

**It's Still
FREE**

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Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Jopie



Yanchi



Henk



Anthony



Ank

**Bonaire's Parallel
Political Worlds**

Page 2, 12, 17

The referendum on the future government structure of Bonaire will be held after the Parliamentary elections on January 22, 2010, not before as recommended by the Referendum Committee. Anthony Nicholas, Independent Member of the Bonaire Island Council, confirmed that last week adding, "At the end of this month a representative of the United Nations is to visit. He will need two weeks to investigate. Then two months must be allowed for an information campaign. Think March for a referendum."

► **The most powerful figure in Bonaire politics today is Anthony Nicolaas.** He has the Island Council vote that maintains the present coalition government of Bonaire. That government has suspended the process that would integrate Bonaire into The Netherlands pending the outcome of a second referendum. Last week Councilman Nicolaas unequivocally stated that "Bonaire will not sit at the table with Holland to discuss the distribution of (governing) tasks unless the island conducts its own referendum." He categorized the actions of State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld, who threatens to stop the payment of Bonaire's debts, as intimidation tactics.

The Bonaire Government is suggesting the new referendum to allow voters to choose between the course that was chosen by the former government, integration with Holland, or an alternative arrangement called a "free association."

► **University students interviewed Bonaireans from November 3-8 about their feelings concerning the upcoming Referendum.** Results will be reported on November 14.

► **The Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber aims to finish handling the amendments to Dutch laws for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (the BES islands) mid-January 2010.** The

Bonaire referendum, which might take place after the January 22, 2010, Antillean Parliamentary elections, will not affect the Dutch Parliament's plans. Provided the Dutch First and Second Chambers ratify the laws, the word "Bonaire" could be legislated (out or in) during a plenary meeting of the Second Chamber.

► **Bonaire's outstanding supermarket, Warehouse Bonaire, may get competition next year.** Investor Gerard Van den Tweel is considering opening supermarkets featuring local, US and Albert Heijn products in Aruba and Bonaire in late 2010. In 2007 Van den Tweel opened the first Albert Heijn market outside of Europe in Curaçao.

► **More than a year after throwing an acid bomb** into the middle of a group of Bonaire delegates at the Dutch Caribbean School competition in St. Maarten on April 25, 2008, the young men responsible received no prison sentences in court last Wednesday. However, Joel Ricaldo Rosario (22), received a conditional sentence of four months' imprisonment with two years' probation and 100 hours of community service. Carlito Javier Meyers (16), received two years' probation and 70 hours community service.

► **There were chaotic scenes in Curaçao and St. Maarten on the first day that illegal immigrants were able to apply for legal status under the Brooks Tower Accord.** Not so on Bonaire. While there are tens of thousands of undocumented workers on Curaçao and St. Maarten, there are nowhere near the 5,000 illegals on Bonaire that the Central Government suspects. That may be because Bonaire has been the pilot site for the "Project Chain Transformation and Transition Aliens System" that has been used here since 2007.

Illegal workers in the Netherlands Antilles, who meet specific strict requirements, may qualify for legal residence under the Brooks Tower Accord. Most will

Editorial

Bonaire's Parallel Worlds

These days there are three conversations constantly going on in Bonaire. There's the one the Dutch at the Regional Support Center have with the Bonaireans, the one the Dutch are have among themselves and the one the Bonaireans have with each other.

The one between the Dutch and the Bonaireans is courteous and predicable. It makes the Dutch happy because it allows them to think they are doing the right thing. The Bonaireans keep it up because it keeps the money and aid flowing.

The conversation the Dutch are having among themselves is the usual incestuous one that permeates any bureaucracy. It dwells on procedure, selects the right things to say publically and protects its own existence. Issues churn within it before emerging. That's acceptable if it produces good results.

The conversation the Bonaireans are having with each other is the one that really matters, of course. That conversation is the talk of the island, a parallel reality, which unfolds alongside Dutch activities here and in Holland. It's heard in the streets, homes and particularly on Papiamentu language talk radio.

It's mostly cultural differences that create this situation. Even though many Bonaireans speak Dutch essentially as a first language, there's still a problem; because there are no translators

not. In St. Maarten, where it's believed that there are 20,000 illegals, only 134 persons living there illegally had filed requests for the one-year residence permit up to last Saturday. The new regulations went into effect on November 3. "This is very disappointing," Justice Minister Magali Jacoba told reporters.

(Continued on page 9)



for cultural differences. For example, a Dutch organized press conference for Bonaire journalists that starts on time, proceeds rapidly through the agenda, and invites questions is not considered a successful information exchange but is perceived as a fast-talking flim-flam filled with unfamiliar acronyms.

Perhaps the Dutch-led Bonaire press conferences should be conducted in Papiamentu. We've been told that press conferences in Saba and Statia are conducted in English.

While it may be impossible to totally overcome the conflicting styles and traditions of Dutchmen and Bonaireans, a start toward mutual respect and better understanding might be made by encouraging more social interaction between the staff of the RSC, starting from the top, and their Bonairean counterparts. Less structured press conferences, informal gatherings and direct family contacts all can help. Often more gets accomplished at a soccer game, over a glass of beer in a bar or at a picnic than in a conference room. Let's work together harmoniously. ■ G.D.



► **The Reporter has a new junior staff member, our granddaughter. See page 18.**

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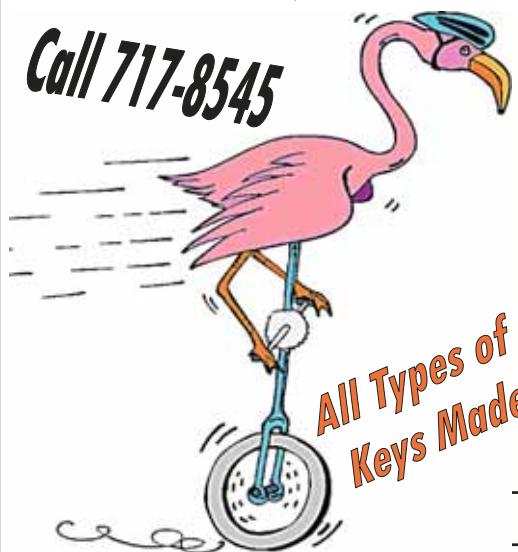
Help Bonaire's Seniors Celebrate

A special treat every year for senior citizens groups is an end of the year dinner where they can all get together to socialize and enjoy a delicious meal. This year 115 elderly from the senior citizen activity centers from Rincon, Antriol, North Salina and from Kai Minima will be dining at the **Sunset Grill Restaurant** on December 9. And everyone will get a gift from the **Bonaire Gift Shop**. Although the organizers got a very good deal from Kirk Gosden at Sunset Grill, a little more money is needed to make this evening come true. **You can help brighten our elders' holiday season with a donation.** An easy way is to drop it off at Mike Gaynor's **Chat n' Browse** at the roundabout near Sunset Beach. **For more information call Delno Tromp at 09-693-1407 or 717-8334.**



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The Lionfish Are Here

It was never a case of whether lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) would be seen in Bonaire – only when and how many. Marine biologists got answers to these questions last week when the first confirmed sightings of lionfish in Bonaire were reported. The first of these sightings occurred at Nukove on October 26th at a depth of 20 m. **As of November 9th, nine other newly-settled lionfish** have been captured by the Bonaire National Marine Park. Ramón de León, the Marine Park Manager, praised the divers who reported the lionfish by saying, “Our success in capturing the lionfish reported to [the marine park] is the result of accurate reporting by divers.”

All of the confirmed lionfish sightings in Bonaire were of small individuals, averaging 6.35 cm total length (slightly larger than a C battery), and ranged in location from Nukove to Red Slave dive sites. The lionfish were captured during both morning and afternoon hours at depths between 15 and 21 m, except for two individuals which were collected at 2.4 m and 5.5 m. Mr. de León said that divers observed the juvenile lionfish under corals or rocky ledges, sometimes resting upside-down. The rapid succession of

lionfish sightings on the leeward side of Bonaire may be attributed to a recruitment pulse that carried lionfish larvae onto the reefs several months ago. “[These fish] have probably just grown to a size that divers are now able to detect,” according to de León.

The presence of lionfish in Bonairean waters is not unanticipated. The progression of what has been called “the lionfish invasion” in the Caribbean is closely monitored by the United States Geological Survey’s Nonindigenous Aquatic Species database (USGS-NAS). Since 2007, this non-native fish species has been sighted with increasing frequency south of Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic (USGS-NAS 2009). Lionfish are considered to be established on many Caribbean islands, including Cuba, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Turks and Caicos, Puerto Rico, and the Florida Keys (Schofield 2009). Interestingly, only one sighting has been reported for the Lesser Antilles.

In the Netherlands Antilles, one sighting has been reported in Aruba and two in Curacao (USGS-NAS 2009; de León, personal communication). Bonaire now joins the list of Caribbean islands where this invasive lionfish is

present.

Biologists emphasize that it is important not to prematurely panic about this “invasion” but they do share several concerns, namely how lionfish will affect populations of native fishes and whether injuries to divers will become more frequent if lionfish populations continue to grow (Schofield 2009). The possible ecological effects of high lionfish densities on coral reefs in the Caribbean is unclear because the range extension of this species is very recent and few ecological studies have been conducted (Schofield 2009). One experimental study in the Bahamas, where lionfish are abundant, found that lionfish negatively affected the recruitment of native fishes and suggested that lionfish may also indirectly compete with native fishes for prey (Albins and Hixon 2008).

Because many divers regularly observe fish on Bonaire’s reefs, STINAPA marine park rangers are optimistic that the abundance of lionfish can be managed through a lionfish removal program. This will involve trained members of Bonaire’s fishing and SCUBA diving communities, who volunteer to capture and remove lionfish from the coral reefs.



If you see a lionfish, you should mark the location with a weighted buoy made of a lead weight, rope, and a small float. Weighted buoy markers can easily be made and carried in a BCD pocket or “goodie bag.” After your dive, immediately call STINAPA Headquarters at 599-717-8444.

Please do not attempt to capture a lionfish, yourself, before you have participated in STINAPA-supervised training. Even though the lionfish that have been observed are small, the venom in their spines is very powerful and painful. Furthermore, when attempts to capture these fish fail, it appears that lionfish quickly learn to avoid divers, making them increasingly difficult to capture.

For more information on reporting a lionfish sighting, the use of marker buoys, or to learn more about receiving training to safely and effectively capture lionfish, please contact Ramón de León at

STINAPA Headquarters or email the marine park at marinepark@stinapa.org. ■

Kate Jirik



Kate Jirik recently completed her graduate studies on the behavior and ecology of marine fishes in southern California. She is currently teaching and conducting research at CIEE Research Station Bonaire (www.cieebonaire.org). This article was written on behalf of CIEE.

References for this article can be found on *The Bonaire Reporter* web site: www.bonairereporter.com.

Affordable Homes For Bonaire - Finally

At last there will be some affordable and very attractive homes available that you can build on Bonaire. On the island the housing market has escalated to such a degree that middle income people can’t afford a home of their own,- people like government workers, young professionals, police, teachers, customs officers, and repatriates returning to Bonaire, university graduates from schools in Holland or the US, elderly Bonaireans, retirees, second homebuyers and others.

A company in Trinidad, Thermal Impac, which has been in business for over 30 years, has contracted with Bonaire Sunshine Homes to bring in pre-fabricated materials to build a home for under NAf 100,000. You provide the land; they provide all the materials to build a structurally strong home for you in two months, turn key: walls, slabs, ceilings, roofs, facades, windows, doors, tile floors, toilets, sinks, shower pan, wall tiles, and kitchen cupboards. These homes are proven to be fire retardant, resistant to earthquakes, termites, dry rot and even hurricanes in winds up to 160 mph. The homes have been successfully built all over the world, including the Caribbean, but it’s the first time they’ve been introduced in Bonaire. The company in Trinidad is run by old friends of the Bissessar family of Bonaire Sunshine Homes.

