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BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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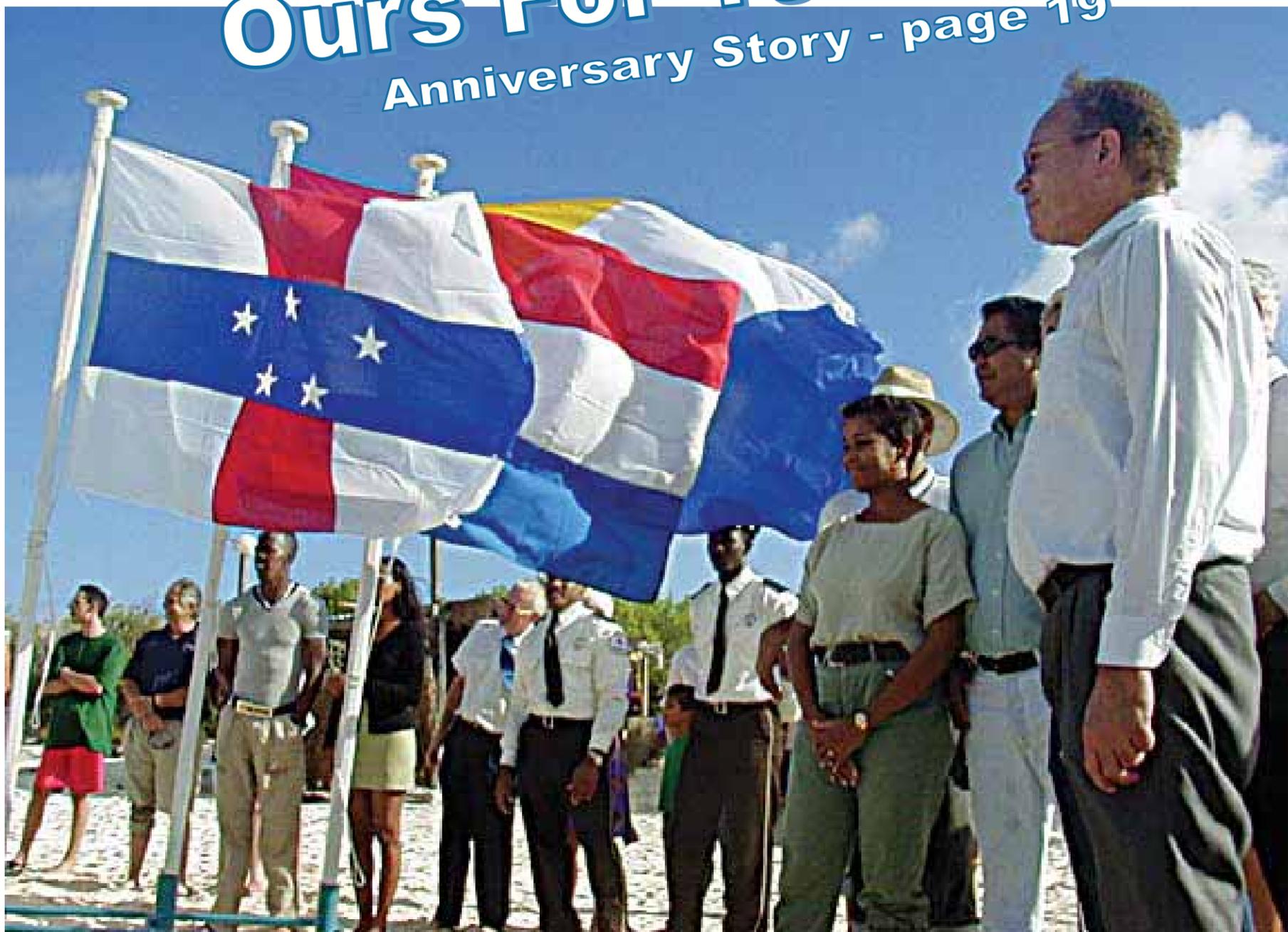
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Klein Bonaire

Ours For 10 Years

Anniversary Story - page 19





The special-purpose ship *Skandi Carla* successfully raised the Divi Divi Air Norman Islander aircraft PJ-SUN last week. The plane appeared almost intact. The salvage was managed by the Dutch Research Council for Safety and Smit International in close collaboration with authorities of the Netherlands Antilles and Bonaire. The recovery was hindered because the plane was resting atop a submarine telephone cable at a depth of 170 meters. Two previous attempts to salvage the plane had failed. The remains of the pilot were taken to Curaçao by a special Coast Guard boat.

After taking off from Curaçao on October 22, one of the aircraft's two engines failed. There were nine passengers and the pilot aboard. The pilot, Robert Mansell, tried to reach Bonaire but had to ditch the plane in the sea about 2 km. from the airport. His skill saved all the passengers but he himself perished when he was knocked unconscious and couldn't be released from his seat. Aviation accident experts from the Antilles and Holland will examine the wreck of the plane to try to determine the cause of the tragedy. (Voorlichting En Protocol photo)

► At a meeting with leftist groups in Copenhagen, which was broadcast on Venezuelan state television **Venezuelan President Chavez said the ABC (Dutch) islands were located in Venezuelan territorial waters.** Chavez, in the Danish capital to attend climate talks, is embroiled in a dispute with neighbor Colombia over a deal to give the US more access to its military bases. "I am accusing the Kingdom of the Netherlands, along with the Yankee empire, of preparing aggression against Venezuela," he said.

The Dutch Embassy in Caracas did not comment.

The US has long had a military presence on Curaçao and Aruba, with about 250 Air Force crew and ground staff



USS George Washington

involved in counternarcotics and surveillance operations over the Caribbean. Fighter jets were removed from the islands after the US 4th Fleet was reorganized and began patrols in the area in July 2009.

About 11 vessels are currently in the fleet, a number that is expected to increase in the future. The US Navy plans to assign a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, *USS George Washington*, to the force.

A Bonaire Reporter Answer

Reporter readers survey results say that releasing all the news about Bonaire, good, bad or indifferent is the best way to promote tourism on the island. We hope Bonaire's private sector and government marketers take this to heart

Their comments indicate that because of the Internet and the ability of individuals to post what's on their minds, suppressing unfavorable news only promotes suspicion and hostility about a destination.

The poll was closed last week. Responses were via a voting web site (one vote per address), email and verbal comments. Ninety-six responses were received.

Go2Poll.com M5 Megrisoft's Free Web Poll	
What type of news best promotes Bonaire?	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> All News	92%
<input type="radio"/> Good News Only	4%
<input type="radio"/> Good news and ONLY the not-so-good-news that has been "okayed" by island tourism authorities	2%

► **Curaçao based Insel Air has had a fourth MD jet aircraft delivered** that will allow it to conduct daily Miami-Haiti flights at the request of the Haitian Government. Insel Air will soon be purchasing a third Embraer Bandeirante prop jet as well. This will complete the fleet with seven aircraft: four MD jets and three Bandeirantes. The airline will have a fifth MD to use for parts. Insel Air now has a larger fleet than ALM had in its heyday but with a fraction of the personnel. Its operations are profitable.

► **The Brooks Tower Accord's (BT) six-week "application period" ended last week.** Antillean Justice Minister Magali Jacoba will "not be entertaining" extending the program, which has been criticized in Holland as too lenient, to legalize undocumented residents. It's estimated that perhaps 10,000 persons have applied since November 3, hoping to obtain a temporary residence permit under the BTA.

Carolyn Marshall, the Registry Office BT Coordinator reported that **for Bonaire there were 13 BT applications: 6 applications for category I; 5 for category**

II; and 2 for the Steering Committee.

► **Authorities in St. Maarten detained 14-year old sailor, Laura Dekker,** on her arrival at the airport



Laura Dekker

last Sunday. She had been reported missing by her relatives in Holland on Friday. St. Maarten authorities were arranging her return home. Laura's plans to sail singlehandedly around the world, visiting Bonaire were in *The Reporter* and was front page news in the Netherlands when her departure was blocked by a Dutch court decision. The Court forbade Laura to leave on her solo trip and placed her under supervision, also because her father supported her plans. The Court in Utrecht extended that supervision late October until July 1, 2010, the end of the school year.

According to the Dutch newspaper, *NRC Handelsblad*, Laura left a farewell note for her father

(Continued on page 20)

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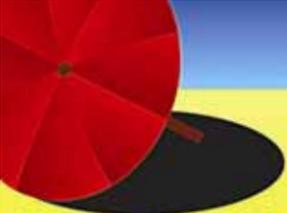
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On the Island Since... September 2007

Lisiëne "Liesje" Coffie

"I was born on Curaçao, February 15th 1984, where I grew up with my two brothers, my mom and my grandma. There was no father. I haven't seen much of him. When I was six I left for Holland with an aunt to live in The Hague. It was a completely different life and of course I missed my mom a lot, but it was also fun.

At the age of 13 I moved back to Curaçao and again it was quite a change. I could still understand Papiamentu but to write and to speak it myself was difficult. I went to BVO (professional preparatory education) and then to IFE, a school for nurses and nursing auxiliaries and I graduated in 2007. From the time I was very young I'd wanted to become a maternity nurse. I loved babies! But when I was at BVO I worked as a trainee at a crèche, and the moment I saw those 12 toddlers I started feeling really tired! They also had an after school care center at the

crèche for children between eight and 12 and I enjoyed being with them so much more.

Well, when I'd finished my education in 2007 I started looking for a job. I wanted to stay on Curaçao to be with my mom, but on the other hand I was also ready for a new challenge. At home I was the only girl – my brothers were 18 and 26 – and all the work came down to me. The boys were just sitting there and not doing anything and so I thought, 'I'm going!' I applied for a job on Bonaire at the *Kas di Sosiego*, the nursing home and started working there September 2007."

She laughs "Of course I couldn't find a house when I came here so I moved in with Chelendra for the time being. I knew her from Curaçao as my mom was living with Chelendra's uncle. Chelendra was working at Stichting Project, a center for children with behavioral problems. Every day when she came

home from work she would tell me all the things she'd done with 'her' children, and I became very interested in what she was doing. One day she came home and said, 'Hey, they need new people at my school!' I immediately jumped and was the first one to apply. After a week Mick Smit told me I got the job and I'm still working there.

At Stichting Project we work with youngsters between nine and 16 with behavioral problems. This year we have 24 and our goal is to give them structure so they can eventually function better and go back to the regular schools or find a job in the community. Those who really want to change are moving on and most of them are. You see them when they first come in and how they change as the months pass by. That's my motivation! But it's very hard for them as many of them have to cope with a difficult situation at home."

Liesje is a daring person and



Lisiëne "Liesje" Coffie

Fleurkje Veldkamp photos

she knows how to take care of herself very well. She's mature, fun and outspoken, but also sweet, relaxed and understanding.

