. Because the full Moon at the top of your chart is at odds with the Sun in your personal sector, you might experience a bit of a crisis between the demands of your professional and personal life. This usually manifests as a 'time constraint issue'. So much to do...yet so little time for me. This is also a perfect time to redecorate or even move.

**LEO:** *July 22nd - August 23rd* You'll feel totally energized once Mars enters your sign this month. Yet, during the first part of this month, while Mars is working behind the scene, you will be gathering resource and wisdom which you'll want to share with others soon. Still by the time of the new Moon you'll be ready to share all that you've recently learned and take the stage as a sage.

**VIRGO:** *August 23rd - September 22nd* The new Moon in your house of credit wants to spend, spend, splurge - on the things that could make your life more comfortable. Romantically, with Venus in Libra you have a strong need for a harmonious relationship. You are capable of attracting someone wonderful now!

**LIBRA:** *September 23rd - October 23rd* Early on this month, at the time of the full moon (October 4th) you may feel the need to isolate. Mostly because ruler Venus, is se-

cluded in the 12th house, along with serious Saturn and thoughtful Mercury as well. Yet by mid month, at the time of the new Moon in your sign, ruler Venus enters your first house, along with Mercury indicating some form of a 'come back'. Since Libra is a sign that is concerned with others, you may also find yourself counseling more. Romantically, the combination of the new Moon and Venus in your sign makes it easy to find a perfect mate.

**SCORPIO:** *October 23rd - November 22nd* Ruler Mars has been in its fall sign ever since August, you may have noticed your power diminished as a result. However, mid month it enters the dynamic realm of Leo and suddenly you'll feel more confident and capable. If you're currently unemployed this is a sign that you could land a new job. At the time of the new Moon, Venus in good aspect to your ruler, could bring a new love interest.

**SAGITTARIUS:** *November 22nd - December 21st* For the last few months, (since mid June) ruler Jupiter has been retrograde, providing some time for you to align yourself spiritually. Whatever the case, now that Jupiter is about to go direct you are more clear about your goals and ready to move forward with new plans and enterprises. The combination of a new Moon in your most social sector, along with Venus in good aspect to your ruler makes this a good month to meet new friends or even fall in love. You're most attracted to refined, spiritual or artsy types now!

**CAPRICORN:** *December 21st - January 20th* Ruler Saturn leaves Virgo (the land of the inner critic) and enters its exalted realm of Libra late this month. Having Saturn at the top of your chart and dipping into your professional sector is quite promising for career matters. The new Moon and Venus at the top of your chart is a sign you'll be presented an opportunity

**AQUARIUS:** *January 20th - February 19th* Because your sign has 2 rulers, (Saturn the ancient and Uranus, the modern) things may have been dicey last month when these 2 planets faced off at the time of the new Romantically - Mars enters your house of partners and forms a loving aspect to Venus, if single - this is a time when you could find a dynamic new mate!

**PISCES:** *February 19th - March 20th* You have a couple of good things coming this month. First, your ancient ruler Jupiter goes direct (after being retrograde since June). This allows you to move forward on many levels; spiritually, emotionally and professionally. Others will notice your sense of confidence and enthusiasm in health or work related matters. This could be a time when you decide to coach someone. Because the new Moon and Venus are in favorable aspect to your ruler, if single - you could form a very intense relationship with someone new! ■

New DVD Available  
Bonaire Ta Dushi



www.scubavision.info - ph: 717.2844 - cell: 786.2844

Scuba Vision Films is Bonaire's premier video production facility. We are available for your video imaging projects underwater and topside.

Nature Films - Documentaries - Travel - Adventure - Advertising - TV Broadcast  
Underwater - Stock footage - HDV - Digital Photo - Weddings  
DVD Reproductions - DVD Mastering and Authoring  
Courses and Seminars.

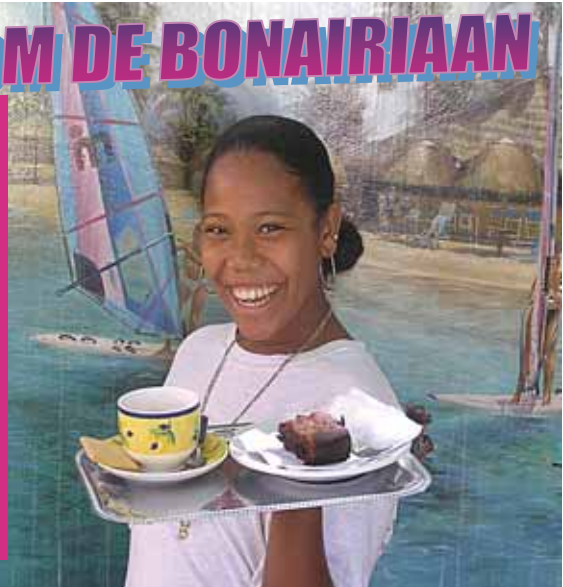
info@scubavision.info Ph: (599) 717.2844 Cell: 786.2844  
Kaya Grandi #6 - Photo Tours -

## LUNCHROOM DE BONAIRIAAN

Be pampered for breakfast or lunch by youngsters in training for the world of the professional restaurant business by the Stichting Project. Delicious menu, Good prices

On Kaya Gob. N. Debrot -  
opposite the Divi Flamingo  
Hotel

Open: Weekdays  
9.00-14.00





# Wake up with your Digicel prepaid

Pay 1  
talk 3



Pay 1 minute and talk 3 minutes between 6am and 9am  
from your Digicel prepaid to Digicel.

Call Digicel Bonaire at 717-4400 | [www.digicelbonaire.com](http://www.digicelbonaire.com)

**Digicel**

The Bigger, Better Network.

Only the 2nd and 3rd minutes are free. Regular rate applies on the following minutes. Free minutes are only applicable on calls between 6 and 9am from Digicel to Digicel from October 5th till October 31st, 2009.