The main element of the Thermal Impac building system is the Thermal Im-

pac® Panel, a specially designed, 4 foot by 8 foot lightweight (27 pounds) high tensile steel wire cage with a core of expanded polystyrene. Thermal Impac steel reinforced panels are finished on site with concrete, are environmental friendly, using less sand and cement. The lower price to build is due to less material usage and a shorter building period than a conventional type house. but with the same finish, quality and market value as a conventional type.

Bonaire Sunshine Homes offers six different designs from which to choose: three, two-bedroom homes and three, three-bedroom homes. Prices start at under NAf 100,000 and are commensurate with the size of the house.

On Saturday, November 28, at the offices of Bonaire Sunshine Homes (Kaya Lib. Simon Bolivar, opposite the San Bernardo Church and Scarlet’s Flower Shop) there will be an Exhibition for the Public from 8:30 am to 5 pm.

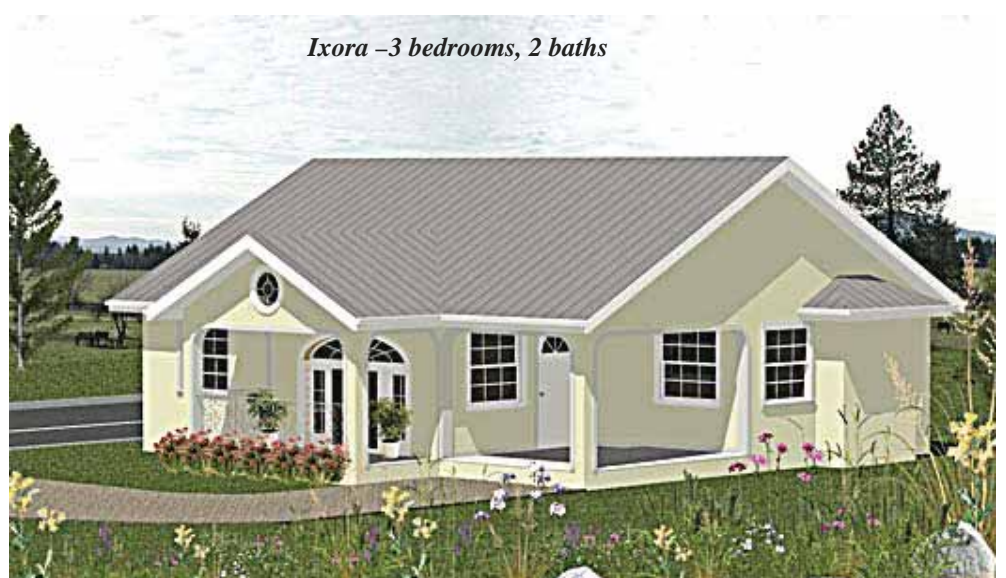
Come in and see for yourself. On hand will be representatives from the Banco Di Caribe and RBTT who will take mortgage applications and approve loans on site. Also Thermal Impac representatives will be there to answer questions.

For more information or to make an appointment for a private interview, call 717-4992, 786-1592 or 701-4050. ■

Laura DeSalvo



White Flamingo – 2 bedrooms, 1 bath



Ixora – 3 bedrooms, 2 baths

On the Island Since... 1988 Douglas Johan Abraham

"I was born on Curaçao December 11th, 1987, and when I was about three months old we came back to Bonaire. One of the first places I lived with my mom, my little brother Dustin, my grandma and my aunt Laurie was in a house on the south coast, close to Red Slave, called Chogogo. We also lived in the old land house at Washikemba and in a little house at Kaya Karko until we bought the house in Kaya Mandolin.

I enjoyed my childhood – I have a good relationship with both my parents and I love them very much. Most of the time I've lived with my mom; she's a very strong woman and it hasn't been always easy for her, raising two wild boys! I respect my father too; he's a man who's very dedicated to his work and his family.

Growing up on an island – especially a small place like Bonaire – means you have to make it fun for yourself, you have to 'be and make the party'! People who grow up here are exposed to multiple cultures and languages and so was I, starting at home. We spoke English and Papiamentu as my mom, Christie Dovale, was born on Curaçao from American parents and my dad, Jopie Abraham, is Bonairean, but he has

Lebanese and Dutch ancestors too.

On Bonaire you learn how to deal with diverse types of people. It's an island – you can't just leave, you know everybody and everybody knows you. I saw it as a limitation and as an advantage because it gives you a different mindset. You get to know people from all kinds of backgrounds and various ways of life. It makes you grow up fast. On the other hand, you are less spoiled here. In a city you can get anything at any time. Here there are always limits, but it teaches you to appreciate things more, little things. It gives you a different outlook on life.

My brother and I were competing in Taekwondo and we went a lot of places together – Aruba, Puerto Rico, Curaçao and Holland. It was fun! At HAVO high school I joined the archaeological Bonai project of Jay Havisier. We did all kinds of excavations and we reconstructed a whale that had been scooped up by a cruise ship when it was already dead and drifting. It was taken to the salt company where it was left for two or three years until Jay came along and decided it would be a good project for us to reconstruct the skeleton. At the time there was still a lot of meat left to saw

and chop off. Nobody wanted to do that," he grins, "but I enjoyed it! Then we did the bleaching of the bones and stuff and we put the skeleton together. Finally it was placed at the entrance of Washington Slagbaai National Park. Jay is an inspiring guy, an extreme professional, very passionate about his work.

We also went to a world archaeological congress in Trinidad and Tobago where we presented a news letter to all the visiting groups from the different participating countries and we met the president of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and were invited at his house. It was a really good time and the country was very, very beautiful.

I learned a lot at HAVO, but when I got to VWO in Curaçao – I'd left Bonaire August 27th 2006 – it became very difficult because my Dutch wasn't good enough. I did well in physics, chemistry and math, but because of my low



Douglas Abraham

grade in Dutch I didn't pass the year. So, I stayed in Curaçao for another year and I worked there." Douglas is a very bright guy with a great philosophy and a good sense of humor. He's adventurous, charismatic and real good looking.

"Exactly two years after I'd left, on August 27th, 2008, I came

back to Bonaire. I became a dive-master at Bonaire Dive and Adventure where I worked for about eight months. Then I moved on, working on boats for a small business owner, Marten. After that I started working for Boat Yard Bonaire, owned by Harry van den Ouweelen and Ruud Koornstra. I work on fiber glass, on engines, I paint and I do major and minor repairs. I basically do everything and... I love my work! It's a very good team and the more we get to know each other, the better it's getting, and the job is different every single

(Continued on page 5)

"I didn't always do the right thing and during my time in Curaçao I decided that I needed to focus on my life..."

									
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On the Island Since (Continued from page 4)
 day. That's what I love about it. I'm hoping to gain a lot of experience as I would like to be a technician, and any course I can do, I will do to get certified. I want to learn as much as possible about welding, engines, boat fiber glass and all that comes with this work – to get skills that I can use in any situation, anywhere in the world.

It was different when I was younger. I didn't always do the right thing, and during my time in Curaçao I decided that I needed to focus on my life and get settled and set my stuff up – an apartment, a car – to make further decisions in life. I felt I needed a discipline and responsibility in my life and so far it has been very rewarding. I'm fully independent now I have my apartment, a house that I'm sharing with Freek Sijssling, (he's my mentor and our technical manager) and his family. I have a car, my very good job and a girlfriend, Alicia. So, for now I'm good and I can focus on the next step.

I met Alicia when I was living at Sea Side apartments and she was at the CIEE group, right next door. One day some friends and I went over and I met her and we hung out for two days and then she left for the States, but we kept in contact. Then I decided to go up there to see her. I stayed with her for two weeks in Minneapolis and we had a real good time. She's doing environmental sciences at the University of Minnesota, but she's coming here in January for a whole semester.

While I was away I kept on calling the boat yard, to see how they were doing with the projects we were working on –

but," he laughs "they managed to do without me, although they were happy when I got back!

It's all about what makes you happy in life. Sometimes people study for years to end up doing things that will never bring them happiness, things they are not passionate about. I was worrying about not being able to find something that I would really love to do. But... I found my passion – at least for now – and I feel I can do this for a long time.

I want to learn and experience as much as I can and I want to see as much as I can. I don't want to stay in one place. I will definitely leave, but I will always come back. I know so. I want to see the world because it's beautiful – the diversity in countries, in peoples, in climates, in landscapes, in cities, in cultures and in colors. I would like to go to Alaska just for the mountain ranges. I would like to dive in as many places as I can. I would love to take a car and drive through all the different European countries, on all the endless roads. I would love to go to New Orleans, just for its food!" He smiles a big smile. "I love food! I will eat anything at least one time to try it! I like a lot of things – I was raised like that, raised to eat good. When I lived in Curaçao, I had the TV on night and day, only the Food Channel and Food



from l to r. (standing at the back): Freek Sijssling, Sennen Berends and Harry van den Ouwelen, in front (left to right) Horst Lehmann and Douglas - the team of Boat Yard Bonaire

Network. I think eating the food somewhere is how to get to know a big part of the culture.

So, in a way, it's all planned. I have to save up and I know my team at the boat yard will back me up, as long as I stay focused. I see it this way – if you live a chaotic life or you're working three different jobs – then there's no structure. You can't set your mind on anything, you can't make time to think what it is you want to do with your life. That's why I needed to focus on things one by one. The job

comes first, then you can get an apartment and you have to learn to live by yourself, to get to know yourself and to take care of yourself. To know what's your strength and what's your weak point and to admit and accept it – and then you have to take action and start building up your life... it all depends on how you do it – you, yourself." ■

Story & Photos by
 Greta Kooistra





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Coral Spawning 2009

Johannetta Gordin describes this year's coral spawning event:

In the last couple of years we have been diving a couple of nights every September and October hoping to catch a glimpse of coral spawning. It is a returning event for only a few nights two months every year and you have to be lucky to be diving in the right spot at the right time to view the magnificence of coral spawning.

This year we have been rewarded in different ways. In September we did not see as much coral spawning, but it seemed as if a lot was happening underwater anyway. For example: the flamingo tongues were very active and seemed to be mating. Mating and egg-laying with the flamingo tongue usually occurs during the day throughout the year, though some observations indicate that the frequency and timing may change according to the lunar cycle.

Spawning of corals is also influenced by the lunar cycle. Also there were all kinds of shrimp, crabs, hermits, and snails that you don't usually see in the daytime. We spotted a Harlequin blue sea goddess for the first time as well as a kind of flatworm (*Pseudoceros*) that has not often been seen yet. Moreover, my dive buddy, Herman, even discovered a kind of night shrimp that apparently has not been seen on Bonaire yet. In October it seemed like a complete snowstorm underwater: spawning star coral. First you notice some of the coral polyps getting swollen on top and some of



Herman van Leeuwen photo

the bundles showing through the mouth of the coral. This is called the setting phase. Within 5-10 minutes of setting, the colonies release all of their eggs at the same time in a big sheet. This is so extraordinary. That is why we make the effort to dive late in the evening; to see the eggs coming out of the coral and floating in the dark sea.