"When our Stichting Project restaurant, 'De Bonairiaan,' reopened after Abraham Boulevard had been renovated I started working as a group leader, guiding and supervising the children in the kitchen and at the restaurant. We teach them how to serve tables and interact with people, how to take the orders, how to use the kitchen equipment, how to make a sandwich, a pancake, juice and fruit punch

and how to count. In the beginning there was only one restaurant group. The youngsters would come two or three times a week to 'De Bonairiaan' and the rest of the time they'd go to school at Stichting, where we teach them group dynamics, languages, math, reading and nature and environment.

Now I'm working with my colleague, Fleurkje, with the new youngsters who've come in this year. 'Our children' are those who can't sit still. It's very hard for them to concentrate and they talk a lot in the classroom. But at

(Continued on page 5)

"... It's very important whom you chose to be the father of your children. He has to have a job and he has to be serious. Otherwise he's of no use!"

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On the Island Since (Continued from page 4)

the restaurant you see what they are capable of and they like to be on the move. Every day I get three youngsters: one in the kitchen and two on the floor. The first group comes on Tuesday and Wednesday, the second on Thursday and Friday. On Monday and during school holidays we're closed. Next year, 2010, we're opening again in January from Tuesday until Friday from 9 am to 2 pm for breakfast and lunch and with a new menu. It has been very busy at the restaurant lately. I guess it's because of word of mouth. People enjoy being with us and they like the food and of course, our prices are good.

We are a training center and it's not our goal to make a profit. That's almost impossible. With the money we make, we do the shopping and it helps, but our sponsors are the ones who keep us going. It's fun; I really love my job and the team is absolutely tops.

When I'm off, most of the time I'm at home – I found my own apartment – or I go swimming or driving around to visit my friends. Before I used to go to Curaçao every month, but as everything has become so expensive, I can't afford to go that often anymore. But this Christmas holiday I am going to see

my mom and I will stay for two weeks. I was never here for Dia di Rincon, but now I'm planning to see how it is. I want to spend more time on Bonaire. I've bought a car and I can go wherever I want to. At home I mostly watch TV or I'm on the phone. I don't cook for myself, I do take out. Life is good and because I am still alone it's easy. It would be more complicated if I had children, although I do think that children and a husband make a life worth living... coming soon. I really don't want to stay alone.

I don't think I am a person who will stay in one place, but I don't know where I'll be going and I don't know when... Ha! ha! My mom wants me to come back to Curaçao, but I don't fancy that idea. She won't like it, but, yeah, children have to go their own way.

I love to travel, but not alone. I've gone with my family to Mexico, Jamaica, Miami, Aruba, Spain, France and Italy. Miami would be a nice place to live." She grins "It would be a change – not many people I know, so I can go my own way without being criticized, because whether I do it right or wrong – let me be. I'll take care of it.

On Curaçao I feel freer. There are more places to go and you don't see the same faces over and over again. Yeah" – she

laughs – "you could ask 'what are you doing on Bonaire then?' But it's still good here and the work I'm doing here I can't do on Curaçao.

I do want to study again and we're going to have that opportunity at Stichting Project to follow an HBO education (higher professional education) And I definitely want to grab that chance to grow. – I can still do it. There's nothing stopping me.

Of course I want children and I also feel it's about time as I am 25 now. I have a good job and I am stable. I think I'll be a good mom. But... it's very important whom you chose to be the father of your children. He has to have a job and he has to be serious. Otherwise he's of no use! I didn't grow up in a regular family – my father wasn't there. But I do feel it's important to have a father. I always say and, I don't know if I am right, I didn't miss

my father, that's how I feel. But maybe I should have had one, I would have needed one. But that's something deep inside of me.

Here, in the Antilles, most of the children grow up at their grandmother's, but I think it's hard for many of them and for boys it's even harder. A boy who has no father – you just feel it, you see it – boys have to have a male role model whom they respect and to whom they listen.

I think it's a typical Antillean thing- children growing up without a daddy. But women have their responsibility too. They should know whom they're sleeping with because it's the woman who decides if and when she gets pregnant. She knows – the man doesn't know." ■

Greta Kooistra



Fleurtje Veldkamp photo

Liesje at the Stichting Project Restaurant De Bonairiaan



City Shop



Digital photo key chain



Digital hand writing



Ear Thermometer



pen cam mini video camera & camera recorder



under water camera



Monitor de Pression



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Kwartiermakers and Counterparts

The Second of a Series About Dutch-Bonairean Cooperation

Healthcare

For some time now, behind the scenes, people have been working on improvements and projects for the period after the transition date 10-10-10, when Bonaire may become a public body (bijzondere gemeente) within the Netherlands. In several areas of policy, local government and local organizations are working together with the people from the Regional Service Centre (RSC). In the coming months The Bonaire Reporter will describe the activities of the Dutch Ministry Representatives in the RSC and their Bonairean counterparts as they work together so that, at the planned "transition time of 10-10-10," local people, Bonaireans, will handle the tasks of that department. In this issue we describe the progression in the Healthcare scene.

Healthcare is one of the areas that affects the people of Bonaire directly. The organizations involved are working hard at the improvements. Giovanni Frans, General Practitioner (GP) and president of *Fundashon Mariadal*, and Maarten Stoffels, 'kwartiermaker' Healthcare, Welfare and Sports (in Dutch VWS), explain about the planned improvements in healthcare facilities on Bonaire.

Giovanni Frans: "On Bonaire (and Saba and Statia, BES islands) we want to establish, as much as possible, the same quality level of healthcare as in Holland. A special committee from Bonaire, Saba and Statia has researched the accommodation facilities on the three islands and made a proposal to the three Island Councils for a multi annual accommodation plan. This proposal was agreed on by VWS. At the end of 2008 this resulted in a report in which 26 projects were described. These projects have to improve the accommodation of the healthcare institutes (hospital, nursing homes, home caring, addiction treatment). In the 'BES week' in November 2008 it was decided that these 26 projects were going to be accomplished. For this Holland allocated NAf 66,4 million for the years 2009-2012. There will also be an

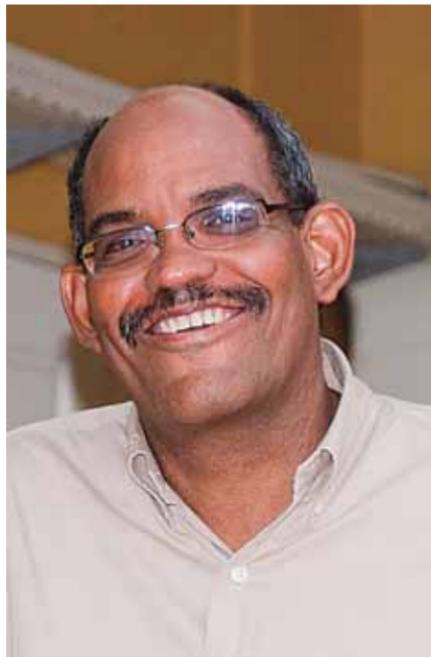
increase of personnel of 150. Bonaire can employ medical specialists in the areas of surgery, paediatrics, gynaecology, internal medicine, anaesthesiology and psychiatry. Furthermore VWS has made available NAf 5 million for the replacement of ambulances and obsolete medical equipment. For 2010 we are talking with VWS about another NAf 8 to 9 million to modernize existing structures. So there's a lot going on."

Maarten Stoffels: "Together we can improve the quality of health care on the three islands. Besides the improvements for the hospital mentioned by Dr. Frans, for me there are two areas of concern: the changes in general practitioner (GP) care and the creation of a GGD (Municipal Health Service) on Bonaire. The nine general practitioners are currently employed by the *eilandgebied* (island territory). If Bonaire becomes part of Holland, the general practitioners have to be privatized. We want to seize this moment to set up a few healthcare centers with bundled care facilities. The GPs will be asked to cooperate in setting up these centers and to help us make the plans happen.

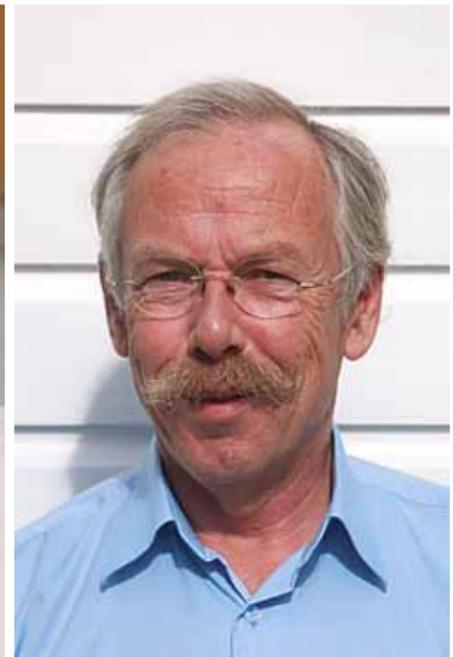
A GGD does preventive work to promote health, like giving vaccinations, advising about a healthy lifestyle and attending to childcare via the *consultatiebureau* (consulting office) and doctors who visit the schools. A Dutch GGD from the Zuid-Limburg area is cooperating to create a GGD on Bonaire. The new GGD will have a front office on Bonaire and a back office in the Netherlands. In this way the Bonairean workers can rely on their Dutch colleagues for help and support.

COOPERATION

Giovanni Frans: "Cooperation is a process of trial and error. We are about 9,000 kilometers from Holland and possess a different culture and language. Still, in this cooperation we have the will to succeed. It is the only way to get the healthcare on the islands to a higher level. Our *Bestuurscollege* (Executive Council) must be



Dr. Giovanni Frans



Dr. Maarten Stoffels

at the table with Holland, talking and negotiating. Otherwise we won't get any further."

Maarten Stoffels: "The cooperation with *Fundashon Mariadal* is going rather well. Things are happening at a good pace and meetings go smoothly. The other two projects in which I'm involved (the general practitioners and the GGD) haven't started yet. In the cooperation we'll keep the differences in language, culture and medical background in mind. As all processes, it will need time."

Dr. Giovanni Frans was born and raised on Bonaire. He attended high school in Curaçao and followed his medical education at the University of Groningen (Holland). After his return to Bonaire he worked as a full time general practitioner for five years. Since 1997 he's combined this work with his management tasks as director of *Fundashon Mariadal*. "We would like to have a higher level of welfare on Bonaire," he says. "With this, several medical and care facilities are necessary which Bonaire cannot pay for itself. Holland is able and willing to finance improvements: better accommodations, more personnel amongst them medical specialists, better equipment, ICT systems, digital patient records, etc. These improvements are possible only with the financial support of Holland. Together we are on our way to

accomplish the projects one step at a time."

Dr. Maarten Stoffels worked in Holland as a general practitioner for seven years. Following that he worked for 10 years as a director of a hospital and as a consultant in the healthcare area. As a management advisor he spent two years in Mongolia. In February 2009 he arrived on Saba as *kwartiermaker* Healthcare, Welfare and Sports. He will be based in Bonaire next month.

"If everything proceeds as planned," he says, "and Bonaire becomes a public body within Holland, as are Saba and Statia, in the area of healthcare there can be improvements for the people in the short term. A lot of things have been set up and several investments have already been made. We are talking about millions of guilders. The people of Bonaire can profit from this: better health care facilities for everybody and more jobs and educational opportunities in the healthcare area. ■

Story & photos by Inge Vos

Inge Vos is a recent arrival on Bonaire. She has experience in Communications and writes for Dutch language newspapers.



