

It's Still
FREE

BONAIRE The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Slipway Catalina Diaz
Leonora

25 november 1903 - 4 maart 1990

Slipway Dedicated

page 11



Commissioner "Pancho" Cicilia, Doei Diaz, Elvis Martinus, Chana Diaz and Governor Glenn Thodé dedicate the new slipway named in honor of Doei's mother

Laura Desalvo photo

Flotsam and Jetsam

THE REPORTER

As we go to press a decision is being taken in the Dutch Parliament whether to discuss the laws that will determine the future of the Netherlands Antilles: Curaçao and St. Maarten are set to become "Kingdom Countries" and the BES Islands a "special Dutch municipality." **If there is a go-ahead action on the laws, voting is set to begin on March 4. If passed there is a good chance that transition date of 10-10-10 can be met.** Eighteen items require passage. If the debate on the new Antilles-related laws is postponed it might mean a delay of more than a year before they are again presented to Parliament. See the editorial on the facing page for the challenges facing Bonaire's future course.

their request for a director's license for one of their employees.



►The target date for the first launch from Curaçao of a passenger-carrying rocket space-flight for a sub-orbital flight is **January 1, 2014**, says a former commander of the Dutch Air Force, Ben Droste, in the Dutch daily *De Telegraaf*.

Together with a business partner Droste is looking for investors to put up the 75 million euros to bring "Space Experience Curaçao" off the ground. Both the Antillean government and KPMG Accounting support the plans.

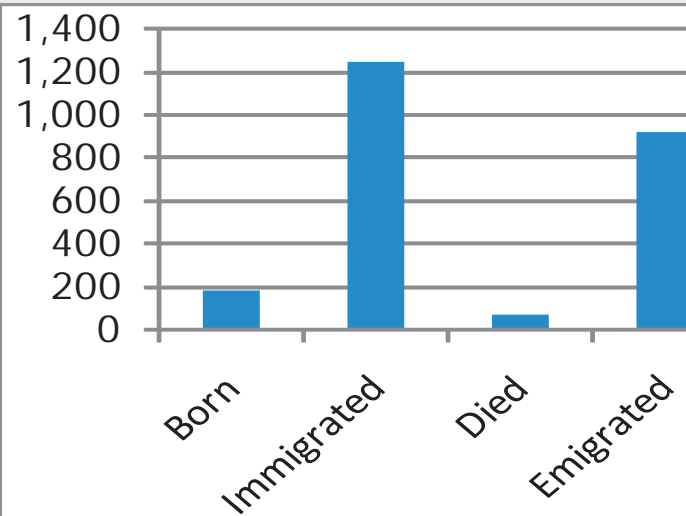
Several launch vehicles are in development from Lynx XCOR Aerospace and Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic SpaceShipTwo. The ticket price is anticipated to be €70,000. Bonaire is directly downrange of the flight path.

►Bonaire's population growth slowed again last year (2009), to about half of what it was in 2008. For more details see the tables on this page.

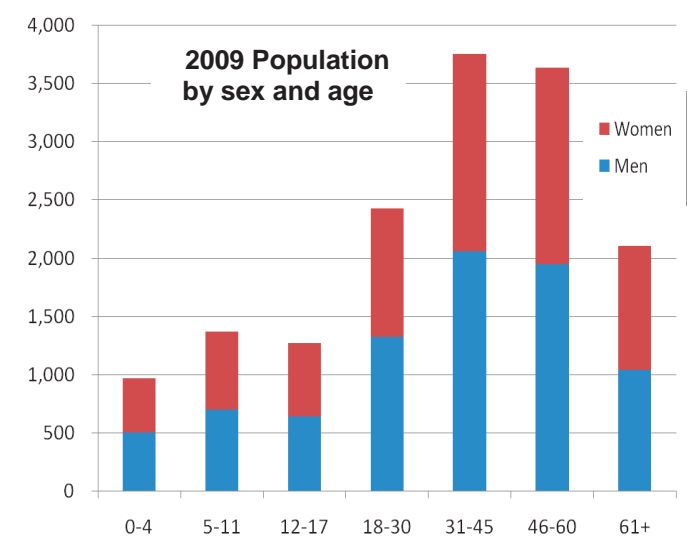
►Bonaire's 2009 budget deficit was approximately 5 to 6 million guilders higher than anticipated due to disappointing revenues and additional expenditures, announced Hans Weitenberg, Chairman of the Board Financial Supervision (Cft). "Even though Bonaire had remained within the permitted deficit in 2008, the buffer is now gone, and 2010 will become a difficult year. The island territory must keep a keen eye on the expenditures, and hopefully the assessment notices and collection policy of the Tax Department will show a better result," said Weitenberg. The annual accounts, which are due on April 1st, will contain details.

(Continued on page 16)

Bonaire Population Figures 2009



The Civil Registry (Bevolking) reported that Bonaire's population grew last year (2009) by 427 people, from 15,101 to 15,528, but the growth rate slowed to about half of what it was in 2008; 431 fewer persons took up residence than in 2008. The table above shows the details,



Age	Men	Women	Total	%
0-4	500	469	969	6%
5-11	702	665	1,367	9%
12-17	642	631	1,273	8%
18-30	1,326	1,102	2,428	16%
31-45	2,058	1,693	3,751	24%
46-60	1,946	1,691	3,637	23%
61+	1,039	1,064	2,103	14%
	8,213	7,315	15,528	
	53%	47%		

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All three governments that have influence on Bonaire are in disarray, a situation that is fueling people's uncertainty about the future of our island. Uncertainty is always bad for business.

The first is the Government of The Netherlands. On Saturday, February 20, the Dutch Labor party, PvdA, decided to leave the Cabinet which it formed till now with the Christian Democrats, CDA, and the small party Christian Union. As a consequence, the Dutch Government fell and new elections will be held on June 9, 2010.

The fall had nothing to do with the Antilles. It was about extending the presence of Dutch troops in Uruzgan. But the fall has the potential to delay or alter the

schedule which would dissolve the Netherlands Antilles and resurrect Curaçao and St. Maarten as independent Dutch Kingdom countries and the BES Islands as a special Dutch public body akin to a municipality.

Parliament had been set to debate the first set of laws this week and was set to handle the second, more significant, constitutional change law in April (2010). This should have been sufficient time to meet the planned transition date of 10/10/2010.

When a Dutch Government falls the Queen assigns a caretaker government to handle non-controversial business until new elections can be held. At issue now is whether the proposed Antillean-related laws are controversial or not. On Tuesday, March 2, as *The Reporter* is being printed, a parliamentary committee will make that decision.

If they are deemed non controversial, then Parliamentary debate is scheduled to begin March 4.

Only two opposition parties Socialist Party (SP) and Party for Freedom (PVV) have declared the Antillean reform legislation "controversial." If they are successful in making that label stick, then debate will be deferred until after the formation of a new Dutch Government. It might mean a delay of more than a year before the laws on constitutional reform can again be presented to Parliament. And there is no guarantee that the next Dutch Government will keep the agreements made by its predecessor.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

The Antilles Central Government, set to evolve on 10/10/2010 to two new countries and a special municipality, conducted the

regularly scheduled Parliamentary elections last month. And perhaps it was a good thing, especially if it turns out that there is no transition as planned. **Currently a new Central Government is being formed.** Bonaire has three Parliamentary seats, two won by the UPB (green) and one PDB (red). The UPB has joined the soon-to-be ruling coalition government, keeping its current minister and state secretary. Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage's new government will have a scant one-seat majority in the cabinet, still one seat short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass key Kingdom legislation on the first reading.

This new Government, anticipated to be the last cabinet of the Netherlands Antilles, will not be sworn in until March 26. If the transition goes as planned they will all be out of the job on October 10. What happens if it doesn't is not clear and no one in the government wants to say.

THE BONAIRE ISLAND GOVERNMENT

Bonaire's apparently smooth progress of integration into Netherlands stalled last June when the elected official assigned to negotiating the transition defected from his party on the grounds that he had conflicting views from his UPB party leadership. Anthony Nicolaas took with him his vote in the Island Council and joined with the opposition PDB party to form a new Island Government. **One of the first moves of the new government was to call a halt to cooperation with the Dutch transition process until it could evaluate the situation.**

In October it decided that a new referendum was needed. The Referendum would be held after the scheduled January Parliamentary elections. After the elections, with all sides claiming the vote indicated that their side would prevail in the Referendum, March 20 was the date set and the rules and

question for the new Referendum defined.

But the voting rules and indeed the formulation of the question itself were declared unacceptable by Bonaire's Lt. Governor, Glenn Thodé, whose decision subsequently was backed up by the Queen's highest Antillean official, the Netherlands Antilles Governor. The Referendum was annulled. A new date, indeed the question of whether there will be a Referendum or not, has not been decided at this date.

WHY NOW?

Suddenly, with the fall of the Dutch Government, the leisurely pace of the process, has accelerated. At stake is five years of negotiation designed to do away with the ineffectual layer of the central government between the islands and The Netherlands, achieve financial stability by paying off the debts incurred by that structure and provide more autonomy, in the case of Curaçao and St. Maarten, or more social and financial support in the case of the BES Islands.

The members of Bonaire's Island Council most adamant in their determination to not negotiate with Holland are in The Netherlands this week. Senator Jopie Abraham, Island Council members Marugia Janga and Anthony Nicolaas are to meet with Dutch parliamentary officials. Nicolaas met with Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage and others in Curaçao last week for more discussions about Bonaire's position.

There is a risk, raised by the anti-immigration Party for Freedom of Geert Wilders which is expected to be the biggest vote-getter in the upcoming Dutch elections, that the contents of the proposed laws would be changed with a new Dutch cabinet. Wilders is set to speak out against the debate of the Antillean laws in Parliament this Thursday. Events in Holland this week will affect the future lives of all in Bonaire. ■G.D.



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Born on Bonaire -1956 Jacinto 'Boeboei' Frans

“After Mavo high school I went to Curaçao to study electricity, and when I graduated – I was 21 – I decided to stay a little longer because there were so many things to do. I started working for ALM, the Antillean airline, not because I was so much attracted by the aviation business, but because it gave me the chance to fly for little or nothing to Bonaire whenever I felt like it.

On Curaçao I also concentrated on self-directed learning of aircraft engineering – for the same purpose I went to the States. On Curaçao I took special training: avionics, automatic pilot and

ing license. All in all I stayed with ALM on Curaçao for 18 years.