At the same time that the corals release

the bundles, other activities start on the reef. Worms, sea stars, fish and other organisms appear to eat the eggs. The sea stars, for example, really seem to hoard the eggs (see photo above). Other corals also spawn during these days, but to us the most impressive is the loads and loads of eggs released by the star coral (*Montastraea spp.*). ■

Johannetta Gordin



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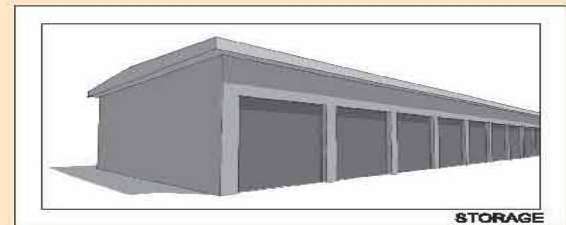
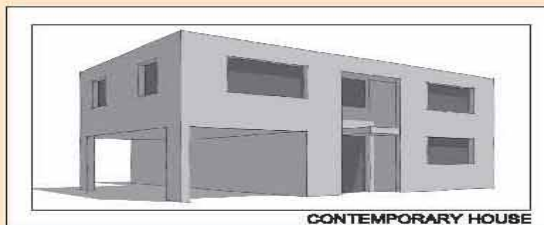
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BONAIREAN VOICES

NUTRITION IN SCHOOLS

Many schools in Bonaire are facing hard times dealing with kids. They come up with different programs to improve the learning skills of our children.

I received mail from a friend in the US which I'd like to share. She, Laraine Abbey-Katzev, lives part-time on Bonaire and is working on a program for helping kids of the High School SGB (*School Gemeenschap Bonaire*) here in Bonaire and hopes that this program can expand to the other schools too.

The mail is about the Anthony Elementary School in Kansas. Hugh Riordan, President of the Center for the Improvement of Human Functioning International, interviewed several teachers in this school and says, "Sometimes your school is not doing well. You spend a great deal of time and money on discipline. Teachers leave or are not wanted. Students are unhappy and are not achieving well or the school is avoided by teachers and parents because they know the students are known as failures. This means it is time for a change."

Principal Janine Kempker of the Anthony Elementary School understood the problems and went for a change. "The school didn't have a nice reputation," she said, "but with the new program, 'Eat, Exercise and Excel,' the kids are doing much better." Child Nutrition Director Cynthia Schrader said they made a few changes in the menu, especially those products with high sugar content. They reduced the amount of sugar and went for much better



Internet photo

breakfasts and encouraged the children to eat it, plus taking their vitamins.

For better socialization they set up this breakfast and lunch program in the class rooms so the children get to know their classmates much better. The teachers know the children better and can teach them better manners and how to behave inside and outside of the classroom. Even the unkempt bathrooms are not a problem anymore. Students are happy and teachers get more prime time to work on other issues. The 'Eat, Exercise, Excel' program was made possible by The Sunflower Foundation Health Care for Kansas.

Of course the success of the program depends on communication between parents, teachers and students. William Cannon Sr., Student and Parents Liaison, said the contact with parents had progressed tremendously, thanks to a new course school leaders took. Physical education teachers and structured activities aides made it fun for the children during recess. They work with each class every day, emphasizing teamwork.

They've solved many problems with their new socializing and nutrition program, including less packaging waste. Behavior is better, food is better, manners are better (like eating with a fork, using a napkin and using the garbage bin). Clay Guthmiller Superintendent of the Leavenworth, Kansas, Schools, said students can focus more on what they are doing and every school should try to find a nutrition program for kids. Vitamins, exercise, fruits and vegetables help the brain capacity. What is best for kids is best for adults. It's time to do what is good for kids and so it can turn out to be good for adults." In my opinion, as Doctor Hugh Riordan, says, "Every school should try this." You can watch this video on <http://video.google.com/videoplay?do>

These amazing results can be achieved for Bonaire kids too. ■ *Story & photos by Siomara Albertus.*

For her next column Siomara will interview teachers on the island for their opinions on this program.

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



DO YOU SUDOKU?

To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. **Answer on page 17.** Supplied by *Molly Bartikoski-Kearney*

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

BonQuiz #17



The cannon in this photo was one of 74 cannons on board the English man-of-war, ship of the line, *Barhem*.

Barhem ran aground during the night of April 28th -29th in the year 1829. This happened off the southwest shore of Bonaire near the Orange Pond. (Orange Pond carries the Dutch royal family color, the other three ponds carry the Dutch flag's colors: red, white and blue.)

To refloat the ship, as the story goes, 37 of the cannons had to be thrown overboard. Until this day only nine have been salvaged. An anchor was found nearby.

The cannon is inscribed and tells us exactly where it was made.

Q) Do you know where?

Answer on page 17

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.



Klein Bonaire Cleanup



On Sunday, October 25, 46 sacks of trash were collected by 50 volunteers on Klein Bonaire. The majority of the trash, mostly plastic and glass, had washed ashore from distant places as well as "Big" Bonaire. There was less trash than in the past perhaps because STINAPA volunteers also police the beaches during the May-December turtle hatching season. Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire and STINAPA thank the volunteers from SELIBON, Woodwind, Freewinds, Jong Bonaire, their own volunteers and others who participated. ■ *Press release*

Windsurfing - 2009 A Trip To an Island Called Gokceada

Gokceada's ancient Greek name, Imbros, means "Windy Island."

I first heard about this island a while ago, also while checking the forecast on a site like "Windfinder." I saw that most of the time the winds were stronger here than in other spots in Turkey. So visiting this island was something I planned to do.

When I finally got there this summer it was pretty quiet, HOT with no wind.

I took time to fix up some musical tunes and lyrics while enjoying nature's beauty. And I got to meet some of the many Bulgarian windsurfers who marked this island as their own perfect local windsurf spot: pure flat waters with off shore winds on the west coast and on shore choppy to sometimes wavy conditions on the east.

The windsurf spots were discovered about five years ago by a Bulgarian windsurfer on a ferry going towards Istanbul, on his way home from Alacati, the windsurfing city of Turkey. An old island resident asked this windsurfer-looking type to visit his island because he believed that the winds were good enough for whatever it is we do with boards and sails. To make a long story short the windsurfer was super stoked and was so happy to have made that stopover.

Not long after its discovery a small center was built. Since then windsurfing in Gokceada started to expand fast as the Bulgarians never have enough winds, nor good spots back home. So travelling for about six hours by car including the ferry has become the ultimate must-do trip for the Bulgarian windsurfers who strive to improve their windsurfing skills. Today I can count three Bulgarian windsurf stations, a few camping sites, some with apartments, and one hotel combined with a new small Turkish windsurf center where I hung out with my friends most of the time.

No chop at all, just a pure feel and sound of your board skating on the micro mini waves. Sometimes the winds shift in the late afternoon and conditions get a bit bumpy with some nice steep chop to practice some air moves.

I enjoyed windsurfing in Gokceada—there are always smiling faces, it's never too crowded on the water and everyone is eager to learn and to improve their skills. I never felt alone either.



There were quite a few people covering themselves with some black mud (above) from the bottom of a dried out lake from

which I suppose it gives them a healthy skin after washing up in the sea. The funny part was that they would always smile or say *Merhaba* (Hello) when they saw me without a T-shirt.

What to do at NIGHT on such a small laid back island?

Hanging out, talking windsurfing and water pipes isn't all. The windsurfers often get organized and do a good beach BBQ or else everyone meets in the small town to have some fresh homemade dishes followed by some traditional "cay" and of course some homemade ice cream. The town is so small that you can't miss the cars packed with windsurf stickers or the Bulgarian number plates. The real good restaurants are all on one street, which is the main street, so you know who is leaving and who just arrived.

The meeting spot afterwards is the Crazy Island Center where you have to take your shoes off before you enter the spot with carpets, pillows, drinks and music. Twice a week or so you could lay back and enjoy some of the windsurfing DVDs from Tina's collection.

Alacati

After the mellow island lifestyle I cruised back to Alacati to perform a few freestyle sessions during the Pegasus Airlines PWA Slalom World Cup. It was good to hook up with the organizers who did a good job making this event happen. I've known them for three years and every event they do is bigger and better. They actually got a bit angry that I wouldn't be around for the whole week, but that's how it is: I can't be in two places at the same time.

The female Windsurfing Freestyle World Champion was in Turkey for the first time. That could be no one else but Saraquita Offringa from Aruba who joined me on one of my windy freestyle sessions while the crowds applauded every time we nailed a trick close to the beach. It was also cool to see Monique Meijer again representing Bonaire in the woman's fleet, doing her very best to reach the top 10, but happy with a well deserved 13th position. A big surprise for me was to hook up with Beth Winkler whom I met in Bonaire a long, long time ago when I was trying to master windsurfing. She is definitely a legend from back in the days, known for her Olympic sailing skills and the many regattas and med-



Monique Meijer with Beth Winkler



Ruben in Action

als she has won over the past years. To see and have met her here in Turkey was super cool, and to see her still going full power rounding the marks against the top athletes was super interesting.

That same week I recorded a new sound track and left for Sweden to attend another windsurf event.

There's more to come in the next edition of *The Reporter*. Thanks for reading. Go explore. ■ Ruben 'BNG' Petrisie, NB50



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Flotsam & Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

Despite assurances to the contrary, some undocumented workers are not even showing up because they fear it will mark them for deportation should they not meet the criteria.

Last week Bonaire's government team was training on how to handle the applicants. The head of Civil Affairs (*Bevolking*), George Mensche, figures there are between 100 and 500 illegals who can apply. Because of the tracking system already in place *Bevolking* has identified a number of people without the necessary documents.

► **Kunuku houses in the new BES tax scheme will remain exempt from property tax.** "The property tax exemptions are extended, allowing farmland, natural parks, government buildings and 'dormant property' (eg. kunuku houses) exempt from property tax," said an official letter.

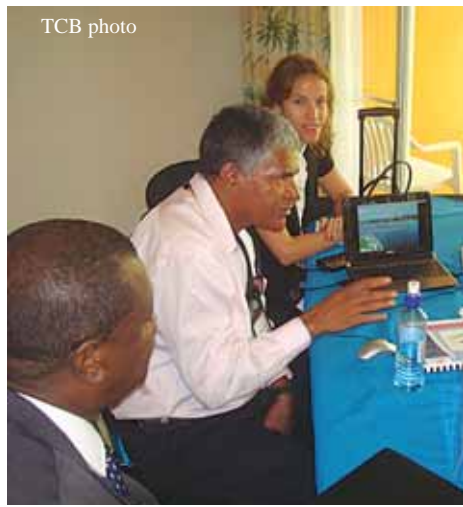
The import tax on cars was adjusted in the bill too. The General Use Tax on imported cars that are very fuel efficient is zero. For all other cars, 25%, not 40% as previously planned. The sales tax will rise 1%, from 5% to 6%.

► **The Court in Willemstad recently dealt with a local case that may turn out to be significant for other islands of the Netherlands Antilles** as well. It concerns a legal dispute about a (large) property that was initially owned by one person years ago, but now, generations later, is owned by many families (*Papiamentu: tera di familia*).

Sale or division of such a property has always presented a big problem on many or all of the islands within the Netherlands Antilles because it is usually very difficult to trace all those parties who each own (often only a small) part of the property and to ascertain the rights of each of these parties.

On April 2007, a statute came into effect that allows a solution to this long-standing issue. According to a press release issued by Court spokeswoman E.A. Saleh, the new regulation offers the possibility for the Civil Judge to assign ownership of the entire property or parts to those who are currently using it.

► **As of this season, which started November 1, cruise companies will pay a head tax of US \$2 per passenger when calling on Bonaire.** The proceeds are paid through the ship's agent to the port author-



TCB photo

The Bonaire team at FCCA

ity and given to the Bonaire Tourism Corporation (TCB) for further development of the cruise industry and facilities. Bonaire is one of the least expensive cruiseship destinations. Head taxes average about \$15 per person in the Caribbean and up to \$50 for Alaska.