Bonaire's San Francisco Hospital

Under the leadership of Dr. Frans there have been significant improvements in its services including a surgery, obstetrics and other departments. If integrated with Holland many more improvements can be expected. At the right is the old slave hospital, now Kas di Arte. →



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 19.

	7				8			
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BONAIREAN VOICES

NUTRITION IN SCHOOL- PART II

As is every other school, SGB (*Scholen Gemeenschap Bonaire*) is concerned about the physical and psychological welfare of its students. Mr. Serapio Pop (54), a highly skilled chess player and principal of SGB, has been in the education field for 28 years at that school. He tells us the plans they have at SGB, a complex of junior and senior high schools “

Our slogan at school is ‘Healthy Body-Healthy Mind.’ We have a program for our students where we will work on five different areas.

The first one is **Life Style** and that includes:

1. Eating Habits
2. Sleeping Habits
3. Physical Movements
4. Weight
5. Nutritional Foods

The second is **Inner Person**, which includes:

1. Mutual Respect
2. Communication
3. Life Purpose
4. Changes that influence them

The third is **Lectures for Parents and Teachers**, which includes:

1. Management teams to give extra attention to basic education and junior college
2. 12 teachers for 12 subjects for basic education and junior college
3. Unit managers responsible to coordinate their unit

The fourth is **Unit Meetings** which includes:

1. Control of the neighborhood social welfare of the students together with their teachers
2. Work teams made up of Unit Managers and School Coordinators with the Education Departments of Bonaire and Curaçao
3. Programs for teachers and parents on different topics such as nutrition and food.

The fifth is **Introduction of healthy products in the school canteen** :

1. Wheat bread sandwiches
2. Natural juices in plastic bottles or cartons
3. Crab, Tuna and Chicken Salads
4. Our famous Pastiche, Crocket and Loempia made of wheat flour and not fried



SGB High School Entrance

5. Fresh Fruits
6. Soups

But for all this we need money in our budget to accomplish these programs. We realize that most children in school don't take vitamins and don't even like to eat healthy food. They prefer eating a burger with all that saturated fat with mayonnaise and ketchup, without any fresh salad. Recently in our canteen we've had a drop in selling some of healthy products that we have. Most of the students buy their breakfast somewhere else before they come to school. Or they stuff their bag pack with all kinds of chips and snacks - because our canteen doesn't sell these things - so they can have it during their recess time. The consequences are that the money that the canteen makes is not enough to pay the expenses.

We want to make a difference in our school. We have a plan that when the new building is ready that we move the canteen to the new area and let our own HORECA (food and beverage management) students or responsible high school students manage the canteen. It takes a lot of effort, time and money. We just need to do it for the sake of the SGB students.”

I wish you a Warm and Joyful Christmas. Let it be Christmas for you every day in 2010.

■ *Siomara Albertus.*

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



BonQuiz #20

Christie Dovale photos



Photo 1 “Built-in” rain gutter



Photo 2 Modern rain gutter of plastic

Until about 75 years ago most homes built on Bonaire had a way to catch and contain rain water to supply the water needs for the household. People had to catch and store water during the rainy seasons: a small rainy period during June and July and then the main rainy season which starts in the fall.

The Government could not supply water as is done now, through pipe lines and truck delivery.

Building a cistern to store the rain water was mandatory. The big square masonry “boxes” seen next to old homes served as cisterns. To fill the cisterns water from the roof was captured by gutters and drainpipes and diverted into the cistern.

Gutters were incorporated into the architecture of homes by building an attractive molding of concrete, adding value to the building and concealing the gutter at the same time. See the first photo.

In less expensive homes the attached gutters were made of tin (*zink* in Dutch, *ziem* in Papiamentu) and later on, plastic pipes. See the second photo.

Q) Why is this technique not added to most modern day homes?

Answer on page 19

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.



Jong Bonaire Over The Government

Friday 1 December, Jong Bonaire held its first ‘*Ban Midi ku nos Outoridatnan*’ competition between the teens of Jong Bonaire and employees of several governmental organizations. Customs (Douane), RSC, prison and SASO (Social Services) all sent teams to compete in ping pong, futsal (indoor soccer) and dominos.

More than 60 people participated in the contests. The members of Jong Bonaire performed extremely well, winning three of the four competitions.

The winners were:

· Ping Pong (9 teams) Winners – First place - Jeanclaude Clementina & Percy Prudencia of Jong Bonaire;

· Futsal (9 teams) Winners – First place - Jong Bonaire Team DX (Gerritson Craane & Jurgen Rojer & Sigmar Celestijn & Edsel Marthas);

· Domino (10 teams) Winners – First place - Duane B: E. Beaumont & M. Celestijn.

After the competitions there was an opportunity for the government workers and the teens to get to know each other over a snack of *nasi* and other good foods. The next ‘*Ban midi*’ event will pit the teens of Jong Bonaire against the government teams in kayak, swimming and beach volleyball. ■ *Jane Townsend*



Second place futsal- (RSC) - Hans Bor & Bert van Dijk, Micharno de Palm & Jull Clarenda

SWIMMING WITH THE CHAMPIONS



Jennifer Bottcher and Angela Maurer with members of the Bonaire Barracuda Swim Club

Bonaire has the great privilege of hosting Angela Maurer (34) and Jennifer Bottcher (26), world class swimmers to our waters for their Open Water Training Camp. Their stay is sponsored by Buddy Dive Resort and Bon Bida Spa & Gym.

Angela has been nine times Champion in Germany, twice European Champion, twice World Champion (Rome) and four times World Cup (16 races of 10 to 88 km). She gave up swimming for three years to have a son, Maxim, however, when it

was announced that they would add 10k marathon swimming to the Olympics, she began training again with the goal of an Olympic medal. She missed the medals in the Beijing with a very close 4th place. She is World Champion this year and training hard for more World Cups and of course, the London Olympics.

Angela said she started long distance swimming in 1996 when she was 21. Before that she raced in a pool, doing freestyle 2-4-800 meters. Why the switch to long distance swimming? "I tried it out and liked it. I don't like to

make turns (like in a pool) and I love being in nature. And I love traveling around the world because in each place conditions are different. And I'm successful at it, so that inspires me too."

Jennifer is the 2nd in Germany in 200m Butterfly and is just experimenting with open water training. Maybe we will see her in some of the upcoming open water marathon events as well. The two are training four hours per day, swimming 16 to 18 kilometers in the sea. They train four times a week at the Bon Bida Spa, plus biking, kayaking and running. Jennifer is studying sports training, physiology and psychology.

Angela is European Swimmer of the Year and is nominated for International Open Water Woman of the year, place your votes at: http://www.thewaterisopen.com/polls/2009_woman_of_the_year and help her win!

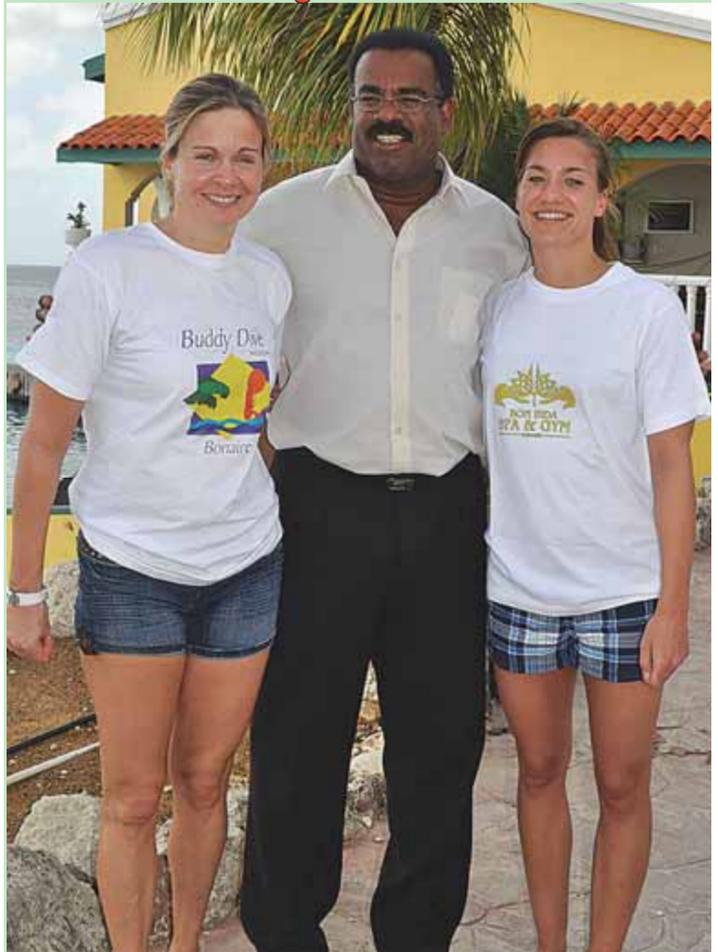
The two champions helped out the Bonaire Barracuda swim club with two training sessions. Not only is the training excellent, but it lets the kids see where they can go with swimming. One training session was hosted by Divi Flamingo Beach and the other at Buddy Dive.

We look forward to Angela and Jennifer planning another training camp around the 3rd annual Barracuda Open Water swim on June 15, 2010, where we will have 500m, 1.5km, 2.5km, 5km and 10km competitions. This event will take place front of Kas di Regatta and is open to all swimmers. Start training now to participate. ■ Pam Werdath/L.D



At the Curaçao swim meet 13-year old Vera Ghazzouli won six silver medals and three bronze medals. In addition Ryda Luz Emer (13) won 12 medals; Alejandro de Lima (12): 6 medals; Kaile Finies (11): 4 medals; and Luis Marcano (10): 2 medals

Bonaire to Make a Bid for World Cup Swimming Finals in 2011



Swim champions Angela Maurer and Jennifer Bottcher with Commissioner Nolly Oleana

Champion swimmer Angela Maurer (34), says, "Bonaire is perfect. It's warm and good for training." Considering the fact that she has swum in waters all over the world in competition for the World Cup, this is quite a statement. Accompanying her is Jennifer Bottcher (26), one of the best butterfly swimmers in Germany. Angela continued, "Training at Buddy Dive is great. It's the best place I've ever seen."

Bonaire will be making a bid to hold the final 2011 World Cup race here in October 2011.

Sponsors of the event, an international swim organization (FINA) will be invited to Bonaire soon to discuss the possibility.

The 2010 World Cup long distance swimming races begin in January 2010 in Santo, Brazil. About 70 participants come from all over the world. Races in 2010 will be held in New Zealand, Portugal, Long Beach (California), Canada, Bulgaria, France, Great Britain, Denmark, New York City, China, Hong Kong, and end in Dubai. ■ L.D.

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Guest Editorial

Winner

Synopsis Of "The Constitutional Tragedy of The BES Islands," A speech delivered by Mr. Eugene R. Abdul, LL.M.* during a seminar on independence held in Curaçao on November 27, 2009.

