

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE March 19- April 9, 2010; Year 17, Issue 6
The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Walkathon Fun
page 10

There is still uncertainty on the consequences of dollarization of Bonaire set for January 1, 2011. Beginning in July, 2010, storekeepers will have to begin double currency pricing.

In an information meeting organized by the **The Netherlands Bank (DNB)**, Warehouse Supermarket Manager Roland Verbeek explained his concern regarding the exchange rate of the Antillean guilder in relation to the dollar: the exchange rate of the guilder to the dollar, that will be fixed at 1.79 as of next January, is four cents more than at present. This implies a depreciation of stock value amounting to thousands. A new sales tax system will also be introduced – at about the same time as the introduction of the dollar – which will also influence the prices of products and only make the situation more complex. In addition, businesses purchase many products on Curaçao, where the guilder will remain the legal tender. Could Bonaireans keep their guilder account with their bank on Bonaire? After all, it will be foreign currency for Bonaire.

► Former Dutch Minister of Finance Wouter Bos explained to the Dutch 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 Netherlands Bank (DNB) is preparing the dollarization for January 1, 2011**, for the BES Islands, even though the Central Bank currently does not have any authority on the islands, as this will only occur with the transition of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba to public bodies of the Netherlands. It is not entirely certain yet whether the dollar will indeed be introduced by January

1st next year. However, the Lower Chamber accepted the Law Finances BES, which determines the dollarization. Willy Dassen of the Netherlands Bank (DNB) certainly expects that the dollar will be introduced, perhaps with a three-month delay at the very most. The choice for the new currency had been made, as it appeared from research that two-thirds of all transactions on the BES Islands were done in dollars. The DNB will arrange for sufficient availability of the currency, and all guilder accounts with the banks will automatically be changed into dollar accounts by January 1, 2011.

Consumers will receive additional information in due course. A brochure is being made and most likely information gatherings



will be organized as well.

► Aiming to stay a step ahead of counterfeiters, the US government is planning **a new design for the \$100 bill** that will be unveiled next month, the Treasury Department said Friday. Wraps will come off the facelift for Ben Franklin at an April 21 ceremony.

The C-note — the highest value of all US bills, and the most counterfeited — circulates widely around the globe.

The \$100 bill represents more than 70% of the \$776 billion in currency in circulation, two-thirds of which is held overseas. The security thread planned for the next-generation \$100 bill will feature 650,000 tiny glass domes, called microlenses, crammed into a strip a few millimeters wide on the bill's surface. When light strikes this optical strip, the microprint within it will appear to slide over the surface of the thread as the bill is turned—an illusion that is nearly impossible to replicate.

► Following a recent consultation the future countries of St. Maarten and Curaçao decided to

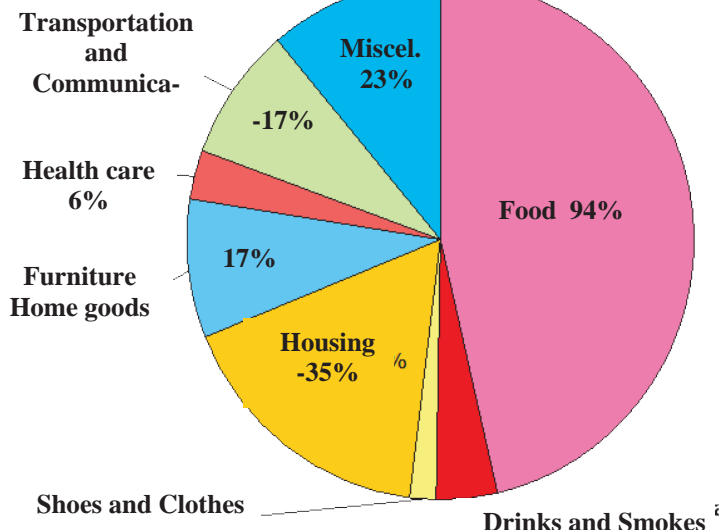
(Continued on page 16)

► **If you think the cost of living on Bonaire has escalated the Central Bureau of Statistics backs you up. In 2009 prices overall rose by 3.3%** with almost all categories showing an increase. The only exception was the expenditure category clothing and shoes, which was 1.8 % lower.

The largest increase was seen in transport and communication (0.9%), mainly caused by higher prices of new cars (2.4%) and petrol (4.5%). Followed by drinks and tobacco (0.7%). Food was up 0.6%, notably by raising the prices of potatoes, fruit and vegetables (2.0%) and ready-prepared meals (2.7%).

The housing expenditure category was also up 0.6%, primarily the result of the price of cooking gas (18.5%) and kerosene (6.4%). Tariffs of electricity and water remained stable.

In 2009, a remarkable number of products and services became more expensive in Bonaire. All kinds of food, especially edible oils (39.4%), dairy (21.9%) potatoes, fruit and vegetables (19.9%) have risen in price. Also household goods (21.7%), other operating expenses (13.1%) and domestic services (13.2%), were up.



Main contributors to Bonaire cost of living increases in 2009

Long-term inflation

The annual average consumer price index (CPI) was 3.3% higher in 2009 than in 2008. Inflation in 2009 was almost half of the inflation level of the previous year (2008), when there was an exceptionally high inflation of 6.2%. Nevertheless, inflation in 2009 is the second highest since 2000, when an inflation of 4 % was measured on the island.

Figures and graphs courtesy of CBS

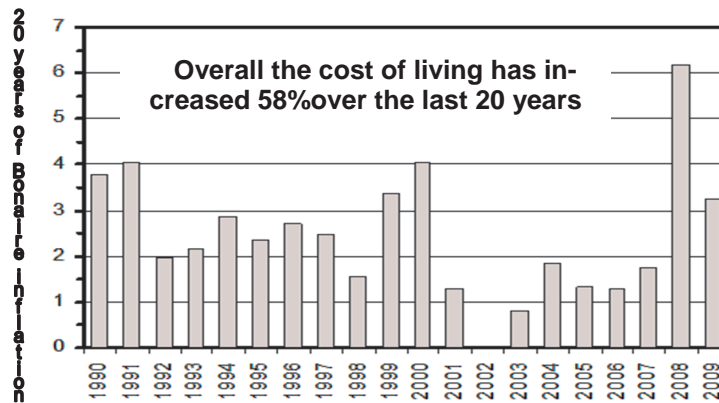


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Times Are Tough

Bonaire's animals and birds are beginning to die from lack of water. But *Reporter* readers can help for just a few cents a day, thanks to the availability of desalinated WEB water. The water plant is perhaps the single most important factor that has allowed Bonaire's population to grow fivefold in 50 years. And it can provide help for the native and introduced wildlife that make Bonaire almost unique in the Caribbean.

Times of drought make life hard for all living things. This includes Bonaire's wildlife. Currently most normal sources of water like puddles, dams, caves and even wells are drying up, reducing the amount of water readily available to wildlife. Some trees and shrubs have dropped leaves and fruits early (sometimes before they fully ripen), reducing the amount of food and water available. Now when the usual dry season is just beginning, the island is already parched following the scantiest rainy season in memory.

Last year was very wet and vegetation flourished. Wild donkeys and goats multiplied while gorging on the lush plant growth. Some had multiple births. These youngsters are now beginning to thirst and starve. People in built-up areas around Kralendijk and Rincon can't help but notice the increase in animals and birds in their neighborhoods.

A couple of buckets of water a day, placed where these animals have easy access, can make all the difference. **The cost for a filled pail of water? Only 13 NAf cents.** WEB water costs homeowners NAf 12/m³ (250 gallons) that works out to about NAf .05/gallon, or 1.2 cents per liter. If you can afford NAf 1 per day, a small goat or



Lora enjoying sea grapes at Boca Dreufi

donkey herd can survive where it otherwise wouldn't.

Birds are especially vulnerable during dry periods as they require water for drinking and bathing. You can help Bonaire's many species of birds by putting out bird baths to replace the rain puddles and ponds they normally use. Bird baths come in many shapes and sizes. You may use a saucer and pedestal bath from a garden store, or you could use any large, flat saucer filled with water. The water level in baths should be no deeper than 7 cm. (3") in the center and the surface should be rough so birds can maintain footing. Place baths near a sheltered location, such as a tree, as birds need to have a place to sit and preen after bathing.

Baths placed on the ground offer water for lizards, iguanas, mice and rats.

Be forewarned, though. Since birds are quite vulnerable when they bathe and drink, keep the bird bath off the ground if you have prowling cats in your neighborhood. Remember to keep the water fresh, dumping the old water (use it to water the tree!) at

(Continued on page 8)

On Track For 10/10/10 Bonaire Back On the Rails

The Bonaire Government, in a press conference on Monday, March 15, appears to have capitulated under the weight of Dutch political forces and fiscal reality.

A Democratic Party statement said, "We assume that we can reach agreement soon and that the financing and debt repayment will resume. We will strive to sign an administrative accord with State Secretary Bijleveld in April." This will allow Dutch aid to resume.

"Annexation" is what's going to happen to Bonaire, PDB leader Jopie Abraham said after his visit last week to the Netherlands and the passage of the BES laws by the Second Chamber. He has abandoned a challenge to the Referendum cancellation and indeed a new Referendum at all. There is no alternative right now, otherwise his government would be negligent, said a fierce Abraham during the press conference. The people of Bonaire have not opted for integration as the UN requires. What has actually occurred is "Anschluss, annexation, appropriation." It was a reference, confirmed Abraham, in a conversation with *The Reporter*, to the "Anschluss" of Austria into Greater Germany by the Nazi regime on 12 March 1938*.