When I started dating, one of the first things I would ask a girl was, ‘Would you eventually be willing to come and live with me on Bonaire?’ When the answer was doubtful, the romance would end there and then! I met Xiomara Muller when I was 26. She was born on Aruba, living on St. Martin and had come to Curaçao to study. Xiomara didn’t have a problem with coming and living with me on Bonaire and so we hit it off. Now we’ve been married for 25 years. We have three kids: two boys, one girl.

education in Rincon and I began to clean the land in the kunuku where I’d spent my childhood to build our house. I did everything myself. No more aircrafts for the time being.

Two years later when I’d finished the house I started Bonaire Airways with a business partner. It was supposed to be a small airline, like Divi Divi, but we had to quit; it didn’t work out. Then I worked as a freelancer for ALM on Curaçao and I also worked as a teacher for all the other airlines there, teaching basic aircraft electrical systems, McDonald Douglas MD 80 and the Haviland Dash 8. It wasn’t like I spent the whole time on Curaçao. When they’d call me I’d go for one or two weeks and then I came back home...fast!

On December 23, 1999, when I was on vacation on St. Martin, I was approached by Winair to repair three aircrafts as fast as I could. They had 26 flights booked and three aircraft on the ground. Panic! That same day I repaired all three of them and since January 1, 2000, I’ve been acting director of maintenance. Every weekend I flew back to Bonaire and every Monday back



Boeboei Frans in the office

to St. Martin.

We were offered a house, cars, everything we needed, by Winair, and Xiomara had her family there, even her mom, but... Xiomara said, ‘You wanted to live on Bonaire, so we stay on Bonaire!’ And that was it!”

Boeboei Frans is a strong and handsome man with a great sense of humor, passionate but not fanatic, easy going, smart and friendly and he has patience.

“After a year I came back to Bonaire and in 2002 I founded the Aviation Maintenance Tech-

nician School, but financially we couldn’t make ends meet. It was a time of recession and nobody was particularly interested in what we were doing. KLM had just started their South American flights and I began to work for BAS (Bonaire Air Services), upgrading the ground equipment park.

Then I went to Bonaire Excel, a new airline which had taken over from ALM, to ask for a job. It was difficult as I didn’t have a European license and their maintenance was European. However, I kept on pushing them and they

(Continued on page 5)

“To me Bonaire means nostalgia, my childhood years, the kunuku, iguana soup, kabritu on the grill – the good old days. ...”

navigation – a one-time training organized by KLM for our people here. I worked and studied for four years, then I did the state exam in five major subjects: electrical systems, automatic pilot, navigation systems, air-conditioning systems and communication systems. Six months later I got my aircraft engineer-

I always had the desire to go back to where I was born, to help improve the economy, and I also wanted my children to get to know their family and to learn about the culture. So, when the eldest was eight and the youngest two, we came here. It was 1995.

Xiomara started teaching at the Watapana School for special

			
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took me as a plain helper. When I started working they immediately noticed that I could do anything and after six months I was offered the job of maintenance planner. Then the airline was taken over and the name became Bonaire Express. I was the only Antillean working in maintenance. After a while the airline changed owners again and it became DAE – an Antillean airline.

I had an Antillean license and it started to count immediately.

The new supervisor came from England. He went to scout technicians in Curaçao and I was promoted as his assistant. When DAE moved to Curaçao all of a sudden, I was the line maintenance manager and I planned and arranged the whole move and... I went with them 'supposedly'... He laughs "They thought I was living on Curaçao, but every morning and every evening I was hopping on the plane, back and forth!

Just before DAE moved to Curaçao I was approached by several aviation people to continue with the school. So, after three months I quit DAE and started seriously investigating to see whether any students on Bonaire would be interested in the education we had to offer.

January 14th, 2008, we started with 12 students in the day school and eight at night. Now

we have 14 students who are in their final year. In August 2009 we started with eight new student admissions.

The training takes 30 months, a six-month period of teaching practice included, 1,850 lessons, which is well considered according to the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization. Our books are American books and they also meet the same requirements. It's a private school; we're not getting any help from the government... yet. The training costs between NAf 15.000 and NAf 20.000 all inclusive. Preparatory training or its equivalent is VSBO, with English, electricity and physics. But students are tested before they are accepted and they have to be 17 or older.

When the kids are ready and they start working, they still don't have a license. They must have two years of practice and that's checked by the school. We help them to find a trainee post, but they have to find a job themselves. The Aviation Department of the Dutch Antillean government holds the exam. It's a state exam and the license they get is acknowledged on an international level by the International Civil Aviation Organization, so they can work all over the world.

I am the director of the school and we have 13 instructors, eight from Bonaire, three from Curaçao, one from Puerto Rico and

one from Trinidad. We even have a space science engineer from Curaçao who studied in Holland and who's living on Bonaire now.

Our plan is long range. We're also interested in students from the region and maybe later from South-America as well.

The school was visited by the Dutch Department of Education and the conclusion of their report was that our SBO level is a bit higher than the highest level! (You can look it up on the internet under BES-islands). Now we are planning to apply for the European Aviation Safety Authority License part 147 for the school.

In about 10 years or so I will still be the owner of the school, but then I won't do anything anymore. Another director may take my place. But I do have plans to set up an aviation maintenance organization, preferably on Bonaire. It would be like a garage where aircraft are maintained. I've got the mechanics already.

Then I'm going to take it easy and will plunge deeper into astronomy, my big hobby. But



Xiomara and Boeboei Frans

that's a whole different story – and... do what Xiomara and I like best... traveling.

But for now, I am with the school and recently I started working for Divi Divi. Once a week I fly to Curaçao to do quality assurance for them, which includes the 'human factor.' Here at school it's also one of the subjects, to make the students aware of human abilities and limitations – a very important subject – which I'm teaching myself, and it's complimented by the instructor from Trinidad who has a license to do so.

To me Bonaire means nostalgia, my childhood years, the kunuku, iguana soup, kabritu on

the grill – the good old days. That's what Bonaire means to me. And one day they will take me from my house to Kaya Korona without a number. But before it comes to that, I hope that Bonaire with the new structure will develop a better economy from which we all will profit.

I think between now and the next 10 years Bonaire will do much better, as long as people stay sensible and realistic."

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra









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100 Years of Natural Beauty Gone In An Instant

I am not a person to rant and rave at the things happening to and on Bonaire, however, an incident that occurred today has compelled me to bring it to the attention of anyone willing to listen. It might not seem a very big deal to most people, particularly at this time with so many other serious concerns for Bonaire's future. But the incident is another example of how Bonaire is systematically being destroyed daily in small yet insidious ways by individuals and/or groups who have no respect for this island's nature or culture.

Today I watched as a 20-foot-tall kadushi cactus, at least 100 years old, was hacked to pieces and cut down. The beautiful kadushi was probably one of the few large cacti left in the old developed neighborhood of Hato. It stood in the backyard of the house next door to mine. The majestic plant was home to four bird nests, each used every year by a variety of our local birds. It fed and watered the loras and prikichis every day during the dry season when they come to Hato looking for food and water. It was a stage for the mockingbirds and troupials to perform their songs each morning. It was a dramatic silhouette at night against the large Bonairean full moon each month. It is now gone forever.

Why? Because a family will be moving into the house next door on a temporary basis while some of them do work for Trans World Radio. They have a child with a psychological condition that requires that all sharp objects be removed from the child's environment. The cactus needles are too sharp. I have sincere sympathy for the issues with which this family must deal. However, it is common knowledge that Trans World Radio has numerous empty houses on the island to accommodate their temporary work force. Was it not possible that this family could have been placed elsewhere? I was told the other houses were "too small". I offered to build a fence around the cactus, at

my own expense, to prevent the child from having access to it. I was told that was not a feasible solution and that it had to be removed.

I find it irresponsible, disrespectful and truly sad that a

beautiful 100-year-old part of Bonaire, home and sustenance to our wildlife, was destroyed to accommodate a temporary human living situation. Surely there was a feasible alternative to this destruction of Bonaire's environmental history, contemporary beauty and balance of nature.

Some may think this is not such a big deal. But small events like these, that have no legitimate purpose, happen on our tiny island every day...some observed, some in secret. Each event eats away at the balance of nature and natural beauty of Bonaire. If we ignore them all, what will be left for the children of dushi Boneiru?

A young Bonairean assigned to the "demolition" crew obviously felt bad about the old lady crying over a kadushi. He cut a piece of a cactus arm and carefully provided it to me with instructions on how to plant it and make it grow in my yard. I intend to follow his advice. Hopefully my little cactus will grow to be as tall and majestic as the "mother" that was destroyed. Will someone please check it for me in about 100 years or so, as I will be long gone by then. ■ *Jane Madden*



A Kadushi in the mondi

New BOOK



Jan Jonkman presented his Dutch language book, "What Now?" ("Wat Nu?") on Friday, February 26, at Kas di Arte.

Dr. Jonkman came to live on Bonaire in 1964 when it was still a relatively quiet island. He encountered a totally different culture, language and lifestyle in the Antilles from what he was used to in post-war Germany where he had studied and worked.

In Germany he was repeatedly confronted with the inequality between people. Because of these experiences he felt a calling to become a pastor. Jonkman emigrated from Germany to Holland where he was again confronted with the unequal treatment and attitudes between the European Dutch and the Antillean Dutch.

As a pastor for 45 years and as director of the Foundation for Youth and Family in the Netherlands Antilles Reverend Jonkman was inspired to write his book, about the unequal attitudes between Europeans and Dutch Caribbean.

With the support of his spouse, Ilse Jonkman-Visser, his family, the Protestant community and sponsors such as Landhuis Bernabela and Greenfields Residence NV, Reverend Jonkman has realized his dream.

The ceremony was well organized and presented by Coffie and van der Hoek, N.V. (Sapphira Coffie and Rosje van der Hoek) Administration and Training Consultancy, (701-7984). ■ *Press Release*

Spelling Bee Winner

Biblioteka Publiko
photo



Winner: Luis Marciano.

The Bonaire Public Library (Biblioteka Publiko Boneiru) organized the island's first Papiamentu language Spelling Bee. The exciting competition was eventually won by Luis Marciano.

In the last round only Dustan Mercelina and Luis remained of the 20 finalists.

The 1st prize winner received a set of dictionaries donated by the writer Sidney Joubert. Both finalists also received a CD with a Papiamentu spell checker donated by Prive Pro.

The event was chaired by Arthur Sealy, who announced the candidates. Gerladine Dammers, Ilviena Carolina and Iveth Anthony formed the expert panel. If you have constructive tips and / or feedback, mail them to

openbarebibliotheek@yahoo.com.