After an analysis of the concepts 'self-determination' and 'people' in international law, Mr. Abdul briefly described the constitutional process on the islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (the so-called BES islands), starting with the constitutional referendums held in 2004/2005. He states that in accordance with international law the right of **self-determination is a human right and that only peoples – and not their elected representatives – are holders of the right of self-determination.**

He is of the opinion that if the present constitutional process continues unchanged none of the three BES islands will eventually obtain the constitutional status their peoples really opted for in referendums held in 2004 and 2005.

He states that during those referendums Bonaire opted for direct links with Holland; St. Eustatius for maintaining the Netherlands Antilles; and Saba for becoming a 'Crown Island,' a constitutional status comparable to Anguilla. In the Final Declaration of October 2006, elected representatives of the three Dutch Antillean islands in an agreement with the Netherlands decided that Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba would become **'public entities' based on article 134 of the Dutch Constitution, resulting in integration**, one of the three internationally recognized forms of reaching a 'full measure of self-government' described in

U.N. Resolution 1541.

Mr. Abdul purports that **in the 2004 and 2005 referendums none of the peoples of the three islands opted for integration.** He is of the opinion that the peoples of the three islands should **decide explicitly in new referendums whether they want integration with the Netherlands or not.** That would be the only way to comply with Principle IX of U.N. Resolution 1541, stating inter alia that "the integration should be the result of the freely expressed wishes of the territory's peoples acting with full knowledge of the changes in their status, their wishes having been expressed through informed and democratic processes, impartially conducted and based on adult suffrage...."

"... ratification of the Final Declaration of October 2006 ... is not sufficient to legitimize integration..."

He argues that ratification of the Final Declaration of October 2006 in the respective Island Councils of the three BES islands based on international law is not sufficient to legitimize integration. Mr. Abdul concludes that **dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles should be postponed**



Eugene R. Abdul

until the islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba in a (new) referendum explicitly opt for integration into the Netherlands. He states that the Federal Government of the Netherlands Antilles, based on article 43 paragraph 1 of the Charter of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, must take care of realization of fundamental rights and liberties, legal security and good governance and that the Federal Government cannot allow the 'annexation' of the three islands by the Netherlands without complying with international law. According to Mr. Abdul also the Kingdom Government has an obligation under article 43 paragraph 2 of the same Charter to guarantee due compliance with international law in this matter. ■

*Mr. Eugene R. Abdul, LL.M. is former Governor of St. Eustatius. He is a founder of *Awor T'E Ora*, the movement for a second Bonaire Referendum.



Anjelica Cicilia

Anjelica Cicilia, commercial director of KOW Den Haag, the daughter of **Maria Cicilia-Rodriguez** who owns **La Portuguesa** produce shop and **Customs Officer Amado Cicilia**, has been named the **winner of the Building Passion Woman of the Year Award** during a meeting in the *Lijm- en Cultuurfabriek* in Delft. Cicilia was born in Bonaire 1977 and studied Architecture and Civil Engineering at the University in Curaçao (1999), then went to the Netherlands and graduated from TU Delft in 2003.

During her studies she worked at 3D Blueprint Technologies on the construction of the Railway museum in Utrecht. Beginning in 2006 she moved to KOW. As commercial director Anjelica is responsible for the acquisition and communication activities of KOW. KOW is one of the largest independent architectural firms in the Netherlands and is involved with architecture, engineering, sustainability, urban renewal and urban planning. Simultaneously, a new book, "Building Passion," by Laura Stevens was introduced. This book portrays 101 women who have passion for their work in construction and real estate. ■ *Press release*

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Letters to the Editor

DOLPHIN TIME



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Dear Dolphin observer,
Today I recorded my first sighting of a group of Bottlenose Dolphins for this December.

Would anybody seeing any groups of Bottlenose Dolphins during the rest of December and early January, please let me have an email report when you have time.

(In case any of you aren't certain, the bottlenose dolphins are the larger ones of the two species commonly seen here. They tend to swim from north to south continuously, usually close to or inside the drop off, sometimes coming quite shallow.

The smaller dolphins that are seen playing around boats or jumping in the air and swimming at high speed are the Spinner Dolphins)

My records are all of the Bottle nose.

Next to February, December has the highest number of total sightings since I have been keeping records. February is the next highest month.

The lowest months are September, October and November.

I think and hope that it is safe to assume, judging by my records, that we should start to see

Bottlenose Dolphins swimming regularly and continuously around our island for the next few months while the pregnant ones are giving birth and the juveniles are kept close to shore away from predators.

Thank you for your past help.

Thank you in advance for your future help.

If you know of anyone else in or close to the marine environment that might be able to make reports for me, it would also be greatly appreciated if you could pass this message to them as well.

Have a good Christmas and a happy new year everyone.

Ron Sewell

Bonaire Coastal Dolphin Project

Mobile: 795 3368

Home: 717 2458

Email: ron.sewell@diamond-waters.com

THANK YOU TO SELIBON

Dear Editor:

There are some companies on Bonaire that deserve a lot more recognition and thanks than they receive. SELIBON is one. From the drivers of the bulldozers at the landfill to the people at the weigh station to the truck drivers to the office staff in town to the people picking up trash along the roads, they all deserve a huge THANK YOU! They are all very friendly and helpful. And most importantly, keeping Bonaire perhaps one of the cleanest islands in the Caribbean.

Bruce Bowker

Body Talk

THE JOY (AND STRESS) OF CHRISTMAS

We are about to enter (I think some of you have already started!) one of the busiest periods of the year, with parties, family gatherings, and of course Christmas day and New Year's Eve itself, which so many of us use as an excuse for over-indulgence. No wonder so many of us make those seldom-kept New Year's resolutions, hoping, praying and promising ourselves that we will do better in the new year.

Apart from the over indulgence, even more stress is added with disrupted routines due to visiting family members or friends, bored children, bursts of fireworks in the middle of the night and scared pets. The list goes on and on!

If you are prone to over indulgence (like most of us) during this period, you could expect to have more aches and pains, certainly the occasional headache, feeling bloated after a meal, smelly gas, tiredness and irritability. (Does this sound familiar?) Do not worry, I am not going to lecture you on your eating and drinking habits over the festive season. However, I would like to give you some simple guidelines to follow that will greatly reduce the negative effects of over indulgence. To some of you it may mean you can party longer and harder.

Let's start with breakfast. After a 'heavy' night, start your day by cleansing the body. Consume as much raw fruit as possible (only on an empty stomach), wait 30 minutes and then have your normal breakfast. Using fruit this way has a wonderful effect on counteracting the overload of acid in your system.

Secondly, for every beer or glass of wine you consume, drink at least one glass of water. Alcohol is highly acidic, mucus forming and dehydrating, and beer adds to the yeast overgrowth in people, which creates the desire for more refined sugars. Alcohol causes a huge Sodium Sulphate

(mineral) deficiency from liver toxicity, and this is evident in the yellowish/greenish coloring just before a person vomits. Remember, the more alcohol you consume, the more water you should be drinking.

Thirdly, NEVER, NEVER drink on an empty stomach. Apart from the fact that you will be intoxicated much quicker than usual, the acid, in particular in red wine, will eat away at your stomach lining. Although as a naturopath I cannot condone greasy foods, I am told by "experienced" drinkers that it is best to line your stomach with oily/greasy foods before a drinking session.

Lastly, by following a few basic rules, you will greatly cut down on the (from a food and drink point of view) negative stress on the body during this Christmas period. The results will amaze you, and perhaps you too could enjoy the real spirit of Christmas for a change!

Before I forget, I know the law regarding drinking and driving on Bonaire is very slack, compared to the rest of the world, but PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE. Innocent people could get hurt.

Thank you for your encouragement, criticism and for at least reading my column, even though you may not agree. I wish every one of you a wonderful time filled with all the good that should be. Happy, happy Christmas! ■

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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DIVING WITH UCC

New Underwater Activity Began on Bonaire in October: Lionfishing

Today I experienced a moment I've been dreading for more than a year: I saw my first lionfish in Bonaire's waters.

Note I didn't say I found the lionfish. Another diver found it, marked its location (more on this later), and reported it to the Bonaire National Marine Park. Today my husband David and I accompanied BNMP Ranger Joi Jenkins on a lionfish removal dive. The instructions were that the fish was seen at 58', after the divers had swum casually for 26 minutes from the Jeff Davis mooring. We knew there was a marker but not what color.

My computer read 21 minutes (we couldn't help but swim a little faster than "casually") when Joi pointed out the marker, a lightweight yellow ribbon tied to a branch of dead coral.

Joi had warned us that if the fish was spooked it might be impossible to catch until another day, so I stayed about five feet away from the coral formation as I searched for the lionfish (which I did not find). Joi pointed to a cluster of spines, in the shade, under a ledge, which at first my brain processed as a longspined urchin. Then I realized I was looking at the dreaded lionfish. The critter was born in the wrong ocean, it was hiding, and it was small -- less than 6" long and maybe a little wider than that with its pectoral fins extended. At first I felt sorry for the poor fish.

When Joi let me carry the net with the lionfish as we headed back to shore, I was amazed to see the lionfish persistently -- aggressively, really -- bashing into the plastic side of the net. Ranger Jenkins

pointed out the lionfish's bulging belly, and after the dive she told us, "Congratulations! You've just saved the lives of thousands of Bonaire's reef fishes!"

We're unhappy that lionfish have invaded the Caribbean and especially Bonaire. But, boy oh boy, it sure feels good to do something to help manage that situation.

The BNMP is leading Bonaire's battle against the lionfish invasion, but there are some very real ways each of us can help:

First, most important, and simplest: the BNMP is depending on us divers to *keep our eyes open for lionfish. Carry a marker to facilitate their capture, and give the BNMP the best possible directions to the fish's location and depth.* One diver took some photos of the area, which also helped the Rangers find the fish more quickly.

The marker currently being used is a ribbon of colorful, lightweight plastic material, with a cork on one end for buoyancy. The ribbon is tied to dead coral near the lionfish. (Note: If you can't identify dead coral, ask your divemaster to teach you! Tying the ribbon around living coral will injure or kill the coral polyps.)

Second: Occasionally a diver who's not carrying a marker will spot a lionfish. It's still very important for them to report the sighting and location as best they can to the BNMP, but lionfish collectors would be likely to spend a lot of time finding the fish. Here's a perfect opportunity for volunteers:

(Continued on page 17)



BNMP Ranger Joi Jenkins with the lionfish she collected on 4 December 09 at Jefferson Davis Reef.