Commissioner of Tourism Pancratio "Pancho" Cicilia, TCB Director Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes and Harbor Master Rob Sint Jago went to St. Lucia to attend the annual Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) conference, to continue to maintain good relations with the cruise lines that visit the island and received positive responses. TCB is expecting **148 ships with more than 230,000 tourists this season.**

► **Education on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba will receive a major boost from the Netherlands.** Minister Plasterk has over Naf 2 million (853,500 euros) available for additional teaching materials and training of counselors and care coordinators in the internal fund secondary education and office.

► **The revitalized Council of Underwater Resort Operators (CURO) has elected a new board.** CURO is the Bonairean Dive operator association, officially recognized by the government. It was founded by Captain Don over 30 years ago.

Serving on the board are: President, **Bart Snelder**, representing Wannadive Bonaire; Vice President, **Bruce Bowker** representing Carib Inn; Treasurer, **Menno de Bree** representing Deep Blue View; Secretary, **Edwin Wuyts** representing EW Boat charters; Board members are: **Augusto Montbrun**, representing Buddy Dive Resort, **Gerry Fokke** representing Dive Friends Bonaire, **Serge de Groote** representing Divi Dive Bonaire and **Karen Chalk** representing Captain Dons' Habitat



Extra photo

► **A new political party, the *Akuerdo pa Kambio* –APK (Accord for Change)– will present a list of candidates for the January 22, 2010, Antillean Central Government parliamentary election.** Independent Anthony Nicolaas will lead the list. Other candidates will be from the *Pro Desaroyo di Boneiru* –PRO, Pro Bonaire Development; *Partido Boneriano Sosial* –PABOSO Socialist; *Partido Lucha pa Hustisia* –PLH, Struggle for Justice parties and the *Movimentu Awor Té Ora* –ATO, Now Is The Time Movement. Party principals are in the photo above.

CURO will strive to enhance cooperation and support within its membership, enhance cooperation with the government and other NGOs, improve the quality of Bonairean diving in the broadest sense of the word, and support efforts to protect the environment. For any questions and remarks, contact curo.bonaire@hotmail.com

► **Two accomplished classical musicians are performing this Friday night at the Plaza Resort.** The concert features Violinist Jeroen van der Wel who finalized his studies at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague, in 2008 with special distinction (*summa cum laude*). He's won many prizes and performed at several distinguished venues. Pianist Bas van Bommel is his accom-

panist. He has also won multiple prizes. See page 18 for details.

► **California Healing Touch Instructor Susan Reed will be presenting two classes at the Bonaire Basics Center on Kaya Korona in December.** Learn skills to support good health and heal yourself and others. See notice on page 6. Registration open now.

► **Welcome Bistro di Paris** to our family of advertisers. Visit them for authentic French cuisine in a friendly informal Bonaire atmosphere extremely reasonable prices. Open for lunch and dinner, See their ad on page 10. ■ *G.L. D.*

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The People Behind the Pink Tanks: Or What Is CIEE?

What exactly is CIEE? This question is brought up often, and despite having been based on Bonaire for three years, it seems there is still an air of intrigue about who these young people are driving around in a big, white truck, strapping on bright pink tanks and setting up underwater experiments on the near-shore reefs.



Student lab at CIEE

CIEE stands for the Council for International Educational Exchange. It is a US-based organization with study abroad programs for undergraduate students around the world. Here on Bonaire, under the directorship of Dr. Rita Peachey, the CIEE program has been designed for students who have an interest in marine ecology and conservation. Advanced college students from across the US come to Bonaire to learn about the ecology, monitoring, protection and restoration of coral reef habitats. In addition to taking four college classes where they spend time with a professor in lecture and lab, the students also design and conduct their own independent research during the semester of study. At the end of their time here students collaborate on a scientific journal, *Physis*, in which they report the findings of their work. **Their research is also shared with interested community members during a presentation, which will be held on Tuesday November 24th.**

Currently, CIEE employs three full-time faculty members who are well known and respected within the community. As mentioned previously, **Dr. Rita Peachey** is Director as well as professor of Culture and Environmental History of Bonaire and co-instructor of the Independent Research class. On some days she can be found in the CIEE offices from dawn until dusk. She has an ever-present smile despite even the most stressful of days and can be counted on to consider and pursue multiple projects focused on the environment, if she can find a way to make them feasible and scientifically sound.

Ms. Caren Eckrich has been a resident of Bonaire for 10 years, working previously in her own company, Sea & Discover. She is the Dive Safety Officer and leads the students through a two-week intensive training course to become Scientific Divers-in-Training according to the standards of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences. Caren teaches courses in Fundamentals of Scientific Diving and Coral Reef Ecology where she prepares the students to accurately identify coral reef organisms as well as how to assess the composition of the coral reef community.

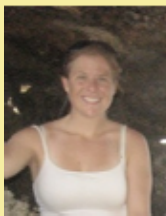
Dr. Amanda Hollebone joined CIEE in 2008 from Georgia where she was teaching at a large public university. She has an energy which seems boundless and can often be seen cycling or running around the island when not busy with CIEE classes and activities. Dr. Hollebone teaches the Marine Conservation Biology course and co-instructs the Independent Research class.

In addition to faculty members who are always approachable and accessible, the CIEE program and its students depend on **Anouschka van de Ven** who keeps things running in every detail from managing monthly accounts and reports to designing the website. Anouschka also participates in research diving and training and the Cultural History class.

For Fall 2009, CIEE has welcomed one of its largest classes, 10 students, as well as three interns. While this group has just passed its mid-way point in the semester, we hope that you will stay tuned to the upcoming presentations, public lectures and other programs that we will be putting on. ■

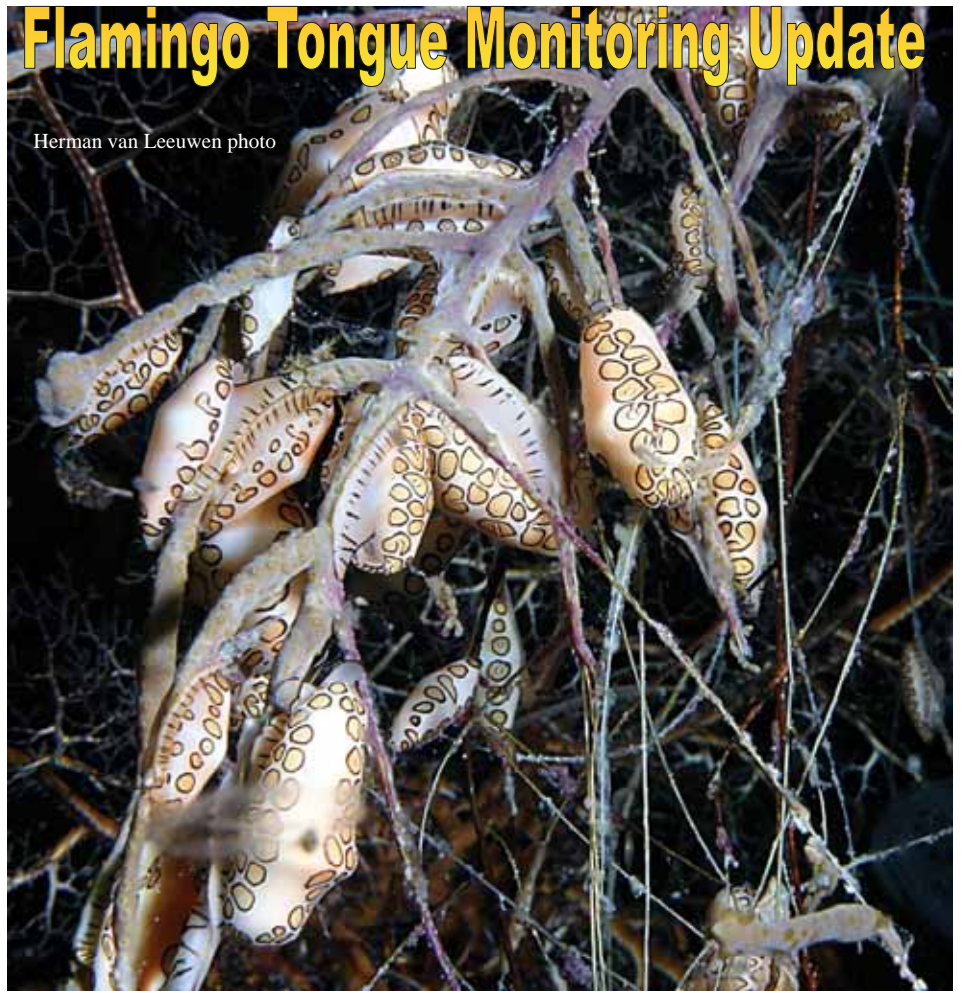
Lauren Saulino, Fall 2009 CIEE intern

Lauren Saulino, is an intern at CIEE and the recent recipient of a Master in Environmental Sciences with a concentration in Environmental Management from Miami University (Ohio).



Flamingo Tongue Monitoring Update

Herman van Leeuwen photo

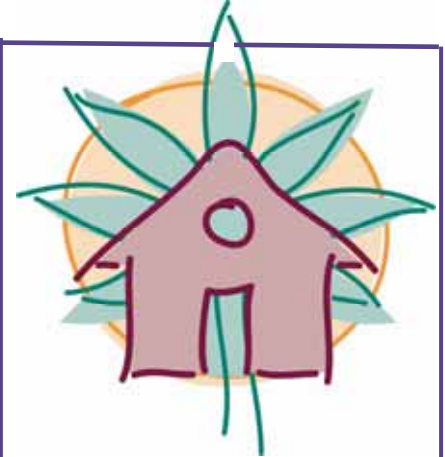


Thanks to everyone who has shown interest in helping monitor the outbreak of flamingo tongues (see above) on Bonaire. Several individuals and dive operators have shown interest in collecting data and submitting it to the Marine Park and CIEE. We ask that those who have received the waterproof datasheets continue to collect for the next several weeks and to return your data to CIEE (info@cieebonaire.org) by November 20th.

For those who have not yet picked up a datasheet, waterproof copies are still available at the CIEE offices on Kaya Gob. Debot, #21. After the data has been collected, it will be analyzed and results will be shared with the community. Current information on the sites that have been sampled is posted at www.cieebonaire.org. Monitoring studies will continue to go on throughout the year with the next distribution of datasheets taking place sometime in late December. Any questions, comments, or concerns are welcome and can be directed to either Marine Park Manager Ramon de Leon (marinepark@stinapa.org) or Dr. Rita Peachey (info@cieebonaire.org). ■

Lauren Saulino, Fall 2009 intern for CIEE

NAME:		DIVE SITE:				
DATE:		DEPTH (FT) 30' - 3'				
START TIME:		END TIME:				
		# of snails				
Type of soft coral	0	1-5	6-35	36-50	50+ VERY HIGH	
sea finger	NO	LOW	MED	HIGH		
sea rod	FLAMINGO TONGUE DATA SHEET					
sea fan						
sea plate						



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Monitoring Trends and Managing for the Future of Bonaire's Coral Reefs

Dr. Robert Steneck, a professor at the University of Maine's Darling Marine Center, has been studying coral reef ecosystems for more than three decades and has been visiting Bonaire since 1999. In 2005, STINAPA requested that Dr. Steneck and his colleagues provide advice on how best to monitor the coral reefs. STINAPA was interested in learning which trends should be monitored over time that would give the best indication of the health and resilience of our reefs. We have heard that Bonaire has the best remaining coral reef in the Caribbean. But what makes a coral reef "good" or, dare I say, "healthy?"