Biblioteka publiko was pleased with the good turnout of participants, and interested parents. The library was also pleased with the presence of Commissioner Oleana, entertainer Panchito and NOS-TV. ■ *G.D.*



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Tio Pepe and his 1971 Chevrolet Step Van

The 63rd of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."
On course for 100+

Antriol/ Bonaire –
Thursday, half past
12.

The pupils from the Colegio Reina Beatrix (Queen Beatrix College/jb) are off for today. Happy, well-mannered and dressed in yellow shirts and blue jeans they are

free to leave the school yard now. Parents are waiting for their kids. And a lot of kids have also been waiting to see Tio Pepe!

Like the kid's parents, Tio Pepe has already parked his vehicle in the parking lot in front of the school. Tio Pepe, officially registered as Pursley Bernabela, is the owner of an original Chevrolet Step Van. Well, original... During the years Tio Pepe converted the van more and more to do its job more accurately. The interior contains, among other things, a freezer, a soft ice cream machine, a front desk, a cash register, a sink, several cupboards, a radio, interior lights. On the outside an original bell made out of solid brass is mounted. The bell shows the year "1827." I do not really think this bell has already achieved the age of almost two centuries. Apart from the brass bell there is also a multi-functional and screaming siren mounted near the bell. The siren can produce all kinds of sounds. Among others the sound of a cock. Maybe the word "rooster" is a better choice.

Tio Pepe is a very nice man. He likes the kids. He is always polite and very friendly to them. Some of the kids even have to mount the rear wheel of the step van to reach the level of the counter. To Tio Pepe it does not matter that they scratch the paint of the wheel or the tire a bit. He helps the kids and collects the dimes and the quarters.

From his van Pursley sells ice cream, hot dogs, juices and all kinds of little sweets. There is neither alcohol nor tobacco for sale.

Pursley's rolling shop is based on a long body Chevrolet Step Van, built in 1971.



Tio Pepe's Rolling Snack

The chassis is made of tough American iron; the huge, square body is made of aluminum, held together by numerous rivets. There are four impressive 16-inch wheels and tires that carry the vehicle. The Chevrolet engineers apparently thought there must be 32 nuts necessary to keep the wheels connected to the axles. Under the bonnet a reliable low-revving, straight-six engine is ladled in. This engine gives traction to the front wheels to save space in the flat-floored van. In the front and at the rear there are two sturdy, white painted, bumpers. Don't mess with this car, baby!

Tio Pepe, being independent, loves his job and his car. Some months ago I met him and his vehicle even way up in Rincon. The slow vehicle is able to cover loads of miles! And miles take time and time makes the ice cream melt. So for the long trips Tio Pepe connects a custom made trailer to the van. On the trailer there is a generator running to supply the electric energy for all the equipment.

Then it is around one o'clock. The kids are supplied and Pursley closes the shutter on the side of the van. He starts the engine. Tio Pepe is on his way to the next school and the next group of young customers. The rear end of the Chevy becomes smaller and smaller. In big and amateuristic writing it says: "Ice cream hot dog sold here." Bye bye Tio Pepe. Have fun! ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer

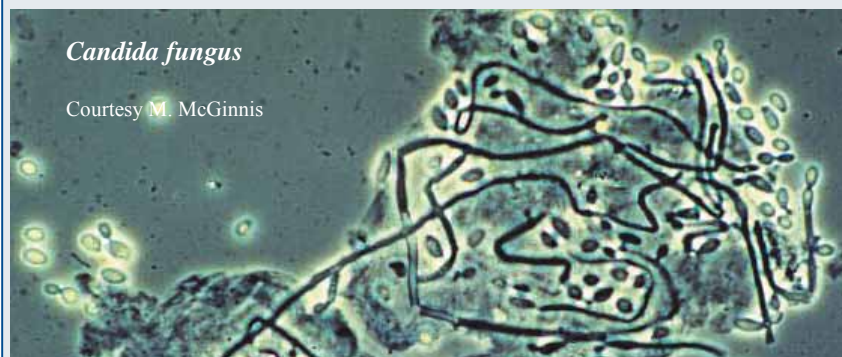


Body Talk

A SILENT FUNGAL PANDEMIC, CONTINUED.

Candida fungus

Courtesy M. McGinnis



Fungi in the human body grow very steadily and very, very slowly. That is why it is so hard to link disease to them. However, the evidence can clearly be seen in real time through the lens of a powerful microscope and objectively measured through biological terrain analysis and standard blood chemistry tests.

Fungi and yeasts grow by fermentation and the by-product of their metabolism such as lactic acid, carbon dioxide, alcohol and uric acid, irritate the liver and pancreas to the point where the toxic deluge can overwhelm ordinary cell function and damage the organs.

Most of the medications prescribed today are symptomatically intended, and most will upset the balance of friendly bacteria in our gut and therefore encourage yeast overgrowth. I have already mentioned antibiotics and penicillin which are both fungal-based medicines. Fungal-based medicines destroy friendly bacteria! Yet the antibiotic is not the problem, its overuse and misuse is!

Many of today's top-selling pharmaceutical drugs, including drugs for cholesterol and weight loss, certain diabetic drugs, and those used in chemotherapy, are partly antifungal in their action or strategy, thereby confirming fungus as the root of the problem. Chemotherapy blocks the production of ergosterol, the building blocks of fungi and cancer cells. Drugs used to balance cholesterol belong to a family of drugs called statins, which are antifungal in their action.

From my experience, not many people really understand their high cholesterol problem and tend to look at it as a disease, when in fact it is really a symptom of being infected with fungus. Cholesterol is produced by the liver when it detects a fungal infection in the body. Cholesterol effectively mops up fungal toxins and helps to repair arteries. Therefore the higher your cholesterol level, the higher your level of fungus overgrowth. Certain diabetic drugs are made from

sulphur, which as an element has anti-fungal properties. These drugs may encourage greater secretion of insulin, but they also act as an anti-fungal.

Azoles are also used as antifungal drugs, and can be found in drugs for throat and mouth inflammations, prostate drugs, drugs treating AIDS patients, gastric reflux medications and in many anti-depressant drugs. By understanding how the drugs work will give us an idea of what is really affecting us; the disease is the overgrowth of yeast and fungus and the symptoms are heart disease, cancer, diabetes, high cholesterol, depression, skin disorders, etc. etc. (Yes, the list IS endless!) Those are the major symptoms, with lesser symptoms of sugar cravings, bad breath, nail bed fungus, eczema, acne, gallstones, obesity, arthritis, PMS, athlete's foot, jock itch and thrush.

Do we really need any more medications? No, we need to be aware of the laws that govern health! By taking these medications, you will (if you are very lucky) keep your particular health problem 'under control'. Unless you change your diet to an anti-fungal one, you have **no hope ever** of regaining true health!

In the next issue I will show you how to change your dietary habits to eliminate that fungal and yeast overgrowth, how it is possible to wean yourself off all your medications and to be back in control of your health! ■ 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.



DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

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Go Fly A Kite!



Iris Semeleer of the Flamingo Book Store is organizing **Bonaire's 32nd annual kite flying competition (Kontest di Fli) on Sunday, March 28.** It will be held at the Juventus soccer field behind Kooyman's. Kite flying starts at 8 am.

Participants may sign up at the Flamingo Book store in Kaya Grandi between March 1 and 27. Entry fee is kids, NAf,3,50; adults, NAf 7,50. These entry fees have not gone up in many years!

There are prizes for the smallest, strangest, most beautiful, biggest and most original kites. The jury will also choose the big winner at the end of the competition.

Don't miss it. It's an all-day affair with people of all ages from Bonaire and Curaçao flying spectacular homemade kites. In past years some of the kites were the size of small airplanes; others were made of beer cans!

Main sponsors are Maduro & Curiels Bank Bonaire, Sabadecdo, WEB, Flamingo Book Store and the Bonaire Gift Shop. ■ *L.D.*



Bonaire Toastmasters Club Officers: Standing: Sherwin Pourier, President of the Wayaka Toastmasters Club, and Carlos Lopez, President of the Sentebibu Toastmasters Club. Seated: Lucia Martinez-Beck, Area Governor; Geraldine Dammers, conference coordinator; Davicka Bissesar, President of the Culture Toastmasters Club. Missing: Crusita de Palm

More than 80 persons have already signed up for the Toastmasters conference, "Discover Your Potential, on March 5-6-7 at the Divi Flamingo Conference room. Price is NAf 100 for Toastmaster members and NAf 125 for all others. You may register via email: dypconference@gmail.com.

For more information visit the website: <https://sites.google.com/site/dypconference/> or contact Crusita de Palm—Leoneta 796-3827, Email: crusita.depalm@gmail.com.

There are 4 Toastmasters Clubs in Bonaire:

- Toastmasters Club Flamingo meet 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 3 pm
- Toastmasters Club Wayaká meet 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 6 pm
- Toastmasters Club Sentebibu meet 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 6 pm
- Toastmasters Club Culture meet 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 3 pm.

Culture is a club that uses English to give

the opportunity for their members to improve their English. Meetings are at Sede di Scouting or Prive Pro. ■ *Press release*

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday on Sunday, March 7, to Yuchi Molina.

Yuchi, a dear friend of *The Bonaire Reporter*, has been delivering the paper to Rincon shops and restaurants for many years. Pabien, Yuchi, and many, joy and happiness many more years of in the future.■



Friday, March 5, 2010, 8.00 pm

classical **musicboardbonaire**

PIANO RECITAL MARYLIN KREDEL
at PLAZA RESORT BONAIRE - caciue hall

Performing works of Scarlatti, Beethoven, Chopin, Brahms and Liszt.

Marylin Kredel performed at the Vatican in Rome, Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris and Carnegie Hall New York.

TICKETS: 30,00 ANG (35,00 ANG at the door)
Accompanied children with school ID: 10,00 ANG at the door

Available at: • Books & Toys, Kaya Grandi • Flamingo Bookstore, Kaya Grandi • Plaza Resort Bonaire: Reception/Caciue Hall

Special Olympics Bonaire is Organizing for Sunday, March 7th, 2010 their

8TH ANNUAL WALK-A-THON



Starts at 5am at Slavenhutjes
Price: Nafl. 25,- p.p.
T-Shirt pick-up: at Hotel Rochaline
Friday March 5th, 5pm - 7pm
Saturday March 6th, 10am - 4pm

There will be water station with healthy snacks and water every 5km (approx 3miles).
Food at the Finish line for all participants.