Lionfish at Mi Dushi site

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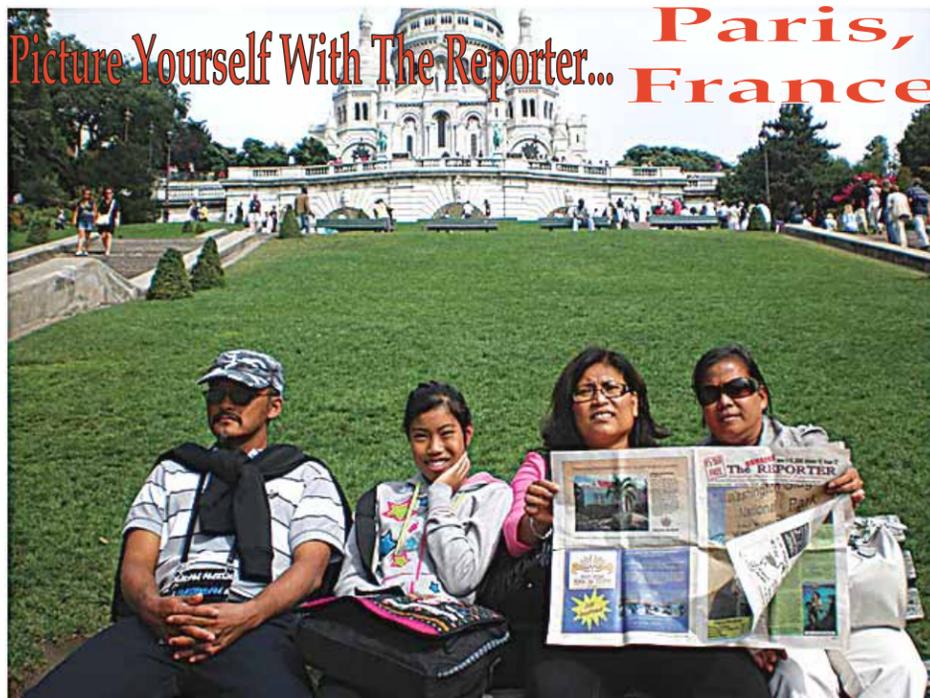
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12-26	9:11	1.9FT.	19:01	1.0FT.	19:49	1.0FT.			39
12-27	0:06	0.9FT.	9:38	2.0FT.	19:28	0.9FT.	22:23	1.0FT.	47
12-28	0:10	0.9FT.	10:08	2.1FT.	20:00	0.8FT.	23:52	0.9FT.	59
12-29	10:46	2.2FT.	20:31	0.8FT.					72
12-30	11:30	2.2FT.	21:10	0.7FT.					84
12-31	12:11	2.2FT.	21:54	0.7FT.					94
12-31	12:11	2.2FT.	21:54	0.7FT.					94
1-01	13:01	2.1FT.	22:30	0.7FT.					100
1-02	13:51	2.0FT.	23:02	0.8FT.					102
1-03	14:44	1.9FT.	23:34	0.8FT.					100
1-04	15:44	1.7FT.							94
1-05	0:23	1.0FT.	7:20	1.4FT.	11:45	1.4FT.	16:48	1.5FT.	84
1-06	0:35	1.0FT.	7:37	1.6FT.	14:10	1.2FT.	18:04	1.4FT.	73
1-07	0:30	1.1FT.	8:04	1.7FT.	15:51	1.1FT.	19:37	1.2FT.	61



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DENGUE FEVER

If you have some or all of the following symptoms, you may have Dengue Fever.

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Dania-Booi Exhibit **Winfred Dania and Frans Booi** at Kas di Arte

An exhibition featuring the art works of Winfred Dania and Frans Booi opened recently at the Kas di Arte. The theme of the exhibition is "Culture of the Indian of Bonaire."

Booi and Dania have known each other for ages now. In the early days, Booi was head of the Department of Culture and Education, and Dania was his private driver. Spending hours and hours with each other, Winfred listening to the stories of Frans, they became close friends.

Booi is the artist/story teller, completely captured by the history of Bonaire and the Indians and the myths of Bonay. Dania, although deaf at birth, listened and listened. At home he mixed the stories with his fantasy and his skills and a lot of paintings were produced over the years. Now the series about the mythology of Bonaire amounts to 173 works of art! This exhibition shows some 30 pieces from both artists. Fifteen pictures are new.

Dania, born on the 20th of January 1950, originates from Oranjestad, Aruba. His father is from Bonaire. Dania was born deaf and at only five years old, he was sent by his parents to Sint-Michielsgestel, Brabant, the Netherlands, to learn lip reading and sign language. So his language is Dutch. In the meantime his parents moved to Bonaire and when he was 17 Winfred joined them.

Winfred started painting when he was only 13, but it was the stories told by Booi that inspired Dania since 1986 to his

later and present work: visualization of the mythology of Bonay, the first human being on Bonaire.

Dania believes in the soul. He thinks there is a soul in everything and in every creature. Dania loves the mystery and the mythology and uses his dreams as a source of inspiration. Ever returning in his work is the string of water, earth, fire and air. Counting and numbers also inspires him, making his work a unique mixture of rational thoughts and expressions of presumably uncontrolled feelings. One series of his pieces are titled: 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 58. The works are inspired by and connected with the age of the artist. Come to the exhibition in the Kas di Arte and find out for yourself.

Dania works with oil paint on linen. Just recently he started experimenting with paint on jute, using - to him- the surprising structure of the natural material.

His work is well known in the Antilles and abroad. The Stedelijk Museum of Amsterdam, Holland, bought four pieces from his series about the mythology of Bonaire

In daily life Winfred Dania is connected to the Bonaire Museum as conservator—until the 20th of January 2010. Then Dania hopes to reach the age of 60. Then he can spend all his time on art. There is still an awful lot to do. The painting named "60" is impatiently waiting in the artist's head...

The Dania-Booi exhibition will be open until January 3, 2010, at the Kas di Arte,



Winfred Dania with some of his works that are on display at Kas di Arte

Kaya J.N.E. Craane 34. Opening hours are from 10am to noon, 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Weekends 10 am to 8:30 pm. Admission is free.

■ Story & photos by Jan Brouwer



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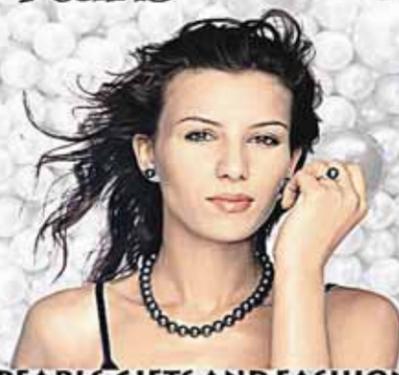


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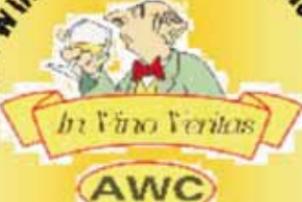
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cruise Ship Calls -

Date	Day	Ship name	Time	PAX
Thursday	December 24, 2009	Caribbean Princess	1100-1900	3100
Saturday	December 26, 2009	BRAEMAR	0800-1800	700
Sunday	December 27, 2009	Freewinds	0600	220
Monday	December 28, 2009	AidaAura	0800-1600	1260
Tuesday	December 29, 2009	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422
Wednesday	December 30, 2009	Sea Princess	1200-1900	2016
Thursday	December 31, 2009	Crystal Serenity	0900-1700	1080
Sunday	January 3, 2010	Freewinds	0600	220
Monday	January 4, 2010	Artemis	0800-1700	1200
Tuesday	January 5, 2010	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422
Tuesday	January 5, 2010	Ruby Princess	1100-1900	3100
Thursday	January 7, 2010	Caribbean Princess	1100-1900	3100
Friday	January 8, 2010	Enchantment of the Seas	0700-1530	2446

Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days—usually 10am until ship departure.

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Now until January 3—Exhibition: "Culture of the Indian of Bonaire" by artists Winfred Dania and Frans Booi, Kas di Arte, open daily 10 am to noon, 5:30 to 9 pm, and on the weekends of December 12, 13, 14, 20, 26 and 27. More details on page 15.

Until January 8 – Exhibiton by Hortence Brouwn, "Feelings," Plaza Resort. Sponsored by Don Andres N.V.

Friday, December 25—Christmas

Saturday, December 26—Boxing Day—Holiday - Many shops closed.

Saturday, December 26— Possible arrival of kayak traveler, Ryan deJongh, from St. Martin to Curaçao. See page 20 for details

Thursday, December 31 - Full (blue) Moon -New Years Eve—Fireworks all over the island and at many of the resorts. Culmination at midnight.

Friday, January 1—New Years Day— holiday

Friday, January 1—Maskarada— Mysterious adults and children in costumes and masks perform skits and play music. A Bonairean tradition.

Saturday, January 16 – Concert: Steven (cello) and Danielle Bourne (piano). Steven played cello solo at the Queens concert in Amsterdam.

Friday, February 12 – Concert: Willem Stadius Muller (piano). This will be a historic concert of the 80-year-old Antillean pianist who was on Bonaire for the last time 25 years ago!

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 Marché**—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

Fridays

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

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

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

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

Tuesday-- 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.

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

Her name is "Lola," and maybe she is a dancer... like the song says. This Lola came into the Bonaire Animal Shelter with her long black fur all matted and dirty. What a mess. The staff washed her, tried to comb her and ended up having to cut nearly all her fur off. But that was awhile ago and now she's looking better every day. Curly and cute and energetic and sweet. Lola is about eight months old and in perfect condition, both inside and out. Not only that but she is a good hunter too. That should appeal to those people who want a pet who can discourage marauding lizards and iguanas from eating their plants!

Remember too that the dog adoption fee of NAf 105 covers her vet exam, tests, worming, shots and even sterilization. And you can be assured of getting a fine healthy and social pet when you adopt from the Shelter. It's on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

Looking for a worthwhile Christmas gift for someone who has everything? How about a contribution in that person's name to the Shelter's "Bonny Superdog Sterilization program."

Monetary donations can be made via **bank transfer** Account number Animal Shelter Bonaire: 23.10.139, RBTT Bank Antilles, Bonaire Branch, Address bank: Kaya Korona 15, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles. BIC: RBTTANCU; SWIFT: ABNANL2A Please tag your bank transfer: Bonny Superdog.

Support Bonaire provides a way for US citizens to donate to their favorite Bonaire causes and claim charitable deduction on their American income tax. The Support Bonaire website now accepts credit card donations for the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Of course, cash donations are always appreciated. Look for the dog house donation boxes in many shops and businesses or on the shelter on Bonaire. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*



Lola

Bonaire Sunshine Homes Signs First Affordable Home



Sinshine Homes photo

Inge Berben director of FORMA. (Education for Adults) with her family, signs up for the first of the Affordable Homes. This program allows young professionals who cannot afford to buy or build with the current conventional building prices to build their own home. Inge's new home will be built on long lease land provided by the local government. See the Bonaire Sunshine Homes Ad on page 10. ■ *L.D.*

Diving With Dee (Continued from page 12)

Get the description of the location of a lionfish sighting from Joi, take a marker, dive the site, find the fish, mark the location, then report to the BNMP so the rangers can collect the fish.

Are you thinking, "Gee, wouldn't it be easier if, after we found the fish, we just collected it rather than marking it for someone else to collect?"

That's a great idea, and Bonaire's reefs can use all the lionfishing help they can get!

So of course the **third** way you can help is by learning correct, safe lionfish collecting methods, and *collecting*.