University of Maine photo

During a guest lecture at CIEE (Council for International Educational Exchange) on October 26th Dr. Steneck explained that coral reefs which are resilient are able to resist change and are able to recover from the changes that do occur. As we learned in previous articles (see "Death by 1000 Cuts" in *The Bonaire Reporter* issue October 16-30), there are many factors which are stressing our coral reefs. While any one of these may not cause a coral reef to drastically change, the cumulative effect of such things as overfishing, nutrient inputs and coastal development can cause the ecosystem to "flip" or to change in the diversity and abundances of species present. An example of an ecosystem "flip" which has been witnessed across the world is the conversion of healthy coral reef communities to ones dominated by algae.

To manage for healthy, resilient reefs requires the identification of key drivers and then protecting the positive drivers while minimizing the negative ones. Dr. Steneck and his colleagues characterize as "strong drivers" those things which have strong population effects, such as coralline algae. The presence of coralline algae aids in the recruitment of hard coral polyps; more hard coral "babies" means the reef has a better chance of being resilient. "Bad" drivers include macroalgae which cover and compete with small coral polyps for space and light. When there are not enough herbivores (eg: parrotfish, urchins) macroalgae cover increases and we begin to see a shift to a seaweed reef. There is no coral reef in the world which, when covered by seaweed, has been considered healthy.

Dr. Steneck, his students, and colleagues have reported that in over a decade of monitoring, the coral reefs of Bonaire have been "resilient" in terms of the number and amount of live coral present. However, other key factors are showing **negative** trends:

- There is a significant increase in seaweed (macroalgae)
- There is a significant decline in coralline algae
- There is a decline in parrotfish (and other grazers) and in bite rates of these grazers
- There is a decline in urchins and populations are still at a sub-functional level (not enough grazing to control algae growth)
- There is a decline in predators known to feed on damselfish, and thus:
- There is an increase in damselfish

In order to reverse the trends currently being observed, Dr. Steneck has developed the following key points for advising managers on how to monitor and protect our coral reefs:

- Keep it simple
- Focus on key drivers
- Continue monitoring for changes over time

Things we in the general community might do to help: Limit nutrient runoff which encourages algal growth, by taking shorter showers, washing cars on grassy areas, reducing the amount of hard surfaces, and maintaining septic tanks so that they don't leak into the ocean. We can protect parrotfish and other important species by expanding fish protected areas, limiting recreational fishing and buying fish from grocers and restaurants that are considered sustainable* ■ *Lauren Saulino*

*for additional information see this story in *The Reporter* On-line edition.

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Southern Washington Slagbaai Park Gate Open



The southern gate of the Washington Slagbaai National Park will be open to the public on the first Sunday of every month beginning in November. Slagbaai's beach is the longest sand beach after Klein Bonaire's and Boka Chikitu's.

In response to requests from the public and the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the park STINAPA decided to open the southern gate once a month. This year the entrance will be free. Beginning in 2010 the public can buy a yearly Park pass for NAf17,50 which can be purchased at the main entrance to the park, at the STINAPA office or at dive shops.

For security's sake the attendant at the southern gate cannot accept cash. If people haven't bought a yearly pass they can buy a ticket for NAf 5 for each trip at the main Park entrance. To make it easy for the public STINAPA will keep a list of the names of all those persons who have bought a yearly pass which is not transferable. STINAPA has the right to ask for id, preferably a cedula, otherwise the person will not be allowed in the Park.

STINAPA invites the public to enjoy Slagbaai's beach and nature. In the buildings there is a bar and good food. Park hours remain the same: you may not enter the Park after 2:45 pm and you must leave Slagbaai by 4 pm. ■ *Press release*

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Letters to the Editor



Sunset Beach – Set it aside for all Bonaireans ?

WANTED: A BEACH FOR BONAIREANS

Dear Editor,

Bonaire needs a perfect beach in a perfect location with palm trees and plenty of space for parking so everyone on Bonaire has a place to enjoy the sea. And what better place than the old Sunset Beach Hotel grounds. It is centrally located. Not too far south or too far north. It is a large area where parking would be easy. Bonaireans could be given concession rights to have small snack and rental businesses. Cruise ships passengers could use it when in port. **Considering the current economic crisis and how many years that promises have been made to build, this land should be given back to the Bonairean people. Does Bonaire really need more apartments and hotel rooms?**

AB

BAFFLED BY THE REFERENDUM

Dear Editor,

The upcoming referendum keeps baffling me, as ADB and Awor T'e Ora keep on pursuing it. Allegedly, they want to prevent us Bonaireans from becoming "second rate citizens" of the Netherlands. At the same time, immigrants who haven't reached the landmark of a continuous 5 year and 50 days stay on Bonaire are blatantly being denied the right to vote! Who's a second rate citizen now?

I think ADB and Awor T'e Ora should re-inspect their favorite constitution line, the one they painted as a warning against aforesaid second rate citizenship on the bench at Plaza Reina Wilhelmina: "Allen die zich in Nederland bevinden, worden in gelijke gevallen gelijk behandeld." It translates as, "All who find themselves in the Netherlands, will be treated equally in equal cases." The actual constitution line at hand continues: "Discriminatie wegens godsdienst, levensovertuiging, politieke gezindheid, ras, geslacht of op welke grond dan ook, is niet toegestaan." That translates as: "Discrimination on grounds of religion, philosophy of life, political conviction, race, gender or on any grounds whatsoever, is not allowed."

That second line, very much present on the government bench in The Hague which the one at Plaza Reina Wilhelmina is mimicking, was omitted on the Bonairean version. As it appears, omitting it serves a purpose. Apparently the constitution is of no value on Bonaire, as the intended execution of the referendum is obviously not following its principle. One is only treated equally on Bonaire after five years and fifty days. How striking that the violated constitution line is the very constitution line that ADB and Awor T'e Ora are accusing the Dutch government to be in violation of.

Recently, at a similar referendum on Curacao, the immigrant vote was considered to be the toppling influence in a close call result. Allegedly, it cost Curacao's NO contingent its victory. Now, on Bonaire, the immigrants are being blackballed, taken out of the mix, by being denied their constitutional right to vote. I sincerely, vigorously doubt it would be good for Bonaire that people who take the concept of democracy this lightly should be allowed to be in power on our island... no matter if they are right, or not.

Michiel van Bokhorst

KLEIN BONAIRE DESERVES BETTER

Dear Editor,

In 1996 the Foundation for the Preservation of Klein Bonaire (FPKB) was established because our sister island, the largest uninhabited island of the Caribbean, was threatened with massive development. After four long years of grinding meetings, political pressure, sticker campaigns, poster production, and fund raising, the island was bought on the last day of the millennium with the help of funds from the Dutch government and Bonairean governments, Dutch NGOs and the FPKB. An incredible success story! An entire coral island preserved, "into perpetuity" as was the goal of the FPKB. The FPKB was, with this single event, at once the most successful NGO on Bonaire, completely achieving its goal, and could basically cease its existence.

Can it really? Unfortunately not!

Klein Bonaire is again under threat. Not from real estate developers, but from its own beauty. After Klein Bonaire was bought it was given to the island of Bonaire as a park, who gave the management to STINAPA. For a while it was just floating there, visited by divers, snorkelers and the occasional scientist. Small in numbers. It had a big problem though. It has by far the most beautiful beach of Bonaire. At first it was used only sometimes by humans, peacefully shared by nesting turtles. Over the years, however, the beach became a destination for water taxis, making it easier to reach for more people. More buoys were placed in front of the beach, but one could still call the numbers sustainable. However, since the explosion of cruise tourism a couple of years ago, Klein Bonaire has been completely overrun, once again threatened in its natural existence.

One would expect STINAPA to step in, but this hasn't happened yet. In fact STINAPA placed even more buoys just last week, so more boats could stop at Klein Bonaire's No Name Beach. One would expect STINAPA rangers on the beach, to make sure all those people wouldn't trample the turtle nests, or place enough bins to handle all those people, but no. One would expect STINAPA to charge fees to visiting boats, people, and companies, so as to stem the onslaught, but no. One would expect STINAPA rangers to enforce rules, to make sure visitors abide by the rules, but no. One would expect the government itself, the owner of such priceless beauty, to step in, but no. One would then expect the companies that so greatly benefit from the beauty of the island, to take their responsibility, and take care of the beach, but no....

Not one entity, not STINAPA, not the boat rental companies, not the snorkel boat companies, not the water taxis, not even the government, no one seems to care.

It is not that we want to stop anyone from enjoying Klein Bonaire. On the contrary. In fact most of the legislation written for Klein Bonaire came from FPKB bylaws, which among other things state, that anyone must be free to visit the island if arriving in a traditional way. That is no longer so. Klein Bonaire, victim of its beauty, is threatened to be pristine no more. Thus, shockingly, the FPKB must come out of hibernation, to make sure Klein Bonaire really gets preserved. For perpetuity. And we will!

Foundation Preservation Klein Bonaire

Body Talk

VITAMINS versus MINERALS

Most of us know that vitamins and minerals are very important to the body, and many take a multi-vitamin supplement for months (even years), without really knowing if it is making a difference.

Vitamins and minerals are involved in a variety of functions in the human body, necessary to promote growth and regulate body process. Unfortunately there are many barriers to vitamin and mineral absorption that bombard our bodies on a daily basis, like diet, stress, medications and pollution. If you think that taking a multi-vitamin pill every day is sufficient to keep all those nasties at bay, you're wrong. Why do you repeatedly get a cold, upset stomach, headaches and aches and pains, to name but a few.

The simple fact is that these multi-vitamins are synthetic and usually cannot be assimilated properly.

Have you ever wondered how our parents and their parents survived without these supplements? We have been thoroughly groomed in this modern culture that pill popping is ok. There is a pill for just about every ailment under the sun! And do they work? Hell no! They may keep some problems at bay for a while, but they cannot improve the condition or even 'cure' it! In fact, these same supplements could be harmful to your health. Most multi-vitamin supplements contain far too much Vitamin D for this climate. Most of us on Bonaire get plenty of sun exposure and do not need the standard 1000

I.U. per day, when the recommended dosage is about 400I.U. The intake of this large dosage of Vitamin D (responsible for calcium absorption in the body) over long periods of time could cause other vitamin deficiencies in the body and could lead to headaches and weight loss.

Now don't get me wrong, vitamin and mineral supplements are a very necessary part of modern living, but it is very much like



putting more oil in a car that already has an oil leak. At some stage you will have to find out why it has an oil leak! If you are mostly eating processed foods, have incorrect food combinations like meat with rice or potatoes, a high refined sugar intake (as in soda pops) and you add alcohol to this mix, your acidity level is sky high, preventing the few vitamins and minerals from your diet (if any!) to be absorbed. By taking these synthetic supplements, there is no chance of absorption!

Go back to basics, eat unprocessed foods! Processed foods may make your life a little easier, short-term, but long-term your health will suffer! How much raw fruit and vegetables are in your diet? By improving what you eat and the way you eat you will achieve two things. Firstly you will greatly reduce your acidity level, and secondly because of a more alkaline system, your body will be able to absorb all the nutrients in your corrected diet, cutting down the need for most of those supplements. Over-acidity is the start of disease, and no amount of supplements will help you! Nothing can improve your well-being better than a well-balanced diet, topped up with a few well chosen supplements. ■

Stephanie Bennett

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



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1/2 Container to USA. Need to send something to the USA? I have half a container going to the U.S. in Dec. \$1,300. Call 795-1277

Free Packing boxes, from the 13th to 20th of December contact me at info@soundfound.com for details.

Two Large Airline Approved **Dog Kennels** Needed – Please call 528- 1304.

Porch sale at Hato, Kaya Utrecht 25. Saturday 8 and 15 November- electricity connections/light, dive stuff also tanks \$125,-, kitchen stuff, stove, sliding doors, curtains, books, clothes, marine wood 2.44x1.22, isolation plates, life vest, small gifts, paintings, hard ware Call 717- 2529

WANTED Used sewing machine in good condition with all working parts. Call 528-1304.