Senator Jopie Abraham meeting in the Dutch parliament

These actions followed the Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber rejection of the attempt to declare the Kingdom Consensus Laws "controversial." This cleared the tracks for the political process to get Bonaire and the other BES islands out from under Curaçao and integrate them into Holland.

Those laws are necessary to legitimize the breakup of the Netherlands Antilles and will be handled as was planned before the recent fall of the Dutch government rather than having to wait until a new government takes office in June.

Handling of the Consensus Laws starts on April 9 and will conclude on April 20 with the voting. It's anticipated that delegations from Aruba and the Antilles and Antillean Parliaments will be in The Netherlands for these meetings.

(Continued on page 13)

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Opening Bonaire's Dive Sites

Reef Windows
Opening Bonaire's Dive Sites

Reef Windows will be available in reputable book stores and shops around Bonaire

by Captain Don

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On the Island Since... 1986- Xuwen Cen

"I was born in Guangdong, China, in February 1979. My father was a cook, my mother a housewife, and my two younger sisters and I grew up in a remote village. Life was simple. I went to kindergarten and then to the first grade and then I came to Bonaire. My father came here in 1983. The owner of Great China, a restaurant downtown, had asked him to come over to be the chef at his restaurant.

I was seven when we moved and I was expecting a big city like New York or Hong Kong, and then when we arrived here I was stunned... it was the same as at home!

We came in April and we started school in August. I went to the first grade at Papa Cornes elementary school and my sisters went to kindergarten. I didn't understand one word the teacher was saying, so we communicated in hand language. That first year I didn't learn much, but after the second grade my Papiamentu had improved a lot and I also understood some Dutch. At the time the school's instruction language was Dutch. In the fourth grade all my grades were okay.

Then my father changed jobs and he started working in the kitchen of Torito Snack in Antriol. My mom stayed at home.

After school and during the weekends I helped my father, peeling potatoes, cutting up vegetables and meat, making *lumpias* and putting the saté meat on the sticks.

I had a good friend, Terrence Martis. He was the son of my neighbor and we went to the same school. We became very close. He taught me a lot of Papiamentu, we rode bicycles, we went to the mondi to catch iguanas, we went snorkeling and fishing at the Waf – the town pier - and at the Marina. Those were years that gave me a lot of good memories. When I went to Havo high school, Terrence went to cooking school at SGB and we remained friends. Nowadays he is a chef in France.

"A child will adapt to everything. Look at me. I spoke Chinese at home, at school I learned Dutch and from my friends I learned Papiamentu."

After high school I went to study electrical engineering in New York. My sisters and I were renting an apartment in Brooklyn... finally a big city! At first I liked it very much, but then I realized I liked Bonaire more.

Life in the States is very crowded. It's busy every day and people hardly socialize. My sisters studied accounting and all three of us worked Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. I worked as a waiter, a cashier, as a delivery boy and as a librarian. Ah! Also as a guinea pig! When they would ask people to volunteer for a new experiment I went, and of course we got paid for that.

Living in New York was a great experience and my recommendation is that when somebody gets the chance to go to a big city – New York or Amsterdam – go for it! Go and see 'the real world' outside Bonaire, because there you are forced to grow up, to become more self-reliant and more organized as

everybody and everything has its own agenda.

My sisters stayed in the US. One is working as a chief accountant and the other one is a marketing manager. They are both married.



Xuwen (rt.) and his father - at the supermarket

I came back in 2004 and my father asked me to set up a supermarket business here. In 1994 he had started his own restaurant which he named Peking Bar and Restaurant on Kaya Korona. Next to it we had this empty lot and so the idea was to start a business there. Wing Cheung Supermarket opened its doors in 2006.

It took me two years to set it up because in the meantime I had met the girl who's now my wife, Iris Liang, in China in 2005. I was there for business and that's how I met her. It was love at first sight! I stayed for about two

months and met her mother and her brother. She's from the same town as I am from, but I'd never seen her. I'd left too early. Then I came back to Bonaire for the final setup and the opening of the supermarket. In January 2006 Iris came to Bonaire and we got married in March. In the beginning it was the same for her as it had been for me, but now she likes it – she likes the simple and quiet life and so do I.

The first baby was born in May 2006, a beautiful girl we named Rachel. In November 2008 our son, Winson, was born. It was a

(Continued on page 5)

							
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On the Island Since (Coned from page 4)

great experience. I thought, 'Now I am a grown up and I have to be responsible and mature.' In fact it wasn't such a big change because I was always a responsible guy. I like to joke and socialize and it may not show, but," he laughs, "I am quite serious. Now the third baby is on its way, due in June.

I love children – the way they smile at you and when they call you daddy. I love almost everything about them... except for when they're crying! I don't spend a lot of time with them right now, but in the future I will. The reason is that Wing Cheung Supermarket is only three years old and it is not yet completely stable and on track. And the kids are still small and they don't have personal thoughts, but when they start realizing 'daddy should be here' – I will be. I'll make sure that will work out.

Soon Rachel will be four years old and she will be going to Pelican School because I myself as a child went through the Dutch school system and I think the system was perfect. The reason is we had to learn Dutch from the first grade until the sixth grade and so we had a solid foundation of the Dutch language because at SGB Junior and High School all the books are in Dutch and you cannot just jump from Papiamentu to Dutch. That's impossi-

ble! A child will adapt to everything. Look at me. I spoke Chinese at home, at school I learned Dutch and from my friends I learned Papiamentu."

Xuwen Cen is a very likeable man. He's fast and bright and working hard, but there's always time for a chat or a joke, and from what I've heard from the people who are working for him, he's a great and very social boss.

"The shop is doing okay. I have about 10 employees, all of them Antillean. I believe in good communication with the customers and to provide great service. I also believe that as a good director, a good leader, I have to be a member of the team – not be on the outside – and that works. Leaders are seen as models for the employees, so when the boss is socializing and giving good service to the customers and working hard, it gives the employees an example.

Last year in August I started an online course, Master of Business Administration, via the University of Phoenix, Arizona. It's great, it's super, especially for someone like me – full time employed and a father of almost three and a husband. Going back to school was impossible, so now I can do it online at home. The whole program will take me one and a half years. It's time and money consuming, but I want to gain more knowledge in managing a business and I want to push



His father holding daughter Rachel, Xuwen, and his wife Iris who's carrying little Winson

my knowledge to a higher level and... I want to set an example for my children." He laughs. "So I can tell them 'I am an MBA. You have to be at least an MBA...'

Family is the most important thing in life and achieving your mission is the second most important thing. I work about 12 hours per day. After I close the supermarket at eight, I go next door to Peking Restaurant where I work until midnight. Then I study until two or three in the morning, and after that I sleep

until 10 and then the day begins again.

In their free time, most of the people of the Chinese community on this island go fishing with long nets in the saliñas. We also catch crabs and lobsters and we play basketball. There are three teams: Peking, Rincon and Hato. We play competitively and we train together and we socialize. This year, during the Regatta, we will do the Lion Dance again. I've invited the team from Curaçao to come over, so this time there will be two Lions.

What do I like about Bonaire? Number one is nature, including the blue sea, and then I like the unspoiled life and the friendly people. To grow up here it's a perfect place, but for higher education, you have to go abroad.

Going back to China? Ah! I will go back, but... only for vacation!" ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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-The Dalai Lama

We have a vision that the future generations of children will be able to create new organizations whose goal is to meet human needs - to make life more wonderful for themselves and each other.

Marshal Rosenberg, founder of Centre of Nonviolent Communication (www.cnvc.org), believes that it is in our nature to enjoy giving and receiving in a compassionate and harmonious manner. But specific forms of language and communication have contributed to our behaving "violently" toward each other and ourselves.

Compassionate Communication, Nonviolent Communication (NVC) is a language, a natural process which can be used by anyone, no matter what age, cultural background, status or gender. Instead of communicating with the intention of being right, to correct, to change, to punish, to reward or to have it "my way," NVC focuses on connection, trust, understanding, win-win and equal power. This will result in safety, connection, trust, respect, power and harmony.

Research has shown that people (including children) learn, hear and co-operate more willingly in situations where they experience safety, respect and belonging.

We are happy to welcome **Jean Morrison and Sura Hart** to Bonaire. They bring experience not only in NVC but also in education, raising children and in relationships. Sura Hart has written several books about this topic (www.thenofaultzone.com). Jean Morrison creates stimulating and inspiring learning material in NVC.

Sura and Jean will conduct different courses:

1) Teach 4 Life! Is based on the principles of NVC, how to create a classroom where respect and compassion are the basis. During the training we will work on strengthening the ability to:

- Live with a consciousness of compassion for yourself and others
- Resolve conflict peacefully and teach children to do the same



Jean Morrison



Sura Hart

- Eliminate power struggles
 - Understand and address the root cause of challenging behavior
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- Course 1: April 1st and 3rd. 8am- 5 pm
Course 2: April 6th and 7th. 8am-5pm
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2) NVC and Family: Respectful Parents - Respectful Kids

In this workshop you will strengthen the ability to:

- Connect compassionately with yourself and your family
 - Inspire open, respectful communication
 - Fully support children's' growing need for autonomy while also honoring your own needs and values
 - End power struggles and shift from trying to manage kids' behavior with demands, rewards and consequences, to effectively fostering goodwill and willing co-operation.
 - Increase respect, fun and harmony at home
- March 23rd and 30th 7-10pm Cost: NAf 95

3) NVC and Relationships: Bridging the Communication Gap will focus on:

- Making peace with conflict
- Naming old habits of mind and language which create distress and walls of separation
- New habits that create compassion, connection and healing
- Steps to liberate our

thinking and reactions in order to transform anger, hurt, guilt, and disappointment into energy and expressions that serve life

- Clarity about emotions and needs so that we hear and are heard by others
 - A powerful, simple process that gives a foundation for clear, compassionate communication
- March 24th and 25th 7:15-10 pm
Cost: NAf 95

4) Custom-made courses for your company, organization, foundation or community group

Both women speak English. Dutch and Papiamentu translation are available with all training courses.