HOWEVER, always remember that those beautiful long lionfish spines are **venomous!** When we were swimming to shore this afternoon, a spine or two of the small one often protruded through the netting; even collected lionfish can envenomate those who don't pay attention! That's why collectors need to be trained by the Bonaire National Marine Park (or REEF), and collectors need special gloves and nets. Also, of course, anyone removing any living thing from the BNMP must have special permission from STINAPA. To find out more about lionfish collecting here, contact the Bonaire National Marine Park at 717-8444.

The **fourth** way you can help is by *sponsoring lionfish collecting gear*: REEF sells the gear at www.reef.org in the "Store" and then "Field Supplies" sections. A kit for one collecting team costs \$138, which is a discounted price on the individual items, all strongly reinforced against lionfish venomous spines: a pair of gloves, two collecting nets, and a collecting bag (for those awful days when it'll be possible to collect more than one fish on a dive). You can contact REEF and purchase a kit for the BNMP, or make a donation of any amount to the BNMP via Support Bonaire.

And by the way, if you can figure out a way to lower Caribbean lionfish populations, speak up! ■

Story & photos by Dee Scarr.

Underwater naturalist Dee Scarr is the recipient of numerous awards for her coral reef conservation efforts. Her "Touch the Sea" guided dives are legendary. Catch her multimedia show at Captain Don's Habitat Resort Mondays at 8:30pm.



WHY ARE LIONFISH A PROBLEM?

They're really pretty; it's kind of neat to see such an exotic fish here! What's the problem with lionfish, anyway?

Maybe that's what they thought when lionfish first showed up in the Bahamas, because at first nothing was done. Folks didn't know that lionfish spawn all year, that a female can release 30,000 eggs in a single spawning, and that they spawn at least monthly. I heard at DEMA last month that they can spawn every four days! In addition to their prolific natures, they're voracious ambush predators who are able to eat fishes up to two-thirds their size, and they'll eat just about any fish and the occasional crustacean or mollusk – and Caribbean fish didn't evolve with lionfish, so they don't recognize them as predators, so they don't know to avoid them. Oh yes, and if the ambush predator business is slow, lionfish use their feathery pectoral fins to herd smaller fishes into a corner so they can gobble them down.

What about lionfish predators? Most Caribbean predators, like the rest of our fishes, didn't grow up with lionfish, so they don't recognize lionfish as food. At Stuart Cove's, in the Bahamas, they tried using lionfish during their shark feeds. The sharks would take the lionfish, then spit them out.

What keeps lionfish populations balanced in their native waters? The answer to this logical question is not yet known.

Dee Scarr

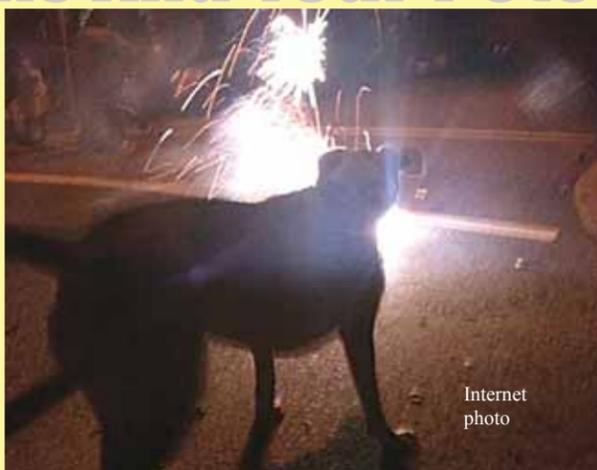


Please join CIEE Research Station Bonaire in collecting containers for use in lionfish capture and control efforts.



As Bonaire's lionfish grow, the BNMP and CIEE need larger containers in which to keep them for further study. If you have any screw-top plastic containers, at least 5" (13 cm.) high, with an opening at least 2" (5 cm.) in diameter, it would help the lionfish managing effort if you could drop them off at the CIEE headquarters on Kaya Gob. Debrot #26 during business hours. In addition, you will be helping to **recycle** many of non-biodegradable items. Contact CIEE at info@cieebonaire.org, or 717-4140. ■

Fireworks And Your Pets



Internet photo

THE PET PROJECT 2009

Benefits Animal Shelter and Your Pet

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

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

This year Rescue Remedy will be available for pet owners to help their animal companions through the New Year 2010, thanks to The Pet Project. Follow the simple instructions on the label. The cost is NAf 3 which benefits the Animal Shelter.

You may pick up Rescue Remedy at the Animal Shelter on Kaminda Lagoen, Bistro de Paris, Chat and Browse, DA Store, and at many groceries.

If you have more questions about Rescue Remedy, email fhumming-bird@yahoo.com. ■ *Florence Ditlow*

Florence Ditlow is a Registered Nurse, an herbalist certified in the use of Bach Remedies through the Bach Center.



SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

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

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

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Klein Bonaire - 10 Years After Being Returned To the People of Bonaire

One of Bonaire's more successful NGOs is the **Foundation to Preserve Klein Bonaire** (FPKB). It was started in 1996 when it appeared that Klein Bonaire was to be made over into a huge private resort development.

After four years of getting the attention of Bonaireans, the Dutch and indeed the world, with the help of Bonaire's Governor, Richard Hart, and the Executive Council, enough money was available to buy the island from its private owners. This month marks the 10th anniversary of the purchase and turnover of the island from the FPKB to the people of Bonaire.

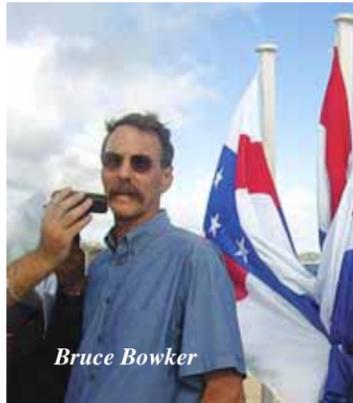
Today Klein Bonaire is much the same as it was 10 years ago. There has been no development, only the replanting of native trees as part of a STINAPA initiative and countless sea turtle births.

Looking back at some of the stories offers a glimpse of the exuberance of that time.

Port Call News (former name of The Bonaire Reporter) Dec. 28, 1999- Jan. 3, 2000).

After being in private hands for 131 years the small island of Klein Bonaire is back in the hands of the people. At 10:30 am on December 21, 1999, the purchase contract was signed between the Government of Bonaire and Maurice Neme of the Klein Bonaire Development Company (KBDC). The bulk of the money (Df 19,3 million, equivalent to US\$4.26 million or NAf 7,56 million) to pay for the island came from the Department

of the Interior and Kingdom Affairs of the Netherlands. The asking price was US\$10 million. Last week it all paid off when the three governments involved (Dutch, Antillean and Bonairean) all agreed with the purchase of the island.



Bruce Bowker

Bruce Bowker, the president of FPKB said: (Port Call Dec. 21-27, 1999): "The purchase of Klein Bonaire, with the intention of making it a National Park, is the culmination of years of work by many people. Now, as a National Park, Klein Bonaire is guaranteed to be saved from what would be ecological disaster through development for personal profit. As a National Park, with no development and no changes made to its natural beauty, generations to come will be able to enjoy what nature has given Bonaire. Now everyone can see one of the last untouched islands in the Caribbean both on land and underwater."



The sun sets on private ownership of Klein Bonaire



FPKB Treasurer Laura DeSalvo and FPKB President Bruce Bowker present a symbolic check to Maurice Neme, representing the owners of Klein Bonaire

Despite its value as an environmental showplace and rich reef system there are as yet no comprehensive set of regulations to enforce maintaining Klein Bonaire as a wilderness zone. The regulations exist solely as a plan. Attempts are made regularly to add concession stands, sun shelters and toilets. While all of these elements would make it more comfortable for its visitors, at the same time the increased visitation, sewage, trash and traffic would be detrimental to the fragile nature of the island. The Klein Bonaire "Development" Plan is actually a NO DEVELOPMENT Plan. It describes the island and protects it:

Klein Bonaire is completely surrounded by coral reefs from the shoreline to a depth of 70 meter and more. The reef starts at the coastline and sea is in a gradual sloping terrace to a depth of 10-12 meters, about 100-150 meters of the coast. This zone is dominated by coral deer antlers, elk antlers coral and soft corals. The zone at 25 to 55 meters is dominated by star corals, brain corals and other hard coral species.

Its coral reefs are an exceptionally high coverage, and have an exceptionally large population of predators. The importance of maintaining healthy reefs cannot be overstated, both for their own intrinsic value and because their economic value to Bonaire.

Some of the restrictions include:

- It is forbidden in the caves on the island for snorkeling or diving;
- It is prohibited without permission from STINAPA to be within the mainland of Klein Bonaire between sunset and sunrise;
- It is forbidden to bring pets;
- Klein Bonaire should not be used in the following ways:
 - a) or as stand-berth accommodation for, except the mooring at the government laid buoys at sea;
 - b) as the storage, landfill or repository of natural and discarded objects, substances or products;
 - c) for agricultural purposes;
 - d) for the construction of quays, piers, docks or other hard surfaces;
 - e) for the construction of fire or barbecue places except the landscaped barbecue places on No name beach;
 - f) for testing model aircraft and vessels;
 - g) by motor vehicles;
 - h) the installation of advertising;
 - i) the sea around the island should not be used for other than water sailing, swimming, diving / snorkeling and fishing;
 - j) drilling for the extraction of minerals and other soil material;

Klein Bonaire is one of the few remaining breeding grounds in the Caribbean for the Hawksbill and the Loggerhead turtles. Also seen are Green and Leatherbacks. The island has a great diversity of flora and fauna: 34 tree and shrub species and 42 plant species. There are also 33 (migratory) birds and 32 other species have been observed. ■

L./G. D.

Sudoku Solution Puzzle on page 6

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



Bon Quiz (from page 7):
Q) Why is this technique not added to most modern day homes?

A) For a time it was prohibited by the water company in order to build a rate base for the desalination plant and water distribution system. Another reason is that it adds to building cost and requires maintenance. These days most potable water is delivered by pipe.

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(From The Bonaire Reporter, Jan. 4-10-2000)

Klein Bonaire as a wilderness National Park means a lot to Bonaire and its people. It means that there will always be a place for sea turtles and birds to nest. It means coral reefs forever free from pollution. It means that all Bonaireans, their children and tourists will be able to make the traditional walk barefoot from boat to beach to enjoy a place that has remained in a near to natural state. After the signing the group, accompanied by members of the press made their way to Klein Bonaire for a symbolic flag raising ceremony on the Sea Cow, dive boats from Photo Tours Divers and Carib Inn, a Marine Park patrol boat or in an assortment of small boats. They were escorted during the voyage by several small island fishing boats carrying large Bonairean flags, tooting horns and sounding sirens.

Even Nature seemed delighted with the event. As the water taxi returned to Bonaire a rainbow hung over the island. Then after everyone disembarked a rain shower passed over to "baptize" Klein Bonaire, an omen of very good luck."

What's Happening Today?