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Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... Canada

Sandra Bowman and Don McKee sent us this photo taken last Feb 21st in Penticton, British Columbia, Canada at Apex Mountain where they were back country skiing. Please note that they EACH have a different edition of the newspaper. They were in Bonaire from Jan 25, 2009 until Feb 14, 2009. Had a wonderful time. ■



WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES. Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: info@bonairereporter.com.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

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

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
11-13	2:34	1.1FT.	2:35	1.1FT.	10:21	1.8FT.	18:12	1.0FT.	67
11-14	1:22	1.1FT.	10:54	1.9FT.	19:32	0.9FT.			76
11-15	11:33	2.0FT.	20:40	0.8FT.					83
11-16	12:07	2.0FT.	21:57	0.8FT.					87
11-17	12:46	2.0FT.	22:51	0.7FT.					89
11-18	13:30	2.0FT.	23:35	0.7FT.					87
11-19	0:13	0.7FT.	14:07	2.0FT.					82
11-20	0:55	0.7FT.	14:51	1.9FT.					75
11-21	1:25	0.7FT.	15:33	1.8FT.					67
11-22	1:47	0.8FT.	16:11	1.7FT.					58
11-23	2:03	0.9FT.	17:01	1.6FT.					48
11-24	2:10	0.9FT.	10:57	1.5FT.	14:59	1.4FT.	17:40	1.5FT.	40
11-25	2:02	1.0FT.	9:52	1.6FT.	16:19	1.4FT.	18:26	1.4FT.	34
11-26	1:43	1.0FT.	9:42	1.7FT.	17:35	1.3FT.	19:29	1.3FT.	33
11-27	1:25	1.0FT.	9:50	1.8FT.	18:21	1.1FT.	20:18	1.2FT.	38



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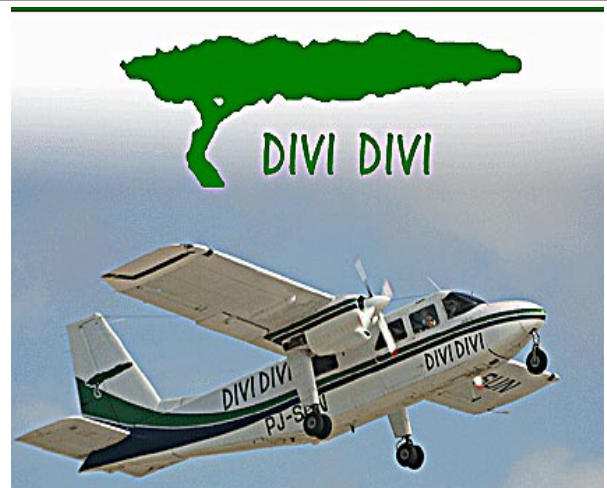
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cruise Ship Calls - Information provided by the TCB

Date	Day	Ship name	Time	PAX
November 12,	Thursday	Caribbean Princess	1100-1900	3100
November 14,	Saturday	MSC POESIA	0700-1400	2568
November 16	Monday	AidaAura	0800-1600	1260
November 16,	Monday	Oceana	0800-1800	1950
November 17	Tuesday	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422
November 17,	Tuesday	Sea Princess	1200-1900	2016
November 20,	Friday	Ruby Princess	0700-1400	3100
November 24	Tuesday	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422
November 26	Thursday	Caribbean Princess	1100-1900	3100

Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days—usually 10am until to early afternoon.

HAPPENINGS

Now through November 20- DROB invites comments on the Nature Policy Plan at Kaya Amsterdam 23. Submit written comments in a letter to DROB or e-mail to inspraaknatuur-beleid@bonaigov.com

Friday, November 13- Classical Violin and Piano concert — 7:30 pm at the Plaza Resort (see ad on page 18)

Saturday, November 14—Market Study & Action - (Study & Jobs), Jong Bonaire, 3-8 pm. (page 8)

Saturday, November 14—Public Meeting at Parke Publico Bonairiano, Dare to Care Foundation, 7-8:30 pm.

Saturday, Nov. 14—Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse on Kaya Industria, 7-9 pm. Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 (NAf17,50) per person. Tel. 560-7539. →

Sunday, November 22 -International Day of Diabetes. At the Mariadal Foundation (San Francisco Hospital blue patio) from 10 am—2pm.

Sunday, Nov. 22—CIEE Activities for kids—arts & crafts, piñata, and a play. Kids 5-12 invited. First 30 to sign up can come—717-4146 (page 8)

Tuesday, Nov. 24—CIEE presentation of Students' Research on Bonaire. Free (See page 10)

Friday, November 27 – Bonaire Animal Shelter Bi-Annual Fundraiser: Indonesian Dinner and Art Auction.

Dinner 6 pm, Art Auction 8 pm. Dinner is NAf 55 per person. Auction is free. Plaza Hotel. Tickets at: Asecom NV (717- 3207), Jacobs Architekten NV (787 -0466), Jan Kerklaan (786-3454), Animal Shelter Bonaire (717-4989). Or by email: paulwichers@flamingotv.net

Saturday, November 28 – Sanikolas (Sint Nicholaas) and Swarte Pieten (Black Petes) arrive at Town Pier at 9:30 am. The 15th year organized by Fundashon Ata Sanikolas i Swartepiet and SEBIKI. Fun and games in Wilhelmina Park.

REGULAR EVENTS

- By appointment – **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

- **Parke Publico** children's playground open every day into the cooler evening hours.

Saturdays

- **Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. **Big Marché first Saturday of the month**—www.infobonaire.com/rincon.

- **Flea Market at Parke Publico every first Saturday of the month, 3 to 7 pm.** Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf10 per selling table.(NAf 5 goes to up-keep the park). NGOs can have a free table. More information and reservations for a spot call **Vicky Bissessar - 786-1592.**

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

- **Soldachi Tours**—See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria 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](http://www.bestislandtour.com)

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 Condos.

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 Renata at 796-5591 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 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

Rotary lunch meetings 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
Tel:790-6518, 786-6125
or 790-8988

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Pet of the Week

“Ezra” is one of the most elegant cats at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. He’s a proud and handsome tabby who’s about eight months old. One of the cat “professionals” at the Shelter, Jane Madden, writes about Ezra:

“So glad you are featuring Ezra. He’s been with us since a little guy and has ‘almost’ been adopted so many times. He is an extremely lovable and affectionate cat. About seven or eight months old and will be a nice big guy! The minute you sit down in the cat compound he is right there and jumps in your lap. He’s pretty good sized already and I think a lot of folks who were thinking of adopting him got a little freaked out by this big cat jumping in their lap wanting to be treated like a kitten. He can’t get enough attention or petting. He definitely needs to go to a home that wants an affectionate and loving cat. He is also a very good hunter so would be a good mouser. Here’s the little blurb on him we did for the ‘personals’:



“Ezra”

EZRA: YSM (young sterilized male) looking for love and attention. While having a mouse-free home, you will also be the proud companion of one extremely handsome, gray and silver stud muffin. My little secret is that although I may look like a big macho guy I love cuddling, kissing and baby talk! He’s really a terrific cat, and one of our favorites not only in looks but in personality. Not aloof or standoffish at all, a real companion cat.”

You may meet Ezra for yourself at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and from 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Website: WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com

Reminder: The Shelter’s bi-annual fundraiser, the Indonesian Dinner and Art Auction, is on Friday, November 27, at Plaza Hotel. Dinner at 6 pm; auction is at 8 pm. The dinner is NAf 55 per person. The art auction is free. Tickets at: Asecom NV (717- 3207), Jacobs Architekten NV (787-0466), Jan Kerklaan (786-3454), Animal Shelter Bonaire (717-4989). Or by email: paulwichers@flamingotv.net Everyone invited. All proceeds go to the Bonny Superdog sterilization program. Thanks to all the sponsors and contributing artists that make this event a success. ■ Laura DeSalvo

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...

The reason the green sea turtle, *Chelonia mydas*, is green is because of the layer of fat that is under their hard shell? This fat is green from the algae and sea grass they eat.

Over 275 different species of seaweed have been found in their stomachs! Adult green turtles eat mostly plants, but the young turtles will eat anything from fish to jellies to some types of algae. It is thought that their green fat layer keeps the turtle warm long after it stops basking in the sun by absorbing the warmth from the sun’s rays. Historically, turtle fat has been used for medicinal purposes to cure some skin disorders and even burns. Adult green turtles are often referred to as the cows of the sea because they are the only sea turtle whose diet is plant based. The average adult green eats about 218 grams dry weight of algae and sea grass per day. Now that’s a funny looking cow! ■ Noelle Hawthorne



Photos by Noelle Hawthorne

Green Turtle



Noelle Hawthorne (photo at right) is a Biology major at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA. She came to CIEE Bonaire to be able to learn and study some of

the best reefs in the Caribbean and to gain lots of SCUBA diving experience.



Compass Sets Sail

After many weeks of hard work Marianne Verkerk and Wim Mulder are able to announce the completion of the metamorphosis of the charter yacht *Suave*.

They renamed their beautiful charter yacht, a Peterson 44, *Compass*, and launched her on Friday, October 30, at Boatyard Bonaire with champagne and culinary surprises made by chef /captain Wim.

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

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HEALTH

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

Natural Way Health Store—The place where all the hard to find natural and healthy products are. Upstairs from Botika Bonaire, on Kaya Grandi.

HOME CARE

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

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Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

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Guest Editorial: Kingdom Island, A New Option for Bonaire?



to answer directly, without the necessity of translation, all questions from the callers. To organize information meetings in the Sporthall has proven to be ineffective. Only a few local European Dutch showed up plus a handful of Bonaireans.

The Dutch *Tweede Kamer* (Legislature) has already approved a number of new laws for the BES islands and the on-island officials of Dutch ministries (I hate the misleading military term *kwartiermakers*) have been working hard on the transition to the new status for almost a year. On November 2, at the request of the leader of the ADB Party, Jopie Abraham, Judge Bob Wit, now a Justice on the Caribbean Court of Justice and a former respected chief judge of the Antilles, sent Senator Abraham an opinion that was received with enthusiasm by the opponents of the planned "openbaar lichaam" (public entity municipality) status for Bonaire.



Justice of The Caribbean Court Bob Wit

In his 11 page-letter, Judge Wit states that, contrary to what the Dutch government asserts, the people of Bonaire cannot now be put in a position to choose between the integration and independence, as proponents of the concept of "free association" have put forward. According to him, the people have the right to choose a status between these two alternatives.

A Possible Choice

It could be the status of a *Koninkrijkseiland* (Kingdom Island), a status similar to what the British Overseas Territory of Anguilla has, a concept that has proven to work. Anguilla is an island in the Caribbean, with approximately the same population as Bonaire, but with a much smaller land area.

In this connection, Judge Wit observed that back in 1993, during the *Toekomstconferentie* (Conference about the Future), the Netherlands proposed to grant Bonaire the status of a *Koninkrijkseiland* and subsequently, in the second half of that year, in a bilateral consultation, the Dutch presented a draft of the Constitution of this new entity. According to this draft, Bonaire would have its own "governor" (as a Representative of the Kingdom perhaps), government and parliament and particularly its own legislation, partly autonomous, partly in cooperation with the Netherlands and in some fields completely in the hands of the Netherlands (particularly the justice). The status of the *Koninkrijkseiland* would make it easier for the Netherlands to deal with Bonaire legislation which could simply adopt the current Netherlands Antilles laws only with small adaptations.