With NVC on Bonaire we take a clear and effective step on the road to a community where all needs count, no matter what culture, age, color or gender. Therefore I think it is most effective to start as early as possible, with the children, schools, teachers and parents. And at the same time, we as adults need to be role models. How can we all live in harmony when we ourselves still judge and assume to know what and who is right or wrong? ■

Annemiek le Noble

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The giraffe is the symbol of the process of NVC. It has the biggest heart of all land mammals.



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 18.**

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



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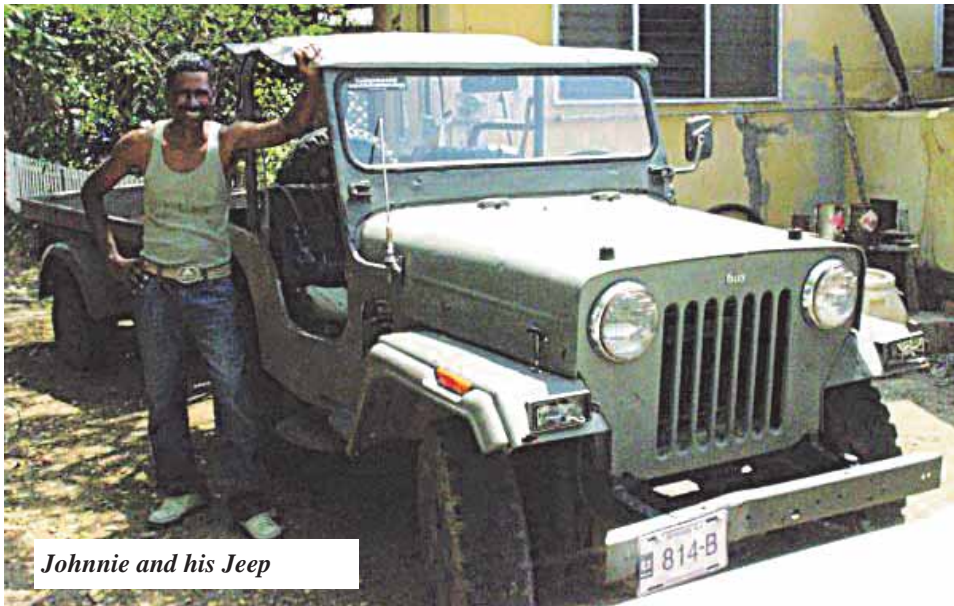
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Johnnie Felida and His Flat Green Painted Jeep Mahindra

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Johnnie and his Jeep

Tras di Montanja/Bonaire –

To me Tras di Montanja is a special place. A lot of typical vehicles are more or less hidden behind the mountains of Bonaire. That day in February I was on my way with my 600 cc super single to try to find a kind of old red panel van, built in the late 40s or the early 50s. I found the van, but the owner was not at home or enjoying his siesta. So I drove back, desperately searching for a topic for my next article. Then, in a 50-mile flash, I saw a Jeep Mahindra parked in a *koraal* (garden/private property/jb) along the west side of the road from Rincon. I had seen this Jeep several years ago, parked along the north side of the road to Lagoen. I had talked with the proud owner, but the car and the owner vanished on this small island of Bonaire. And then the vehicle re-appeared. Location: Tras di Montanja 17. Yes!

I already knew the owner was very proud of his vehicle. Now, by meeting him again, I found out his name: Johnnie Felida. And the old red panel van, built in the late 40s or early 50s, belonged to his brother. And his brother also had a Jeep Mahindra. It is so interesting and funny to discover all the wheeled secrets of Bonaire. And I am that privileged.

So Johnnie Felida is the owner of one of the two Jeep Mahindras on the island of Bonaire. The vehicle was produced by Mahindra Industries, a huge factory established in 1945 in Mumbai, India, producing automotive and farm equipment. The Jeeps built in India still show their classic lines. The Mahindras are derived from the CJ3 and CJ5.

This Jeep Mahindra was built somewhere in the late 70s or early 80s. From the plastic badge above the grill in the front of the vehicle only three letters remain: "hin." As the Bonairean salt eats the metal away, the sun has the same effect on plastics.

Johnnie's Mahindra is licensed: 814-B. The vehicle has the classic looks of the real

Jeep, including the traditional seven slits in the grill. The body is mounted on a ladder chassis, and four 16-inch wheels and tires carry the weight of the vehicle. No free wheel hubs are mounted. Everything is very basic and standard. Leaf springs in the front and in the rear, drum brakes all over the vehicle. A lot of iron is used. The Jeep is quite heavy. The hood looks old fashioned, more or less similar to the long body Jeeps that roll over the island and that are produced in Colombia, fitted with original America Hercules engines.

This Jeep Mahindra has an Indian power plant. Four strokes, four cylinders, one carburetor, an air filter with an oil bath to trap the fine dust. A modern 12-volt system, no power brakes, no power steering and of course no power windows. Windows? There is only one window fitted on this Jeep. The glass in the front. And you can fold it down like the soft top. There's a roll bar too.

Johnny likes his Jeep. He takes a position next to the car and caresses the soft, more or less modern looking steering wheel. The padded wheel is one of the few parts on the vehicle that shows the word "Mahindra." We walk around his Jeep: four-wheel drive, four speeds, high gears, low gears. There is also a small trailer with an army-like appearance. The trailer is not Indian made. The wheels are some 14 inches. Maybe the trailer is produced by Saris in Europe. More details about the combination are not known.

In the near future I shall visit Johnny's brother. He also has a Jeep Mahindra. But this one is fitted with a diesel engine, probably produced under license of Peugeot, France. And then, of course, there is the red panel van, parked in a *kunuku* along the road to Rincon. Split window? Fire Department? Radio wagon? Mobile movie theatre? I just do not know yet... ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



Body Talk

THE SILENT PANDEMIC – LIFESTYLE

The three most important words in your life should be ALKALIZE, ALKALIZE, ALKALIZE! Can you remember what conditions are good for yeast overgrowth and fungus? Yes, over-acidity. Where does over-acidity come from? From sugar and yeast in our bread, dairy products, processed foods, soda drinks and alcohol.



I can hear the collective groan. Is there anything left to eat? The answer is very simple indeed. Yes, there is more than you think. BUT, IT IS unprocessed, IT IS raw at times, IT IS combined properly with other foods and IT IS guaranteed to give you the nutrition that your body so desperately craves.

So many people are overfed but under-nourished. Are you one of them? If your health is a problem, then you are definitely in this category.

One of the changes you can make in your daily diet is combing foods correctly. NEVER have a meat (any meat including fish) with carbohydrates or starches, like potato, pasta and pumpkin. This combination neutralizes stomach acids. Fermentation and putrefaction then become the digesters, instead of digestive enzymes. Another one is NEVER to have fruit after a meal. Fruit needs about 20 minutes on an empty stomach to digest. If eaten with, for example, meat which will take hours to digest (even if correctly combined), fermentation will follow. Fermentation then takes us full circle to the yeast and fungal problem.

Bread and beer consumption on Bonaire is extremely high, and I believe that if people cut down on beer and switch to un-leavened (yeast free) bread, we will make a start in addressing the health issues on this island.

Another insane habit so many people have is to drink water with a meal. Water will dilute your digestive enzymes during the meal, and you are back to square one. So many people tell me that there is not enough choice in food on Bonaire. Remember, it is not how much you eat, but whether you can digest, absorb, utilize and eliminate

what you have eaten. Keep your meals simple.

Changing to an antifungal dietary lifestyle is just the first step on what should be a life-long road. To speed up the repair process, items like lemons, garlic, oregano and almonds should be included on a daily basis. Excellent herbs like Pau D'Arco, Black Walnut and Hawthorn berries will not just support the immune system, but will also kill off fungi and help support liver function.

Another interesting fact is that people who wear dentures have a much higher fungal and yeast overgrowth and this is quite noticeable with that "furry" feeling in the mouth. Denture wearers should take extreme care with oral hygiene, as the dentures are a natural "breeding ground" for fungi. A twice daily mouthwash with herbal tea is highly recommended, certainly if you are prone to mouth ulcers, gum infections or sore throats.

After all is said and done, only you can make the change in your life! Stop making excuses for your bad eating habits and take back the control. IF YOU ARE NOT IN CONTROL OF WHAT YOU EAT, THEN YOU ARE BEING CONTROLLED BY WHAT YOU EAT! Which one are you? ■

Stephanie Bennett

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



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BONAIREAN VOICES

COMMUNICATION

Communication is a very essential part of human life. The word communication or to communicate means to have contact; to understand each other; have interchangeable thoughts. If we could communicate in the best manner we could avoid a lot of misunderstandings, hatred and even war. There's a saying, "Evil communications corrupt good manners." Translate it in Dutch "Kwade gezelschappen bederven goede zeden."

Today we have variety of means of communication to bring information to the public: magazines, newspapers, advertisements, television, computers, radio and a lot more. How do YOU make use of these medias?

I interviewed a real Bonairean who has owned a radio station for 15 years and has the heart and soul for his work. His name is Mr. Carmo "Bubui" Cecilia (59) director of Radio Station BONFM 102.7, and he tells us the story of how he got involved with the radio station.