Is Klein Bonaire a victim of its own beauty and tranquility?

FPKB President Bruce Bowker said at the ceremony on Thursday, December 30, 1999, on Klein Bonaire "When Klein Bonaire soon becomes a National Park, Bonaire can claim to have one of the most preserved, natural and beautiful areas in the Caribbean, something that more and more people of this world are searching for."

But today, when the cruise ships discharge their hundreds of passengers, many of whom end up on Klein, what happens to the "natural and beautiful area?" Their numbers overrun the island and it cannot absorb them all. Trash is left as well as human waste. The barbecue pits spill over onto the sand. The trash cans are overflowing. At this moment there is no patrol or ranger to explain what a special place this is and how very fragile an environment it is to those hundreds of tourists embarking from the boats.

As someone who cares for the turtles says, "Klein Bonaire should be a reserve and people should enjoy nature AS IT IS." Volunteers from the STCB (turtle club) have to clean up the beach three times a week.

Will this pristine island turn into a Coney Island with all sorts of amenities - just to satisfy the tourists? ■ L./G. D.

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) with whom she lives in *Wijk bij Duurstede* before she disappeared on Thursday.

Laura, a HAVO student, had been registered internationally as a missing person since Friday. According to the Dutch Council of Youth Protection, she was found in St. Maarten and placed under supervision. Police spokesman Bernhard Jens said, "She was in good health." Officials were deciding how and when to send her back to Holland.

► **A worldwide increase in the application fees, from \$131 to \$140, for tourist and business visitor visas to visit the US** is being proposed by the US Department of State because the existing fee does not cover the cost of processing the visa applications.

► **The Dutch Parliament asked the government to indicate when Dutch marriage legislation, which allows persons of the same sex to marry, would become applicable to the BES islands.** Parliament wants this legislation to go into effect "as soon as possible."

Several Dutch Christian oriented political parties voted against the motion.

Bonaire Government officials pointed this proposal out as another example why the integration of Bonaire into the Netherlands is inappropriate.

► **The Dutch economy is picking up faster than had been expected,** bolstered by family spending and better-than-expected employment figures, the government's macro-economic think tank CPB said last Tuesday. CPB said the economy would grow 1.5% next year, compared with a September forecast of zero growth and a June forecast of a 0.5% contraction. The Central Bank said last week it expected the economy to grow by 0.7% next year.

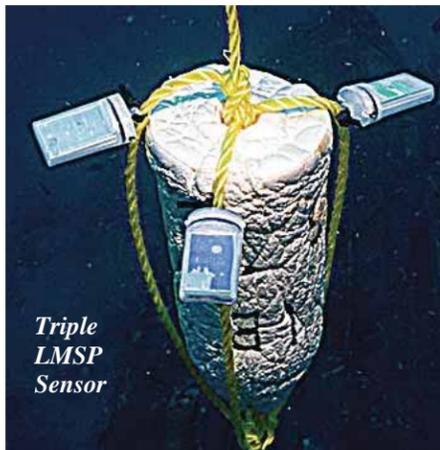
► **A growing number of Dutch people have dual citizenship,** according to figures released by Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS). In spite of restrictive government policies, 1.1 million Dutch nationals now have at least two passports. The government introduced the rule in 1997 that people who wanted to become Dutch should renounce their previous citizenship, but some exceptions to this rule still exist today.

► **The new police forces of Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will each have a special crime-fighting unit** to tackle organized and cross-border crime. The units will work together. This is one of the 28 issues the Kingdom Political Steering Group (PSG) agreed to during its marathon final meeting of the year.

► **The Clean Environment Foundation On Curaçao (SMOC) asked the Dutch Minister Jacqueline Cramer to strongly force the reduction of CO₂ emissions in the Dutch kingdom.** According to Arjan Linthorst, director of SMOC, the Netherlands Antilles are at the top of countries with high CO₂ emissions. The **Isla Refinery on Curaçao is a prime contributor.** Minister Cramer represented the Netherlands at the recent UN climate summit in Copenhagen.



► This year **Digicel Bonaire held their Christmas dinner with their employees at the Unbelievable Restaurant.** "To celebrate the success of Digicel, the Digicel Management decided that this year all employees of Digicel Bonaire are Employees of the Year, and everyone receives a gift," said General Manager Jursi Marshall. After handing out the gifts he wished all the employees a happy New Year filled with good fortune and prosperity. Shown with Jursi is Petra Kruis.



► **Bonaire's LMSP project has gone worldwide.** Two Rainbow Sensor arrays that were developed and tested in Bonaire were installed in Indonesia at the South Salawesi dive resort, Wakatobi, while the University of the Philippines is in the process of installing nine Rainbow Sensor arrays at six locations.

In August 2008 the LMSP Rainbow Sensors were updated with new filter material that promised better results than previously. As the date rolled past August 2009, year-over-year comparisons become possible, meaning the direction of the water quality can be seen at each location.

It's expected that LMSP will begin to supply BNMP management with current, reliable water quality in early 2010.

► In the last edition *The Reporter* series **Kwartiermakers and Counterparts** was to have been cancelled. However, the series has been reinstated. The RSC has set up the necessary interviews for our reporter to continue the series. (see page 6).

► **The Sunset Bar & Grill, Lions Den Restaurant, Rum Runners at Captain Don's Habitat** and other fine Bonaire restaurants will be offering seasonal menus on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day (December 26), New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. Take advantage of these specials when dining out.

► **Happy Holidays** to all our advertisers, reporters, readers and critics and may all your dreams come true in 2010. ■ G./L. D.



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Buying and selling real estate can be a very arduous and sometimes bewildering process. This is especially true if you are not a resident of the country where the property is located. Many times it also can be costly in both time and money. 4SaleByOwnerBonaire.com can change all that by letting you, the seller or project developer, control the expenses and how your property is marketed.

4SaleByOwnerBonaire.com is not a real estate company that lists your property among dozens of others. They provide all of the services without the commissions. By offering fixed fees sellers realize lower costs. Even if your property is already listed with an agent, their service can prove to be an invaluable additional tool to making a sale!

"What 4SaleByOwnerBonaire.com does is use its resources to market your property or project," explains Tim Peters, one of the two entrepreneurs whose idea it was to give sellers a choice of how to go about selling their home or business.

"We use our media knowledge to showcase your ad not only on our web site, but in print as well," explained Sander Nolen, the other member of the team. "Our goal for 4SaleByOwnerBonaire.com is to have a central listing for all property owners who want to sell independently, and make it transparent and easy for both seller and buyer to make choices. This is not meant to be an MLS service since it has not commissions." he explained further.

4SaleByOwnerBonaire.com employs a marketing concept that has proved successful in many countries. "By tapping in to the electronic market and creating links to other sources such as brokers, we feel that we can serve our clients in such a way that they receive maximum exposure, especially since we use print media and offer other services as well."

"We offer the advantage of being local and experienced in the internet and marketing. We know that by taking the approach of having the owners play an important part in the marketing process it will prove to be a success. No matter what you are selling, be it a boat, house, apartment or an entire project, we are committed to helping you connect to the right resources," they stated.

To encourage clients to try 4SaleByOwnerBonaire.com, clients can sign up for the first 3 months on 4SaleByOwnerBonaire.com for free. A mandatory advertisement must be placed in printed media of your choice. Check the web site for details

www.4SaleByOwnerBonaire.com

With all the proposed changes that Bonaire faces, especially the relationship with Holland, many buyers and sellers are acting with caution. With the world economy still undergoing it is a good time to try alternative ways of selling your property! ■ Press release

Kayaking The Caribbean

Curaçaoan Ryan de Jongh is trying to raise awareness of the environment by completing a challenge to himself. Ryan is kayaking from St Maarten to Curaçao, a total of 1,606 km in about three weeks time. He is paddling an average of 12 hours per day and has encountered small craft warnings, with high seas throughout most of his trip. After reaching Grenada in only 11 days, his chase boat has experienced some technical difficulties, but he is still expected to arrive on Bonaire around the 26th of December. Check with **Budget Marine for updates on his arrival** and help us make a warm welcome for him. Visit www.natureislife.org to join Ryan in his efforts to help those that help preserve our nature. ■ Pam Werdath-Tietel



Ryan de Jongh



MCB-Bonaire Honors SEBIKI and Island Press



MCB-Bonaire and SEBIKI staff at the presentation of the annual Community Award

Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V. held their annual End of Year Press Appreciation Gathering and Annual Award to an organization that contributes extraordinarily to Bonaire's community last Friday, December 18, at the Sunset Restaurant.

This year the winner was SEBIKI (is **SE**ntro **B**oneriano di **I**nmashon edukativo pa **K**uido Infantil (Bonairean Center of Educational Information for Infant Care) the organization that works for the optimization of care and education of children between the ages of 0 and 4. It is a foundation which has been providing a very important service, officially for 16 years and informally for 23 years.

Assistant Managing Director, **Orphaline Saleh** explained that every year since

2002 the employees of *Bo Banko Amigu*, Bonaire's Friendly Bank, nominate several organizations, and then vote to elect a winner. This year SEBIKI was elected.

SEBIKI's involvement with children starts even while the child is still in the womb, through their high-quality Pregnancy Course. SEBIKI continues to provide support and guidance to parents, day care centers, playschools and all who participate in the formation of children during the ages of 0 to 4 which are so crucial in a child's development. SEBIKI offers at least 10 additional services for children, teens, parents, day care leaders, teachers and is key in promoting the importance of child care.

SEBIKI is a professionally structured and responsibly managed organization. Aside from an active Board, the Center employs

two specialized, highly trained coordinators, who are supported by a team of four well prepared staff members and five 'bario' mothers.

SEBIKI's success and effectiveness is affirmed through the numerous recognitions its received both locally and from The Netherlands SEBIKI is a Bonairean organization that we can all be very proud of."

Mr. Evert L. Piar, the Managing Director of MCB, greeted the press and award winners, "We gather here, so we can, on behalf of Your Friendly Bank, give you the honor and appreciation that you deserve for the important tasks that you fulfill, and all you have done in the passing year.

It is an honor for our Bank to be part of this community which, although small, counts with many organizations and foundations who mostly on a voluntary basis do an excellent job in the fields of education, culture, sports, nature conservation, healthcare and so on. As a Corporate Citizen it is also our responsibility to help recognize those who have excelled during the year and thereby encourage others to continue with



MCB Managing Director Evert Piar addressed the group

the outstanding work."

Piar reflected on the economic and political situation, "... last year I spoke of dark clouds on the horizon, caused by the global crisis which has not yet left us. Now we are entering an election year, with a referendum looming, ...

A year, my friends, in which we have to prepare for the event, that which is now called the Netherlands Antilles—whatever the results will be—will cease to exist, and so bring about drastic changes for all of us in our way of life and of doing business.

It is my sincere call to you, to unite ourselves, to try to find common ground, and leave all personal interests, pride and partisanship aside, so that in the negotiations that await us we can achieve what is best for our island and its people.

Friends of the Press, trust me, the year 2010 will be far from easy, and I appeal to you to please fulfill your highly important task even better, objectively and honestly.