Lunch will be served at Pasadia Kariño Rincon from 10am - 1pm.

Everybody may join us. No matter how: walking, running, cycling the whole 30km or part of it.
All proceeds will go to Special Olympics Bonaire.

Tickets are available at: TCB, Chat & Browse and from board members and coaches of Special Olympics Bonaire.



Letters to the Editor

DON'T ACCEPT INEQUALITY

Dear Bonaireans,

You have a long and historic memory of human rights abuse.



No one knows better than you about inequalities. That you have deep and real misgivings about the process of becoming a Dutch municipality is understandable and legitimate. There are apparent social differences between your status and that of a Dutch citizen in Holland. However, only by joining Holland can you arm yourself with the right tools to fight these grievances in the same arena as other Dutch citizens. This is an extended process, but you have to be inside to begin it. Carpe diem. You must seize the day.

One important point: religion should not confuse the issue. In free countries, church and state must be separate. Their laws concern different things: the laws of the church deal with the spiritual life, the laws of the land with human rights. Holland has a first class reputation on the matter of religious freedom.

Please forgive a visitor with no voice for speaking out. It is becoming hard to watch the advantage that Bonaire enjoys in these negotiations being frittered away while the political situation in Holland may be changing unfavourably.

- Dorothy MacDonald

REACTION TO EDITORIAL IS NOW THE TIME

Dear Editor,

I want to thank you for having the courage to speak up during these decisive times for Bonaire. I thought your comments about some in the Dutch government to be spot on. Condescending attitudes and "my way or the highway" philosophies are not helpful during this sensitive time of transition. Let's hope both sides can come to a compromise with dignity and justice.

- P.

I felt my own sentiments expressed by your editorial "is now the time?" thanks for putting it out there

-B

SADNESS ABOUT SOROBON

Dear Editor,

We travelled to Bonaire several times, even our son has the name of your island.

Not only are we surprised, but we are shocked (to learn that Sorobon Resort was closing). I am the press spokesman of Munich airport and I have talked to a lot of people about the changes in Bonaire Sorobon. Please understand, that there are so many beautiful places in the world, and not only I have travelled to see them. Starting with the Maldives, Mauritius, South America, Seychelles, Emirates and so on. Everywhere superfine hotels and resorts.

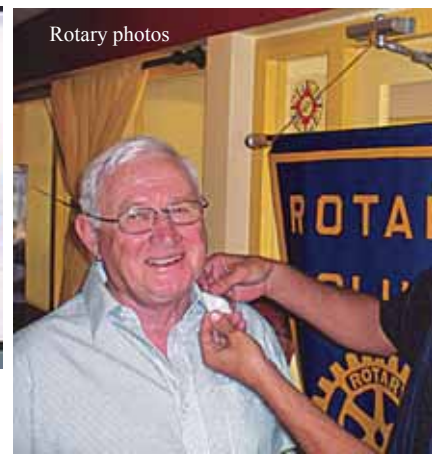
But Sorobon is unique. Until today it was worth the trip. And in future? There are so many exclusive resorts. We do not think that the world needs an additional exclusive resort. But the tourist world needs places like Sorobon – the way it is.

-Peter Prüm

Rotary Club News



Rotary Club Bonaire donated NAf 2,200 to *Fundashon Saka Man Yuda Nos* represented by Secretary Hans Bolsman. This foundation helps a group of poor elderly people: giving fruit baskets, food, and repairing their houses and cleaning their gardens. ■ *Press release*



Rotary photos

Last Wednesday the Club Bonaire Installed its newest member, Jan Kloos. This makes 31 members serving the Bonaire community. ■



Gov Thodé, Luz Aida Franco-Wesselius and Ernst Wesselius

Art Show Success

Luz Aida Franco-Wesselius first art show at Kas di Arte was an unqualified success. The new artist received great praise for her talent and most of her paintings sold. The show has closed but she can be contacted at tel. 560-0907 or 516- 8575.

■ G.D.

Bon bini! Welcome to the captain's gardens.

Plants, Trees, Tours and More

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— captain Don

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WHAT IS THE WORTH OF OUR WATER?

On Bonaire, while we are quite familiar and comfortable with seawater, we can recognize that due to the porous nature of our land and the arid state of our environment, the island does not retain ground or surface freshwater. The benefit of drinkable tap water is derived from the process of desalination; literally removing salt from seawater. On Bonaire, the desalination plant applies a reverse osmosis process which uses pressure to force saltwater through a special membrane, allowing only pure water to pass. This requires a lot of energy, which at the moment is being supplied exclusively through electrical power. Electrical power, of course, requires the burning of fossil fuels.



The energy required to produce bottled water is up to 2,000 times more than the energy required to produce tap water.

Earth is the “water planet.” The vast expanses of blue seen in satellite pictures of Earth comprise 97.5% of the world’s water. Of the 2.5% remaining, almost 80% is locked up in ice caps and glaciers. That which is unfrozen is almost entirely (98.4%) found as groundwater. Only 0.01% of all water (1.4% of freshwater) is surface water; and of this only 0.003% is potable (drinkable).

Yet, in theory, we are reducing our environmental impact by removing a reliance on bottled water. **To produce a one liter (L) bottle of water requires 1.56 to 2.83 kWh *kilowatt hours) of energy** when factors such as production, transportation and use are included. This, compared with a minimum of 0.00076 kWh required in the desalination of 1 L of seawater, shows that by choosing to drink tap water we can reduce our energy footprint by at least a factor of 2000. To put these numbers in terms of our electric bill, consider that WEB charges NAf 0.5974 per kWh, then it would cost between NAf 1 and NAf 2 to produce just one 1L bottle versus NAf 0.0002 to get

that amount of water from desalination. **You could fill 5,000 bottles with WEB water for the cost of one bottle of water from the supermarket!** Consider how much water we use in any given day and those florins really start adding up!

So, why is it that I still see so many people leaving the grocery stores carrying crates of bottled water? This is particularly disconcerting when remembering that our recycling here is limited to glass bottles only. A typical plastic, disposable water bottle contains 0.5 L of water. A typical human being needs 1 gallon (or close to 4 L) of water per day just to keep their body going. **That means that for those bottled water drinkers at least 8 plastic bottles are being thrown out every day.** Thankfully, most of us choose to drink from the tap, but are we being equally wise water consumers in other ways?

More Saving Ways

Every time I return from a dive I rinse my gear in freshwater and I spray down the vehicle to remove the salt and sand. And every time I do these things I can’t help but think of the water I am “wasting” just to keep “things” clean. Let’s assume a typical gear rinse tank can hold about 100 L of water; in effect, by rinsing my gear I have consumed that water. Now it comes time to take care of the car. Estimating that a high hose pressure has water flowing at 10 L/min, then in the 3-5 minutes it takes to clean the outside and undercarriage of my car I’ve just used another 30-50 L of water. This is “good” water which is lost because it either quickly evaporates or runs off on the pavement. Then, when I realize I’ve tracked mud and sand all over the porch, I again use that trusty hose to clean it down. There goes another 10-20 L of water I could be drinking. **More than 1 billion people – or 20% of the world’s population – lack access to safe drinking water and in less than 10 minutes I have theoretically deprived as many as 42 of them from the amount of water essential for survival.**

This example is simply related to a one-time activity, consider how many more liters of water are used daily as we drink, cook, clean (our homes and our bodies), flush or water our gardens? So what can be done to appreciate our fresh water

as much as our seawater?

Reusing Water

Well, the familiar adage of “**reduce, reuse, recycle**” comes to mind. **Reducing** our water consumption is self-explanatory. As for **reuse**, I have heard of several private homes and businesses that have invested in water recapture systems. Mainly these are being used to irrigate landscapes. Rain water can be captured by simply connecting gutters to covered barrels (having the water enclosed will prevent mosquitoes from breeding). Gray water can be acquired by using what is left from washing dishes or laundry. Or, park your car on a gravel area near your garden and spray it off there, and reuse that water by taking care of your plants. In doing this, you also reduce the amount of water which runs off along the pavement. This is good, since water running over hard surfaces picks up debris, chemicals and other pollutants and carries it into the ocean where these inputs can affect our coral reefs. Another input that has been a hot topic on Bonaire is sewage from leaky or bottomless septic tanks. **Water recycling, through the installation of a wastewater treatment plant or the design and construction of wastewater wetlands would also reduce and reuse water which we have already paid to receive.**

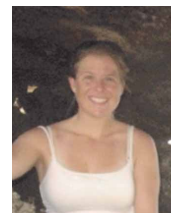
However, my opinions are not intended to open up any political, social, or economic floodgates (pardon the pun), but rather to redraw your attention to the value of “clean” water. This is especially true on an arid, limestone-based island surrounded by beautiful coral reefs. So, **‘Think before you drink,’ ‘Sweep before you spray’ and ‘Contain it, don’t drain it.’** ■ *Lauren Saulino*

[l.saulino@gmail.com]

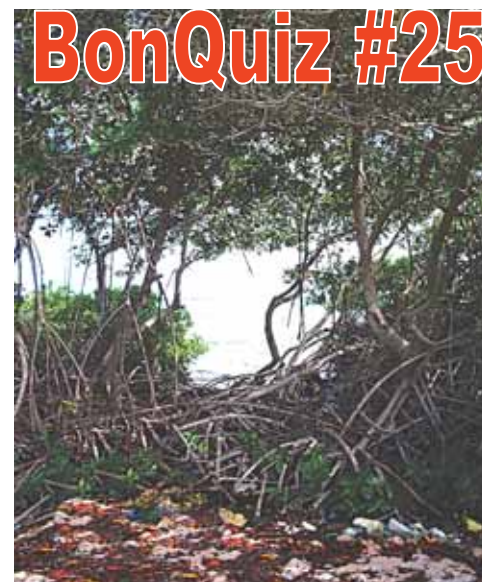
References:

Gleick, P.H. and Cooley, H.S. “Energy implications of bottled water.” *Environmental Research Letters* 4 (2009) 014009 (6pp). Found on: <http://www.physorg.com/news156506896.html>

Lauren Saulino holds a Master’s Degree in Environmental Sciences with a concentration in Environmental Management.



BonQuiz #25



Mangrove Trees

Mangrove trees are one of the best trees an island in the sun can have. In the Caribbean the currents carry their seeds to far away places where they attach themselves and produce groves of trees on shore that provide shelter to fish and water fowl alike, offer protection of coastal areas from hurricanes, storms and high swells. Bats enjoy the nectar from their flowers at night.