"I worked for a radio station called Radio Hoyer 3 in 1976. Before that I'd worked as a correspondent for the Dutch *Amigoe*



"Bubui" Cecilia

newspaper. This was as a part-timer, as I was a fulltime schoolteacher at the primary school.

After being involved with the radio station, Voz di Boneiru, and the newspaper *extra* in the 80s and 90s my family and I decided to start our own radio station, BONFM. I got the permit and every five years I have to renew it.

Our radio station stands for education and conscientious objectives. The kind of programming we offer is:

1. "Bondia Boneiru" ("Good morning, Bonaire"), News, SEBIKI (a family education program), a Health and Nutrition pro-

gram, musical entertainment (Bonairean, Antillean, Latin American, Caribbean and American music).

The name BON FM stands for GOOD RADIO STATION. The information and music that are presented to you must be of a good quality and at a high level. We have a special section during the news time for our radio listeners when they may call and give their opinions. It's called "Opinion di nos Oyentenan (Opinion of our radio listeners)."

Communication must be the truth. What is needed to be said or to communicate is only the truth and don't misuse the media to achieve any other kind of purpose. Don't use the means for communication to unjustly criticize people. You must do the work correctly so people will believe in what you are writing or saying. Cultivate credibility in your work. To our readers and listeners: You must be critical with yourself in what you read and hear. Ask yourself what the truth is in what I'm reading or hearing."

So as you can see, we as radio listeners and newspaper readers also have work to do, by finding out the truth. ■

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



Times are Tough (Continued from page 3)

least once a week or more often, and removing accumulated algae and dirt. By offering birds a place to bathe and drink, not only will you be helping them get much needed water, but you'll be rewarded with the antics of many species of birds--right in your own yard.

If you have garden plants that provide food for wildlife consider watering them. It can be a sad sight watching your yard turning brown, so if you decide to irrigate your plants focus on the food producing plants and trees. At WEB's rates plant irrigation can quickly break the budget, so be selective.

Economize by using water which might have normally been wasted. For example, use a bucket to catch extra water when you run the water before a shower. If you take a bath, use the bath water to water trees, shrubs, and non-edible plants (not your vegetable or herb garden!). The same goes for dishwasher. Finally, try placing a bucket under downspouts to catch runoff from any rain that falls. Don't fertilize during drought. Fertilizer promotes plant growth, which increases the need for water.

You can conserve water and prepare your garden even before drought hits by planting native instead of non-native plants. They usually require less care than non-native species and are therefore more likely to survive when a drought does strike. And the local wildlife will appreciate them. ■ G.D.

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WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

Dear Editor:

I read with great sadness the letter from Jane Madden about the demolishing of the old and venerable cactus in the garden next door to her (*The Reporter*, March 5-19, 2010, "100 Years of Natural Beauty Gone in an Instant"). My sadness was heightened by the fact that the people behind this were with TransWorld Radio. TWR has been a part of Bonaire for many years and I and many others had considered them to be a part of the island family. To have allowed something like this to happen, when Ms. Madden went out of her way to offer solutions to cutting down the cactus, is unconscionable. Transients on Bonaire perhaps don't understand the importance of island flora but after having the situation explained to them they should have reached a compromise - which did NOT include cutting down the cactus.

We have uncaring developers allowing runoff from building sites to go onto our reefs and into the sea, and people coming here temporarily who destroy precious, historical plants. What is it going to take to get the attention of people and organizations who should know better to stop and rethink their methods so that our island environment can survive?

Dabney Lassiter



Rotarians Sara Matera and Huub Groot present a check to SGB teachers Vernon Martijn, Liz Rinja and Izzy Semeleer

Rotary Club Bonaire held its Valentine Day lunch at SGB Chez Nous. It was a perfect setting to give a check of NAf 1.000 to the Culinaire Bonaire Foundation for the Italy Stage 2010 project. This project is in its eighth year. Every year eight young SGB hospitality students are selected to attend a cooking school in Italy's Emilia Romagna Region for three weeks. The latest group will be leaving this May.

This program stimulates the hospitality students and provides them with a world-wide learning and growing experience. The opportunity is not only about cooking but also visiting the area's famous export products and seeing the way the products are made: wines, olive oil, Balsamic vinegar, Parmesan cheese, prosciutto, and of course museums and cultural events.

Another event, the popular Bonaire Rotary Club Rotarally, will be on Sunday, March 28. The rally will begin at 9 am at the Sporthall and finish at the Sunset Beach hotel waterfront. Participation costs NAf 75 (\$42) and includes two tickets to the rally-end BBQ. Proceeds to benefit the BIBLIO Bus (Library Bus). Tickets can be purchased in advance at Sunbelt Realty, It Rains Fishes Restaurant, Akkerman's Auto Supplies, or from any Rotary member. ■

Press release



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

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Airport:
Divi Divi Air
DAE Air
Insel Air
Valerie's Airport Shop | Company
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Capriccio
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Pasa Bon Pizza
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Capt. Don's Habitat
Carib Inn
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Sand Dollar Resort | Others:
Bonfysio
Botika Korona
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Special Olympics Bonaire 2010 Walk-a-Thon

Every year since it was started in 2003, the Special Olympics Bonaire Walk-a-Thon has gotten bigger and bigger. That first year, in 2003, 290 tickets were sold. This year, the 8th annual Walk-a-thon, more than 630 tickets, at NAf 25 each, were sold. It may be time for a name change as this year there were more bikers than walkers: 220 bikers to 215 walkers. (The bikers do have to take a longer route.) So nearly 200 tickets were purchased by individuals and groups who did not make the trek but wanted to support the Walk-a-Thon anyway.

All funds raised from this event will help our Special Olympics Team Bonaire to participate in future games, with the Special Olympic Games in Greece in 2012 on the horizon.

Main sponsors for the Walk-a-Thon are Digicel, Wega di Number, Fatum Insurance, Hites and MCB Bank. Nearly the whole community offered support in every possible way. ■ L.D.



Volunteers at the Pasa Dia prepared the food for the finishers



The Walkathon began in 5 am darkness



↑ The Walkathon was fun for the entire family and friends.
 ← Nazario Alberto, the North Salinja Road Runner, was among the first finishers.



The "pit stop" at Hilltop was a favorite



← Drinks were very welcome in the sunny morning
 ↓ Two of Bonaire's Lt. Governors, Glenn Thodé (partially obscured) and Hubert Domacassée and his wife Lena gave out refreshments. Mechtild Thodé participated in the walk.



The Green Label Team walked with the same palm tree as last year (only bigger now)





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Marilyn Kredel Concert Soars

On Friday March 5, the renowned American pianist Marilyn Kredel gave a piano recital at Cacique Hall at the Plaza Resort, sponsored by the Classical Music Board Bonaire (CMBB).

It was the latest in a series of audience-friendly performances tailored to the tastes of Bonaire residents. Over 100 spectators enjoyed the varied program of Scarlatti, Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, Dvorak, Saint-Saens, Toch and more. But it was much more than a recital as Marilyn shared stories and gave explanations about the pieces she played. The atmosphere in Cacique Hall was casual, pleasant and very friendly.

Marilyn performed two Domenico Scarlatti sonatas, originally written for harpsichord. That was the prelude to the masterpiece by Ludwig van Beethoven, the Waldstein Sonata, a 25-minute severe and profound piece and, as she described, requiring intense effort on the part of the pianist.

A special treat was Dvorak's Slavonic Dance number 6 and 8 for four hands, played by Marilyn and Hans Faassen. The whirlwind pace and fortissimo of these pieces originally written for orchestra overwhelmed the spectators.

The proceeds from this concert will go to the Fundashon Piano Grandi for purchase of new bass strings. Thank you, Marilyn.

There is now a brand new website made by the CMBB. The site gives all the news of the upcoming concerts, information about past concerts and more. And you may now order tickets on line. Go to:
www.classicalmusicbonaire.com/



Marilyn Kredel



Marilyn and Hans Faassen play "quatremain"

Earlier in the day, Ms. Kredel performed at Cacique Hall for SGB (high school) students, most of whom have never been in a concert hall and certainly had not consciously listened to classical music played on a grand concert piano by a famous American pianist and organist. To explain the origin and meaning of music in life, in all cultures and at all times, Marilyn played pieces to depict what appeared in a painting. It was a place like Kralendijk with houses, a harbor with ships and the sea. Her piece was by Scarlatti, a 16th century Italian composer, and the audience could almost see the sea waves beating on the beach in the music. She also played other music used for parties and dances.

Marilyn and Hans Faassen performed a four-handed piece of Slavic dances by Dvorak from the 19th century, which brought great applause.

The students' concert was made possible by the CMBB which will have four school concerts a year. All schools on the island

have received a letter and email so they can register for the next concert. Tickets are low priced: NAf10; children under 12 is NAf 6.

If you have yet to attend a CMBB concert be sure to try the **next one on April 27 featuring top musicians from the 2010 Aruba Piano Festival**. The experience of being in a small room close to the performers is almost unique in the world of classical music. If classical music intimidates you, it won't in this setting. Remember, these classics have set the stage for modern music, and Chopin's works are even the basis for the Antillean Tumba. ■ L/G. D.

BonQuiz #26



Centuries ago a little village lay sleepily along the west coast of Bonaire. It had several scattered straw-roofed huts surrounding Fort Oranje in Playa. Ships calling at this tiny village tied up close to the beach. They used this object to secure their mooring lines.