Where the Problem Originated

What the opponents to the new status are now not mentioning is that in his letter Bob Wit blames the members of the Island Council who just recently presented the motion about the Referendum. Ironically it is the same Island Council that in 2006 had approved the *Slotverklaring* (Final Accord) which clearly stated that the direct link with the Netherlands could be realized in the form of an *openbaar lichaam*, which means the integration of Bonaire into the Netherlands. Wit writes, "The problem is that the accord, according to the valid rules of the international right, could not be made by the administrators of Bonaire, neither could it

be approved by the representatives of Bonaire **without a previous, explicit authorization by the people.**" In other words, the referendum about the *openbaar lichaam* form of government should have been organized in 2006 and not in 2010. Wit states in this connection that this error is extremely lamentable, taking into consideration the great volume of work already accomplished and still underway.

Impact On the Planned Bonaire Referendum

In his letter, Bob Wit pays special attention to the recent report of the referendum advice committee submitted to the Island Council. He does not agree with the recommendations of the committee with regard to the questions to be asked in the referendum and to the criteria for the participation in the referendum. According to him, the following questions should be asked:

a. Do you want Bonaire to become a part of the Netherlands or do you want Bonaire to preserve its own autonomy as much as possible, and for the rest be in a close cooperation with the Netherlands?

Answer: 1. part of the Netherlands, or
2. autonomy

In case you want Bonaire to become a part of the Netherlands, do you agree with the way it has been defined up until now?

Answer: (1) yes, (2) no.

As far as the recommended participation criteria are concerned, it is, according to Wit, absurd that the current Lt. Governor, born on Bonaire, as well as the Bonaireans who returned to the island recently, would be excluded from the participation in the referendum.

According to Wit, it is extremely important that unbiased information about both options be given. This is not simple, taken into consideration that the work on the integration option could not have been completed, while the alternative exists only in a rudimentary form. And the Referendum is set for January, 2010.

Local Reaction

Some of the local media, particularly the radio stations, now feeling significantly bolstered by Judge Wit's advice, are maximizing their current efforts to convince the population that the integration with the Netherlands would mean a humiliation for the people of Bonaire. Listening, for example, to the radio station *Voz di Boneiru*, I have been frequently shocked by the sometimes very emotional messages of callers, making pronouncements like "*makambanan ta peligroso*" (Dutch are dangerous) or "*Hulanda ta matando nos*" (Holland is kill-

ing us). I really did not know before that there were Bonaireans with feelings of a deep hatred of the Dutch.

Blaming Themselves

Unfortunately, the Dutch have only themselves to blame. Until now they've only made limited efforts to make integration with the Netherlands more attractive and understandable. That's despite the fact that the Dutch ministry officials (I avoid the hated term *kwartiermakers*, used for them) have been working on a smooth transition to the new status. If the Dutch want their accomplishments, that they've spent almost a year working on, not to be in vain they must take a strong action now. It certainly made no sense to appoint as their P.R. person somebody from Holland, well skilled in P.R. activities, but absolutely lacking in knowledge of Bonaire and unable to communicate with local people directly in the Papiamentu language.

Because the overwhelming majority of the population gets the most information from the radio, a maximum effort must be made with the radio stations to reach the people to explain the advantages of the integration option, particularly the substantial improvements of living conditions, and being able

Back In Holland

What is the point of view about the current political development on Bonaire in Holland? Not only the members of the Dutch *Tweede Kamer* (Legislature) but also ordinary Dutch, who have nothing to do with speculation with high condos which disfigure the coastline of Kralendijk, in their majority wonder how is it possible that the same, freely elected representatives of Bonaire, who unanimously approved the status of integration in 2006, are suddenly fiercely against it. Especially since there's been three years of intensive work by many Dutch officials in the Netherlands and on Bonaire to ensure a smooth transition to the new status. In the eyes of the Dutch people, unfortunately, the Bonairean politicians are confirming the opinion of the extreme right PVV party that Antilleans are untrustworthy and that the Netherlands must get rid of the islands as soon as possible.



Jiri Lausman



BonQuiz Answer

Question (from page 7):
Q) Do you know where this cannon was made?
A) Falkirk, Scotland!

Sudoku Solution

327	649	851
485	172	369
961	835	472
753	964	128
192	387	546
648	251	937
816	523	794
234	798	615
579	416	283

Puzzle on page 7

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BONAIRE ON WHEELS

Sally, the New Love of Mister Poyck

The 57th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

Bonaire/Lagoen Hill – So suddenly, one day, she was standing on the left hand side of the road. Thin, sleek, her hips barely covered. Black heels with a white stripe. She was born in the US in 1996 and she came all the way from Georgia to arrive on Bonaire in 2009, October the sixth: Bert Poyck's new love, nicknamed Sally. Her shiny hubs winked at me so I stopped the Jeep Wrangler and lifted a tip of the veil. There she was: a turquoise metallic colored Ford Mustang Coupé, with a nice new license plate, registered: 5660-B.

So I rang the bell and a man came out of the house. His name appeared to be Bert Poyck and yes he would like to inform me about his new love, parked in front of his house.

Bert has lived on Bonaire since August 1999. He has his Bonairian passport and his cedula and he is a real member of the community of the island. Those days, back in the 20th century, he lived and worked in the Netherlands. It was in the old world that he drove all kinds of sports cars made by Alfa Romeo in Italy. He raced specially prepared Alfas and he drove numerous rallies. Then, one day, he decided to go to live on Bonaire. He is a happy islander now. But he had to leave his Alfa Romeos in Europe. His friends were sure Bert would not survive life on Bonaire without his beloved Alfas, but Bert did.

Time went by and Bert started thinking about buying a classic and sporty car again. His fantasies and remembrances went back in time to the year 1965. In Amsterdam in the Netherlands the brand new Ford Mustang was introduced during a car exhibition and Bert remembers that day in 1965 as if it were yesterday: that red convertible Ford Mustang, exposed on a turning platform. The shape of this marvelous car was etched in his mind forever!

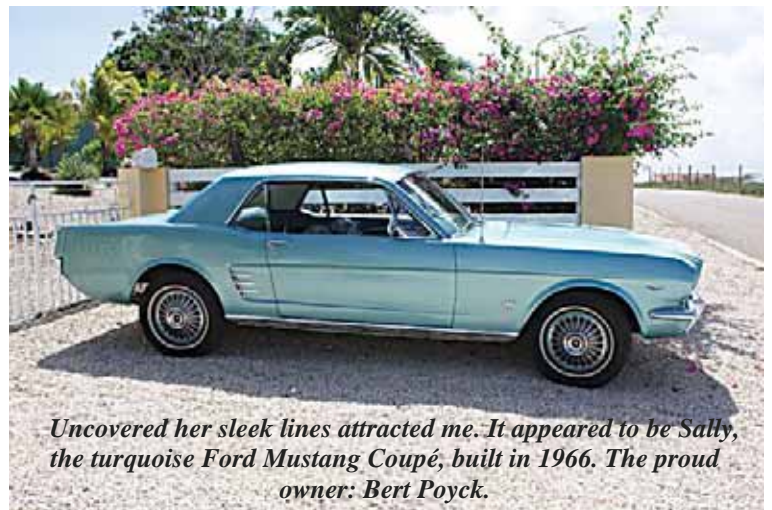
So some 40 years later he thought the time was right to start searching for a nice example of the first series of the Ford Mustang. He went on the internet, chasing Mustangs and finally he ended up in Georgia US. A lot of email contacts were the result. There appeared to be a nice specimen of the Mustang, owned

by a private person, not a car dealer or a dubious enterprise. The car was in good condition, restored to a very acceptable level, safe and completely road worthy. So Bert decided to buy the car. This was the first time in his life that he bought a car by the internet without even seeing the classic vehicle. They had the idea of driving the car to Miami, Florida. But getting the car insured for a very short period appeared to be an invincible problem so they had the car transported to Miami. On October 6, 2009, the Ford Mustang arrived on Bonaire. No harm, no damage, no problems. And now Bonaire has another member in the family of special vehicles.

Bert Poyck is very pleased with his new car. The coupé version of the Ford Mustang is equipped with a reliable straight six engine of 200 cubic inches (3200 cc.). There is an automatic three-speed gearbox mounted behind the block and the car has independent front suspension and a ridged rear axle. There are four traditional drum brakes that try to stop the car when this is needed. No power brakes, just pushing the pedal. There is no power

steering and the side windows have to be rolled up and down by hand. The car is not as sporty as European designed and built cars, but the Mustang appeared to be a reliable survivor and it is nice cruising in the two-door coupé. Bert is thinking of mounting a power brake under the bonnet. He wants his wife to feel comfortable in the car too. She must feel safe in the Mustang and enjoy shopping and strolling with the car.

Way back in the 60s you could buy a kind of sporty American made car like the Ford Falcon, the Mercury Comet, the Chevrolet Corvair and the Chrysler Valiant. The factories tried to make these models a little sportier by mounting all kinds of fast accessories, but the cars were not that fast and they became even heavier. In those days the British made sports cars like the Austin Heals, the MG As and Bs and the Jaguar XKs and E-types were lighter, faster and relatively cheap. In 1961 Ford decided to develop an all-American sporty car with good looks for an affordable price. In 1964, April 17th, they presented the new Ford Mustang. The car was available



Uncovered her sleek lines attracted me. It appeared to be Sally, the turquoise Ford Mustang Coupé, built in 1966. The proud owner: Bert Poyck.

as a coupé, a convertible and a fastback. Immediately the car was a success. The youngsters especially liked the good looking and affordable vehicle. During the introduction weekend some 22,000 new Ford Mustangs were sold. Within four months 100,000 were sold and from the first generation type of Mustang (1964-1966) 1,288,577 examples were sold! Ford started with a six-cylinder in-line engine. Later on the mounted engines became bigger and bigger and V8-power plants were installed under the bonnet. In the 70s the fast and powerful Mach I, the Boss 302 and the Shelby Mustangs were produced. The oil crisis in the 70s stopped the popularity of the muscle cars. The Mustangs were remodeled, redesigned and reshaped. The result was the Ford Mustang II: smaller engines, less power, more wiring and hoses and a lot of emission control.

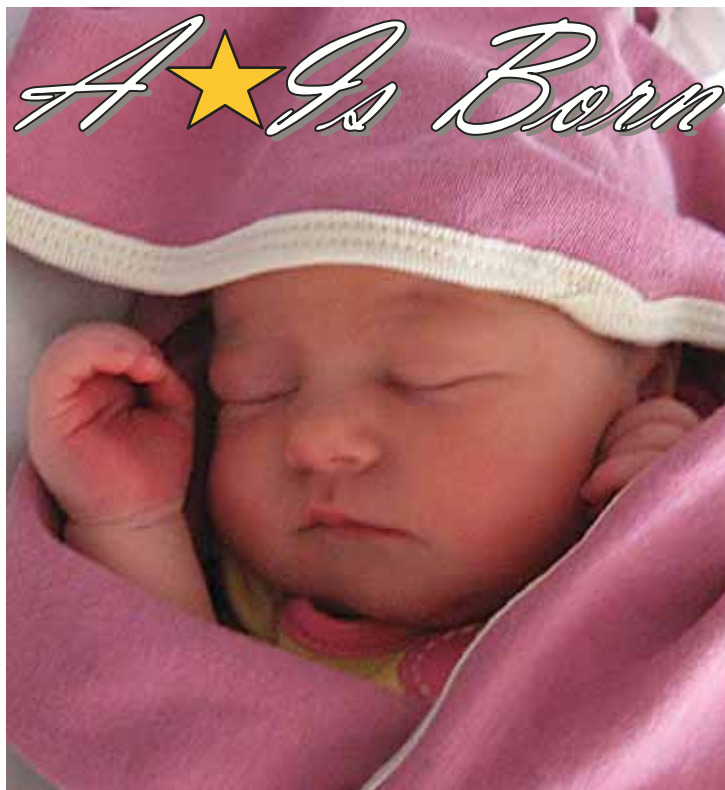
The Ford Mustang is still in production. The 2010 models belong to the so called ninth gen-

eration. On the 17th of April 2009 45 years of production of the Mustang were celebrated in Birmingham, Alabama. Some 3,500 Ford Mustangs showed up and Bert Poyck was also there.