Mangrove trees create dry land whilst propagating more seedlings, creating peat and filtering the water.

The seeds, when snapped, were used by local fishermen in Lac to waterproof their cotton fishing lines. Basket weaving in the past was popular using one of the mangrove species here on Bonaire.

Lac is a unique area and is important for the whole Caribbean region. It functions as a breeding ground. Fish that are born here find immediate protection in the mangroves and as adults venture out onto our reefs and into the Caribbean Sea. To the delight of those who truly know this tree, seeing it on the south west side of the Island is a sight for sore eyes, as it continues to propagate and protect that side of the island from rough weather.

Q) Which part of one of these species was used for weaving by Lac fishermen? Answer on page 17

BonQuiz appears regularly in *The Reporter*. It’s prepared by **Christie Dovale of Christie Dovale Island Tours**. Contact her to arrange a tour, Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456 or email: christiedovale@hotmail.com.



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Walk-a-Thon This Weekend

The 8th Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon is Sunday, March 7. Commemorating the trek Bonaire's salt slaves made each week the event has become a tradition for many locals and visitors.

Leave from the White Slave Huts in the south at 5 am and travel 30 kilometers along the coast, through Kralendijk and end in Rincon. Participants can walk, roller blade, run, ride a bike or whatever. You may leave your car at the Stadium and get the bus to White Slave. The last bus leaves at 4:30 am. Transportation will be available in Rincon for you (and your bike if needed) back to the Stadium. There will be water stations offering healthy snacks and water every 5 km (approximately 3 miles) along the route and a meal at the finish at Pasadia Karino Rincon served from 10 am to 1 pm.

Even if you don't want to walk or ride you may contribute to this fine organization by buying a ticket and/or sponsoring a participant at so much per kilometer.

Entry (donation) fee is NAf 25 (\$14.04) and includes a t-shirt, refreshments the meal at the end. T-shirts will be handed out at Hotel Rocheline (City



Jong Bonaire walkers on The Reporter cover last year.

Café) on the Kaya Grandi side on Friday, March 5, 5 to 7 pm, and on Saturday, March 6, from 10 am to 4 pm. You may buy your ticket at Chat 'n Browse or from any of the Special Olympics Bonaire board members: Claire Sealy (786-5454), Chio Semeleer (788-2299), Elska (701-1999), Arlene (525-8496) or Aura (788-0101). Sponsors for the event include Digicel, Nagico, MCB, Hitess, Ennia, Fatum and Claro. ■ L.D.

Slipway Dedicated Cover Story



Family and friends celebrate the dedication of Slipway Catalina Diaz-Leonora

Last Friday, February 26, family and friends from Playa Pariba came together to dedicate the new improved slipway to the mother of Doeï Diaz, "Slipway Catalina Diaz-Leonora." This was especially good news as we saw the closing by Harbour Village Resort of another very well used slipway on the road by the Harbour Village Marina, the area to be turned into a dock. At this time there are only two places you can launch your boat: at Slipway Catalina Diaz-Leonora or next to the Venezuelan fruit market across from City Café.

Another launching place, "Mo Dé Slipway," named for Elvis Martinus' grandfather, was opened with a ceremony in September 2004, but the waves of Hurricane Ivan washed it away. However, according to Elvis, the government has promised to rebuild it.

Playa Pariba, the site of the new improved slipway, was a real family neighborhood, many of whom got their living from the sea. Some of the family names along with Martinus were Diaz, Booi, Boekhoudt and Marchena. Several generations from some of those families were there to celebrate. At the celebration some of the younger generation ladies enjoyed the new signposts which inspired them to do a kind of dance.

Richard of Richard's Restaurant asked that we tell everyone who launches a boat at this new slipway that they are free to use his dock during the launching process. ■ L.D.

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Downtown Kralendijk, next to Paradise Photo

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB

Date	Day	Ship name	Time	PAX
Thurs-day	March 4, 2010	<i>Ruby Princess</i>	0700-1400	3100
Friday	March 5, 2010	<i>Enchantment of the Seas</i>	0700-1530	1950
Monday	March 8, 2010	<i>AidaAura</i>	0800-1600	1260
Tuesday	March 9, 2010	<i>Ocean Dream</i>	0800-1600	1422
Tuesday	March 9, 2010	<i>Sea Princess</i>	1200-1900	2016
Wednes-day	March 10, 2010	<i>Noordam</i>	0800-1700	1918
Friday	March 12, 2010	<i>Enchantment of the Seas</i>	0700-1530	2446
Monday	March 15, 2010	<i>Delphin</i>	1330-1900	400
Monday	March 15, 2010	<i>BRAEMAR</i>	0800-1800	700
Tuesday	March 16, 2010	<i>Ocean Dream</i>	0800-1600	1422
Thurs-day	March 18, 2010	<i>Caribbean Princess</i>	1100-1900	3100
Friday	March 19, 2010	<i>Enchantment of the Seas</i>	0700-1530	2446

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

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

March 5-7 - Educational Event: “Discover your Potential,” sponsored by Toastmasters Bonaire, Divi Flamingo. See page 8 for more information

Friday, March 5- American Pianist **Marilyn Kredel** will perform in Cacique Hall at the Plaza Resort Bonaire starting at 8 pm. More on page 8 & 16

Saturday, March 6 —“Internal Detoxification in a responsible and natural way,” an alternative medicine talk by Dr. Heesbeen from Curaçao. Presented by the Rose Lord Health Center. Also present will be an expert from Holland. Free. Opportunity for three persons to get a free massage that evening. Everyone welcome. Centro Orkidia Alejandro Saleh (Nrd Salinja), 7:30 pm.

Sunday, March 7- Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon. More on page 8 & 11.

Sunday, March 28 - 32nd Annual Kontest di “Fli (kite contest) in the field behind Kooyman’s. All day from 9 am. **Sign up** at the Flamingo Book Store on Kaya Grandi between March 1 to 27. Entry fee for kids, NAf 3,50; adults NAf 7,50. More on page 8

April 1-5 – 8th Edition of the MCB International Tennis Tournament. Harbour Village Tennis Center. Categories: Men’s Singles, Ladies Singles, Men Doubles, Women’s Doubles and Mixed games; Doubles, skill in classes A, B1, B2, C1, C2. The grading for skill levels of foreign players will use the ITF guidelines.

April 24—Health Day at Bonaire Basics. Details on page 17.

May 27-30 - Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival 2010. More on page 17

REGULAR EVENTS

- **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.
- **Parke Publico** children’s playground open every day into the cooler evening hours.
- **Saturdays**
 - **Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. **Big Marshé 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
 - **Meet the Captain Night at Captain Don’s Habitat Bar**—Get up close and personal with Bonaire’s dive pioneer. The Captain’s will autograph your copy of his newest book *Reef Windows*.
 - **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 cen-

ter 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

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.

The Hash House Harriers running and walking club meets every second Wednesday for a one hour walk throughout Bonaire. The location changes each week. The contact number is **700-4361** **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 Salina, 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: Call 701-9522 for Information

Send event info to:
The Bonaire Reporter
reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel:790-6518, 786-6125

Who’s Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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JANART GALLERY

Kaya Gloria 7, Bonaire Local Art, Art Supplies, Framing, and Art Classes. Open Tu.-We.-Th. & Sat 10 am- 5 pm Friday 1- 7 pm; or phone 717-5246 for appt.

CARS

Leaving the island. For sale: White Daewoo Matiz, 2000, 5-doors, 5-speed, 51.000 km, airco, original. Two new tires and a new battery. Ang. 7.000. Call 717 - 2399 or mail digitalis1956@hotmail.com for a picture and more information.

Living Accommodations

Wanted: Mature, responsible, single woman to take care of my house and dog in Belnem in exchange for reduced rent (NAf450 a month) for separate, spacious guesthouse with bedroom, kitchen, private bathroom and outside "gazebo" living room - all situated in a beautiful walled-in garden. Cable TV and Internet included. Utilities NAf 175 a month. Available March 19 for long term. **Email Pauline at pkayes@diversityworksinc.net.**

For rent as of March 1, two bedroom upstairs furnished apt, excl. utilities, Pagabon, no pets, Nikiboko, call **795-3456**

FOR RENT 2 bedroom apartment. Great location Abraham Blvd. ANG 1350 month long term. Laundry facility on premises. **788-3837**

For rent at Hato, apartment (2 bedrooms) 1-2 persons. From 10 February. Minimum stay 4 months. No pets allowed. no airco allowed. Incl.; gas/ water/electricity/internet/linen/selibon/ furnished/garden/parking place/terrace/ tv connection Rent per month NAf 850,-- All In NAf 1150,-- normal use. Deposit NAf 1150,--

Hato -for rent small house 1-2 persons (2 bedrooms). From March. Minimum stay 4 months with airco, water, electricity, internet, linen, selibon, furnished, garden, parking area, dishwasher, washing-machine, boiler etc. private terrace. (separate TV connection and gas possible). No pets allowed. **717-2529 or 796-2529.**

SERVICES

BUSINESS LICENSE FOR SALE (VERGUNNING OP BONAIRE) IMPORT and SALES of NEW and PRE-OWNED furniture, household accessories, construction and building materials, tools, toys, books, electronics, electrical appliances, bicycles, scooters, automobiles, boats etc. Current inventory included. **788 3837 - famouscaptain @ gmail.com**