The port's commander lived in the building that was built in 1837 which today serves as the Island Government's administrative office. In 1848 the title of Commander changed to Lt. Governor as it is today.

Q) What is the object in the photo, and can you locate it?

Answer on page 18

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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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cruise Ship Calls - Information provided by the TCB

Date	Day	Ship name	Time	PAX
Friday	March 19, 2010	<i>Enchantment of the Seas</i>	0730-1630	2446
Monday	March 22, 2010	<i>Aida Aura</i>	0800-1600	1260
Tuesday	March 23, 2010	<i>Ocean Dream</i>	0800-1600	1000
Wednesday	March 24, 2010	<i>Sea Princess</i>	1200-1900	2016
Friday	March 26, 2010	<i>Enchantment of the Seas</i>	0730-1630	1950
Tuesday	March 30, 2010	<i>Ocean Dream</i>	0800-1600	1000
Tuesday	March 30, 2010	<i>Noordam</i>	0800-1700	1918
Thursday	April 1, 2010	<i>Bremen</i>	0800-2300	164
Thursday	April 1, 2010	<i>Caribbean Princess</i>	1100-1900	3100
Friday	April 2, 2010	<i>Enchantment of the Seas</i>	0730-1630	2446
Tuesday	April 6, 2010	<i>Ocean Dream</i>	0800-1600	1000
Tuesday	April 6, 2010	<i>Sea Princess</i>	1200-1900	2016
Friday	April 9, 2010	<i>Enchantment of the Seas</i>	0730-1630	2446

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

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Wolmoet Jansen Art Exhibit – until May, Plaza Hotel. See story on page 18.

Saturday morning, March 20 - Car Wash Fundraiser for BSSA (Bonaire Sailing School Association) at the Kas di Regatta on the Promenade, from 9-noon. See page 17.

Saturday, March 20—Vernal Equinox—1st day of Spring. See page 19

Saturday, March 20-MCB Car Show at the Bank HQ north of the hotel row traffic circle. Hours 9 am-6 pm.

Sunday, March 21 – Anna-Marie Kroes Art Exhibit opens 6 pm at **Kas di Arte**. See page 12 for more details

Sunday, March 28 – Rotary Club Ro-taRally See story on page 9.

March 23, 24, 25, 30, April 1, 3, 6, 7 – Communication Courses at Bonaire Basics— see story on page 6.

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. Free admission to the event.

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;. Call Elisabeth Vos 565-5225.

Saturday, April 3 – Big monthly Rincon Marché, 6 am to 2 pm

April 24—Health Day –World Tai Chi Qigong Day at Bonaire Basics. More information 717-3041 or ron.sewell@diamond-waters.com

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 Marché first Saturday of the month**—www.infbonaire.com/rincon.

- **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 center present a multimedia slide presentation about Buddy's House Reef - pool bar **Buddy Dive,** 6:30-7 pm, 717-5080

Monday-Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea Slide Presentation, Capt. Don's Habitat,

8:30 pm. 717-8529

Tuesday-- Bonaire Land and Ocean presentation by Fish-Eye Photo staff, 7pm on the big screen inside the Sunset Bar and Grill at Den Laman Condos.

Wednesday - Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire,* at 7pm -every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8819)

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 Saliña, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0379 .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

JANART GALLERY

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

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 pkaves@diversityworksinc.net.**

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.**

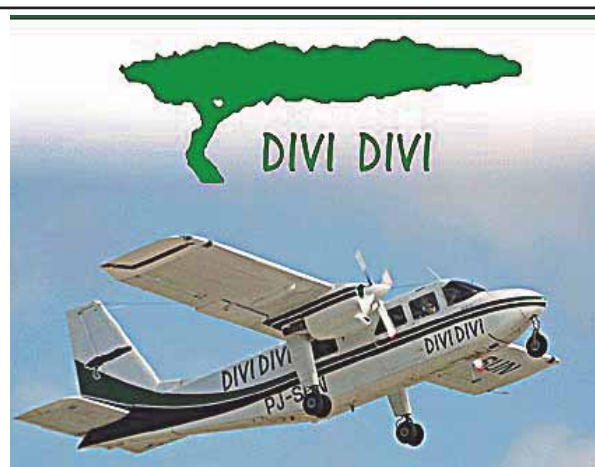
MISCELLANEOUS



For Sale: Blonde wood entertainment center. Dimensions: 183cm w X 189cm h X 41.5cm d. NAf300;
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DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
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
3-24	8:12	1.9FT.	16:43	0.9FT.					53
3-25	1:04	1.2FT.	9:09	1.9FT.	17:10	0.9FT.	22:42	1.2FT.	57
3-26	2:49	1.1FT.	10:01	1.8FT.	17:30	1.0FT.	22:43	1.3FT.	67
3-27	4:16	1.1FT.	10:54	1.7FT.	17:44	1.0FT.	23:04	1.4FT.	78
3-28	5:39	1.1FT.	11:52	1.6FT.	17:52	1.1FT.	23:39	1.5FT.	88
3-29	0:11	1.6FT.	7:05	1.0FT.	12:49	1.4FT.	17:51	1.2FT.	96
3-30	0:57	1.7FT.	8:36	1.0FT.	14:08	1.3FT.	17:33	1.2FT.	100
3-31	1:44	1.8FT.	10:15	0.9FT.					100
4-01	2:37	1.8FT.	11:50	0.9FT.					95
4-02	3:37	1.9FT.	13:02	0.8FT.					87
4-03	4:32	1.9FT.	14:01	0.8FT.					77
4-04	5:35	1.8FT.	14:44	0.8FT.					64
4-05	6:27	1.8FT.	15:27	0.8FT.					52

Pinball Machine - Jokerz - For sale at NAf 595 or best offer. Over NAf 1500 invested in new circuit boards, parts etc. Needs finishing up with some wiring etc. **Call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm**

Refrigerator LG Electrocool, not even one year old, **NAf 750,-. Phone 786-3117.**

TV for sale 27" Phillips flat screen color TV - \$75 -**Please call 717-3809**

Brand new Haynes Repair Manual Jeep Wrangler 1987 thru 2003, all models: **Ang 50,00.**

Old book in Dutch language: "Oude bouwwerken in de Nederlandse Antillen, [1968]. 50 pages: **Ang 15,00.**

Spare wheel Toyota Hilux: Ang 50,00. Call 796-3637 or email digitalis1956@hotmail.com/

WANTED

20' container in good condition. **Call Donna 795-9332**

Want to help Bonaire's only Children's Playground and Park?.

The Park urgently need financial contributions, Park volunteers for flea market, clean-ups, maintenance etc. or to become an action member of the Keep the Park Open committee.
For more please call **Vicky Bissessar 786 1592.**

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On Track for 10/10/10 (Continued from page 3)
If these laws are passed then, said Antillean Prime Minister Emily de Jong, it should be possible, with effort, to meet the 10/10/10 target date for the new structure for the Dutch Caribbean islands. During his Dutch visit Abraham made a fervent case that the "bigger, richer and more powerful" Netherlands should have more understanding and show respect for Bonaire, with "only 15,000 souls." Even though Bonaire is a small island, it has a right to determine its own future, he pointed out. He warned that the people of Bonaire couldn't handle the pressure by the Netherlands, and that tension was rising on the island, with locals fearing a take-over by the Dutch. Last Tuesday, Jopie Abraham didn't show up for a scheduled meeting with State Secretary Bijleveld. It was supposed to be a brief, but important meeting, aimed at trying to break the deadlock between the Dutch Government and Bonaire's Executive Council.

The 10/10/10 transition date, while symbolic, is not sacrosanct. Not only do the Consensus Laws and Kingdom Charter Amendment still have to be actually passed in both chambers of the Dutch Parliament, but there are several additional laws that require approval. ■ G.D.

*[There had been several years of pressure in Austria from Germany for the "Heim ins Reich"-movement to integrate the countries. Fully devoted to remaining independent but under considerable pressure from both German and Austrian Nazis, Austria's Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg tried to hold a referendum to ask the Austrian people whether they wished to remain independent or merge into Germany. Although Schuschnigg expected Austria to vote in favor of maintaining autonomy, a well-planned coup d'état by the Austrian Nazi Party of Austria's state institutions in Vienna took place on 11 March, prior to the referendum which was then cancelled. The officer in charge of the Anschluss was the Reich Commissaris.]

SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

AIRLINES

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

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.

DINING

Bistro di Paris A real French restaurant with affordable prices and friendly Bonairean ambiance **Owned and operated by a French Chef** **On Kaya Gob. Debrot 1/2 mile north of town**

Pasa Bon Pizza is Bonaire's best. Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. **780-1111** Call ahead to eat in or take out, Next to Bistro (above)

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

DIVING

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

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Captain Don's Plants, Trees and More sells genuine acclimated Bonaire plants. Take a 30-minute tour too. Strong plants for strong Bonaire gardens.