It is a Friday afternoon. We are sitting on the front porch of Bert's house, looking over the island and Klein Bonaire. The Mustang is parked in front of us. We like its turquoise color.

Then fantasies of an annual meeting start to pop up. Once a year a meeting on the parking lot next to the downtown Wilhelmina Park. An informal line up of special and older cars, a small tour and a little sip of liquid. The smell of hot iron, oil and leather. Nice thoughts...September 2010? ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



Congratulations
To Hendrik and Donna Wuyts on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Ava Rose Tallen Wuyts, on Tuesday, November 3, 2009, at 11:39 am in SEHOS, Curaçao. Weight: 7 lbs, 4 oz (3300 grams) Length: 19 ¾ inches (50.2 cm)

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*to find it... just look up

Predictions are for a Really Good Leonid Meteor Shower Next Week!

Every November we are treated to a meteor shower which appears to originate from **Leo the Lion**. So we call this event the **Leonid Meteor Shower**. Last year it was a dud because bright moonlight wiped out all but the very brightest of meteors. But this year there'll be no moonlight to interfere. So if you get far away from lights and it's clear out you should be able to catch quite a few. Plus some experts predict a stronger than usual shower this year.



Now the best time to look this year is between the hours of midnight and dawn next Tuesday morning, November 17th. About 3 am face east where half way up from the horizon you'll see the bright stars which make up Leo the Lion. The front part of Leo is marked by stars which trace out a sickle shape or backwards question mark. And Leo's rear is marked by three stars which form a triangle. Plus this year you'll see a bright light above Leo's head which usually isn't there, planet number four, rouge-gold **Mars**.

Now every November on the night or nights of the Leonid meteor shower, bright streaks of light which we call meteors, flash across the sky and appear to come from Leo's head. But it's only an optical illusion because the meteors are million of times closer than Leo's stars. You see, meteors are nothing more than tiny bits of comet debris that slam into our **Earth's** atmosphere so fast that they heat up and incinerate and cause gasses in our Earth's atmosphere to briefly light up, kind of like the gasses in a neon tube. So the streak of light you're seeing is not actually the meteor itself but the lit up gaseous path along which the speck is traveling. "But where do these specks come from?" you ask.

Well, most meteors are caused by comet litter. You see, every time a comet visits our **Sun** it sheds some of its tail and leaves a trail of debris in its orbit. So after hundreds of years and dozens of passages many comet orbits become filled with tiny specks of comet debris. The comet which causes the Leonids is named **Comet Tempel-Tuttle**. It last paid our Sun a visit back in 1998 and won't be back again until 2031. But every November our Earth plows right through Comet Tempel-Tuttle's littered orbital pathway so that many specks of debris slam into our Earth's atmosphere and leave the trails we call the Leonid meteors. Now most of these specks are very tiny and leave very faint trails, but there are always a few bigger specks and they can leave brilliant trails which will make you gasp with delight.

Because there is no bright moonlight this year you can expect to see **15 to 20 meteors per hour or even more** if you follow the rules for maximum viewing. Simply get as far from lights as possible and watch from about midnight to dawn Tuesday morning. Lay back on a beach mat or a sun chair with your feet pointing east and slowly scan the sky back and forth. And if you do that for at least a couple hours you should see a few bright ones, more perhaps toward dawn. Do not use a telescope or binoculars. This is strictly a naked eye event, which is my favorite kind. See how many you can count in one hour's time. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
For November 2009

ARIES: March 20th - April 20th It's a time for ridding yourself of excess baggage, whether it's physical or emotional (or both). Reaching inside of yourself and pulling out your strength is necessary now. More energy can be poured into professional matters, although partnering matters are certainly demanding your attention and can be distracting.

TAURUS: April 20th - May 21st November is busy with negotiations, adjustments, and socializing, especially after the 8th. Charm comes naturally, and you want nothing more than to find peace with a special someone. An opportunity for a partnership or joint venture is possible in the third week of the month. However, roadblocks are likely from the 16-23.

GEMINI: May 21st - June 21st You'll find that life is busy and perhaps hectic at times, but the work you tackle now will certainly allow you more freedom to enjoy yourself later. Vacation plans move forward in November. Career matters are also strong, and the roadblocks or delays you have been experiencing recently are lifting. You have a strong sense of what needs to be done, and you actually enjoy getting yourself back on track.

CANCER: June 21st - July 22nd You might not have the necessary focus for effectiveness at work until after the 23rd, but your creativity is strong. Romantic feelings run high, although you are likely to feel somewhat entangled emotionally, and this is a trend that you will experience for many months. A friend needs a helping hand in the first few days of the month. Overspending might be an issue, as you are prone to purchase impulsively.

LEO: July 22nd - August 23rd A sense that you can tackle any project or problem that comes your way is with you. Pressures in partnership are easing this month. Even if you haven't been feeling stress in your relationships, there may have been a feeling of stagnation, and November brings a sense of moving forward. The first few days of the month bring career matters to a peak. Much of your focus, however, is on your home and family until the 23rd, after which you are more sociable.

VIRGO: August 23rd - September 22nd There are a lot of errands to run and general "catching up" work to do. While reorganizing your finances is something that you'll be focusing on for some time, November brings less pressure in that area, and more interest in building your skills, learning, and reaching out to others. Family life is supportive and heartwarming. Just take it easy.

LIBRA: September 23rd - October 23rd You are focusing on comfort, financial security, and pleasure for the most part in November, dear Libra. You are becoming increasingly aware of your responsibilities and limitations,

and this is a trend that will last for a couple of years. It's a time of "growing up" and learning to take better care of yourself, your loved ones, and the major structures in your life.

SCORPIO: October 23rd - November 22nd November is a power month for you, dear Scorpio. The spotlight is on you, and you are feeling especially confident, focused, and ambitious. This is not to say that things are being handed to you by any means. In fact, a feeling of being blocked by others or by circumstances is likely with you now. However, this only serves to fuel your determination. Relationship tests in the first days of the month are likely, but a partner has your best interests at heart.

SAGITTARIUS: November 22nd - December 21st While you are confident and assertive, you are also maintaining some distance from others as you get the rest you so deserve this month. Love feels especially private from the 8th, but you are also enjoying a new sense of adventure and even a taste of the exotic in your love life these days. From the 16th, career opportunities arise, and a partner has your best interests at heart.

CAPRICORN: December 21st - January 20th Group activities, friendships, and networking come into focus now. More altruistic goals are occupying your thoughts. Nevertheless, a restructuring of your attitude towards your professional responsibilities is a long-term trend--it's simply not as urgent a matter to you now. Romantic relationships are emotional around the 2nd. After the 8th, however, love matters are considerably lighter and easier. More clarity with finances eases pressure in that area of your life.

AQUARIUS: January 20th - February 19th After which professional pressures ease. While the spotlight is on your performance, it's not altogether uncomfortable. In fact, others are bound to find you especially attractive, personable, and approachable on the job, particularly after the 8th. Partnership or social opportunities through business are likely to present themselves. New responsibilities are welcome, as you are confident about meeting them effectively.

PISCES: February 19th - March 20th Pressures are easing, your confidence is building, and the important people in your life are supportive. Work is especially dynamic, busy, and possibly demanding of your time and energy. It's also especially profitable! In the last week of the month, professional responsibilities are in focus, and you're expressing yourself in a highly competent manner. Your ambitions are building, and attention to practical matters pays off. It's a good time to think in big terms, and seize career opportunities as they arise. ■

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Around The World - Carina Juhhova

She is a new face on the island, an exotic bird passing through – never meant to come here - and she's not going to stay, but – she's touched people's heart with her story.



From left to right Anya, Carina and Katja, the team that made a beautiful thing happen

Carina Juhhova is 28 years old and from Estonia where she was studying art marketing and working at the National Art Museum as a coordinator of education. July 7th, 2007.

"I left my home country, Estonia, for what I call the 'Journey around the world'. Hitchhiking! I went to Latvia, Lithuania, White Russia, Ukraine, Russia, all through Mongolia, China and Japan, then to South Korea, the US, Canada and Alaska and then from Nova Scotia I flew to Mexico. From there I traveled all of Central America and then six different motorboats took me from Panama to Colombia. I went to Ecuador and back to Colombia, to Venezuela, Brazil, French Guyana, Surinam... Curaçao and... Bonaire. It's always different what happens. There are no rules, no plans. It seems the journey is for me but not by me. In Japan they raised money to buy me a ticket to the States. In Canada I met a Native American Chief who used his air miles to get me to Mexico. In Venezuela I started with zero in my pockets, but I got so many donations that it was enough to fly me to Curaçao. I didn't have a watch, but I'm never late. I always arrive everywhere on time, meet people whom 'I have to meet' and what I need is given to me, and according to what is given, that is what I need.

When I was in Colombia, volunteering at an orphanage, a young man came up to me and he said 'Take me with you.' He was 22 years old. I asked him why and his answer was that he wanted to find his father who was living on Bonaire. I asked him where Bonaire was and he showed me on the map. I continued my journey, but on August 11th I met David - that's the young man's name - in Bogotá and after 10 days of hitchhiking we arrived in Venezuela. We started traveling to all the ports, asking captains to take David to Bonaire. One very friendly captain of a fruit boat in Tucacas said he was willing to help if David's papers were in order. It was then we found out his passport had expired. We went to a place called San Felipe, where we were told they could fix the papers. David stayed there to work and wait for his passport. I went on and volunteered at the house of the Missionaries of Charity of Mother Theresa of Calcutta. After a month my Brazilian visa was about to expire, so I wrote David to wait for me and I went to Brazil. In October this year I reached the Amazon River and made a little money by playing the flute for tourists, enough to buy me a ticket for the next boat and on this boat I met two men, Gijs and Hans, from Curaçao. They were traveling on motorbikes and they promised me, 'If you get to Curaçao, we will get you to Bonaire.' Less than two weeks later that was exactly what happened.

Well, I found David's father – Carlos Vargas - on a construction site along the boulevard and he cried when he heard the story. They had not seen each other for 12 years. Unfortunately he had no money to buy his son a ticket to come to Bonaire. So, I started looking for captains who could take me to Venezuela (I was not planning on staying here) and David to Bonaire. I talked to a fisherman who introduced me to Katja, a Russian lady, married to a Bonairean. I speak Russian – it's my second language – and we were very happy to meet each other. Katja promised to help me and soon we were joined by her Russian friend Anya. We talked to every boat owner on the island, but the answer was always 'No.' So, then I thought 'I will work and buy David the ticket' and Katja and Anya found me a job, gave me suitable clothes and even a little make up, brought me three meals a day and they gave me a watch and I started working as a waitress at the Cappuccino bar.

Now, after two weeks, we are one step away. This Monday I bought the ticket and David is arriving November 18th. Father and son are talking on the phone almost daily. When David arrives I'll probably be long gone.

I consider myself rich. I receive free and I give free of charge – I live my dream. I've grown so much and I have received so much through this process, that giving has become a need for me. Trying to balance the kindness that I have received – this is how the world has been to me: kind and giving. It is wonderful that the world still works this way. Now I'm just waiting for the right wind to pick me up again..." ■

Photo & Story by Greta Kooistra

For more: carinaoma@gmail.com or www.followcarina.blogspot.com

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