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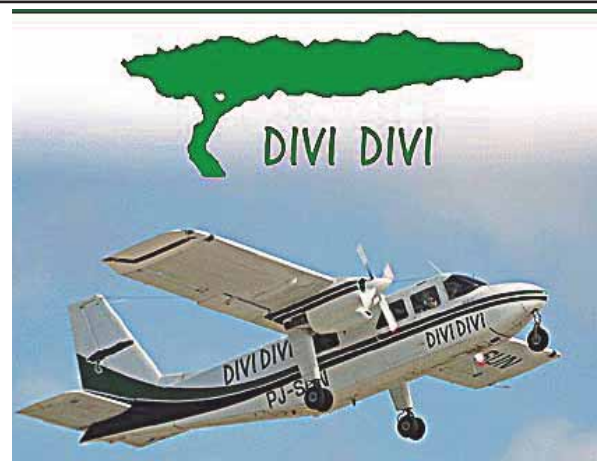
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DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
3-05	5:34	1.8FT.	14:24	0.9FT.					76
3-06	6:27	1.9FT.	15:28	0.8FT.					63
3-07	7:23	1.9FT.	16:14	0.8FT.					51
3-08	8:09	1.9FT.	16:53	0.8FT.					42
3-09	8:52	1.9FT.	17:33	0.8FT.					38
3-10	9:35	1.9FT.	18:00	0.9FT.					41
3-11	0:25	1.2FT.	10:09	1.8FT.	18:22	0.9FT.			47
3-12	2:51	1.2FT.	2:52	1.2FT.	10:43	1.7FT.	18:41	1.0FT.	54
3-13	0:03	1.3FT.	4:11	1.2FT.	11:23	1.6FT.	18:54	1.0FT.	62
3-14	0:34	1.4FT.	5:23	1.2FT.	11:55	1.5FT.	18:53	1.1FT.	68
3-15	1:01	1.5FT.	6:40	1.2FT.	12:28	1.4FT.	18:33	1.2FT.	74
3-16	1:29	1.5FT.	8:29	1.2FT.	13:17	1.3FT.	18:03	1.2FT.	79
3-17	2:01	1.6FT.	11:00	1.2FT.	14:06	1.2FT.	17:29	1.2FT.	82
3-18	2:41	1.6FT.	12:53	1.1FT.					82
3-19	3:30	1.7FT.	14:01	1.0FT.					80
3-20	4:21	1.8FT.	14:38	0.9FT.					76
3-21	5:24	1.8FT.	15:18	0.8FT.					69
3-22	6:18	1.9FT.	15:51	0.8FT.					61
3-23	7:20	1.9FT.	16:17	0.8FT.					55

some wiring etc. **Call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm**



For Sale: Blonde wood entertainment center. Dimensions: 183cm w X 189cm h X 41.5cm d. NAf300;
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NAf 75 ; **Sony Tuner 75NAF**; **JVC VHS w. videos** **Technics Tape Deck 50NAF**; **2007 MITSUBISHI truck running board 200NAF**,
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SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

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AIRTOURS

The Bonaire Aero Club invites you to see Bonaire from the air. Take a one-hour flight with up to three persons. Ideal for photography or environmental study or see your house.

APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS and COMPUTERS

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

BANKS

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

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

BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

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

BOOKS

Reef Windows is Captain Don's latest book and features the true stories of the naming of many Bonaire dive sites. A great souvenir as well.

CONTRACTOR

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DIVING

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

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BONAIREAN VOICES

Karnaval Group— The Fancy Gems

In two words we can say the work was **hard** and it was **intensive** but we did it with pleasure. We were working hard for the last two months to have the costumes done for Karnaval. Mrs. Bea Obersi, the leader of the group was working day and night.

All the ideas started last year when a group of friends came together - Bea Obersi, Tica Sealy, Liesje Saragoza, Francis Da Costa Gomez, Angelo Domacassé and Rosalba Figaroa—to come up with the idea of a Zulu Tribe.

The costumes were designed by the group of friends themselves with the helping skills of Rosalba Figaroa, a nail artist and painter. The costumes were sewn by three professional tailors, and each member of the group had to work on decorating their own costume. Their hand, shoulder and head pieces and shoes were under the supervision of Bea Obersi, Tica Sealy and Liesje Saragoza. Bea made the head pieces and Rosalba the Zulu faces. We, as the other group members had

to do all the the finishing touches. Mr. Francis Da Costa Gomez and his team did the work on the road pieces. All the teamwork made the dream of the group come true: "The Zulu Tribe Goes to a Party Which the Karnaval Foundation Has Prepared For Us."

Some people thought our costumes were imported, but they were not. Everything was made by hand. The material and all the decoration accessories were bought in Bonaire and Curaçao. The costumes were made by professional tailors on Bonaire. We created the jewels with the decorative items. We used a lot of foam containers, soft cardboard, garments, glue guns and sticks. The Zulu Faces were made of hard cardboard, old newspapers, toilet paper and paper towels, glue, paint and glitter. For additional decorations for the hand piece we used wooden sticks, plastic bottles and painted and glittered tree leaves to decorate the Zulu Faces and the headpieces. For the headpieces we used a cap, masking tape, newspa-

per, glue and hard foam. A lot of handcraft and dedication were needed to make a neat job. Only the feathers were imported from the United States. So for the next Karnaval the coming year, depending on what your idea for a costume will be, you can start recycling old newspapers, foam containers and plastic bottles to create something nice.

If you have the courage, the joy and the love, why not continue with a group or start with your own group for next year. Just standing along the road and criticizing our Bonairean Karnaval doesn't give a boost to our culture. If you want see Bonaire Karnaval grow, give it a helping hand, although I can say that this year was a very good year for Karnaval in Bonaire. The Karnavalgoers and the Karnaval sponsors had a very pleasant experience this year.

Thanks to them for being part of Karnaval's 35th anniversary.

An invitation goes to you for next year to come and to enjoy, experience and contribute to Bonaire Karnaval. ■

Siomara Albertus



Fancy Gems' Karnaval Costume

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



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Flotsam and jetsam (Continued from page 2)

► **Dutch authorities are no longer bound by a five-year limit on hunting tax evaders abroad**, the country's highest court ruled on Friday, adding scope to an aggressive government push to find tax cheats. The Court said tax authorities must limit their investigations to a "reasonable period," but did not set any time limit or guidance on what that might be.

► **During her Bonaire vacation, American pianist Marilyn Kredel will give two concerts on Friday, March 5.**

In the morning, starting at 11 am, she will give a concert, with discussion, to SGB High School students at the Cacique Hall of Plaza. This concert is made possible by KPMG and organized by the Classical Music Board Bonaire. In the evening, starting at 8 pm sharp she will perform works of Scarlatti, Chopin, Brahms, Liszt and Beethoven in concert in Cacique Hall.

Marilyn Kredel, born in Fort Scott, Kansas, is a well known American pianist and organist. Her latest solo piano CD, "When Morning Guilds the Skies" (which will be available at the concert), gave her a wide reputation. She has performed by invitation in the Vatican, at Notre Dame in Paris and Carnegie Hall in New York.

Ms. Kredel will donate the profits from the concert to the *Fundashon Piano Grandi*. This foundation acquired a Yamaha C5 grand piano in 2009 and the Foundation will use the gift for the maintenance of the instrument.

Presale tickets to the concert are available at Flamingo Bookstore, Addo's Bookstore and Plaza Resort at NAf 30.-; at the Cacique Hall tickets will cost NAf 35 and NAf 10 for students showing a school ID.

The Classical Music Board expects great interest in the concert and advises buying tickets at presale addresses. For info on reservations call 786-0455. The concerts organized by the Classical Music Board Bonaire are supported by Flamingo Communications, Bon FM, KPMG, Caribbean Homes and Rocargo.

► **Especially for our readers in Holland:** This year Sunbelt Realty will take part in the **Second Home International Show on March 26th - 28th** in the *Jaarbeurs* in Utrecht. If you would like a free ticket, courtesy of Sunbelt, go to www.secondhome.nl and register with code: 951407 or visit the Sunbelt website and click on the "Second Home Beurs" banner to register.

► **Even if the direct link with Holland is formalized soon Senator-elect Johnson of Saba said that he has a deep concern** that the BES islands will fall into another vacuum, like the one he observed during his years as a Saba Commissioner. "I was totally on my own resources during that time as there was no help from the Central Government," he said. The concern is that promises of Dutch financial aid will not be met because of concerns about the Netherlands' own deficit. "Holland will be less generous, and if debt alleviation is not completed for the BES islands, we will have major difficulties," he explained.

Johnson also pointed to Venezuela as lurking in the wings with territorial claims on the ABC islands as an added concern.

► **Curaçao airline Insel Air flew the**

first passenger flight between Miami and Haiti following the earthquake of January 12. Insel Air is essentially Haiti's flag carrier. An American Airlines flight landed about two hours later.

There had been no other commercial flights since the earthquake. The earthquake with a force of 7.0 on the Richter scale claimed an estimated 300,000 deaths.

► **How can unemployed Bonaireans enhance their employability** was the subject of presentations by Danilo Christiaan of Mangazina di Rei and Johan van der Graaff, quartermaster of Social Affairs and Employment, last Thursday February 25 in Antriol. Henk Kamp, Commissioner for Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, kicked off the evening with a status report. This was the fourth meeting in the series of Papiamentu language RSC Reports in the Sentro di Barios. Bonaire scholar Arthur Sealy is the moderator. Admission was free and snacks, drinks and music were provided.

► The Overseas Territories Report, an authoritative journal on economic, social and political affecting small island overseas countries, territories and departments in its February 2, 2010, edition ([Vol. IX No. 2 February 2010](#)) published a paper by Dr. Carlyle G. Corbin, the International Advisor on Governance hired by the Bonaire Government. **Dr Corbin, the Former US Virgin Islands Minister of State for External Affairs, in his article, Self-Determination or Annexation? The Case of Bonaire, was critical of the Antilles Governor's termination of Bonaire's Referendum plan and stated it violated the right of self-determination of the people of Bonaire as guaranteed under international law.**

► Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations, **Ank Bijleveld-Schouten, said via her spokesman, Tijs Manten, that she regretted the fall of the Balkenende IV cabinet** because it obviously means a delay in the process of constitutional reform. She said she was very committed to completing the new arrangements in the Kingdom. "Everything was ready to handle the law proposals in Parliament and that has now come to a standstill. That is too bad," said spokesman Manten.

► Following a recent consultation the future countries **St. Maarten and Curaçao decided to stick to their earlier agreement for a shared Central Bank and joint "own" currency**, thus not switching to the US dollar as some had suggested. What the new currency will be called or look like is still unclear, but it is already obvious that it can't be introduced by October 10, 2010, when the new constitutional relations within the Dutch Kingdom are supposed to take effect. Therefore the current Antillean guilder will be maintained for the time being.

► Former Dutch Minister of Finance Wouter Bos explained to parliament that **the choice of the use of the dollar on the BES Islands was due partly in response to economic arguments made by the Islands themselves**. More than 65% of the trade of the islands (Bonaire: 67.5%, Windward Islands: 85.7%) is with countries using the dollar or a currency linked to US

dollars. The largest part of tourism comes from the dollar area.

► **The Aruban airline Tiara Air will be flying to new destinations and offering special rates for senior citizens and students**. During a press conference Marketing & PR assistant Abigaél Arends announced they would be including Bonaire and Rio Hacha, Columbia, in their flight schedule. As a form of promotion, students can book tickets to and from Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and Venezuela at reduced prices, and there will be special rates for all senior citizens.