HEALTH

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

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

HOME CARE

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

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

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SUPERMARKETS

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

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Toastmaster Speech Winners

At the "Discover your Potential" conference, sponsored by Bonaire's Toastmasters Clubs, first prize speech was by Maritsa Silberie ("Do You Believe?"), 2nd and 3rd place for the speech contest were won respectively by Sapphira Coffie (center) and Angelique Salsbach (left). Maritsa will represent the territory of Bonaire during the District 81 conference this May in Saint Lucia. ■



School Buildings Burn

In the early morning hours of March 11 the temporary SGB high school classroom buildings on Kaya Amsterdam were completely destroyed by a fire. The fire, thought to have started by an electrical short circuit, was brought under control with difficulty by the fire brigade. The buildings were made of wood. Classes for the upper level academic track students held in those buildings have been relocated to other quarters. ■ G.D. Photos by Danny Gerharts



Artist Kroes Returns

Artist Anna-Marie Kroes lived on Bonaire from 1994 to 2001 and while she was here she created numerous art pieces with subjects from the sea, from the land, portraits of people, dogs and other animals. She had a number of large wall paintings—on the now defunct Whiskey Bar, on a wall at the torn down Dive Inn. She did the Birthday Calendar for the Animal Shelter, and body painting in 1998 and 199 for the *Bonaire Nights* magazine. She had exhibits at the Dock of the Bay, at the medical center, and at the Tourist Corporation Bonaire offices. She fell in love with the island and has never forgotten it, no matter where she has roamed all over the world.

make sure it's well preserved and to make sure we do not forget about it or take it for granted."

And now she's back with a new exhibit at the Kas di Arte, opening Sunday, March 21 at 6 pm. ■ L.D

Anna-Marie Kroes



"I left my heart on Bonaire"

Sunday 21 of March 2010

The Grand Opening!

Exhibit will be open daily from 1700 to 2100

Location: Kas di Arte

(at the boulevard)

Time: 18.00hr (6 p.m)

Anna-Marie explains, "I catch love with my paint brush and pencil and I know how to capture it just like I used to capture the beauty of the Antillean landscape. I can't "can" it, but I

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Flotsam and jetsam (Continued from page 2)
stick to their earlier agreement for a shared Central Bank and joint "own" currency, **thus not switching to the US dollar.** 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 guild-der will be maintained for the time being.

► **Capital punishment for monstrous crimes is on the books in the Netherlands Antilles, but this section of the Penal Code has never been used in the history of the Antilles,** and it never will, once Parliament moves to strike it off the books this week. This amendment will bring the Antilles into compliance with the European Union Treaty on Human Rights.



Also to be amended are the sections of the Civil and Penal Codes concerning human trafficking, to comply with the United Nations Treaty on Cross-Border Crimes.

► **Antillean Customs launched new website which helps to answer questions about duties and procedures.** It is quite comprehensive, in Dutch, and on line now. The new website is www.douane.an. A duty schedule can be downloaded from <http://www.douane.an/nl/download.php>

► **Elvis Tjin A-Sjoe is UPB Bonaire's candidate for Minister of Economic Affairs in the new Central Government** set to take office on March 26. Felix "Papito" Thomas is the party's candidate for State Secretary of Home Affairs. The names of these two candidates were submitted to *Formateur* Pedro Atacho last week.



Tjin A-Sjoe was Minister of Economic Affairs in the present government for a year and a half until he was recalled to Bonaire in March 2009 to serve as Commissioner in the Island Government.

Thomas was UPB Party President for the past nine years. He relinquished the post last week. Jonchi Dortalina now heads the party.

Six parties are set to form the new Netherlands Antilles coalition government: PAR (the largest) and PNP of Curaçao, National Alliance of St. Maarten, UPB of Bonaire, Windward Islands People's Movement (WIPM) of Saba and the Democratic Party of St. Eustatius.

► Before a traveler (who is a citizen of visa waiver countries such as the Netherlands Antilles) can be admitted to the US they must be registered by the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). This process is free. **Recently someone who tried to use the online application process was blocked by a message requesting \$49.95 for the screening... another Internet scam.** The best way to avoid this is to go to the **Homeland Security website** (<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/esta.html>), click on the language you want, and follow the instructions. Non-Americans who require ESTA should check their registration status BEFORE going to Flamingo airport.

► **DAE Airlines is adding Panama as a new destination.** Depending on the approval of the local authorities, DAE will fly there on Mondays and Saturdays. "As far as the Antilles are concerned, everything has been arranged. The permission from Panama is a formality," said DAE Director Floris van Pallandt.

► Coupled with this announcement is the news that **DAE cannot maintain its schedule to Bogotá** at the moment due to an overhaul delay of one of its two Fokker 100 jets. One of the Fokker 100s was in Brazil. The other aircraft had reached its maximum number of flying hours the next day. A revised schedule is on the DAE website.

► **April 12, 2010, Air Jamaica will begin the transition to new owner, Caribbean Airlines.** This date dovetails with the airline's major schedule change that was previously announced. However, the date could change as the details of the transition are finalized. Air Jamaica no longer flies to Bonaire.

► **Parents in the Netherlands Antilles soon will have the legal right to select what last name to give their children.** Only the father's surname is currently allowed by law.

Parliament will discuss an amendment to the Antillean Civil Code named the "Right of Last Name." This change will allow a child born in wedlock or acknowledged by a father to also carry the mother's surname or a combination of the two parents' names as the parents so choose.

► **A Papiamentu Foundation has been established to promote, reinforce and protect the Papiamentu language** around the world. The board consists of: Geraldine Dammers, President; Sedney Marten, Secretary; Jeaninne Wong Loi Sing, Treasurer; Delno Tromp and Aichel Mercelina, members.

To celebrate the launching of the foundation on February 19 there was a conference, *Papiamentu na Kandela* ("Papiamentu Aflame"). More information at akademiapapiamentu@gmail.com

► **Aliansa Naturalesa di Bonaire elected new officers at its January 18th General Meeting of members.**

Kris Kats (P.K. Kats) was elected chairperson. Kris is the project manager of Progressive Environmental Solutions, a Bonaire non-governmental organization (NGO) that creates and implements solutions for threats to aquatic habitats. Kris has been an Aliansa member for three years.

Kris replaces **Elsmarie Beukenboom**, Elsmarie served as Aliansa chairperson for five years.

Paul Wichers was elected treasurer. Paul is president of the Animal Shelter Bonaire.

Mabel Nava was elected secretary. Mabel is the manager of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, an NGO that has been protecting sea turtles on Bonaire since 1991.

All conservation related non-for profit foundations can be a member of Aliansa. At this moment Aliansa has six active member organizations: Animal Shelter, Donkey Sanctuary, Progressive Environmental Solutions, *Salba nos Lora*, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire and STINAPA.

► Mrs. Martha Benoliel of the Xerox Corporation personally **congratulated Alvin Obersi, the CEO of the Obersi Group of Companies, with the above-target performance for Bonaire and St. Maarten**

during the first two months of year and the promising outlook for the year. It is the first time that the Obersi Group recorded an above-target performance during the first two months of the year.



► **The Bonaire Sailing School Association is planning a trip to Curaçao** to sail in the Curaçao Regatta on April 2 and 3. They plan to send three Sunfish sailors (Sipke, Shaihr and Juan) and six Optimist kids (Ruben, Dillon, Santiago, Blue, Constantijn and Nils). That is going to cost money and that is why BSSA is organizing a **fundraising CARWASH** to collect money for the trip to Curaçao. So if you need a carwash **come to the Kas di Regatta, Saturday morning, March 20, from 9 to**

noon. It's only NAf 10. And if your car doesn't need to be washed, just stop by and donate some money for our local sailors.

► **For the time being there will be no more flea markets at the Dare to Care playground.** The popular markets were held every first Saturday of the month. Since the closing of the Dare to Care flea market, the Bonaire Animal Shelter's booth selling books and odds and ends will now be at the Rincon Marsh's big market every first Saturday of the month, starting around 6 am until 2 pm. All proceeds go to helping to keep the Shelter open. If you have items to donate call the Shelter at 717-4989.

► **The Reporter will be on a short vacation** so the next edition will be available April 7. "Raw News" is available as it happens on the bonairereporter.com website. ■

Picture Yourself With The Reporter... on the Antarctic Peninsula



Bonaire residents and Internet pioneers Jake and Linda Richter write, "We (The Traveling Richters) are presently in Marguerite Bay off the Antarctic Peninsula on a several week expedition exploring the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic on the *National Geographic Explorer*. The photo was taken on our first landfall (we arrived by Zodiac) at Red Rocks Ridge, in the midst of a large colony of Adelie penguins (some of which you can see in the background).

The photo was taken at GPS coordinates 68.29081333 (S), 67.17969333 (W), give or take a dozen meters, in case you were curious.



(See it on a map at <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=68.29081333,-67.17969333&spn=0.001,0.001&t=k&hl=en>)

We've had reasonable Internet service via satellite, and are presently at the southern-most part of our journey. ■

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



Bubbles From the Biologist

Did You Know...

That's my territory!

As you may already know, reef fishes can be extremely territorial. However, each fish species determines its dominance in different ways. One of the most common methods is known as **size hierarchy**. Fishes engaged in these size comparisons can often be seen in humorous exchanges on the reef including a behavior termed **"kissing,"** when two male fish measure mouth sizes in an act that looks much like kissing. Many grunt species determine mating status through these "kisses." Fairy basslets, the tiny purple and yellow fishes seen hanging around coral heads, have a strict dominance structure based on size. The larger fairy basslets occupy prime feeding locations closer to outer ledges of corals and rocks. They maintain their dominance through very aggressive behavior. In fact smaller, juvenile basslets

that settle on reefs with many adults often die of starvation because they cannot reach high-quality feeding locations. Parrotfish also maintain their territories with a size hierarchy. Larger males control larger territories and have more females (sometimes referred to as a harem) within their territory than smaller males.

Another way male fishes maintain their territory is through the **use of vibrant colors and distinctive features**. Sailfin blennies are known to erect their oversized dorsal fins to ward off their competition and several wrasse species display brilliant colorations to try and outdo other males during territorial disputes. The males with brighter colors or more distinctive features often have larger territories and reproduce more successfully.