Our people tend to be passive, but have very good judgment and have proven to be able to apply this well when it comes to its own welfare, so let's let the year 2010 be one of unity. My suggestion to you, is to please make an extra effort to guide the people in this, by keeping them objectively well informed to be able to face all the challenges ahead.

We also have many opportunities now; let's work on these together so that tomorrow we can look back on a year 2010 in which we gave our contribution to achieve the best for our people.

I thank you all in advance for all your efforts to realize this, and you can rest assured our Bank will continue to give its contribution as well." ■ *G.L. D.*

RSC's Kamp Reports Progress

According to a progress report, titled "Halfway," delivered by RSC head, Queen's Commissioner Henk Kamp, to the Executive Councils of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba and to the Dutch Second Chamber last Thursday he is making headway with preparations to integrate the islands into Holland.

Kamp gave an overview of the efforts that the different Dutch ministries are putting into Bonaire, Saba and St. Eusta-



tius, their achievements so far and what is still pending.

Unfortunately, Bonaire is not included in all the preparations, stated Kamp. The Netherlands and Bonaire haven't reached an agreement yet on the division of tasks. Kamp spoke of a "less constructive cooperation" with Bonaire's new government. Kamp pointed out that valuable time is lost waiting for the upcoming Referendum on the island. In that Referendum, the people will decide on their future relationship with the Netherlands. Kamp said the Referendum also leads to "great insecurity."

Since his appointment on January 1, 2009, Kamp and the staff at the Regional

Service Centers (RSC) on the three islands have been acting as a conduit for various Dutch ministries in preparation for the islands themselves to perform duties in conformance with Dutch regulations and standards.

In the report, Kamp specified the actions per ministry. There was far more to report on Statia and Saba's progress than Bonaire's.

However, The Dutch Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations (BZK), which is in charge of police, will have the police chief of Bonaire, currently a *Kwartiermaker*, as the head of the new BES police corps. The Kingdom Representative (*Rijkswertegenwoordiger*) will be the

police corps manager after the October 10, 2010 transition.

The BES islands will get more police officers and police stations. The Ministry of Justice has been expanding and improving Bonaire's jail and police station.

The Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science tested students who will be tested again to see what progress has been made. Free school books were delivered to secondary schools in August 2009.

Investments were made in medical infrastructure and education for health care personnel.

For Saba and Statia progress in air lift, garbage processing, tax collection, social services and law were mentioned. ■ *G.D.*

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Nature Protection Inadequate



The Bonaire Government plans to expand and update its environmental laws: The Island Resolution Marine Park Bonaire, The Island Ordinance for the protection and conservation of nature and the species of flora and fauna contained, amending the Marine Environment Ordinance as well as others

However, island environmentalists are unhappy with the drafts of the laws.

They stress they don't protect the environment sufficiently because of gaping loopholes. A point can be made for the fact they are somewhat an improvement for what was. But, if it's proposed to completely overhaul the regulations, then it ought to be done properly and completely. The real problem, and at the same time the solution, may be that the lawmakers are completely understaffed and simply unable to produce binding legislation. As is, this legislation can be challenged and will be challenged.

The fee proposals favor some users at the expense of others.

Environmental rules for construction, projects like fish farms or inappropriate activities like oil refineries are not dealt with adequately.

Klein Bonaire, an environmental jewel because the conditions for its transfer to the Bonairean people require it be a wilderness forever, is not specifically included. It is becoming a playground for hordes of cruise ship passengers whose unsanitary activities make it unpleasant for Bonaireans.

There are insufficient rules to protect the island's fish stocks. As Sylvia Earle said: "What's the point of preserving the environment if you deplete its inhabitants?" It is

strange that the scuba dive orientations tell people not to take, not to touch and not to spear, while fishermen pull fish right off the reef in front of them.

They ask, is Bonaire to be like the Serengeti where guests can visit under very strict regulations, they can't touch the plants, are not allowed to tie a rope to the trees, are barely allowed to walk the grounds, etc. but if you see an animal, any animal, you are welcome to shoot it?

These new proposals are not even outlines for some of these points. These new regulations do not solve our current problem which is protecting the environment, starting with proper legislation. Proper legislation is the basis for just about all our environmental problems, including the sewage problem.

The environmentalists who believe in keeping Bonaire in the forefront of enlightened protection for nature want people to speak out in print, TV, radio and pressure the elected officials to assign more money and people to make comprehensive laws to protect Bonaire ■ G.D.



Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...

The smooth trunkfish, *Lactophrys triqueter*, has bony plate-like scales which are fused together to form its triangular shape. Although the fish is not a very brisk swimmer few animals prey on it because of its bony outer protection. The juveniles of this species are black with white spots and resemble little hovering dice.



MS Zelda photo

Juvenile Trunkfish

part of Bonaire is living a block from the water and being able to snorkel whenever she wants.

They don't have much control over their movement so they appear to be haphazardly tumbling their way to their desired destination.

Smooth trunkfish can be found in the waters off the Southeastern US and are quite plentiful on the reefs of Bonaire. ■ Aurora Schramm

Schramm is a Marine Science major in her junior year at Eckerd College, in St. Petersburg, Florida. Her main areas of interest include shark conservation and fisheries management. She is a student this semester with CIEE and her favorite



Aurora

Capt Don

Merry XMAS!
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A Blue Moon and Finding Mars

Approximately every 19 years there is a full Moon on New Year's Eve. And since the last one occurred on December 31st 1990, it means that next week's full Moon will also occur on December 31st and I'd like you to celebrate it in a very special way because there will not be another full Moon on New Year's Eve until 2028.



Now twice a month our Earth, Moon and Sun line up in a row. When the Moon is between our Earth and the Sun we can't see the Moon at all because its sunlit side is facing away from us and we say the Moon is new. And about two weeks later the Moon will have moved to the other side of our Earth and we then see the side of the Moon that is fully lit up and we call this the full Moon. Now on average the full Moon occurs every 29 1/2 days which means that usually there is only one full Moon per month. But about every two and a half years we can have a month with two full Moons, one at the very beginning of the month and one at the very end. Folklore calls this second full Moon a 'blue' Moon although it has nothing to do with the Moon's color. So since we had a full Moon on December 2nd we're also going to have one December 31st which means that the full Moon this New Year's Eve will be a 'blue' full Moon. Let me show you.

And you can use the Moon this coming Sunday and Monday to find Mars which will be at its closest and brightest for all of 2010 and 2011 at the end of January.

On New Year's Eve, Thursday evening, December 31st, just after sunset face east where you will see an exquisite full Moon rising. It will be the second full Moon of December (Blue Moon). But here is the really nifty part. As hour after hour goes by the Moon will climb higher and higher and reach its highest point above the horizon at midnight, the moment we ring in the New Year, wherever you happen to be. And because it is a December full Moon it will be extremely high at midnight. This won't happen again for 19 years, until 2028.

And now for you planet aficionados let me just say that the tiny 4,000-mile-wide red planet Mars is racing toward Earth and will get steadily brighter every single night until it reaches its brightest on Friday January 29th. And you can start your Mars watch on New Year's Eve while you are out Moon howling. Just look east for Leo the Lion who's marked by a sickle shaped group of stars followed by a triangle. Just above the sickle, Leo's head, you'll see a rouge-gold light and that is Mars, only 12 degrees away from Regulus, the star which marks Leo's heart. Watch Mars get brighter and brighter every single night.

But if you're one of those who has a real hard time finding planets then go out at midnight this Sunday the 3rd and you'll see the Moon just beneath it forming a triangle with it and Regulus. And on Monday the 4th the Moon will be just past Regulus making a nice curved arc with it and Mars. And think of this: on January 1st Mars will be 69 million miles away but by January 29th it will be 7 million miles closer. ■ Jack Horkheimer



Cafe Astrology

By Annie Heese

December-2009



ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You begin December with a strong, adventurous spirit, but you should watch that you don't overdo, dear Aries. Make the best of your energy in the first two weeks of the month, especially regarding professional matters, after which the need to rethink your plans becomes apparent. A romance or creative project that has been picking up speed in recent weeks could meet with some challenges. The 25-28 could bring challenges and blockages.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Career matters strengthen in December, dear Taurus. Support and opportunities seem to come when you least expect them, but when you need them most! Demands of family and your home life have been running high since October, and you've been mostly happy keeping up with all of the activity.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Partnering, compromising, and negotiating are the primary areas of focus for you this month, dear Gemini. Receiving good news about your career can lift your spirits this month--things are moving forward now. Friendships could become complicated in the last week of December

CANCER (June 22-July 22) This is not the best time of year for you to take the lead, present your ideas, or to aggressively pursue personal plans. Instead, getting organized, paying bills, and negotiating with others are important activities for you in December. December is good for travel, but it's also a more emotional time of year for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) A partner or love interest may take special notice again, and singles could meet someone new. Romantic charm runs exceptionally high this month, particularly in the first half of December. Chance meetings are very possible now. A partner's finances could increase. From the 19th forward, your energy levels may suffer a little, however. Plans or goals that have recently been fuelling your considerable enthusiasm may stall, or you might lose interest in them for the time being.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Many of you are also enjoying the renewal of interest from a special someone in your life. Happily, this trend continues in December. Work opportunities, especially of the work-at-home variety, are strong. The last week of the month demand is good timing for many who are enjoying holiday vacations.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You are certainly more serious these days, and you might find that you benefit from more attention to practical matters as well as re-organization of important structures in your life. A partner might begin to rethink matters or could be emotionally distant from the 19th; but single Librans, on the other hand, might enjoy a renewed and refreshed romance in December.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You are also likely to be held in high esteem by superiors, elders, and your partner in December. Gifts and bonuses coming your way may be more generous than usual this year! Career matters, however, can become complicated from the 19th. Either you lose some interest in projects that have recently captured your attention, or plans hit some snags and delays. Home life seems to be more rewarding for the time being

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your charm is natural and easy with Venus, the goddess of love, in your sign until the 25th. Singles should keep an eye out for love opportunities around the 16-17th. For the most part, you are getting exactly what you want this month, and people are anxious to please you. However, a romance might develop some complications from the 19th, and some of you might be rethinking your game plan regarding travel or educational focus.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) This is probably a good thing as you recover from a somewhat stressful November and prepare for an especially busy and attention-getting January! Career matters continue to bring some level of pressure, as the cosmos are asking you to structure your professional life in such a way that you are more effective in what you do. Personal changes run deep as you explore your ambitions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Love in December is connected with friends, online activities, or group associations. Relationships are mostly easygoing until mid-month, when a partner might become uncommunicative, distant, or possibly reconsidering matters. Allow others space and time to sort things out. Some of you might be reconnecting with people from your past. December is a month of serendipity, coincidences, and hunches that come to pass.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Work brings its fair share of challenges and complications, particularly from mid-month forward. Watch for worries about money, which can be alleviated by cutting back on holiday spending as much as possible -- remember that your holidays won't suffer if you curb spending. You are experiencing inner revelations about your goals. In December, support comes from behind the scenes, and when you least expect it! ■

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