► **Registration is open for the MCB International Tennis Tournament**. Participants can pick up registration forms at all MCB offices and at the tennis clubs on the island. Return registration forms to the Harbor Village Tennis Center daily between 3 and 6:30 pm. Registration closes on March 15 or earlier if the maximum number of players is reached.



► **The US ambassador in The Hague Fay Hartog Levin (above left), visited the new Minister Plenipotentiary of the Netherlands Antilles Marcel van der Plank** in mid-February. The ambassador was among others curious about the new political structure, which Mr. van der Plank's detailed explanation provided. ■ G./L. D.

Picture Yourself With The Reporter... In icy Salem, Mass., USA



In the coldest, snowiest winter of recent times, Bonaire resident and contractor (Equinox Bonaire) Brian McCarley went to New England. He writes, "I had to go North - that'll be the last time I'm north of the 12th (parallel) - got a pix for you. I was in Massachusetts for 103 hours 14 minutes and 12 seconds.

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Pet of the Week

Young "Quirien" was brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter along with her sister "Queenie." The people who brought them in just had too many dogs to take care of. "Quirien" is so proud and a darling. She's alert – just look at those standing up ears – and loves to show off the snow white fur on her chest. She's friendly but not to someone who shouldn't be in her yard. This girl will be a fine watch dog. It was good luck for Quirien and Queenie to be brought in because at the Shelter if the dog is in good health and is social with people they will be put up for adoption. Both dogs have been checked out by the vet, had their shots, worming and tests and are ready to go. When they are a little older they will be sterilized. All this for the dog adoption fee of NAf 105.

You may meet her and the other adoptees at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Website:

WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com. ■

L.D.



Laura DeSalvo photo

"Quirien"

The Shelter's Sterilization Program, "Bonny Superdog," is still going full speed, but to keep up with the demand they desperately need donations to keep the program going. If you can help – any amount is more than welcome – you may do it in several ways. Cash donations are always appreciated. Look for the dog house donation boxes in many shops and businesses or at the Shelter. Support Bonaire provides a way for Americans to donate to their favorite causes and claim charitable deductions on their American income tax. Support Bonaire website now accepts credit card donations for the Shelter. Or you may donate via the bank: Animal Shelter Bonaire, RBTT Bank Antilles, Bonaire Branch, Account # 23.10.139. BIC: RBTTANCU SWIFT: ABNANL2A ■ Press release

Top Artists Promise a Top Festival

The Bonaire Jazz Foundation reports that the Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival 2010 will be on May 27, 28, 29 and 30. So put it on your calendar now. A variety of musical styles with bands from all over the world with internationally known jazz musicians mingling with the best musical talent Bonaire has to offer.

The Festival, which takes place for the sixth successive time, with star performers like world renowned trumpeter Cuban Arturo Sandoval and his band, Manny Moreira from Brazil, BEKU from the US, Joke Bruijs, Frits Landesberg, Henk van Twillert with Tjako van Schie from the Netherlands and our best local musicians, the Cabaco Trio, the Silver Bullet Steel band, the New Generation Dancers and

Kaïa Brabu. Late night jam sessions starting at 11:30 pm, will be at Sense, across from the Plaza entrance on the Friday and Saturday.

Heineken is the title sponsor. Main sponsors to date are: Plaza Resort, Divi Flamingo Resort, Telbo NV, Breathe-IT, It Rains Fishes, Budget Rent a Car, Maduro & Curriel's Bank, Sunbelt Realty, Rocargo, Sense, Mega FM, Capt. Don's Habitat and Rum Runners, Hotel Rochaline, TIS, Don Andres, HBN Law, Bonaire Affair, TCB and Addo's Bookstore. ■ Press release



Health Day and Tai Chi



Diamond Waters photo

Ted Perians, Ron Sewell, Patricia Yvette Gorrin, Beverly Jimenez, and Bo Bodiffee during Tai Chi practice

On 24 April, a Health Day for Bonaire has been organized at the Bonaire Basics facility in Kaya Korona.

This same day is World Tai Chi Qigong Day and the Diamond Waters Tai Chi School will join with their compatriots all over the world to highlight the health aspects of Tai Chi. A full program of events has been arranged with different 20 minute presentations every half an hour at the Bonaire Basics facility. The presentations will be made separately in English, Spanish, Papiamentu and Dutch and will include the subjects of Tai Chi, Qigong, Nutrition, Skin Care, Body regeneration, Aloe for health, Acupuncture, Physical Therapy, Brain Gym exercises and Non-violent communication. Further information is available from from Ron Sewell, email address:

ron.sewell@diamond-waters.com or by contacting Bonaire Basics at 717-3041. ■

Press release

BonQuiz Answer



Bon Quiz (from page 7)

Q) Which part of one of these species was used for weaving by Lacfishermen?

A) The prop root of the red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangel*)

Sudoku Solution

Puzzle on page 7

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

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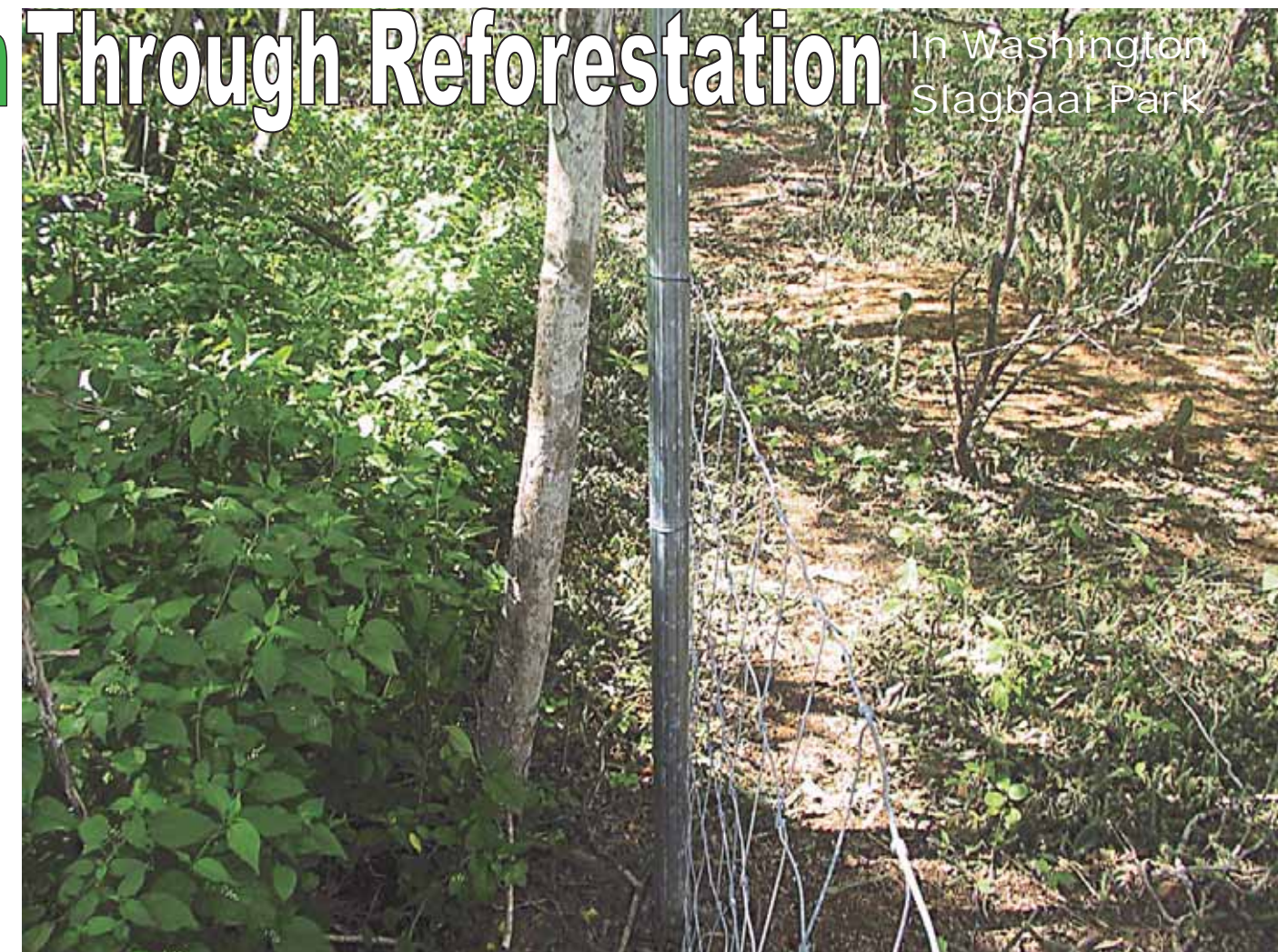
In Washington
Slagbaai Park

The urgent need for reforestation on Bonaire is evident upon entering our National Prk, Washington-Slagbaai, where in the first 100 meters you will have already seen almost the entire variety of vegetation you can expect to find throughout the rest of the Park. This is the consequence of human impact on our environment. In the past, wood cutting was a common and intensive practice, and at present we are experiencing uncontrolled and widespread goat grazing. In the early days, Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao were islands populated with large evergreen trees, more than 300 different species. What can be done to bring our national parks and protected areas back to their former semblances was the subject of the second installation of CIEE's annual lecture series. On Friday, February 5th CIEE welcomed CARMABI Director, Dr. Dolfi Debrot. Dr. Debrot spoke to a full house about the initiation and progress of his decade-long reforestation work on the islands of Curaçao and Bonaire, a project made possible by a donation from the Prins Bernhard Cultuur Fonds.

Dr. Debrot demonstrated the success of his long-term efforts by showing before and after pictures from different sites which he has been restoring and protecting. He explained that by planting in areas which are already relatively protected, such as Klein Curaçao and Klein Bonaire and the national parks of both islands, seedlings are less likely to be preyed upon, trampled, or out-competed. One of the main inhibitors to plant success and diversity has been introduced goats. Dr. Debrot discovered that around 6,000 goats live in the Washington-Slagbaai National Park. These opportunistic grazers have reduced the vegetation to only those plants which are well-defended or unpalatable. To reduce the intrusive and destructive nature of goat migration a fence is being installed around the Park which is expected to prevent these animals from entering. Once goats and other non-native herbivores, such as donkeys and cows, have been excluded, reforestation efforts will have a better chance of success.

With reforestation it's important to use different trees. A diversity of trees means that there will be diversity in their seasons and thus the potential for food sources to be present throughout the year for the birds, animals and insects which depend on them for survival.