Damselfish also are known for guarding their gardens of algae on the reef. They exert their dominance in a territory through

aggressive attacks on other fishes. The more aggressive damselfishes maintain a larger territory. These fishes will attack almost any fish (or diver!) and seem to have no fear! However, unfortunately for them, their little mouths are made for eating algae and their nipping is not always effective on larger fishes. ■

Alicia Reigel

Alicia Reigel is a student at the University of Minnesota- Twin Cities working towards a bachelor's degree in environmental management. She hopes to pursue a master's degree in conservation biology. She is currently studying Tropical Marine Ecology and Conservation with CIEE Research Station Bonaire.

Photo courtesy of: Ross Gudgeon



Defending Grunts



Reference:
DeLoach N, Humann P (1999) Reef Fish Behavior. New World Publications, Jacksonville, FL USA

BonKarate Students Pass Exams

BonKarate students were given exams recently, followed by a celebration organized by Sensei (teacher) Peter Silberie, Sempai (senior) Tuki Josephia and Sempai Desi Silberie. Students who passed:
Yellow Belt: Sam Timmers, Miguel Jimenez, Rayen Seraus, Bonnie Roefs, Quintin Soleana, Rangel Rosaria, Adrian Coffie, Tirsa Silberie, Churmer Bomba, Jorge Petit, Jeandino Hart, Jamal Silberie, Jiahao Chen, Rayeline Seraus, Isac Thomasa, Nancy Rombley, Mitchell de Palm and

Jurnuel Cicilia.

Orange Belt: Jursley Jansen, Argion Janga, Kevin Peters, Dimar Kalma, Blue Burger and Charles Martijn.

Green Belt: Jonathan Romo and Kayla van Nunen.

Blue Belt: MiuJi Xuan, Everone Vrutaal, Alex Heijnen, Miguel Pietersz, Jeuri Gonzalez, Danique Darmaoei and, Theursten Winklaar.

Brown Belt 2do Kyu: Kia-San Silberie and Danique Darmaoen.

Congratulations to all! ■
Press release, Peter Silberie

Happy Birthday Gina



Happy 12th Birthday to Georgina "Gina" Sanchez on Saturday, March 20. Gina and her Oma (grandmother) Elizabeth Silberie, deliver *The Reporter* to places all over the island every other week. Gina speaks Papiamentu, English, Spanish and Dutch and often does translating. She also acts as a "secretary" for her Oma. Pabien, Gina, and may you have many, many more happy birthdays. ■



BonKarate photo

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CARWASH Bonaire Sailing School Association
Zeilschool SailingSchool Bonaire Neth. Antilles

Date: 20 maart
Time: 9.00-12.00
Price: 10.00 naf
Place: Kas di Regatta

Pet of the Week

Here's a story with a happy ending. "Sylvie" the cat was found on the street on New Year's Eve. She was lost, terrified and miserable. She was brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter by a Good Samaritan and put in a separate cage as she was too scared to even be with other animals.

But over the weeks with the love and attention of the Shelter staff and volunteers, little by little she became tame and relaxed and could be put in the Cat Cage. Now she's a very affectionate and friendly cat who has become a favorite with the staff. What a transformation! Sylvie is about nine months old; she's been checked out by the vet and given her shots and tests and is ready to go to a good home. However, Sylvie should be adopted as an "only cat" as she still prefers not being around other cats. The NAF 75 cat adoption fee covers all this – a healthy and social cat - plus sterilization. You may see Sylvie at the Bonaire Animal 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 ■

Laura DeSalvo



"Sylvie"

Artist Wolmoet Jansen's Shell Animals at Plaza

For years self-taught artist Wolmoet Jansen has been producing art with materials that she feels close to. In Holland she worked and experimented with paint, wood, fabric, concrete and "free and found" materials.

On Bonaire she's chosen to work with shells. Kas di Arte had an exhibition of her work in 2009 and now Plaza Resort has given her room to show her unique art to the public.

The "paintings" are large with the giant animals in sometimes extreme positions: a laughing turtle, a threatening octopus, an iguana balancing on a fence. They are traditional "paintings" that involve a lot of work: hours of roaming the coasts of Bonaire where every area seems to have its own kind of shells, sorting and cleaning,

toying and experimenting with sizes and natural colors of the shells to get the body of the animal just right.

Jansen likes to work on large canvasses. And the lobby of the Plaza offers plenty of space to give her art the space it needs. There are shell paintings, rocks with animals and mobiles. The exhibition of Wolmoet Jansen will continue until May 2010. Portfolio with information and prices is available at the front desk of the Plaza. ■

Press release



Pioneer Vet Back



Left to right: Dr. Mary Lovie, Dr. Cheryl Yuill, Shelter employee Kenneth Piar and Shelter manager Marlies Tiepel

Six years after Canadian veterinarian Dr. Cheryl Yuill participated in the Bonaire Animal Shelter's first free sterilization program in 2004, she returned to Bonaire. Accompanied by Canadian veterinarian Dr. Mary Lovie who owns a house on Bonaire and who started the whole campaign up at the time, she visited the Shelter. "I'm glad to see so much has changed," Dr. Yuill says. "There are far fewer stray dogs on the street and the public awareness has become so much better. Several people have come up to me when they heard I was part of the first sterilization program to tell me very proudly that their dog was sterilized! I am also very impressed with the little house the Shelter has built outside their gate for people to put their unwanted animals or animals they've found. It's nicer than the one we have at the shelter I work with in Canada. There we get about 2,500 cats and 1,000 dogs a year that people cannot take care of anymore. Many of those animals are adopted out, but it's not a no-kill shelter; we also euthanize animals.

In Canada I own and work at the Blue Cross Animal Hospital, in Kitchener, Ontario, and it was my colleague, Dr. Mary Lovie, who took the initiative for the sterilization campaign in 2004.

"I came to Bonaire in 2000 to dive," Dr.

Mary Lovie says, "and in my spare time I looked up the Animal Shelter and I had a conversation with Jurrie, who was the manager in those days, about all the strays downtown and was anything done about them. I offered my services to Jurrie and he took me to Hans and Etty Lambeek, the veterinarian couple who were then running the animal clinic at Kaminda Lagun. They were very interested when they heard I'd organized similar sterilization projects in other parts of the world. So, we had several meetings in the following years and in 2004 we hit it off: the two Dutch vets, three American vets and Cheryl and me from Canada. We all brought our own instruments and all the other supplies, and Hans and Etty brought the drugs. From October 14th till October 31st we sterilized 302 animals and it continued after we left.

In conclusion: We're very happy to see the island has picked up on our program, and it's heartwarming to see the benefits. We're highly impressed with the new sterilization campaign the Animal Shelter started last year in May. They've sterilized almost 500 animals. It's been very good progress. Amazing!" ■ Greta Kooistra

Adoption Drop-Off



Unwanted Animal Drop-off

People may now drop off unwanted, stray or found cats or dogs at the Shelter at any time of the day or night. This new animal cage (*Kouchi pa Bestia*), outside the gate to the Shelter, has two separate compartments with water bowls and it's checked every few hours during the day. Hopefully, people will put their unwanted animals in the cage rather than dumping them in the *mondi* or by the side of the road. The Shelter receives an average of 1,200 animals each year. Thanks to Valerie's Airport shop for providing the materials and to the Shelter staff and volunteers who provided the labor to build the cage. As of last week, nine dogs and one cat had been put in the cage. ■

BonQuiz Answer



Bon Quiz (from page 11)

Q) What is the object in the photo, and can you locate it?

A) A discarded cannon barrel. It is just south of the roll on-roll off pier. It's used to hold mooring lines.

Sudoku Solution Puzzle on page 7

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

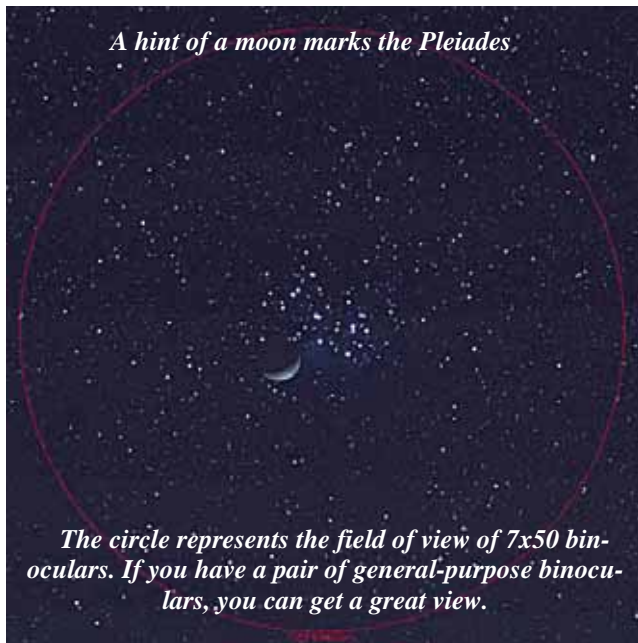


BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

The Moon Visits the Seven Sisters on the First Night of Spring: A Super Sight in Your Binoculars

This Saturday, March 20th, is the date of the **Vernal Equinox for 2010, or as it is more commonly called, the first day of spring**, at which time the hours of daylight will be equal to the hours of night. But this year something special will happen on the first night of spring, something which is almost as beautiful cosmically as spring itself. Indeed on Saturday evening, the 20th, an exquisite five-day-old crescent **Moon**, will huddle up next to the tiny star cluster called **The Pleiades**.



A hint of a moon marks the Pleiades

The circle represents the field of view of 7x50 binoculars. If you have a pair of general-purpose binoculars, you can get a great view.

On Friday, March 19th, which is officially the last night of winter for the northern hemisphere, an hour after sunset face west and if it's clear out you will see an exquisite four-day old **waxing, that is growing**, crescent Moon, complete with **earthshine**, which will look like a blackish gray almost full Moon nestled within the bright crescent. And if you look just above the Moon about a fist width away you'll see the tiny but exquisite group of stars that has been called The Pleiades for thousands of years. Some people say they look like a little milk dipper, or a cluster of grapes, even a swarm of celestial fireflies. And we have records of them going back as far as the Old Testament.

Now although you need nothing but the naked eye to appreciate their beauty if you look at them through even the cheapest pair of binoculars you will be absolutely awed because you'll see many more than seven stars here and they'll appear much brighter. Make a mental note of where the Moon and The Pleiades are on Friday night the 19th, and then 24 hours later go out again and I think the sight will take your breath away because then a five-day-old slightly fatter crescent Moon complete with earthshine will be right next to The Pleiades, a fabulous sight to the naked eye but one which will simply stun you through binoculars!

Our ancestors would have said the Moon is "visiting" The Pleiades as if the Moon and The Pleiades were really close to each other. But we today know that this is not true and that their visual closeness is simply an optical illusion, and that although the Moon appears to be the bigger celestial object, just the opposite is also true. Indeed our Moon is a cosmic orb only 2,000 miles wide which shines by reflected sunlight and is only a quarter of a million miles away, which means we see the light that left it less than two seconds ago.

Each of The Pleiades, however, is a giant **star**, each of which makes its own light like our **Sun** but which are much larger than our almost one-million-mile-wide Sun. Indeed each of The Pleiades is three to 10 times as wide as our Sun and so far away that it takes their light over 400 years to reach us. So the light we see now is the light that left them when Galileo first turned his telescope toward the heavens. Wow! So start your first night of spring right with the cosmic light of the Moon and The Pleiades. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
For March 2010

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Get involved in creative projects that could turn into moneymaking ventures. You may be tired of working for someone else. Partnerships could be tense. Don't push your luck. You will expand your circle of friends if you join groups.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Arguments with children or friends may leave you steaming. You may have a rather hectic day due to events that children are involved in. Catch up on your correspondence and reading. Tone down and put some of that hard earned cash into a safe, long-term investment.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Disappointments are likely if your mate embarrasses you in front of friends. You may be overreacting to a situation at hand. Physical limitations are possible if you aren't careful. Be supportive in order to avoid confrontations.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Organize all the responsibilities that have to be attended to and make sure everyone knows what to do. Don't hesitate to look for alternatives that will enable you to raise the kind of donations you need to do the job right. You may be sensitive concerning friends and their situations. Be very careful while in transit or while traveling in foreign countries.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You can make new friends and get involved in new hobbies successfully. Plan a nice evening for two. Don't make large purchases unless you have discussed your choices with your mate. Financial limitations will not be as adverse as they appear.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Romantic opportunities are evident. You may have ignored or neglected your mate lately. There's lots to be done and if you meet your deadline you'll be in your boss's

good books. Don't let someone you work with put words in your mouth. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) If you join intellectual or cultural groups, you should meet individuals who stimulate you. You have the ability to motivate others. Lowered vitality could affect your work. Catch up on overdue phone calls and correspondence. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Joining organizations will provide you with stimulating romantic contacts. Money can be made if you use your ingenuity. You will drive your emotional partner crazy this month. Older relatives may be a burden. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Lighten up your serious attitude. Your mind is on moneymaking ventures. You can't help everyone. You don't owe anyone an explanation. Do your own thing, you need time to yourself. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) A little volleyball or other outdoor sports should be on your agenda. You are best to avoid confrontations. You will be entertained and intrigued by the logic foreigners possess. Tell it like it is.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Attend to things that you should have done yesterday. Someone envious of your popularity may challenge you to a debate. Travel will be fun and entertaining. You may have difficulties at an emotional level with mates. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Look into events that you might find interesting, and compromise by doing a few things that you both like to do. Old friends may not like your choices. You may want to make plans to take a vacation together. Overindulgence could cause problems for you with your loved ones. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday. ■



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A Perfect Car For Bonaire?

BONAIRE REPORTER SPECIAL REPORT



Inventor Guy Negre with a pair of his AIRPods—(Inset: interior layout)



KLM AIRPod in service at Schiphol Airport.

Will Bonaire be the first place in the Americas to introduce a car that could change the world? It is vehicle fueled by compressed air, a commodity that Bonaire already has in plenty as well as an existing infrastructure to supply it. When you consider that thousands of environmentally concerned visitors and residents whose driving requirements match the capability of the car, you have a situation that may be unique in the world

The 2010 Motor Development International (MDI) AIRPod is that car. It has no emissions and runs on nothing but compressed air. In the future, when Bonaire's WEB electric company is powered by renewable resources like wind, solar or biodiesel even the electricity runs the air fill compressors will have zero or low total emissions.

AIRPod drivers can also recharge their air supply at home in eight hours by plugging the car into electric outlets, or by going to one of the island's drive-through tank fill stations where the process takes only a couple of minutes.

The AIRPod Is For Real

Yes, it sounds like another one of those crackpot inventions, but read on. The AirPod is being used today by KLM at its base in Amsterdam as part of the airline's commitment to reduce emissions. France-based MDI officially handed over the keys to two AIRPods to KLM in December 2009. The AIRPods are under testing for a minimum period of three months at KLM E & M at Schiphol Airport. One of the AIRPods is a cargo version adapted to transport parts and maintenance equipment at Schiphol Center and the other is for personnel transport at Schiphol-Oost.

Driving The AIRPod

The car will take some getting used to, and not just because of its novel power supply. Steering is done with a joystick, and the only doors open to the front and back. The two passenger seats are rear-facing and can be replaced with a cargo (or SCUBA tank) space.

Aboard the AIRPod

At first glance, the 2010 MDI AIRPod looks like a prop from some science fiction movie. Glass hatches sweep up and over the front and rear of the air car. There are two large circular windows cut into either side, along with two smaller windows located on either side of the driver seat. It's a kind of tricycle, not so different in concept from Karl Benz's 1885 Motorwagen, only with twin 100/90R16 tires in back and tiny, twin 10-by-4.00-5 tires in front. With those tires and low ground clearance, it's not the car you want for touring Slagbaai National Park.

The AIRPod measures 201 cm. (81.5 inches) long, 160 cm. (63 inches) wide and 174 cm. (68.5 inches) tall. Built with a simple space frame and fiberglass bodywork, it weighs 220 kg. (485 pounds). The AIRPod has been conceived to meet specifications for city vehicles set by the municipal government of Paris, where 500cc cars are already popular.

To step aboard the AIRPod, you open the hatch, swing it upward and enter the front of the car. It all feels very Luke Skywalker-esque. There are no side doors, and there is seating for only the driver up front. A space-age-looking rearward-facing bench seat is accessed by the rear hatch and is wide enough to accommodate three adults.



More refined models like the OneFlowAIR convertible are to be available by the end of 2010

The AIRPod System

The heart of the 2010 MDI AIRPod is a piston engine that has been specially adapted by MDI to run on compressed air. The expansion of the compressed air within the cylinders moves the pistons. The engine is "fueled" by a system of high-pressure air tanks. Built by EADS, an aerospace firm, the tanks are constructed of lightweight carbon-fiber.

SCUBA divers will appreciate the air tanks. Though the tanks are presently limited to a capacity of 80 liters (21.1 gallons) at 200 bars of pressure (2,900 psi), MDI plans an increase to 200 liters (53 gallons) and 300 bars of pressure (4,400 psi) for the first production models of the AIRPod, set to be built by the end of this year.

As a prototype, the AIRPod is limited to a top speed of only 50 km/h (30 mph). The top speed of future models will be 80 km/h (50 mph).

With one person onboard and the car running solely on air power, MDI estimates the AIRPod's range at between 140 km

(90 miles) and 200 km. (125 miles), more than enough for a day of Bonaire driving.

For all its charm the AIRPod cannot really be compared to expensive and popular Smart Cars (gasoline and electric), because the weights between the two are so different. The Smart gasoline version weighs 837 kg, the Smart electric weighs 924 kg; the MDI Airpod weighs 330 kg (with driver).

Taking into account differences in mass, MDI said, the AIRPod is as efficient as the smart electric drive. MDI also said that while its compressed air tank has a life of 12,000 discharge cycles—approximately 30 years—the electric car batteries have a life of 12 years at best.

The Future

MDI has already licensed its air-power technology to Indian car-maker Tata Motors. Ratan Tata, CEO of Tata Motors and the Tata Group, recently reaffirmed his company's commitment to zero-emissions vehicles, including

electrics and air power. In Europe, commercial sales of the AIRPod are scheduled to begin in France by the end of this year. The starting price of €6,000 (\$8,380) will be nearly halved, thanks to various bonuses and green-car sales incentives awarded by the government. By the end of 2010, MDI hopes to begin production of larger and more refined models like the OneFlowAIR convertible. The company also claims that air-power engines are scalable, meaning that air-powered sedans, trucks and even buses are on the drawing board.

In the future will Bonaire's drive-in SCUBA air fill stations fill not only your dive tanks, but your car's air (fuel) tank as well?

Perhaps the air car will turn out to be just another bizarre footnote in the rush to develop zero-emissions vehicles, but for Bonaire that would be a pity.

If you have an interest in investing or becoming a part of a trial of air cars in Bonaire, send an email to bonsat@ieee.com.

■ G.D.