In the past 10 years Dr. Debrot has gained knowledge about reforestation on our semi-arid islands, and has the following recommendations about planting indigenous trees:



Take note of the left and right sides of this photo. Notice the lush greenery on the left side which is protected from grazing goats and donkeys by the wire fence. The right side is the typically bare landscape when those animals are allowed to graze.

- Plant small trees (20-30 cm high) in the shade of another tree or cactus.
- Place large stones around it. This way more rainwater will seep into the soil in concentrated places.
- Only water in the wet season if really necessary, like this year.
- Don't water the trees in the dry season (from March till October). The plants are in their natural resting period. If the trees get water in the dry season, they'll get fresh leaves and attract ants, iguanas and *soldachis* (hermit crabs).

Last but not least: Protecting an area against goats is a good way to stimulate natural regeneration of trees and herbs.

In an atmosphere of increased environmental awareness, it seems there is no better time than now to begin taking steps towards restoring the diverse ecosystems which once characterized the islands of Bonaire and Curaçao. Dr. Debrot has done much to initiate this effort and in learning from his experiences we are now empowered to continue to carry out his work by making choices which are in the best interest of our natural environment. We should try to reduce the impact that goats, donkeys and pigs have on their surroundings; plant natives in our home gardens; and, try to preserve and protect



Paul Stokkermans, the new director of Carmabi, and author Jan Jaap van Almenkerk point out the destruction done by grazing goats or donkeys to an ancient *Kadushi* cactus.

the vegetation already present on our property. ■

Story & photos by Jan Jaap van Almenkerk and Dr. Dolfi Debrot

Bubbles From the Biologist

Did You Know...

Sharks, unlike most other fish, do not have scales. Sharks have a unique protection called **dermal denticles**. Denticles are like teeth: they have an outer layer of enamel, dentine and a central pulp cavity and work as an outer skeleton protecting the shark's body. The unique shape of denticles helps sharks swim faster because the streamlined shape decreases the friction of the water flowing along the shark's body by channel-

ing it through grooves. Unlike fish scales, denticles stay the same size throughout the lifetime of a shark, growing more abundant as the shark grows. The spines of the denticles point backwards toward the tail, so shark-



Shark skin magnified 100x

skin would feel relatively smooth if you moved your hand from head to tail but rough if you moved your hand the other way. Like teeth, the shape of the scales is variable among species and can be used to identify the species.

Denticles may protect sharks from other sea predators, but they have not protected them from the greatest predator, humans. Many societies used shark skin as a crude form of sandpaper. Also, in Japan, traditional sword smiths used shark skin for the hand-grips of swords to make them less likely to slip. Fortunately, many of these practices no longer occur. Sharks are such

beautiful, unique creatures that even the smallest part of their anatomy is vastly different from most other sea-dwelling creatures. ■ Colleen Chabot

Chabot is a sophomore Marine Science major at Florida Gulf Coast University and is currently studying Tropical Marine Ecology and Biology at CIEE Research Station Bonaire for the spring semester.



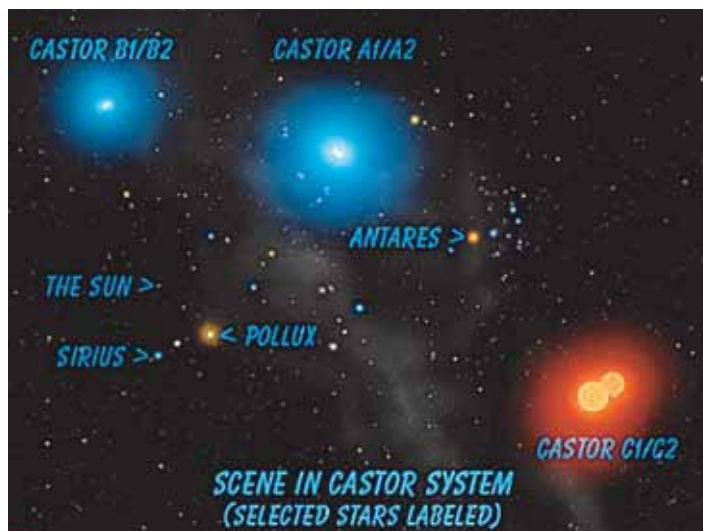


BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

How to Find the Gemini Twins and Their Sensational Siblings

Right now the constellation **Gemini the Twins** is at its best for viewing in early evening. And while most people have heard of the two brightest stars of Gemini, **Castor** and **Pollux**, not many people are aware that these twin brothers have a magnificent assortment of hidden siblings.



Anytime during the first two weeks of March, from 8 to 9 pm, Sky Park time, face up and south where a third of the way up from the horizon you'll see the brightest star in the heavens, **Sirius**, which marks the eye of **Orion's** bigger dog. And just up to Sirius' right the bright stars which mark Orion himself. But up much higher and to Orion's left you will encounter two more bright stars, which are named for the famous twin brothers in Greek mythology, **Castor** and **Pollux**. Pollux, the brighter of the two, is closer to the horizon and if you look closely, has a slightly orangeish tint to it. Castor, on the other hand, although a tiny bit dimmer, is white.

Now for over 2,000 years these two stars were considered the patrons of sailors and seafaring peoples and have been long associated with the phenomenon called "**St. Elmo's Fire**." But as ancient as these twin stars are modern science has revealed that there is much more to them hidden from the naked eye. Indeed, upon closer examination we find that the brighter twin Pollux is a humongous star much bigger than its brother and is in fact almost 11 times the diameter of our own million-mile-wide **Sun**. Dimmer Castor, however, is not to be outdone by his brother because he hides magnificent secrets. In fact with telescopes and other instruments Castor has revealed himself to be more than just one star. Indeed 250 years ago astronomers discovered that when they looked at Castor through a telescope it had a companion. Thus Castor became the first true **binary star** ever discovered.

But later as telescopes improved and other astronomical instruments were invented astronomers were astonished to find out that Castor and his hidden brother each had a companion star which made Castor a **quadruple star**. And then, surprise of surprises, several years later two more smaller siblings were found which gave Castor the distinction of being not just a quadruple star but a **sextuplet star**, three pairs of stars all moving about each other in an extremely intricate and magnificent cosmic ballet, with four of the stars being bigger than our own Sun. Wow! Whoever said, "Appearances are deceiving" wasn't just kidding.

So go outside during the first two weeks of March, 8 to 9 pm, look south and after you've found the brightest star Sirius and above him all the bright stars of Orion, look above him and you'll see the most famous twins in the cosmos which modern science has revealed to be seven sensational siblings. Is this universe weird or what? ■ *Jack Horkheimer*

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Parker's Horoscopes

By Derek
Parker

March-2010



ARIES (March 21 - April 21) You'll do well to keep a distinctly low profile this month; be observant, think through ideas, note on-going situations and how relationships with colleagues are working out. This will all need a certain amount of additional attention which, but when you come to your conclusions the action you decide to take will definitely speed off in the right direction. Don't rush into anything, and control your natural enthusiasm and optimism, at least until after the 21st. **40% positive**

TAURUS (April 22 - May 20) You may well find yourself coping with a domestic or family problem which seems insoluble. Short-cut remedies are definitely not advisable - especially if by any chance the problem involves an urgent building repair! Resolution will come after the 10th, and in some strange way you'll feel you can move on again in the confidence that everyone and everything involved is satisfied. **45% positive**

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20) During the first eight days of March some interesting and rewarding developments will emerge. You'll need to be consciously practical and cautious in your approach to what is likely to go on, because though you'll be inspired by suggestions, if you're not careful you'll see things through rose-colored spectacles. A practical approach will ensure that all will go well and lead to satisfying success. **50% positive**

CANCER (June 21 - July 21) Your excellent and shrewd business sense will be acute this month, but it's possible that you could act prematurely in a financial crisis or even facing a good opportunity. Don't allow yourself to be encouraged to make a commitment before you're really ready to do so. If you do find yourself in such a situation, make a mental note that you must resist until after the 10th of March - all because of possible impulsiveness coming from Mars before that date. **33% positive**

LEO (July 22 - August 22) You will press on with your usual run of time-consuming commitments and everything will go well - but because you may find yourself feeling a mite bored or restless you may be tempted to move on to enjoy 'pastures new' - whatever that will mean to you as an individual! **65% positive**

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22) For most of March you should make an effort to spend more quality time with your partner and have a lot of fun, choosing the form of fun you enjoy most! If the weather is good, you should aim to get away from your usual environment - into the country, by the sea, visiting a zoo or theme park **70% positive**

LIBRA (September 23 - October 23) Your

month will get off to a somewhat dreary start, but after the first week the prevailing atmosphere will change, and life will get better and better as March progresses, with stunningly interesting dates from the 7th when Venus will take a hand and your sex-life may flower in a delightfully insistent way. On the 17th there's intellectual stimulation from **90% positive**

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 21) You will fall into a daring but risky mood. Because you are a Scorpio the chances of your doing something really stupid are far less than for several other signs - but nevertheless no matter how confident you feel, listen to your intuition: is it suggesting that whatever your mind is set on is O.K. **30% positive**

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 21)

If you have anything important to do - a meeting, interview, a journey to take or an important purchase - if you can, arrange the business for the 8th, when you'll have a lot of special help from the planets. The outcome will then be favorable and may have long-term positive consequences. But even if some other date is involved, you'll still have a progressive month, with a special emphasis on home and family. **75% positive**

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 19) Take a careful look at, or seek advice about your favorite car, (or any other mode of transport) - and your computer system. The planets suggest car or computer system may be about to break down. If you have to buy a new model of either you'll find one at a good price, but be warned that that you should obtain an expert opinion before buying. **60% positive**

AQUARIUS (January 19 - February 18) Your feelings and emotional responses are heightened in a pleasantly romantic way which will almost certainly put you in the right mood to enjoy some delightful romantic time with your partner. If you're into a new relationship you may be sensually swept off your feet, which will probably surprise you; you usually keep a pretty cool head at these times. Enjoy! - but don't ignore your important Aquarian need for independence. There's also an accent on money - you could be really extravagant this month. **60% positive**

PISCES (February 19 - March 20) With a whole cluster of planets working for you, you can expect a very lively and eventful birthday month. Set aside a certain amount of spare time in your diary for unexpected invitations and know that your birthday bash - whether it's a party for a hundred or just for your nearest and dearest - will be a huge success with particularly good dates during the first week, the 15th and the 17th. **75% positive** ■



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